

**STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS
USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS**

**Abbreviations used in
place names:**

In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties.

Other abbreviations:

Cr	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile(s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area

**Abbreviations used in the
names of birds:**

Am.	American
Com.	Common
E.	Eastern
Eur.	European or Eurasian
Mt.	Mountain
N.	Northern
S.	Southern
W.	Western

**Other abbreviations and symbols
referring to birds:**

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juv. or juvenile
sp.	species
†	means that written details were submitted for a sighting
*	means that a specimen was collected
♂	male
♀	female
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

THE AUTUMN MIGRATION

August 1–November 30, 1991

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ATLANTIC PROVINCES REGION

Bruce Mactavish

The Region experienced a long warm autumn. The prevailing southwest winds brought a rich supply of "southern warblers" to south-facing coasts. The tail end of Hurricane Bob touched western extremities of the Bay of Fundy, depositing several species of southern terns, including some provincial firsts. Widespread cone and berry crops ensured large numbers of finches and American Robins. A significant Snowy Owl flight was apparent through November.

The continued increase in offshore birding is adding to Regional knowledge of pelagic birds, notably skuas. Fine-tuning of methods for vagrant bird hunting produced a surprising variety of exciting rarities.

Abbreviations: GMI (*Grand Manan I.*); SPM (*Saint Pierre et Miquelon*).

LOONS TO HERONS

The largest number of Red-throated Loons noted on migration were 150 Oct. 13 at Cavendish Beach, PEI (LH) and 30 per hour flying S past Cape Jourimain, NB, Oct. 20 (BD). An astounding count of 150 Pied-billed Grebe Aug. 23 at Eddy Marsh, NS, probably represented local breeders (BMy). Two Red-necked Grebes at Long Pond, GMI, NB, Aug. 25 were the earliest reported Regionwide; 80 Sept. 29 at Tidnish Pt., NS, was the largest count (BMy *et al.*).

A convincing report of Black-browed Albatross was received. The bird observed from the *Bluenose* Ferry, about 20 minutes out of Yarmouth, NS, Aug. 23 by Paul Roberts, from Massachusetts, and two other unnamed birders from Florida, was well described. This is the 2nd Nova Scotia sighting and perhaps just the 3rd for the Region; there are, however, several sightings of albatrosses in the Region in recent years that were probably of this species.

Whale-watching trips in the Bay of Fundy produced highs of 3,000 Greater and 1,000 Sooty shearwater on Sept. 28 in Grand Manan Channel, NB (ST *et al.*) and up to 5,000 Greater Shearwaters per day in late August off Brier Is., NS (RGG). Latish shearwaters were 2000 Greater Oct. 25 and 75 Sooties Oct. 30 at Cape Spear, NF (BMt). Exceptional numbers of Manx Shearwaters were feeding around Machais Seal I., NB, the 2nd week of August, with a maximum count of 600 Aug. 12,



Juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Hartlen's Point, Nova Scotia, on October 13, 1991. Photograph/Stuart Tingley.

probably a N. American record-high count for one locale (BD). Five thousand Leach's Storm-Petrels were trapped by storm-force NE winds in a small harbor at Holyrood, NF, Oct. 29 (BMt). The same storm system was responsible for bringing small numbers of Leach's into various coastal locations in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Thirty Wilson's Storm-Petrels were present as late as Sept. 25-26 on Emerald Basin, s.w. of Halifax, NS (LP). Some members of a pelagic trip 25 mi s. of Halifax, NS, saw a "definitely different" storm-petrel Aug. 3, probably a Band-rumped, but unfortunately the view was too brief to confirm initial impressions (FL, BMy, *et al.*). The American White Peli-

can at Chatham, NB, Sept. 3 (*vide* BD) may have been the same bird that furnished Prince Edward Island with its first record: one Sept. 22-23 at Covehead Harbour (Rob Burnett *et al.*).

Of the southern herons, Cattle Egret made the most news, with a typical influx in early November of 15 Oct. 30-Nov. 10 at 5 locations in Prince Edward Island (*vide* RC), four early November on the Great Northern Peninsula, NF (*vide* BMt), and three Oct. 27-Nov. 6 on SPM (*vide* RE). Oddly, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick seem to have missed this event.

It was an average season for other southern herons, with Regional totals of four Great Egrets, seven Snowy Egrets, three Little Blue Herons, and four Yellow-crowned Nights; most of these were in Nova Scotia. The most watched heron was an unusually long-staying and very tame imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Hartlen Pt., NS, Sept. 1-Oct. 19 (m.ob.).

WATERFOWL

Despite a poor showing of Snow Geese in the w. half of the Region, Newfoundland had a good fall for the species, with an ad. blue morph Oct. 10, Grand Codroy R. (BMt, ST) and the more expected white morphs: two Oct. 15, Hawke Hills (*vide* RB); six Oct. 19, Ramea (RN), and two late Oct., Glenwood (*vide* RB). Still rare in Newfoundland, two Gadwalls were at St. John's Sept. 24-Oct. 6 (BMt *et al.*) and one was at Codroy Oct. 10 (BMt, ST). It was a good fall for Eur. Wigeon in Newfoundland, with three Oct. 10 in "Wigeon Pond," Grand Codroy R. valley (BMt, ST); one Oct. 19-26 at St. John's (m.ob.), and a flock of five Nov. 29 into December at



St. John's (KK *et al.*).

Fredericton, NB, had the Region's only Redhead, one Aug. 22, and Canvasback, one Nov. 10 (*fide* JE). A ♀ **Tufted Duck** appeared at St. John's Nov. 30 and was joined by two more in December (see Winter report) (BMt *et al.*). A King Eider Nov. 16 at Deer I., NB, and a Harlequin Duck Oct. 19 at Pocologan, NB, were early (*fide* JE). Hooded Mergansers continue to increase in the Region, with eastern reports being 10 at Glace Bay, NS (*fide* PP); a drake Nov. 20 made a first local sighting for Gros Morne N.P., NF (HD). The only Ruddy Duck report was six Nov. 9 at Sand Pt., NS (*fide* PP).

DIURNAL RAPTORS TO RAILS

A **Black Vulture** survived Nov. 1–30 in n. New Brunswick at Grand Anse (m.ob.). Turkey Vultures continue their upward swing in numbers in s. Nova Scotia, with sightings from several locations and a high of six Oct. 6 on Brier I. (PP). Sharp-shinned Hawks fly off s.w. points of each province on a broad front every fall. They are commonly seen everywhere but without the very large concentrations seen at hawk watches s. of the Region. Fifty Oct. 8 at Cape Ray, NF (BMt) and 150 per day Oct. 11–14 at Seal I., NS (BMy, *et al.*) were maximum counts for these provinces. Brier I., NS, annually gets Broad-winged Hawk numbers far eclipsing anything else in the Region. This year the maximum count was 1,500 Sept. 22–23 (RS). A well-described imm. Golden Eagle Sept. 15 at Canning, NS, was an early date for this rarity (Jim Wolford).

Again, the general impression was that Peregrine Falcon numbers are as good or better than the previous year and definitely better than 10 years ago. It is almost impossible to keep totals of individuals seen, but maximum daily counts give an idea of the increase: three Sept. 20 near St. John's, NF (BMt); six Oct. 5, Brier I., NS (PP); and seven Oct. 14, Seal I., NS (BMy). There was every indication of a good Gyrfalcon flight, starting with a very early bird, well-photographed, Sept. 24 at St. John's (RB, KK). This was followed by 2 November reports from Gros Morne N.P. (HD) and rumors that they were common in the L'Anse-aux-Meadows area (*fide* BMt). New Brunswick had individuals Oct. 29–Nov. 23 at Castalia, GMI (DB) and Nov. 29 at Bathurst (ST *et al.*).

Purple Gallinules showed up twice, in typical habitat: one Oct. 14, photographed aboard a ship in Placentia Bay, NF (*fide* BMt) and an adult Oct. 23 in a garage at Little Harbour, NS (Dave Young). A tantalizing report of a Limpkin was received from W. Lawrencetown, NS: on Oct. 17 a local resident closely observed a bird feeding with two Am. Bitterns that fit the description. About 30 Halifax birders scoured the area for the next 2 days without success. This is perhaps the most convincing of 3 such records for Nova Scotia; a confirmed sighting can't be far away!

Four Sandhill Cranes was a little above average: one immature Sept. 16 at Petite Riv-

iere, NS (SC); one Oct. 5 at Chezzetcook Inlet, NS (CL, RT); one adult Aug. 13 at St. Paul's Inlet, NF (CB); and one adult Oct. 10 at Grand Codroy R., NF (BMt, ST).

SHOREBIRDS

The famous Missaquash New Brunswick **Northern Lapwing**, summering, was last seen Aug. 22 (ST *et al.*). Another appeared Nov. 10 at Maddox Cove, NF (*fide* WAM). Maximum counts of Lesser Golden-Plover by province were 41 Sept. 27 at Salisbury, NB (ST); 63 Oct. 13 at Grand Pre, NS (JC); and 400 Sept. 2 at Cape Race, NF (CB). St. Pierre et Miquelon had 100 Oct. 11 (RE). Impressive counts of other plovers were 1,000 Black-bellied Plovers Aug. 13 at Grand Pre, NS (G & JT) and Cape Sable I., NS (IM *et al.*), and another 3,000 Aug. 28 at Grand Pre (FL, BMy).

A White-rumped Whimbrel, one of the Eurasian subspecies, was seen in mid-August on the Burin Pen., NF (MP). Very rare in the Region, single Marbled Godwits were at Cape Jourimain, NB, Aug. 1 (ST *et al.*); Saint John, NB, Aug. 25–28 (*fide* JE), and Stanhope, PEI, Oct. 3 (BP). The highest count of Semipalmated Sandpipers was 200,000 the first week of August at Evangeline Beach, NS (JC). Single Western Sandpipers were detected at this location Sept. 8, 10, 29, and Oct. 6 (JC). Largest counts of the never-boring White-rumped Sandpiper were 350 Aug. 10 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NF (BMt) and 1,000 Aug. 28 at Grand Pre, NS (FL, BMy). It was a good fall for Baird's Sandpipers, with totals of eight in New Brunswick, 20 in Nova Scotia, and two in Newfoundland; most occurred Aug. 15–Sept. 10. A **Curlew Sandpiper** was reported from Waterside, NB, Sept. 1 (DS).

It was an average fall for Stilt Sandpiper, with five in New Brunswick, seven in Nova Scotia, and two in Newfoundland, all between Aug. 2–Oct. 9. It was a poor to average fall for Buff-breasted Sandpipers, with 10 singles spread across the Region Aug. 11–Sept. 22. This season's Ruffs were one or two Aug. 28 at Avonsport, NS (FL, BMy) and a crowd-pleasing juvenile Sept. 3–30 at St. John's, NF (BMt *et al.*). The only Long-billed Dowitchers were two Sept. 20 at the waterfowl park in Sackville, NB (BD). Wilson's Phalaropes seemed low, with just four reported: two Aug. 25 at Conrads Beach, NS (BS), one Aug. 28 at Halifax, NS (*fide* BMy), and one Sept. 8 at Brackley Marsh, PEI (BP). Most reports for the other 2 phalarope species were from the Bay of Fundy, with maximum counts of 3000 Red Phalaropes Aug. 27 (RGG) and 250 Red-necked Phalaropes Aug. 11 (RS) off Brier I., NS. Very few Red-neckeds were off Grand Manan I., NB, where they were abundant in recent years (ST).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger Aug. 22 beside the dock in Letite, NB, was a rarity and may have been displaced by Hurricane *Bob* (RGG).



Adult Ross' Gull at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Newfoundland, on the remarkably early date of August 11, 1991. Fifth record for Newfoundland. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

Several observers saw skuas from the *Bluenose* ferry in September that were thought to be Great Skuas; these included singles Sept. 3, 13, & 27 (HH). A pelagic trip off Halifax, NS, Oct. 13 resulted in four Great, two South Polar, and two unidentified skuas (FL *et al.*). On the Emerald Bank, s. of Halifax, were two Great Skuas Sept. 26 and a South Polar Oct. 3 (LP). The only skua report sent with a description was a South Polar Aug. 17 off Grand Rock, NB (KE). Two skuas (sp.) were seen from land at Hartlen Pt., NS, during a gale Oct. 26 (BMy *et al.*).

Despite Hurricane *Bob's* path through the Bay of Fundy, the only Laughing Gull of the season was an adult Aug. 21 at Stephenville Crossing, NF (BMt). A first winter **Franklin's Gull** Nov. 27–30 in St. Pierre, SPM, was a first island record (RE *et al.*). Most Regional Franklin's Gull records are adults seen May–September. New Brunswick is the best province in the Region for Little Gull. This season's sightings were an adult Aug. 11 at Deer I., a 2nd-winter Sept. 1 at Shippagan sewage lagoon, and an adult Sept. 27 in Grand Manan Channel (ST *et al.*). More unexpected was an ad. Little Gull Nov. 15 at Middle Cove, NF (KK). Four Com. Black-headed Gulls at Blooming Pt., PEI, in mid-August is intriguing (Jean Dueltte). Three adults and one begging juv. Black-headed at Stephenville Crossing, NF, Aug. 21 was all that this N. American breeding site seems to be able to produce in recent years (BMt). St. John's, NF, is the best monitor of Com. Black-headed Gulls coming from Europe to winter in North America. This fall's maximum of 109 (30 adults, 70 first-winter) Nov. 25 was 75% of the record-



Lesser Black-backed Gull in first-winter plumage at St. John's, Newfoundland, on October 23, 1991. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

high total in 1989 and slightly below 1990 but still the 3rd-best total ever (BMt).

European Mew Gulls hold to a slow increase in the Region, with St. John's, NF, birds being: one adult Sept. 20–Nov. 30 and two 2nd-winter in November (m.ob.); Nova Scotia chalked up early adults Sept. 9 at Port Hood (*fide* RGG) and Sept. 14 near Lawrencetown (RF), plus a first-winter near Halifax Nov. 9–10 (IM *et al.*). The mind-boggling bird of the season was an ad. Ring-billed Gull Oct. 1–Nov. 5 in St. John's, NF, with *Norwegian* bands on its legs (BMt *et al.*). Think about it! It is known that three individuals were banded in Bergen, Norway, but we are still awaiting details on this bird. Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue a gradual increase, difficult to detect year to year but certainly dramatic when examined by the decade! There were 10 on the Avalon Pen. of Newfoundland September–November, mostly 3rd-winters and adults, including a record-early juvenile Sept. 2 at Bear Cove Pt. (BMt *et al.*). Nova Scotia had three adults Septem-



Royal Tern on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, on August 20, 1991. One of three found on the island after Hurricane Bob, providing a first provincial record. Photograph/Stuart Tingley.

ber–November and Fredericton, NB, one Oct. 23–30 (*fide* JE).

Observers in s. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are seeing an increase in Black-legged Kittiwakes in August and September, with a prediction of eventual breeding ventured by at least one person. Expanding its limits, but still far from losing any worldly mystique, an adult **Ross' Gull** Aug. 9–11 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NF, feeding on cod livers around a wharf with Arctic Terns and kittiwakes, is one of few Canadian summer records away from a breeding site (BMt). This represents the 6th Regional record and the 5th for Newfoundland. More than the usual number of Sabine's Gulls were reported: one adult Aug. 9 at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NF (BMt); a first-winter Sept. 13 off Brier I., NS (PM, BS); one Oct. 11 at Seal I., NS (GT); and two different apparent adults in winter plumage 4 mi s.e. of White Head I., NB, Aug. 26 and Sept. 13 (ST).

The eye of weakened Hurricane *Bob* passed through e. Maine and w. New Brunswick Aug. 19. It brought a few southern terns, including some overdue provincial firsts, but nothing else of interest. Hurricane-directed terns were as follows. Gull-billed Tern: one Aug. 20 at Yarmouth, NS (June Graves), one Aug. 20–27 at Evangeline Beach, NS (JC *et al.*). **Royal Tern**: three Aug. 20–23 on GMI, NB, a provincial first (ST *et al.*); two Aug. 20 at Brier I., NS (IM, EM); and one Aug. 23 at Yarmouth, NS (Paul Roberts). **Sandwich Tern**: singles at Brier I., NS (IM, EM) and GMI, NB (ST *et al.*) Aug. 20; both represent provincial firsts. Forster's Tern: two Aug. 21 & 22 at GMI, NB (ST *et al.*). Least Tern: one Aug. 20 at Cape Sable I., NS (R. d'Entremont). The only non-hurricane-related tern report of interest was a Forster's Tern Nov. 11 at GMI, NB (BD).

A two-hour seabird watch off Cape Spear, NF, during a NE gale Oct. 30 produced 750 Dovekies and 200 Thick-billed Murres (BMt). One-hundred and thirty Atlantic Puffins 10 mi e. of GMI, NB, Oct. 5 was a good count for the Bay of Fundy (CD).

DOVES TO STARLING

Nova Scotia's 9th **White-winged Dove** visited a Glace Bay feeder Aug. 10–12 (George Corwell). It was a big year for Yellow-billed Cuckoos; totals were 22 in New Brunswick, 35 in Nova Scotia, one in Prince Edward Island, 13 in Newfoundland, and one in St. Pierre et Miquelon. Extreme dates of occurrence were Aug. 9–Nov. 11, with most late-August to mid-October. In contrast, only six Black-billed Cuckoos were reported, including one Oct. 9 at St. John's, NF, where it is rare (RB).

The beginning of a significant Snowy Owl flight was heralded by arrivals across the Region the first week of November. A total of six were seen in Nova Scotia. Multiple sightings came from St. Pierre et Miquelon, with three Nov. 10 on the Isthmus (JH) and seven on St. Pierre (GB). They were most numerous in Newfoundland, with dozens of sightings, and a maximum count of six Nov. 29 at St. John's (DP). A Boreal Owl at Eel L., NB, Nov. 16 was the only report (*fide* BD).

A Chimney Swift strayed east to Cape Spear, NF, Sept. 10 (RB). An ad. ♂ **Rufous Hummingbird** at Miquelon, SPM, Aug. 29 was the first for the French islands (DD) and the 7th for the Region; all have been ad. males in August. The only **Red-headed Woodpecker** was Newfoundland's first: one imm. Oct. 21–Nov. 2 at a St. John's feeder (JP *et al.*). A Red-bellied Woodpecker at a feeder in Fundy N.P., NB, Nov. 18–30 was the only sightings of this increasingly regular vagrant (*fide* JE).

A Least Flycatcher was late and rare Oct. 9 at Cape Ray, NF (ST). A Great Crested Flycatcher Oct. 19 at Bear Cove Pt., NF, was about the 5th provincial record (PL, BMt). Four W. Kingbirds, three in Nova Scotia and one in New Brunswick, was slightly below average. Nova Scotia's 6th **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was at W. Lawrencetown Sept. 6–9 (Linda Conrad *et al.*).

A flock of late swallows over a pond in St. John's, NF, Sept. 28 comprised one Purple Martin, two Tree, one Bank, three Cliff, and one Barn swallow. Other Cliff Swallows in the St. John's area, where rare at any time, were one Sept. 21 (BMt), six Oct. 3 (RB), and three Oct. 5 (KK). Blue Jays staged a conspicuous and heavy migration through s. Nova Scotia and s. New Brunswick mid-September–early October, with many reports of hundreds per day. The Jackdaw refusing to disappear at Cape of Miquelon, SPM, was seen Sept. 28 (RE). Two Carolina Wrens were at Saint John, NB, feeders Oct. 30–Nov. 30 (*fide* JE).

Plenty of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were encountered at the usual vagrant hunting locations, with 10 Aug. 26–Sept. 30 in New Brunswick, seven Aug. 29–Sept. 29 in Nova Scotia, and four Sept. 14–Oct. 3 in Newfoundland. A late Gray-cheeked Thrush was at Hartlen Pt., NS, Oct. 26 (RF). A remarkable 3000 Am. Robins were feeding in a "berry patch" at Green Bay, NS, Oct. 27 (SC). A N. Mockingbird was carrying food



Immature Red-headed Woodpecker at St. John's, Newfoundland, October 21, 1991. First provincial record. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

in a farmyard at North Tryon, PEI, Aug. 16 (ST); the province's first breeding record was within the last year. Bohemian Waxwings were scarce, with very early individuals Sept. 14 at GMI, NB (JE) and Sept. 19 at St. Pierre, SPM (MB), followed by three Nov. 30 at Aulac, NB (ST). Low numbers of N. Shrikes occurred throughout the Region.

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Newfoundland's long-anticipated first White-eyed Vireo was found Oct. 9 near Cheezeman P.P. in the s.w. corner of the province (ST, BMt); it is the Region's only sighting for the year. There were four Yellow-throated Vireos, only a slightly more regular vagrant: one Sept. 15 at GMI (JWi), singles Sept. 5 and Oct. 5 at Hartlen Pt., NS (PM, BS), and one Oct. 10 & 13 at St. John's, NF (RB, BMt). The very scarce migrant Warbling Vireo was recorded in singles at 5 coastal locations in Nova Scotia Aug. 29–Sept. 19 (m.ob.), and two were at Deer I., NB, Sept. 9 (BD). Thirty Red-eyed Vireos

on the Avalon Pen., NF, Sept. 1–Oct. 18 was an expected total for this e. Newfoundland stray. Frequently lingering to the end of October, Red-eyed Vireos rarely survive into November; one Nov. 30 in Halifax, NS, was exceptional (IM).

Thirty-six warbler species were found. Southern warblers were a large part of this total, with 10 species reported. The flavor of the season was told by high numbers of the 2 species most regularly straying north: Prairie Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat. Prairie Warbler totals were: 15–20 in New Brunswick, eight in Nova Scotia, eight–ten in Newfoundland, and two in SPM. Yellow-breasted Chat totals were: 11 in New Brunswick, 12 in Nova Scotia, and six in Newfoundland. The list of other southern warblers follows. Blue-winged Warbler: one Sept. 1 at Brier I., NS (RS) and one Sept. 15 at Bear Cove Pt., NF (JP). Golden-winged Warbler: one male Sept. 17–18 at GMI, NB (JE *et al.*), photographed for first confirmed provincial record. Yellow-throated Warbler:

one Nov. 13–Dec. 8 at a Bathurst, NB, feeder (Mary Gauthier *et al.*); one Sept. 10 at Brier I., NS (KM); and one Nov. 10 at Portuguese Cove, NS (DC). Cerulean Warbler, which is becoming annual: one Aug. 29 at GMI, NB (Jim Mountjoy); one imm. female Aug. 25 at Hartlem Pt., NS (PM, BS); and one Sept. 27 at Halifax, NS (IM). Prothonotary Warbler: one Sept. 28 at Port Morien, NS (A & CM) and one imm. male Sept. 6 at St. John's, NF, a 3rd provincial record (BMt). Worm-eating Warbler: one Aug. 22 at Bon Portage I., NS (David Chaffin). Kentucky Warbler: one imm. female Sept. 2 at Chance Cove P.P., NF, the 4th provincial record (BMt, KK, JW). Hooded Warbler: one female Sept. 29 at GMI, NB (ST *et al.*).

From the far west, Townsend's Warblers were one Nov. 11 at Harlen Pt., NS (PM) and one Nov. 23–Dec. 4 at St. John's, NF (BMt *et al.*). Each furnished a 4th record for their province. From the near west, a Connecticut Warbler was reported Sept. 15 at Brier I., NS (KM). At least 20 Pine Warblers in Nova Scotia and one as far east as St. John's, NF, Nov. 23–30 (BMt *et al.*) indicate a fair number of displaced birds.

This season, the November warblering ritual appears to have been practiced with earnest only in St. John's, NF. Typically, November warblers are followed until they disappear, presumably perishing in cold weather. This was a mild fall, allowing warblers to survive until a series of snowstorms that began Dec. 4. Warblers surviving until at least the end of November in St. John's were: six Black-and-whites, three Wilson's, two Orange-crowns, two Yellow-rumped, one Nashville, one Black-throated Green, and one Ovenbird. Add to this the already-mentioned Yellow-breasted Chat, Townsend's, and Pine warblers: total warbler species the last week of November in St. John's was 10!

TANAGERS TO HOUSE SPARROW

In Newfoundland, where Scarlet Tanager is barely an annual vagrant, there was one Sept. 30 near St. John's (BMt) and one Nov. 3 at Torbay (CB, JP). Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in St. John's, NF, Oct. 2–10 was an average fall total (RB, BMt). Nova Scotia had three Blue Grosbeaks Oct. 13–29, and Newfoundland's 5th ever was Oct. 4 in St. John's (BMt). Straying Indigo Buntings were fairly numerous, with one observer alone seeing 22 Sept. 8–Oct. 21 in e. New Brunswick (ST) and a total of 12 Oct. 5–Nov. 10 on the Avalon Pen., NF (m.ob.). Eleven Dickcissels across the Region represented an average total.

Clay-colored Sparrows came on strong in New Brunswick, with 9 reports Sept. 15–Oct. 16 (*vide* JE). Nova Scotia had one Oct. 13 at Hartlen Pt. (PP) and one Oct. 14 at Bon Portage I. (SC *et al.*); Newfoundland had one Oct. 27 at St. John's (RB). A Brewer's Sparrow was confirmed by photographs at Hartlen Pt., NS, Oct. 6 & 7 (RD, BMy *et al.*). This is the first record for Atlantic Cana-



Townsend's Warbler at St. John's, Newfoundland, on November 23, 1991. Fourth provincial record. Photograph/Bruce Mactavish.

da and one of the very few for the Atlantic coast of North America. While Newfoundland recorded its 3rd-ever **Field Sparrow** Nov. 30 at Blackhead (KK), Nova Scotia had a routine five birds Oct. 12–26 (m.ob.). Four Lark Sparrows in New Brunswick Aug. 23–Nov. 10 and singles in Nova Scotia Aug. 2 and Sept. 14 were expected. The fall total of four Grasshopper Sparrows Oct. 13–24 is broken down into three for Nova Scotia and one for New Brunswick. A **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** Oct. 11–14 at St. John's, NF, was only the province's 3rd record (RB *et al.*). Rare in the s. limits of the Region but probably overlooked, single juv. Seaside Sparrows were found Aug. 23 & 24 at Machais Seal I., NB (BD) and Sept. 6 at Ox Head Pd, NB (BD).

Both Yellow-headed Blackbird reports came from Nova Scotia without dates (*vide* DC). An imm. ♀ **Orchard Oriole** Sept. 13 & 14 near St. John's, NF, was a 2nd provincial record (BMt *et al.*). One at Bon Portage I., NS, Aug. 31 was a little more foreseen (FL). A "pretty good" ♀ bullockii N. Oriole was near Halifax, NS, Nov. 25 (IM, EM). Another was reported Nov. 9–29 at Bayside, NB (*vide* JE).

A **Common Chaffinch** put in a brief appearance in a Halifax, NS, garden Nov. 15 (IM). Presumed to be a wild bird, it is the 2nd Nova Scotia record and at least the 4th for the Region.

Good numbers of most finch species were seen across the Region. Purple Finches were in flocks of 100+ in October in Nova Scotia.

White-winged Crossbills were all over the Region in small flocks containing both adults and juveniles. The first signs of a massive winter invasion of Com. Redpolls into New Brunswick and Nova Scotia began in early November, with 1,500 Nov. 10 at Cape George, NS (BM *et al.*). Pine Siskins were very common all fall throughout the Region, with flocks into the low hundreds prevalent in November. Red Crossbills were uncommon but present across the Region. Pine Grosbeak was common only in Newfoundland.

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QUEBEC REGION

*Yves Aubry, Michel Gosselin,
and Richard Yank*

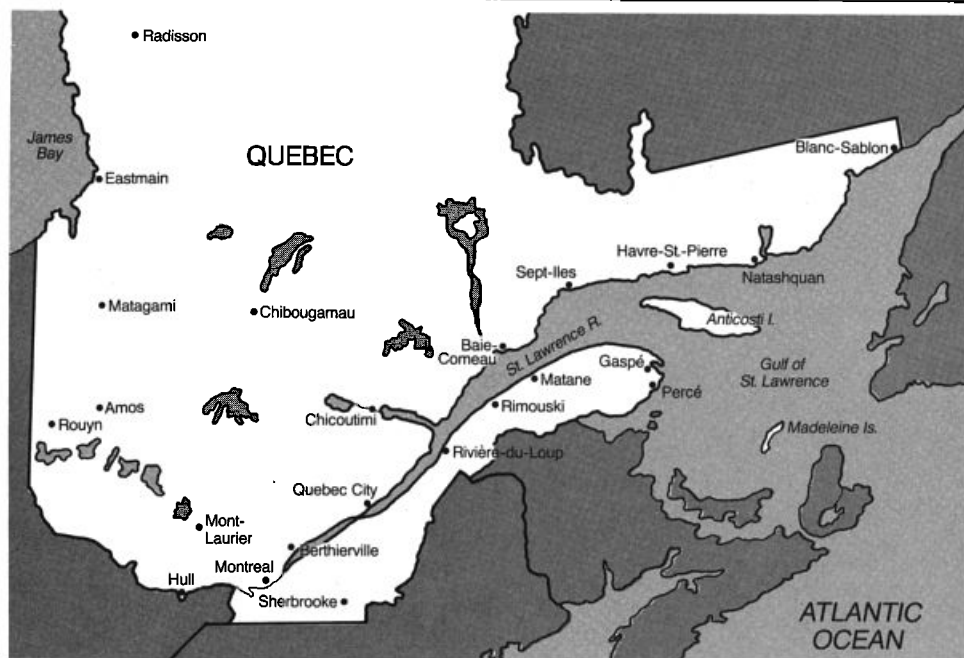
Continuing the trend of the past summer, this fall was milder than normal throughout the Region, with the exception of a cool September in southern Quebec. Precipitation levels were above average in the north; months alternated wet and dry in the South.

Cold fronts swept across the province with regularity from mid-August through early October, providing many opportunities for migrating shorebirds and passerines to be grounded. Extremely low water levels at Lake Saint-Jean attracted many shorebirds, including several rarities at Métabetchouan. Hurricane *Bob*, by then weakened to tropical storm intensity, reached the Gulf of St. Lawrence August 20.

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

On Nov. 11, some 122 Red-throated Loons were counted as they migrated E along the Upper Saguenay R. off La Baie and Saint-Fulgence, where the species was considered a rare migrant (CCo, GS, CG, JI); the Saguenay undoubtedly represents a regular but poorly documented migration route employed by northern loon populations. The Region's 4th **Eared Grebe** appeared briefly at Victoriaville Sept. 26–28 (MGe, JP, PMe). Following a period of strong S winds Oct. 23, an exceptional gathering of seven **Cory's Shearwaters** was sighted about 25 km s. of Grande-Entrée, Magdalen Is.; only two lone birds had been previously reported in Quebec waters (APo). The latter flock also contained an unprecedentedly late Manx Shearwater. A spectacular concentration of 800 Greater and 200 Sooty shearwaters was inshore at Blanc-Sablon Aug. 18 (ML). Up to five Leach's Storm-Petrels were at Quebec City Oct. 28–Nov. 2 (JFO, v.o.); a substantial W displacement of N. Gannets occurred about the same time. On Nov. 2, 46 imm. gannets flew upriver at Quebec City (JLc *et al.*), and four showed up inland at Victoriaville (LF, MGe). The next day hunters described what were likely 50 or so gannets on L. Saint-Pierre (*vide* CS), while single birds were encountered by birders at Longueuil (JB) and Rigaud (GH). Finally, an immature lingered off I. Perrot Nov. 6 (MBr). An ad. Great Cormorant was unusual at Côte-Sainte-Catherine Oct. 12 (DDa), as were Double-crested Cormorants inland: one on 31-Mile L., *Labelle*, Aug. 25–29 (RBI *et al.*) and four on Dozois Res., *Pontiac*, Sept. 1 (RLD).

This fall's southern waders influx brought five or six Cattle Egrets into s. Quebec, plus singles to La Baie Sept. 28–Nov. 9 (RL, m.ob.) and to Anse Saint-Pancrace, along the North Shore, Oct. 19 (MT), as well as single *Plegadis* ibises to Notre-Dame-de-Pierreville Aug. 9 (PMe) and Longueuil Sept. 7 (GC *et*



al.). A Green-backed Heron at Cowansville Nov. 23 (BH) broke the previous late record by 20 days; an imm. Black-crowned Night-Heron at Étang-du-Nord Aug. 24 (CH) furnished only the 3rd record for the Magdalen Archipelago.

A family group of seven Tundra Swans fed in a cornfield at Saint-Gérard-de-Yamaska Nov. 3 (*fide* DJ); another (or same?) composed of two adults and one immature were seen off Baie-d'Urfé Nov. 4–Dec. 6 (m.ob.). The only reported Barnacle Goose was at Saint-Vallier Oct. 20 (SC). Quebec's 4th Tufted Duck was at Saint-Romuald-d'Etchemin Oct. 31–Nov. 2 (MSO, GLe, m.ob.). Locally rare were a Harlequin Duck off Sainte-Hélène I. Oct. 22–Dec. 17 (YG, m.ob.) and a group of three Ruddy Ducks at Étang du Ouest, Magdalen Is., in mid-August (ACu, *fide* PF).

DIURNAL RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS

No longer surprising was a roost of 30 Turkey Vultures at Saint-Pie, *Bagot*, Oct. 2 (CSP, TSP); notable was one that wandered E to Bonaventure Oct. 18 (PA, MGr). Also outside its normal range was an ad. Cooper's Hawk at Grande-Entrée Sept. 26 (APo). An almost completely white Red-tailed Hawk, showing just a tinge of beige on the tail, was studied at Saint-Siméon Oct. 23 (CG, JI). Eight to ten Gyrfalcons were along the Lower St. Lawrence and the Gaspé Pen., while an additional six or so reached s. parts of the province w. of Quebec City, all in November. Montreal hawkwatchers tallied an excellent number of large buteos this fall, with record counts of 226 Red-shouldered, 2889 Red-tailed, and 237 Rough-legged hawks. Totals of 776 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 258 Am. Kestrels were also the highest since this station began reporting in 1980 (MM, BBa).

A count of 150 Sandhill Cranes at L. Abitibi Sept. 8 (MCA *et al.*) was the highest ever for the Region, while lone migrants

passed by Quebec City Sept. 28 (DC), Dav-eluyville, *Athabaska*, Oct. 10 (RBA), and I. aux Grues, *Montmagny*, Oct. 7 (JMC). Of historical interest is the fact that "grue" is the French name for crane, suggesting that cranes may have formerly been found on this island; the name dates back at least to the 17th century.

A remarkable shorebird concentration numbering an estimated 1000 Lesser Golden-Plovers and 1000 Pectoral Sandpipers was present inland at Métabetchouan Oct. 1 (CCo, GS). A bright golden-plover examined at Rivière-Portneuf Sept. 9 (GLe *et al.*) suggested the Pacific Golden-Plover (*fulva*), but bright yellow color in itself is apparently not diagnostic for this race/species (see McLaren 1987, *Nova Scotia Birds* 29(1): 39B). A Red Knot lingered at the latter site until Nov. 3 (CG, JI, MSd); only one later record exists for the province. The only W. Sandpiper was an adult at Senneville Aug. 31 (MM, BBa), but Baird's Sandpipers were well reported, including a juvenile on the Magdalen Is., where scarce, Aug. 6 (RDi, FD), and a high of 11 at Métabetchouan Aug. 17 (CCo, GS, LI). Exceptional Eurasian visitors were the province's 2nd Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (a juvenile) at Métabetchouan Sept. 20–23 (CCo, GS, LI, m.ob.), a Curlew Sandpiper at Rivière-Portneuf Sept. 11–26 (FG, v.o.), and a juv. Ruff, also at Métabetchouan Sept. 20–24 (CCo, GS, m.ob.). Noteworthy among Stilt Sandpiper reports was a record-late bird at Rivière-Ouelle Oct. 19 (JGP, CA), while a better-than-average fall total of six or more Buff-breasted Sandpipers included a record-late bird at Cap-d'Espoir, *Gaspé*, Oct. 10 (JW). Long-billed Dowitchers added to shorebirding interest this fall, with two birds each at Senneville July 31 (adults, MM, BBa) and Fermiers I., *Verchères*, Sept. 1 (DP *et al.*), three on Dupas I., *Berthier*, Sept. 29–Oct. 2 (CS), and at least three (perhaps up to seven)

seen repeatedly at the Sainte-Étienne-de-Beauharnois marsh Sept. 28–Nov. 10 (PB, m.ob.); this represents a record-late departure. Two dowitchers (sp.) still lingered at the latter site until Nov. 24 (GLa *et al.*). Southbound Red Phalaropes were also seen inland more frequently than usual; most notable were singles at Victoriaville Aug. 25–27 (MGe, JP, RBA), Longueuil Sept. 29 (MBr), La Baie Sept. 29–30 (CCo, GS, JI), Saint-Étienne-de-Beauharnois Oct. 5–6 (PB), and two at Drummondville Nov. 7 (PMe); these widely dispersed sightings cannot be matched to any single meteorological event.

JAEGERS TO OWLS

Rarely observed inland, a Pomarine Jaeger travelled along the Ottawa R. at Aylmer Nov. 3 (RBr, BP). Uncommon larids included

an ad. Laughing Gull at Victoriaville Sept. 20 (MGe), a 2nd-year bird at Sainte-Foy Nov. 23–24 (FBé), and single Franklin's Gulls at Drummondville Sept. 23–28 (PMe) and Victoriaville Oct. 27 (MGe, JP). An ad. Little Gull was unexpected at Cabano, *Témiscouata*, Aug. 5 (MBa, RDe), and another was late at the Beauharnois dam Nov. 16 (PB); an ad. "Common" Gull was discovered at Rivière-Portneuf Aug. 20 (GLe), and a first-winter bird was studied at close range on the Ottawa R. off Vaudreuil Oct. 5 (BBa, MM). Nine Lesser Black-backed Gulls were identified, including five in the Hull area (*fide* RLD). Unexpected away from the St. Lawrence R., a Black-legged Kittiwake visited Victoriaville Oct. 31 (MGe). Noteworthy among Sabine's Gull sightings were an early adult at Contrecoeur, *Verchères*, Aug. 7 (CS) and an immature at Métabetchouan Sept. 21–28 (FG *et al.*) that provided L. Saint-Jean's first record. The St. Lawrence estuary produced 6 Sabine's Gulls sightings; the species is a regular fall migrant there.

A pair of Caspian Terns observed throughout the summer within a colony of Ring-billed Gulls on Saint-Ours I., off Contrecoeur, was accompanied by an immature Aug. 7 (CS), furnishing strong evidence of local nesting. A high total of 1150 Com. Terns tallied in the Beauharnois vicinity Aug. 25 (PB) included five birds color-marked at breeding colonies on L. Champlain, Vermont. The Region's first Sooty Tern was dead on Bonaventure I. Aug. 21 (*fide* LLa), a victim of Hurricane *Bob*. Strong E winds from this hurricane were evidently responsible for the unexpected presence of five Dovekies off Saint-Nicolas, near Quebec City, Aug. 20 (HP). Five Razorbills at Quebec City Sept. 28 (MAB) and two at Saint-Romuald d'Etchemin Nov. 2 (YA *et al.*) also resulted from strong E winds. The latter sighting was associated with the N. Gannet movement mentioned above.

S.A.

One of the most astounding reports of the season was of a **Mangrove Cuckoo** at Pointe-au-Père, Rimouski, Oct. 14 (PF, LLe). This unexpected bird was observed in flight and on the ground along an old railroad near the St. Lawrence Estuary. As diagnostic features, observers noted the gray crown and nape contrasting with a buffy-brown back, the dark mask, the white throat contrasting with a buffy breast, and the lack of rufous in the primaries. Tail pattern and bill coloration were otherwise similar to the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The underpart coloration seems to point to the Florida/West Indies population. Second-hand sightings have been reported from Bon Portage I., Nova Scotia, in June 1957 and in fall 1963 (E. Richardson, 1965, *Living Island*, p. 100, Ryerson Press, Toronto).

Other cuckoo reports from the e. part of the Region involved a Black-billed Cuckoo at Anse-à-Beaufils, Gaspé, Oct. 10 (JW) and single Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Baie-Comeau Oct. 5 (MCh, MD), Rimouski, Oct. 7 (ML), Kamouraska Oct. 13 (JMG), Bonaventure I. Oct. 19 (DG), and Pabos, Gaspé, Oct. 24–26 (RBt *et al.*).

Late October saw the beginning of the largest Snowy Owl invasion to reach s. Quebec since 1987, many of them emaciated. Coincidentally, unprecedented numbers of N. Hawk Owls irrupted from their boreal haunts; more than 70 were reported across the province by the end of November. Numbers were highest in the Saguenay/L. Saint-Jean area and along the Gaspé Peninsula. Modest by comparison were totals of five and four, respectively, for Great Gray and Boreal owls; such numbers were about average. We hope to provide further details on this year's owl invasion in the Winter Report.

NIGHTJARS TO WAXWINGS

A Com. Nighthawk, our latest ever by 2 weeks, was at LaSalle Oct. 26 (RGe). A vagrant imm. Red-headed Woodpecker enlivened Bonaventure feeders Oct. 28–Nov. 23 (CDb *et al.*), while a Red-bellied Woodpecker showed up at Hull Oct. 28 (MO). Single W. Kingbirds ventured to Lavernière, Magdalen Is., Sept. 23–27 (BL *et al.*) and Senneville Oct. 15–27 (MM, m.ob.). Quebec's 9th **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** graced Saint-Rédempteur, *Vaudreuil*, Aug. 18 (GH, BBr), while the province's 3rd **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was reported by a fortunate birder at Saint-Denis, *Kamouraska*, Oct. 23–24 (ABo).

The only two Tufted Titmice visited a feeder in Mystic, *Missisquoi*, Nov. 8 (CCh). In addition to several individuals (about nine) in extreme s. Quebec, where expected, a Carolina Wren reached Jonquière in October, a first Saguenay area record (ph. PD, DB *et al.*); another extralimital bird was on I. aux



Juvenile Curlew Sandpiper (with Sanderlings and Semipalmated Sandpiper) at Rivière-Portneuf, Quebec, on September 12, 1991. Photograph/Gilbert Bouchard.

Basques, *Rivière-du-Loup*, Oct. 13–14 (RGI *et al.*). Regular if rare fall vagrants, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were noted at Pointe-aux-Outardes and nearby Baie-Comeau, Sept. 29 and Oct. 23, respectively (GBo), Shawinigan Oct. 4 (MSn), Boischatel, *Montmagny*, about Sept. 14 (AD), and Cap-Tourmente Oct. 26 (*vide* LMe). Always an interesting find, a N. Wheatear paused at La Baie Oct. 7–11 (ph. HS *et al.*).

Western vagrants included four or five Townsend's Solitaires, at La Pocatière Nov. 2 (CA), Quebec City Nov. 5 (RBo), I. de l'Est Nov. 10 (GC *et al.*), nearby Cap-aux-Meules Nov. 27 (DDé), and Petite-Rivière-Saint-François, *Montmorency*, Nov. 18 (JMC), as well as lone Varied Thrushes at Sept-Iles Oct. 22–27 (NV) and Saint-Mathieu-du-Parc, *Saint-Maurice*, from late November (MSo *et al.*). Intriguing was a group of 30 Bohemian Waxwings encountered 85 km n. of Girardville, *L. Saint-Jean*, on the early date of Sept. 5 (GS, SBo); a flock of some 2000 Bohemians at Saint-Gérard-des-Laurentides, *Saint-Maurice*, Nov. 30 (MSo) represented the only large flock this season.

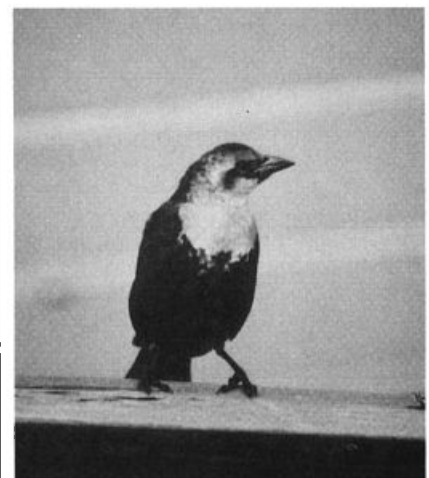
WARBLERS TO FINCHES

An imm. Pine Warbler at Pabos Nov. 5 (PP) was out of range, but the best warblers were a Prairie found by the same observer at Barchois Sept. 8 and another described at Rimouski Aug. 27 (YG). A ♀ **Western Tanager** was an excellent find at Longueuil Oct. 10 (DDa); fewer than 10 records exist for the Region.

Adding to recent records from the n. edge of the range, ♂ N. Cardinals brightened feeders at Moffet, *Témiscamingue*, Nov. 2 (MGs) and Jonquière from Nov. 9 onward (LMi, RGy). Four or five Dickcissels were noted: singles at Saint-Gédéon Sept. 28–29 (CCo, GS, LI), Stoneham Oct. 8 (DM, JT), and Saint-Vallier Oct. 16–20 (CDe) in the Quebec City area, and one or two at Magdalen Is. feeders beginning Oct. 22 (APo,

APe *et al.*). Out-of-range Clay-colored Sparrows turned up at Lévis Oct. 6 (GLE *et al.*); another visited a feeder in Pointe-au-Père Sept. 25 (PF); and two were at a feeder in nearby Rimouski Oct. 4 (ABr). A Field Sparrow at Baie-Comeau Oct. 24–26 (GBo) was also farther east than usual. Western emberizines made an excellent showing, with a Lark Sparrow at Rivière-Quelle Oct. 15 (CA), two White-crowned Sparrows of the *gambelii* type identified at Sainte-Hedwidge Sept. 24 and Saint-Gédéon Sept. 28 (CCo, JI), and an ad. Harris' Sparrow at Rivière-Portneuf Sept. 29 (ACo, JLe). In addition, Dark-eyed Juncos of western origin involved two *oreganus* type at Saint-Hyacinthe Sept. 22 (FBo, CDu), and single *mearnsi* types at Montreal Oct. 18 (ND, MR) and Aylmer Oct. 19 (RLD). A melanistic junco was photographed at Hull Oct. 11 (LP).

A Yellow-headed Blackbird was a rare find at Baie-Comeau Oct. 24–Nov. 1 (ph. GBé), while a ♀ Orchard Oriole fed with N. Orioles in a pear tree at Saint-Hubert Aug. 21



Young Yellow-headed Blackbird at Baie-Comeau, Quebec, on October 31, 1991. Photograph/Gilbert Bouchard.

(RBe). One or two N. Orioles wander E to areas bordering the Gulf of St. Lawrence each fall, but this year no fewer than eight were reported: one at Baie-Comeau Oct. 16 (GBo), three on the Gaspé Pen.—at Bonaventure I. Oct. 5 (PP), Chandler Oct. 21–Nov. 13 (MGt, RGa), and Pabos Nov. 1 (PP)—and four on the Magdalen Is. (*fide* PF); all reported with details were in ♀ or imm. plumage. Lake Saint-Jean reported its 2nd House Finch, again a female at Sainte-Hedwige Sept. 23 (NB). Single Eur. Goldfinches brightened feeders at Laval Nov. 15 (YR) and Verdun Nov. 17 (PMi).

Corrigendum: The Am. Coots reported at Saint-Fulgence in the Summer Report were actually at Saint-Gédéon.

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NEW ENGLAND REGION

Charles D. Duncan

New England's weather this fall was dominated by a few extremely powerful storms. Hurricane Bob formed off South Carolina, moved rapidly up the coast on August 19th, hitting Block I. and Newport, RI, with heavy rains, and winds above 100 mi/hr before reaching Rockland, ME, that evening, and dying out as it moved inland. Between Oct. 29-31, a gale pounded coastal areas with large waves and wind gusts over 70 mi/hr, damaging some 5000 homes in e. Massachusetts. Another storm, on Nov. 11, hit the coast with rains and high seas, and brought hail to Connecticut. Overall, August was warmer than usual, and the wettest on record for New England, largely as a result of Bob. September was rather colder than long-term norms, and again much wetter, especially in s. New England where precipitation was over 160% of normal. Warm weather returned in October, averaging 1.5-2° F above normal. There were only a few cold fronts, with their attendant NW winds, cherished by hawkwatchers. Overall, it was the third wettest October of the last ten, but the local nature of the patterns left some areas, such as coastal Connecticut, much drier than normal. November started cold, but the month ended warm, resulting in an average temperature about one degree above normal. Only in northern portions of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont was there significant snow.

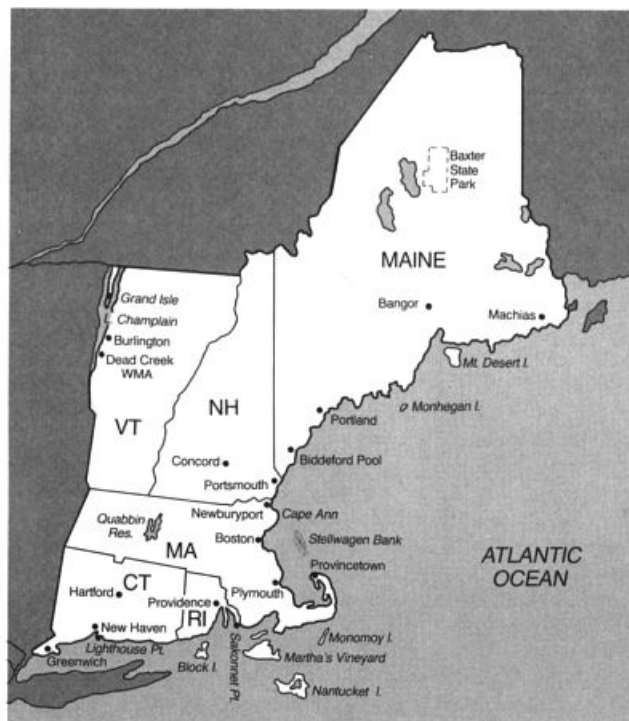
If one lived near the coast and went birding only on the right dates (that is, after Hurricane Bob, after the storm that struck around Halloween, or two weeks later, after

the next one) it was one of the most exciting seasons of bird watching in many years. If you were inland, kept track of numbers of regularly occurring species (as through banding or hawkwatching), or missed these three weekends, it was yet another very disappointing season. In fact, it may have been the one that convinced you, even against native optimism, that the declines reported here for the past several autumns are not just "luck of the draw" poor seasons in a generally stable situation. Passerines were either down or showed no improvement from previous declines. On Cape Cod, Nikula called their migration "virtually non-existent." His remarks fit any portion of our Region.

Storm-driven rarities were another story altogether. Hurricane Bob was largely a coastal event, never moving far enough offshore to pick up open-water bird species. Nonetheless, it brought many species, particularly terns, to areas where they are seldom if ever recorded. Indeed, a Sandwich Tern in Connecticut, and a Bridled Tern in Maine were state firsts. A curiosity was that one Royal and one Sandwich tern, each banded in North Carolina in 1984, were both found dead in Maine after the storm.

The pattern of bird occurrence after Bob didn't fit the predictions made in this journal previously (*AB* 34:133, 1980). Since winds circulate around the eye of a hurricane in a counter-clockwise direction, oceanic birds should be concentrated east of the storm's track. This time, though, ornithologically interesting events seemed to follow the eye of the storm itself, with virtually nothing found to the east. Perhaps this is a function of where observers themselves are located. Another axiom of "hurricane birding" is that most species leave a day or two after the passage of the hurricane. Wrong again. Coastal terns and skimmers lingered in s. New England for weeks.

Autumn storms can have an effect besides bringing rarities northward. Many southbound migrants leave New England and the Canadian Maritimes for long over-water flights. These may be far enough offshore that land-based observers never sense the numbers of birds moving south. Strong onshore winds and storms can bring astonishing numbers of birds ashore, as happened this year after the Halloween and mid-November storms. For observers who were in the right places, it was quite a time.



Coverage of the Region this season was excellent. Only e. Massachusetts—except for Cape Cod and the hawkwatches—was severely under-reported.

Abbreviations: Dead Creek (*Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, VT*); First Encounter Beach (*First Encounter Beach, Eastham, MA*); Petit Manan (*Petit Manan, Nat'l Wildlife Ref., Steuben, ME*).

LOONS TO PELICANS

Breeding plumage Red-throated Loons at N. Monomoy, MA (BN), and Grand Isle, VT (RL), Aug. 4 and Sept. 3, respectively, were early and unusual. High counts of the species were of storm-driven birds: 300-400, Nov. 11 at First Encounter Beach (KJ, SP, BN), and 60 there Nov. 30 (KJ). After a long decline, Pied-billed Grebe numbers seem to be at least stable. Representative totals were 26 in Rhode Island for November, 15 in New Hampshire for the season, and 10-12 in Vermont. The largest group reported was 10 at Easton's Pond, RI, Oct. 14. A count of 165 Horned Grebes from Addison to Ferrisburg, along Vermont's L. Champlain, Nov. 23 (WE, NM), and a season total of 16 in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK) were both a little above average for inland locales. Red-necked Grebes were also found inland in above average numbers with totals of 24 in Vermont (*fide* JN) and nine in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK). Two were at Sabattus Pond, *Androscoggin*, ME, Nov. 11 (PV), and one was at Coventry L., CT, a week later (JM). There were other signs of strength in this species as well. A breeding plumaged bird was very early Aug. 2 at Ogunquit, ME (TV). A single

individual of this species was seen Nov. 28 at Milford Pt., CT, (DR) where the species is decidedly uncommon, and a group of 165 at Rye, NH, the next day (ABD) was unusually large.

Pelagic birds were essentially absent for the whole season from the often productive waters of Stellwagen Bank, MA (*fide* BN), and reports from other offshore areas were also few. By far the highest Regional count of N. Fulmars in over 15 years, 145, was seen from shore after a storm at First Encounter Beach, Nov. 11 (KJ, SPe *et al.*). The Region's third-ever reported **Black-capped Petrel** was seen by a single observer during Hurricane *Bob*, Aug. 19, at Wakefield, RI (RC †). (Previous sightings were of one, at Machias Seal Island, NB, June 27, 1973, and two at Pt. Judith, RI, Sept. 27, 1985, after Hurricane *Judith*.) The high count of 70 Cory's Shearwaters off Block I, RI, Aug. 10 (LB) was typical for recent years. More unusual were 3 Greater Shearwaters at Provincetown, MA, on the late date of Nov. 5 (KJ, BN), and an extremely high count, certainly an Atlantic coast record, of 600 Manx Shearwaters, Aug. 12, (BDa) off Machias Seal I. Claimed by both U.S. and Canada, and hence both the New England and Atlantic Provinces regions, this has become the preeminent spot to find this species over the past five years. The dogma is that these birds are non-breeding, subadults from the Newfoundland or European colonies. With these kinds of late summer populations, can it be that none is a local breeder? Leach's Storm-Petrels are not usually seen from shore, but this fall's series of coastal storms brought seven reports, with a highest count of 100 on Oct. 31 at Cape Cod's Sandy Neck (BN). Also storm-driven,

fatally so in fact, was a **White-tailed Tropicbird**, molting to an adult plumage, found after Hurricane *Bob*, in Eastham, MA, Aug. 22 (EC, * M.C.Z., *fide* KJ). The autumn migration of N. Gannets is often well observed, especially during storms, and this year's 4300 at Dennis, MA, on Oct. 31 (KJ), is not atypical. Still, a count of 300 the next day at Stonington Pt., CT, was remarkable, since the species is at best uncommon in Long Island Sound. Even so, up to 150 were present throughout the rest of the month. Similarly demolishing previous record counts, Rhode Island observers found groups of 2000-3000 at three localities throughout November. Singularly astounding, though, to students of this powerfully flying and long-lived species, was the utterly unprecedented occurrence of 300, mostly adult, storm-wrecked gannets over an inland pond at Barnstable, MA, Nov. 2. Simultaneously, dozens of other gannets were picked up by rehabilitators across the rest of Cape Cod (*fide* BN). An **American White Pelican** was found on the Androscoggin R., near Jay, ME, Oct. 31 (m.ob., ph.), present to at least Nov. 6. The possibility that the bird was wild and arrived as a result of the Halloween storm is contradicted by the fact that it was wearing a green, hand-lettered, leg band but no U.S.F.W.S. aluminum band. It seems most probably to have been an escapee. More clearly authentic were single Brown Pelicans off Matunuck, RI, Aug. 20 (RC), and W. Haven, CT, a week later (NP).

CORMORANTS TO WATERFOWL

Inland Great Cormorant sightings continue a slow increase. Three were in w. Massachusetts during the season, and an imma-



Immature White Ibis at Block Island, Rhode Island, on October 2, 1991. Fifth state record. Photograph/Richard Bowen.

ture was found Oct. 13 at L. Morey, Fairfield, VT (WE, NM). Ellison's suggestion of a regular southward migration in small numbers along the Connecticut R. from the St. Lawrence seems worth investigating. Reports of Am. Bittern, a declining species, totalled 38 individuals, a typical number in the absence of censuses specifically aimed at wetland birds. Great Egret reports away from s. New England—where the species is routine—totalled 47, with a high of seven at Scarborough Marsh, ME, Sept. 15 (SP). Eighteen Little Blue Herons at that locale Aug. 22 (SP) was perhaps a record there, likely hurricane-related. Three reports of Tricolored Heron in Rhode Island during September was more than usual, with one lingering at Weekapaug to Nov. 7, a late date. Also lingering were four Cattle Egrets at Northampton, MA, Oct. 16 (GAT)—only the third October record for w. Massachusetts—and singles at 2 Maine localities in late October and early November. The latest was at Warren, RI, Nov. 16 (RB). Rhode Island's 5th White Ibis was an immature at Block I., seen by many from Sept. 23 to at least Oct. 6, and perhaps present since Hurricane Bob a month earlier (MSC *et al.*, ph.). Inland, four Glossy Ibises were at Dead Creek (where one had been reported in the Breeding Season report), Aug. 4 (WE, NM) and one was at Pittsfield, MA, Aug. 6 (BG)—only the 3rd for w. Massachusetts, and the first since 1982. One at the late date of Nov. 9 at Succotash Marsh, RI (RW), was even more unusual since the species usually leaves the Region almost immediately following the nesting season.

Tundra Swan numbers in New England are quite variable, with this year's total of 13 on the high side of average. Rarest were those at inland sites: two as flyovers at Preston, CT, (DP) and six at Colchester, VT, Nov. 3 (*fide* JN). After a decade of increasing frequency for the species, only one Greater White-fronted Goose, not identified to race, was found this season, at Wallingford, CT, Oct. 31 (DP). A report of a Ross' Goose at Dead Creek (where one or more were seen last year), Oct. 17, was thorough enough that it was accepted by the Vermont Bird Records Committee. By Nov. 21, three were reported to be at this spot (JP †). Wood Ducks were considered unusually scarce in w. Massachusetts where the season total was 208. Meanwhile, 97 at S. Windsor, CT, Sept. 14 (SKo), and 277 at Great Swamp, RI (*fide* CR) were high counts, the latter the highest ever for Rhode Island. Similarly, 57 Green-winged Teal in w. Massachusetts was a very low seasonal total, while 303 at Old Lyme, CT, Oct. 7 was very high. High water levels at Monomoy, MA, were blamed for poor dabbling duck numbers there (BN). Maybe that accounts for the unusually high count of 80 Gadwall at Ipswich, MA, Nov. 3 (JB). No such easy explanation seems to present itself for the low numbers of all dabblers in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK).

Eur Wigeon reports totalled a mundane

seven birds. Early and rare were 14 Com. Eiders at Greenwich Pt., CT (BO), and an imm. male was seen on 3 occasions in November at Harkness S. P., CT (DP). Five King Eiders, an spectacular total, were found at coastal locales in Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, beginning in late-October. A "17-hr. seawatch" at Pt. Judith, RI, Nov. 10-11, recorded scoters in "pathetically low numbers:" 353 Black, 204 Surf, and 269 White-winged (RF).

Hooded Mergansers were favorably reported. Observers in w. Massachusetts found 222 for the season, with a high of 63 at Pontoosuc, Nov. 6 (*fide* SK). In Maine, 120 were at Damariscotta, Oct. 26 (DRe), and at least 95 were at Sabattus Pond, *Androscooggin*, Nov. 15, accompanied by an staggering 1400 or more Com. Mergansers (PV).

RAPTORS TO CRANES

As with the past 2 years, three Black Vulture reports were received, this time, one each from Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Turkey Vulture populations continue to grow at the northern edge of their range, with about 100 split between two town dumps in w. Maine. In 1977, the total for the entire Region was only 77.

Hawkwatchers had a disappointing—even dismal—season, the second in a row for some areas. At S. Harpswell, ME, and the Massachusetts hawkwatches there was agreement on the shortage of N. Harriers. Only 3 years of 24 have been worse for the species at S. Harpswell, (GA). Also at S. Harpswell, Sharp-shinned Hawks had their worst recorded October, with only 83 seen, contributing to the lowest-ever total of all hawks (127) for that month (GA). At Wachusett Mt., MA, the season's total of 366 Sharp-shins was also the poorest showing since the count was started in 1976; Rhode Island observers agreed in considering them to be below normal levels. Nonetheless, the species was seen in above average numbers at e. Massachusetts hawkwatches other than Wachusett (*fide* PR). Also on the positive side, three nestlings were found Aug. 4 at Morris, CT (BDe, DS), where the species is a rare and local nester. Cooper's Hawk numbers have been up by a factor of 2 for the last 2 years at e. Massachusetts hawkwatches, with 64 seen this year, and 80 last, where 20-40 would be typical (*fide* PR). N. Goshawk sightings of interest were singles at early dates: Aug. 4, Scarborough, ME (GC); Sept. 16, E. Greenwich, RI (JZ); and Sept. 22, Sakonnet Pt., RI (RB).

Contradictory reports came about Red-shouldered Hawks. Only 40 (21 from hawkwatches) were seen in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK), but at e. Massachusetts watches they were a little above average. At New Haven's Lighthouse Pt., though, the passage of 321 on October 28-29 was an unprecedented high count (*fide* BK). Broad-winged Hawks were seen in very low numbers at the e. Massachusetts hawkwatches, where they are numerically the dominant species At

Wachusett Mt., the count of 6481 was even worse than last year's 6640, achieving a 10-year low. One-day counts have been twice this high in some years. Single Broad-wings at S. Windsor, Oct. 20 (CE), and Niantic, Oct. 28 (DP) are among the latest reports ever for Connecticut.

Swainson's Hawks were seen in Connecticut on two occasions this fall: one was soaring with Broad-winged Hawks at Harwinton Sept. 20 (PC), and one was seen Oct. 14 at Quaker Ridge Hawk Watch, Greenwich (m obs.). Descriptive details did not reach this editor for either. This is the first time in memory that the Region has hosted two of these vagrants from the West. As with Red-shouldered Hawks, the data for Red-tailed Hawks were perplexing. W. Massachusetts hawkwatches recorded a seasonal total of 518, considered low (*fide* SK), while 282 on Oct. 28-29—the same dates as the Red-shouldered Hawk movement—was an unusually robust-two day total at Lighthouse Pt., CT (*fide* BK). The season's 13 reported Golden Eagle was a typical recent count.

At S. Harpswell, counts of all three regular falcons were low: Am. Kestrel, 161 (ranking 22nd of 24 years), Merlin, 31 (17th), and Peregrine Falcon, 4 (16th). For comparison, 67 Peregrines were seen here in 1990 (GA) Elsewhere, Peregrines were found in good to excellent numbers, including record highs of 36 in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK), and 22 in Rhode Island (*fide* DE). Two Gyrfalcons were reported at very typical dates: one seen by scores of observers for several hours at Plum I., MA, Nov. 17 (*fide* JB), and one at Dead Creek, Nov. 23, (WE, NM †).

A Spruce Grouse was found Nov. 9, at Island Pond, VT, (GH) where the species is rare. Wild Turkeys continue to increase in New Hampshire, as reflected in this season's total of 75 (*fide* DD). Interesting rail reports included two Clappers, Nov. 3 at Nauset Marsh, Eastham, MA, (KJ), and a King/Clapper-type, Aug. 30 at Petit Manan (RW †). Both King and Clapper rails are virtually absent from the Region, now. A Virginia Rail, Sept. 9, at Appledore I., ME, was the first ever there (MW, *fide* DH). The Vermont state total of only two Sora seems troublingly low, but is perhaps just due to observer inattention.

Purple Gallinules are rare vagrants to our area; this season brought two to Rhode Island, one Oct. 11 at Block I. (GT, BDo *et al.*), and a very tame immature seen by many, at Barrington, Nov. 1. Most previous records for Rhode Island have been in spring or summer. In Vermont, observers responded to calls in this Report for more information about "low visibility" marsh birds with 4 reports of Com. Moorhens, totalling 14 birds (*fide* JN). Fifteen Am. Coots, found at L. Bommosen, Hubbard, VT, Oct. 14 (WE, NM), was that state's maximum, up somewhat from last year. The total of 43 from four w. Massachusetts localities was, nonetheless, considered to reflect the continuation of the species's scarcity there (*fide* SK) Four seen

Oct. 11 at Sabattus Pond, ME, was much more typical than last year's 32 (JD). This year's three Sandhill Cranes reports, one Scarborough Marsh, ME, Oct. 5 (SP), one Greenwich, CT, Oct. 13 (BO), and one Bowdoinham, ME, Oct. 24 (DS) while lower than last fall's five, is still well above the levels of the early 1980's.

SHOREBIRDS

Observers in w. Massachusetts had a disappointing shorebird season, with the following species considered to be in low numbers: Black-bellied Plover, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Spotted, Semipalmated, White-rumped, and Pectoral sandpipers, and Com. Snipe. Comments of diminished abundance in Maine were received about Lesser Golden-Plover (JD), Semipalmated (CD, JF), White-rumped and Pectoral sandpipers (*vide* JD). In e. Massachusetts, Stilt Sandpiper numbers were considered low at Plum I., (JB). Western Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Wilson's Phalaropes, all rare-but-regular vagrants to the Region, were thought to be atypically scarce on Cape Cod (*vide* BN). Indeed, the Regional totals of 16 Buff-breasts and 13 Wilson's Phalaropes are well below the levels of a decade ago, but not out-of-line for recent years, especially given the lack of reportage for most e. Massachusetts locales.

Reports of shorebirds in higher than usual numbers—including some genuine rarities—overshadowed the scarcities. Most occurred coastally, and could be immediately traced to either Hurricane *Bob*, or the season's other storms. A count of 113 Lesser

Golden-Plovers, at Napatree Pt., RI, Sept. 5 was among New England's highest. Rarest of all, by a long measure, was a **Common Ringed Plover**, Sept. 15-22, at Ninigret, RI (PB, RC †). This is only the second ever in the Region (see *AB*: 45,76 for a description of last year's first). The observers noted all field marks, down to the unwebbed toes—the bird had an injured right foot facilitating this observation—and the soft “ooo-lee” and “too-eee” whistle.

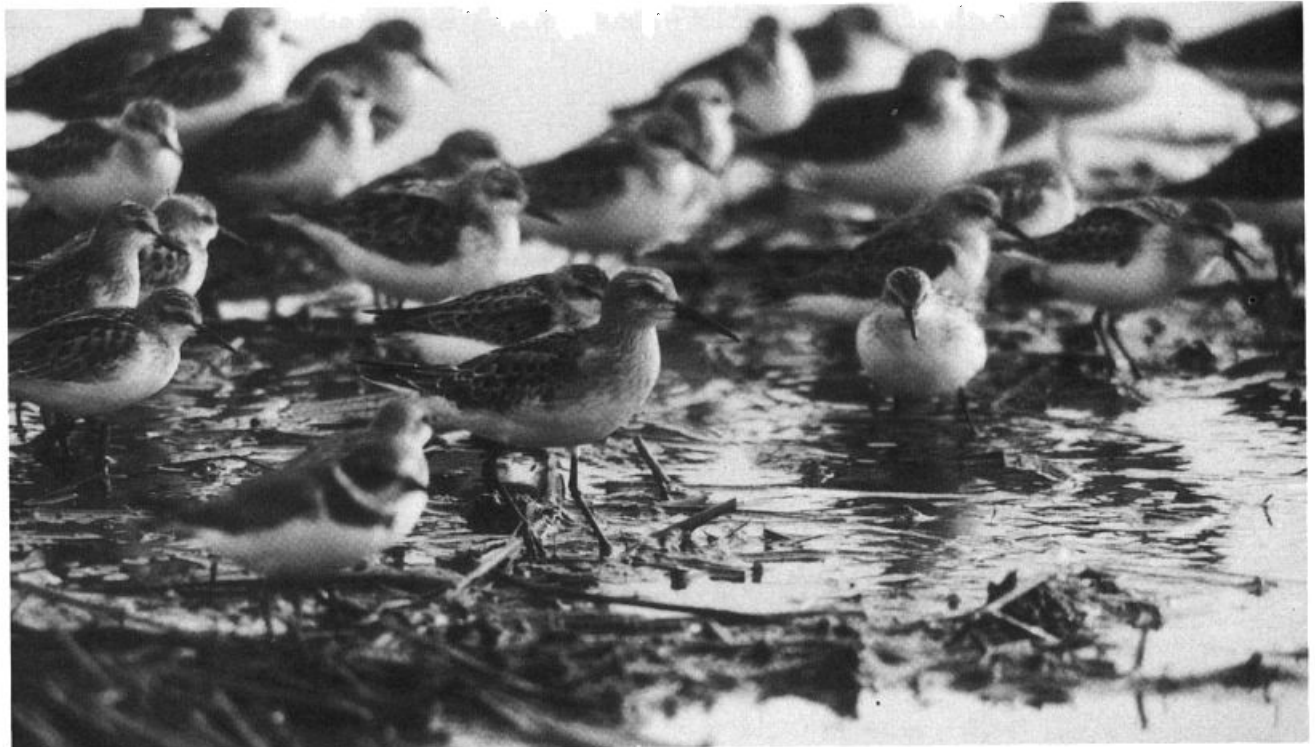
A record high count of 103 Killdeer was seen at Portsmouth, RI, Oct. 14 (SD). In Connecticut, the species was widely thought to be more abundant than normal, with 40 at Storrs, CT, Oct. 16 (GCL), and 35 still there Nov. 3. Am. Oystercatchers were especially numerous throughout coastal areas beginning with Hurricane *Bob*. At least 160 were recorded. The most northerly was at Scarborough, ME, Aug. 25-28, (JD *et al.*), and the latest were two at Napatree Pt, RI, Nov. 11 (CR). Also clearly associated with *Bob* was a **Black-necked Stilt** at S. Kingstown, RI, Aug. 20-22 (m. obs.), and an Am. Avocet at Quicksand Pond, RI, Aug. 22 (AS, m. obs.). Another Avocet was seen by many throughout September at Plum I., MA, (*vide* JB).

Contrasting with low numbers of other shorebirds in w. Massachusetts, 73 Solitary Sandpipers was an above average total there. Also bucking the trend in w. Massachusetts were 13 Upland Sandpipers at Hadley, Aug. 13, with one still there Aug. 31, described as “amazing” (*vide* SK). Greater Yellowlegs were late at Salisbury State Reservation, MA, Nov. 23, and S. Thomaston, ME, Nov. 27 (DRe, ML), as was a Spotted Sandpiper at Moon-

stone Beach, RI, Nov. 20 (SH).

Whimbrels occurred in large numbers at traditional sites, with 550 or more at N. Monomoy I., MA, Aug. 2 (BN), and 51 at Scarborough, ME, 4 days later (GC), being high, but not record, maxima. Rhode Island's third record of **Long-billed Curlew** was one, said to be thoroughly described, at Charlestown Breachway, Aug. 9 (RC), well before the season's storms began. Previous sightings were in 1912 and 1945. More routine but still noteworthy among the Region's numerous Hudsonian Godwit reports were those inland: six in Vermont (*vide* JN), and one, slightly late, at Richmond, Nov. 10, the 11th occurrence for w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK). **Bar-tailed Godwits** were of annual occurrence in the Region in the mid- and late-1970's, but were absent for most of the 1980's. This season, one in basic plumage was seen at N. Monomoy I., MA, Aug. 11-14 (BN), again well prior to storm activity. The Region's total of 14 Marbled Godwits included hurricane-driven birds in Maine (1), Connecticut (2), and Rhode Island (3) in late August. The species is rare or very rare in each of these states.

A count of 300 Ruddy Turnstones at Petit Manan, Aug. 4 was well above normal levels there (RWi), but one at Norwich, VT, Aug. 19, associated with *Bob* was genuinely rare (WE, NM). The Regional total of reported Baird's Sandpipers was a paltry 14, less than half of a typical year's count. A **Curlew Sandpiper**, representing the fifth state record, was at Napatree, RI, Aug. 31 (CR). Red-necked Phalaropes seem to have deserted the waters off Eastport and Lubec, ME, for good. None



Juvenile Curlew Sandpiper (center) at Quincy, Massachusetts, on September 24, 1991. These subtle youngsters are detected less often than the bright alternate-plumaged adults. Photograph/Robert P. Abrams.

was reported again this year. Sightings of single individuals of this species at Norwich, VT, Aug. 19 (WE, NM), and at West Haven, CT, Aug. 27 (NP) were surely hurricane-related, as was a Red Phalarope at Newport, RI, Aug. 19 (CR). The species is becoming annual in Vermont now: one was at S. Hero, Sept. 24 (DC, DH, ph.) and another was at L. Bomoseen, Castleton, Nov. 9 (WE, NM). One was identified with certainty in a group of 105 phalarope (sp.) Oct. 31 at First Encounter Beach. The date alone argues that all were of this species since Red-necked Phalaropes are exceedingly rare after early October.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Words fail in trying to describe the spectacle of jaegers and skuas, many right on the beach, Oct. 31 at First Encounter Beach. The count of 1100 jaegers, virtually all Pomarines, is *4 times higher than the total* of all Pomarine Jaegers reported in this column in the past 15 years! With them were four Great Skuas, at least eight skua (sp.), and 1500 Black-legged Kittiwakes (BN, KJ, SPe). An echo of this event was seen by the same observers at the same place Nov. 11, after a second storm. This time, 40 Pomarine, three Parasitic, 300 unidentified jaegers, one skua (sp.), and 500 Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen. Nothing like these events has been recorded in these pages previously.

A pair of Parasitic Jaegers was found at Old Saybrook, CT, Aug. 19 (NP) as a result of Hurricane Bob. A Long-tailed Jaeger and a Great Skua were both found as part of a pelagic birdwatching trip to Cashes Ledge, MA, Sept. 8 (KJ), and a South Polar Skua was seen near Mt. Desert Rock, ME, one week later (*fide* WT).

A Laughing Gull at Hadley, Nov. 6 (PY) would be the 10th record for w. Massachusetts, but details had not yet been received by the local compiler. The Region's three Franklin's Gull reports was above average, if all pass muster. One was at Chatham, MA, Aug. 5 (BN). Another, apparently the third ever for Connecticut, was at Old Saybrook, Aug. 20 (NP). Finally, one was at Rye, NH, Sept. 12 & 17 (DA, SM *et al.*). Little Gulls are becoming routine in L. Champlain, VT. This year, three to five different individuals were found around Grand Isle and N. Hero from mid-summer to the end of the period.

The Regional total of 15 Com. Black-headed Gulls was the highest in a decade but still well below the totals of the mid-1970's when 30-40 would be seen (and when the Region included the Canadian Maritimes). Most interesting were the two nests—neither successful—found at Petit Manan I., ME (*fide* WT), where the species has attempted nesting before, even hybridizing with Laughing Gulls. Notable Iceland Gull sightings were inland, with three at Turner, ME, Nov. 18 (JD), and one at a Brattleboro, VT, landfill, Nov. 24 (WE, NM). Either observers are not reporting all the Lesser Black-backed



Bridled Tern found on Monhegan Island, Maine, on August 22, 1991, in the wake of Hurricane Bob. First state record. Photograph/Tigger Hitchcock.

Gulls they find, or the species's expansion has slowed considerably. This season 14 were recorded in the Region. For the second year in a row, a Glaucous Gull, apparently the same individual, has arrived at Cape Eliza-

found well afterward may have been brought by the storm. The state-by-state summary of hurricane-driven birds found between Aug. 19, the arrival of Bob, and the end the month is summarized below:

Species	CT	RI	MA	NH	ME
Gull-billed Tern	2	4	-	-	-
Caspian Tern		3	6	1	-2
Royal Tern	2	38	4	2	21 ^a
Sandwich Tern	1 ^b	16	6	1	3 ^a
Forster's Tern		--	-	1	3
Bridled Tern	2	-	-	-	1 ^b
Sooty Tern	1	2	-	-	-
Black Tern	3	-	4	-	1
Black Skimmer	30	300	2	2	2

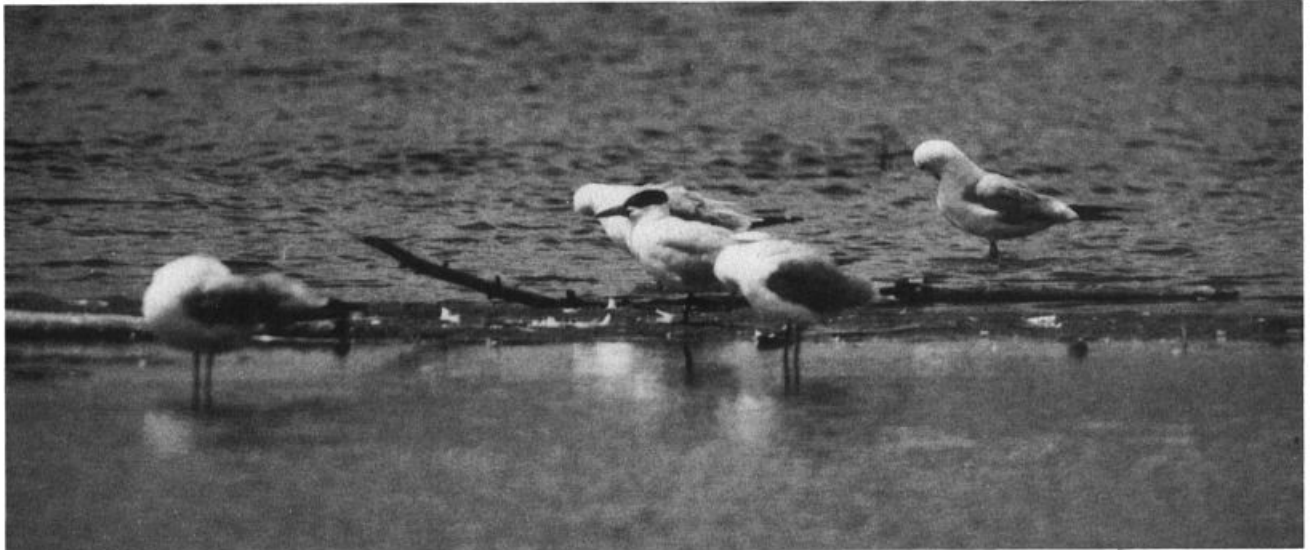
Notes: a. Includes a bird banded in 1984 as a nestling in North Carolina and found dead after the hurricane. b. First state record, ph.

beth, ME, in late August (v. obs.), an unusually early date. An emaciated **Black-legged Kittiwake** found dead at Brattleboro, VT, Aug. 8 (DLM, AD) was the fifth state record, and the earliest of any. Also far inland, a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** at the University of Massachusetts Stadium, Hadley, Sept. 19, was a first for w. Massachusetts. One at Scarborough, ME, and one at Stellwagen Bank, MA, rounded out an otherwise unexceptional season for this species.

The number of "southern terns" occurring in the Region was perhaps the single event most emblematic of the season. Most were found immediately following Hurricane Bob, but many lingered, and even those

In addition, a Com. Tern was found far inland Aug. 22 in w. Massachusetts (*fide* SK).

Other records, not obviously related to the storm, follow. A Gull-billed Tern was at Block I., RI, Aug. 11 (LB †). Two Caspian Terns were at Dead Creek and nearby areas from the end of July to mid-August (v.o.). Two Com. Terns were late at Lubec, ME, Oct. 5 (CD *et al.*). Latest of all was a Com. Tern at Madison, CT, Nov. 2 (RE). Forster's Terns regularly occur on Cape Cod, even in the absence of storms. This year's maximum was a modest 11. Late records of this species elsewhere included two at Ipswich, MA, Nov. 2 (JB), and nine among 3 Rhode Island localities Nov. 4 & 7 (*fide* DE).



Caspian Tern at Highgate Springs, Vermont, on August 11, 1991. Photograph/Richard B. Lavallee.

Reported alcids were virtually non-existent, with the exception of a pair of storm-driven Dovekies at First Encounter Beach, MA, Oct. 31 (BN), and a single Razorbill Nov. 14 at Madison, CT (NP, JG *et al.*).

CUCKOOS TO WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were considered more common than usual in Maine this season, with 20 reported (*fide* JD). Barn Owls barely continue in the Region; one was seen Nov. 10 at Lighthouse Pt., New Haven, CT (SMA, ES). It was a huge season for Snowy Owls, with sixty-two reported, contrasting with last autumn's nearly complete absence. The season's count of four N. Hawk Owls was the most in many years. Unique was one found by a lobsterman, freshly dead and floating 3 mi. off Bar Harbor, ME, Oct. 10 (*fide* WT). Live birds included one at Stewartstown, NH, Nov. 9 (DB, RS), while Vermont host-

ed one at Charlotte, Nov. 12 (DDa), and one at Craftsbury Common, Nov. 26 to the end of the month and beyond (FO, JW). Yet another was found at Grand Isle, VT, 2 days after the close of the season. Bewildering was the November occurrence of five **Boreal Owls**, concentrated in a small area just s. of Boston, Oct. 30–Nov. 19. Three of these birds were brought to rehabilitators in poor condition (*fide* WP). Petersen rightly wonders if the species was overlooked elsewhere, or if there was a reason for such a tight clustering?

The migration of Com. Nighthawks was well-noted in w. Massachusetts, with a count of 3600 at Northampton, Aug. 22, being the second highest one-day count there (*fide* SK). The season total for New Hampshire was a rather typical 222. In Vermont, a hummingbird at Addison, Aug. 4, submitted as Rufous (CJ *et al.*), was wisely accepted by the

state records committee as "*Selasphorus* (sp.)." The Regional total of 13 Red-headed Woodpecker reports, not all clearly referable to separate individuals, was a very poor showing. Two or three Red-bellied Woodpeckers at Concord, NH, feeders the first week of November (*fide* DD) were significantly n. of their usual range. Twenty-seven N. Flickers were banded at Appledore I., ME, well above the 5-year average of 10 (DH).

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

Three Olive-sided Flycatchers was an above average total for Rhode Island (*fide* DE), and a total of 74 "Traill's" (that is, Alder or Willow) Flycatchers banded at Appledore I., ME, demolished the previous high of 58. In contrast, only 19 Least Flycatchers were banded there, a 4- or 5-fold decrease in birds per "net-hour" of banding effort since 1984 (DH). **Ash-throated Flycatchers** are notoriously November-vagrants. This year was no exception, with one reported at Somerville, ME, Nov. 4 (†JH *et al.*) representing Maine's third record, and one at Wellfleet, MA, from mid-November on (*fide* BN), was apparently the sixth for that state. Only seven W. Kingbirds were reported, a very low figure. Purple Martins drew attention in Vermont by their complete absence, in contrast to the sight of 1000 migrating Barn Swallows, seen in only 30 minutes, at W. Rutland, Aug. 1 (*fide* JN). Late swallows were one Bank, and one Cliff, at separate localities at Addison, VT, Sept. 27 (WE). A Barn Swallow Nov. 26 at Old Lyme (TH) was the latest ever for Connecticut. Still, mid- or late-November occurrences somewhere in the Region are now the rule, and likely represent reverse migrants.

The migration of Am. Crows was well observed by hawkwatchers in Vermont. On Oct. 17, 928 passed Mt. Philo, *Chittenden*, (RP), and 5000 were counted at both Fuller Mt. and Burlington on Oct. 28 (JDy, PRi). Fish Crows were thought to be a little more common than usual on the Rhode Island s.



Far from home but in some familiar elements of habitat was this Rock Wren at South Orleans, Massachusetts, on November 5, 1991. It furnished a second record for the state and for New England. Photograph/R. S. Everett.

shore with five reported in November (*vide* DE). A **Rock Wren** at S. Orleans, MA, Nov. 2 to at least the end of the month (CST *et mult. al.*, ph.) was only the 2nd for the state and the Region. Carolina Wrens seem to be everywhere, reaching spots as northerly as Norwich, VT (WE, NM) and Petit Manan (RWi). The Region's total was 26, with many still present at the close of the season. A Sedge Wren, singing at the peculiar date of Nov. 3, represented the 10th fall record for w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK).

Nine Golden-crowned Kinglets were banded at Appledore I., ME, where the species is often absent (DH); elsewhere it was unmentioned. Northern Wheatears went unreported this season. With the exception of 1987, they have been found in the Region each of the previous fifteen Falls. There was no glimmer of improvement in the continuing decline of thrushes in New England. Kellogg specifically commented on the paucity of Swainson's Thrushes (18 in 8 reports) in w. Massachusetts, and Nicholson mentioned the very poor numbers of Wood Thrushes seen in Vermont. The 70 Gray Catbirds banded at Appledore I., ME was a record high (by one) (DH), but the Regional total of only nine reported Brown Thrashers tells a sad tale.

American Pipits were agreed to be unusually scarce this season by observers in Rhode Island, w. Massachusetts, and Maine. A **Sprague's Pipit**, the 2nd for Massachusetts and 3rd for the Region, was therefore all the more surprising at Clinton, MA, Oct. 26–Nov. 2 (*vide* SPe). Bohemian Waxwings totalled only 37 in widely scattered small flocks in Maine and Vermont in November. Northern Shrikes were not numerous on Cape Cod (*vide* BN) but numbers were up in w. Massachusetts (*vide* JN), and New Hampshire (*vide* DD), and typical in Maine.

WARBLERS

It would be possible to reprint *verbatim* the first several sentences from this section of last year's report without misrepresenting any fact: warbler migration below average, said to be the "poorest warbler flight ever" in w. Massachusetts, a few species banded in above average numbers but banding totals per "net-hour" generally down. Even the species list of this year's low species (Tennessee, Nashville, N. Parula, Magnolia, Cape May, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Wilson's and Canada) is virtually identical to last year's, with only Black-throated Blue removed for w. Massachusetts, but not for Appledore, where only 60% of the normal number were banded. The above-average species list is also essentially unchanged: Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Pine, Palm (except for Appledore), and Yellow-breasted Chat. This year, though, Black-throated Green Warbler can be added: it was in better than average numbers in Vermont and w. Massachusetts.

Among the rarer species, an above-average 4 reports of Golden-winged Warbler were received for the Region, but interbreeding with

its sibling, Blue-winged Warbler, produced an astonishing 4 reports of hybrids this season: individual "Brewster's" Warblers in Rhode Island and Vermont, and "Lawrence's" in Rhode Island and Maine. This cannot bode well for the continued survival of Golden-wings, already declining as a result of competition with Blue-wings. A Yellow-throated Warbler was at a Camden, ME, feeder, out-of-range and late from mid-November to the end of the season (JH *et al.*, ph.). Cerulean Warblers were found at Kingston, RI, Aug. 18 (DK, banded), and much more unusually, at Winhall, VT, Sept. 1, (WN †). A Prothonotary Warbler was at Block I., RI, Oct. 2 (m. obs.); one at Appledore I., was the third banded there since 1974 (DH). Connecticut Warblers were typically scarce, with 12 reported. A **MacGillivray's Warbler**, the fifth for the state and the Region, was said to have been banded at Manomet Bird Observatory, MA, this fall (*vide* TL), but details have not been seen by this Editor. A banding total of eight Hooded Warblers at S. Kingston, RI, was way above average (DK); another was found at Madison, CT, on the late date of Oct. 12 (RE).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A **Western Tanager** Aug. 22 at Addison, VT (RBW, PBI), accepted by the Vermont Bird Records Committee, was an overdue state first. An imm. _ Rose-breasted Grosbeak was very late, and probably a reverse migrant, Nov. 14 at Lyndon, VT (DM). The season's six Blue Grosbeaks represented an ordinary total, though a dozen Indigo Buntings at Truro, MA, was a high count. The total of 12 Dickcissels reported was the lowest in many years. Similarly, nine reported Clay-colored Sparrows was a low Regional total, but in Maine, Townsend specifically mentioned them as "unusually numerous." One suspects shortcomings in reportage for the contradiction. The same can probably be said for the 10 reported Lark Sparrows, given that five of these were at Appledore I., ME, alone, a new high there (DH). Six "Ipswich" race Savannah Sparrows were reported, five in Maine from Oct. 26 on, and one, much less routine, at Westport, CT, Nov. 23 (CE *et al.*)

Among our rarest sparrows, a Henslow's was at Madison, CT, Nov. 9 (JK, TM) and a pair of Le Conte's at Northampton, Sept. 28, was the first for w. Massachusetts. Seaside Sparrows disperse a little northward into Maine after the breeding season. This year one was at Petit Manan, Aug. 28 (RWi †), and another was at Scarborough, Oct. 10 (LB). Fox and White-crowned sparrows were in extremely low numbers for the second consecutive autumn, and White-throated Sparrows were also considered scarce on Cape Cod (*vide* BN). Massachusetts' 4th **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was present in Duxbury Oct. 23–25 (*vide* SPe). Snow Buntings were not particularly evident, the largest flocks reported being 168 birds at Hampton S.P., NH, Nov. 2 (*vide* DD), and

113, 2 weeks later at Madison, CT (*vide* BK).

The total of four Yellow-headed Blackbirds, in Maine, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, was typical of recent years but a fraction of the totals of a decade ago. A Brewer's Blackbird at Hardwick, Oct. 13, was the fourth for w. Massachusetts (TG). Late, and presumably reverse migrants, were ad. _ N Orioles at Madison, CT, Nov. 15 (DP), and Bar Harbor, ME, the next day (WT). A few have been found each November since 1985

"Winter finches" were essentially absent last fall. This season, w. Massachusetts observers found some, and there were spotty occurrences elsewhere. Twenty Purple Finches were at Woodstock, VT, Oct. 30, with more lingering to the end of the season than in the past decade (WE *et al.*). Double-digit totals for other species were generally from w. Massachusetts: Red Crossbill (32), Pine Siskin (23), and Evening Grosbeak (119). Nonetheless, a flock of 50 Evening Grosbeaks at an E. Machias, ME, feeder Nov. 30 presaged an expensive winter bird-seed bill for this Editor.

Compilers (in boldface), contributors (in italics), and cited observers:

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

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

The fall migration of 1991 was a long, drawn-out movement, beginning early and lasting late, in generally calm, warm weather. The thermometer reached 90° September 16 as far north as Rochester, giving the Region another record number of 90° days in 1991. Although coastal storms raised rainfall levels above normal near the ocean in early fall, drought resumed in November—and it never ceased in the interior.

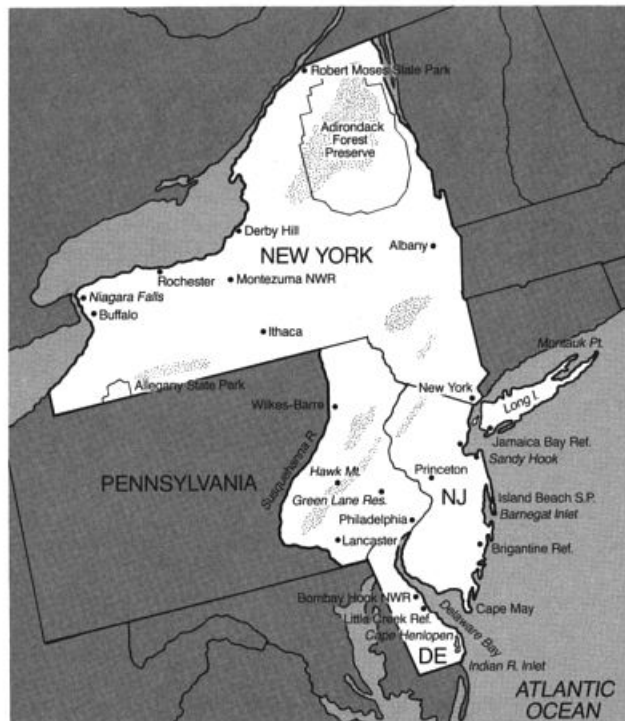
Boreal migrants were already moving in August throughout the Region, probably reflecting an early and successful nesting season. Migrants were encouraged to linger, too, by mild weather and abundant food supply. Our correspondents reported more record early and late dates than we have space to publish. In the absence of strong fronts, fewer migrants piled up on the coast and almost everyone complained of low numbers.

Hurricane *Bob* brushed the outer banks of North Carolina and then swept north offshore, passing 50 mi. e. of Montauk Pt., LI, on August 19. On the New Jersey shore, it did little more than rearrange the coastal tern populations. Montauk Point, however, received the full onslaught (as did Rhode Island a few hours later). Lauro, Buckley, Baldelli, and Kurtz rode it out at Montauk Point in a four-wheel drive vehicle. Kurtz recounted "a dramatic increase in northeast winds between 9:30 and 10:00...until 1:15 PM" when they "decreased from approximately 100 m.p.h. to 10 m.p.h. After the howling winds, the relative zephyr was almost disorienting... After approximately 15 minutes the wind increased in strength to approximately 100 m.p.h. from the northwest, creating one of the most spectacular ocean scenes I have ever witnessed. Apparently we were in the western wall of the eye during this relatively calm period."

They were rewarded by both storm-petrels, a **Sooty Tern** (†RJK) and an unidentified procellariid that flew in the immense arc of a *Pterodroma*. In the eye were 41 Hudsonian Godwits and 80 Pectoral Sandpipers. A **White Ibis** and more Pectoral Sandpipers were at a nearby horse farm the same afternoon, and a **White-winged Dove** reported there Aug. 24 without details (ABa, JAsk) could have been storm-related. Laughing

Gulls inland and increased numbers of southern terns and Lesser Golden-Plovers seem to have been the storm's main legacy. As this Region was west of the storm center, storm waifs were less numerous than in many past hurricanes.

Abbreviations: Avalon (*sea watch n. of Cape May, NJ*); Bombay Hook (*Bombay Hook Nat'l Wildlife Ref., near Smyrna, DE*); Braddock Bay (*west of Rochester, NY*); Brig (*Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe Nat'l Wildlife Ref., NJ*); Burrow's Run (*Nature Conservancy area near Ashland, New Castle Co., DE*); Conejohela Flats (*Susquehanna R. at Washington Boro, Lancaster, PA*); Derby Hill



(*hawk watch overlooking L. Ontario near Mexico, Oswego Co., NY*); Green Lane (*Green Lane Reservoir, Montgomery Co., PA*); Hawk Mt. (*Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, near Kempton, Schuylkill Co., PA*); Hook Mt. (*hawk watch n. of Nyack, NY*); Jamaica Bay (*Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref., New York City*); Little Creek (*Little Creek Wildlife Area, near Dover, DE*); Montclair (*hawk watch on the first Watchung Ridge, Upper Montclair, NJ*); Montezuma (*Montezuma Nat'l Wildlife Ref., at the n. end of L. Cayuga, NY*); Raccoon Ridge (*the Kittatinny ridge near Millbrook, Warren Co., NJ*); Sandy Hook (*Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway Nat'l Recreation Area, NJ*); S.C.M.M. (*South Cape May Meadows, Cape May, NJ*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES

In addition to scattered individuals downed inland, 40 Red-throated Loons on L. Carey, Wyoming, PA, Nov. 23, the day after major rain, were unprecedented (WR). Reid had seen a total of 12–15 Red-throated Loons in

e. Pennsylvania over the previous 40 years. On the coast, a thousand Red-throated Loons in 2.5 hours marked the peak of their migration past Avalon Nov. 26 (DWa). A **Pacific/Arctic Loon** was reported at Peace Valley, Bucks, PA Nov. 23 (†AM). Common Loons accumulated on L. Cayuga, NY, in late October while the winds were southerly, building to 170 by Nov. 14. Then they departed on the cold front of Nov. 16. That day 450 were observed flying SSE in 2.5 hours (Cayuga Bird Club, NB). The same front brought the biggest Com. Loon flight over Hawk Mt., PA: 52 birds (DL). The season's total passing Hawk Mt., 164, was about 25% below last year, and far below the totals of the

1970s. A **Western Grebe** observed on L. Ontario from Derby Hill Oct. 20 (M. Rusk) has been submitted to the New York State Avian Rareties Committee. Two previous records have been accepted in New York (1978, 1985).

Brady documented **Black-capped Petrel** for New Jersey fully for the first time with a superb photograph at Hudson Canyon, 86 mi e. of Barnegat Light, Sept. 16. Pelagic birding was the best in years. Three offshore trips found N. Fulmar, the best count being 20 around the tuna fleet at Hudson Canyon Oct. 24 (ABr), a figure that approaches the concentrations around the foreign fishing fleets and floating canneries in the 1970s. Greater Shearwaters always outnumber Cory's in fall, but their numbers this season were the biggest in years. Over 625 were up to 52 mi SSE of Montauk Sept. 7 (RJK); 300 were at Hudson Canyon Sept. 16 & 30 (ABr), rising to 350+ there

Oct. 10 (TL, R. & N. French, J. Bens), diminishing to 200 Oct. 24 (ABr). Closer in, 100 were found only 15–30 mi off Fenwick I., DE, Nov. 23 (MVB). A few Sooty Shearwaters were still around: two at Hudson Canyon Sept. 16 (ABr), one there Oct. 10 (TL *et al.*), and, remarkably, one from the Cape May-Lewes ferry Sept. 18 (TL, T. Smart). The best Manx Shearwater counts were a remarkable eight off Fenwick I., DE, Nov. 29 (CDC, JFS) and six at Hudson Canyon Oct. 24 (ABr). Hudson Canyon hosted 19 black and white shearwaters Oct. 10, two of which were certainly Manx (TL). Along with a dozen Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Montauk Pt. in Hurricane Bob Aug. 19 were two Leach's Storm-Petrels (†RJK, AJL, ABa, PAB).

While an occasional imm. N. Gannet is to be expected in L. Ontario (this fall's was off Rochester Nov. 29 [R. McKinney, F. Merrill]), another in the St. Lawrence River at the Robert Moses Power Dam Nov. 3 was only the 2nd locally (BDiL). An Am. White Peli-

can at Oneida L. in c. New York Aug. 13–14 was the third area record. The summer's modest Brown Pelicans flight petered out early on Long Island, the last at Jones Beach Aug. 24 (R. Kelly). In New Jersey they diminished by early August, and then seemed to receive a new influx of post-breeding wanderers and juveniles. The roost at Champagne Island in Hereford Inlet, *Cape May*, down to five in early August, grew to a 2nd peak of 90 on Sept. 12 (D. Sibley). Then they declined until a final two were seen at Stone Harbor Nov. 5 (J. Forrest). In order to understand what is afoot with Brown Pelicans in this Region, observers should distinguish age groups.

A half dozen Great Cormorants in the Delaware R. around Philadelphia, a surprise when they first turned up in November 1983, now seem routine. Great Cormorants are still surprising upland: one immature on the Hudson R. at Embought Bay, *Greene*, NY was a third Albany area record (R. Guthrie); in n.w. New Jersey, two at Merrill Creek Res. Nov. 25 constituted a first *Warren* record (GHa) and one Nov. 11 at Swartswood L. (M. Barrett) a second *Sussex* record (first there last year). We can illustrate runaway Double-crested Cormorant expansion with 2 samples: flocks of 8–10 all along the upper Susquehanna R. in *Luzerne*, PA where two or three had been seen in the last two years, and none in fall before that (WR); and 20,000+ counted passing Avalon Oct. 17 (DG, TL, P. Hodgetts).

Dispersal of Great Egrets was the biggest in 30 years along the upper Susquehanna (WR). A few reached L. Ontario and the Adirondacks as usual, and remained very late at E. Syracuse (Nov. 3, GHu) and Montezuma (Nov. 27, B. Mongi, S. Skelly). An imm. Tricolored Heron was unusual on the Susquehanna R. at Marietta, *Lancaster*, PA, Aug. 14–Sept. 15 (†JH, mob). Ten Cattle Egrets at Pompey, *Onondaga*, and four at Mexico, *Oswego*, NY Oct. 26–27 were the second highest number for the Syracuse Region (GHu).

An imm. **White Ibis** near Montauk Pt., L.I., Aug. 19 (†RJK, AJL, ABa, PAB) was probably delivered by Hurricane Bob. A Glossy Ibis was far afield at L. Nockamixon, *Bucks*, PA (*vide* S. Farbotnick). Totally unexpected was a **Wood Stork** that circled over the Mt. Peter hawk watch, near Warwick, *Orange*, NY, Oct. 27 before landing at Greenwood L. (A. Martin). This was the first Regional observation of this sadly diminished bird since 1985.

WATERFOWL

As has become normal, one or two Ross' Geese were among the immense flocks of Greater Snow Geese at Brig and Bombay Hook. Four at Woodland Beach, DE, Oct. 12 (M. Gustafson, B. Peterjohn), however, was an unprecedented number in this Region. The number of Greater White-fronted Geese inches upward, without certainty about wild origins; about eight were reported to us this season.

About four Eur. Wigeon on Long Island and two at Brig were about par; above average inland were singles at Merrill Creek Res., *Warren*, NJ, Nov. 8 (J. Mitchell, J. Bullis), for the 2nd year in a row, and in *Albany* (KPA), *Rockland*, (J. Huf) and *Orange*, NY (H. Stein). The only Tufted Duck, exceptionally, was in upstate New York: a male at Saratoga L. after Nov. 9, a second Albany area record (R. Perry, G. Hansen, S. Zink, mob).

Common Eiders grew to six at Barnegat Light, NJ by the end of November, and a few singles reached as far south as Cape May, and Roosevelt Inlet, DE Oct. 12–14 (WWF). Montauk Pt., probably the most reliable spot on earth to see King Eiders, had a good 15 by the end of November. Four were at Barnegat Light, *Ocean*, NJ Nov. 16 (PBA), three at Avalon Oct. 30 (DWa), and one or two around Cape May Pt. in November. A female was well-described at Indian R. Inlet, DE, Nov. 15 (NP).

A storm Oct. 28 grounded 45 Black Scoters on L. Cayuga, NY (NB), along with nine White-winged Scoters, and 11 on Princeton's L. Carnegie (LL, T. Southerland). Another major grounding brought 78 Black Scoters to the Tomhannock R., *Rensselaer*, NY Nov. 8 (P. Connor). Wintering Ruddy Ducks continue to dwindle in the Delaware R.; only 200 were in Pennsauken Cove, NJ, Nov. 29 (WD). Two **Barrow's Goldeneyes** turned up Nov. 17 in central New York, one at Saratoga L. (*vide* KPA), and another at Derby Hill (D. Crumb, J. Throckmorton).

RAPTORS

(Note: We thank Sean Smith for Cape May data; Drew Panko for Fire Island; Steve Walter for Fort Tilden, Brooklyn; Douglas Laye for Hawk Mt.; Padraic French for Hook Mt.; Marylea Klauder for Militia Hill, Philadelphia; Else Greenstone for Montclair; Adam Martin for Mt. Peter, *Orange*, NY; Tom Laura for Raccoon Ridge; and Saul Frank for general information.)

A record 45 Black Vultures passed Cape May. A record 690 Turkey Vultures passed Montclair, and Hawk Mt. (173) and Cape May (758) had their 2nd highest totals. Bald Eagles were too widespread to enumerate. Their biggest migration day was Sept. 20: three at Pelham Bay, Bronx, NYC (NYRBA), eight at Raccoon Ridge, and six over Rye, NY, that day and the next. Six at Cape May Oct. 13 and four at Hawk Mt. Nov. 25 were the best later counts. Militia Hill totalled 17 at the edge of Philadelphia.

All long-term hawk watches had low totals, partly because calm weather dispersed migrants. This makes it even harder than usual to judge trends, so we will mention only major departures from normal. Northern Harrier numbers crashed almost universally for the 2nd year in a row. The ridges fared no better than the beaches: Cape May (883) was 40% below the ten-year average, Hawk Mt. (192) 57% below, and Montclair (81) 43% below.

Sharp-shinned Hawks also declined al-

most everywhere, generally more steeply on the coast than on the ridges. Cape May's 14,027 were 55% below the ten-year average, Montclair's 2579 were 42% below, and Hawk Mt.'s 5618 21% below. Fire Island was slightly up, but its total remained lower than the late 1980s. The decline likely seemed worse at Cape May because few fronts accumulated migrants there. Cooper's Hawks, by contrast, racked up 2nd highest counts in 34 years at Mt. Peter (104) and 2nd highest in 20 years at Hook Mt. (141), the highest counts in both cases being last year. Northern Goshawks staged a mini-invasion along the coast, where an exceptional number of adults, rare on the beach, pushed Cape May's total to 58, second only to the invasion year of 1985. Elsewhere, hawk watch totals were only a little above average.

Broad-winged Hawks moved in two bursts, Sept. 11–13 and Sept. 20–21. In a more drawn-out repeat of last year, 15,000 Broad-wingeds passed over Rye, *Westchester*, NY over 2 days, September 20–21. Swainson's Hawks were back to normal with two an immature Oct. 11–12 at the most reliable spot, Cape May, and another Oct. 13 at Short Beach, LI (P. Post, E. Davis).

Post-breeding dispersal of juv. hawks was dramatically illustrated this season by a massive pile-up along the s. shore of L. Ontario Aug. 17. In a hazy s.w. wind, Braddock Bay Raptor Research counted 2218 Red-tails and 1112 Broad-wings, and estimated twice that many beyond clear vision. They banded 125 Red-tails. The Red-tail figures are single-day records for North America (J. Dodge). Last year a juv. Red-tail banded shortly before in n. Virginia was recaptured at Braddock Bay in August, underscoring the dispersal of immatures northward in late summer (J. Dodge).

When the regular Red-tailed Hawk migration began, it was disappointing. Since low numbers are to be expected on the coast in a season with few strong fronts, it would be wrong to read too much into Cape May's poor Red-tail count: 609, 65% below the ten-year average. But every count was down. Hawk Mt.'s 2916 were 25% below the ten-year average; Montclair was 39% below with 748. Having long taken high Red-tail populations for granted, we must now keep tabs.

The best spot for Golden Eagles was the Franklin Mt. hawk watch, *Oneonta*, NY, which totalled 60, up from 41 last year (*vide* PDeB). Elsewhere, numbers remain well above ten years ago. It is now possible to make multiple one-day counts away from the ridges. Good examples this fall were four at Cape May Oct. 29, and up to five passing Burrow's Run Nov. 6 (WJW). Two Gyrfalcons were reported: at Little Neck Bay, Queens, NYC, Nov. 16 (M. Normandia) and another at Barnegat Light, NJ, Nov. 30 (RKa).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

A **Yellow Rail** picked up dead at Nine Mile Pt. Oct. 9 (MK) was the first modern Syra-

cuse area record. Purple Gallinules turned up in New Jersey, out of their usual late spring pattern: one found dead near Cape May and another alive at Cape May Pt. Nov. 12 (JDo). Errant Sandhill Cranes seem to increase steadily: two last fall, five this. The earliest were at Green Lane Oct. 12–13 (RWi, GLF, KCr) and Sandy Hook Oct. 13 (T. Halliwell *et al.*), followed by the Fire Island hawk watch Oct. 28 (†RJK), Avalon Oct. 30 (DWa), and Prime Hook N.W.R., DE, Nov. 31 (G. O'Shea, BSFi).

Continued drought created ideal shorebird conditions at such inland lakes as Green Lane, where 25 species were found ("best in years," NT), L. Champlain (21 species of shorebirds, "best in recent memory," JMCP), and Delta L., *Oneida*, NY (16 species). At Jamaica Bay, where the East Pond was lowered early enough thanks to Don Riepe, the season opened with an all-time record daily count of 5920 shorebirds July 31 (AMo, DM).

Lesser Golden-Plovers were widespread, especially after Hurricane Bob interrupted their offshore migration. Sod farms near Riverhead had a good 172 on Oct. 8 (NYRBA), and the Warren sod farms in *Orange*, NY had a fine 225 the same day (JPT). The biggest count was 250 Sept. 12 on sod farms near Vernon, *Sussex*, NJ (J. Cinquina, R. Widmer).

A bewildered Piping Plover was discovered on L. Ontario at Greece, NY, Nov. 27 by a birder trying to photograph a Snowy Owl—a bizarre combination. The plover, 3rd for the Rochester area, remained into December (B. Beal, CCs *et al.*, ph). An exceptional Am. Avocet in e. Pennsylvania Nov. 3–17 was sporting enough to move from Green Lane (KCr, GLF, mob) to the Allentown area (D. Klem, mob), creating first records for both *Lehigh* and *Montgomery*.

At the sod farms along Doctor's Path, near Riverhead, LI, Upland Sandpipers peaked at 29 on Aug. 18 (NYRBA); Calverton, LI, had 17 on Aug. 4 (RJK); the Clarkville sod farms, *Burlington*, NJ, held a maximum of 20 at the end of August (E. Bruder); and the Warren turf farms in *Orange*, NY, had 14 on Aug. 30 (JPT).

Low water permitted many more inland stop-overs of Hudsonian Godwits than usual, all curiously late: singles at Montezuma Oct. 5 (ph. G. Hodge) and at Saratoga L., NY, Nov. 14–15 (G. Hansen, S. Zink), and a remarkable three at Green Lane Oct. 22–Nov. 3 (GLF, mob). Marbled Godwits were a little above last year, but still well below twenty years ago. The best counts were six at Brig Oct. 16 (CS) and six at Bombay Hook Sept. 14 (B&NM). Even more exceptional inland than Hudsonians, two were on the Susquehanna R. at Marietta, *Lancaster*, PA, Aug. 3 (†JH) and one at Delta L., *Oneida*, NY, a 4th area record (D. Cesari, M. Staloff).

Baird's Sandpipers fell far short of 1989's record numbers at Cedar Beach but small numbers were very widely reported, from the

Great Lakes (one at Dunkirk Aug. 20, [Moshers, Gula, Sr.]) to at least 5 places in e. Pennsylvania: two at Pittston Sept. 28, a second *Luzerne* record (WR); singles in August at the Conejohela Flats (JB *et al.*) and at Green Lane (J. Horn), and in September at Beltsville L., *Carbon*, a first there (RWi), and a sod farm in West Hempfield Twp., *Lancaster* (mob). Their best locations were evenly distributed between coast and interior: the Warren turf farms, *Orange*, NY, with five Sept. 2 (*vide* JPT); Montezuma, where the peak was six Aug. 25 (NB), and Bombay Hook whose peak was eight Aug. 10 (PBa).

Big Pectoral Sandpipers counts were reported, perhaps because their grassy pools were limited: 170 at Oak Orchard WMA, *Genesee*, NY, Aug. 25 (RMt) and 200+ at the Clarkville sod farm, *Burlington*, NJ, at the end of August (E. Bruder) were notable. A Purple Sandpiper on the Plattsburgh flats, L. Champlain, Sept. 14 (W. Krueger, C. Mitchell) was remarkable for both place and date. The Curlew Sandpiper at Jamaica Bay and one or two at Bombay Hook remained over into August (AMo, DM, B&NM, JA), and another was at North Line I., in Long Island's Great South Bay, Aug. 3 (AJL, ABa).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers were widely distributed, but the only double-digit concentrations north of Delaware were ten in late August at Doctor's Path, Riverhead, LI (J. Clinton) and 11–12 on sod farms near Allentown, NJ, in mid-September (LL, T. Bailey, F. Lesser). Delaware birders found more Buff-breasted Sandpipers by shifting from sod farms to newly harvested potato fields (APE). In potato fields along Route 8 inland from Little Creek, Buff-breasted peaked at 15 Sept. 15, along with 50 Lesser Golden-Plovers (S. Dyke). Noteworthy inland were singles at Green Lane Sept. 6–10 (KCr) and Beltsville L., *Carbon*, PA, another first, Sept. 11 (RWi). The only Ruffs were at SCMM Aug. 16 (CG, K. Corter), and Bombay Hook (Reeve Aug. 10 [PBa] and a late Ruff Oct. 8 [J. Gordon]).

We invited comment last fall about the ad. Long-billed Dowitcher passage in August. We have a report of "hundreds of adults, perhaps over a thousand...identified by voice, structure, plumage and molt" at Bombay Hook Aug. 18, that "far outnumbered" Short-bills. The observers (M'OB, L. Davidson, J. Dunn, H. Wierenga) submit that "nowhere else on the east coast seems to concentrate Long-billed Dowitchers quite like Bombay Hook." Farther north, long-term observers at Jamaica Bay conclude that only small numbers of ad. Long-billed stop there in August—few individuals this year, 25–20 in the best years—and that care must be taken to avoid confusion with the highly-colored interior race (*hendersoni*) of Short-billed Dowitcher (AMo, DM).

For the first time, all three phalaropes appeared at Green Lane in one season. The best place for Wilson's Phalaropes again was Bombay Hook, where counts approached 50 (WJB, PBa, mob) Inland, other than one at

Green Lane in mid-August (KCr, mob), and one at Muddy Run, *Lancaster*, PA, at the end of August, the best site was Montezuma three in late August-early September and four on Oct. 22 (J. Bruns).

Red-necked Phalaropes were scattered from Aug. 8 at Muddy Run, *Lancaster*, PA (D. Brauning) through Jamaica Bay Aug. 19 just after Hurricane Bob (PA), to Green Lane Sept. 9 (F. Brock) and SCMM Sept. 19 (RC, KK). On L. Ontario, three were in the Rochester area in September (MR, MD *et al.*). Red Phalaropes, curiously, outnumbered them inland: four on the Great Lakes, including two at Athol Springs, *Erie*, NY, Nov. 2 (RA); one on L. Cayuga Nov. 12 (NB); one at Dayton, *Middlesex* NJ, Oct. 20 (TBa); and two in e. Pennsylvania: Green Lane Sept. 20 (R. Grubb, G. Franchois), and Kaercher Creek Park, near Hamburg, Sept. 27 (K. Grim), a third *Berks* record.

JAEGERS TO TERNS

It was a great season for jaegers at Hudson Canyon, as Brady discovered on three trips on tuna boats out of Barnegat Inlet, on Sept. 16 and 30 and Oct. 24. His counts for the three trips were Pomarine Jaeger 127, 41, 23, Parasitic 3, 6, and 15; and Long-tailed, 4 juveniles (one superbly photographed) Sept. 16.

A few jaegers are regular in fall on L. Ontario, but eight at Athol Springs, *Erie*, Nov. 2, fighting their way into a strong s.w. wind, was one of the best counts ever on the New York shore of L. Erie (RA). Derby Hill, the best L. Ontario concentration spot, had zero for lack of northwest winds. Unusual inland, one dark immature jaeger at the Conejohela Flats Nov. 2–3 was believed to be a Parasitic (†JB, SSa, EW, T. Garner). The only Pomarine Jaeger reported away from the sea was on L. Ontario at Hamlin Beach S.P., *Monroe*, NY Oct. 20 (CCs).

Laughing Gulls were very rare far inland a few years ago. This fall, in addition to two on L. Cayuga, NY Aug. 26–27 (NB) possibly related to Hurricane Bob, we know of three in e. Pennsylvania, one of which (Beltsville L., Sept. 6) was a first for *Carbon* (RWi), and one on L. Ontario near Rochester Aug. 28 (MD). Exceptional numbers of Franklin's Gulls reached this Region. A first-winter bird at Bombay Hook Sept. 10–13 (PA, P. Vanderhorst, mob) was Delaware's second record. A second-winter bird was impeccably described at the Cape May ferry landing Oct. 19 (†D. Czaplak). Even on L. Ontario, where a few are regular, a group of six at Rochester Oct. 1 was unprecedented (MR, †CCs).

The gull bonanza in the Buffalo - Niagara area was a little less exciting than last year, but included a Franklin's at Buffalo Aug. 29 (Meyer), up to two Sabine's there Oct. 6–7 (WD'A, Watson, Bellerby), the usual sprinkling of Little Gulls and a Com. Black-headed Gull, up to three Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the Niagara R. in late November, and a Black-legged Kittiwake at Athol



Springs in November (RA). The Bonaparte's Gull assemblage reached 13,500 at Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 29 (Bellerby).

Elsewhere, Little Gull records centered on the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence R., with six at the Robert Moses Power Dam Sept. 25 (BDiL). An adult at Charlotte, *Monroe*, Aug. 10 was record early there (MD, D. Sherony). Almost all the Little Gulls seen now on L. Ontario are adults (RGS). Two on L. Champlain in November (JMCP, W. Krueger) were good, and about six down the coast from Montauk Pt. to Cape May were a little under par.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls were widely reported (could readers have heeded our complaint last fall?). They continue to spread inland, as shown this season by two at L. Ontario, *Berks*, PA (M. Wlasniewski) and singles at Montezuma (again), the Robert Moses Power Dam in the St. Lawrence R. (BDiL), Chautauqua L. (Sundell), and at least four around Ithaca (NB). In the hybrid department, a bulky gull with plumage characters close to Lesser Black-backed Gull at Ithaca suggests a Lesser Black-backed X Herring hybrid (ph. NB). Sabine's Gulls were found, aside from the Niagara area, only on the Great Lakes: one or two at Buffalo Oct. 6-7, and one remarkably early at Rochester Sept. 1 (RMt).

Caspian Terns built to an extraordinary 200 in Salem Cove, on the lower Delaware R., by Sept. 15, outnumbering Forster's Terns there (SF, WD). This seems to have become their biggest staging area within the Region. "Hundreds" of Royal Terns were flying by Cape May Pt. in Hurricane Bob Aug. 19, and their populations were above normal



Sandwich Tern at Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware, on August 26, 1991. Although sight records exist, this bird [probably brought north by Hurricane Bob] was the first to be photographed in Delaware. Photograph/A. P. Ednie.

up and down the coast after that: 50 at Cedar Beach, LI Aug. 20, and 750+ on Champagne I. in Hereford Inlet Aug. 27 (C&PS). A few days after the storm, Royal Terns were inland at Artificial I., *Salem*, NJ, Aug. 21 (2nd local record, SF, WD) and on Staten I., New York Harbor, where rare. Sandwich Terns were prominent in the storm's cargo. On Long Island 12 were found between Mecox and Montauk Aug. 20 (PAB, ABa), while at Cape May the normal late-summer individuals swelled to eight adults and two banded juveniles Aug. 23–27 (returnees?). One at Cape Henlopen S.P. Aug. 26 was Delaware's first documented by photograph (APE).

A *portlandica* Com. Tern on Long Island Aug. 21 (ph. AW) was probably brought north by Hurricane Bob. Black Terns, which become quite pelagic in fall, were scattered all over Long Island and coastal New Jersey after Hurricane Bob. Less explicable were the record 18 far inland at the Conejohela Flats Aug. 18, two days before that storm.

Razorbills began an echo of last winter's historic flight: four were off Montauk by Nov. 24 (NYRBA), and one was at Townsend's Inlet, *Cape May*, NJ Nov. 1 (DWA).

OWLS TO WOODPECKERS

Following last winter's modest flight, a major Snowy Owl invasion shaped up. Earliest was one Oct. 16 in *Columbia*, NY (*fide* KPA). Several appeared about Oct. 29 in places as far apart as Jamaica Bay (†B. Machover, S. Saphir), Ithaca, and Rochester. Their southern limit was drawn sharply across s. New Jersey and central Pennsylvania, none being found south of Margate (CS) and Glassboro, NJ (S. Bauer) and Easton, PA (ph. B. Weber). About 13 were found in New Jersey (*fide* RKa), at least eight in n. e. Pennsylvania, about five on Long Island, about five around Ithaca (NB), and about 11 around Albany (KPA). Best figures came from a Braddock Bay Raptor Research team who banded 43 by mid-December, along the whole New York shore of L. Ontario from Cape Vincent to the Niagara R. (J. Dodge). Many of these birds were in bad shape; Dodge knew of about 30 received by rehabilitation centers. Around Albany one died of starvation and two others were revived by the NY Department of Environmental Conservation. A Northern Hawk Owl at Fort Edward, *Washington*, NY, after Nov. 16 (G. Hansen, mob) was a harbinger of things to come.

Owl banders at Cape May caught 20 Saw-whet Owls on their peak night, Nov. 17. This project has now banded a total of 2230 owls since 1969, 1191 of them Saw-whets, 555 Barns, and 438 Long-eareds. Of these, 23 have been recaptured at Cape May or found elsewhere, while 20 owls banded elsewhere have been recaptured at Cape May (K. Duffy).

The great Com. Nighthawk migrations of late August afternoons years ago—when they ceased milling and feeding and headed

straight south by the thousands—are long gone. Some areas had almost none, so it seems worth while to report the biggest migrant flocks known to us: 110 over Tonawanda, *Erie*, NY Aug. 25 (Hess), 150 over Ledge-wood, *Morris*, NJ Aug. 30 (KBr), 55 over Wading River, e. LI, the same day (JJR), 75–100 over Montvale, *Bergen*, NJ Sept. 4 (D. Rosselet), and 150 over Hainesville WMA, *Sussex*, NJ Sept. 7 (F. Tetlow).

Yunick had a record season for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, banding 21 at Jenny L., *Saratoga*, NY. Among numerous reports of groups around gardens and feeders, the prizewinner was an amazing 25+ Ruby-throats at Cruger's I., in Hudson R. near West Point, Sept. 2 (A. Jones). A Rufous Hummingbird at Wilson Manor Gardens, *New Castle*, Nov. 2 was Delaware's 6th (ph. ABr). Two Pileated Woodpeckers visited a suet feeder at Saranac Lake village, *Franklin*, NY, Sept. 3–Oct. 14 (R. Hagar).

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were early Aug. 4 at Medford, *Burlington*, NJ (WD) and Oak Orchard WMA, *Genesee* Aug. 11 (N. Miller, P. Beckman). One of the premier rarities in many years was a Gray Flycatcher at Cape Henlopen S.P., DE, Nov. 6 into December (WWF, †BFI, †B&NM, J. Dunn *et al.*). The bird was not only minutely studied by persons familiar with the species, but responded to Gray Flycatcher calls on tape (sparingly used). This was of course a first Delaware

record, and a first for the Region.

Only a little less remarkable was Pennsylvania's first Vermilion Flycatcher, at Jobs Corners, *Tioga*, Oct. 24–25 (A. Brown, ph F. Haas, *et al.*). This bird was only the 2nd in this Region. The first, on Long Island in Sept. 1987, was also the first documented record for the n.e. coast (AB42:51).

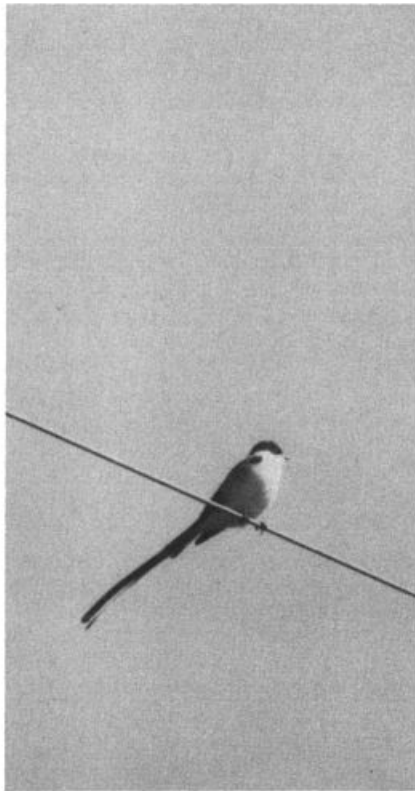
About 22 W. Kingbirds on the coast were about normal, but none was reported inland. Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were above average: one at Brig up to Oct. 27 (*fide* RKa), and another at Robert Moses S.P., LI Oct. 19–20 (AJL, ABa; †RJK, ph T. Tierno). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher appeared for the third year in a row. This one had a sense of publicity, for it perched over the entrance to the Cold Spring campground, near Higbee's Beach, *Cape May*, during the New Jersey Audubon Society's Fall Weekend, Sept. 29 (†B. Master, ph. O. Janni, hundreds), and took prime place on the weekend's grand total of 202 species.

Ravens, now spreading beyond the Adirondacks in upstate New York (GS), must have also bred on the Kittatinny Ridge of New Jersey, for groups of up to six were at Raccoon Ridge through the season (T. Laura).

Carolina Wrens "exploded" in the lower Hudson Valley (H. Manson) and were increasingly common right up to *Jefferson*, NY (GS). Sedge Wrens were back at Shearness Pool, Bombay Hook (PV, JA, mob) and at the SCMM in August. Two, possibly three,



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Robert Moses State Park, Long Island, New York, on October 20, 1991. Photograph/T. Tierno.



This Fork-tailed Flycatcher happened to appear at Cape May, New Jersey, on September 9, 1991, during New Jersey Audubon's annual weekend gathering there, and was enjoyed by hundreds of observers. Photograph/Ottavio Janni.

at Higbee's Beach Sept. 17–Oct. 14 (JDo, PS, D. Russell, et al.) and another at the "gravel pits," Morris, NJ Sept. 29 (KK) were more migrants than are usually detected.

The only Northern Wheatear—now nearly annual—was at Robert Moses S.P., LI, Oct. 7–10 (AJL, †MO'B, ph KF). Evidence

of high E. Bluebird populations were counts over the Cape May hawkwatch of 100+ Nov. 13 and 150+ Nov. 14 (S. Smith), and 94 in 110 acres at Burrows' Run Oct. 18 (WJW).

Only a handful of Bohemian Waxwings showed up along L. Ontario and in the Adirondacks. Except along the Great Lakes, Cedar Waxwings were "superabundant." Groups of 300+ were reported near Philadelphia (B&NM), the Fire Island hawk watch (JJR), and Burrow's Run (WJW). Northern Shrikes staged a moderate echo of last year's flight. One arrived early in Essex, NY, Oct. 24 (JMCP). They went as far south inland as Hawk Mt. Oct. 29 (imm., DL) and Peace Valley Nature Center, Bucks, PA, Nov. 24 (KCr, GLF, AM, mob), and, on the coast, to Sandy Hook. In central and w. New York, about a dozen were around Buffalo, four around Ithaca (NB), and another five along Route 17 south of Ithaca Thanksgiving weekend (A. Farnsworth). Only four Loggerhead Shrikes were reported: Cedar Beach, LI, Sept. 15 (ROP, S. Plimpton, KF) (a repeat location from last year), Cape May Sept. 5 (RC et al.), Bombay Hook Aug. 28–Sept. 1 (H. & B. Cutler, PV), and Broadkill Beach, DE (another repeat site), Sept. 4–Nov. 24 (WWF, CDC, APE, JPS).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Many spruce-breeding vireos and warblers were on the move in August, presumably having bred early. Many local record-early dates were reported, too many to list. Twenty species of warbler had appeared at Cape May by Aug. 5, and 20 species were seen at Higbee's Beach, Cape May, on Aug. 22 alone (VE, B. Barber).

At the other end of this protracted season, a number of vireos and warblers lingered late. The most remarkable of these will no doubt

figure in the winter report.

It was an exceptional fall for Orange-crowned Warblers and Connecticut Warblers. Nineteen Orange-crowned Warblers made it into the Cape May Bird Observatory log; eight were found around Ithaca (NB), four around Rochester, and about nine were reported from e. Pennsylvania. The now-famous riverside willow thickets at Palmyra, Burlington, PA, contained three Orange-crowned Warblers Oct. 7–Nov. 30 (T. Young, H. Tomlinson, TBa), and twice the usual number of Connecticut Warblers—13 found Sept. 7–Oct. 13, with a peak of three Oct. 12 (TBa, WD, K. Tischner). Most amazing was 56 Connecticut Warblers banded at Hidden Valley, Cape May, Sept. 2–Oct. 14 (TL et al.).

The Hidden Valley passerine banding project marked 2655 warblers, of which 35% were Com. Yellow-throats, 12% Palm Warblers (more Western than Yellow), and 9% N. Waterthrushes. Next in order came Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, and Am. Redstart (TL). Though these are all successful warbler species, it would be a mistake to draw hasty conclusions about relative abundance from one banding operation. In a different micro-habitat at Alfred, *Allegany*, NY, Brooks banded 148 warblers of which 25% were Magnolia, 18% Com. Yellowthroat, and 13.5% Yellow-rumps, with Nashville, Ovenbird, and Black-throated Green next in order (EBr). On the barrier beach, Yellow-rumped Warblers make up more than half of any total. Of 139 other warblers banded at Gilgo Beach, LI, 31% were Am. Redstarts, 26% Com. Yellowthroats, and 10% Black-throated Blues (ROP). In all habitats, spruce-budworm feeding species, particularly Bay-breasted and Blackpoll, remained low. A Black-throated Gray Warbler was photographed at Jamaica Bay Oct. 13 (H. Boltson, B. May).

Among southern warblers, a Yellow-throated Warbler reached Long Island, at Montauk Aug. 31 (AJL, ABa), while another in Princeton Woods Sept. 4 was Blicharz' first in many years of close study of that site. Single Prothonotary Warblers were at Montauk Aug. 24 (ABa, JAsk) and Rochester Aug. 25 (MD).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

The only W. Tanager was reported from Fort Tilden, Brooklyn, Nov. 29 (T. Fiore). A ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak travelling with a group of migrants at Hardwick, Warren, NJ, Sept. 25 (F. Tilly) was one of the earliest fall records known. A female at a feeder at Walnut Ridge, New Castle, Nov. 22 & 25 (E. Speck) was only the 4th for Delaware. A Blue Grosbeak at the Environmental Center at Stonykill (MVW, O.T. Waterman, HM, E. Pink) was a first for Dutchess, NY. Three Painted Buntings were unprecedented. One at Bombay Hook Aug. 4–9 (A. Hill, CDC, JWS, JA) was a 5th for Delaware (APE), following one there in fall 1989. Another was at Palmyra Sept. 28 (K. Somerville, J. Siler) and



Northern Wheatear at Robert Moses State Park, Long Island, New York, October 1991. Photograph/Ken Feustel.

Oct. 6-7 (T. Young, H. Tomlinson), and a third at Sandy Hook Oct. 6 (D. Roche). Few Dickcissels were noticed passing down the beaches; Cape May had only about 14, with a maximum of four on Oct. 12 (VE), and the peak on LI was three over Fire Island Oct. 7. More remarkable were singles along the Great Lakes (Orchard Park, *Erie*, Oct. 6 (Miller), and Hamlin Beach, *Monroe* (H. Lown, ph. D. Lown)) and at Stonykill, *Dutchess*, Oct. 20 (J. & D. Bradley).

Clay-colored Sparrows had a banner migration. Coastal records approached 30. More unusually, at least four were found in interior New Jersey, including *Salem's* 3rd (WD, T. Bailey), *Burlington's* first and 2nd, at Palmyra, Oct. 8-13 (WD, T. Young), and one at Bedminster, *Somerset*, NJ, Oct. 14 (A. Schreck, L. Fields). Only about eight Lark Sparrows were found on the coast, but one inland at Featherbed Lane, *Salem*, NJ Nov. 19 (H. Thompson).

The only Henslow's Sparrow reported was at Jamaica Bay Sept. 1 (KF). Two *Le Conte's Sparrows* in one season is unprecedented. One was carefully described in Hanover Twp, *Erie*, NY Oct. 10 (J. & T. Goetz, *vide* RA) and another was seen by many at Overpeck Creek, *Bergen*, NJ, Nov. 15 to mid-December (J. Bangma, *mob*). Although Sharp-tailed Sparrows of interior races were not found at their recent fall hot spot at Beatty Pt., near Rochester, one was picked up dead at Nine Mile Pt., *Oswego*, Oct. 9 (MK), for an 8th Syracuse area record and the first since

1975. An unprecedented 13+ (more than twice the previous maximum) were found on rugged islets in the Susquehanna R. near Bainbridge, *Lancaster*, PA, Oct. 6 & 20 (EWi, ph. NP, SSa).

The only winter finch event of note was a rush of thousands of Com. Redpolls along the entire s. shore of L. Ontario Nov. 17, from west to east. They were not apparent more than a mile inland, and after their passage, they vanished. Evening Grosbeaks have become rare. South of central New York State, the only double-digit group was 20 over the Upper Montclair hawk watch Nov. 13; the southernmost was one female at a feeder in *Salem*, NJ Nov. 6 (J. Merlino).

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Sharp-tailed Sparrow (of an inland race, probably *nelsoni*) netted and banded on grassy islands of the Susquehanna River below Bainbridge, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, on October 20, 1991. Photograph/Eric Witmer.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

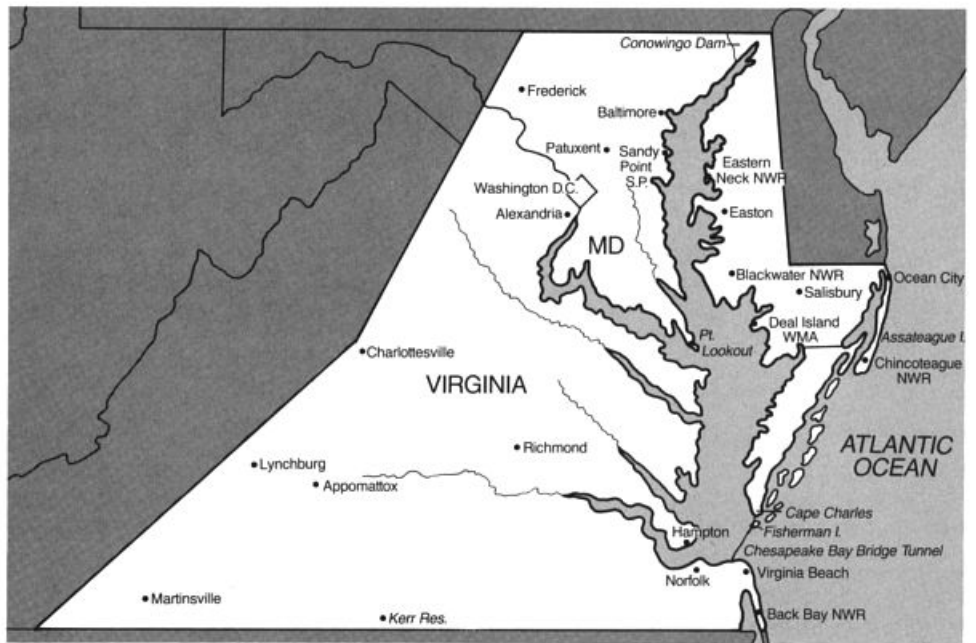
Henry T. Armistead

The most outstanding aspect of this fall was the good pelagic coverage that resulted in sightings of everything from the scarcer storm-petrels to alcids. Raptor and passerine flights were mediocre. Water levels were low, with some good shoreline and tern records from Staunton River State Park, far into the Virginia Piedmont. In spite of the receipt of 432 pages of reports, some key ones were missing, including Peregrine Falcon totals from the banding operation on Assateague Island and waterbird counts from Hart and Miller Islands after mid-September. There were few strong cold fronts that resulted in large influxes of migrants across the entire Region. With the exception of a couple of Snowy Owls and Northern Shrikes plus medium numbers of Rough-legged Hawks and Short-eared Owls, there were hardly any northern irruptive species and certainly not any finches. It was basically a rather mild, quite dry fall, with these deviations from normal temperatures: August +2.1°, September +0.3, October +1.1, November +0.3; and of precipitation, August -2.1 inches, September -1.1, October -0.6, and November -1.5.

Abbreviations: Assat. (*Assateague I., MD*); Balt. (*Baltimore, MD*); the Bay (*Chesapeake Bay*); Black. (*Blackwater N.W.R., MD*); CBBT (*Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Tunnel, VA*); Chinc. (*Chincoteague N.W.R., VA*); Craney (*Craney Island Disposal Area, Portsmouth, VA*); Deal (*Deal Island W.M.A., MD*); DC (*Washington, DC*); ES (*Eastern Shore of Maryland or Virginia*); ESVNWR (*Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R.*); Fish. I. (*Fisherman Island N.W.R., VA*); Hart (*Hart and Miller Is., Baltimore Co., MD*); Kipt. (*Kiptopeke, VA*); SPSP (*Sandy Point S.P. near Annapolis, MD*). Dates in *italics* represent banded birds.

LOONS TO IBISES

Good loon counts at Chinc. included 478 Red-throated Nov. 29 (DC) and 651 the next day (GLA, HTA), both 2-hour totals, and they were passing Ocean City at 100 per hour Nov. 30 (MO). One at DC Nov. 10 was about the 5th record there (DC, RH, OJ, ph.). Peak tallies of Com. Loons were 500 at both Snickers Gap, VA, flying into the Region from this Appalachian outpost Nov. 8 (RH) and the Choptank R. mouth, MD, Oct. 22 (GK, *vide* JGR), with 200 there Nov. 9 (LTS) and 25 as early as Sept. 28 (HTA). Pied-billed Grebes were in good numbers, with peaks of 59 in the midst of the exotic,



aquatic plant *Hydrilla* Oct. 6 (DC), 56 at Loch Raven Res. n. of Balt. Nov. 23 (SWS; 55 Oct. 19), 27 at Chinc. Oct. 5 (SR), and 30 at Deal I. Oct. 10 (MO). These are prime areas, but there were plenty of others at less prime sites, such as 22 at Seneca Res., MD, Nov. 8 (MO, PO). Horned Grebes are still a shadow of their former selves, although 45 at DC Nov. 11 were notable (DC). Red-necked Grebe singles were seen only at Yorktown, VA, Nov. 17 (SR) and Philpott L., *Patrick*, VA, Nov. 14-16 in s.w. Virginia (CK, JSB, TD). An Eared Grebe was at Chinc. Nov. 30 (DC, HTA, ph.).

Several outstanding pelagic trips were highly successful this fall. In Maryland waters off Ocean City Sept. 28, a N. Fulmar, 14 Cory's, and five Greater Shearwaters plus a

loggerhead turtle and 18 pilot whales were seen Sept. 28 (GS, MO, HLW, *et al.*). Also in Maryland waters Aug. 12 were 67 Cory's, four Greater and 15 Audubon's shearwaters, and 178 Wilson's Storm-Petrels with a White-faced and two Leach's storm-petrels nearby at Poor Man's Canyon in Virginia waters (MO). One of the most spectacular sea trips ever done here recorded these creatures in Maryland/Virginia waters, respectively, Aug. 17 (GS, EB, HLW, JD, MO *et al.*): Cory's (87/897), Greater (30/303) and Audubon's shearwaters (18/55), Wilson's (22/348), Band-rumped (0/1; ph.) and White-faced storm-petrels (0/1; ph.) plus two Portuguese men (persons?) of war, a whale shark, a mola, two leatherback turtles, a bat (sp.), 125 pilot whales, and 35 bot-



Eared Grebe at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia, on November 30, 1991. Photograph/Dave Czaplak.

tlenose dolphins, as well as numbers of unidentified petrels, shearwaters, and sea mammals. The White-faced and Band-rumped storm-petrels are among the few reports for the Region and the first to be photographed.

A Nov. 23 voyage off Ocean City found 287 Greater and 16 Manx shearwaters (GS, MB, EB, MO, HLW *et al.*). An early Manx was in Virginia waters off Ocean City Aug. 3, along with seven Cory's and three Greater shearwaters (MO, EB, HLW). On Sept. 22, 14 Cory's, three Audubon's, and five Greater Shearwaters plus 26 Wilson's Storm-Petrels and an unidentified *Pterodroma* petrel were at Norfolk Canyon (Virginia waters; KHB, NB, *et al.*). Close to shore, nine Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen from the CBBT Aug. 8 (C & DB). One thousand N. Gannets were off Assat. Nov. 30 (MO), but 17 far up the Bay at N. Beach, MD, were perhaps of equal interest Nov. 11, with one there Nov. 12 & 14 (JLS).

A single Am. White Pelican was once again at Chinc. for most of the period (DC, SHD, SR, WHH, RA *et al.*). Brown Pelicans were once more present in near-record numbers, such as 220 in Maryland at Assat. Sept. 7 (MO, HLW), 365 in Virginia at Kipt. Sept. 2 (GLA, HTA), and 500 at Fish. I. Sept. 2 (MEA, HTA). Small numbers lingered until the end of November in both states (MO, MH, DM). At Kipt. 1780 Double-crested Cormorants were seen as early as Sept. 2 (HTA), and singles lingered to late November in interior Maryland at Loch Raven Res. (SWS) and Piney Run Park (RFR). Unique was the report of two Anhingas at Williamsburg, VA, Oct. 24 (BT).

Bizarre was the sighting of an Am. Bittern high in a loblolly pine 100 feet in from the forest edge at Hooper's I., MD, Sept. 11 (FWF). Czaplak counted 59 Great Blue Herons in DC Aug. 3 with 110 at nearby Hunting Creek, VA. Many do not realize that sizeable flights of this species, sometimes with flocks of 20–30 in wedges or V formations, occur along our coast in late September and early October, as happened this year Oct. 6 at Kipt. & Chinc. (HTA) and Oct. 11 at Assat. (MO). New for landlocked *Howard*, MD, was a Tricolored Heron at Triadelphia Res. Aug. 25 (F & NS); also of interest was a Glossy Ibis nearby at Duckett Res. Aug. 21 (NS). Cattle Egrets lingered later than usual at several places, but there were no big counts, the maximum being 288 in a field near Eastville, VA, Aug. 20 (SR, TA), and 162 Glossy Ibises were in a dirt field nearby at Kipt. Sept. 1 (SR). The only White Ibis was an imm. near Fredericksburg, VA, Aug. 17 (MKn). "Hundreds" of Green-backed Herons were heard at night flying over Assat. Sept. 11 (MO, HLW, DB).

WATERFOWL

The growths of *Hydrilla* in the Potomac R. area below DC were good this year, yet waterfowl concentrations were modest, perhaps due to the mild fall, perhaps due to the con-



Immature male King Eider at Ocean City, Maryland, on August 2, 1991. Photograph/Michael O'Brien and Hal Wierenga.

tinued decline of most waterfowl across the land. Ten very early Tundra Swans were high over Bellevue, *Talbot*, MD, Oct. 14 (GLA, HTA). Mute Swans continue to be alarmingly abundant at their Hooper's I., MD, staging area, with 585 there Aug. 24 (GLA, HTA) and 480 Nov. 23 (HTA). The only Greater White-fronted Goose sighting was one at the National Geographic Society pond n. of DC at Gaithersburg, MD, Nov. 11–21 (DC, MO, PO, GG, JB, PL). Selected geese maxima in Maryland were 25,000 Snows at Queen Anne Nov. 20 (J & PG), 1100 Blue Geese at Black. Nov. 10 (HTA) and 20,000 Canadas at Church Hill Oct. 16 (J & PG). Brant were seen at at least 5 Bay-area sites, a good showing for there, and one grazing at Deep Run in interior n. *Carroll*, MD, was radically unexpected (RFR), as was one in DC Nov. 2 (OJ). Again there was a Ross' Goose at Black., seen intermittently Oct. 28–December (MO, SHD, EMW *et al.*), and three adults were there Nov. 11 (BP). Modest highs were 1000 N. Pintails and 2000 Ruddy Ducks at Hunting Cr., VA, near DC Nov. 13 (JSG). An Eur. Wigeon was at Fish. I., VA, Nov. 14 (SR), and one–two were at Deal I. Oct. 13–Nov. 23 (SHD, BP, MO, AS), both prime locations for this rare species. Thirty-five hundred Am. Wigeon were at Deal Oct. 10 (MO, AS, SHD), and one at Fish. I. Aug. 1 was anomalous (SR). Single Com. Eiders were seen in November at CBBT, Ocean City, Chinc., and Assat. (DFA, SR, BT; MO, EB; DC; MH, respectively). Single King Eiders were at Ocean City Aug. 12 (MO, HLW) and Nov. 29–December (MO), but completely unprecedented was an inland one on a pond near Laytonsville, MD (RH, OJ, MO, DC *et al.*, ph.). This is deep in the interior of landlocked *Montgomery* n. of DC and is a first county record and first inland record for the Region! Two Harlequin Ducks were at

CBBT Nov. 22–December (DFA, FAP). A number of noncoastal scoters attracted attention, such as two Blacks and a Surf in DC Nov. 10, the first and 4th records, respectively, for the District (DC, RH, OJ), while up to 50 Blacks were at Seneca in *Montgomery*, MD, n. of DC Oct. 28 (JSz, *fide* MO). A Black at Wilde L., MD, Oct. 29 was new for *Howard* (HZ *et al.*); 750 were at Chinc. Nov. 30 (DC).

RAPTORS TO RAILS

As usual, raptor activity was intense in the greater Cape Charles, VA, area at Kipt., Wise Pt., and Fish. I. At Wise Pt. the banding station operated by Lukei on 47 days *Sept. 12–Dec. 7* captured 799 raptors (15 of them foreign retraps) in 421 net hours, only 38 of the 784 new birds being adults. New bandings included 84 Merlin, 23 Peregrines (eight *Oct. 4*), 523 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 102 Cooper's Hawks, 34 Red-tailed Hawks, and three N. Goshawks (one each *Nov. 2, 3, & 24*) (RL, MAB). Only one gos has ever been captured before in this area. At this station, close attention is paid to the time of day when individuals of each species are most likely to be caught, which varies widely among hawks. On Nov. 6, a Golden Eagle was soaring here in company with two imm. and two ad. Bald Eagles. Merlins have declined here for several seasons now.

At another station at Kipt. Hodnett banded 168 raptors, including 110 Sharp-shinned and 31 Cooper's Hawks on 25 days *Sept. 12–Nov. 13* and counted 29 Peregrines Oct. 4 and 72 Merlins Oct. 12. This station pays special attention to the capture vs. miss ratio. Twenty-nine raptors *Oct. 15* were the best capture day, 27 of these coming in to Starling lures, a fine use of this ubiquitous species. Adjacent to Hodnett is the Kipt. Beach Hawkwatch, which operated on 61 days for 540 hours Aug. 31–Nov. 14 (BW,

DSy, DM *et al.*). This year 10,810 raptors were counted, or 20 per hour, a continued decline from 24.7 per hour in 1990, 27 in 1989, 30.2 in 1988, 27.4 in 1987, and 40–96 per hour in the years 1982–1986. In spite of this gloomy trend, there were highlights as always. The season high for N. Harriers was 50 on the early and odd date of Sept. 1; the next day 18 slipped by before 7 A.M. just s. of the station (HTA). Other highs were 412 Turkey Vultures Oct. 29, 83 Ospreys Sept. 30, 349 Sharp-shinned Hawks Sept. 29, 43 Cooper's Hawks Oct. 24, 276 Am. Kestrels Sept. 30, 57 Merlins Oct. 12, and 50 Peregrine Falcons Oct. 4. Good flight days were Sept. 1 (169 raptors), Sept. 29 (473), Sept. 30 (590), Oct. 4 (596), Oct. 12 (633), Oct. 19 (576), and Oct. 24 (349). Northern Goshawks were seen Oct. 21 (1), Oct. 24 (1), and Oct. 25 (2). Single Golden Eagles were seen Oct. 14, 19, & 24. As late as Oct. 24, 214 Sharp-shinned Hawks were counted.

The rarest raptor of the season was an imm. Am. Swallow-tailed Kite at Hog I., Surry, VA, Aug. 28 (BT). Only mediocre counts of Bald Eagles were received, the most interesting being nine at Staunton River S.P. in interior s.c. Virginia near the North Carolina line Oct. 6 (JfB). Northern Goshawks, always a semi-rarity here, were widely reported in November, showing up at 9 localities. The best Broad-winged Hawk flights occurred Sept. 20–21, with 1305 at Arlington, VA, Sept. 21 (RAA) and 698 at Columbia, MD, Sept. 21 (JS, JF), but with 933, 827, and 987 at Manassas, VA, Sept. 12–14 (AW). Modest numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were present by late November, with five at both Elliott I., MD, Nov. 29 (DC) and Deal I. Nov. 30 (LMD) and two at Saxis, VA, Nov. 10 (SR). Golden Eagles were widespread for this species, with three at Black. Nov. 2 (HTA *et al.*) and one immature Oct. 14 at Cheriton, VA, and, amazingly, later the same day on the CBBT about 20 mi farther south (CT).

Strange, to say the least, was a Ruffed Grouse window kill at Arlington, VA, Nov. 14, a first *Fairfax* record if a genuinely wild bird (RAA, VBK). The gargantuan halloeen tides paid dividends in terms of flooded-out rails, with two Yellows at Ragged I., VA, on the James R. s. of Newport News Oct. 31–31 (DS, TG). On the ES of Maryland, Wierenga found Black Rails at several places through the end of November. Fifty Soras were at Jug Bay on the Patuxent R., MD, Sept. 28 (JB, GK). Best Am. Coot counts were 2000 at Hunting Cr., VA, Nov. 13 (JSG), 700 at Deal I. Nov. 19 (C & DB), 620 at Loch Raven Res. Nov. 23 (SWS), and 483 in the greater DC area Nov. 11 (DC).

SHOREBIRDS

A museum diagnosis of a plover collected after it died of natural causes at Craney Sept. 9, 1989, and mentioned in this column, has revealed it was not a Com. Ringed Plover as suspected, but a first-year Semipalmated Plover (RBC) Low water levels at inland

reservoirs resulted in some records of interest. Combined with some outstanding days at Hart and Miller Is., MD, plus some good coastal and pelagic coverage, this was a quite good shorebird season. Counts of greatest interest at Hart were: 120 Semipalmated Plovers and 1400 Lesser Yellowlegs Aug. 4 (BD); 105 Pectoral Sandpipers, 168 Short-billed Dowitchers, 13 Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 18 (BD, JLS, MI); a Whimbrel, three Buff-breasted Sandpipers, a Red-necked and, and 10 Wilson's phalaropes Sept. 1 (BD, SRi, JLS *et al.*); a Willet, a Marbled Godwit, a Red Knot, 335 W. Sandpipers, four White-rumped and eight Baird's sandpipers, a Ruff, 24 Long-billed Dowitchers, nine Wilson's, a Red-necked, and two Red Phalarope Sept. 4, when 26 shorebird species were seen (BD, MO, GG). A Piping Plover far inland at Staunton River S.P. Sept. 21 (JfB) was only the 3rd Virginia Piedmont record.

Excellent local counts of Am. Oystercatchers were 98 at Ocean City, MD, Aug. 16 (MO, LMD, HLW), 381 along with 22 Piping Plovers at Wallops I., VA, Oct. 25 (CRV), and, for that matter, just one at Bellevue, MD, Sept. 21, one of the few *Talbot* records and species 254 for the Regional editor's vacation home "yard" list (HTA). Locally rare was a Willet in the DC-Hunting Cr. area Aug. 24–31 (DFA, RH, OJ). Two late Spotted Sandpipers were at Violet's Lock on the Potomac R. n. of DC Nov. 12 (RLH). The Upland Sandpiper high was a count of 12 along New Design Rd., *Frederick*, MD, Aug. 2 (DC). Far out to sea, a Whimbrel was at Balt. Canyon over Maryland waters Aug. 17 (MO *et al.*). Missed for mention in the summer report was a Long-billed Curlew seen with 16 Marbled Godwits and two Whimbrel at Ship Shoal I. off the ES of Virginia July 4, 1991 (BTt). Schwab's surveys of shorebirds in the Back Bay/False Cape S.P. area of coastal Virginia Beach continued with a red letter day Aug. 5, when 16,365 Sanderlings, 122 Semipalmated Plovers, 38 Whimbrel, a Long-billed Curlew, 215 Semipalmated Sandpipers, and an aseasonal Dunlin were seen. Two Hudsonian Godwits lingered until Nov. 24 at Chinc. (FAP), and two were at Hart Oct. 20 (MO, BD *et al.*). Other late waders at Hart were a White-rumped and two Stilt Sandpipers as well as four Long-billed Dowitchers Nov. 17 (MO, BD, GG *et al.*).

The star shorebird was a **Bar-tailed Godwit** seen by multitudes at the Chinc. causeway Sept. 5–15 (MO, VBK, DC, DFA, RH *et al.*), one of the few state records. A Marbled Godwit, rare anywhere in the Bay area, was at Tilghman I. Sept. 22, a new *Talbot*, MD, species (JGR); one at Hunting Cr., VA, Aug. 10 was new for *Fairfax* (DFA). Another was up the James R. at Hog. I. Aug. 18 (BT), and the season high was 51 at Oyster, VA, Sept. 7 (SR), where 49 plus 70 Willets and six Whimbrel were present Oct. 5 (HTA). A rarity inland, and apparently the 3rd inland Maryland record, a Red Knot, was at Liberty

Res., *Carroll*, Sept. 13 (RFR). A Sanderling was at DC Sept. 7 & 20 (DC, OJ), and the high report from Maryland was 2877 at Assat. Aug. 28 (MO, HLW), with 2797 there Aug. 14 (MO, HLW); Rottenborn counted 4314 on Hog. I. on the Virginia ES Aug. 6 Back inland at Staunton River S.P., VA, eight were seen Oct. 13; 11 Short-billed Dowitchers, 13 Pectoral Sandpipers, and five Sanderlings Oct. 27; 18 Short-billed Dowitchers Nov. 3; and single, late Spotted and Pectoral sandpipers plus a Lesser Golden Plover Nov. 17 (JfB). A late White-rumped Sandpiper was at McKee-Beshers W.M.A. n. of DC in Maryland Nov. 18 (PO), with two there Nov. 21 (MO); five were at Chesapeake Beach, Calvert, MD, Nov. 11 (JLS); and one was at Back Bay Nov. 24 (WP). Sixty-nine Pectoral Sandpipers were an excellent count for DC Sept. 1 (DC). Anomalous was a Purple Sandpiper at CBBT Aug. 10 (GI). Rarely reported here in fall, a Curlew Sandpiper was at Craney Sept. 24 & 26 (SR, BT). Two very late Stilt Sandpipers were at McKee-Beshers W.M.A. Nov. 2 (DH). Unique was a Ruff at Chinc. Aug. 8 (C & DB). One–three Wilson's Phalaropes were at DC Aug. 23–Sept. 2 (DC, OJ, RH), and three were at Craney with three Red-necked Phalaropes Sept. 24 (SR). At sea, nine Red-necked Phalaropes were off the Virginia coast Aug. 3 (MO, EB, HLW), three Aug. 12 (MO), and three Aug. 17 (GS *et al.*). One in DC Aug. 30 was about the 5th record there (DC). Other singles were in Maryland at Cambridge Aug. 24–27 (MI, MO, *et al.*), at Easton Sept. 6–8 (MO), and at Seneca Sept. 26 (MO, DC, GG, PO, MAT); and in Virginia at Chinc. Sept. 9 (C & DB), a very good showing for this bird Red Phalaropes were represented by two at Sycamore Landing on the Potomac R. n. of DC Sept. 26 (GM, MO, DC, GG, MAT) and 37 at see off Ocean City Nov. 23 (GS, EB, MB, MO, HLW *et al.*).

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Pelagic trips from Ocean City found the following, all in Maryland waters unless indicated elsewhere: three Bridled Terns (two in Virginia waters) Aug. 17 (GS, MO, JD, EB, HLW *et al.*), six Pomarine, a Long-tailed (ph.), and seven jaegers, sp., Sept. 28 (GS, HLW, MO *et al.*), a Parasitic, a jaeger sp., and two Pomarine Jaegers, 1000 Bonaparte's, a Little, and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls and 12 Black-legged Kittiwakes Nov. 23 (GS, MB, EB, HLW, MO *et al.*). Also off Ocean City were two Pomarine, three Parasitic, and eight jaegers, sp. Sept. 23 (MO). Single Pomarines were at N. Beach, MD (extremely rare on the Bay) Nov. 11 (JLS) and Back Bay Sept. 24 (DS). Three Parasitics were at Ocean City Nov. 24 chasing Bonaparte's Gulls (MO).

Hart highlights (BD, JLS *et al.*) were a Franklin's Gull and 14 Royal Terns Aug. 18, a Little Gull Aug. 18, Sept. 1 & 4, a **California Gull** (also seen Sept. 2; JLS *et al.*), 400 Caspian Terns and a Black Skimmer Sept. 1, a Glaucous Gull Aug. 4 & 18, 1000 Great



Franklin's Gull in first-winter plumage at Ocean City, Maryland, on October 11, 1991. Photograph/Michael O'Brien.



Juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger off the coast of Maryland on September 28, 1991. Photograph/Dave Czaplak.

Black-backed Gulls, and 780 Forster's Terns Sept. 4. Inland Laughing Gulls, which are on the increase, included 300 at Nokesville on the Virginia Piedmont Sept. 8 and 35 Dec. 1, after being absent Oct. 13–Nov. 30 (KHB), and 1500 at Upper Marlboro, MD, Sept. 21 (RFR). They are drawn inland by flying up the Bay and big river/estuarine systems. Once inland, they spend much time in early fall hawking dragonflies and haunting landfills (KHB). Single Franklin's Gulls were detected at a record 7 widely scattered localities, such as DC Aug. 4 & 28–30 (RH, DC, EMW, OJ, ph.), Brown Station Landfill Nov. 9 (JLS; new for *Prince Georges*, MD), Ocean City Oct. 11 (MO), Oyster Sept. 27 (SR), and Back Bay Oct. 2 & 5 (DS). From one–five Little Gulls were in the Ocean City/Assat. area Nov. 12–30 (MO, SHD, MH), and one was at CBBT Nov. 16 (SR). The only Com. Black-headed Gull was at Ocean City Nov. 12 & 24 (MO, EB, MH). An estimated 50,000 Bonaparte's Gulls were seen from Ocean City n. to the Delaware line Nov. 24 (MO, EB, MH), and Reese made excellent counts for the ES of the Bay of 150 at Tilghman's I., MD, Nov. 17 plus 80 Royal Terns there Aug. 11. An Iceland Gull was at Brown Station Landfill, MD, Nov. 9 & 15 (JLS, PL). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found at at least 16 locations, with peaks of five at Ocean City Oct. 11 (MO), seven at Laytonsville, MD, Nov. 6 (MO, GG, DC), three in DC in November (OJ), and four at Back Bay Sept. 24 (DS).

One–two Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen from land in the Ocean City/Assat. area Nov. 13, 24, & 30 (MO, EB, MH, MI, JLS). At Black., 115 Caspian Terns were a record total for there Sept. 28 (HTA), and 11 at Back Bay were late Nov. 14 (DS). Sandwich Terns penetrated up the Bay to Maryland as far as Point Lookout S.P., where there were two Sept. 2 (MO), and Hooper's I., where there was one Aug. 24 (GLA, HTA). Always semi-rare here, Roseate Terns were reported thrice: one at Chinc. Aug. 2 (BL), three at Back Bay Aug. 5 (DS), and one at CBBT Sept. 6 (SR). Czaplak saw an Arctic Tern at Ocean City Aug. 18. Good Forster's Tern numbers were 2000 at Ocean City Nov. 24 (MO, EB, MH), 250 in DC Aug. 31 (DC), and 358 nearby at Hunting Cr., VA, Aug. 17 (EMW). Black Terns made a strong showing over the *Hydrilla* in the DC area, with a peak of 21 on Aug. 30 (RH, OJ). An excellent tern assemblage at Staunton River S.P. included 16 Blacks, eight Com., and four Caspians Aug. 18, a Gull-billed Sept. 22 (2nd Virginia Piedmont record), and 100 Com. plus the Gull-billed Oct. 6 (JfB). Notable far inland was a late Com. Tern here Nov. 16 (JfB). Still scarce on the upper Bay, four Black Skimmers were at Point Looking S.P. Oct. 6 (MO) and two at SPSP Sept. 5–27 (SRi, LMD). Coming after last winter's invasion, it was almost startling to find more this year. A Dovekie and 18 Razorbills plus three large unidentified alcids were off Ocean City Nov. 23 (GS, MO, EB, MB, HLW *et al.*), and two Dovekies were seen from the CBBT Nov. 11 (BT).

DOVES TO SHRIKES

One-thousand one hundred Mourning Doves were in *Howard*, MD, Oct. 27 (JF, JS). Two Maryland Snowy Owl records, constituting a flight by Regional standards, were one at Hart Nov. 9–16 (JLS *et al.*, ph.) and one electrocuted and found at Chester, Queen Anne, Nov. 12 (*vide* JGR, J & PG). Northern Saw-whet Owls were only seen at 3 places, all in Maryland: Adventure Sanctuary, Potomac, Oct. 31 (MD), Bristol Nov. 17 (PVM), and Millington W.M.A. Nov. 27 (FLP). Late Com. Nighthawks were three in DC Oct. 16 (RLH), one in Germantown, MD, Nov. 1 (MO), and 442 were migrating at Lynchburg, VA, Aug. 28 (C & MH), with 200 in DC the same date (RH). A *Selasphorus* sp. hummingbird was at a feeder at Pocomoke City, MD, Oct. 13–December (SHD, CRV *et al.*).

October 13 was perhaps the best landbird flight day of the fall, evidenced by these numbers, achieved in mid-day at Tilghman I., MD (JGR): 50 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 20 E. Phoebes, 15 Brown Creepers, 100 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 60 Golden-crowned Kinglets, and 150 Hermit Thrushes (57 in one yard alone). Earlier the same day at nearby Bellevue, which is not a major flight area, 20 sapsuckers, 175 N. Flickers, 27 E. Phoebes, 80 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 20 Hermit Thrushes, 40 Gray Catbirds, and 30

Palm Warblers were seen (HTA, JGR, GLA *et al.*). This was also a peak banding date at Adventure, with eight E. Phoebes tagged (MD). Ten Olive-sided Flycatcher sightings are on hand, slightly better than normal. The most productive empidonax banding was at Damsite, Kent, MD (J & PG *et al.*), with 30 Yellow-bellieds (six on *Sept. 2*), 36 Traill's (14 on *Aug. 25*), and 25 Leasts (five *Sept. 1*). One of the steller finds of the fall was an imm. ♂ **Vermilion Flycatcher** at Assat. *Sept. 29*, a new Maryland record (DC, ph.). There were at least eight W. Kingbird records, including four at Fish. I. *Oct. 20* (FGB, PAB) and an early individual at False Cape S.P., VA, *Aug. 25*, with 100 E. Kingbirds (RHS); but most of the records were in November and all were coastal except for one at Rockville, MD, near DC *Sept. 16* (MO, PO). Rottenborn smashed the old Virginia high count of E. Kingbirds with an evening flight of 2618 at ESVNWR at Kipt. *Aug. 30* (SR).

The only Purple Martin roost report was of 2000 at Joppatowne, MD, in Harford *Aug. 30* (CSt), grown from 150 *Aug. 3*. Very late was a N. Rough-winged Swallow at CBBT *Nov. 22* (DFA), and 300 were at Ruthsburg, MD, *Aug. 8* (J & PG), with 95 at Lucketts, Loudon, VA, *Sept. 21* (VBK). This swallow has a reputation for being rather solitary, yet good numbers can often be seen in this Region, especially when in passage through our Piedmont. An ad. Cliff Swallow was feeding a young bird at Liberty Res., MD, the late date of *Aug. 24* (RFR). In contrast to last fall, the Blue Jay flight was very poor this year (v.o.). No huge Fish Crow roosts were seen, but in Maryland 910 were at Bellevue *Nov. 3* (HTA) and 700 at South Pt., Worcester, *Nov. 10* (RFR). There was a poor Red-breasted Huthatch flight; many observers only saw a half dozen or fewer all fall. Hoffman found 140 Golden-crowned Kinglets on Assat. *Oct. 14*, carryovers from the great passerine flight that began the day before; Reese saw over 200 Ruby-crowned Kinglets on Tilghman's I. *Oct. 20*, while an extremely early one was in DC *Sept. 8* (DC).

Most observers again felt that the fall thrush flight was poor. Hundreds of Gray Catbirds were reported on Assat. *I. Sept. 12*, evidently a major flight day for them, with 30 Brown Thrashers there as well (MO). Two late breeding records of Cedar Waxwings were an ad. feeding three young at Denton, MD, *Sept. 27* (MN) and fledged young with adults at Campbell, VA, the next day (C & MH). But no huge flights were witnessed; the high was but 350 at Tilghman's I. *Nov. 24* (JGR). After last year's N. Shrike invasion, it was surprising that an adult and immature were found on Assat. *Nov. 25–30* (MH, JM, MO, RFR, SHD *et al.* ph.). The beleaguered Loggerhead Shrike was seen at 7 locations, slightly better than usual by the standards of recent years, but not really indicative of any improvement in its lot. The most interesting one was at Greensboro, on the Maryland ES *Aug. 22* (MWH), evocative of the days when there used to be a small

flight through the shore in late August and early September.

VIROES TO WARBLERS

There was no overwhelming consensus on which dates had the best passerine flights, but if you had to pick a few days, most would agree on *Sept. 1, 21–22*, and *Oct. 13–14*. For instance, on *Sept. 1*, 265 Warblers flew through the gap in the trees along the ridge at Kipt. between 6:30 and 8 A.M., heading, as is typical here, N along the Bay shore (HTA). The new banding site at Kipt. has been relocated after 28 years of banding 156 species and 250,000 or so birds, due to development at the old place. Unfortunately, the new site at ESVNWR has proven to be much less productive than the traditional site, at the terminus of Rt. 704 by the old ferry slip. Two-thousand fifty-six birds (1508 of them Yellow-rumped Warblers) of only 66 species were banded at Kipt. *Aug. 31–Oct. 25* in 9849 net hours on 53 days. The Kipt. situation is somewhat analogous to Higbee's Beach at Cape May, where most of the big passerine flights also head north in the early morning on the bayside of the peninsula tip rather than on the seaside or at the very end of the point. One of the best places to witness this phenomenon at Kipt. is on the bayshore ridge in the early morning, in back of Sunset Beach Inn (formerly America House), where you can also see fine flights of many waterbirds (but you have to be a paying guest). Many cold fronts that sweep through more northern parts of the Region fizzle out before they reach Kipt. But on a superior day, one can see 1000 or more warblers (before the Yellow-rumpeds have even arrived and before one's morning break!), a couple thousand kingbirds, scores of empids, and a couple of hundred N. Orioles, passing through the tree gap at Sunset Beach Inn!

Another transition is the passing of the old banding station at Damsite in Kent, MD, after 32 years, which saw its last fall this year. It was long operated by the late Dorothy Mendinhall. Next year the station will be relocated to the s. at Eastern Neck Island N.W.R. (J & PG). Damsite has also been a highly successful site. In 1991, 3487 birds of 97 species were banded in 9329 net hours on 40 days *Aug. 4–Nov. 4*, including 30 warbler species. Best days were *Aug. 25* (11 Canada Warblers), *Sept. 1–2, 21–22*, and *Oct. 13* (five Solitary Vireos, 15 Winter Wrens). Thirteen Mourning Warblers were tagged here, including three on *Sept. 1*. Still going strong is the station at Adventure Sanctuary, Potomac, MD, n. of DC, which banded 2504 birds of 85 species, including 21 Connecticut Warblers, with three *Sept. 12* (MD). These mist netting operations, which were such a source of excitement and inspiration in the 1960s when they were new, and the 1970s, when they were in their prime, seem to be suffering from attrition and lack of recruitment of new banders. They add so much excitement to field ornithology and knowledge of fall migration trends. It is

hoped there will be an infusion of new blood and vigor to keep them going.

At Assat., 50 White-eyed Vireos were found *Sept. 13* (MO), and a late one was at Point Lookout S.P., MD, *Nov. 27* (MO). In Virginia, late Solitary Vireos were in Henry, VA, *Nov. 17* (JSB, TD) and York River S.P. *Nov. 26* (TK), and ten were at Arlington *Oct. 12* (RAA). Early Philadelphia Vireos were in Maryland at Damsite *Aug. 20* (J & PG) and Carrollton *Aug. 24* (RFR). Three Brewster's Warblers were reported: Rockville *Aug. 26* (MO), DC *Sept. 2* (OJ, RH), and SPSP *Sept. 21* (BP). More Orange-crowned Warblers were reported than is usual. Extremely early was a Nashville Warbler at ESVNWR *Aug. 8* (C & DB). Extremely late was a N. Parula at Nokesville, VA, *Nov. 16* (KHB, RAA). September 7 was a good flight day in DC, when 25 Red-eyed Vireos, nine Tennessee, 13 Chestnut-sided, 15 Magnolia, six Black-throated Green; seven Blackpoll Warblers were present; on *Sept. 21, 23* Black-throated Green and nine Bay-breasted Warblers were there (DC). On Assat. *Sept. 21*, 100 Cape May, 25 Black-throated Blue, and hundreds of Palm Warblers were seen *Sept. 21* (MO, GG). At the Stevenson, MD, banding station near Balt., 165 Black-throated Blue Warblers were banded, very high for there (BR, SS). Very early Blackburnian Warblers were on the ES of Virginia at Pungoteague *Aug. 2* (DFA) and in Accomack *Aug. 10* (VBK). Rare along the coast at any time, two Cerulean Warblers were at ESVNWR *Aug. 1* (SR, TO). Late was an Am. Redstart at Bowie, MD, *Nov. 8* (FWF). This was an excellent flight year for Connecticut Warblers, with seven at the Bristol banding station *Sept. 2–28* (two on both *Sept. 22 & 28*, PVM) and 10 at Stevenson *Sept. 8–Oct. 4* (BR, SS). Mourning Warblers also made a good showing, with an early bird at ES of Virginia N.W.R. *Aug. 19* (SR) and six at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD, *Sept. 12* (FWF). Hundreds of Com Yellowthroats were on Assat. *Sept. 7* (MO). Vaughn found an extremely late Wilson's Warbler in his yard at Salisbury *Nov. 28*.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

The top Scarlet Tanager total was 11 in DC *Sept. 22*, with 17 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks *Sept. 21* (DC) and ten grosbeaks on Assat *Sept. 21* (GG, MO). Thirty-four Blue Grosbeaks were in the Black. area *Aug. 24* (GLA, HTA). Dickcissels were reported from six localities, including early ones at Pt. Lookout S.P. *Sept. 2* (MO) and ESVNWR *Sept. 7* (SR). This was a better-than-average fall for Clay-colored Sparrows, with sometimes multiple sightings from 7 places, such as two at Kipt. *Oct. 12* (BW) and singles at Rockville, MD, *Sept. 20–21* *Oct. 18–21* and *Nov. 14* (MO, PO, GG), as well as DC's 4th *Oct. 8* (DC). A Lark Sparrow was in DC *Oct. 4–6* (RH, OJ, DC, ph.), a 4th record for the District, and one at Kipt. *Aug. 31–Sept. 1* (SR, BW, GLA *et al.*). Completely unexpected were two Savannah (Ipswich) Spar-



Lark Sparrow in Rock Creek Park, Washington, D.C., on October 6, 1991. Photograph/Ottavio Janni.

rows way up the Bay n. of Balt. at Hart Nov. 17 (BD, GG, MO *et al.* ph.). Unique was a Henslow's Sparrow in DC Sept. 24 (DC). A major influx of Song Sparrows took place in the DC area Oct. 18–21, with 150 at Rockville, MD, each day (MO) and 84 at Boyds, MD, Oct. 19 (DC). At Rockville, M. O'Brien detected at least 15 Lincoln's Sparrows Sept. 17–Oct. 23, with four on Oct. 18 and three Sept. 24, while in DC Czaplak found them on five dates (Oct. 16–Nov. 5) and 9 records were forthcoming from *Howard*, with three Oct. 14 and four Oct. 19 (NM). Three substantial flocks of Snow Buntings were 164 at Hart Nov. 16 (JLS), 45 at Craney Nov. 17 (JFn), and 80 on Assat. Nov. 27 (MH). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Laytonsville, MD, Nov. 6 (DC). Brewer's Blackbirds once again seem to be on the upswing here, with two–four at Shorter's Wharf Rd. near Black. Nov. 14–21 (EMW, HLW), one at Eastville, VA, Nov. 3 (SR), and 40 at Nokesville Dec. 4 (KHB). A well-described ♀ N. (Bullock's) Oriole was at Chinc. Nov. 3 (WHH). November 24 was another good flight day at Tilghman's I., with 500 each of House Finch and Am. Goldfinch (JGR). This was an extremely poor fall for northern finches, with none of the scarcer ones at all and very poor numbers of Pine Siskins and Evening Grosbeaks.

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MD), Jon Dunn, S. H. Dyke, S. D. Eccles, Ethel Engle, F. W. Fallon, Jane Farrell, A. J. Fletcher (*Caroline*, MD), Jesse Fulton (JFn), M. S. Garland, J. S. Gottschalk, Greg Gough, **Jim and Patrick Gruber** (*Kent*, MD, and Damsite Banding Station), Mary Gustafson, Tom Gwynn, Daniel Haft, Charles and Melva Hansrote, M. I. Hawk, M. W. Hewitt, Robert Hilton, E. L. Hodnett, Mark Hoffman, R. L. Homan, W. H. Howe, Marshall Iliff, Gregory Inskip, H. C. Irving, Ottavio Janni, George Jett, Hank Kaestner, Teta Kain, Greg Kearns, Clyde Kessler, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, V. B. Kitchens, Marylea Klauder, Michael Klein (MKn), Wayne Klockner, George Krantz (GKz), Bev Leeuwenburg, Paul Lehman, **R. F. Lukei** (Wise Point raptor bandings), Gail Mackiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Jay McConnaughey, Bob and Patricia Melville, Dorothy Mitchell, Harvey Mudd, P. J. Newman, Marianna Nuttle, **Mike O'Brien** (entire state of MD), Paul O'Brien, Tim O'Connell, Bonnie Ott, F. L. Parks, Bruce Peterjohn, Norman Petersen, E. L. Pitney, William Portlock, F. A. Pratt, **J. G. Reese** (*Talbot*, MD), Sue Ricciardi (SRi), R. F. Ringler, Barbara Ross, Stephen Rottenborn, Frances and Norman Saunders, **Gene Scarpulla** (pelagic trips), Jack Schultz (JSz), Don Schwab, Sharon Schwemmer, W. Scudder, L. T. Short, Dot Silsby (DSy), S. W. Simon, April Smith, W. P. Smith, **Jo Solem** (*Howard*, MD), J. L. Stasz, Robert Strong, Chris Swarth, R. H. Swiader, Charles Swift (CSt), Brian Taber, Mary Ann Todd, Barry Truitt (BTt), Craig Tufts, C. R. Vaughn, Pete Webb, H. L. Wierenga, **Bill Williams** (Kipt. hawkwatch), Anita Wilson, E. M. Wilson (greater DC area), Helen Zeichner—**HENRY T. ARMISTEAD**, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

Fall Season report was not submitted by editor for inclusion.

FLORIDA REGION

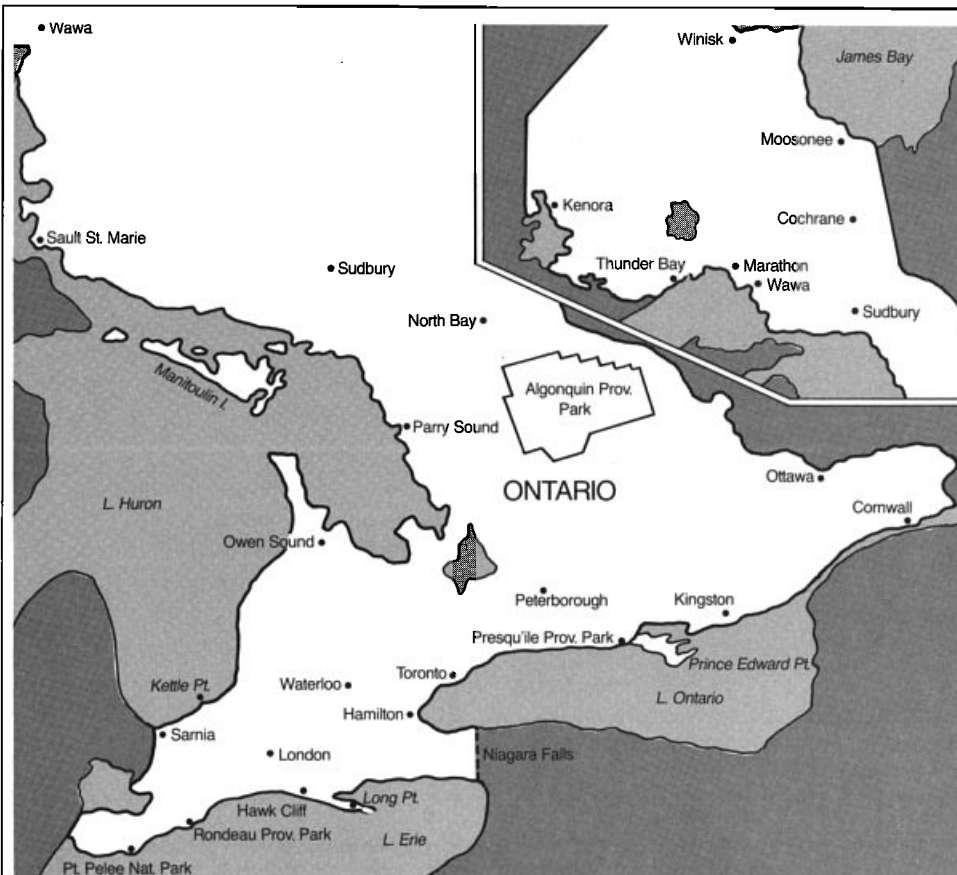
American Birds has no Regional Editor for this season. Therefore, no summary appears in this issue.

ONTARIO REGION

Ron D. Weir

Intense activity by birders over much of Ontario resulted in a wealth of information. Systematic coverage was maintained at traditional sites along Lakes Huron, Erie, and Ontario, and the St. Clair, Ottawa, and St. Lawrence Rivers, as well as through inland counties south of Sudbury. At Whitby's Cranberry Marsh, a new station has been added to the network of hawk lookouts (Table 1). In the northland, two pioneering studies were carried out. The first was a continuation of the Habitat Based Wildlife Assessment of Ontario's Sub-arctic Coast Surveys under the auspices of the Ministry of Natural Resources which began during this summer. Surveys were done along Hudson Bay at the Brant R. mouth about 140 km east of Winisk August 19–30, on James Bay at Longridge Pt. about 60 km north of Moosonee August 1–2 and September 4–12, and at Moosonee. The second study at Thunder Cape, located at the tip of the Sibley peninsula near Thunder Bay city, was a migration monitoring of non-game species. Staff from Long Point Bird Observatory netted 4390 birds of 92 species between August 15 and October 12. Especially obvious here was the passage of chickadees, ravens, and woodpeckers including Hairy, Downy, Three-toed, Black-backed, and Pileated.

Another mild autumn prevailed through the south, which led to 70 late and 45 latest ever departures, but much of the north was colder than usual by October. See Table 2. Early and record setting early arrivals numbered only 13 and 9 respectively. Irruptions into the south were detected for Northern Goshawk, Northern Hawk Owl, Boreal Owl, Pine Grosbeak, species originating from the northern forests of the province, and for Gyrfalcon, Snowy Owl, Northern Shrike, and redpolls, species originating from arctic regions outside Ontario. Especially strong showings were noted for loons, grebes, egrets, puddle ducks, Western and Baird's sandpipers, Red Phalarope, jaegers,



Sept. 8 (M Holt), Manitoulin I. Oct. 21 (DEB), Minden Oct. 28 (J Sagal). The single at Forfar Leeds died Nov. 7 (MT *et al.*) and one at Pelee was found dead Nov. 12 (AW *et al.*). The juv. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron near Port Dover Sept. 8–24 (KAM *et al.*) is the first in autumn since 1987 for this rarity. The ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron in Sudbury Aug. 31–Sept. 23 provided that area's third in as many years (CGB). Ontario's 4th White Ibis appeared at Turkey Pt. Oct. 12–14 and reappeared there Oct. 29–30 (RCR *et al.*). Glossy Ibis maintained their strong showings of recent autumns. The one at Holiday Beach Aug. 20 was considered to have arrived from Michigan, where four overwintered (*vide* ATC). The Glossy at Kincardine Bruce Oct. 28 was the county's 2nd ever (AWM), but the Plegadis (sp.) at Turkey Pt. Oct. 12 could have been either Glossy or White-faced (GP, MO).

WATERFOWL

The record early Tundra Swan at Pelee Oct. 20 (*vide* AW) presaged a heavier than normal flight in the

and bluebirds. Poor flights were documented for King Eider, Surf Scoter, Greater Scaup, Hudsonian Godwit, and White-rumped, Stilt, and Buff-breasted sandpipers. All except the scaup have a history of capricious numbers. This decline in scaup totals has continued over several autumns yet spring numbers remain high, suggesting a shift in their fall migration route.

Abbreviations: P.E.Pt. (*Prince Edward Point*); Pelee (*Point Pelee Natl Park and vicinity*); Algonquin, Holiday Beach, Presqu'ile, and Rondeau are Provincial Parks. Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS TO IBISES

The 203 Red-throated Loons in the south Oct. 1–Nov. 10 are many more than the 1982–1990 average of 138. The largest concentration was the 42 at Ottawa Oct. 27 (BMD, RAB). Single Pacific Loons were an ad. in breeding plumage in Elmval's Tiny marsh Aug. 23–27 (DH, CC, RLBo *et al.*), an ad. in basic feather at P.E.Pt. Oct. 20 (RDW, JHE, KH *et al.*), and another off the Highland Glen Conservation Area, *Lambton*, Nov. 5 (DFR). This total of three compares with only four birds in the s. during the eight autumns 1983–1990. Leading totals in the heavy flight of Common Loons were the 329 at Cobourg Oct. 10–15 (ERM), 300 each at Rondeau Oct. 19 (SC) and Oshawa Oct. 20 (MJB), and 250 at P.E.Pt. Oct. 20 (RDW, JHE).

Horned Grebe movement was impressive, with largest groups of 1200 at Rondeau Oct.

22 (PAW), 550 at Long Pt. Oct. 29 (L.P.B.O.), and 200 at P.E.Pt. Oct. 20 (K.F.N.). The 254+ Red-neckeds in the south are more than the 1982–1990 average of 171. The 60 off Manitoulin I. Oct. 1 (JCN) were the largest single group. Seven Eared Grebes raised the 1991 annual total to ten, two more than the 1972–1990 annual average. Two were at the tip of Long Pt. Aug. 15 (PDB). Singles appeared in e. Hamilton Bay Oct. 5–Nov. 3 (RZD *et al.*), on L. Simcoe Oct. 8 (MJB), Pelee Oct. 20 (GTH), Bronte Nov. 3 (MWJ), and Pt. Clark Bruce Nov. 22–23 (AWM).

The first of three N. Gannets was at Ottawa Oct. 14 (TFMB) followed by another at Cornwall Nov. 3 (BMD, CT, RG). The immature at Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 10 (JGK) was probably the same individual frequenting the Hamilton area Nov. 17–30 (DGd, WL, KAM). The 2 Am. White Pelicans that overwintered in the Luther marsh *Wellington* to Sept. 14 (MDC *et al.*) were likely the same two at the Mountsberg Reservoir Sept. 29–Nov. 3 (*vide* KAM), which then moved to Jordan Harbour near Vineland Nov. 10–30 (MEH *et al.*) Single Snowy Egrets were at Pelee Aug. 2–11 (RCS *et al.*), Rondeau Sept. 8–18 (JW, KJB, SC *et al.*), and Wolfe I. Nov. 17 (T & JB).

The 183 Cattle Egrets set a record tally for fall. The largest group contained 112 at Holiday Beach Aug. 24, some of which were seen flying in from Michigan (ATC). The irruption reached n.e. to Kingston Oct. 1 (RDW), Ottawa Oct. 12 (RPH, LN), *Peterborough* sites Oct. 22–26 (DI, FH), and n. to Barrie

southwest. East of range were 15 on Wolfe I. Nov. 13 (*vide* KFE). Lone Greater White-fronted Geese were an ad. and im. at Thunder Cape Sept. 26 (DDB) & Oct. 3 (DSd, DJH) respectively, an ad. in Ottawa Oct. 21–26 (RPH, RAB), and an im. in Morrisburg Nov. 3 (ph. BMD, CT). Single Ross' Geese appeared at Longridge Pt. Sept. 7 & 11 (AGC, CV), Thunder Bay Sept. 23–Oct. 3 (RZD, KAM, BC) for a District first, and Port Rowan Nov. 4–10 (PSB *et al.*). The strong Brant flight was displaced farther w. than usual and flocks contained 1500 at Wasaga Beach *Muskoka* Oct. 23 (JF) and 1000+ at Whitby Oct. 27 (PH, HK *et al.*). The 17 at Pelee Oct. 28 are also noteworthy, where the species is very rare (GTH).

Green-winged Teal were 500 at Long Pt. Sept. 27 (JMH). Black Duck, whose numbers are declining gradually, totalled 5000 at Woodstock Nov. 30 where 10,000 Mallards appeared Nov. 9 (JMH). Ottawa's annual autumn influx of N. Shovelers peaked at 350 birds (BMD). Record high tallies of Gadwall were 800 in Kingston Nov. 3 (K.F.N.) and 275 at Pelee Nov. 23 (AW). Aerial surveys at Long Pt. revealed an impressive 21,000 Am. Wigeon Oct. 13 (RWK), a species along with Gadwall whose numbers continue to increase. Ring-necked Ducks at Kingston peaked with 500 birds Nov. 3 (K.F.N.) and the 85 at Pelee Nov. 8 constituted a record high fall tally (AW).

Late Blue-winged Teal were at Kingston Nov. 3 (LSW *et al.*), Sarnia Nov. 4 (DFR), and Manitoulin I. Nov. 10 (CTB). The single male Eur. Wigeons at Ottawa Sept.

8–Oct. 20 (*vide* BMD) and Kingston Sept. 28–29 (JHE, RDW) raise the year's total to nine, nearly double the 1980–1990 average of 5. The only King Eiders reported were single males at Sarnia Nov. 8–10 (DFR *et al.*) and Presqu'île Nov. 19 (DSn). The 1982–1990 autumn average is 10 birds. Four Harlequin Ducks were reported: singles at Thunder Cape Sept. 16 (FT, PNP *et al.*) for a 6th District record, Kingston Nov. 2 (RDW), Long Pt. Nov. 9 (TW), and Sarnia Nov. 26 (DFR). The 230 Black Scoters at Ottawa Oct. 27 (BMD) account for most of the season's sightings and the one at Sudbury Oct. 29 is the area's 2nd ever (JCN). The 5 Barrow's Goldeneyes were singles at Port Perry Oct. 26 (MJB), Sarnia Nov. 7–10 & 23 (DFR, MMcA), Pembroke Nov. 12 (CM), Ottawa from early Nov. to Nov. 19 (TFMB) and near Innisville on Mississippi L. *Lanark* Nov. 23 (ML, MH). The female Hooded Merganser with 3 young at the Oshawa Second marsh Aug. 6 (BH) provided the 2nd breeding record for *Durham*. A record high number of Ruddy Ducks, up to 2500, spent the period Nov. 1–30 near the Long Pt. breakwater (JDM).

RAPTORS

The **Black Vulture** at Holiday Beach Oct. 31 was well seen as it flew with Turkey Vultures directly over the observation tower (R. Seng, AM, MDF) and is Ontario's 9th since 1980. In the s., migrant Turkey Vultures increased their numbers to an unprecedented 26,899 from fewer than 9000 per autumn prior to 1986. Totals from the lookouts at Hawk

Cliff and Holiday Beach reached record highs (see Table 1), where one-day tallies were 1678 & 2907 over Hawk Cliff Oct. 12 & 13 respectively (DEF) and 3200, 2717 & 2457 at Holiday Beach Oct. 18, 13 & 10 respectively (RLBe). Some 500 were at Long Pt. Oct. 13 (JMH *et al.*) Further e. along L. Ontario, several hundreds in all passed over downtown Toronto Oct. 7–13 (RBHS), Kingston & *Prince Edward* Oct. 11 (K.F.N.), and 860 over Whitby Oct. 13 (MJB).

The 241 passage Bald Eagles in the s. represent a further rise in their steady increase that began with only 33 birds in 1983. One at Queenston Nov. 30 wore a green wing tag (*vide* RFA). See the S.A. in AB 45: 99, (1991). Northern Goshawks irrupted in their strongest flight since 1982. Ten passed Thunder Cape Oct. 11 (DSd) and in the s., the main movement of the 229 migrants occurred Sept. 11–Nov. 10. Noteworthy Red-shouldered Hawks were one in Thunder Cape Sept. 17 (DSd, FT), a first confirmed sighting for the District (NGE), and two in Sarnia Oct. 16 where rare (DFR). In addition to the Broad-winged listed in Table 2, other tardy birds were a single at Oshawa Oct. 20 (EA) and two at Holiday Beach Nov. 7 (RLBe). Early Rough-leggeds in the vanguard of their very strong invasion included one at Long Pt. Sept. 4 (L.P.B.O.) and another at Woodstock Sept. 28 (JMH).

Four Golden Eagles were noted over Thunder Cape Sept. 19–Oct. 6 (DSd). In the s. where their main movement occurred Sept. 11–Nov. 26, the 230 are a new high in the steady rise that began during the early

1980s. Unprecedented one-day counts were the 24 at Holiday Beach Nov. 10 (*vide* RLBe) and 15, 19 & 10 at Hawk Cliff Nov. 8, 9 & 10 respectively (*vide* DEF). Merlin numbers at 428 s. of the breeding range continued at their high levels. Peregrine Falcons numbered 275 in the s., also over double their 1982–1990 average of 132. Record high season's totals were 98 at Hawk Cliff where one-day tallies reached 36 & 25 respectively Oct. 5 & 2 (DEF), and 54 at Holiday Beach (RLBe). Gyrfalcons in the n. were a single grey individual at Thunder Bay Nov. 3 & 8 (AGH *et al.*), a dark bird at Matachewan Nov. 7 (LT), another dark one at Lively Nov. 8 & 23 (JCN), and a white individual at Sudbury Nov. 8 (JCN). Three Gyrs in the s. were a dark bird on Manitoulin I. Oct. 13 (JCN), and grey singles near Amberley Oct. 29 (HW) and Whitby Nov. 16–30 (*vide* MJB).

RAILS TO SHOREBIRDS

Yellow Rails were singles at Toronto's e. Headland Aug. 28 (MKM), Presqu'île Sept. 18 (PG), and Pelee Oct. 10 (GTH). The Com. Moorhen at Longridge Pt. Sept. 12 was well n. of range Sept. 12 (AGC, CV). Noteworthy sightings in the widespread flight of Sandhill Cranes were the ad. at Pelee Nov. 9–30 (JMG, JNF *et al.*) and 3 at Holiday Beach Nov. 10 (ATC).

The Lesser Golden-Plover at the Dundas marsh Aug. 31 was early (WL, KAM) and that at Pelee Nov. 7 was late (AW). Advancing weather fronts prompted 310 Killdeer to migrate past Pelee in two hours Nov. 3 (AW). Single Am. Avocets appeared at Pelee Sept. 6 (EF *et al.*) and Long Pt. Nov. 2 (JL), which compare with 13 birds over the past 9 autumns. The 5 Willets are three fewer than the 1982–1990 fall average. They were singles at Pelee Aug. 17 (JMCA) and Aug. 31–Sept. 23 (TRS *et al.*), Port Stanley Aug. 18–19 (ph SWP *et al.*), Erie Beach *Niagara* Aug. 25 (WD), and Amherst I. Sept. 1–3 (K.F.N.). In the n., 225 Whimbrels were ready to leave Longridge Pt. Sept. 7 (RDM), while in the s. the 83 were more than usual in a more protracted flight Aug. 9–Oct. 20. Some 195 Hudsonian Godwits staged at Longridge Pt. Aug. 1 (RDM), but their flight through the s. was poor at only 44 birds. Four Marbleds at Longridge Pt. Sept. 7–11 (RDM) and another at Moosonee Sept. 1 (SAC, JMN) are noteworthy. Singles in the s. appeared at Pelee Sept. 11 (TJW, FW) and Dundas Sept. 24–25 (RGF), which are fewer than the 1975–90 autumn average of four. Late Red Knots were singles in Toronto Nov. 3 (GMB) and Beaverton the same day (RJP).

The 121 White-rumped Sandpipers in the s. Aug. 2–Nov. 16 are fewer than the fall average, but the 150 Baird's Aug. 1–Dec. 6 exceed the nine year average of 115. Two juv. Baird's in Algonquin Aug. 14 were a rare occurrence in the park (MR). The Purple Sandpiper flight in the s. rebounded to that of an average autumn at 29 birds. The largest numbers were 11 in the Ottawa area Oct. 27–Nov. 11 (*vide* BMD) and up to 5 at Nia-

Table 1. Hawk totals at three Ontario Stations, Autumn 1991, compared with the annual average where available.

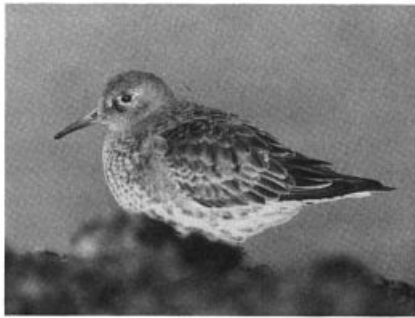
	Cranberry Marsh, Whitby		Hawk Cliff		Holiday Beach P.P.	
	1991 ¹	1991 ²	1982–1990 avg.	1991 ³	1982–1990 avg.	1974–90 avg.
Black Vulture	—	—	—	1	—	—
Turkey Vulture	1721	7135*	2984	16692*	8337	6473
Osprey	94	104	84	157	97	89
Bald Eagle	20	71*	19	96*	27	24
Northern Harrier	177	921	805	931	939	717
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1846	10919	8178	16190	14451	13758
Cooper's Hawk	164	1302*	598	1083*	670	524
Northern Goshawk	37	101	25	78*	33	27
Red-shouldered Hawk	186	247	154	1354	1039	842
Broad-winged Hawk	6357	17530	11216	19478	45968	37624
Red-tailed Hawk	1858	4138	2803	5876	6662	5939
Rough-legged Hawk	222	126	30	315*	142	152
Golden Eagle	13	93*	15	82	38	31
American Kestrel	1086	3674	2299	5747*	3813	3455
Merlin	74	105	45	94*	34	26
Peregrine Falcon	38	93*	21	54*	22	17
Gyrfalcon	1	—	—	—	—	—
Unidentified	466	1031	930	339	278	413
Totals	14360	47590	30206	68566	82550	70112

¹ (JJB *et al.* 1991 Aug. 31–Nov. 30, 76 days)

² (DEF *et al.* 1991 Aug. 31–Nov. 30, 87 days)

³ (RLBe *et al.* 1991 Aug. 18–Nov. 30, 96 days)

* Local record high count.



Purple Sandpiper at Kettle Point, Ontario, on November 16, 1991. Photograph/A. H. Rider.

gara Falls Nov. 9–30 (*vide* RFA). The individual at Pt. Clark Nov. 24 was only the 2nd occurrence for *Bruce* (AWM). The Stilt Sandpiper passage Aug. 1–Oct. 25 was weaker than usual with 83 birds (1982–1990 average 133). Buff-breasted numbered only 28 for the 6th consecutive autumn of weak passage. Noteworthy sightings were the juvenile in Woodstock Sept. 8 for *Oxford's* 2nd ever (JMH) and three birds in Presqu'ile Aug. 25–Sept. 22 (SML, J&JT). The reeve at Cannington Aug. 11–14 (RJP *et al.*) was the first autumn Ruff since 1988.

Following last autumn's record numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers, this fall's flight Aug. 3–Nov. 21 of 44 birds was nearer the 9-year average of 34. Notable are the record early bird at Woodstock Aug. 10 (JMH, DSG) and two adults at Port Perry Aug. 3–31 joined by a 3rd until Sept. 22 that remained for their body and wing moult (RJP *et al.*). One Red-necked Phalarope in Algonquin Sept. 20 (A. Grey) was unusual there. The Red Phalarope flight was the best in at least 12 years. The 22 birds Sept. 16–Dec. 6 are exactly double the 9 year average. Seven appeared in the first wave Sept. 16–24 at Ottawa, Presqu'ile, Silver lake, Woodstock, Ingleside and Port Stanley. Those in the second wave Oct. 11–Dec 6 were in *Ottawa-Carleton, Hamilton-Wentworth, Niagara, Norfolk, Kent, Essex, Lambton, and Bruce*. The individual at Pt. Clark Nov. 28–30 (AWM) provided the 2nd ever for *Bruce*.

JAEGERS TO TERNS

Numbers of Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers appeared unprecedented. The 21+ Pomarines compare with the 1978–1990 average of only 5. They were 5 at Sarnia Sept. 29–Nov. 7 (DFR), 11+ at Hamilton Oct. 4–Nov. 1 (*vide* KAM, BH), 1 at Toronto Oct. 7 (JL), Ottawa Nov. 3 (RAB, BP), Presqu'ile Nov. 5 (DSn, RDM *et al.*), and two at Wheatley Nov. 20 (AW, PEL,SF). The age profile was reported as 18 juv., 2 ad., and 1 unknown. The 96 Parasitics are triple the 1978–1990 average of 32. Early singles arrived at Long Pt. Aug. 26 (KBS) and Quarry Pt. Manitouslin I. Sept. 2 (JCN). The remainder occurred Oct. 7–Nov. 25 and were led by about 50 at Hamilton Oct. 28–Nov. 17 (*vide* KAM) and 26 at Sarnia Oct. 27–Nov. 16 (DFR). The only report of a

Table 2. Record late dates for migrants in Ontario, Autumn 1991.

Pied-billed Grebe	Peterborough	Oct. 20	WMcC
	Algonquin	Nov. 15	MWPR, RGT
Double-crested Cormorant	Peterborough	Nov. 30	CMu
Snowy Egret	Wolfe I.	Nov. 17	T&JB
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Long Pt.	Nov. 8	L.P.B.O.
Brant	Algonquin	Nov. 10	RGT <i>et al.</i>
N. Pintail	Algonquin	Oct. 20	JSk
Broad-winged Hawk	Pelee	Oct. 19	AW
Am. Coot	Algonquin	Nov. 4	GBet
Black-bellied Plover	Presqu'ile	Nov. 28	D&SH
	Wheatley	Nov. 29	AW
Lesser Golden-Plover	Presqu'ile	Nov. 17	DSn
Greater Yellowlegs	Pembroke	Nov. 18	GMB
Baird's Sandpiper	Turkey Pt.	Dec 6	RDM, BCt <i>et al.</i>
Dunlin	Algonquin	Nov. 10	RAB <i>et al.</i>
	Woodstock	Nov. 15	JMH
Am. Woodcock	Algonquin	Nov. 4	KHy
Caspian Tern	Long Pt.	Oct. 29	L.P.B.O.
Common Tern	Long Pt.	Nov. 27	RDM
Forster's Tern	Turkey Pt.	Nov. 13	RCR
Black Tern	Long Pt.	Oct. 25	L.P.B.O.
	Fort Erie	Nov. 30	<i>vide</i> RFA
Chimney Swift	Long Pt.	Oct. 29	R Frost
	Holiday Beach	Oct. 31	ATC
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Presqu'ile	Oct. 6	GG
	Sudbury	Oct. 27	WRL
Eastern Wood Pewee	Algonquin	Sept. 22	BH
Great Crested Flycatcher	Sault Ste. Marie	Nov. 9	CAW
Tree Swallow	Algonquin	Sept. 14	DTz
N. Rough-winged Swallow	Woodstock	Oct. 14	JMH
House Wren	Presqu'ile	Nov. 3	GG
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Presqu'ile	Oct. 13	D&SH
Am. Pipit	Presqu'ile	Nov. 29	CJE,SML
	Pt. Clark <i>Bruce</i>	Nov. 30	EJ
White-eyed Vireo	P.E.Pt.	Sept. 21	RDW
Tennessee Warbler	Killarney	Oct. 2	JCN
	Manitouslin I.	Oct. 13	JCN
Orange-crowned Warbler	Rondeau	Oct. 27	KJB,SC
Nashville Warbler	Rondeau	Oct. 27	KJB, JTB
Magnolia Warbler	P.E.Pt.	Nov. 3	RKE
Pine Warbler	Manitouslin I.	Oct. 24	JCN
Prairie Warbler	Wheatley	Sept. 28	DML, JPC
	Rondeau	Oct. 22	PAW
Hooded Warbler	Pelee	Oct. 4	GTH, JRG
Bobolink	Sudbury	Sept. 12	JCN

Long-tailed was the juv at Hamilton Beach Oct. 28 (VE, JLO).

The ad. Laughing Gull at Port Royal Aug. 11 was early (JMH, DSG). The others were singles at Dundas Sept. 4 (JD, RGF), Niagara-on-the-Lake Nov. 17 (JSc), and Toron-

to Nov. 30 (GC). The species' 17 year autumn average is 3 sightings. Franklin's were also in above average numbers at 17 birds Aug. 15–Nov. 6. The single at Wiarton Nov. 5 was a 1st for *Bruce* (DF,GMB) and that at Holiday Beach Oct. 23 was a 2nd ever



In a symbolic setting, against a blizzard of gulls, stands an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull at a landfill near Niagara Falls, Ontario, on November 10, 1991. The increase of this European species in North America has followed the increase of large gulls in general. Photograph/B. M. Di Labio.

(ATC). Seven Little Gulls at Longridge Pt. Sept. 5–10 were noteworthy for the n. coast (AGC, CV). In the south, 43 away from traditional areas in *Niagara* and along L. Erie are a strong showing, including 17 at Cornwall Aug. 23–Nov. 7 (BMD *et al.*). The four Com. Black-headed Gulls are one more than the 13 year autumn average. Singles were along L. Simcoe at the Talbot R. Oct. 6–8 (RJP *et al.*), Wolfe I. Oct. 9 (RDW, JHE), Port Weller Nov. 1–11 overlapping with another there Nov. 4–24 (ph KJR).

One ad. Mew Gull in Ottawa Oct. 6–14 (BMD, TFMB *et al.*) provided that area's 1st ever and Ontario's 14th since 1967. In the s., the 7 Thayer's are typical, but the 8 Icelands and 14 Glaucous are fewer than usual during a warm autumn. The 34 Lesser Black-backed Aug. 4–Nov. 30 compare with the 1983–1990 fall average of 25 of which 9 were at Niagara Falls Nov. 9–29 (*vide* RFA, GBe), and 6 each at Ottawa Sept. 24–Nov. 30 (BMD *et al.*) and Pelee Sept. 28–Nov. 19 (*vide* AW). Black-legged Kittiwakes numbered 41 in their strongest flight since the 62 in 1985 (1976–90 average 35). All except one occurred Sept. 23–Nov. 3 and included 15 at Sarnia, 14 in the Hamilton area and 5 in *Niagara*. Ten Sabine's Gulls were seen reported as 1 ad., 7 imm., and 2 without age details. These frequented the Fort Erie area from late Sept. to Nov. 2 (GBe, KJR, DEP) and three were off Oakville and Burlington Sept. 28–Oct. 31 (HGC, BKW). The other were two in the Hamilton area Oct. 11 & 28 (JSe, GN *et al.*) and singles in Sarnia Sept. 19–Nov. 12 (DFR, AHR, SAC *et al.*) and Port Stanley Oct. 8 (SWP, MLw).

Two Com. Terns were at Fort Erie Nov. 30 (*vide* RFA) and other tardy individuals were at Winona Nov. 9 (KAM), Pelee Nov. 10 (AW *et al.*) and Owen Sound Nov. 10 (PM). The single Forster's in Ottawa Sept. 28 & Nov. 11 are notable (ph. RAB, BMD, VBL) and another was still in Southampton Nov. 10 (MJP). The lone Black Tern at Brant R. on Hudson Bay Aug. 23 was unusual for both place and date (RDM).

CUCKOOS TO SWALLOWS

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo banded at Thunder Cape Sept. 9 (PNP *et al.*) furnished the 5th occurrence for the Thunder Bay District (*vide* DSd). One Snowy Owl overwintered in Toronto (RBHS) and the vanguard of a massive invasion by Snowies reached Manitoulin I. Oct. 24 (BB), Presqu'île Oct. 27 (SML), Kingston & Ottawa Oct. 28 (K.F.N., BMD). By Nov. 30, 201+ were reported which are the most in at least a decade. Northern Hawk Owls irrupted for the 2nd consecutive autumn but this year's flight appears to be the strongest since winter 1962–63. Twelve were reported from areas in the n. and 31 from south of the breeding range. Birds reached Thunder Bay Oct. 9 (NGE), *Ottawa-Carleton* Oct. 27 (BMD), *Haliburton* Oct. 28 (BH, RJP), *Manitoulin I.* Nov. 4 (JCN), *Bruce & Peterborough* Nov. 10 (RDM *et al.*), and *Leeds* Nov. 20 (NLB).



One of two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers captured for banding at Thunder Cape [Lake Superior], Ontario, on October 9, 1991. Photograph/ Alan Wormington.

The 4 Great Grays s. of range are the first signs of their irruption from the boreal forests. Two were in Algonquin Nov. 10 (RAB, DGr, KM) and singles appeared at Apsley *Peterborough* Nov. 10 (*vide* BH) and Gravenhurst Nov. 15 (*vide* RJP). Nine Boreals s. of the breeding range Oct. 14–Nov. 30 represent invasion numbers. Birds reached Pembroke, St Catharines, Rock Pt. P.P., Toronto, Whitby, and Cornwall. An im. male died when it hit a window in St. Catharines Oct. 31 and another injured in a collision at Haliburton Nov. 25 is recovering and is releaseable (KMCK).

In addition to those in Table 2, tardy Ruby-throated Hummingbirds included a record late bird at Leamington Oct. 29 (PWt). Another hummingbird at a feeder in Algonquin Oct. 29 was not identified to species (D. Jin *et al.*). The 69 Red-headed Woodpeckers that passed Holiday Beach during autumn are a big increase (ATC) and sightings elsewhere were also more numerous than usual. The 12 Red-bellieds Oct. 27–Nov. 30 away from the southwest were n. to Manitoulin I., *Grey, Bruce*, and e. to *York, Northumberland*, and *Frontenac*.

One of the discoveries at Thunder Cape was an ad. Willow Flycatcher banded Aug. 22 (DJH). Only three previous records are known for the Thunder Bay District (*vide* DSd). The ad. Say's Phoebe at Meldrum Bay, Manitoulin I., Oct. 9–25 (JCN, M & SA) was Ontario's 10th, five of which have been reported 1985–1991. The only W. Kingbird was one at Thunder Cape Aug. 24 (DSd, M. Dyer *et al.*), which compares with

the 9 year autumn average of 3. The four Scissor-tailed Flycatchers made a record autumn number, raising to six the total for the year (1982–1990 average 3 per annum). An immature tarried near Kincardine *Bruce* Oct. 3–13 (ph. AWM *et al.*), at the same time two imm. males were netted and banded at Thunder Cape Oct. 9–10 (ph AW, DSd *et al.*). Another appeared at Tobermory Nov. 22 (ph JFr, MW). Late Cliff Swallows were singles at Dundas and Pelee Oct. 26 (BC, RZD; AW).

JAYS TO SHRIKES

A record number of 424,154 Blue Jays passed Holiday Beach Sept. 14–Oct. 31, where the one day maximum Sept. 24 reached 59,650 birds (ATC). Diurnal migration by Com. Raven at Thunder Cape peaked Sept. 13, 29 & Oct. 9 when 40, 40 & 30 were tallied respectively (DSd). The raven at Rondeau Oct. 19 was a 1st for the park (JW *et al.*). Local irruptions of Black-capped Chickadees were noted only at Thunder Cape where peak passage of 250 was noted Sept. 24 (DSd) and at P.E.Pt. where 300 raced through Oct. 20 (K.F.N.). The succession of mild winters since 1985 has aided the steady expansion of the Carolina Wren. The 160 plus 'good numbers' from several sites in the s.w. represent a further increase and the 30 extralimitals are unprecedented. These pioneers were n. to Owen sound Nov. 9–11 & 28–29 (FS, DF *et al.*) and n.e. to *Peterborough* Oct. 20–25 & Nov. 14–16 (NP, DM), *Portland* Nov. 23 (RSx), and *Pembroke* Nov. 2 (JKt).

Out-of-range Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were singles at Thunder Cape Sept. 11, which was netted and ringed for a 3rd District record (DSd), and one at the Magnetawan R. mouth *Parry Sound* Oct. 13 (ph



Male Varied Thrush at Wheatley, Ontario, on November 10, 1991. Second record for the Point Pelee area. Photograph/James N. Flynn.

MAK) for a 2nd District occurrence. A record number of 1348 E. Bluebirds passed Holiday Beach Aug. 31–Nov. 25 (ATC). For the 5th consecutive autumn, a Mountain Bluebird appeared; this one was an imm. male at Rainy River Sept. 26–27 (KAM, BC, RZD). The one Townsend's Solitaire at Thunder Cape Sept. 28 (KAM, RZD) was the only sighting. Migrants passing over a Kingston site during 8 hours of the night Sept. 17–18 totalled 2400 Gray-cheeked Thrushes and 24,000 Swainson's (RDW), the same night 240 Gray-cheekeds and 1600 Swainson's were counted over Woodstock (JMH). More than the usual Hermit Thrushes were reported and the maxima were 400 at Long Pt. Oct. 10 (L.P.B.O.), 300 on Toronto I. Oct. 12 (RY) and 100+ at Oliphant Oct. 3 (PM). Single Varied Thrushes were the male in Wheatley Nov. 9–17 (RPN *et al.*), Scarborough Nov. 10 & 21 (MPW, BM *et al.*), and at Sault Ste. Marie Nov. 20–30 (CAW). A Gray Catbird appeared Sept. 1 at Moosonee where it occurs annually, but normally during spring (RDM). Strong early movement of Bohemian Waxwings was detected at Thunder Cape from Sept. 17 (DSd), Killarney Oct. 3 which is a record early arrival for the Sudbury area (JCN), Byng Inlet *Parry Sound* Oct. 11 (MAK), and Pefferlaw Oct. 12 (FF).

VIREOS, WARBLERS

During August, early movement in larger than usual numbers was detected along the lower Great Lakes, perhaps triggered by the drought conditions prevalent through southern Ontario. The story is told by the visit to Toronto Islands Aug. 21 (RY), where were seen 40 Red-eyed Vireos, 60 Chestnut-sided Warblers along with 70 Magnolias, 40 Black-throated Greens, 45 Blackburnians, a Cerulean, and 20 Black-and-whites. Record early arrivals include the N. Parula at Pelee Aug. 12 (DMcN), the single Black-throated Green Warbler at Beachville *Oxford* Aug. 19 (JMH), Blackburnian and Bay-breasted at Woodstock Aug. 12 (JMH) and the Black-poll at Beachville Aug. 13 (JMH).

Single White-eyed Vireos were at P.E.Pt. Sept. 21 (RDW), Long Pt. Sept. 29 & Oct. 24, the latter netted and banded (DMB, JDM), and Pelee Oct. 20 & Nov. 30 (MJP *et al.*; AW). The Solitary at Pelee Nov. 27 was also late (GTH). The imm. Yellow-throated Vireo netted and banded at Thunder Cape Oct. 7 (DDB) was another gem uncovered by the work, the 10th ever for the District (*fide* DSd). Late Yellow-throateds were in Whitby Oct. 22 (MJB) and Rondeau Oct. 6 (SC, KJB, JTB), where a tardy Warbling Vireo was also present Oct. 13 (SC).

The flight of Orange-crowned Warblers was again very strong in the s. where 68+ were noted Sept. 8–Nov. 17. The lone Magnolia at Brant R. Hudson Bay Aug. 22 (RDM) and the Black-throated Blue at Moosonee Sept. 1 (AGC, CV) were well north.

Maxima in the heavy passage of Yellow-



Yellow-throated Vireo captured for banding at Thunder Cape (Lake Superior), Ontario, on October 7, 1991. Both late and rare for northern Ontario. Photograph/Alan Wormington.

rumpeds were 7000 at Rondeau Oct. 12 (KJB), 1000 at P.E.Pt. Sept. 28 (JHE, RDW) and 3500 at Long Pt. Oct. 4 (L.P.B.O.), where an individual of the Audubon's race appeared Oct. 22 (RPM). The Yellow-throated Warbler in Whitby Sept. 8 was the *albiflora* subspecies and *Durham's* 2nd ever (AJ, HGC, RY). Another appeared at a Toronto feeder Sept. 27 (M Pear). Thirteen birds have been reported during the 9 autumns 1982–1990. Single Pines, scarce during autumn passage, were at Long Pt. P.P. Sept. 27 (JMH), Pelee Oct. 5 & 28 (KO);

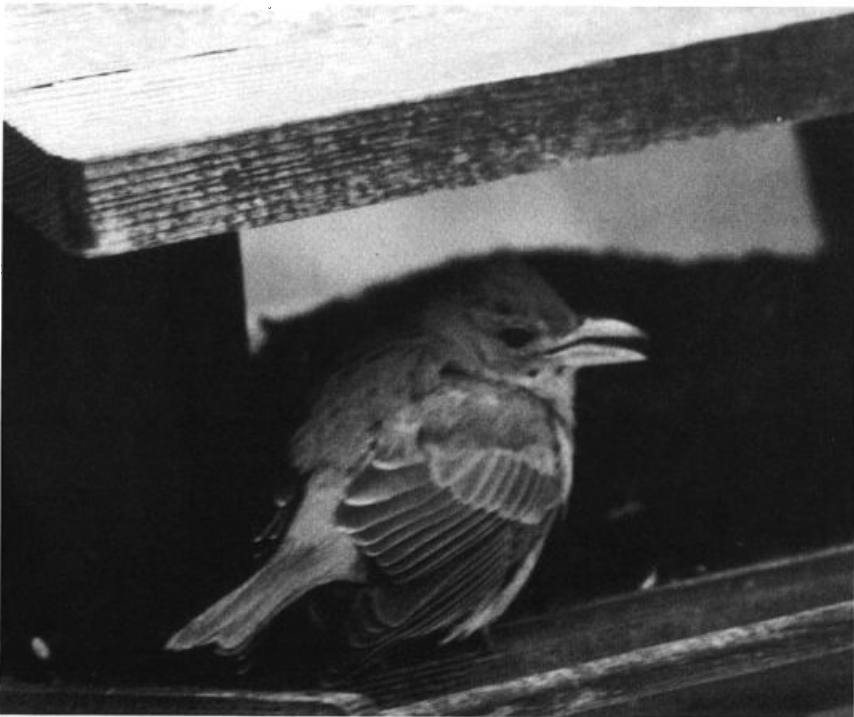
WHE, LHF *et al.*) and on Manitoulin I. Oct. 24 (JCN). Single 'yellow' Palm Warblers were at Woodstock Oct. 12 (JMH) and Long Pt. Oct. 24–25 (PSB, PNP). The only extralimital Prothonotary was the female in Barrie Sept. 22 (HGC). Ontario's 4th Kentucky Warbler in autumn since 1981 was at Pelee Sept. 1 (TRS, JGK) exactly ten years after Pelee's first fall sighting. The other two were at Long Pt. in 1988 and 1990. Late Wilson's were singles at Erie Beach Oct. 17 (KJB) and Pelee Oct. 21 (JEF).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Single Summer Tanagers lingered in Kitchener Nov. 5–Dec 3 (ph DTA, BC) and Perth *Lanark* Nov. 23 (ph BMD). These two are the 7th and 8th autumn occurrences since 1985 and follow six consecutive autumns when none was reported.

The Dickcissel at Thunder Cape Aug. 31 was a good find (DSd *et al.*). The immature at Pelee's tip Sept. 28 (AW) and the female at Erieau Oct. 23 (DW) raise the autumn's total to three, one less than the 9 year autumn average. A male Rufous-sided Towhee remained in Cochrane Nov. 23–Dec. 3 (JET *et al.*). Singles appeared at a Thunder Bay feeder Oct. 31–Nov. 10 (NGE *et al.*) and in Atikokan Nov. 10 (DHR) for a 3rd District record. The only Lark Sparrow reported was a single at Silver Islet Oct. 12 (WSC) for the 9th ever for the Thunder Bay District (1982–1990 autumn average 1). Single Henslow's were at Long Pt. Oct. 12 (JL) and Pelee Oct. 13 (GTH).

Twelve Sharp-tailed Sparrows in the s. Oct. 3–24 were confined as usual to areas not far from L. Ontario and the total exceeds the 9 year fall average of 10. These migrants were at Lakefield for *Peterborough's* first (PSB *et*



Summer Tanager at Kitchener, Ontario, on November 25, 1991. Photograph/Donna Taylor.

al.), in the Dundas marsh, Toronto's e. Headland, Oshawa, Whitby and Kingston. Early Fox Sparrows arrived in Thunder Bay Sept. 17 (NGE, AGH), Toronto Sept. 24 (*vide* RBHS), and Algonquin Sept. 30 (D Gray).

The 3 Harris' Sparrows e. of range were all associated with the massive sparrow movement during mid-October. An adult was near Byng Inlet *Parry Sound* Oct. 11 for a county first (MAK) and another was in Crescent Beach *Niagara* Oct. 13 (*vide* RFA). One at Long Pt. Oct. 11–12 was netted and banded (KBS). Record early Snow Buntings reached Sudbury Sept. 20 (JGL) and Rondeau Oct. 22 (PAW). Eastern Meadowlark migration peaked during late October along the lower Great Lakes and the one-day maxima were of 70 near Port Hope Oct. 27 (ERM) and 42 at Pelee Oct. 28 (GTH).

The ♂ **Brambling** at a feeder in Atikokan Oct. 4–7 (E&JZ, DHE, DG) is the 4th for Ontario and 2nd in Atikokan. Pine Grosbeaks irrupted southwards and low numbers reached Algonquin Oct. 28 (MWPR *et al.*), Port Hope Nov. 10 (ERM), Toronto Nov. 17 (RY) and Pelee Nov. 26 where locally rare (GTH). Range expansion by House Finch continued unabated. One male appeared at an Atikokan feeder Oct. 8, a 1st for the Rainy River District (SFP *et al.*), as did another in Matachewan Nov. 7 (LT). The 25 in Sudbury Nov. 17 represent a large increase. Fewer than 30 Red Crossbills were reported, all from Manitoulin I. northwards. White-wings were common in Algonquin throughout the period, but only isolated sightings were reported elsewhere. Large numbers of Com. Redpolls arrived in the s. beginning on Manitoulin I. Oct. 12 (RRT) reaching Ottawa Oct. 31 (BMD), Toronto Nov. 17 (HGC), and Pelee Nov. 14 (JEF), but by season's end many had passed on to the south. Seven of the eight Hoarries Nov. 1–16 were in the n. associated with flocks of Commons. Only small numbers of Evening Grosbeaks moved s. of the breeding range by season's close.

Corrigenda and addendum: AB 45: 441, Table 1, Black-bellied Plover was early but not record early and add AW to SC; Bank Swallow, replace GTP by STP; AB 45: 442, column 2, line 14 from bottom for the Townsend's Solitaire, insert after (*vide* SML) 'and at Pelee to Mar. 16 (*vide* AW)'; AB 45: 443, columns 3, 4 of contributors, replace D.J. Argo by D.J. Agro, replace G.T. Pike by S.T. Pike, replace S. Utterbeck by S. Utterback.

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APPALACHIAN REGION

George A. Hall

One thing is the same about all autumn migrations: they are all different. 1991 was no exception. Weather was abnormal but in a different way from 1990s abnormal weather, and birding was fair. The hot, dry summer weather continued through October. At Pittsburgh, the season accumulated a precipitation deficit of 3.34 inches, and each month temperatures were above normal. Water levels in most lakes and reservoirs dropped to record lows. There were extensive forest fires in southern West Virginia and in Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest. There were no snows and little freezing weather by the end of the period.

The warm season discouraged the waterfowl migration on Lake Erie, but it was good elsewhere. The low water levels enhanced the shorebird flight. The passerine flight was generally good, but the lack of pronounced weather systems made for a "trickle-through" flight, with no great waves. There was a major waterfowl fallout in e. Tennessee November 8–9 (RK). There were enough rarities to make it an interesting season. The southbound flight started somewhat earlier than usual, leading to a number of early arrival dates. Because of the mild weather, the other end of the season was protracted; many late dates were reported. There was no indication of a major winter invasion of "northern" species.

The migration of long-distance (Neotropical) migrants was better than it had been for several years and by current standards might even be called good, but the magnitude of flights in no way matches what we saw two decades ago or so. On the other hand, short-distance migrants had pretty good flights. Besides the rarities, several of the usually inconspicuous species, such as Lincoln's Sparrow, were more evident than usual.

As in other years, the basic quantitative data came from the two big banding operations: Powdermill Nature Reserve and Allegheny Front Migration Observatory. Both stations banded more birds than in recent years, but the ratio of birds banded per net-hour was poor at both. At Allegheny Front, of 45 species analyzed, 28 were caught in average numbers (within one standard deviation (S.D.) of the 10-year average, while 7 species were more than one S.D. above the average, 10 were more than 2 S.D. above average, and none were more than 1 S.D. below average (GAH). At Powdermill, of 54 species, 29 were within one S.D. of the average, 6 more than one S.D. above, 16 species more than 1 S.D. below average, and 3 species more than 2 S.D. below the average (RM & RCL).

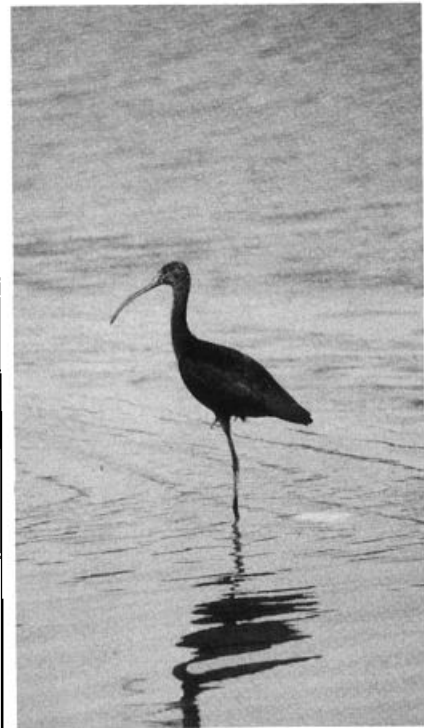
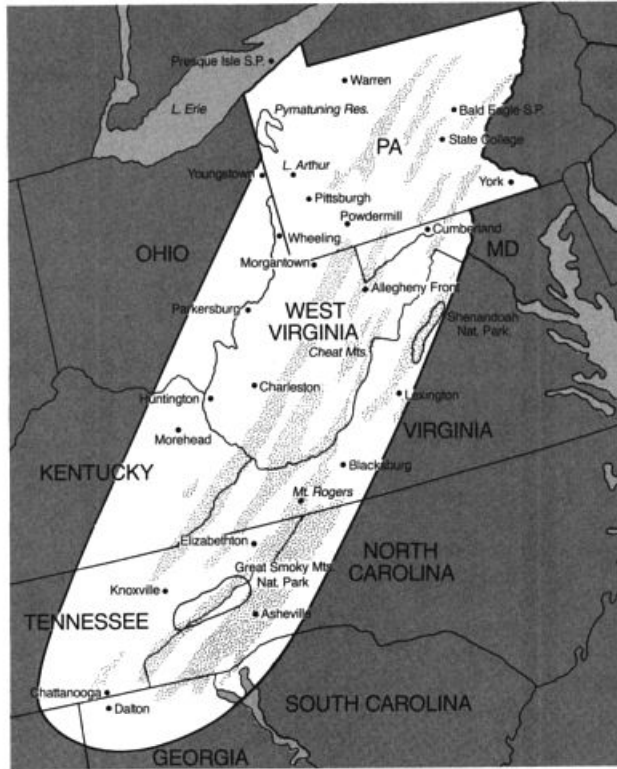
Organized hawk counts on the high ridges are an autumn feature in this Region; it will be noted that these watches produce large numbers of observations other than raptors

The season-long Waterfowl Count on Lake Erie was continued this year, as were counts of hummingbirds, Blue Jays, and goldfinches flying the Allegheny Front station.

Abbreviations: AFMO (*Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant/Tucker counties, WV*); BESP (*Bald Eagle S.P., Centre Co., PA*); KCPP (*Kyger Creek Power Plant, Gallia Co., OH*); MCFH (*Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan Co., KY*); PISP (*Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., PA*); PNR (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*).

LOONS TO HERONS

Red-throated Loons were reported from PISP Nov. 4 (JiS), Nov. 9 (JM) and Nov. 16 (EK), and from South Holston L., TN, Nov. 9 (BC). Some unusually high Com. Loon counts were noted: 48 at Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 17 (RFL), 83 at Cave Run L., KY, Nov. 8 (FB), and 104 at Alpine L., Preston, WV, Dec. 3. (WW); throughout the Region, this species was in the best numbers of recent years. At the Town Hill, MD, hawk count station, 145 were counted during the season (JPa). Horned Grebes were also widely reported, and the waterfowl fallout produced a count of 600 (550 on Boone L.) in the Elizabeth-



A *Plegadis ibis* (Glossy or White-faced) at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, Kentucky, on October 30, 1991. The two species are extremely difficult to distinguish at this season. Photograph/Mike Griffith.

ton, TN, region (RK). Red-necked Grebes were reported from PISP Oct. 20–Nov. 23 (a total of 12) (JM); Conneat L., PA, Nov. 11; Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 17–28 (RFL); and Rose Valley L., PA, Nov. 12 (P & GS). Three Eared Grebes were at PISP Nov. 9 (JM & EK), and another was there Nov. 16–23 (JM).

The Double-crested Cormorant continued to occur in good numbers in areas with suitable habitat; a count of 672 was made during the 70 days of observation at the Town Hill, MD, hawk count station (JPa). American Bitterns were reported from PISP Aug. 14 and Sept. 21 (JiS) and from BESP Oct. 6 (CP, RH, MH), while the only report of Least Bitterns came from PISP, where four were seen Aug. 18–Sept. 21 (JeS & JiS). Great Blue Herons were in normal numbers, but unusual was the identification of a "Great White" Heron at South Holston L., TN, where one had been reported last year Aug. 29 (WC). Great Egrets were in good numbers; a group of 18 flew past the Hanging Rock, WV, hawk count station Oct. 10 (MG). The only Little Blue Heron report came from Mill Run Res., PA, in August (RM & RCL); the only report of Cattle Egret came from near Newport, OH, in mid-October (JPr).

An imm. *Plegadis ibis* (ph.) was at MCFH Oct. 28–Nov. 1. (FB, MG), the 2nd record of the genus for Rowan.

WATERFOWL

Despite the mild season, which apparently prevented a concentration of waterfowl on Erie Bay (JM), the migration was generally better than in recent years; some impressive counts for this Region were made. The most spectacular occurrence was a storm-induced

fallout in e. Tennessee Nov. 8–9. On the 3 larger TVA lakes, a total of 6400 waterbirds of 29 species, besides the resident Canada Geese, Mallards, and Woods Ducks were counted (RK). A similar but smaller fallout occurred in Mercer, WV, Nov. 10 (JP).

Several flocks of 200–300 Tundra Swans were reported from the points in the north on the normal migration route, but more unusual were the swans in Augusta, VA, in November (JF); Canaan Valley, WV, Nov. 9 (MG); Gallipolis, OH, and KCPP Nov. 16 (MG), and e. Tennessee Nov. 9 during the fallout (FA), as well as the 390 counted from the Town Hill, MD, hawk count station (JPa). There were more than the usual reports of Snow Geese (mostly the white morph). A very early Snow Goose was at Wilbur L., TN, in mid-September (GW). Unusual were reports from PISP of 60 Brant Oct. 13 (JM & JiS) and 38 on Oct. 28 (JM, JiS, DH). A Brant was also in Centre, PA, Nov. 11–16

(m.ob.). The Canada Goose population at Pymatuning L., PA, had built up to 10,000 by Nov. 17 (RFL).

Some high counts of dabbling ducks were 150 Am. Wigeon at Conneaut Marsh, PA, Sept. 30 (RFL), 123 Godwall at Mosquito L., OH, Oct. 19 (CB), 147 Wood Ducks at one lake, and 107 on another in Somerset, PA (AM). Eurasian Wigeons were at PISP Oct. 16–21 (JM) and Nov. 9 (EK), the 2nd and 3rd fall records there. High counts for diving ducks were 2500 scaup (sp.) (1500 on South Holston L.), 600 Buffleheads, and 430 Ring-necked Ducks in the Tennessee fallout (RK), 8000 Com. Goldeneyes at Pymatuning L. Nov. 17, and 4000 Hooded Mergansers there Nov. 28 (RFL). Hooded Mergansers were in good numbers at most other places. Greater Scaup were reported from unusual locations in Garrett, MD, Nov. 10 (RKi) and Gallia, OH, Nov. 16 (MG, WA). The 3 scoter species were in good numbers at PISP on L. Erie, where they are regular, but an unusual number of records came from "inland." The Tennessee fallout had nine Surf Scoters, two White-winged Scoters, and three Black Scoters (RK). Surf Scoters were also reported from Woodcock L., PA, Oct. 19 (RFL), Cheat L., WV, Nov. 2 (GAH), and Mercer, WV, in the Nov. 10–11 fallout (JP). White-winged Scoters were reported from Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 17 (RFL), Stahlstown, PA, Nov. 12 (RCL & RM), and Roanoke, VA, Nov. 10 (MD). A Harlequin Duck was at PISP Nov. 5 (DH). A ♀ goldeneye showing some of the field marks of a Barrow's was in Westmoreland, PA, Nov. 15–16 (†). Identification of this bird, which may have been a hybrid, awaits the processing of photographs (RM & RCL).

RAPTORS

Black Vultures continue their slow northward advance. There were several records in Centre, PA (JPe).

Organized hawk counts on the mountain ridges had a successful season, although in most cases not as good as in 1990; some stations did not report. Details of these counts are given in Table 1. Ospreys continue in good numbers, even away from the ridges. A total of 56 Bald Eagles were reported from 17 locations. Northern Goshawks continue to thrive, with unusually early records from Jersey Shore, PA, Aug. 4 (G & PS) and South Holston L., TN, Aug. 27 (BC), as well as Warren, PA, Sept. 29 (WH), BESP Nov. 11 (m.ob.); and 3 other locations in the State College, PA, area Sept. 18–Nov. 24 (*vide* JPe). The only report from the hawk count stations was of four at Town Hill, MD, during the season (JPa). The other two accipiters seem to be doing well. Rough-legged Hawks were widely reported in the north, as usual, but reports from Canaan Valley, WV, Nov. 19 (MG), Mason, WV, Nov. 13 (MG), and Garrett, MD, Nov. 10 (RKi) were well s. of the usual range. A total of 126 Golden Eagles were reported from 8 locations, topped by 90 during the season at the Tussey Mt., PA, hawk count station (TD).

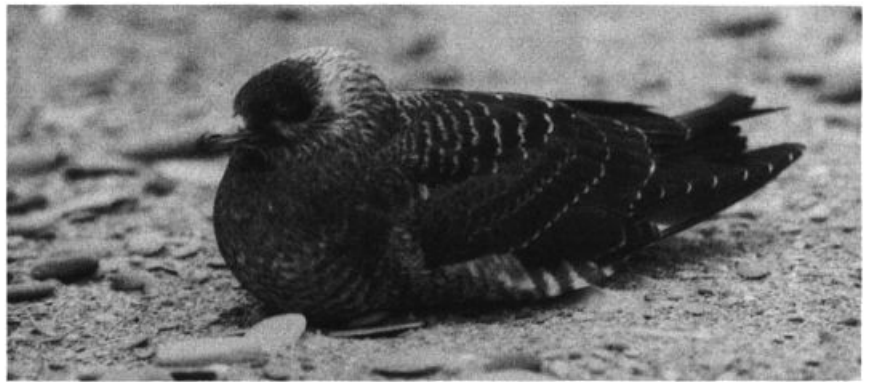
There were more reports than usual of Merlins, and 37 Peregrines were reported from 11 locations. The raptor record of the season was an imm. gray-morph Gyrfalcon (ph.) at PISP Oct. 10 & 11 (JM, JeS, JiS).

RAILS AND SHOREBIRDS

There were more Sora reports than usual, with a very late one at PISP Nov. 9 (MF). Oddly, the only Sandhill Crane records came from high elevations: one was over Roan Mt., TN, Sept. 27 (FA), and a total of four flew by the Town Hill, MD, hawk count station during the season (JPa).

The shorebird migration brought mixed reports. The prolonged drought produced low water levels at many places. At Pymatuning L., PA, the flight was the best in 40 years (RFL), and there were heavy flights at MCFH (FB). On the other hand, continued habitat destruction at PISP reduced the numbers of shorebirds, although some of the rarer species did appear there (JM). Water levels in the TVA lakes in e. Tennessee were kept at higher than normal levels so most shorebirds in that area were on farm ponds (RK).

Black-bellied Plovers were reported from 2 Crawford, PA, locations Aug. 31–Sept. 26 (RFL), Latrobe, PA, Sept. 16 (RM & RCL), MCFH Nov. 7–8 (FB), and Roanoke, VA, Sept. 5 (MS). A total of 25 Lesser Golden Plover were at PISP Aug. 17–Nov. 10 (*vide* JM), 17 were in Crawford Aug. 17–Nov. 17 (RFL), and Mosquito L., OH, Sept. 16 (D & J Ho). More unusual records came from Washington TN, Sept. 8–9 (RK), from Donegal, PA, Sept. 10 (RM, RCL), and most remarkably, two grounded in the fog atop the mountains at AFMO Sept. 25–26 (GAH).



Juvenile Parasitic Jaeger at Presque Isle State Park, Pennsylvania, on November 2, 1991.

The neat pale tips on the primaries (as well as the coverts and scapulars) can be seen clearly here. Photograph/Jerry McWilliams.

Noteworthy concentrations of Killdeer were: 175–200 at Siegel Marsh, Erie, Aug. 29 (JeS); 185 at Boone L., TN, Nov. 21; and 175 on a small farm pond in Washington, TN, Nov. 23 (RK). An Am. Avocet (ph.) was at PISP Aug. 18, the 14th local record (m.ob.).

The more common shorebirds, such as both yellowlegs and the small "peep," were in excellent numbers, and the less frequently reported species such as Baird's, Stilt, White-rumped and Western sandpipers, and both dowitchers, were all in higher-than-normal numbers. The rarer species reported included: Willet at South Holston L., TN, Aug. 3 (BC), and PISP Sept. 1 (DS, JeS); Whimbrel at PISP Sept. 8 (JM); Hudsonian Godwit at Pymatuning L. Sept. 17 (DH), and PISP (ph.) Nov. 7–10 (JM); Red Knot, a season total of 24 at PISP Aug. 6–Sept. 9 (*vide* JM); Pymatuning L. Aug. 10 (RFL), Woodcock L., PA, Aug. 31 (RFL); Sanderling at BESP Sept. 3, 17, & 23 (EZ); and Purple Sandpiper at PISP Nov. 5 (DH). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported from Pymatuning L., PA, Aug. 31 (JB), Woodcock L., PA, Sept. 15 (RFL), Shenango Reservoir, Mercer, PA, Aug. 31–Sept. 3 (CT, DS); PISP Sept. 13 & 14 (JiS, JH); Mosquito L., OH, Sept. 8 (NB); and Roanoke, VA, Aug. 8 and Sept. 6 & 12 (MD, MS, TK).

Wilson's Phalaropes were reported from Shenango Res., PA, Aug. 4 (JH, MF, WS) and Roanoke Aug. 14 (MD), while the only reports of Red-necked Phalarope were from Erie, PA, Aug. 16 (JBa) and Sept. 3 (DH). Red Phalaropes were at PISP Oct. 13 (JM), Nov. 9 (EK), and Nov. 17 (JM), but the most unusual record came from a small farm pond near Dry Tavern, Greene, PA, Sept. 15–23 (RB).

JAEGERS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

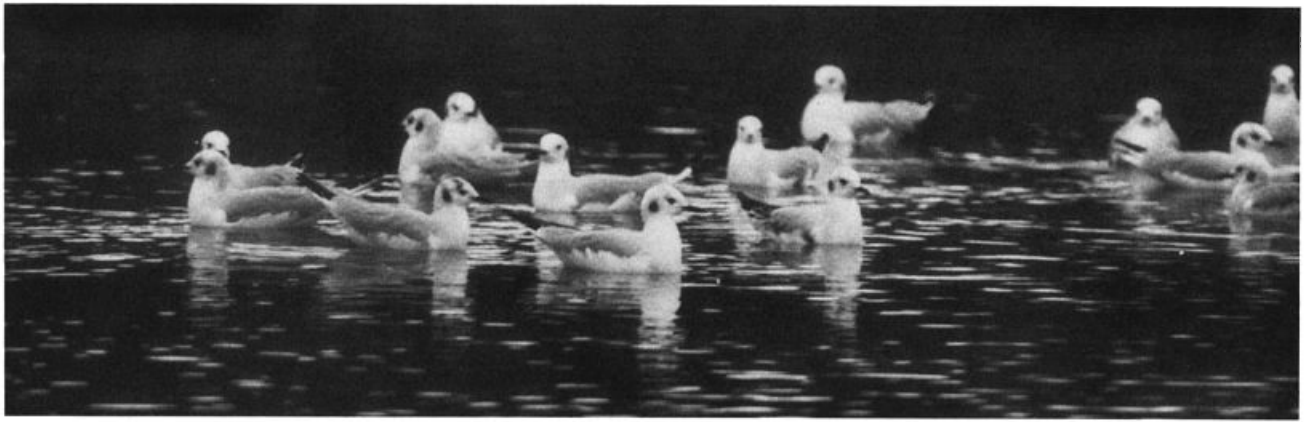
Single Parasitic Jaegers (ph.) were identified at PISP Oct. 5 & 28, Nov. 2, 3, & 6 (m.obs.), and unidentified jaegers were there Nov. 4 & 5 (*vide* JM). As usual, PISP turned up several rare gulls: Laughing Sept. 7 (JM), Franklin's Nov. 3–5 (m.ob.), and Lesser Black-backed Oct. 12–Nov. 30 (EK, TF). Laughing Gulls were also reported from Cumberland, MD, Aug. 14 (RKi) and South Holston L., TN

(6th local record). Aug. 27 (BC). A Great Black-backed Gull was at Pymatuning L., PA, Aug. 31 (RFL). The waterfowl fallout in e. Tennessee produced 400 Bonaparte's Gulls and 300 Ring-billed Gulls (RK). By late November at Pymatuning L., PA, gull populations had built up to 6600 Bonaparte's and 10,000 Ringbills. Another concentration of Bonaparte's Gulls was the 732 at MCFH Nov. 24 (FB).

Caspian Terns were reported from Pymatuning L., PA, Aug. 10 & 31 (RFL), from South Holston L., TN, Aug. 29 (WC), and Watauga L., TN, Sept. 13 (RK). Unlike the past few years, Com. Terns were more widespread and numerous than Forster's (i.e., 150 Common and 17 Forster's at PISP (JM)), but eight Forster's Terns in the e. Tennessee fallout Nov. 11, as well as two other e. Tennessee reports Aug. 29 and Sept. 13 (RK), and seven at the Greenbottom W.M.A., Cabell, WV, Oct. 4 (MG) were noteworthy.

There were five young Barn Owls in a Washington, TN, nest Sept. 27 (DHu). Barn Owls were also reported from Romney, WV, Aug. 19 (RKi) and the Penn State campus, Centre, Sept. 24 (TF). The three calling Great Horned Owls on a 5-acre woodlot in Rowan, KY, Nov. 26 (FB) was an unusual concentration. One, or possibly two Snowy Owls were in Erie, PA, Nov. 22 (JiS). More unexpected were the s. records from Grantsville, MD (found dead) in early November (RKi), the Ohio R. in Pleasants, WV, Nov. 30 (MGo), and one on the Highlands Scenic Highway, Pocahontas, WV, Nov. 14 (*vide* HP).

The only report of Long-eared Owl was of three in Clarion, PA, Nov. 24 (WF). By the end of the period, the Short-eared Owls had returned to their wintering areas on the reclaimed surface mines: in Clarion, PA (up to five) (WF) and Jefferson, OH (up to three) (MA); one was at Pymatuning L., PA, Dec. 1 (AM). A total of seven N. Saw-whet Owls were banded at AFMO, including a juvenile Aug. 29 (GAH), suggestive of local breeding, as was the juvenile banded at PNR Sept. 27 (RCI & RM). Other records were: four at PISP Nov. 3–30 (DD) and 2 locations in Centre, PA, Nov. 28 & 29 (JPe).



A concentration of Bonaparte's Gulls at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, Kentucky, on November 14, 1991. Photograph/Mike Griffith.

No great concentration of Com. Nighthawks were reported, but a total of 4140 was recorded at Johnson City, TN (RK). Six there Oct. 26 (RK) were very late, as were the five over Pittsburgh Oct. 27 (VD). The season count of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds flying over AFMO was only 396 (56% of the 1990 total). A late Ruby-



Male Rufous Hummingbird at Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, on November 10, 1991. This closely studied bird had no green feathers on the back, thus ruling out the very similar Allen's Hummingbird. Photograph/Jerry McWilliams.

throated Hummingbird was at Warren, PA, Oct. 22 (WH). A Rufous Hummingbird was present near Latrobe, PA, from late October until Dec. 1, when it was captured and given to a rehabilitator (RM). Another was in Gibsonia, PA, where it was photographed Nov. 10 (JM). A *Selasphorus* (sp.) hummingbird was at a feeder in Johnson City, TN, for several weeks into November (RK).

WOODPECKERS TO THRUSHES

Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from Colyer L., PA, Sept. 26 and Oct. 6 (K & JJ), Mosquito L., OH, Oct. 19 (CB), and a recently fledged bird was at Asheville, NC, Sept. 28 (RY). Red-bellied Woodpeckers are now becoming regular in the n. part of the Region. All the flycatcher species seemed to be in low numbers. Only eight individuals were banded at AFMO (GAH), but at PNR, E. Phoebes and "Traill's" Flycatchers were banded in record numbers. Several reports did mention the usually rare Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, although this species was in the lowest numbers ever at PNR (RM & RCL). The only Olive-sided Flycatcher report came from State College, PA, where five were seen Aug. 24-30 (*fide* JPe).

Two impressive swallow counts came from PISP: 2500 Purple Martins Aug. 30 (DS) and 5000 Tree Swallows Sept. 29 (JM); tree Swallows were still there Nov. 23 (JM). In Washington, TN, Bank Swallow numbers peaked at 100 Aug. 28 and Cliff Swallows at 350+ Aug. 23 (RK). The Blue Jay count at AFMO was 17,114 for the season, with 4593 Oct. 4, both numbers larger than in 1990 (RB). Fish Crows were reported from the edge of their range at Cumberland, MD, in September (MT), and a flock of 88 was seen at State College, PA, Nov. 20 (TF). The Com. Raven continued to do well in Warren (WH) and Somerset, PA (AM). A flock of 30-40 ravens was in Pocahontas, WV, Oct. 29 (GB); on Sept. 27 several small groups totalling 45 were flying in one direction over Roan Mt., TN (FA).

There was a modest Black-capped Chickadee movement to the south. Red-breasted Nuthatches were in good numbers in the Tennessee Mts. (RK), but only five were banded at AFMO, and there was only one record at PNR (RM). The Carolina Wren continues to thrive, even in the north. Five were banded at an elevation of 3800 feet at AFMO (GAH) and 20 were banded at PNR (RCL & RM), while they are established at PISP (JM), and there were 7 reports in Warren, PA (WH). Once again, there were no reports of Bewick's Wren. There was a good flight of Winter Wrens, with 27 banded at PNR (RCL & RM) and 28 at AFMO

(GAH). Marsh Wrens were banded at PNR Sept. 28 and Oct. 16 (RM & RCL), and one was at Austin Springs, TN, Sept. 27 (RK).

Although the large banding operations handled better spotted thrush numbers than in recent years, the consensus of banders and field birders was that these species' overall picture is still bleak. This was particularly true for Wood Thrushes. Contrary to the general trend was the remarkable total of 57 Gray-cheeked Thrushes banded at PISP (Je & JiS). All period a N. Mockingbird was at a Warren, PA, feeder (BW) (well n. of the usual range).

PIPITS TO WARBLERS

American Pipits were in better numbers and more places than usual, with a high count of 300+ in Montour, PA, Nov. 14 (SS). One of the two best seasonal records and a new Regional species was a *Sprague's Pipit* (†), with a flock of Am. Pipits on Roan Mt., TN, Oct. 27 (RK). Northern Shrikes were at PISP Oct. 21 to end of period (DD); at BESP Nov. 2 & 11 (m.ob.); at Milbrook Swamp, Centre, Nov. 23 (RH & BM); and in Trumbull, OH, Nov. 25 (J & DHo). Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from 8 places, including 15 reports in Washington and Sullivan, TN (RK). Most noteworthy was the first Crawford, PA, record in 20 years (RFL).

Three White-eyed Vireos banded at PISP (Ji & JeS) were noteworthy, as was the immature in Centre, PA, late August to Sept. 2 (J & BP). There were more reports than normal of the usually inconspicuous Philadelphia Vireo.

Warblers were "not in evidence" in Elk, PA (LC); "not especially good" at Fairview, NC (RY); "in average numbers" in Elizabethton, TN (RK); "down a little" at Roanoke, VA (MS); and "no large waves" but "better than the past few years" at State College, PA (JPe). The quantitative data from the big banding operations agreed with these mixed results. Both AFMO and PNR had better flights than in the last few years, but some species are still below the numbers handled in the past. This is particularly true of the "spruce budworm specialists"—Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted warblers—which were below average at both stations. On the

Table 1. Appalachian Hawk Watch Results, Autumn 1990.

	Days Obs.	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Broad-winged Hawk	Broad-winged High (date)	Bald Eagles	Golden Eagles	Total
Bald Eagle Mt., PA (JPe)	10	7	1	—	0	40	246
East River Mt., WV (JP)	40	227	2683	546 (Sept.24)	2	1	3166
Rockfish Gap, VA (YL)	68	1429	14735	3774 (Sept. 20)	14	4	17238
Peters Mt., WV (GH)	33	365	3030	801 (Sept. 17)	4	3	3837
Town Hill, MD (JPa)	42	1021	585	(not reported)	9	20	2845
Tuscarora Summit, PA (CG)	84	3519	1533	824 (Sept. 15)	14	45	6976

Table 2. Appalachian Hawk Watch Results, Autumn 1991.

	Days Obs.	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Broad-winged Hawk	Broad-winged High (date)	Bald Eagles	Golden Eagles	Total
East River Mt., WV (JP)	38	154	2295	589 (Sept.14)	1	0	2653
Rockfish Gap, VA (YL)	44	625	9386	1794 (Sept. 14)	14	3	10463
Hanging Rock, WV (GH)	31	556	4205	1583 (Sept. 14)	6	2	5294
Town Hill, MD (JPa)	70	1135	1102	(not reported)	10	27	3979

other hand, Palm Warblers at PNR (RM & RCL) and Chestnut-sided Warblers at AFMO (GAH) were in record numbers. At AFMO, Black-throated Blue and Blackpoll warblers were in numbers approaching those of the early 1980s. The usually inconspicuous Orange-crowned and Connecticut warblers were reported in unusually high numbers by field observations, as well as by numbers banded. Migrant Pine Warblers are almost never reported in the fall, so banding records at PNR Oct. 5 (RM & RCL) and AFMO Oct. 14 (GAH) were noteworthy, as were the five at PISP (*vide* JM). "Brewster's" Warbler was seen in *Centre*, PA, Aug. 17-18, and a "Lawrence's" Warbler was there Aug. 18 (B & JPe).

SPARROWS TO FINCHES

In the n. part of the Region, Am. Tree Sparrows were more numerous than in recent years. A Lark Sparrow (first local record) was at Roanoke, VA, Nov. 8-20 (MS, HT, MD) and one was at Parkersburg, WV, Oct. 24 (*vide* JE). The 2nd of the two prize records was the first verifiable Pennsylvania record of **Le Conte's Sparrow**, which was banded and photographed at PNR Oct. 10 (RCL & RM). Lincoln's Sparrow joins the list of usually inconspicuous species that were more common than usual. A major movement of several sparrow species, including 1000+ White-throated Sparrows, was observed in the State College, PA, region Oct. 12 (JPe). The only reports of Lapland Longspur came from PISP from Sept. 29 (very early) to the end of the period (JM). Snow Buntings were in the usual small numbers at most of the n. stations, and a flock in *Guernsey*, OH, Nov. 8 (MA) and a single on Town Hill, MD, for several weeks beginning in late October (JPa,

RKi) were well s. of the usual winter range.

The only Pine Grosbeak report was two at Pymatuning L., PA, Nov. 17 (RFL). Purple Finches remain in lower numbers than in the past. Several reporters commented on large numbers of Am. Goldfinches coming to feeders, and at AFMO the season's count of Goldfinch flyovers was 3033 (up 14% from 1990) (RB). The earliest Pine Siskins were at AFMO Oct. 4 (GAH & RB); through late October and November small flocks appeared sporadically at feeders throughout the Region, but no large numbers were involved. The only reports of Evening Grosbeaks came from Toftrees, *Centre*, PA, where two were seen Oct. 18 (TF) and from *Elk*, PA, Nov. 26 (LC).

1990 Addendum: These records were accidentally omitted (by the editors) from last year's report, so these records all refer to the autumn of 1990. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen in *Washington*, TN, Sept. 18-24 (JB), and four were in *Bath*, VA, Sept. 28-30 (CC).

Purple Finches arrived at Waynesboro, VA, the early date of Sept. 18 (RS), but no great numbers had appeared anywhere by the end of the period. Red Crossbills were at Chattahoochee Natl Forest Aug. 23 (HD), where they seem to be regular. The only other reports came from Clarksville, PA, Nov. 13 (RB) and from *Jackson*, KY, Nov. 28 (BP). The maximum daily count of Am. Goldfinches flying over the AFMO station was 226 Sept. 14 (RB). Pine Siskins arrived in late October and by the end of the period were widespread, but not in very large numbers. The status of Evening Grosbeaks was similar. They were seen as early as Sept. 22 at Waynesboro, VA (RS), but general arrival

was in late October or early November. No great flocks were reported, and distribution was very spotty.

Contributors: Fred Alsop, Robert Anderson, Michael Arabia, Wendell Argabrite, Carole Babyak, Jim Barker (JB), James Baxter (JBa), Ralph Bell, George Breiding, Edward Brucker, Nancy Brundage, Fred Busroe, Crista Cabe, Linda Christenson, Jeannie Clark, Wallace Coffey, Brian Cross, Dave Darney, Thomas Dick, Harriett DiGioia, Mike Donahue, Vickie Dziadosz, Jeanette Esker, Mile Fialkovich, Ted Floyd, James Fretwell, Walter Fye, Mike Goosman (MGo), Mike Griffith (MG), Charles Handley, Randy Harrison, John Heninger, Mark Henry, William Highhouse, Robert Hilton, David Hochadel (DHo), Judy Hochadel (JHo), Deuane Hoffman (DH), Joyce Hoffman (JH), Dan Huffine (DHu), George Hurley (GH), Jennings Jones, Katharine Jones, Tina Kemper, Ray Kiddy (RKi), Rick Knight (RK), Ed Kwater, Yulee Lerner, Robert C. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, Anthony Marich, Sally Maxwell, Jerry McWilliams, Bob Merideth, Robert Mulvihill, Jim Paulus (JPa), Harry Pawelczyk, Becky Peplinski, John Peplinski (JPe), Jim Phillips (JP), John Pritchett (JPr), Charlotte Pryor, Glenna Schwalbe, Paul Schwalbe, Walter Shaffer, Mike Smith, Donald Snyder, Ruth Snyder, Stanley Stahl, Anne Stamm, Jean Stull (JeS), Jim Stull (JiS), Chuck Tague, Harry Turner, Mary Twigg, Gary Wallace, Bob Winter, Merril Wood, William Wylie, Ruth Young, Eugene Zielinski.—**GEORGE A. HALL, P. O. Box 6045, West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV 26506-6045.**

WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Daryl D. Tessen

This autumn was a season of records. Temperatures varied, with alternating normal, summer-like, and even winter-like readings, all before November. August temperatures averaged about normal, but September was below normal, especially the second half. October temperatures varied, with generally warmer conditions during the first half, while November was cold.

Precipitation was also variable but generally above average, with some unbelievable totals recorded. For example, in early September in a three-day period, Duluth/Superior received 6.5 inches of rain, resulting in flooding. Many other sites received 1–2 inch rainfalls the rest of the month, extending into October. However, it was Halloween day that began a trick on residents of eastern Minnesota (Twin Cities-Duluth) and northwestern Wisconsin (Hudson-Superior). The snow commenced October 31 and did not stop until late November 2. The Twin Cities received *two feet*, while Duluth-Superior received *three feet*. A few localized areas even measured *40+ inches*. Instant winter! As the megastorm departed, gale-force winds blew across the Region, making for spectacular birding along Lakes Superior and Michigan. An amazing number of birds were migrating south, including rarities. It was truly impressive if one could deal with the wind and waves. The rest of November proved exceptionally snowy and cold (extremes of -10° to -15°), with frequent small storms broken only by a warming trend in the third week, which melted much of the snow. However, Thanksgiving saw another blizzard strike the same area (Twin Cities and Superior/Duluth), dumping another 1–2 feet. In November the Duluth/Superior area had received *6+ feet* of snow, with areas south of Superior recording *90+ inches*. The Twin Cities received *55 inches*; average for the entire winter is 49 inches!

Birding was both spectacular and terrible. Rarely before had the Region seen such an array of rarities. However, most stayed for from two minutes to a few hours, a few days at most. Thus, this rarity bonanza produced many frustrated birders who raced to a site, to learn all too often that the bird had left.

Besides rarities, this fall yielded other noteworthy events. A good waterfowl movement occurred. The hawk flight was impressive for most stations. There were surprising numbers of late-

lingering shorebirds, even after the Halloween blizzard. Jaegers and gulls put on another outstanding show. Owls made news in all three states, but especially in Minnesota, where invasions of Northern Hawk and Great Gray occurred. Thrush movement was good, especially in Wisconsin, and warblers had an excellent migration Regionwide. Winter finches raised hopes for a "finch winter," with good numbers appearing in the north, trickling southward in September/October. However, reality struck in November, when numbers dropped rapidly except for scattered northern areas.

This season was truly exciting; hopefully it will prove equally exciting to you, the reader. However, if, like me, you missed most of the major rarities, console yourself: you are not alone. Besides, there will probably be a similar season in another 10 or 20 years. Until then, enjoy the thought of the eiders, Black-necked Stilt, jaegers, California and Ivory gulls, Common Ground-Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Vermilion and Fork-tailed flycatchers, Fieldfare, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Brambling, and considerably more this autumn.

Abbreviations: PMSGa (*Pt. Mouillee State Game Area, MI*); WPBO (*Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa Co., MI*).

LOONS TO IBISES

Single Red-throated Loons were recorded in *St. Louis, MI*, Oct. 1–2 (KE *et al.*) and *Winnebago, WI*, Nov. 9 (TZ), but Michigan totaled 105 birds, including 90 Aug. 24–Nov. 2 at WPBO (staff). Minnesota had two **Pacific Loons**, with a juvenile in *St. Louis* Sept. 22–24 (PS *et al.*) and one on *White Bear L., Ramsey and Washington, Oct. 11–22* (KBa *et al.*).

The first Horned Grebe was Aug. 28 at

WPBO (staff). Verch had 306 at Ashland, WI, Oct. 8. Michigan again had an impressive Red-necked Grebe migration, especially at WPBO, where *12,882* were tallied Aug. 1–Nov. 15, including *3120* Aug. 22 (staff). One was still present at Madison, WI, Nov. 30 (KB). Michigan had nine Eared Grebes this season, including one until Nov. 27 at Gull L., *Kalamazoo* (WW *et al.*); Wisconsin had five, including three at Devil's Lake S.P. until Nov. 25 (KB *et al.*). The **Clark's Grebe** family discovered nesting in the summer in *Travers, MN*, was last seen Aug. 14. An impressive 900 Am. White Pelicans were on the Minnesota R. Aug. 28 in *Hennepin* (PS). Probably representing a spillover were 25 in August and 12 Sept. 9–16 in *LaCrosse* (JD), and one Oct. 10 in *Trempealeau* (THu), WI; one was in *Bay, MI*, Oct. 13–Nov. 10 (JS *et al.*). Two **Brown Pelicans** were in Michigan; one was in Sault Ste. Marie Sept. 27 (*vide* TA, ph.), with another sighting (same bird?) in St. Joseph in mid-October (*vide* RS).

Snowy Egrets were in all 3 states, including nine in Michigan, six in Wisconsin, and one in Minnesota. Two Little Blue Herons were in *Lyon, MN*, Aug. 18 (HK). Good numbers of Cattle Egrets were in all 3 states, the latest Nov. 22 in *Ortawa, MI* (JP, GW). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at PMSGa Aug. 31–Sept. 7 (JG, PC *et al.*). Two *Plegadis* ibis flew over Duluth Aug. 27 (TD).

SWANS TO CRANES

Tundra Swan numbers were unimpressive, with maxima of only 800–1000. Undoubtedly this was caused by the Oct. 31–Nov. 2 blizzard, which forced most swans to migrate considerably earlier than usual. Greater White-fronted Geese in Michigan included one Sept. 28 at Muskegon Wastewater System (PC), three Oct. 31 and six Nov. 7 at



Shiawassee N.W.R. (DP), and one Nov. 13–30 at the Allegan S.G.A. (KL, CH *et al.*), while in Wisconsin a few were present at Goose Pond, *Columbia*, Nov. 9–16 (KB *et al.*). The first Snow Geese were found Sept. 13 at WPBO (staff) and Sept. 18 in *Ozaukee*, WI (BC). A Ross' Goose was seen Oct. 10 in *Rosseau*, MN (PS), the only fall report. There was a surprising number of Brant sightings this fall. Michigan had singles Oct. 20 (JG) & 30 (BS) and seven Nov. 3 (staff) at WPBO; five Oct. 29 at South Haven (KM); one Oct. 31–Nov. 1 at the mouth of the Saginaw R. (RP *et al.*); and one Nov. 10 at Port Huron (AR, KL). Wisconsin had one observation when several birders, looking unsuccessfully for the Red Phalarope, discovered two among a Canada Goose flock at Racine's Wind Pt. (KB, BB *et al.*); they remained until mid-November. Peak Canada Goose numbers in Wisconsin occurred Nov. 4, with 689,650 statewide (BV), including 237,800 at Horicon N.W.R. and 150,000 at Grand River W.A. The major exodus occurred Dec. 3–4.

Two Blue-winged Teal in *Malcomb*, MI, Nov. 3 were late (DL). Greater Scaup began migrating early, with individuals noted Aug. 2 at WPBO (staff) and Aug. 30 at Milwaukee (BB). Single King Eiders were present at Port Huron Nov. 8 (PC, DR, TW) and at Holland S.P. Nov. 16 (PC, JR, RS, JG), both MI. A ♀ Common Eider was at Muskegon S.P. Nov. 4 (TH) & 23 (JH). Harlequin Ducks were in all 3 states, totaling seven in Michigan, six in Wisconsin, and several in Minnesota. All three scoters had a good migration. Numbers decreased markedly by mid-October in Wisconsin, which is unusual. At WPBO totals included 154 Black, 503 Surf, and 1258 White-winged. A Barrow's Goldeneye was observed at Port Huron Nov.

7 & 10 (RP, DR, KL). A Bufflehead was early Aug. 18 at the Dow Ponds, MI (TWa). Early for Milwaukee was a Red-breasted Merganser Aug. 18 (NZ).

There was an excellent hawk movement in all 3 states (see Table 1). Noteworthy Wisconsin totals included 22,000 Broad-winged Sept. 19–20 in *Oconto* (TE), 2700 Sept. 19 in *Dane* (EH), and 3500 Sept. 23 in *Ozaukee* (BC); ten Golden Eagles statewide October–November; a Merlin peak of 97 on Oct. 5 in *Sheboygan* (DB), and 123 in *Ozaukee* (BC); a Peregrine Falcon peak on Sept. 18 of 23 in *Sheboygan* (DB) and 21 in *Ozaukee* (BC). Interesting records included the Mississippi Kite at Hawk Ridge, MN, Aug. 30 (TW, KE). A Ferruginous Hawk was found at Erie Metropark, MI, Nov. 9 by Schultz and Siegwart. Besides the Prairie Falcon at Hawk Ridge, 13 birds were elsewhere in Minnesota, more than usual. Five Gyrfalcons were also noted in Minnesota, including an ad. white morph at Ely Nov. 11–12 (BT, SS). Michigan had one Nov. 22 at Sault Ste. Marie (RP, MP).

An injured Yellow Rail discovered Sept. 10 in a Milwaukee garage was rehabilitated and released (SD). Late was a Sora in Milwaukee Nov. 3 (KB, RD). Maximum Sandhill Crane numbers included 1000 Sept. 25 in *Oceana* (ES, GW) and 1589 Oct. 23 in *Jackson* (RH), both MI; and 1490 Oct. 26 at Crex Meadows W.A., WI (JHo). Intriguing was Kuhner's sighting of a Whooping Crane Oct. 24 at Wisconsin's Goose Pond N.C. Unfortunately, the nature center was not notified until 3 days later so no confirming observations could be made.

SHOREBIRDS

Late Black-bellied Plover sightings included Nov. 14 in *Muskegon* (GW) and Nov. 16 in

Milwaukee (RD). Michigan had the only Piping Plover observations, with seven, including one exceptionally late Nov. 19 at the Erie Marsh Preserve (KO, PL, SF). Wisconsin recorded about its 7th Black-necked Stilt: in Milwaukee Oct. 10–11 at the Coast Guard Impoundment (BB, BC, JF *et al.*). American Avocets were in Michigan, including one Aug. 17–30 in *Bay* (JSo), four Sept. 14 at Grand Mere (WC, KC), and one Aug. 31–Oct. 1 at PMSGGA (PC, JG *et al.*). In Wisconsin, singles were seen Aug. 30 and Oct. 4 in Milwaukee (BB, SD, RD), with a late bird Nov. 2 at Manitowoc (CS).

There were several tardy Greater Yellowlegs, the latest Nov. 19 at Shiawassee N.W.R. (DP). On Aug. 19 at PMSGGA, Chu found 930 Lesser Yellowlegs; the latest sighting was Nov. 24 in Racine, WI (JDe), almost record late. Very tardy was a Solitary Sandpiper at Coldwater L., *Branch*, MI, Nov. 10 (DRo). Whimbrels were at Milwaukee Aug. 11 (BB) & 22 (RD). In Michigan, birds were seen at WPBO Aug. 16 and Sept. 2 (staff) and near Ossineke Sept. 22 (MA). Hudsonian Godwit totals included seven for Michigan, two in Minnesota, and one in Wisconsin, a surprising number for fall. One Marbled Godwit was present Sept. 21 in *Bay*, MI (RW). Very late was a Ruddy Turnstone at Sheboygan Nov. 16 (D & MB). Several Red Knots were seen August–September in Wisconsin and Michigan. Western Sandpipers were in Michigan (ten) and Wisconsin (five) until mid-September. At PMSGGA notable shorebird totals included 400 Least Sandpipers Aug. 4, 780 Pectoral Sandpipers Aug. 19, 85 Stilt Sandpipers Sept. 7, and 210 Short-billed Dowitchers Aug. 24 (PC). Very late was a White-rumped Sandpiper at Erie Marsh Preserve Nov. 19 (KO, PL, SF); one was record late Nov. 22 in Sheboygan, WI (D & MB).

The Purple Sandpiper that wintered last year returned to Sheboygan, WI, Nov. 2, the identical date (D & MB *et al.*). It remained into December. An additional bird was at Racine Nov. 24 (JDe). Minnesota recorded its 4th Purple Sandpiper, present Nov. 21–23 in *Cook* (K & MH). Michigan had six: three Nov. 2 at St. Joseph (KL), one Nov. 9 at New Buffalo (JG), and two Nov. 16 at Port Huron (MW). An excellent find if accepted by Michigan's record committee, and very late, was a Curlew Sandpiper Nov. 1 at Hampton Township Park (MPe). There was fine Buff-breasted Sandpiper migration in all 3 states. For example, 60+ were in Wisconsin, including a maximum of 22 in *Racine* Sept. 7 (DT). Late were individuals Oct. 6 in *Becker* (MO) and Oct. 10 in *Pennington*, MN (PS). Pomarius found a Reeve Aug. 11 at PMSGGA. During early November's cold front passage, a major exodus of various species was observed along L. Michigan in Wisconsin. For example, 340 Com. Snipe were tallied Nov. 4 in *Sheboygan* (DB).

Above-average numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes were in Wisconsin and especially Michigan. Red Phalaropes were in all 3

Table 1. Fall hawk migration summary for two major stations in the Western Great Lakes Region.

	<i>Hawk Ridge, MN</i>		<i>Erie Metropark, MI</i>	
Turkey Vulture	1175	2nd highest	51,053;	peak 3231/Oct. 13
Osprey	316	record	322	
Mississippi Kite	1	first record		
Bald Eagle	582	record	85	
Northern Harrier	648		1773	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	18,524	2nd highest; peak 1623/Sept. 10	19,146	
Cooper's Hawk	210	record	1667	
Northern Goshawk	1107		48	
Red-shouldered Hawk	3		2334;	peak 209/Oct. 18
Broad-winged Hawk	53,190		213,489;	peak 7323/Sept. 11
Swainson's Hawk	3			
Red-tailed Hawk	7486	2nd highest	16,588	
Ferruginous Hawk			1	
Rough-legged Hawk	431		513	
Golden Eagle	32	2nd highest	198;	peak 21/Nov. 9
American Kestrel	1819	2nd highest	3574	
Merlin	399	record; peak 57 Sept. 16	22	
Prairie Falcon	1	3rd record		
Peregrine Falcon	28		49	
Gyrfalcon	1			
Total	85,796		310,862	



Red Phalarope at the Claremont Sewage ponds, Dodge County, Minnesota, on September 27, 1991. Sixth state record. Photograph/Dennis D. Martin.

states, a remarkable occurrence. Minnesota had its 6th, a cooperative individual at the Claremont sewage lagoons Sept. 27–29 (RG) for the state's earliest fall record. In Wisconsin, DeBoer discovered one early on Nov. 4 at Racine's Wind Pt. Three more lucky birders were able to enjoy it that afternoon, but it had departed by the following morning, when a wave of birders descended on the site (they were consoled with two Brant); this represents about the 16th state record. Again, Michigan had an outstanding movement, totaling eight birds. They included Sept. 21 at Muskegon Wastewater System (JP, GW), Sept. 30 at Au Train Bay (RP), Oct. 21 at WPBO (BS, KM), four Nov. 1 at Manistee (BA), and Nov. 6 in *Muskegon* (GW).

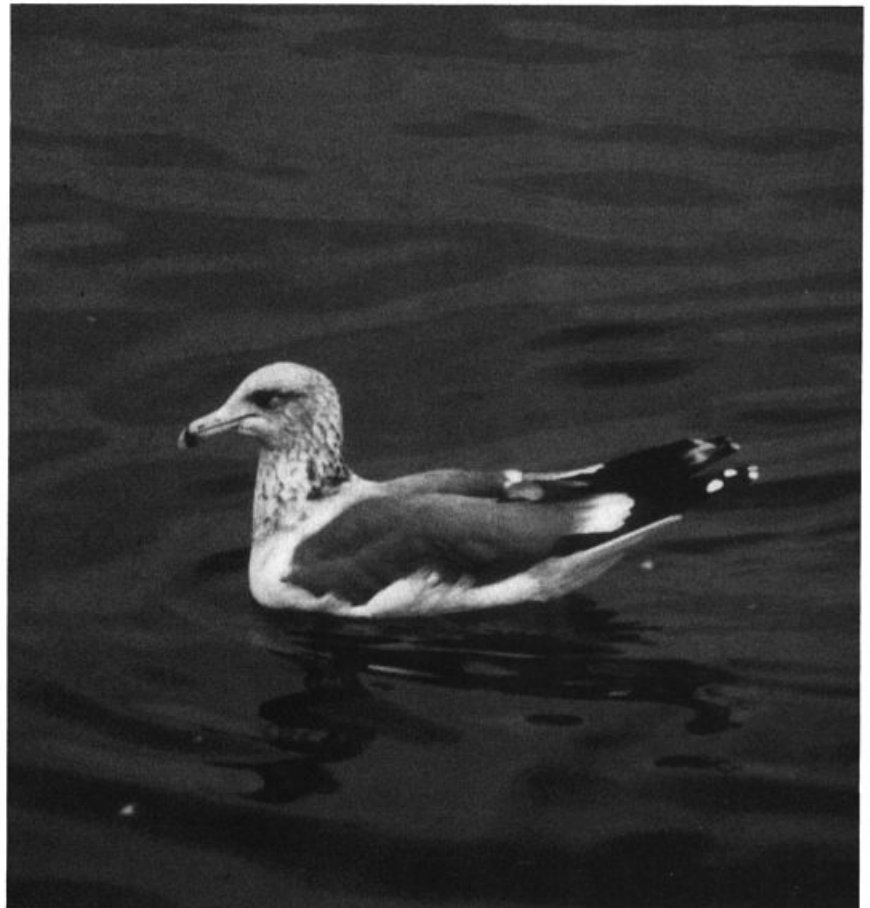
JAEGER TO GULLS

There was an outstanding jaeger flight; Parasitics predominated, as usual. Michigan led, with all 3 species. Pomarine sightings included three Sept. 10–Nov. 6 at WPBO (staff), one Oct. 31 at New Buffalo (KM), one Nov. 4 at St. Joseph (RS, KN), one Nov. 4 (RP, DR) and Nov. 11 (RP, MP, R & NF) at Port Huron, for a remarkable total of seven. A **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen Sept. 8 at WPBO (BJ, PSy, MP). Twenty-two Parasitics were counted statewide Oct. 23–Nov. 19, with a maximum of nine Nov. 7 at Port Huron (RP, MP, DR). In addition, 16 unidentified jaegers were found at 3 Michigan sites. Minnesota had above-average

numbers of Parasitics in *St. Louis* Sept. 5–Oct. 28, the latter date being late. Wisconsin had at least 5 jaeger sightings, the majority Parasitics. All were from L. Michigan, at either Concordia College Oct. 19–20 or Milwaukee Nov. 1, rather than the more expected L. Superior.

The Laughing Gulls that summered in Milwaukee were still found in early August, with a tardy bird Oct. 11 (KB, RD). About 140 Franklin's Gulls were in Wisconsin, mainly along Lakes Superior and Michigan, although 125 were found by Berner Oct. 3 in *St. Croix*; Michigan had 12 for the period. Little Gulls were present in Michigan (ten) and Wisconsin (five). Impressive were the 10,000+ Bonaparte's Gulls at the mouth of the Saginaw R. Oct. 31 (RP, MW). The ad. **California Gull** that Hughes found at Sheboygan Nov. 29 was among few Wisconsin sightings. It was observed the following day by Boldt, Korducki, and Polk *et al.* Five Thayer's Gulls were in Michigan October–November. Iceland Gull sightings included Oct. 15 at Consumer Pond, *Midland*, MI (RW, MW, KL), and two Nov. 30 at the Muskegon Wastewater System (PC, TW); Nov. 9–10 (PS *et al.*) and Nov. 28 in *Cook*, MN (KMH); and Nov. 28 in *Sauk*, WI (KB).

Michigan had the only Lesser Black-backed Gulls: Sept. 9–Oct. 25 at Bay City S.P. (RW, RP), Nov. 9 at New Buffalo (JG), and Nov. 9 at Port Huron (KL). Glaucous



Adult California Gull at Sheboygan, Wisconsin, on November 29, 1991. Photograph/Robert Hughes.

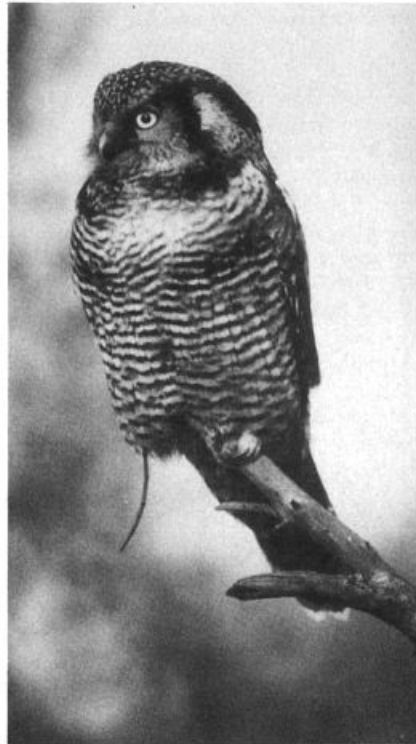
Gulls appeared in November in Wisconsin and Michigan. Great Black-backed Gulls, rare but increasing in Wisconsin, were found Aug. 5 (adult) at Newport S.P. (KG) and Oct. 22–26 (immature) at Milwaukee (BB, DT). For Minnesota, an immature was seen Nov. 22–30 in *Cook* (m. ob.), and an adult was present Nov. 29 in *Dakota* (BL *et al.*). In Michigan, where it is more common, there were 9 reporting counties, with a maximum of 13 Nov. 29 in *Bay* (JS). Black-legged Kittiwakes were found in all 3 states. Minnesota had one Oct. 26 in *Cook* (KE *et al.*) and Nov. 3 in *St. Louis* (MO). Wisconsin had an unprecedented four immatures Nov. 1 in Milwaukee (BC) during passage of a major storm front. Michigan had eight birds from 3 sites: WPBO, Saginaw R. mouth, and Port Huron. Truly impressive were Michigan's Sabine's Gulls. No fewer than 19 were at WPBO Sept. 23–Nov. 9, with a peak of four Sept. 29 (staff), plus singles Sept. 18–19 at Sault Ste. Marie (BS, JG) and Nov. 2 at Port Sanilac (MW). One was at Superior's Wisconsin Pt. Sept. 21 (RJ). Wisconsin recorded its 5th **Ivory Gull** when Cowart found an immature at Milwaukee Nov. 28. Several Milwaukee birders were lucky to see it before it disappeared in the early afternoon. Again, there were many disappointed birders the following day, who searched the Milwaukee shoreline (it was rediscovered several days later, farther north in Port Washington).

Late were Caspian Terns at the Erie Power Plant and the Kam Plant Nov. 3. Record late by a month was a Com. Tern in *Dakota*, MN, Nov. 19–20 (RG *et al.*). Arctic Terns were at WPBO Nov. 5 (BS, PD) and Kam Plant Nov. 9–20 (MW, RW, JSk *et al.*). A Forster's Tern was still present Nov. 30 at the Erie Power Plant (JG, RPu). Chu counted 1200 Black Terns Aug. 4 at PMSGGA.

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

A **Common Ground-Dove** observed by the Stouts Oct. 25 at WPBO provided Michigan's 3rd record. Rare anywhere in Wisconsin, but especially in the extreme north, was a Barn Owl found dead near Washburn Nov. 4 (*vide* LS). Good numbers of Snowy Owls began moving into the Region in November. Wisconsin and Michigan each had three **Northern Hawk Owls** in the n. counties, mainly in November, excellent numbers for the 2 states. However, they can't compare to Minnesota, which had one of its largest invasions ever. By the end of the period, 71 (!) individuals had been reported, with observations as far south as *Sherburne* Oct. 31–Nov. 9 (m.ob.). This was also a Great Gray Owl invasion year in Minnesota, with 23 reported by period's end. This invasion was unprecedented, as there have never been consecutive invasion years for this species. Neither Michigan nor Wisconsin benefitted from this movement. The WPBO staff tallied 22 Boreal Owls Oct. 15–21. Few N. Saw-whet Owls were in Michigan, although Wisconsin and Minnesota reported good numbers.

Late was a Com. Nighthawk at Concordia



Northern Hawk Owl at Whitefish Point, Michigan, on October 26, 1991. Part of a major invasion to the Western Great Lakes. Photograph/Karl Overman.

College, WI, Oct. 21 (BC), but very late was a Chimney Swift there Nov. 2 (BC). At the same site on Sept. 15, Cowart watched 91 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds migrate. Minnesota had its first and the Region its 2nd **Anna's Hummingbird** record. Heston discovered a female coming to a neighbor's feeder Nov. 11 in Grand Marais. Positive identification was made by the Hoffmans, who, prior to the onset of subzero weather, fashioned a heated shelter for the feeder; eventually the hummingbird accepted it. It



Vermilion Flycatcher at Duluth, Minnesota, on October 13, 1991. Second state record. Photograph/Tony Hertzell/VIREO.

was observed by many birders during the rest of the month, who also photographed it and taped its call note.

FLYCATCHERS TO SHRIKES

Flycatchers made news again this fall, especially in Minnesota, with first and 2nd state records. Savaloja found an imm. ♀ **Vermilion Flycatcher** in Duluth Oct. 13, only the 2nd record; it remained for one more day. Svingen had a memorable 2 minutes Sept. 6 in Duluth when he discovered a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** perched in a tree. He was able to take documenting photographs during this brief observation. Diligent searching by other birders soon after did not relocate it. This represents the first Minnesota and 5th Regional record. Other noteworthy flycatcher sightings included a W. Kingbird Sept. 17 in *St. Louis*, MN (TW), Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in Minnesota, including Oct. 4–22 (KE *et al.*), Oct. 26 (FN) in *Lake*, and Oct. 18–20 in *Cook* (BL *et al.*); Michigan had one Oct. 24 at WPBO (PD, BS). Late were E. Phoebe in Milwaukee Nov. 16 (RD) and Madison Nov. 18 (EH).

Record late for Minnesota was a Cliff Swallow Oct. 19 in *Lake* (S & DM). Carolina Wrens continue their explosion in the e. two-thirds of the Region. Wisconsin had ten birds from 6 sites—but Michigan had 21 reporting counties! Late was a House Wren in Milwaukee Nov. 10 (SD). Very late were Marsh Wrens Nov. 22 at Horicon N.W.R. (KB) and into December at PMSGGA (CPo), and a Nov. 29 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Waterloo, MI (RH). A Mountain Bluebird was present Nov. 7 in *St. Louis* (FN). The only Townsend's Solitaire was one Nov. 10 in *Sheboygan*, WI (DB). Exceptionally late was a Veery, also in *Sheboygan* Nov. 25 (DB). Tardy Swainson's Thrushes included Oct. 27 in *Aitkin* (FN) and Oct. 28 in *Cook* (AB), MN.

Certainly the rarity find this fall was the **Fieldfare** that appeared near Grand Marais. The Randklevs noticed an unusual thrush in their yard Nov. 3; on Nov. 7 the Hoffmans were called in to identify it. This began a wave of birders racing to observe the Fieldfare, which fed on mountain ash berries, crab apples, and plums as traffic raced past on Hwy 61, snowmobiles zoomed through the yard, and a N. Shrike pursued it daily. It was last seen Nov. 10. Obviously this was the first Minnesota as well as Regional record. Varied Thrushes appeared in *Roseau* and *Beltrami*, MN, and *Benzie*, MI (KT).

All N. Mockingbird reports came from Michigan, with 7 reporting counties, including a nest with young Aug. 4 in Allegan S.G.A. (SM). Fair Bohemian Waxwing numbers appeared in all 3 states. Berger counted 2955 Cedar Waxwings migrating along L. Michigan in *Sheboygan*, WI, Aug. 26. Good numbers of N. Shrikes appeared October–November Regionwide. Minnesota had Loggerhead Shrike sightings in 7 counties, including seven Aug. 4 in *Rice* (TB). Wisconsin's lone contribution was the family of five in *Oconto* until Aug. 12 (JSm).



Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Duluth, Minnesota, on September 6, 1991. First state record. Photograph/Peder Svingen/VIREO.

VIREOS TO FINCHES

Minnesota had its first White-eyed Vireo nesting record when Schumacher watched a juvenile being fed by parents Aug. 30 near Reno. Bell's Vireos were in Iowa, WI, Aug. 10 and Sept. 5 (KB). Late vireo sightings included Solitary Oct. 29 in Lake, MN (AB) and Nov. 15 in Madison, WI (KB), with a Yel-

low-throated in Milwaukee Nov. 3 (KB, RD) that was record late by about 3 weeks.

The best warbler find was made by Carlson Aug. 31, when he observed a ♂ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Lakewood Cemetery in s. Minneapolis, the 3rd state record. A Kirtland's Warbler was seen out of range Sept. 1 in *St. Clair*, MI (RE). There were many late warbler reports this fall. The best included an Orange-crowned in Manitowoc, WI, Nov. 8 (CS), Nashville in Racine, WI, Nov. 7 (KB), N. Parula in *Cook*, MN, Oct. 26 (*vide* KE), Cape May in *Dane*, WI, Nov. 9 (ST), Black-throated Green in *Portage*, WI, Nov. 12 (MB), a very late Bay-breasted in Manitowoc Nov. 3 (KB), Black-and-white in Madison Nov. 13 (KB), and Ovenbird in Saginaw Nov. 8–12 (DP). Yellow-breasted Chats were at the Kalamazoo Nature Center Aug. 20 and Sept. 13 (JG, RA), Metrobeach Sept. 2 (DL), and PMSGa Sept. 13 (WW).

An extremely late Summer Tanager was seen Nov. 22 in *Benzie*, MI (CF, KW, M & LF). Northern sightings of N. Cardinals included WPBO Oct. 29–Nov. 15 (staff) and Nov. 1 in *Marquette* (NI), and at International Falls, MI, Nov. 17 (GM). Very late was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Ashland Nov. 24 (DV). Two Lark Sparrows spent Sept. 25–Oct. 27 at WPBO (staff); even more noteworthy was a Lark Bunting there Oct. 18–Nov. 30 (PD, BS *et al.*). Tardy sparrow sightings in Madison, WI, included Chipping, Clay-colored, and Lincoln's Nov. 12 and Le Conte's Nov. 15 (EH). Sharp-tailed Sparrows (one–three) were at Milwaukee's Coast Guard Impoundment Sept. 10–21 (BB, BC *et al.*) and Oct. 9 (RD). Unusual for the location was the Smith's Longspur in *Cook*, MN, Oct. 3 (PS). Early was the Snow Bunting Sept. 18 at Crex Meadows, W.A.,

WI (JHo). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was present into December at Horicon N.W.R. (KB).

Michigan's bird of the season was a **Brambling** in *Kalamazoo* Nov. 25–29 (BSw, DW, RA *et al.*), for a first state record. Winter finches were considerably more abundant than last year; this included all species in varying degrees. However, those species that penetrated the south were present in low numbers or moved on quickly. Indications were that in localized northern areas, good numbers would be present this winter; but elsewhere it was (what else?) another finch-less winter. A Hoary Redpoll at WPBO Oct. 10 was unusual for the date (PD). The **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** that frequented a feeder in *Pierce*, WI, for the past 4 winters reappeared in mid-November (*vide* JP).

Addendum: A Glossy Ibis May 15, 1991 at Heron L., *Jackson* (KMc) was confirmed by photograph as Minnesota's first record.

Observers: Brian Allen, Mary Allen, Tom Allen, Phil Ashman, Karl Bardon (KBa), Dan Berger, Murray Berner, Tom Boehers, Brian Boldt, Al Buldoc, David & Margaret Brasser, Kay Burcar, Steve Carlson, Phil Chu, Bill Cowart, Kyle Craig, Winston Craig, Jeffery Dankert, Tim Dawson, Jerry DeBoer (JDe), Scott Diehl, Robert Domagalski, Paul Dziepak, Kim Eckert, Tom Erdman, Russ Emmons, Shawnee Finnegan, Martin & Lucy Fox, Jim Frank, Carl Freeman, Rob & Nancy French, Ray Glassel, Kevin Glueckert, **Jim Granlund** (Michigan), Ellen Hansen, Curtis Hearn, Tom Heatley, Peggy Heston, Roger Hill, James Hoefler (JHo), Jason Hoeksema, Ken & Mary Hoffman, Robert Hughes (RHu), Thomas Hunter (THu), Nick Illnicky, Brian Johnson, Robby Johnson (RJ), Jan Kuhner, Henry Kyllingstad, Dick Leasure, Ken Lebo, Paul Lehman, Bill Litkey, Grace Marquardt, Mark Martin, Kelly McDowell (KMc), Steve & Diane Millard, Kip Miller, Steve Minard, Frank Nicoletti, Mark Otnes, Karl Overman, David Peters, Mike Petrucha (MPe), Malene Planck, Rod Planck, Carolyn Pomarius, Jim Ponshair, Curt Powell (CPo), Robert Putnam (RPu), Ron & Arlene Runklev, Jack Reinhoehl, Delores Royer (DRo), Dennis Rupert, Alf Ryder, Terry Savaloja, Steve Schon, Jeffrey Schultz, Carol Schumacher (CSc), Larry Semo, Mary Siegwart, Jam Skeberdis (JSk), Ellen Slater, Jerry Smith (JSm), Roy Smith, Joe Soehnel (JSO), Charles Sontag, Bonnie Stout, Janie Stout (JSt), **Peder Svingen** (Minnesota), Bill Switzer (BSw), Paul Sykes (PSy), Bill Teft, Kirstin Tesner, **Daryl Tessen** (Wisconsin), Steve Thiessen, Dick Verch, Bill Volkert, Terry Walsh (TWa), Ron Weeks, Tex Wells, Keith Westphal, Warren Whaley, George Wickstrom, Terry Wiens (TWi), Myles Willard, WPBO staff, Doris Wymant, Norma Zehner, Tom Ziebell.—**DARYL D. TESSEN**, 2 Pioneer Park Place, Elgin, IL 60123.



Brambling at Kalamazoo, Michigan, on November 27, 1991. First state record. Photograph/Robert Putman.

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION

Bruce G. Peterjohn

Summer's above-normal temperatures continued through mid-September, although short-term relief was proved by a few cold fronts. After this weather pattern was finally broken in mid-September, temperatures fluctuated erratically through October, with periods of warm weather interspersed with below-normal cold. The first winter storm caused blizzard conditions in portions of Iowa October 30–November 1. This storm and another strong frontal system blanketed much of the northern states under snow or ice by November 7. Temperatures averaged well below normal for the remainder of the month. In general, precipitation remained below normal through September but improved later in the season. November's precipitation was plentiful, ending the drought that gripped most states this summer.

As usual in this diverse Region, perceptions of the migration varied markedly from state to state. A fair number of early migrants appeared with the August cold fronts while strong Regional movements were also apparent August 30–September 5, October 10–12, October 19–21, and October 30–November 7. Local movements were detected on other dates, creating one of the better fall migrations in the past five years. Relatively few rarities were discovered, although a number of species formerly considered casual or accidental are currently found with some regularity and no longer generate as much interest.

Abbreviations: OWR (*Ottawa N.W.R., OH*); Say. Res. (*Saylorville Res., IA*); RRR (*Red Rocks Res., IA*); Spfld. (*Springfield, IL*); and Carl. L. (*Carlisle L., IL*).

LOONS TO IBISES

The passage of Red-throated Loons was fairly good, producing 5 records from L. Michigan and 3 from L. Erie. Of 4 inland sightings, single Red-throateds at Thomas Hill Res., MO, Nov. 5 (†PM, TB) and L. Decatur, IL, Nov. 23 (†RCh, MD) were unexpected. Single Pacific Loons at Pleasant Creek S.P., IA, Nov. 9–19 (PW, JD, †m.ob.), St. Charles, MO, Nov. 21–28 (G & TBA, m.ob.), and Smithville, L., MO, Nov. 24 (RF, MMc) maintained their status as rare but fairly regular fall migrants through the Region. Common Loons staged on both Great Lakes, where flights totalling 300–355 were noted at one L. Erie and 3 L. Michigan locations. A mediocre movement on inland lakes produced scattered flocks of 30–57 loons.

Another poor migration of grebes produced maxima of 57 Pied-billeds and 125 Horneds in Illinois and smaller flocks elsewhere. An early Red-necked Grebe returned to Headlands S.P., OH, Sept. 18 (RH1), pre-saging a good flight on the Great Lakes, with 5 reports from L. Erie and 2 on L. Michigan. Single Red-neckeds were casual visitors to Thomas Hill Res., MO, Nov. 5 (†PM, TB), Mercer, KY, Nov. 9 (FL, WK), Clinton L., IL, Nov. 16–17 (RCh *et al.*), and St. Charles, MO, Nov. 23–24 (EL, m.ob.). Eared Grebes were scattered across the w. states, peaking with nine in n.w. Missouri. The 9 records from Illinois and 4 from Ohio represented an average passage e. of the Mississippi R. Five adult and four juv. W. Grebes in Worth, IA, Aug. 14–31 (DC, CN, m.ob.) were strongly

suggestive of breeding. Three or fewer migrant Westerns appeared at 3 Missouri and 5 Iowa lakes, normal numbers for fall. One also paid a visit to Carl. L. Nov. 3 (†DBe).

American White Pelicans peaked, with flocks of 3000–3500 in Iowa and 300–500 in Missouri, typical recent fall numbers. Farther east, 3 Illinois reports included a remarkable 62 pelicans at Mark Twain N.W.R. in late October (HW); the summering pelican at OWR remained into August. **Brown Pelicans** continued to make news. One summering on L. Wappapello, MO, lingered through Oct. 11 (m.ob.). Another briefly observed on L. Erie in July actually summered on the lake, spending most of its days 4–5 mi offshore of *Lake and Ashtabula*, OH, but only rarely came close to shore (DAL). A 3rd pelican was observed intermittently in the Michigan City, IN, area Oct. 7–19 (†JW, m.ob.), furnishing the state's 5th record. Double-crested Cormorants are still plentiful, evidenced by tallies of 4000 at Rend L., IL, Oct. 25 (TF, JDe), 3000 at Carl. L. Oct. 12 (RPa), 2300+ in n.w. Missouri Oct. 5 (MR, DE), 2000 at Coralville Res., IA, Sept. 27 (TK), and 400 at Louisville Oct. 20 (JE). They were widely reported in every state.

The 12 Am. Bittern records were normal, but only 3 sightings of Least Bitterns were disturbingly low. Large herons congregated in Illinois, with maxima of 1000 Great Blues at Rice L. Conservation Area Sept. 14 (RPa) and flocks of 650–1000 Great Egrets at 3 locations Aug. 17–Sept. 11. Similar numbers were not apparent elsewhere. Great Egrets are lingering later each year; 96 were still present at OWR Nov. 3 (EP *et al.*), and singles were noted at other locations through Dec. 1. Within their breeding range, Snowy Egrets peaked at 15 in w. Kentucky and 11 along w. Lake Erie. Extralimital Snowies appeared at 6 sites, with a maximum of eight in Polk, IA, Aug. 10 (BD). Postbreeding Little Blue Herons moved north in Illinois, producing at least 5 sightings from the n. counties, with up to 15 in Grundy July 29 (JM). Few wandering Little Blues appeared in the other states. It was a mediocre fall for Cattle Egrets. The largest flocks totaled 42 at Louisville Aug. 18 (DN), 30 near Murray, KY, on the late date of Nov. 19 (*fide* CP), and 29 in n. Illinois. Only small numbers were reported from other locations. Both Green-backed Herons and Black-crowned Night-Herons were in poor numbers, continuing the trend of recent years. The status of both species merits attention in this Region. A handful of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron sightings included three near the n. edge of their range at L. Calumet, IL, Aug. 11 (WM). Only one *Plegadis* ibis appeared, an imm. **White-faced Ibis** closely studied at





Tundra Swans at Lake Renwick, Will County, Illinois, on November 18, 1991. Up to 16 birds were present here in late fall. Photograph/ Joe B. Milosevich.

Spencer Lake W.M.A., OH, Oct. 10–17 (NK †m.ob.). Photographs clearly show that its iris was turning red; it provided Ohio's 4th acceptable record.

WATERFOWL

A mediocre passage of Tundra Swans produced flocks of 500 in n.e. Iowa and 113 in n. Illinois. Singles at Owsley Fork L., KY, Nov. 9–3 (A & TR *et al.*) and East Fork L., IL, Dec. 5 (LHa) were outside their normal migration corridor. A total of six Trumpeter Swans appeared in c. Illinois in early December, no doubt individuals from introduced populations in Wisconsin and Minnesota. An average fall flight of Greater White-fronted Geese consisted of a maximum of 300 in Missouri, small numbers at two Illinois sites, and three at OWR Nov. 9 (JSc). The expected small numbers of Ross' Geese were noted in the w. states, while 3 Illinois sightings of 1–3 geese were normal for recent fall migrations. Brant staged a fairly good flight along L. Erie, with eight or fewer at 5 locations. One wandered inland to Silver L., OH, Nov. 11–14 (BSz, LR).

It was another poor fall for puddle ducks, reflecting diminished continental populations of most species. Unusual in w. Iowa, an Am. Black Duck visited the IPL ponds Oct. 27 (B & LPa). Flocks of 1260 N. Shovelers at Carl. L. Oct. 25 (KMc) and 1000 Gadwall at Maryville, MO, Oct. 25 (DE) were locally noteworthy during an otherwise lackluster migration. Diving ducks did not fare any

better. The only sizable flock of Canvasbacks totaled 40,000 in Lee, IA, in early November (RCe) while scaup peaked with 1000 Greaters at Winnetka, IL, Nov. 3 (RPa) and 9000 Lessers at Say. Res. Oct. 30 (BE). A ♂ Harlequin Duck at Cleveland in August (W & NKI) furnished Ohio's 2nd summer record; it remained through November. The only other Harlequin Duck was also noted on L. Erie. Fifteen inland sightings of Oldsquaw represented an above-normal total, but the largest Great Lakes flock totaled only 30 on L. Michigan. Black Scoters appeared in moderate numbers, with maxima of 20–32 along both Great Lakes. There were only 4 inland reports from Ohio and Illinois, including a remarkable 16 at Spfld. Oct. 28 (DB). Two early Surf Scoters returned to *Winneshiek*, IA, Sept. 23 (DC). There were 5 other inland sightings and Great Lakes maxima of 14–27, fair numbers at best. White-winged Scoters improved along the Great Lakes, where 55 were counted at Beverly Shores, IN, Nov. 9 (*fide* KB); 11 inland sightings were normal. One Com. Goldeneye in *Lake*, IL, Aug. 11 (JSo) probably summered.

HAWKS TO CRANES

Two Black Vultures wandered north to *Richland*, OH, Oct. 26 (KM) and Chester, IL, Nov. 6 (TF), while one appeared in *Dallas*, MO, Oct. 17 (JHy). Their numbers are increasing in s.w. Ohio, where 146 were in *Highland* Nov. 17 (*fide* NK). Osprey peaked with 18 at Illinois Beach S.P., IL, Sept. 18

(RE). Normal numbers passed through most areas, with the latest migrants Nov. 1–6. A few Mississippi Kites were noted away from their established Mississippi R. nesting range, appearing in *St. Clair*, MO, Aug. 31 (JHy, JS), *Taney*, MO, Sept. 7 (JHy, PMA), and Danville, IL, Sept. 20 (†MC). The largest Sharp-shinned Hawk flights totaled 66 along L. Michigan and 42 in Iowa. Migrant Cooper's Hawks peaked at 14 in Iowa. An early N. Goshawk at Michigan City, IN, Oct. 7 (LH) signaled the beginning of a small movement. There were 20 reports Region-wide, primarily of adults in November. Singles were noted south to *St. Louis*, MO, Nov. 2 (JZ) and *Sangamon*, IL, Nov. 3 (DB, TT). Twenty Red-shouldered Hawks passed over *Lucas*, OH, Nov. 9 (MA, TKm), an excellent fall total for recent years. The largest Broad-winged Hawk movements were detected in Illinois, with 2700 at Mt. Hoy Sept. 27 (HC) and 1702 at Waukegan Sept. 18 (DJo *et al.*). Smaller flocks appeared elsewhere Sept. 19–25. Remarkable Swainson's Hawks numbers appeared again in n.w. Missouri. On Oct. 1, a total of 284 were observed in *Holt* and *Atchison*, including 264 in one flock (MR). This species is certainly overlooked elsewhere along the Region's w. edge. The 561 Red-tailed Hawks at Grammar Grove, IA, Sept. 11 (BP) easily surpassed the largest flights of other states. A Rough-legged Hawk returned to Iowa by Sept. 26, but only small numbers followed later in the season. Golden Eagles appeared in unprecedented num-

bers, with 12 reports scattered across Illinois, at least five eagles in n.w. Ohio, and 4 sightings from the other states. Similar good news was received for Merlin and Peregrine Falcons; both species continued to increase. Merlin peaked with 16 at Illinois Beach S.P., IL, Sept. 18 (RE *et al.*), but no large movements of Peregrines were detected. Prairie Falcons were represented by 2 reports from Missouri, 3 from Iowa, and at least 3 in Illinois. They have clearly become rare but regular fall migrants in these states.

A Greater Prairie-Chicken near Maryville, MO, Aug. 17 (DE) was far removed from its established range. Rail numbers remained low. The elusive Yellow Rail was detected as singles at Palos, IL, Sept. 11 (MCa), Snake Creek Marsh, IA, Sept. 20-21 (JF *et al.*), *Tuscarawas*, OH, Sept. 21 (RS, ph. ES), Coralville Res., IA, Sept. 22 (RP), and *Du Page*, IL, Oct. 3 (MH). Single King Rails were discovered in Indiana and Illinois, maintaining their tenuous Regional foothold. Both Virginia Rail and Sora lingered into December at Joliet, IL (JM). An impressive 56 Com. Moorhens were counted at L. Calumet, IL, Sept. 27 (WM). Sandhill Cranes were widely reported, an artifact of their increasing populations. Numbers peaked along their established migration corridors, with 3000 over Louisville Nov. 27 (HS) and 1664 over *Lake and Cook*, IL, Nov. 3 (m.ob). Extralimital flocks included 10 at Cleveland Oct. 10 (W & NKI) and 12 at Arcola, IL, Nov. 19 (PWe). Other reports included sightings at 2 Missouri locations, one in Iowa, and one in w. Kentucky, where they are becoming rare but regular visitors.

SHOREBIRDS

As usual, habitat conditions varied from state to state, but shorebird numbers were generally not impressive, even where habitats were plentiful. Late migrants included a Black-bellied Plover at RRR Nov. 25 (AJ) and Lesser Golden-Plover at Sangchris L., IL, Nov. 13 (DB). The latter species peaked at 70-92 in Illinois and Ohio. The 8+ reports of migrant Piping Plovers were normal and included a late migrant at Huron, OH, Oct. 16 (DL). A fairly good movement of Am. Avocets totaled 22+ sightings, with peaks of 18 at Say, Res. Sept. 17 (BE *et al.*) and 17 at Maryville, MO, Oct. 3 (MR). Three remained through Nov. 2 at Montrose W.M.A., MO (JWi). Both yellowlegs remained through Nov. 19-20. The largest flocks of Lesser Yellowlegs totaled 1000-1200 in Iowa and Illinois, fair numbers for this plentiful migrant.

It was another poor fall for Willets: 11 sightings scattered across the n. states; the largest flock was composed of only three. Spotted Sandpipers lingered through Oct. 24-27 at several sites. Upland Sandpipers peaked with 22 at Davenport, IA, Aug. 17 (PP) and 14 at Danville, IL, Aug. 9 (DWe). One Upland in *Gentry*, IA, Oct. 12 (JHi) was quite late. Whimbrel were restricted to 6 reports from the Great Lakes, with no more than two at any location. Hudsonian God-

wits staged a fair movement through Ohio, producing at least 7 sightings, including 3 flocks of 7-8. Single godwits were noted on 3 occasions in Illinois and at one Missouri site; the last migrants departed Nov. 3-5. Marbled Godwits were scarce, producing 3 reports along L. Erie and a single record from c. Illinois. Two Ruddy Turnstones in Chicago Nov. 24 (JL) were very late. Few Red Knots were discovered in Illinois and Ohio; small numbers appeared along both Great Lakes and at 2 inland sites. A knot at Wilmette, IL, Nov. 2 (JL *et al.*) was rather late.

Sanderlings were also scarce, reflecting declining populations. However, one remained through Nov. 24 at L. Calumet, IL (RHu). No sizable W. Sandpipers flocks were encountered, but a late migrant remained at Chicago Nov. 24-29 (JO, EW). Baird's Sandpipers were noted in fairly good numbers, peaking with 50 in Iowa. The latest remained through Nov. 9 at Buck Creek S.P., OH (DO, DDi). Pectoral Sandpipers returned to the abundance of past years, producing flocks of 15,000 at Rice L. Conservation Area, IL, Aug. 10 (RPa, MD) and 3000 at Coralville Res., IA, Aug. 29 (TK). Two Purple Sandpipers at Michigan City, IN, Nov. 2 (D & BW *et al.*) furnished the only report, a poor showing for recent years. It was a good fall for Dunlin, especially near L. Michigan, where 6510 were tallied at Wilmette Oct. 31 (EW) and 753 at Miller Beach, IN, Oct. 23 (KB).

An impressive flock of Stilt Sandpipers consisted of 500 at RRR Sept. 7-13 (AJ, DP). Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared in fairly good numbers, particularly a flock of 35 at Coralville Res., IA, Aug. 4 (TK). The only Ruff was a juvenile photographed in *Erie*, OH, Oct. 26 (JB *et al.* ph.). Long-billed Dowitchers are plentiful in the w. Lake Erie marshes, surprising since they are rather scarce in surrounding areas. At least 100 ad. Long-billeds were noted in *Lucas*, OH, Aug. 4, increasing to 400+ by Aug. 29 (JDn, SU). Such numbers are not unusual when suitable habitats are available. Elsewhere, the largest flocks of Long-billeds totaled 100 at Rice L. Conservation Area, IL, Sept. 14 (RPa) and 88 in *Lucas*, IA, Oct. 13 (RC). One in *Cook*, IL, Nov. 24 (*vide* EW) was very late, as was an Am. Woodcock in the same county the same date (WM). Small numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes were rather widespread in Iowa and Ohio, producing at least 15 sightings. Surprisingly, they appeared at only one Illinois location and were absent in the other states. Two Red Phalaropes on L. Erie were expected in November. Inland Reds are always noteworthy; this year's contingent consisted of singles at Rice L. Conservation Area, IL, Sept. 18 (LA), Maryville, MO, Sept. 22 (TD, DE *et al.* ph.), different birds at Say, Res. Sept. 25-29 and Oct. 26 (†MP, †m.ob.), L. Chautauqua, IL, Oct. 3 (LA), and Clinton L., IL, Nov. 3-9 (DR, RCh).

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JAEGERS TO TERNS

It was another good fall for jaegers. Pomarines produced several November reports from L. Erie. There were at least 4 Great Lakes sightings of Parasitic Jaegers, including four in Lake, IL, Oct. 31 (DDz, DJo *et al.*). Inland singles were reported from L. Decatur, IL, Nov. 1 (MD) and Alton, IL, Nov. 2 (†DBe *et al.*). A Long-tailed Jaeger was carefully described from Headlands S.P., OH, Sept. 20 (†RH). This species is accidental in every state, although it may be overlooked. In addition, at least 14 unidentified jaegers were reported from L. Michigan in n.w. Indiana, including five Oct. 12, and there were 5+ reports of jaeger sp. from L. Erie, including four Nov. 16. The increased number of sightings in recent years probably reflects greater efforts in locating these birds rather than an increase in jaegers passing through the Region.

Normal Laughing Gull numbers consisted of 2 Great Lakes reports and sightings from 7 inland locations through Nov. 11 in Illinois. One appeared at Mel Price Dam, MO, Nov. 3 (PM, TB), where they are casual visitors. Franklin's Gulls staged a major movement through the w. states, especially n.w. Missouri, where 30,000+ were estimated at Smithville L., Oct. 4 (m.ob.). The largest flock totaled 10,000+ in Dickinson Sept. 22 (LS). Flocks of 800–5000 were noted at other locations in these states. Good numbers also wandered east of the Mississippi R., including flocks of 66 at Spfld. Sept. 24 (DB) and 25 at Buck Creek S.P., OH, Oct. 12 (DDi). As expected, single Little Gulls were scattered across both Great Lakes. There was a remarkable number of inland records from Illinois, although it is difficult to determine how many individuals were actually involved. These records consisted of adults at Carl. L. Oct. 20 (DK), L. Decatur Nov. 16 (†MD), Spfld. Nov. 26–27 (DB, m.ob. ph.), and Clinton L. Dec. 4–15 (RSa), plus an immature at L. Decatur Nov. 23–29 (RCh, MD). The 10,000+ Bonaparte's Gulls at Thomas Hill Res. Nov. 3 (PM, TB) were unprecedented for Missouri. Similar flocks were not detected at other inland lakes. A melanistic Bonaparte's Gull was described from Spfld. Nov. 22–25 (†DB *et al.*). Melanistic gulls are generally dark gray in coloration, a fact that did not complicate identification of this individual but could become very important when extralimital species are claimed such as Heermann's and Gray gulls.

Scattered November Thayer's Gulls records included one at RRR Nov. 25–28 (†AJ, †TK, m.ob.), where there are few acceptable sightings. Lesser Black-backed Gulls staged an Illinois invasion, with at least 17 reported beginning Oct. 5, including 11+ at inland locations. Elsewhere, there were 8+ reports from L. Erie, one from L. Michigan in Indiana, and one at Coralville Res., IA, Nov. 24–28 (JF, †TK). Glaucous Gulls returned to Carl. L. (DBe) and L. Michigan by Oct. 27, but few were observed along the



Juvenile Sabine's Gull at Maryville, Missouri, on September 21, 1991. Photograph/David A. Easterla.

Great Lakes in November. It was another good fall for Black-legged Kittiwakes. At least eight were noted on L. Michigan, including four at Miller Beach, IN, Nov. 11 (LH *et al.*), and two appeared on L. Erie. Nine inland sightings consisted of 3 reports from Iowa, 3 from Illinois, and singles at Louisville Nov. 28 (JE *et al.*), L. Contrary, MO, Oct. 12 (KJ), and Maryville, MO, Nov. 16 (CH *et al.*). With the exception of a 2nd-year bird at Spfld. Nov. 27 (DB), all were first-year kittiwakes. Sabine's Gulls also appeared in exceptional numbers. There were 5 reports from the Great Lakes, including a late migrant at Huron, OH, Nov. 16 (AF, RHI). Inland sightings consisted of three at Maryville, MO, Sept. 21 (DE ph.), two, including a very cooperative adult, in the Davenport, IA-Rock I., IL, area Oct. 13–26 (†RPe, †m.ob. ph.), and singles in Seneca, OH, Sept. 22–27 (TBr), L. Decatur, IL, Sept. 28 (†MD), L. Chautauqua, IL, Oct. 3–5 (LA, RCh), Smithville L., MO, Oct. 4–5 (m.ob.), and Carl. L. Oct. 20 (TF). Whether the increased sightings of kittiwakes and Sabine's Gulls in the past decade is a result of expanding population or greater observer effort is uncertain.

Most tern numbers remained discouraging. The largest concentration of Com. Terns totaled 900 at Michigan City, IN, Sept. 17 (LH). No large flocks were reported from L. Erie, although a late migrant was at Lorain, OH, Dec. 1 (JDn, SU). Four Forster's Terns in Calloway, KY, Nov. 22

(CP) were the latest of 4 November records. Extralimital Least Terns appeared at Montrose W.M.A., MO, Aug. 14 (TB), Rice L. Conservation Area, IL, Aug. 17 (RCh), and Coralville Res., IA, Aug. 20 (JF, TK). Migrant Least Terns peaked at 15–30 in w. Kentucky in early August. Black Terns were scarce and have almost disappeared from areas where they were formerly common. The largest flocks were 80 at Rend L., IL, Aug. 17 (WM) and 62 in Polk, MO, Aug. 18 (JHy).

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS

A cooperative Common Ground-Dove pleased the multitudes at Cedar Rapids, IA, Oct. 19–Nov. 1 (SD, †m.ob. ph.); it furnished the first acceptable Iowa record. Single Barn Owls were reported from Kentucky and Ohio, typical fall numbers for recent years. Snowy Owls staged a moderate movement along the Great Lakes in November, with at least eight in Illinois, nine in n.w. Indiana, and 13 in Ohio. Few Snowies wandered farther south, although singles were discovered in Trimble, KY, Nov. 18–21 (*vide* AS) and Holmes, OH, Nov. 11 (BGl). Few Long-eared Owls were reported. One in Ohio, KY, Nov. 30 (KC *et al.*) was locally noteworthy. Migrant Short-eared and N. Saw-whet owls were also fairly scarce. Common Nighthawk migration was uneventful; the largest flocks were 200–400. Single nighthawks were exceptionally late in Sr. Louis, MO, Nov. 9 (JZ, BWe) and Greene, MO, Nov. 27 (BNo). A Whip-poor-will in



Yellow Rail in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, on September 21, 1991. Photograph/Sanford Yoder.

Akron, OH, Oct. 15 (BSz) was also late. As usual, Fairfield, IA, hosted the largest Chimney Swift concentration, with 4000 Oct. 7 (DP). Late migrants included one in Wilmette, IL, Nov. 2 (JL *et al.*), one in Burlington, IA, Nov. 8 (CF), and eight at Keokuk, IA, the same day (RCe).

Hummingbirds are taking advantage of increasing numbers of feeders as they pass through the Region each fall. Concentrations of 200+ Ruby-throats at Schell City, MO, Aug. 24 (PM, TB) and 45+ near Horton, MO, Aug. 9 (CH, GP) easily exceeded numbers reported elsewhere. Migrant woodpeckers elicited few comments. An early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker returned to Mammoth Cave N.P., KY, Sept. 21 (J & PBe). Their numbers were low in most states. A total of 53 N. Flickers at Say. Res. Sept. 28 (BE) was exceptional for recent years but a far cry from numbers of 30–40 years ago.

Migrant flycatchers filtered through the Region and caused little excitement. The most noteworthy reports pertained to late migrants, such as an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Pilon Knob S.P., IA, Oct. 9 (JWI), E. Wood-Pewee in Cook, IL, Oct. 23 (LB), Least Flycatcher at Headlands S.P., OH, Oct. 18–20 (RH *et al.*), and E. Phoebe in Scott, IA, Nov. 10 (AB). Migrant W. Kingbirds were restricted to Chicago, with singles Sept. 10 (RHu) and Oct. 6 (SF). Eastern Kingbirds passed through Iowa Sept. 8, when 72 were tallied at Say. Res. (BE) and 71 in Marion (RC). Late Scissor-tailed Flycatchers re-

mained in Missouri through Nov. 17 in Greene and Nov. 21 in Dallas (JHy).

SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES

Migrant swallows appeared in improved numbers. The largest Purple Martin concentrations totaled 4200 in Ottawa, OH, Aug. 26 (KA), 2000 at L. Manawa, IA, Aug. 5–30 (B & LPa), and 1500 at Chicago Aug. 17 (JL). Noteworthy swallow flocks included 2000+ N. Rough-winged in Carroll, IL, Sept. 21 (PP), 16,000 Banks at Rice L. Conservation Area, IL, Aug. 10 (RPa), and 2000 Cliffs in Guthrie, IA, Aug. 4 (AJ).

The only sizeable Am. Crow roost totaled 7500 in Lucas, OH, Nov. 4 (TKm). Eighty Fish Crows were reported from Union, IL, Sept. 28 (KMc), an indication of increasing numbers along the Mississippi R. There was no south movement of Black-capped Chickadees. A Red-breasted Nuthatch returned to n. Illinois by Aug. 24, but only small numbers appeared later in the season. Single Rock Wrens paid a visit to each w. state where they are casual or accidental visitors. One was captured in a garage in Red Oak, IA, Sept. 17 (†DCa), while another was widely observed at Stockton Dam, MO, Oct. 14–27 (TB, †m.ob.). Numbers of Carolina Wrens substantially increased at the Region's n. edge. Wren migration was uneventful, with a maximum of 17 Winter Wrens along L. Michigan and scattered Sedge Wrens e. of the Mississippi R. The kinglet flight was not impressive except for 100+ Golden-crowned at

Clinton L., IL, Oct. 19 (RCh).

As usual, *Catharus* thrushes produced mixed comments without any apparent pattern. Only Swainson's Thrushes appeared in sizable numbers, with 200 at Cincinnati Sept. 7 (*fide* NKe) and 71 at Evanston, IL, Sept. 5 (EW). A Wood Thrush at Spfld. Nov. 12 (DB) was very late. Single Varied Thrushes appeared in Iowa in Linn Oct. 15–21 (JF, TK), Plymouth Nov. 6 (*fide* BH), Marshalltown Nov. 6 (MP), and Polk Nov. 24 (BE), an exceptional number of fall sightings. Two early Am. Pipits were reported from Runnells W.M.A., IA, Aug. 10 (†AJ *et al.*). Good numbers of Sprague's Pipits were discovered near St. Joseph, MO, with 14 on Sept. 27 and 19 on Oct. 1 (MR, m.ob.). Their true status along the w. edge of the Region is unknown, but they may be more numerous than records indicate. Two Bohemian Waxwings were casual visitors to Evanston, IL, Nov. 2–3 (†EW *et al.*). Northern Shrikes were scarce in the n. states, with only 4 reports. Surprisingly, two wandered south to Missouri, where an immature was at Smithville L. Nov. 16 (†RF) and an adult in Nodaway the same day (CH *et al.*). Six Loggerhead Shrikes were away from established populations, a low number but typical of recent fall seasons.

VIREOS, WARBLERS

Among vireos, most attention was focused on late migrants, including a White-eyed Vireo at Spfld. Nov. 9 (DB) and single Solitaires in St. Louis, MO, Nov. 2–3 (JZ), Burlington, IA, Nov. 14 (CFu) and Spfld. Nov. 17 (DB, TT).

Warbler migration was characterized by fairly good numbers sandwiched between various record-early arrivals in August and lingering individuals into November. The declining Golden-winged Warbler appeared in moderate numbers, including a maximum on nine at Spfld. Sept. 2 (DB). Tennessee Warblers were widespread in August; they peaked with 40 at Urbana, IL, Aug. 31 (RCh) and remained through Nov. 3 at Charleston, IL (BHU). Orange-crowned Warblers generally appeared in good numbers, including 25 in St. Louis, MO, Oct. 26 (JZ). The latest of three November Nashville Warblers was in Louisville Nov. 5–6 (MS, BM). A Yellow Warbler in Tuscarawas, OH, Oct. 16 (ES) was fairly late. Tallies of 30 Chestnut-sideds and 60 Magnolias in St. Louis, MO, Sept. 4 (JZ), and 100 Magnolias in Urbana, IL, Aug. 31 (RCh) were indicative of the numbers of warblers passing through some areas. Single Black-throated Blue Warblers were noted in Iowa and Missouri, where they are rare migrants. A Yellow-rumped Warbler at Runnells W.M.A., IA, Aug. 13 (MP) was very early; this species was plentiful across the n. states. Black-throated Greens remained through Oct. 27–Nov. 3 in 3 states.

A Yellow-throated Warbler in St. Louis, MO, Oct. 29–31 (JZ, BWe) was late, as was a Pine Warbler at Wilmette, IL, Nov. 3 (JK). A



Adult Harris' Sparrow at Lorain County Metro Park, Ohio, on November 7, 1991. Photograph/Roy Hartman.

Prairie Warbler in Shimek S.F. Sept. 7 (CFu) was a casual Iowa visitor. Early migrants included a Palm Warbler in Warren, IA, Aug. 17 (AJ) and Bay-breasted at Iowa City, IA, Aug. 10 (JF). Improved numbers of the latter species included a late migrant at Danville, KY, Oct. 26 (FL). A Blackpoll Warbler at East Fork Res., OH, Nov. 1 (*vide* NKe) was also late. Twenty-five Black-and-White Warblers in St. Louis Sept. 4 (JZ) were noteworthy for fall, while mixed reports for Am. Redstarts included tallies of 50–56 at 2 Illinois locations. Sixty Ovenbirds at Urbana, IL, Sept. 7 (RCh) easily surpassed other Regional maxima. One at Chicago Dec. 1–5 (VH) may have been wintering. Two N. Waterthrushes at Chicago Nov. 4–9 were fairly late migrants (JB, m.ob.). Both Connecticut and Mourning warblers appeared in their expected small numbers.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A Scarlet Tanager at W. Des Moines, IA, Nov. 1–14 was exceptionally late (JSi). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were noted in fair numbers, including late migrants at Chicago Nov. 3 (JP, KH) and near Moberly, MO, Nov. 27–Dec. 2 (†S & DV). Eight Blue Grosbeaks were counted in their Will, IL, breeding area Sept. 11 (JM), a fairly late date for the n. edge of their range. Other late Illinois migrants included an Indigo Bunting at Clinton L. Nov. 20 (SB) and Dickcissel at Peoria Nov. 9 (LA).

Sparrows staged a strong movement, their

first good fall migration in several years. The “Spotted” race of Rufous-sided Towhee was noted 5 times in the Spfld. area (DB), perhaps indicating that small numbers of this western race may regularly pass through c. Illinois. Good numbers of Chipping Sparrows peaked with 250+ at Cleveland Oct. 11–13 (TL, RH). The expected small numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows passed through the w. states. There were also 6 n. Illinois reports of three or fewer Clay-colored, and three singles were noted along L. Erie Sept. 23–Oct. 14. Good fall totals for Ohio included 75 Field and 12 Vesper sparrows at Headlands S.P. Oct. 11 (LR, JWe). An impressive 515 Savannah Sparrows were noted near Columbia, MO, Oct. 20 (PM, TB). Lingering Grasshopper Sparrows were noted through Oct. 25–Nov. 9 in Illinois and Iowa. Single Henslow's Sparrows at Headlands S.P., OH, Oct. 11 (JR) and Champaign, IL, Oct. 13 (RCh) provide an indication of the timing of this secretive species' fall migration.

Le Conte's Sparrows appeared in remarkable numbers. They were plentiful in the w. states, with maxima of 82 near Columbia, MO, Oct. 20 (PM, TB) and 22 at L. Rathbun, IA, the same date (RC). Up to five Le Conte's were at scattered Illinois locations. There were 2 records from n.w. Indiana, while singles were casual visitors to Cleveland Oct. 11 (†TL), Holmes, OH, Oct. 20 (m.ob. ph.), and Owsley Fork L., KY, Nov. 13 (MS). Sharp-tailed Sparrows were also

fairly numerous, particularly in Illinois, where 25 were at Rice L. Conservation Area Sept. 21 (LA); smaller numbers were at other c. and n. locations. They reached maxima of 3–6 in the w. states, while a few singles were also detected along L. Erie. Other noteworthy sparrow totals included 20 Lincoln's at Cleveland Oct. 12 (RH) and 200+ Swamps at Urbana, IL, Oct. 27 (RCh). An early White-throated Sparrow returned to RRR Aug. 31 (MP). Good numbers of migrants included 500 in St. Louis, MO, Oct. 10 (JZ) and flocks of 300+ in Ohio and Illinois. In contrast, White-crowned Sparrows were generally noted in low numbers, except for 400 at Cleveland Oct. 12 (RH). There was a good movement of Harris' Sparrows e. of the Mississippi R., with 11+ reports from Illinois, one at Michigan City, IN, Sept. 28 (KB, LH), and Ohio singles at Cleveland Oct. 26–28 (W & NKl, m.ob.) and in Lorain Nov. 7–12 (NK, m.ob.). This species is casual at best in Ohio, with few acceptable records in recent decades. Lapland Longspurs returned to both Great Lakes by Sept. 28. A few Smith's Longspurs were detected in Missouri, but this species is largely overlooked as a fall migrant. Twelve Snow Buntings in Polk Nov. 11 (JHy) were unusual in s.w. Missouri.

The largest Bobolink movement was 300 at Crane Creek S.P., OH, Aug. 24 (JDn, SU). This species was formerly a very abundant fall migrant along the Great Lakes, but its numbers have declined substantially in re-



Great-tailed Grackle at Dugger Wildlife Management Area, Sullivan County, Indiana, on October 27, 1991. First state record. Photograph/D. R. Whitehead.

cent decades. Other blackbirds elicited few comments. Surprisingly, no Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported away from their established range. Two Great-tailed Grackles were discovered at W. Alton, MO, Nov. 15–22 (DA, JVB *et al.*), a remarkable record from the state's e. edge. A N. Oriole at Clinton L., IL, Nov. 10 (RPa, MD) was late.

Winter finches were rather disappointing for most observers. Purple Finches were universally scarce, with a maximum of 26 along L. Michigan. This species merits attention, especially since it may be declining as a result of its inability to compete with House Finches. Missouri flocks of 100+ House Finches in Dallas (JHy) and Independence (RF) are indicative of its rapidly increasing numbers in that state. It was not a year for crossbills. A few Reds were reported from Missouri, and there were also 3 reports from Illinois. The only White-winged were singles in Iowa and Missouri. The only n. finch to produce a noticeable southward movement was Com. Redpoll. One arrived in Chicago Oct. 18 (DM), followed by numerous flocks along both Great Lakes in November. The largest concentrations totaled 80–180 redpolls. Smaller numbers filtered south to Clinton L., IL (m.ob.), Spfld. (DB), and Cincinnati

(*vide* NKe); a few redpolls also appeared in Iowa. Pine Siskins returned to n. Illinois by Sept. 23, but the subsequent flight was not impressive. They were widely reported October and November, generally in flocks of 15 or fewer. Three hundred at Clinton L., IL, Nov. 17 (RCh, SB) easily dwarfed other Regional maxima. Good numbers of Am. Goldfinches included concentrations of 500–525 in Illinois and Missouri. An early Evening Grosbeak appeared in the Indiana Dunes area Sept. 18 (BPo). They were almost nonexistent later in the season, with only one in Missouri and scattered singles in Illinois. The expanding Eur. Tree Sparrow appears to have established a permanent foothold in s.e. Iowa, where 30 were counted near Burlington Oct. 5 (CFu).

Addenda: The Indiana report was lost in the mail and not received until after the fall summary was completed. The following Indiana records were noteworthy: two Pacific Loons at L. Lemon Nov. 5–16 (DW *et al.*) and two at Raccoon L. Nov. 17–30 (A. Bruner *et al.*); a dead Purple Gallinule recovered near Kirksville Sept. 3 (P. Munson, DW, ph.); a record tally of 32,000 Sandhill Cranes estimated at Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A. (*vide* J. Cas-

trale); an ad. California Gull at L. Lemon Oct. 31 (†DW); a late Barn Swallow at Brookville Res. Nov. 22 (J. Cope); and a cooperative Great-tailed Grackle at Dugger W.M.A. Oct. 17–31 (†M. Brown, †DW, m.ob., ph.), furnishing a first state record. The 69 Franklin's Gulls in Gibson Oct. 12 (G. Bowman) and four Le Conte's Sparrows at Dugger W.M.A. Nov. 10 (DW *et al.*) were associated with movements of these species elsewhere in the Region.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Greg D. Jackson

The autumn of 1991 was a good time to own a pair of binoculars. The southward passage of passerines seemed better than last year, with the regular migrants well-represented. Observers also noted good numbers of large waders, waterfowl, raptors, and shorebirds. There was a decided scarcity, though, of "winter finches." Jubilation was common this season, with the realization of the prized *rara avis*.

Several cold fronts were productive for passerine migrants on the coast, with some of the best birding following the front of October 5. Temperatures were variable but averaged a little warmer than usual. Precipitation was slightly less than normal in many areas, but there was plenty of available habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. Many species posted new early arrival dates across the Region, particularly in the categories of waterfowl, raptors, wood warblers, and sparrows. This may have been related to the generally mild weather, which also could have contributed to the delayed departure of several birds. There were late records for many flycatchers, swallows, wood warblers, grosbeaks, and buntings.

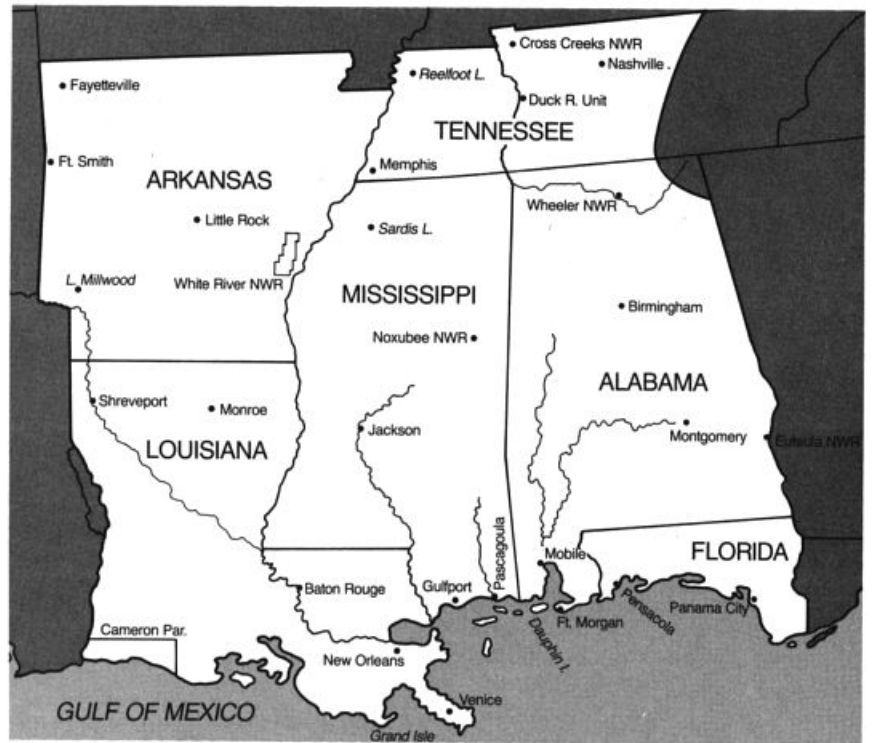
It is with sadness that we note the sudden passing of Henry M. Stevenson this autumn. Henry's influence on this Region has been tremendous, both as an ornithologist and a man of character. Our thoughts extend to his family in this time of loss; he will be missed by his many friends.

Observers should always submit details on unusual birds, as I cannot include sightings of rarities without acceptable documentation. This is important for establishing the validity of the observations, especially for researchers in future years who may regard undocumented reports with skepticism. I appreciate the cooperation that I have received in this matter. Please continue to place one species on each 3x5 card (preprinted or blank).

Abbreviations: C.F.H. (*Centerton Fish Hatchery, Benton Co., AR*); E. Jetty (*East Jetty, Calcasieu R., Cameron Parish, LA*); I. ♀ 13 (*Island No. 13, Mississippi R., Lake Co., TN*); M.R. (*Mountain Region, AL*); Noxubee (*Noxubee N.W.R., Noxubee Co., MS*); p.a. (*pending acceptance by the state bird records committee*); S.C.W.M.A. (*Swan Creek W.M.A., Limestone Co., AL*); T.V. (*Tennessee Valley, AL*); * (specimen to Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science). Place names in italics are parishes (Louisiana) or counties.

LOONS TO STORKS

The rare Pacific Loon continued to appear in the Region, with 2 reports this season. One was at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia, FL*, Oct. 26–27



(RLB, JWB, m.ob.). The 2nd record for Arkansas was provided by the individual at Beaver L., *Carroll, TN*, Nov. 21 (CM, p.a.). The first Regional record of **Yellow-billed Loon** also came from Beaver L., AR. This exciting bird was seen from Nov. 17 to the end of the period (MM, m.ob., ph. MP, p.a.), and complemented the Yellow-billed returning for several recent winters to a nearby site in Missouri. Horned Grebes were reported in good numbers in middle Tennessee (SJS, BHS) and n.w. Arkansas (DAJ, DW, MP, HP), but numbers appeared lower than usual in n. Mississippi (WMD). Eared Grebes are regular in small numbers along the coast, especially to the west. Interesting reports of inland birds included singles in *Webster, MS*, Aug. 24 (TLS, MC) and *Perry, AL*, Sept. 18 (ALM, AC); six Eareds were at Beaver L., AR, Nov. 17–19 (MM, m.ob.). One to three Eared Grebes were noted Oct. 9–Nov. 21 in *Okaloosa, FL* (RAD), where they are unusual. The Western Grebe is rare in Arkansas. One was at L. Millwood, *Hempstead*, beginning Oct. 13 (CM, m.ob.), and another was found Nov. 21 at Beaver L. (CM).

Six shearwaters, thought to be Cory's, were in the Gulf over 70 mi s. of *Cameron* Oct. 29–31 (SWC, p.a.). There are no previous Louisiana records of Cory's.

The Region served as a conduit this autumn for hordes of migrating Am. White Pelicans. This species can be a locally common transient and winter resident on the coast, and is usually an uncommon inland migrant in the w. portion of our area. As early as Aug. 1, over 200 Am. White Pelicans were seen in *St. Landry, LA* (JB, CMd); these could have been summering. At Baton Rouge, about 600 pelicans were noted Sept. 23 (SWC); 2 days later, with the passage of a

cold front, 3000 were at the Morganza Spillway, *Pt. Coupee, LA* (DP, VK).

Significant concentrations of transients occurred in the days following the front of Oct. 5, when strong upper-level NW winds were dominant. On the Mississippi R. in *Tunica, MS*, 1000 pelicans were observed Oct. 8–9 (HT, RP); approximately 400 were in central *Baldwin, AL*, Oct. 9 (GDJ). The most spectacular passage occurred on the Mississippi R. in *Madison, LA*, Oct. 11, when 10,000 pelicans were seen (HM)! This plethora of birds was even more significant in view of the far inland location (near Vicksburg, MS). The maximum number of Am. White Pelicans reported this fall from Arkansas was over 250 in *Marion, AL*, Oct. 22 (DRM). The species is rare in n. Alabama, so up to three seen beginning Nov. 3 in Wheeler N.W.R., *Limestone* (SWM, m.ob.) were interesting. No pelicans were listed from Tennessee or n.w. Florida, though the latter territory probably was a host to many unreported transients.

A Brown Pelican at the Morganza Spillway, LA, July 30–Aug. 2 (JPK, MB, DWG) was very rare at this inland location. It was outclassed, though, by another **Brown Pelican** Oct. 9–27 at L. Millwood, AR (CM, m.ob., ph. MP, p.a.), providing a 5th state record. Alabama's 10th record of **Great Cormorant** was a single bird at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin, AL*, Oct. 18 (ALM, ADM, p.a.). Interesting reports of the increasing Double-crested Cormorant included three on the early date of Aug. 22 near Starkville, *Oktibbeha, MS* (TLS), and over 2000 at Enid L., *Yalobusha, MS*, Nov. 29 (GK, SK). An impressive 197 Anhingas were migrating with Broad-winged Hawks at the E. Jetty Sept. 21 (JPK, CPF, DB).

Excellent numbers of Great Egrets were reported in n. Mississippi (WMD) and w. Tennessee (JRW). The Tricolored Heron usually is considered a coastal species, but each year some birds wander far inland, especially along the Mississippi R. The species was deemed scarcer than usual in Arkansas, with only four reported. A white-phase Reddish Egret, rare in our area, was at Fourchon Beach, *Lafourche*, LA, Sept. 23 (NN, RDP, DPM). White Ibis usually disperse N in small numbers in late summer. Fifty at L. Millwood Sept. 14 (CM) represented a good number for Arkansas; the lone bird Aug. 11 in *Washington*, AR (MM) provided only the 2nd record for the n.w. portion of the state. Glossy Ibis have been considered rare in s.w. Louisiana, so the 75 birds identified Aug. 16 near Welsh, *Jefferson Davis* (DLD, SWC) were significant. One to two unidentified *Plegadis* ibis were noteworthy in *Chicot*, AR, Sept. 12 & 25 (DRS, HP, MP); five gave a rare appearance Sept. 29 at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, FL (LRD).

Wood Stork reviews were mixed, with lower than expected numbers in Louisiana, but good numbers in several other locales. In *Gulf*, FL, July 30, 475 storks were spotted (HMS, JS), a large number for the e. Panhandle. Even these were overshadowed by an astounding 713 Wood Storks, mostly immatures, Sept. 2 along the Mississippi R. in *Chicot*, AR (DRS). Alabama records were scarce compared to some recent years. The lone storks in *Shelby*, AL, Sept. 2 (ALM) and at Ft. Pickens, FL, Sept. 20 (RAD) were rare for those areas.

WATERFOWL

The mid-November aerial waterfowl survey conducted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries revealed the highest total of ducks since 1980 in coastal areas. This was due primarily to increases in Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, and Am. Wigeon. In other areas, waterfowl numbers seemed normal, an improvement over the situation last autumn. Over 2000 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, many with young, were an impressive concentration in *Vermilion*, LA, Aug. 29 (GOB, DPt, CAB). This species is rare farther east; one to three birds were at Blakely I., *Mobile*, AL, Sept. 14-21 (MN, m.ob.). A flock of 27 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks was notable Nov. 29 in *Evangeline*, LA (BF, JD, JBO).

The estimated 5000 Greater White-fronted Geese in *St. Francis*, AR, Nov. 15 (KS, JSu) was an amazing gathering for our area outside Louisiana. Small numbers of Ross' Geese continued to be seen. Three were in *Iberville*, LA, Nov. 2 (DLD, JVR), and up to 11 birds were at Holla Bend N.W.R., *Pope*, AR, Nov. 21-28 (CM, ph. JRW). A great discovery, the 2nd for Mississippi, was a Brant at Sardis L., *Lafayette*, beginning Nov. 26 (VT, m.ob., ph. JRW). Ring-necked Ducks arrived early in the n. part of our territory, with multiple record arrival dates reported. A Lesser Scaup at Blakely I., AL, Aug. 17



Ross' Geese are now seen regularly in small numbers in the Region. This one (the short-billed bird at center), feeding with Snow Geese at Holla Bend National Wildlife Refuge, Arkansas, was one of up to eleven Ross' Geese at that site November 21-28, 1991. Photograph/Jeff R. Wilson.

(GDJ) was likely a rare summering bird.

Though Oldsquaws and scoters are regular in small numbers on the coast, inland records are scarce. A _ Oldsquaw was located Nov. 13 in *Wayne*, TN (ph. JRW). The Black Scoter Nov. 5-6 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS, MC, JBr) provided the first local record; a Surf Scoter was observed Nov. 2-5 in *Garland*, AR (BH, m.ob.). I received 3 reports of inland White-winged Scoters. Single birds were in *Little River*, AR, Nov. 16-30 (CM, D&DH) and in w. *Jefferson*, AL, beginning Nov. 10 (TAI, m.ob.); eight White-wingeds were spotted Nov. 26 in *Limestone*, AL (ALM, AC). New early dates for Com. Gold-

eneys were established in several locations. The 88 Buffleheads at Sardis L., MS, Nov. 8 (WMD), set a new early arrival date and a local maximum.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

The Louisiana hawkwatches by Feerick & Kleiman *et al.* yielded totals of 9550 birds near Baton Rouge Aug. 4-Sept. 27, and 34,344 at the E. Jetty Sept. 19-Oct. 6. The American Swallow-tailed Kite Aug. 23-Sept. 3 near Dennard, *Van Buren* (RL, HP, ph. MP, J&RC, m.ob., p.a.), was only the 2nd in Arkansas since the 1940s. Black-shouldered Kites are now rare-but-regular in



This American Swallow-tailed Kite, seen August 23 to September 3, 1991, in Van Buren County, Arkansas, represented the second state record since the 1940s. Photograph/Max Parker.

s.w. Louisiana, and I received reports of 11 birds from *Cameron* Sept. 28–Nov. 29. The species is only casual in Alabama; a single bird was seen Oct. 6 at Ft. Morgan (MS, m.ob.) and Oct. 13 at nearby Dauphin I., *Mobile* (ph. JRW) for the 7th state record (p.a.). A Sharp-shinned Hawk Aug. 8 in *Noxubee*, and a Cooper's Hawk Aug. 17 in *Ok-tibbeha* (both TLS), were several weeks earlier than the previous arrival dates for e.c. Mississippi. Cooper's Hawks appeared to be doing well this year.

Broad-winged Hawks were noted in excellent numbers in Louisiana. The Baton Rouge hawkwatch counted 8926, which paled compared to the 33,282 Broad-wingeds recorded at the E. Jetty. The latter total included an incredible 27,490 birds Sept. 21, which was 2 days after passage of a cold front (CPF, JPK *et al.*). A hawkwatch on the n.e. shore of Calcasieu L., *Calcasieu*, LA, Sept. 21–30 produced 18,147 Broad-wingeds; as with the E. Jetty post, the vast majority of birds (17,122) passed Sept. 21 (AJE). Swainson's Hawk is rare in the Region, especially in the e. portion. A lone migrant was in s. *Baldwin*, AL, Oct. 15 (ALM, ADM, p.a.). By the end of the season, more Rough-legged Hawks than usual had appeared in the n. part of our area. November records in e.c. Mississippi (TLS, MC) and n. Alabama (SWM, ALM, m.ob.) included six birds. Two Rough-leggeds were reported Nov. 9–24 in *Shelby*, TN (MGW, MG).

The rare Golden Eagle also was recorded with increased frequency. Single birds were spotted Oct. 5 in *Cameron*, LA (JPK, CPF), Oct. 25 in *Jefferson Davis*, LA (AES, GBS, JF), and Nov. 10 in *Hempstead*, AR (JRW). The Golden Eagles Nov. 9 at Noxubee and Nov. 23 in *Clay* (both TLS) were only the 4th and 5th for e.c. Mississippi. October 6 was a good day for migrating Am. Kestrels, with 257 recorded at the E. Jetty (CPF, JPK *et al.*) and 175 noted at Ft. Morgan, AL (GDJ, RAD, LRD, m.ob.). There were many coastal Merlins, included one Aug. 25 at Ft. Morgan (PB, JL, GF) that furnished a new early date for coastal Alabama. Inland sightings were unusually frequent, with 10 birds reported from 4 states. Peregrine Falcon observations were also encouraging this fall, both inland and in coastal areas.

Though the **Yellow Rail** is a regular wintering bird in the ricefields of s.w. Louisiana, elsewhere in our area it is rarely seen. Many hours spent riding mowers in ricefields in *Chicot*, AR, Sept. 22–Oct. 2 produced four of these secretive birds (DRS, TK, MP, p.a.). The 26 Soras at Ft. Walton Beach, *Okaloosa*, FL, Aug. 24 (RAD) represented a new local maximum and were very early. Fifty birds were flushed while riding mowers Oct. 2 in *Chicot*, AR (DRS, HP, MP). Several ad. Am. Coots with downy young provided an unusual local breeding record Aug. 10 in *Okaloosa*, FL (RAD). The Sandhill Crane Sept. 13 in *Gulf*, FL (HMS, JS) was unusual for that time of year, and probably was a summering bird.

S.A.

This was an exceptional fall for Lesser Golden-Plovers and Baird's, Pectoral, and Buff-breasted sandpipers. As outlined in the main text, the incidence of observations and the numbers of individuals were increased in many areas. When ages were reported, the largest numbers of golden-plovers and Baird's Sandpipers were juveniles, Buff-breasted ages were mixed, and the Pectoral Sandpiper peaks consisted of mostly adults. The golden-plover and the Baird's and Buff-breasted sandpipers have an affinity for dry, grassy sites during migration. They are often, but not exclusively, found at sod farms, airports, and other "upland" terrain. Pectoral Sandpipers use a variety of habitats in transit, but are often found in these grassy areas. Upland Sandpipers also favor this drier terrain, but did not show an obvious increase this fall; in some areas they seemed less common than in recent years. This type of habitat in our Region did not appear significantly changed from previous years.

The four waders that showed increases breed in the high Arctic, commonly in the drier portions of the tundra. The Pectoral Sandpiper is again the most flexible of the four regarding breeding sites, but prefers dry ground for nest placement. There are few other shorebirds nesting in the same habitat in arctic Canada and Alaska, and none of these prefer grassy habitat in migration.

Is there a common thread here, or just an interesting coincidence? The Region saw an increase in four migrants that share the same breeding location and habitat, and use similar habitat on migration. Normally, the autumn migration routes of these species are different. If the golden-plover influx was based on climatic factors that caused a westward shift during passage, why did we not also observe unusual numbers of their fellow travellers? Hudsonian Godwits and White-rumped Sandpipers, not increased this season, use an Atlantic route similar to that of the golden-plover. Was there a recent improvement in factors important to the populations of these four species? Drawing conclusions of continental scope from the limited information generated in one region is risky, but this may be worth examining. Time and study of data from other areas may yield answers to these questions.

SHOREBIRDS

Inland Black-bellied Plovers are uncommon. Few were seen in w. Tennessee this season (*vide* JRW), but numbers were increased in n. Alabama, with a maximum of six noted at S.C.W.M.A. Oct. 20 (GDJ, RRS, SWM). Normally scarce in the Region in autumn, there were over 40 reports of Lesser Golden-Plovers representing over 110 birds. An early golden-plover was at Sardis L., MS, Aug. 20 (WMD). Highest counts this fall were from

n. Alabama and w. Tennessee. These included peaks of 14 birds each at S.C.W.M.A. Oct. 3 (SWM, m.ob.) and Ensley Bottoms, *Shelby*, TN, Oct. 5 (JRW, m.ob.). Other significant counts were of six noted Sept. 7 & 15 at I. ♀ 13 (JRW, m.ob.), and eight golden-plovers in *Shelby*, AL, Oct. 7 (ALM, m.ob.). The single bird at Noxubee Oct. 30 (TLS) and three in s. *Baldwin*, AL, Nov. 22 (PB, GF) were very late. At least one bird remained into the early winter in n. *Shelby*, Dec. 5–21 (HHF, JFi, m.ob.), setting a new late date for Alabama.

The endangered Piping Plover appeared to be present in good numbers only in coastal Louisiana, with a high count of 24 birds Oct. 20 at Fourchon Beach (CS). The species is rare inland, with records this season of single birds Aug. 17 in Starkville, MS (TLS, MC), at I. ♀ 13 Sept. 1 (JRW), and in *Shelby*, TN, Sept. 26 (JRW). Seven Am. Oystercatchers Nov. 2 near Pascagoula, *Jackson* MS (TLS, m.ob.) furnished a new state maximum. Up to 30 Black-necked Stilts, including young, were observed Aug. 10–Sept. 10 at Ft. Walton Beach, FL (RAD). This was the first breeding record and a new maximum for the w. Panhandle. A single stilt Sept. 6–25 in Decatur, *Morgan* (SWM) established the 4th record for the T.V. of Alabama. Inland sightings of Am. Avocets are rare. This season I received 6 reports from 5 states representing 27 birds, with a high count of 19 avocets Oct. 4 at L. Millwood, AR (HP, MP, ph.).

Another shorebird that is tough to locate inland is the Willer; one near Birmingham Aug. 18 (HHK, PP) was rare for the M.R. of Alabama. Long-billed Curlews are very rare in Alabama away from Mobile, so of interest was an individual Sept. 12–22 in s. *Baldwin* (GF, GDJ *et al.*). The Marbled Godwit Sept. 4 in *Lafayette*, MS (GK) was a rarity away from the coast. Also scarce inland, single Red Knots were seen Aug. 25–Sept. 15 at I. ♀ 13 (RP, DW, MAG, JRW), and Nov. 17–24 in *Orleans*, LA (DPM, AES, GBS, RDP, NN). At Fourchon Beach, LA, 700 knots were seen Oct. 27 (NN, RDP), a very high number for our Region. Sanderlings are uncommon migrants away from the Gulf. In w. Tennessee, numbers appeared decreased (*vide* JRW), but a few more than normal were noted in n. Alabama. Some of the latter eclipsed previous departure records for the T.V., with singles seen Nov. 10 at Guntersville (LBR) and Nov. 11 in *Limestone* (SWM). The W. Sandpiper Nov. 19 at Starkville, MS (TLS) was over a month later than previous records. White-rumped Sandpipers are rare in the fall; two birds in *Vermilion*, LA, Aug. 24–Sept. 8 (DLD, SWC) were thought to have been summering birds.

This was an excellent season for Baird's Sandpipers. I had over 15 reports from 4 states of at least 28 birds, half along the Mississippi R. in w. Tennessee (JRW, m.ob.). Notable records included singles in Alabama Aug. 14–25 in *Shelby* (ALM, m.ob.) and Sept. 4 in *Colbert* (GDJ, HHK), and four seen Oct. 13–23 in *Lafayette*, MS (GK,



This Red Phalarope was at Island Number 13 in the Mississippi River September 15-16, 1991. Very rare inland in the Central Southern Region, this bird furnished only the second record for west Tennessee. Photograph/Jeff R. Wilson.

WMD, VT). A late Baird's was in *Shelby*, TN, Nov. 2 (GDJ), and three set a late record Nov. 16 at C.F.H. (MM, KZ, JW). Significant numbers of Pectoral Sandpipers passed through early in the season. A local maximum was superseded by the 248 counted at Ft. Walton Beach, FL (RAD). Approximately 1000 were at Ensley Bottoms, *Shelby*, TN, Sept. 2 (GDJ, JRW). The 220 Pectorals Aug. 25 at Harpersville, *Shelby*, AL (GDJ, ALM, BCG) and the 300 birds Sept. 4 in *Colbert*, AL (GDJ, HHK) also set new maximum records. The single bird Nov. 23 in *Clay*, MS (TLS) furnished a late record.

A new maximum for inland Alabama was provided by the 450 Dunlin Nov. 4 in *Limestone* (GDJ, HHK). Approximately 2000 Stilt Sandpipers formed a noteworthy concentration Aug. 9 in *Lafayette*, LA (GOB, CAB); a new T.V. maximum for this species was established by 32 birds Oct. 6 at S.C.W.M.A. (SWM). The Stilt Sandpipers Nov. 4 in *Limestone*, AL (GDJ, HHK) and Nov. 16 at C.F.H. (MM, KZ, JW) were very late for these far inland locales. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were conspicuous this autumn. Over 30 reports involving more than 115 birds were submitted. In Mississippi, as many as six birds were seen Aug. 6-Sept. 20 in *Lafayette* (GK, SK, WMD) and Aug. 12 in *Warren* (WMD). Of several Alabama records, high counts were of five Buff-breasted Aug. 7 in *Shelby* (GDJ) and seven birds Sept. 12 in s. *Baldwin* (GF *et al.*). Eleven were tallied Sept. 21 in *Cameron*, LA (SWC,

DLD). The lion's share was in w. Tennessee, however. Ensley Bottoms, *Shelby*, yielded 28 Buff-breasted Sept. 20, a new state maximum; 24 birds were on I. ♀ 13 Sept. 7 (both JRW).

Record late departures for Long-billed Dowitcher were set Nov. 9 in *Shelby*, TN (JRW) and Nov. 20 in *Calhoun*, MS (GK, SK). The Am. Woodcock at Reserve, *St. John*, LA, Aug. 1 (RJS) was rare for that season. An exceptionally late Wilson's Phalarope was in *Putnam*, TN, Nov. 5 (BHS). Red-necked Phalaropes are a rare treat. Documented reports of this petite rarity included one in *Lake*, TN, Sept. 1 (GDJ, JRW), a single bird at I. ♀ 13 Sept. 15 (ph. JRW), and up to three Sept. 18-23 at Noxubee (MC, CC, TLS, m.ob.). Except offshore in the Gulf in winter, the Red Phalarope is even more difficult to find. A lone bird was at I. ♀ 13 Sept. 15-16 (JRW *et al.*, ph.), the 2nd w. Tennessee occurrence.

LARIDS

Cardiff recorded 17 Pomarine Jaegers Oct. 29-Nov. 7 while travelling off the Louisiana coast (3*). One of these aggressive birds took a Cattle Egret from a migrating flock! There was also a single Parasitic Jaeger Nov. 1 about 30 mi s. of *Cameron*, LA (* SWC). An impressive 37 unidentified jaegers were noted on this trip. Jaegers are rare inland; a juvenile, thought to be a Parasitic, at L. Millwood, AR, Nov. 30-Dec. 8 was exciting (DA, DM, CM, D & DH, G & EG, p.a.). Gull-watch-

ers had a great time this autumn. A first-winter Laughing Gull, rare inland, was at L. Millwood, AR, Oct. 2 & 4 (CM, MP, HP, DRS). There were many sightings of Franklin's Gull, a midwestern bird that is difficult to locate e. of Mississippi. Notable reports included 3 sightings of four birds Oct. 6-Nov. 4 in *Baldwin*, AL (GDJ, JH, RAD), 2 observations of three Franklin's Nov. 15-27 in *Escambia* and *Okaloosa*, FL (RAD, WF), and two spotted Nov. 13 at Pickwick Dam, *Hardin*, TN (ph. JRW, DJS). An imm. Little Gull, Alabama's 2nd, was a thrilling find at the Elk R., *Limestone*, Nov. 20-21 (DJS, m.ob., p.a.). A record early Bonaparte's Gull showing some juvenal plumage was in *Panola*, MS, Sept. 21 (WMD).

Three California Gulls were recorded in Louisiana this fall. There have been 25-30 previous sightings in Louisiana, with 9 specimens obtained; I am aware of no accepted Regional records outside that state. A lone California Gull was near Vincent Ref., *Vermilion*, Sept. 1 (*, ph., SWC, DLD). At Rutherford Beach, *Cameron*, single birds were located Sept. 19 (*, ph., KVR, TSS) and Sept. 21 (DLD, SWC, p.a.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls are rare in Louisiana, and all previous records have been from the coast. Two immatures were inland near Vincent Ref., *Vermilion*, Sept. 1 (1*, SWC, DLD). An adult was at Broussards Beach, *Cameron*, Oct. 26 (DLD, CL *et al.*, p.a.), and a first-winter bird was discovered Nov. 16 in New Orleans (ph. DPM, MMy, p.a.). Great Black-backed Gulls were rare finds Oct. 27 & Dec. 1 at Fourchon Beach, LA (ph. RDP, NN, GC, p.a.), and Nov. 4 at Ft. Morgan, AL (RAD, p.a.).

Black-legged Kittiwake is very rare in our Region, so it was surprising to receive 3 reports in as many states. An adult was in the Gulf 61 mi. s. of *St. Mary* Nov. 4 (SWC, p.a.); all previous Louisiana sightings have been of immatures, and this was the first November record. An imm. kittiwake was discovered at Pickwick Dam, *Hardin*, TN, Nov. 13-17 (ph. JRW, DJS, p.a.); one was also at Beaver L. Nov. 19-23 (DAJ, ph. MP, HP, JRW, p.a.) for only the 3rd Arkansas record. Yet another juv. Sabine's Gull graced L. Millwood, AR, Oct. 2-13 (CM, m.ob.); this site is the Region's only regular haunt for this rare arctic waif. The 150 Common Terns at Ft. Morgan Sept. 21 (GDJ, DGJ) represented a large number for the Alabama coast. In the Gulf s. of Louisiana Oct. 31-Nov. 7, 26 Black Terns were seen (SWC), an unusual number at that date.

DOVES THROUGH WRENS

The Eurasian Collared-Dove continued to expand slowly along the coast. Records Aug. 25 & Sept. 18 in Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, FL (RAD, WD) were 45 mi. w. of the known colony near Destin. Reports at new sites included up to six at Grand I., *Jefferson*, LA, Aug. 5-8 (RJS), a lone bird Sept. 5-9 at Reserve, *St. John*, LA (RJS, MW), and three spotted Nov. 9 at Pascagoula, MS (SWC).

White-winged Doves are regular western vagrants along the coast, and I received 10 reports of 12 birds Oct. 10–Nov. 26. The Inca Dove has strengthened its position in s.w. Louisiana, and sightings this season were as far e. as *Iberia* (MJM). Rare in n. Mississippi, Com. Ground-Doves were spotted Oct. 6 in *Noxubee* (TLS) and Nov. 11–15 in *Leflore* (PBa).

The bizarre Groove-billed Ani, an erratic stray, appeared in moderate numbers. Three anis at Grand I., *Jefferson*, LA, Aug. 3 (CS, PW) were early; the number increased to 14 by Oct. 20 (GBS, JSe, m.ob.). A new early date was set by the bird Sept. 20 at Ft. Pickens, FL (RAD). Anis are often hard to locate just to the w. in Alabama; two were at Dauphin I., AL, Oct. 11 (T&JS, SWM). A Burrowing Owl was a comical and rare find Oct. 8 at Ft. Morgan, AL (GDJ). Three Long-eared Owls, scarce in our area, returned to a known site in Holla Bend N.W.R., *Yell*, AR, Nov. 28 (CM, JRW).

A real surprise was a rare Lesser Nighthawk 65 mi s. of *Cameron*, LA, Oct. 31 (SWC, p.a.). The Com. Nighthawk Nov. 16 flying into Arkansas over the Mississippi R. near Memphis (JRW) was late. The first August record of Whip-poor-will for Louisiana came Aug. 23, when one was heard in *Iberville* (JVR). Average hummingbird numbers were reported, with no surprises this season. Three Buff-bellied Hummingbirds, now expected in small numbers, were in *St. John*, LA, beginning Nov. 19 (RJS, MW, SNo). Several lingering Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were noted. The northernmost report of the rare-but-regular Black-chinned Hummingbird was an imm. male banded Nov. 2 in Montgomery, AL (RRS).

There were several observations of early Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers across our area. Early fall is usually the best time to look for Olive-sided Flycatcher; there were reports of 10 birds in 5 states, including a record early individual Aug. 11 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS, MC) and a late bird Oct. 6 in *Orleans*, LA (DPM). Numbers of E. Phoebes were unusually high in s.e. Louisiana this autumn (*fide* DPM). One of the best finds of the season was the **Cassin's Kingbird** located just e. of *Cameron* Oct. 27 (*AWK, JVR, p.a.). This was only the 2nd record for Louisiana and the Region. A lone W. Kingbird, very rare in n. Mississippi, was in *Loundes* Sept. 2 (TLS). A very late Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in *Crawford*, AR, Nov. 15 (DAJ, RD).

Fifty Horned Larks were early Oct. 6 in *Madison*, LA (HM). Conversely, the six Purple Martins Nov. 15 in E. Bay, *Bay*, FL (R&AI) were very late. Several late Tree Swallows were spotted in the n. part of the Region. The gathering of over 25,000 on the Mississippi R. in *Dyer*, TN, Nov. 5 (MAG) was notable, though there is a 1970 record from nearby Reelfoot L. of 20 times that figure! Not to be outdone, an incredible 9000 Cliff Swallows passed near *Cameron*, LA, Sept. 19 (KVR, TSS). A late Barn Swallow was at *Noxubee* Oct. 30 (TLS). The Red-breasted Nuthatch was almost a "no-show" this fall, with few reports anywhere. A House Wren Sept. 22 in *Clay*, MS (TLS) and a Winter Wren in *Iberville*, LA, Oct. 8 (JVR, CCu) were early.

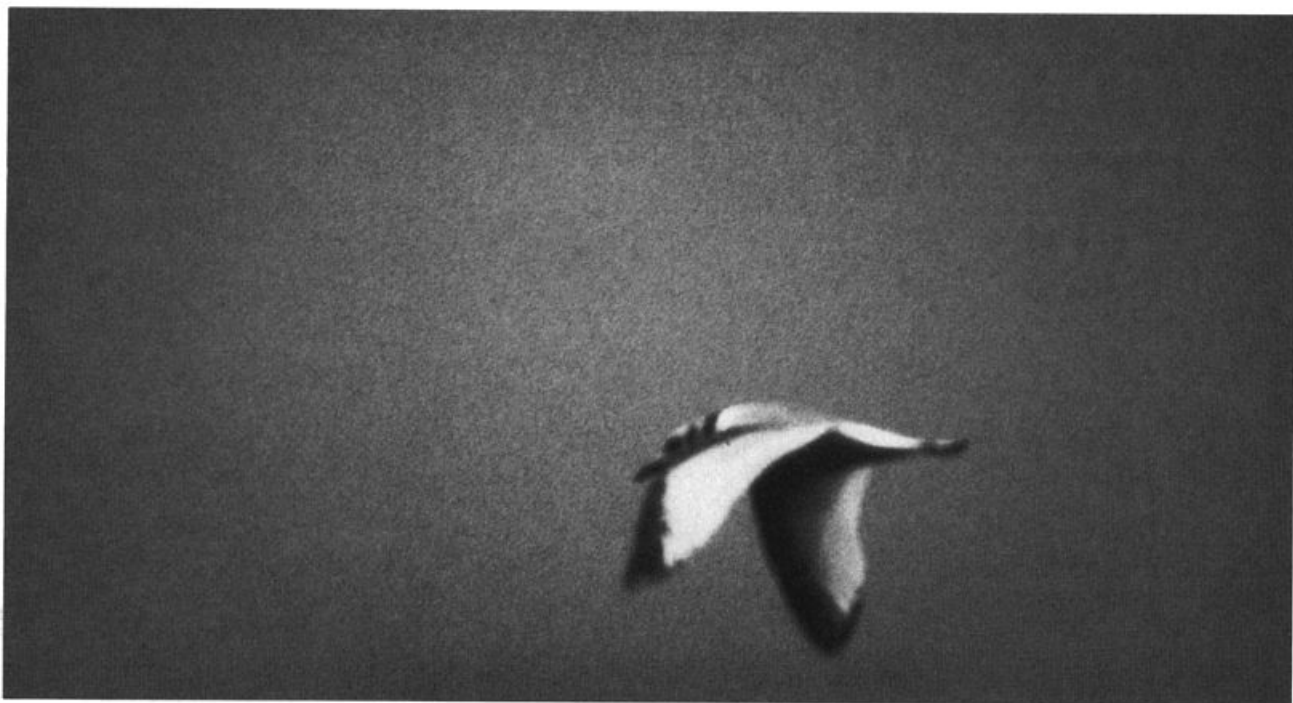
KINGLETS TO WOOD WARBLERS

Good numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were in s.e. Louisiana (*fide* DPM), and in *Cameron* a single bird Sept. 21 (SWC) was

early. One could accurately say the New Orleans area has now generated more records of **Northern Wheatear** than any other spot in our district. Minor points would be that these represent 2 of only 5 Regional reports, and the interval between the two was over 103 years! One of these energetic vagrants was discovered Oct. 23 (JOC, TC) and remained for several days (m.ob., ph. GBS, p.a.).

There seemed to be a paucity of transient *Catharus* thrushes, at least in the e. part of our territory. Locally late birds in *Iberville*, LA, included a Veery Oct. 11 (DLD) and a Gray-cheeked Thrush Oct. 20–22 (DLD, SWC). The Swainson's Thrush Aug. 31 in Birmingham (HHK, PHF, PP) was very early, and one to two birds as late as Oct. 30 in *Iberville*, LA (JVR) were tardy. Also in *Iberville*, a Hermit Thrush Oct. 16 was a record early arrival, and a Wood Thrush Nov. 14 was very late (both JVR). A Gray Catbird in *Putnam*, TN, Nov. 15 (BHS) was late in departing. The **Sprague's Pipit** near Oxford, *Lafayette*, MS, Oct. 28 (GK) was an excellent discovery. A singing Bell's Vireo was found Sept. 7 in *Iberville*, LA (JVR). Excluding breeding birds in Arkansas and n.w. Louisiana, this diminutive vireo is very rare in our Region, particularly inland. Late departure records for n.w. Arkansas were set in *Washington* by a Solitary Vireo Nov. 7 and a Warbling Vireo Oct. 13 (both MM).

An early Tennessee Warbler was spotted Sept. 1 in *Lafayette* MS, and another Nov. 8 at that site set a new late date (both GK). Other record early warblers in n. Mississippi included an Orange-crowned Oct. 7 at Starkville (TLS) and a Nashville Aug. 21 near Oxford (GK, SK). The Nashville Warbler in



Black-legged Kittiwakes are always unexpected in the Region. This first-winter bird was in Benton County in northwest Arkansas November 19-23, 1991. There were only two previous records for the state. Photograph/Max Parker.

Cameron, LA, Nov. 30 (CS, PW) was very late, as were the N. Parulas Oct. 30 at Memphis (HBD) and Nov. 14 near New Orleans (DPM). Long suspected of breeding in n. Alabama, a Chestnut-sided Warbler was feeding a fledgling July 24 in *Jefferson* (RRS, MBS). Of several early Magnolia Warbler reports, top honors go to a bird July 30 in *Jefferson*, AL (RRS, MBS). Black-throated Blue Warblers, scarce in the fall, were at Grand I., LA, Sept. 23 (NN, RDP, DPM) and in New Orleans Sept. 27 (NN).

The Black-throated Green Warbler in *Jefferson*, LA, Aug. 5 (DPM) was very early. There were several delayed departures submitted for this species. Most noteworthy were singles Nov. 20 in New Orleans (NN) and Nov. 30 in Guntersville (HHK, BJ, PP), the latter providing a new record for inland Alabama. The Blackburnian Warbler Aug. 18 at Noxubee (TLS) was nearly 3 weeks early. Excellent numbers of Prairie Warblers were noted this fall in s.e. Louisiana. Late birds were in *Marion*, AR, Sept. 24 (DRM) and in *Iberia*, LA, Nov. 9 (MJM). A Palm Warbler at Noxubee Sept. 14 (TLS) and a Bay-breasted Warbler Sept. 7 in *Cameron*, LA (TSS, AWK) were nearly 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Blackpoll Warblers are very rare in autumn, as they use an Atlantic route at that season. Single birds were identified in New Orleans Sept. 27–28 (NN) and in *Cameron* Oct. 27 (RJS).

The Cerulean Warbler Oct. 6 at Ft. Morgan (GDJ, m.ob.) set a new late date for the Alabama coast. A notable 170 Am. Redstarts were at Ft. Pickens, FL, Oct. 6 (RLB, JHS), the day after passage of a front. A male Nov. 28 near Baton Rouge (CLC, CAM) was late. The N. Waterthrush Aug. 10 at Noxubee (TLS) was 40 days earlier than previous arrivals. Mourning Warblers are difficult to locate in fall in the e. portion of the Region. Noteworthy records included singles Aug. 29–Sept. 3 in *Putnam*, TN (BHS, SJS), Sept. 7 in Pensacola, FL (PT, BT), and Sept. 8 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS). Two found Oct. 20 in *Cameron*, LA (JPK, DR) were very late. Unusually early warblers included a Wilson's Aug. 17 in *Washington*, AR (MM) and a Canada Aug. 2 near Baton Rouge (DLD, SWC). A tardy Yellow-breasted Chat was in *Washington*, AR, Oct. 13 (MM).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

A late Summer Tanager was in New Orleans Nov. 13 (DPM). Black-headed Grosbeaks are rare in our area; one was reported at Dauphin I., AL, Oct. 12 (SH). The Blue Grosbeak Nov. 30 in *Iberville*, LA (JVR) was much later than usual departures. There were multiple reports across the Region of late Indigo Buntings. Painted Bunting is a rare breeder in e.c. Mississippi; the male in *Oktibbeha* Oct. 28 (JAJ) was tardy by nearly 2 months. Another late Painted Bunting was in *Iberia*, LA, Nov. 24 (MJM). The Bachman's Sparrow Oct. 18 in Noxubee (MC) was the first in autumn for e.c. Mississippi. There are few recent records in Mississippi of

American Tree Sparrow. Two were discovered at Grenada L., *Yalobusha*, Nov. 29 (GK, SK). A few Clay-colored Sparrows regularly occur on the coast between mid-September and mid-October. Unprecedented numbers were at Ft. Morgan, AL, Oct. 13–17 (ALM, JH, m.ob.); a surprising 11–14 were counted Oct. 15. Three Lark Sparrows Sept. 24 e. of Birmingham (RRS) were locally rare. The **Lark Bunting** Sept. 21 at Fourchon Beach (MMY, CS, p.a.) was only the 4th for Louisiana; oddly, all records have been in the s.e. part of the state. Of several early Savannah Sparrows, the first was Sept. 12 in *Putnam*, TN (SJS).

Difficult to find inland, the Sharp-tailed Sparrow in *Shelby*, AL, Sept. 23–25 (ALM *et al.*) was only the 2nd M.R. record. A very early Fox Sparrow was in *Bossier*, LA, Oct. 19 (LRR, BHI). Of several early Lincoln's Sparrows, the first was Sept. 26 near Oxford, MS (GK). Also early was a Swamp Sparrow Sept. 27 in *Putnam*, TN (BHS). Lapland Longspurs arrived in large numbers in the n.c. portion of the Region. Most impressive of several reports was the over 3000 birds Nov. 30–Dec. 1 in *Tunica*, MS (JRW, GK, WMD). One to two rare **Smith's Longspurs** were found there Nov. 17 & Dec. 1 (JRW, GK). Bobolinks are scarce fall transients in our territory, and I received 3 reports of six birds Aug. 30–Sept. 15. The W. Meadowlark is rare and local in w. Tennessee, and two to three birds were found Nov. 3 (GDJ) & 16 (JRW) in *Shelby*. The Yellow-headed Blackbird is a rare visitor in much of our area. I received 8 reports of 16 birds away from w. Arkansas, where the species is more common. A single bird in *Shelby* Aug. 31 (MAG, TAF) was the earliest ever for Tennessee. Reports from the e. portion of the coast included one to two at Ft. Morgan, AL, Sept. 12 (PB, GF *et al.*) & Oct. 7 (GDJ *et al.*), and another Oct. 12 in *Gulf*, FL (HL). A very early Brewer's Blackbird was in *Lafayette*, MS, Oct. 12 (WMD); nine were rare Nov. 24 in *Putnam*, TN (SJS, BHS).

Unfortunately, we keep adding to our observations of stray cowbirds. The Region's first autumn **Shiny Cowbird** was at Ft. Morgan Nov. 29 (JFH, JH, JBo). That site also saw the 5th and 6th Alabama records of **Bronzed Cowbird**, with singles Aug. 18 (GDJ, DGJ, p.a.) & Oct. 12 (TLS, p.a.). The species is casual in coastal Mississippi; one was seen Nov. 3 in *Jackson* (JRW, GK, SK). The Orchard Oriole Sept. 2 in *Lowndes*, MS (TLS) was a month later than previous records. The N. Oriole that wintered at a site in Montgomery, AL, last year appeared to be attempting an encore performance, as it was noted Nov. 29 (RAD). Northern finches were noteworthy in their scarcity by the end of the period. Only a few records of Purple Finches were submitted. House Finches continued to be seen in Louisiana, with reports as far w. as *Iberia* (MJM). Pine Siskins were difficult to find, and even Am. Goldfinch numbers seemed low, particularly in the s. part of the Region

Addenda: Two significant records were omitted from the 1990 autumn report. A **Yellow Rail** Sept. 22 in Memphis (JAF, p.a.) was only the 2nd record for w. Tennessee. A **Say's Phoebe** was spotted Sept. 29 in Birmingham (TAI, SH) for Alabama's 2nd record.

Cited observers: (Subregional editors in boldface) David Arbour, Jane W. Ballman, Richard L. Ballman, Philip Barbour (PBa), John Bates, D. Baugh, Paul Blevins, Julie Boone (JBo), Bill Bremser, George O. Broussard, Julia Broyles (JBr), Murrell Butler, Charles A. Butterworth, **Steven W. Cardiff** (Louisiana), C.L. Cauthron, Chita Cassibry, Alice Christenson, Margaret Copeland, Jennifer O. Coulson, Tom Coulson, Jack & Roberta Crabtree, Gay Craft, Catherine Cummins (CCu), W. Marvin Davis, Jack Deshotels, Helen B. Dinkelspiel, **Donna L. Dittmann** (Louisiana), Rob Doster, Lucy R. Duncan, **Robert A. Duncan** (n.w. Florida), William Duncan, A.J. Elswick, C.P. Feerick, Joseph Feldner, James A. Ferguson, Harriett H. Findlay, John Findlay (JFi), Gene Fleming, Bill Fontenot, Paul H. Franklin, Will Fullilove, Tim A. Furr, Murray Gardler, Ben C. Garmon, Glenn & Evelyn Good, Mark A. Greene, Barry Haas, Bill Hall (BHI), Donald & Delores Harrington, Dale W. Gustin, James F. Holmes, Jim Holmes, Sharon Hudgins, Thomas A. Imhof, Richard & Ann Ingram, Debra G. Jackson, **Greg D. Jackson** (Alabama), Jerome A. Jackson, Bettye James, Douglas A. James, Tad Keller, Vickie King, Helen H. Kittinger, J.P. Kleiman, Gene Knight, Shannon Knight, Andrew W. Kratter, Richard Linneman, Jan Lloyd, Charlie Lyon, Horace Loftin, Charles MacDonald (Cmd), Curtis A. Marantz, David Mathewson, Steve W. McConnell, **Anton C. Menart** (n.w. Florida), Al D. Miller, Ann L. Miller, Charles Mills, Mike Mlodinow, Hal Moore, Duane R. Moren, Michael J. Musumeche, David P. Muth, Mac Myers (MMY), Norton Nelkin, Sue Nelkin, Minnie Nonkes, Susie Nowell (SNo), J. Brent Ortego, **Helen Parker** (Arkansas), **Max Parker** (Arkansas), David Pashley, Dave Patton (DPt), Rob Peebles, Pat Price, R. Dan Purrington, K.S. Pyle, Larry R. Raymond, J. Van Remsen, Linda B. Reynolds, D. Roark, K.V. Rosenberger, Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Jim H. Saunders, **Terence L. Schiefer** (inland Mississippi), John Sevenair (JSe), Tim & Jan Shultz, T. Scott Sillett, Damien J. Simbeck, Don R. Simons, Alfred E. Smalley, Gwen B. Smalley, Curt Sorrells, Mike Stangland, Barbara H. Stedman, **Stephen J. Stedman** (middle Tennessee), Ronald J. Stein, Henry M. Stevenson, Jim Stevenson, Joshua Sutton (JSu), Keith Sutton, Betsy Tetlow, Phil Tetlow, Vic Theobald, Henry Tobias, **Martha G. Waldron** (w. Tennessee), Phillip Wallace, Melvin Weber, Dick Whittington (DWh), Jeff R. Wilson, Jay Withgott, Dora Weyer, Kristofer Zykowski.—**GREG D. JACKSON**, 2220 Baneberry Drive, Birmingham, AL 35244.

PRAIRIE PROVINCES REGION

Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor

After the early summer rains petered out in mid-July, August and early September were generally hot and very dry, evaporating some newly refilled sloughs and bringing severe forest-fire conditions back to eastern Manitoba. Cooler weather prevailed from mid-September into October, with above-average precipitation. Severe winter conditions arrived early; the whole Region suffered substantial snowfall and subzero temperatures before the end of October (yes, we are talking Fahrenheit!). This curtailed much of the tail end of fall migration. November weather was variable but generally less severe, allowing most lingering birds that were pushed in to feeders by early blizzards to depart in mid-month.

Abbreviations: LML (*Last Mountain Lake, SK*); OHM (*Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area, MB*).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

Rare loon sightings included a Red-throated in Calgary Oct. 22 (RBa, MiP, m.ob.), a Pacific Loon near Calgary Oct. 12–14 (TK), and three Pacific Loons in Saskatchewan between Oct. 4–Nov. 17 (RKr, BL, MH, m.ob.). A Pacific Loon was picked up alive by a trapper at frozen Utik L. in n. Manitoba Nov. 24 and flown to Winnipeg for rehabilitation (GN, *fide* RN). Saskatchewan's 9th Yellow-billed Loon stayed at Gardiner Dam Nov. 10–Dec. 7+ (HL, m.ob.), but one near Irricana, AB, Oct. 14 (RBa) did not stay for confirmation as the Calgary area's first since 1979.

American White Pelicans peaked at 1025 below Gardiner Dam Aug. 7 (FR). A very late Great Blue Heron was at Rivers, MB, Nov. 28, after a month of winter (NS). Great Egrets were well represented, with at least four in Saskatchewan (AG, NP) and over 20 across s. Manitoba (RWo, SP, AC *et al.*). Four Cattle Egrets remained at OHM until at least Aug. 29 (RWo, SP *et al.*). The last of several late Black-crowned Night-Herons in Manitoba was at Lockport Oct. 31 (MSi).

Four hundred Tundra Swans congregated at Dog L., MB, Oct. 4 (KG). One neck-banded Trumpeter Swan was at Beaverhill L., AB, Sept. 21 (DDe); three were there Oct. 6 (BC); 12 were reported in the Calgary area, contrasted with 150+ in spring (*fide* RDi). An estimate of 397,000 Greater White-fronted Geese along a 24-mi stretch of the S. Saskatchewan R. between Galloway



Bay and Lancer Ferry, SK, was similar to last year's total (MG). Two thousand Ross' Geese were near Cabri, SK, and 500+ were at Luck L., SK, including one rare blue-morph bird, all on Oct. 14 (SS, MW). Many observers remarked on the early waterfowl departure because of early winter onset. In Medicine Hat, AB, the annual "Snow Goose spectacular" field trip Nov. 2 did not turn up a single Snow Goose (DB)!

Seventy-five Wood Ducks was a good count at Delta, MB, Sept. 12 (B & JH), while an Am. Black Duck banded (and re-trapped twice!) at Beaverhill L. in August was rare so far west (PF). A Harlequin Duck near Fort Qu'Appelle, SK, Nov. 13–Dec. 1+ (RH) was the Qu'Appelle Valley's first. Oldsquaws made a strong showing in the south: five in the Calgary area up to Nov. 16 (*fide* RDi), two in Saskatchewan Oct. 26 and Nov. 16 (SS, BL), and at least 18 in s. Manitoba Oct. 16–Nov. 17 (m.ob.). The latter included six at Oak L. Oct. 16 (DR) and a peak of seven at Pine Falls Nov. 3 (PT). Four Black Scoters in s.e. Manitoba Oct. 12–25 were the only ones reported inland (RP, L & RJa, PT, GgH, PH). The best Surf Scoter counts in the south were 16 at Nickle L. near Weyburn, SK, Sept. 25 (NP, LBG) and 11 at Regina Beach, SK, Oct. 4 (RKr). Barrow's Goldeneye records in Saskatchewan continue to increase; five were found between Oct. 12–Nov. 30 (BL, FS, SS, RH). Counts of 535 Hooded Mergansers (including 500 in one flock) at Emma L., SK, Oct. 19 (BL) and 125+ at LML Oct. 26 (RKr, PC), were exceptional.

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS

Thirteen imm. Turkey Vultures were counted just w. of the Cypress Hills, AB, Aug. 17 (DDi). A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Stonewall, MB, Nov. 25 (KG) was very late. Northern Goshawks staged an above-average flight

across much of the Region. A Broad-winged Hawk at Lac La Ronge, SK, Sept. 24 (FR) was both late and far north, and 174 Swainson's Hawks were counted near Weyburn Sept. 22 (NP). One extralimital Ferruginous Hawk was at Provost, AB, Aug. 11 (PF, R & LJo), and at least one was intermittent at OHM June 29–Oct. 18 (PT, RKo, MSi *et al.*). Rough-legged Hawks were locally common in the Narcisse-Stonewall and White-mouth, MB, areas in October (KG, PT) but were scarce or unreported elsewhere. Gyrfalcon reports totaled three each in Saskatchewan and s. Manitoba, and about 13 in s. Alberta, including early arrivals at Coronation Sept. 18 (BA) and Medicine Hat Sept. 23 (LL). Up to ten Gyrfalcons per day were at Churchill, MB, in the first half of October; Snow Buntings appeared to be their principal prey (DHa).

S.A.

Windy Point, in the Sheep River Sanctuary near Turner Valley, 30 mi from Calgary, has become s. Alberta's most popular hawk-watching site. The following totals, provided by Wayne Smith (daily maxima in parentheses), represent 27 observation days between Sept. 4–Oct. 20: Osprey 13 (3); N. Harrier 71 (9); Sharp-shinned Hawk 682 (74); Cooper's Hawk 160 (16); N. Goshawk 190 (10–19 on 7 days); Broad-winged Hawk 68, including 8 dark-morph (15 twice); Red-tailed Hawk 786 (87), including 53 well-identified "Harlan's Hawks"; Rough-legged Hawk 147 (28); Golden Eagle 326 (74 Oct. 19); Am. Kestrel 146 (22); Merlin 27 (3). Rarities included two Ferruginous Hawks, six Peregrine Falcons, and one Gyrfalcon. No Broad-winged Hawk had ever been reported at Windy Point until spring 1987, but this fall's total is typical of the past 3 years.

Spruce Grouse were a little easier to find than usual in s.e. Manitoba; 19 were near L. Mantario Aug. 2-5 (GgH), and a group of six provided a wonderful photo session at Hecla I. Oct. 19 (GG, RKO, PT). Sandhill Cranes were more common than usual in s.w. Alberta, with flocks of up to 200 following the foothills in the last third of September (RDi). A count of 78,000 Sandhill Cranes at Galloway Bay, SK, Oct. 2 exceeded a more extensive count made a week previous, emphasizing the importance of timing in such surveys (MG). A Whooping Crane near Calgary Oct. 24 was well described (EMc).

Noteworthy concentrations of shorebirds included: 50 Solitary Sandpipers near Tugaskie, SK, in August (SS); 2500 Hudsonian Godwits at Middle Quill L., SK, Aug. 21 (PC); 152 Marbled Godwits near Provost, AB, Aug. 11 (PF, R & LJo); 659 Long-billed Dowitchers at Valeport Marsh, SK, Sept. 21 (RKR, KS); and 4000+ dowitchers (likely Short-billed) at Bonnyville, AB, Aug. 26 (PF).

One W. Sandpiper visited OHM Sept. 7 (GG, PG). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were scattered across the Region from Strathmore, AB, to Lac du Bonnet, MB, in late August and early September, and 3 sizable flocks were noted: 70 at Little Quill L. and 55 at Middle Quill L. Aug. 31 (PC), and 25 at OHM Sept. 1 (PT, RP). Notable on any date, single Red Phalaropes were reported unusually early near Airdrie, AB, Sept. 5 (RDu) and Eagle L., AB, Sept. 17 (BMc); a 3rd was at Astotin L., AB, Sept. 28 (DN, KV, *fide* HL).

Despite the cold, a few shorebirds lingered late. Extremes were: a Greater Yellowlegs at Banff, AB, hot springs Nov. 11 (RDi, RT); a Hudsonian Godwit at St. Ambroise, MB, Oct. 20 (RP, BS); Semipalmated Sandpipers at Patricia Beach, MB, Oct. 25 (GH, PH) and below Gardiner Dam, Nov. 9 (BL, RKR, MH); a Least Sandpiper Nov. 3 in the clutches of a Merlin in Regina (FL); a Baird's and three Pectoral sandpipers near Gardiner



Northern Saw-whet Owl at Medicine Hat, Alberta, on November 3, 1991. Photograph/Kevin Corcoran.

Dam Nov. 2 (BL, FR); and a Com. Snipe at Pine Falls Nov. 3 (PT).

JAEGERS TO WOODPECKERS

An ad. Pomarine Jaeger was seen well near Naicam, SK, Oct. 18 (WH). Four Parasitic Jaeger sightings in s. Manitoba involved at least two birds Oct. 13-21 (m.ob.), and one was reported at Condie, SK, Sept. 16 (CB, MB). Excellent details were provided for a juv. **Little Gull**, probably Alberta's 5th, at Glenmore Res., Calgary, Oct. 24-25 (RDi, RT, JS, m.ob.). Single Mew Gulls were rare at Regina Beach, SK, Oct. 7 (RKR, PC) and Beaverhill L. in October (DDe); one-two adults were at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, Nov. 2-5 (*fide* RDi). A very late California Gull was in Calgary Nov. 10 & 16 (JS, MSt), and a first-winter Iceland Gull in

Regina Oct. 25 was described well (FL).

The most noteworthy large gulls were a 2nd-winter **Glaucous-winged Gull**, carefully observed and compared with Thayer's and Glaucous gulls, at Gardiner Dam Nov. 9 & 16 (RKR, BL, MH), and an imm. Great Black-backed Gull at Pine Falls Oct. 31 (MSi). We received a late report of Saskatchewan's 2nd Black-legged Kittiwake record, a first-winter bird recognizably photographed at Heil L. Oct. 26, 1990 (LR *et al.*, *fide* RKR). Adult Sabine's Gulls visited Lac du Bonnet, MB, Sept. 6-7 (PT, DF, ph.); Redberry L., SK, Sept. 12 (two birds, FR, ph.); and Namaoka L. near Strathmore, AB, Sept. 8 (RWe, WS). Another Sabine's Gull remained at Beaverhill L. from Sept. 22 to Oct. 13 (EML, TT). An imm. Arctic Tern at Regina Beach Sept. 21 was the first in s. Saskatchewan in fall (RKR); one was reported at Grand Beach, MB, Oct. 3 (MSi).

A Band-tailed Pigeon at Turner Valley, AB, Sept. 24 (WS) was the first for the Calgary area since 1984. Snowy Owls were very scarce across the prairies; one at Armit, SK, Sept. 12 (RBe) was extremely early. A Boreal Owl was dead in Saskatoon Nov. 4 (JF; confirmed by AS), while a N. Saw-whet Owl at Medicine Hat, AB, Nov. 3 was as obliging as the Hecla Spruce Grouse (KC)!

A generally poor Com. Nighthawk migration was punctuated by a flight of 255 in Winnipeg Aug. 25 (GG). Alberta's 4th **Anna's Hummingbird**, a male, visited a Turner Valley feeder from Aug. 14 (and probably earlier) to Oct. 7 (TW, m.ob.). A Red-headed Woodpecker lingered near Estuary, SK, to Nov. 9 (HG, *fide* BL); 2 late Winnipeg nests still contained young Sept. 7 & 11 (RKO). A wandering Black-backed Woodpecker visited Saskatoon Nov. 23 (SS).



Regional Co-editor Rudolf Koes with an unconcerned Spruce Grouse at Hecla Island, Manitoba, on October 19, 1991. Photograph/Peter Taylor.



Adult Sabine's Gull (right) with Bonaparte's Gull at Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba, September 7, 1991. Photograph/Peter Taylor.

Robins at an abundant berry supply at Grand Marais, MB, Oct. 6 (RKO, PT). Single N. Mockingbirds were near Kenaston, SK, Aug. 14 (LBk) and in Winnipeg Oct. 26 (BMA).

A Red-eyed Vireo at Grand Beach, MB, Oct. 26 was record late (GG, RP, BS). Migrating warblers were in rather low numbers, but several of the less common eastern species were well represented in the west; e.g., Nashville Warblers in Saskatchewan (m.ob.) and Chestnut-sided, Cape May, and Bay-breasted warblers in the Calgary area (*vide* RDi). Rarities included a Golden-winged Warbler at Saskatoon Sept. 9 (MC, LW), three Black-throated Blue Warblers in Saskatchewan Sept. 20–Oct. 17 (DO, MyP, BG), and a female at Provost, AB, Aug. 12 (PF). Saskatchewan's 6th reported but first confirmed Townsend's Warbler was banded and photographed at LML Sept. 10 (PC); another was seen 90 mi south near Spring Valley the next day (FB). Calgary's first Pine Warbler in 4 years was seen Aug. 16 (PS); another was near Saskatoon in early September (*vide* MC). A late n. Waterthrush was at Hecla I. Oct. 20 (DF, FF). Another rarity banded at LML was a MacGillivray's Warbler Oct. 5 (AS).

S.A.

An exceptional N. Hawk Owl incursion occurred along the edge of the boreal forest in e. Saskatchewan and s. Manitoba. The first birds were reported in mid-October; numbers continued to increase to the end of the period. Wayne Harris alone recorded 53 sightings in the Hudson Bay, SK, area, with a peak count of 10 in 4 hours Nov. 27. Dozens have been seen in s.e. Manitoba; by Dec. 18, Jim and Patsy Duncan had banded 23 birds. Smaller numbers wandered s. and w. of the boreal forest in Saskatchewan and Manitoba; there were 3 reports near Calgary.

PASSERINES

Some large swallow concentrations were reported: 7500 Purple Martins in Winnipeg Sept. 5 (GgH), and 2000+ Bank (BC) and 15,000 Barn swallows (GfH) at Beaverhill L. Aug. 31. Four Steller's Jay reports in Calgary was unprecedented (*vide* RD). A hapless raptor was mobbed by 200 out of 300 Black-billed Magpies at a Medicine Hat roost Nov. 22 (DB).

Seventeen E. Bluebirds in 3 flocks Oct. 2–28 (SJ, FB, S & PZ) was a good total for s. Saskatchewan, and four at Kleefeld, MB, Nov. 7–16 were extremely late; one was last seen Nov. 18 (DF, LF). Four Townsend's Solitaires were reported in Saskatchewan. Numerous Varied Thrush reports in Alberta included a flock of 25 near Walsh Sept. 25 (BV); seven were reported in Saskatchewan and only three in Manitoba. Heavy Swainson's Thrush flights were heard over Winnipeg the nights of Aug. 29 & 30 (RKO). A late Gray Catbird accompanied flocking Am.



Townsend's Warbler captured for banding at Last Mountain Lake, west of Govan, Saskatchewan, on September 10, 1991. First fully confirmed record for the province. Photograph/Madeleine Klingenberg.

A Rufous-sided Towhee visited a Somme, SK, feeder Nov. 17 (DHo), and at least one was in Winnipeg in November (AB, BN). A Golden-crowned Sparrow near White Bear Sept. 7 was Saskatchewan's 17th (SJ). That province's prize for the season was its first **Brambling**, at a Saskatoon feeder Oct. 31–Nov. 5 (HF, m.ob.). Arriving in appropriate colors on Halloween, it stayed long enough to appear on national TV news!

Pine Grosbeaks made a strong showing in s.e. Manitoba (PT, m.ob.). House Finches are becoming regular in s. Alberta and were reported at Claresholm in October and November (JA) and McKinnon Flats Aug. 25 (PS). White-winged Crossbills were numerous in the Alberta foothills from July onward but were generally scarce elsewhere. August 23 was an extraordinary date for a Com. Redpoll in Calgary (SM, RDi); this species staged a strong October flight in Manitoba, with many being temporarily pushed in to feeders in early November. Evening Grosbeaks were below normal numbers in rural Manitoba and were scarce elsewhere.

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Gordon Berkey

This season will long be remembered for the intense early cold front and storm that swept across the Canadian border beginning October 27. Snowfall reached 10 inches in Billings, 15 in Minot, and 20 in Bismarck. Temperatures fell to an incredible -22 °F at Chester, Montana, October 29. All water in northern Montana and North Dakota except for major reservoirs and rivers was frozen by the end of October. Birds moved out en masse with the storm, but despite its severity a surprising number of species were record late in November because weather after the storm was benign by northern plains standards.

Near or above-normal precipitation this summer and fall led to reduced concern over low water levels, but marshes, lakes, and reservoirs remain distressingly low. The low water of Devils Lake created ideal shorebird habitat at Minnewaukan Flats until freezeup. Astounding peaks of Stilt Sandpipers and Long-billed Dowitchers built up there. A scheme to divert water from the Missouri River to stabilize the lake level for the benefit of sport fishermen would no doubt reduce the area's long-term attractiveness to birds.

Highlights included the first state Sharp-tailed Sandpiper in North Dakota and Iceland Gull in South Dakota. Iceland Gull was

in all three states and Little, Glaucous-winged, and Sabine's gulls were also seen.

Conventions: Boldfaced dates are either the earliest ever or latest ever for the respective state; boldfaced numbers are record high fall peaks for the state. As always, rarities are subject to further review by the state records committees.

LOONS TO RAPTORS

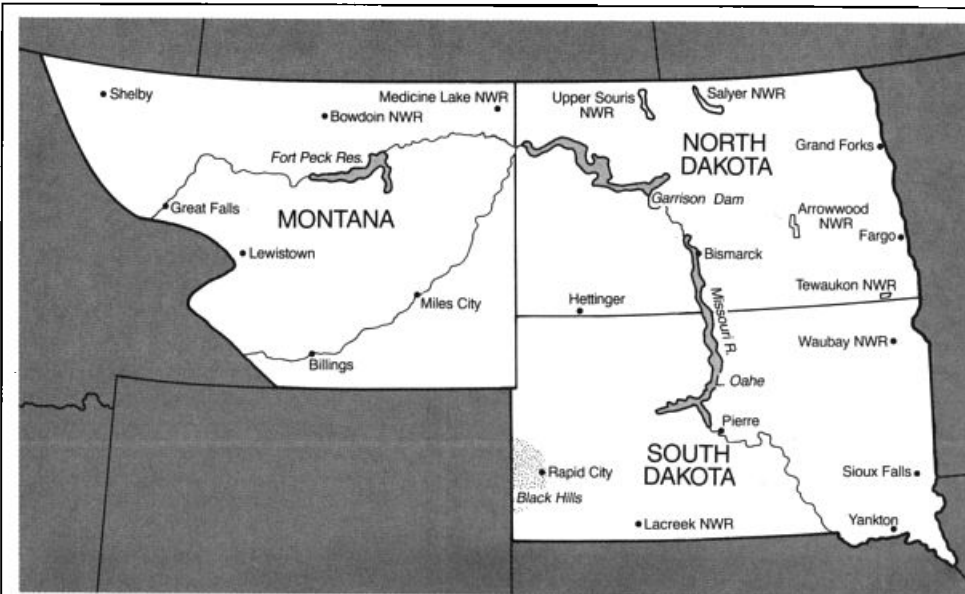
Unfortunately no details were given for the Arctic Loon reported in Lake, SD, Oct. 16. If correct, it might be the first observation of this recently split species for the interior lower 48 states. Even if the bird were the more likely Pacific Loon, it would be a state first. A Com. Loon was early along the Missouri R. in Gregory, SD, Aug. 12 (BKH). It is becoming apparent that Clark's Grebe is a rare but regular breeder in the Region; an additional confirmation was found when dependent young were seen in early August at Freezeout L., MT (MTS).

Some 7000 Double-crested Cormorants were on Devils L., ND, Oct. 6 (RM). This species nested very late at Bowdoin N.W.R. as 23 nests were still active Sept. 4 (DP). A Great Egret, rare in s.w. North Dakota, was at Hettinger Sept. 8 (D & CG). An adult and three imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were late in Brown, SD, Oct. 13 (JS).

A Trumpeter Swan of unknown origin was at the Minot, ND, lagoons Sept. 23 (GB). A Greater White-fronted Goose at Devils L. Aug. 11 may have been an extremely early fall migrant. This species reached a peak of



Juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (at center, surrounded by dowitchers and others) at Minot, North Dakota, on October 4, 1991. First record for the state and the Region. Photograph/Gordon B. Berkey.



identified as **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** in Montana were one in Ft. Peck Aug. 3 (CC) and a male in Malta Aug. 25 (TP). The **Rufous Hummingbird** in *Edmunds* Aug. 31–Sept. 3 (ph. MZ) was South Dakota's first e. of the Missouri.

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS

Western Wood-Pewee adults feeding dependent young in the S. Unit of Theodore Roosevelt N.P., ND, Aug. 6 (JC) provided a long-overdue first state nesting confirmation. An **Alder Flycatcher** identified by call was early at Minot **Aug. 9** (RM). A fall peak of **12 Great Crested Flycatchers** was in Grand Forks Aug. 12 (EF); one in *Brown*, SD, **Oct. 4** (ET) was very late. A Cassin's Kingbird was at the n.e. edge of

the range in *Todd*, SD, Aug. 13 (BKH).

Black-billed Magpies arrived at Fargo Oct. 10 and Sand Lake N.W.R. Oct. 18. Tree Swallows reached a peak of **3000** at the Grand Forks lagoons Aug. 12 (EF). A **Rock Wren** in *Fall R.* **Oct. 8** and a **Winter Wren** at LaCreek N.W.R. Oct. 15 (BJ) were late for South Dakota. A total of **33 Marsh Wrens** was at J. Clark Salyer N.W.R. Sept. 14. **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** remained late Sept. 16 in *Minnehaha*, SD (MSS). A bird suggestive of this species at Grand Forks, ND, Aug. 20 would be the state's 6th (EF).

More **Mountain Bluebirds** than normal migrated through the e. part of the Region, with a peak of **24+** in *Day*, SD, Sept. 25 (CB); birds at Tewaoukon N.W.R., ND, Nov. 8 (KLN) and in *Lake*, SD, one day later (N & RB) were both late and far east. In South Dakota a **Hermit Thrush** was extremely early in *Brown* **Sept. 2** (JS), but a **Swainson's Thrush** in *Edmunds* **Oct. 28** (JDW) and a **Gray Catbird** in *Brown* **Nov. 24** (DT) were late. A **N. Mockingbird** pair with fledged young was in *Hughes*, SD, Aug. 6 (ER). An impressive total of **1000+** Am. Pipits was at Grass Lake N.W.R. w. of Billings Oct. 17 (MW), and **420 Cedar Waxwings** were at Denbigh Experimental Forest, ND, Nov. 15 (GB). **Bohemian Waxwings** were infrequent and in small numbers. An early **N. Shrike** was in Stanley, SD, **Oct. 12** (RP). A **Yellow-throated Vireo** provided the first Theodore Roosevelt N.P. record Aug. 26 (JC); one was late in *Minnehaha*, SD, **Sept. 28** (MSS).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

The first half of August brought a particularly good number and variety of early-arriving warblers in North Dakota. Especially early were **Blackpoll** and **Mourning** in Grand Forks **Aug. 3** (EF). High daily peaks included **103 Orange-crowns** near Devils L. Sept. 21 and **52 Yellows** near Minot Aug. 24 (RM), and **15 Bay-breasteds** in Grand Forks Aug. 16 (DL). Bay-breasteds were in numbers much above normal. A very high total of

1720 at Bowdoin Oct. 8 (KF). Surf Scoters were reported from 3 Montana and 8 North Dakota locations Sept. 27–Oct. 24; the peak was nine at the Minot lagoons Oct. 3. More **Hooded Mergansers** than usual were in e. North Dakota, including 40 in *Grand Forks* Oct. 18 and 95 in *Richland* Oct. 29. Most waterfowl concentrations left with the late October storm.

Turkey Vultures peaked at 20 at Garrison Dam, ND, Sept. 22 and at 15 in *Meade*, SD, Sept. 5. Early migrant raptors in South Dakota were a **Prairie Falcon** in *Brookings* **Aug. 8** (BKH), a **Gyr Falcon** in *Jackson* Sept. 29 (KG), an **Osprey** at Waubay N.W.R., and a **Peregrine Falcon** at Sand Lake N.W.R. **Aug. 20**. There were at least 19 reports of **Peregrine** and 5 of **Gyr Falcon**.

PHEASANTS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

Pheasants were buried by the late October storm at Richardton, ND, and turkeys were casualties in n.e. North Dakota; but other than these introduced species, there were few reported storm fatalities.

The low level of **Devils L.** held tens of thousands of shorebirds at Minnewaukan Bay. Outstanding peaks included **7000 Semipalmated Sandpipers** and an incredible **22,000 Stilt Sandpipers** Aug. 11, and **30,000 Long-billed Dowitchers** Sept. 7 (RM); the previous fall highs for the latter 2 species were 3000 and 11,000, respectively. Greater **Yellowlegs** lingered until Nov. 17 at L. Ellwell, MT (HM) and **Marbled Godwit** until Sept. 23 at Grass Lake N.W.R., w. of Billings (MW). **Sanderling** and **Baird's Sandpiper** were late at Yankton **Nov. 10** (SVS). A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** in the distinctive juv. plumage was observed and photographed at the Minot lagoons Oct. 4 (RM, GB), for a first Regional record. Is it possible that its appearance was related to the unusually large numbers of Surf Scoters and Sabine's Gulls that also came from the north? **Short-billed Dowitchers** were later than usual in *Clark*, SD, **Oct. 4** (BKH) and

McLean, ND, the same date, but were topped by two in Fargo Oct. 15 (GN). A very late **Red Phalarope** in basic plumage at Freezeout L. **Oct. 22** (MTS) would be Montana's 7th.

A **Long-tailed Jaeger**, 4th for the state, was sitting on a gravel road in *McLean*, ND, Oct. 15 (DMR). **Glaucous Gull** is seldom seen away from Missouri R. reservoirs, so possible Montana sightings in Billings Nov. 12–22 (HC, m.ob.) and at Freezeout L. Nov. 24 (MTS) are of interest. There were several rare gull species sightings. The juv. **Little Gull** at the Grand Forks lagoons Sept. 20–22 (ph. D & SL) was North Dakota's 2nd. **Ice-land Gull** appeared in all 3 states. One in Yankton, SD, Nov. 10 (SVS) would be the state's first; a 2nd-winter bird at Ft. Peck Oct. 17 (ph. CC) was Montana's 3rd; and an adult at Garrison Dam Nov. 3–23 (RM) was North Dakota's 5th. A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was at Garrison Dam Nov. 16. A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was at Garrison Dam Nov. 16. A **Sabine's Gull** was in South Dakota Sept. 20 at LaCreek N.W.R. (BJ), and two Oct. 4–6 were along Oahe Res. in *Stanley* (BKH); there are now 7 state records. Sabine's was in unprecedented numbers in North Dakota, with four or five at Grand Forks Sept. 18–23 (EF, m.ob.), two at Minot Sept. 20 (RM), and one at Fargo Sept. 28 (RO). As is typical, all North Dakota sightings were at sewage lagoons. A fall peak of 32 **Forster's Terns** was at Kelly's Slough N.W.R. and Devils L. Aug. 16 (EF).

An **E. Screech-Owl** near the w. limit of its range was at Billings Sept. 11 (MW). There were few reports of **Snowy Owls**. A **Burrowing Owl** in *Steele*, ND, Nov. 10 (CM) was particularly surprising; it would be interesting to know where it rode out the October storm. The peak of **1500+** **Com. Nighthawks** migrating through *Meade*, SD (EM), was noteworthy. **Common Poorwill** was late in *Custer* Oct. 4 (MP) and *Fall R.*, SD, Oct. 1 (RP); a recent roadkill was found in *Slope*, ND, Sept. 15 (D & CG). **Transients**

25 Cape Mays were in North Dakota Aug. 7–Oct. 6, while a Cape May was considered rare in Union, SD, Sept. 6 (DS). Also in South Dakota, a Magnolia was early in *Brown* Aug. 22 (DT), and a Tennessee was late in *Deuel* Oct. 29 (BKH). A late Wilson's Warbler was in Fargo, ND, Oct. 28 (DW). Three Chestnut-sided Warblers in Billings Sept. 10 (MW) were of interest as there are fewer than 10 state records. The first South Dakota record for Pine Warbler w. of the Missouri R. was well-described at Badlands N.P. Sept. 16 (BJ).

Lazuli Bunting remained at New Town, ND, until Sept. 24 (BCH) and in Pennington, SD, until Sept. 22 (NW). Interesting sparrow peaks included 50 Grasshopper Sparrows in *Brown*, SD, Sept. 28 (JS), 40 Lark Sparrows in *McLean* Aug. 4, and 320 Savannahs and 95 Lincoln's Sept. 21 near Devils L. (GB) in North Dakota, and a flock of 200 McCown's Longspurs in *Fall R.*, SD, Oct. 8 (RP). White-crowned Sparrow in *Kidder* and Minot, ND, Aug. 30 and Snow Bunting at Minnewaukan Oct. 6 were early, and two Swamp Sparrows in *Brown*, SD (JS) Nov. 28 were late. Le Conte's and Sharp-tailed sparrows were at LaCreek N.W.R. Sept. 9 & 6, respectively (BJ); each had previously been seen w. of the Missouri R. in South Dakota only once. Two "White-winged" Juncos in Hettinger, ND, Sept. 30 (D & CG) were out of range.

Two Smith's Longspurs near Molt, MT, provided one of few records for the state (MW, WR). A White-winged Crossbill in *Custer*, SD, was early Aug. 1 (JP). There was a total of 9 White-winged reports from the Dakotas. Purple Finches were in fair numbers throughout the period. Redpolls were very early in North Dakota, with Commons arriving at Petersburg Sept. 22 (UF) and Hoaries in Fargo Nov. 2 (CS); Commons were widespread by the end of the period. There were only a few reports of Red Crossbills and Pine and Evening grosbeaks.

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

Joseph A. Grzybowski

No one complained about drought this season. September was wet and may have been the cloudiest on record. Front after front seemed to pass through the Region. The fronts continued into October but with less rain. However, a significant ice and snow storm in early November dropped temperatures far below normal. The ice lasted several days and may have taken a selective toll on several species of ground-foraging emberizids, and perhaps kinglets. Some sparrow species appeared less common in November. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were also less abundant than normal, but this may have been for unrelated reasons.

Fall certainly has the potential to produce vagrants as mortality on the summer crop of young has only begun. More birds produce more chances to find a vagrant. This fall had its share.

Everyone commented on the abundance of warblers. Some species definitely had a good year; one of them was the Wilson's Warbler. In mid-September there may have been a Wilson's within earshot of every birder in the Region at all times. "Warblering" was more like spring than fall. Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned warblers also expressed the health, in terms of numbers, of an apparently good breeding season.

Waterfowl made their migratory spurts into the Region at the end of October and beginning of November. Kansas birders were rabid in their pursuit of extralimital and, for the second year, enjoyed an orgy of Pacific Loon reports and a bunch of those western *Empidonax* flycatchers, as well as more than the usual number of California Gulls.

Species such as Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Brown Creepers seemed to have avoided any potential adverse weather effects and were more common than usual in Oklahoma.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (*Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton Co., KS*); Fontenelle Forest (*Fontenelle Forest, Sarpy Co., NE*); L. Hefner (*Lake Hefner, Oklahoma Co., OK*); Salt Plains (*Great Salt Plains N.W.R., Alfalfa Co., OK*); Quivira (*Quivira N.W.R., Stafford Co., KS*); Sequoyah (*Sequoyah N.W.R., Sequoyah Co., OK*).

LOONS TO WATERFOWL

A Red-throated Loon was discovered in *Tulsa* Oct. 22 (JCH, JL). Another in *Cowley*, KS, Oct. 29 (MT) was the 11th for Kansas (*vide* LM). Perhaps trendy was the continuing barrage of reports of Pacific Loons. Caution is advised in identifying this species. However, well-documented was a Pacific Loon at *Osage*, OK, Nov. 3–16 (H & DG, BG, JM, m.ob.). Others (with potential documentation submitted elsewhere) were reported from *Russell*, KS, Oct. 26 (MR, SS); *Mitchell*, KS, Oct. 26 and (two) Nov. 9 (MR, SS); *Wyandotte*, KS, Nov. 2–17 (MC *et al.*); *Trego*, KS, Nov. 3 & 11 (MR, SS); *Miami*, KS, Nov. 9 (two; CH); and *Geary*, KS, Nov. 23 (two; DL). An August Com. Loon record from *Garfield*, NE (BP, LP) was unusual and may indicate a summering bird.

Kansas observers also scored Red-necked Grebes (up to three) in *Miami* Nov. 9–22 (SC, m.ob.) and one–two in *Russell* Nov. 10–21 (LM, MR). Western Grebes were noted as early as Sept. 1 in *Marion*, KS (BF). Others away from breeding areas were observed from Sept. 30 onward but mostly in November. Much less common, Clark's Grebes were identified at *Phillips*, KS, Oct. 12 (SS); *Russell*, KS, Nov. 9 (MR, SS); *Miami*, KS, Nov. 10 (BF *et al.*); and *Reno*, KS, Nov. 17 (PJ *et al.*).

Ten thousand Am. White Pelicans Oct. 1 in *Tulsa* (TM, JW) was exceptionally high. A Brown Pelican at Keystone Res., *Pawnee*, Aug. 26–30 (JCH, m.ob.) was only the 4th for Oklahoma. A ♀ Anhinga was still in *McCurtain*, OK, Aug. 28, with another (possibly two) noted Sept. 10 & 26 (BH).

Surprising was an Am. Bittern flushed in grassland in *Washington*, OK, Oct. 26 (DV). Four other records of this apparently declining species were received





This apparent winter adult Glossy Ibis near Tulsa, Oklahoma, on October 8, 1991, furnished only the second fully documented state record. Photograph/Steve Metz.

for the period Oct. 8–Nov. 10. Vagrant Great Egrets occurred in e. Nebraska in August, with 2–4 noted in Omaha Sept. 19–Oct. 13 (NR, JT). One lingered until Nov. 8 in Sequoyah, OK (JM). Snowy Egrets were in Lincoln, NE (BP, LP) and York, NE, both Aug. 10 (BP, LP), with three in Platte, and Polk, NE, Aug. 18 (MB). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons made it to Fontenelle Forest Aug. 21 (MB, BP, SVS) and Sarpy, NE, Sept. 25 (BP).

Any Tricolored Heron is noteworthy in the Region, though the one in August at the Salt Plains repeated the pattern over the last several years. A 2nd was observed Aug. 11–12 in Bryan, OK (JWe). White Ibises, rare summer vagrants, were photographed Aug. 16 in Johnston, OK (JWe) and in Bryan, OK, Sept. 5 (JWe).

Though difficult to identify, an ad. Glossy Ibis in Tulsa Oct. 7 & 8 (PS, JL) was well photographed. Though some *Plegadis* sp. reported in the past could also be Glossys, the present record is only the 2nd confirmed for Oklahoma. A *Plegadis* sp. observed in Wagoner, OK, Sept. 25 (JM) could have been either species. A recent phenomenon in s. Oklahoma were groups of Wood Storks, including the 40 in Johnston, OK, Aug. 13–18 (JWe).

A Fulvous Whistling-Duck appeared Sept. 1 at Quivira (JH, JWi *et al.*). Five marked Trumpeter Swans (two adults and 3 immatures) trekked from n.w. Minnesota to



Several White-winged Scoters were observed in the Region this fall. These two birds were in Tulsa County, Oklahoma, on November 5, 1991. Photograph/Steve Metz.

Rooks, KS (MR). A concentration of 24 Trumpeters was counted in *McPherson*, NE, Oct. 26 (RCR, DJR). On the soggy night of Oct. 29, flock after flock of Greater White-fronted Geese flew over *Cleveland*, OK (JAG). Certainly a sight was an estimated 317,000 (that's right! 317 K) Snow Geese at Desoto N.W.R., *Washington*, NE, Nov. 16 (JT). Not to encourage misidentification, but with the high numbers reported in the spring, it is likely that Ross' Geese are being overlooked. One was noted at the Salt Plains Oct. 25 (DK *et al.*), and another was identified in *Wabauensee*, KS, Nov. 2 (DL).

The decline of Am. Black Duck encounters continues, with only one bird reported: *Linn*, KS, Oct. 18 (CH). "Sea ducks" are always news in the Region. The Oldsquaw Oct. 31 in *Shawnee*, KS (DG) and Nov. 5 in *Tulsa* (AR, FR, FP) were early, and the beginning of a modest number of reports. Black Scoters (the rarest) were in *Wyandotte*, KS, Nov. 1 (LM), and *Mitchell*, KS (two) Nov. 9 (MR, SS). Not reported every year, White-winged Scoters were observed Nov. 3 & 4 in *Antelope*, NE (MB), Nov. 5 & 6 in *Tulsa* (JL *et al.*), Nov. 19 in *Trego*, KS (SS), and *Barton*, KS, Nov. 16 (SS). While it was the most frequently reported scoter a few years ago, no Surf Scoter reports were received this season. An attractive 200 Hooded Mergansers Nov. 10 at *Osage*, OK (DV) must have been quite a sight.

RAPTORS TO TERNS

A Turkey Vulture lingered at *Reno*, KS, Nov. 17 (DK *et al.*). Ospreys arrived (or summered) in *Knox*, NE, Aug. 14 (TB), with one each reported Aug. 17 in *Lancaster* (MB) and *Cass*, NE (TB). Mississippi Kites were noted east as migrants in *Douglas*, KS, Aug. 28 (PW), and in e. Oklahoma at *Muskogee*, OK, Aug. 28 and Sept. 2 (JN, JM *et al.*). Five N. Goshawks were reported, all from Kansas.

A Broad-winged Hawk in *Comanche*, OK, Sept. 21 (JDT) was at the w. edge of their Regional observed migration corridors. Perhaps later than most were two immatures Sept. 30 in Fontenelle Forest (BP). Swainson's Hawks staged Oct. 1 & 2, when about 1,000 were estimated in *Lincoln*, NE (JJ) and 250-300 counted in *Oklahoma* (BK, JGN). Golden Eagles were reported east to *Knox*, NE, Oct. 19 (TH) and *Sequoyah* Nov. 8 (JM, JH).

Reports of nineteen Merlins were received, many more than in the past. Early fall sightings of Peregrine Falcons came from *Tulsa* Aug. 6 (AR *et al.*) and *Cimarron*, OK (JW *et al.*). Four others were reported, including one bird first noted Nov. 5 in downtown *Tulsa* (JCH, m.ob). A gray-morph Gyrfalcon Nov. 5 in *Russell* was only the 3rd for Kansas (MR). A Prairie Falcon Aug. 31 in *Stafford*, KS (JWi *et al.*) was very early, if a migrant.

Of uncertain status in November was a Virginia Rail at *Sequoyah*, OK (JM, JH). Sandhill Cranes wandered east to *Wyandotte*, KS (MM, LM, GP) and *Jefferson*, KS, both Nov. 2 (MM, LM, GP); *Leftore*, OK, Nov. 17

(JM); and *Tulsa* Oct. 26 (TM, PS). A Whooping Crane, perhaps downed since spring, was observed from mid-July in *Dawes*, NE (TN).

Piping Plovers routinely move through Oklahoma in fall. Several reports were received, with five in *Rogers*, OK, Aug. 3 (DV) and the latest Sept. 15 (JM *et al.*). Flocks of 20-80 Mt. Plovers were in *Morton*, KS, Aug. 3-4 (MR, SS); eight were there as late as Sept. 7 (SS, DS, MR). The August night skies, often filled with calling Upland Sandpipers, seemed quieter in c. Oklahoma (JAG) and n.w. Nebraska this year than in years past (RCR). Nine Marbled Godwits were in *Keith*, NE, July 28 (*fide* DR), and two at Quivira Sept. 14 (LM).

Among few Regional reports of Red Knots were four Sept. 1 in *Osage*, KS (BF) and two Sept. 14 & 15 at *Rogers*, OK (DV, JM *et al.*). The latest was one Sept. 21 in *Jefferson*, KS (DL). Sanderlings were found as late as Nov. 8 in *Marion*, KS (MM *et al.*) and Nov. 10 in *Cedar*, NE (BP, LP). Other lingering shorebirds included two Baird's Sandpipers Nov. 10 in *Cedar*, NE (MB) and 25 Nov. 17 in *Wichita* (*fide* LM). Perhaps the "scoop" of the season was a Curlew Sandpiper Aug. 4 & 5 at Quivira (MM); eight saw it, many missed it. Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports included 85 at Cheyenne Bottoms Aug. 7 (SS). Most smaller groups were noted in early September. The latest were five Sept. 27 in

Wagoner, OK (JM) and two Sept. 29 in *Platte*, NE (BP, LP). More reports of Buff-breasted were received than in some past seasons—perhaps stimulated by request.

Among sought-after shorebirds, Red-necked Phalaropes graced Quivira and Cheyenne Bottoms Aug. 31-Sept. 17, with 12 noted at Quivira Sept. 14 (LM). One was observed in *Morton*, KS, Aug. 16 (SP), and another was found in *Harlan*, NE, Sept. 22 (RS). An undocumented *Tulsa* report from Nov. 3 was quite late, if valid. Single Red Phalaropes were reported from *Russell*, KS, Sept. 6 (MR), Quivira Sept. 14 (LM), and *Coffey*, KS, Oct. 27 (MM, LM).

A juv. Pomarine Jaeger was identified in *Mitchell*, KS, Oct. 26-27 (SS). Immature Laughing Gulls have been regularly reported in c. Oklahoma in August. Records are now accumulating for e. Oklahoma, with one Aug. 14 in *Rogers*, OK (DV). One at Cheyenne Bottoms Aug. 4 (MM) was further north than most.

If loons get a lot of attention, so do gulls. An ad. Little Gull was videotaped in *Miami*, KS, Nov. 17 (GG, MM). Fewer than 10 records are known for Kansas. Even rarer, an ad. Common Black-headed Gull well described from *Geary*, KS, Nov. 29 (DL) is under review by the Kansas Bird Records Committee.

The gulls roll on. A number of California Gulls were reported from Kansas. The first

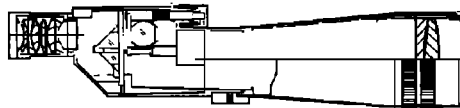


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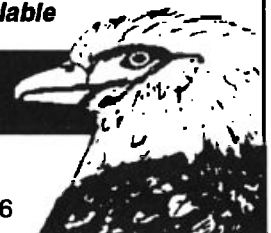
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Iceland Gull in first-winter plumage at Gavin's Point Dam, Cedar County, Nebraska, on November 10, 1991. Photograph/Mark A. Brogie.

bird in 2nd-summer plumage was observed Aug. 16 in *Morton* (SP, MM, MC). Up to seven were found in *Kearny*, KS, Aug. 25 & 30 (SS, DS). One in 2nd-winter plumage was *Osage*, KS, Sept. 15. The last was observed Oct. 12 in *Rooks*, KS (SS). Four California Gulls were in *Keith*, NE, Sept. 26 (RCR, DJR). Three Thayer's Gulls were reported, the first Nov. 3 in *Osage*, KS (LM, GP).

An **Iceland Gull** was photographed from Gavin's Point, *Cedar*, NE, Nov. 10 (MB, BH) & 16 (BP *et al.*). It is now the 2nd winter that this very rare species has been there. Sought after, but almost expected, are Sabine's Gulls. One immature was observed Sept. 22 in *Kearny*, KS (TS). Two were discovered Oct. 8 at L. Hefner (JGN), and one was found in *Bryan*, OK, Oct. 15 (JWe).

A Caspian Tern in *Keith*, NE, Aug. 2 (SD) was considered unusual, while 64 in *Wagoner*, OK (JWi, KZ) was a healthy count of an expected species. Common Terns also appeared more common this season, with 18 in *Russell*, KS, Sept. 17 (MR) and others at scattered locations. A Forster's Tern lingered until Nov. 17 at *Sequoyah* (JM, JH). About 60 ad. Least Terns produced at least 40 chicks, observed Aug. 13 in *Muskogee*, OK (JM, JH).

DOVES TO SWALLOWS

A Com. Ground-Dove was in *Gray*, KS, Oct. 19 (CA). Only about 10 Kansas records exist. Common Nighthawks drifted through almost constantly from mid-August until Oct. 3 in c. Oklahoma (JAG), but a piddly 14 on Sept. 5 was the maximum in n.w. Nebraska (RCR, DJR). A Com. Poorwill was at L. Hefner Sept. 21 (JGN). Few Chuck-will's-widows were noted in the fall. One was late Sept. 23 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB).

The 3rd reported sighting of Black-chinned Hummingbird for Kansas occurred in *Finney* Aug. 24 (TS, SSH). Up to eight Black-chinneds were noted in *Cimarron*, OK, Sept. 14 (PJ *et al.*). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird Oct. 25 in *Muskogee*, OK, was late (JM). Among the fall array of *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were an ad. male

Broad-tailed Hummingbird Aug. 3-4 in *Finney*, KS (L & BR) and possibly a 2nd Aug. 24 (TS, SSH). An imm. Broad-tailed with decidedly roundish rectrices came to a feeder in *Dawes*, NE, Aug. 18-Sept. 7 (RCR, DJR). Fourteen Rufous Hummingbirds were reported from 11 locales.

Red-naped Sapsuckers likely window a migration period at the w. edge of the Region from late September to early October, before the Yellow-bellieds. Two were noted this season on Sept. 28—one immature in *Morton*, KS (SS) and an ad. female in *Scott*, KS (TS, SSH).

Without detracting from the care and caution that likely went into the following observations, a few Yellow-bellied Flycatchers made it into the c. strip of the Region, including one photographed Sept. 3 (RJ) and another banded Sept. 28 (HH) in *Oklahoma*. Hammond's and Dusky flycatchers were reported from *Morton*, KS, Sept. 1-14, and Aug. 24 to Sept. 13 (SP, MR, SS *et al.*). Cordilleran Flycatchers were noted Aug. 20 in *Hodgeman*, KS (LM) and Sept. 7 in *Hamilton*, KS (MR, SS).

Eastern Phoebes lingered in Nebraska, with one still in *Lancaster* Nov. 17 (AG). One Nov. 21 in *Douglas*, KS, was also tardy. A pre-departure collection of 43 Cassin's Kingbirds in *Banner*, NE, Sept. 13 certainly indicated a banner year for this species (RCR, DJR). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in *Cass*, NE, Aug. 13-25 (MD *et al.*) were north of the expected range. In Oklahoma, Scissor-taileds have been reported later than normal for several years. This year, one lingered until Nov. 19 in *Wagoner*, OK (TR). A procrastinating Barn Swallow was still in *Tulsa* Nov. 26 (AR *et al.*).

JAYS TO VIREOS

Pinyon Jays poked out onto the plains in *Morton*, KS, with 20 Oct. 4 (SP). Perhaps more unusual for a species as social as this was one Sept. 28 (SS). Three Black-billed Magpies wandered out to *Sumner*, KS, Oct. 29 (*vide* DK). About 120 Chihuahuan Ravens were following a wheat drill in *Stevens*, KS, Sept. 14 (SS).

Red-breasted Nuthatches were relatively

rare this season except in n.w. Nebraska. The first were observed Aug. 2 in *Dawes*, NE (RCR, DJR), Sept. 2 in Fontenelle Forest (EB), and Sept. 13 in *Morton*, KS (PJ *et al.*). House Wrens joined some warblers in abundance, with a mass presence (over 200) Sept. 21-23 on one property in *Cleveland*, OK (VB). A Winter Wren in *Sheridan*, NE, Oct. 19 (RCR, DJR) was certainly w. of most occurrences. Early migrant Marsh Wrens were noted Sept. 13 in *Nowata*, OK (DV).

A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Aug. 30-Sept. 2 in *Souix*, NE (D & HH) was well out of range. The first fall sighting of migrant Mt. Bluebirds was Oct. 15 in *Pawnee*, KS, with additional sightings east to *Geary* and *Woodson*, KS (*vide* LM). Townsend's Solitaires Nov. 19 at Quivira (DK, PJ *et al.*) and Nov. 29 in Wichita (PJ) were the easternmost.

Most unusual was a Veery Sept. 2 in Wichita (PJ, JNt, DK). While avoiding the Region as a species, a few Swainson's Thrushes backtrack their spring migration, as did several in Fontenelle Forest Sept. 1-22 (*vide* BP). One was found Sept. 16 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB) and another Sept. 19 in *Tulsa* (DI). The western race of the Hermit Thrush migrates through the w. edge of the Region earlier than others; one was noted Sept. 14 in *Morton*, KS (LM).

A **Varied Thrush** rested in *Washington*, NE, Oct. 13-Nov. 11 (JJ). A Sage Thrasher in *Grant*, NE, Aug. 2 was very early (RCR, DJR); another in *Kimball*, NE, Sept. 22 (RS) was noteworthy. A Brown Thrasher Nov. 30 in *Brown*, KS (D & LN) was clearly an optimist. The only N. Shrike reports were one Sept. 27 (early) in *Hitchcock*, NE (RCR, DJR) and one in *Geary*, KS, Nov. 24 (DL).

Hubert Harris banded 23 Bell's Vireos in Oklahoma, eleven of which were young. Assuming six ad. females, a crude estimate of reproductive success was 1.83 young per female—hopeful; the last was noted Aug. 10. Fifteen Bell's were banded July 25-Sept. 12 in *Sarpy*, NE (RG). One reported from *Scotts Bluff* Aug. 23 was out of its normal range (RW, AG).

No small surprise was an ad. ♂ Black-capped Vireo Sept. 14-16 in *Cleveland*, OK (VB, JAG). Given the complete collapse of the c. Oklahoma population, this bird opens speculation of a potential remnant breeding group.

Unusual in fall are high vireo counts. Over 30 Red-eyed Vireos and 40 Warbling Vireos were at Chisholm Creek in Wichita Sept. 2 (PJ), with many more counted through the month. Large numbers of these, and Solitary and Yellow-throated vireos as well, were also in Fontenelle Forest in this same period (*vide* DR). A Yellow-throated Vireo, rare in the c. strip, was in Wichita Sept. 5 (PJ, DVa, DK). A tardy Solitary Vireo was noted Nov. 6 in *Tulsa* (JL, PS), while a Philadelphia Vireo was identified Sept. 13 in *Cherokee*, OK (JM, JN).

WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Everyone saw warblers, and lots of them, from late August to mid-October. Among

the common Wilson's, Yellow, and Orange-crowned warblers were a smattering of the less usual. Rare spring warblers are even rarer fall warblers. Such were the Golden-winged Warblers in Fontenelle Forest Sept. 1 (BP, LP) & 2 (BJ), Wichita Sept. 2 (PJ), and in Lyon, KS, Sept. 10 (JR), as well as the Black-throated Blue Warbler Sept. 28 in Morton, KS (SS). A Blackburnian Warbler, also rare in the fall, was in Oklahoma Sept. 1 (RJ). Another was in Fontenelle Forest Sept. 2 (CR). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was noted Sept. 14 in Morton, far w. Kansas (MR, SS). Fourteen Bay-breasted Warbler reports came from Fontenelle Forest Aug. 14–Sept. 9 (BP, LP, TB). A Canada Warbler in Stanton, KS, Aug. 31 was the westernmost in the Region; several were observed in Wichita (PJ) and Oklahoma City (HH). Black-throated Green Warblers Aug. 4 (early) in Comanche, OK (JMc) and Oct. 19 in Sheridan, NE (RCR, DJR) were the most westerly reported. A Black-throated Green Warbler Nov. 6 in Tulsa was late (JL, PS), as was an Ovenbird Oct. 26 in McPherson, NE (RCR, DJR). A “scoop” for the c. strip of the Region was a Palm Warbler Oct. 16 in Wichita (DK). Two Palm Warblers were reported from Fontenelle Forest Sept. 19 & 20 (BP, JT) and Oct. 5 & 8 (BP, LP).

Among w. warblers encroaching onto the plains in Morton, KS, were a Virginia Warbler Aug. 25 (SS, DS), Black-throated Gray Warbler Aug. 16 (SP), and Townsend's Warblers Sept. 14 & 28 (two each day). Another Townsend's Oct. 18 in Scotts Bluff, NE (RCR, DJR) was unusual for its lateness.

Wilson's Warblers were within hearing almost constantly in mid-September. An estimated 200–300 were noted Sept. 14 in Morton, KS (LM). Among other high counts, Mike Rader noted a fallout of about 800 Yellow-rumped Warblers in Russell, KS, Oct. 2. About 100 were in Sarpy, NE, Oct. 7 (BP). Peculiar was a N. Parula feeding young Sept. 5 in Fontenelle Forest (BP).

A Black-headed Grosbeak in early August in Cimarron, OK, was early (JWi); a Dickcissel Nov. 3 in Muskogee, OK (LP) was tardy. Two Green-tailed Towhees at the e. edge of normal migration corridors were found in Morton, KS, Sept. 13 (PJ *et al.*).

A Bachman's Sparrow noted Sept. 17 in Cherokee, OK (JM *et al.*) provides meager data but much speculation potential over its status (migrant or resident). Cassin's Sparrows are likely present but rarely observed in fall; one was observed Oct. 31 in Greer, OK (VM). The only Sharp-tailed Sparrows reported were one Oct. 2 in Russell, KS (MR) and one Oct. 6 in Knox, NE (MB). Early-migrating sparrows included a Vesper in Jefferson, KS, Aug. 10 and a White-throated in Wabaunsee, KS, Sept. 7 (DL). Three Swamp Sparrows in Kimball, NE, were clearly w. of most occurrences (RCR, DJR). Five Orchard Orioles Aug. 30 in Cleveland, OK (VB), were later than most of this early-migrating species.

Pine Siskins were virtually unreported

again, in spite of inquiries, fewer than 10 birds were reported. No one saw more than a single bird at a time! Another Rocky Mountain cohort, Cassin's Finch, was also absent in w. Nebraska (RCR). House Finches seemed to disappear at a number of locations in e. Nebraska in late September and appear at several Oklahoma locations in mid-November.

About 50–60 Com. Redpolls were in Antelope, NE, Nov. 30 (MB). Six Com. Redpolls made it to Douglas, KS, Nov. 21 (RLB, DH). One redpoll was in Wichita Nov. 30 (BGr). A Lesser Goldfinch in Caddo, OK, Oct. 22 (AB) may be one of a small, isolated breeding group long present in this area that is perhaps drawing favorites in the extinction-probability odds. The status of a Eur. Goldfinch Nov. 9 in Tulsa (CC) will cause the Oklahoma Bird Records Committee some consternation.

Addendum: A belated report of an imm. Cave Swallow, captured and banded in a Garden, NE, Cliff Swallow colony May 31, 1991 (CB), is worth bringing to the attention of area birders. The species has been expanding along the Gulf Coast in recent years and may already breed in the Region, though Brown suggests that this early-hatched bird may have joined other Cliff Swallows still in migration to the Nebraska site. Early arriving Cliff-type Swallows should be scrutinized for the possibility of Cave Swallow.

Cited Observers: (area editors in boldface) KANSAS—Cynthia Abbott, Roger L. Boyd, Mark Corder, Steve Crawford, Bob Fisher, Dan Gish, Bob Gress (BGr), Greg Griffiths, Don Haley, Chris Hobbs, **Pete Janzen**, **Dan Kilby**, Dan Lashelle, Mike McHugh, **Lloyd Moore**, Don & Lorita Neff, John Northrup (JNt), Sebastian Patti, Galen Pittman, Mike Rader, John Rakestraw, Leonard & Betty Rich, David Rintoul, Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Sara Shane (SSH), Tom Shane, Max Thompson, Don Vannoy, Phil Wedge. NEBRASKA—Elliot Bedows, Tanya Bray, Mark Brogie, Charles Brown, Mark Dietz, Steve Dinsmore, Ruth Green, Alan Grenon, Thomas Hoffman, David & Helen Hughson, Bill Huser (BHu), Jerry Jorgensen, Tom Norman, **Babs Padelford**, Loren Padelford, Chris Rasmussen, Neal Ratzlaff, Dorothy J. Rosche, **Richard C. Rosche**, Ross Silcock, Steve van Sickle, Jerry Toll, Rick Wright. OKLAHOMA—Alan Barron, Vicki Byre, Charlotte Clark, Bonnie Gall, Howard & Dottie Goard, Jim Harman, Hubert Harris, Berlin Heck, James C. Hoffman, Dee Isted, Rick Jones, Betty Kill, **Jo Loyd**, Vicky Mason, Janet McGee, **Louis McGee**, **Jeri McMahon**, Terry Mitchell, **John G. Newell**, Jim Norman, Fred Pianalto, Leslie Poitevent, Tom Roberts, Aline Romero, Forrest Romero, Pat Seibert, Jack D. Tyler, Don Verser, Jeff Webster (JWe), Jim Withgott (JWi), Jim Woodard, Kris Zyskowski.—**JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI**, 1701 Lenox, Norman, OK 73069

TEXAS REGION

Greg W. Lasley and
Chuck Sexton

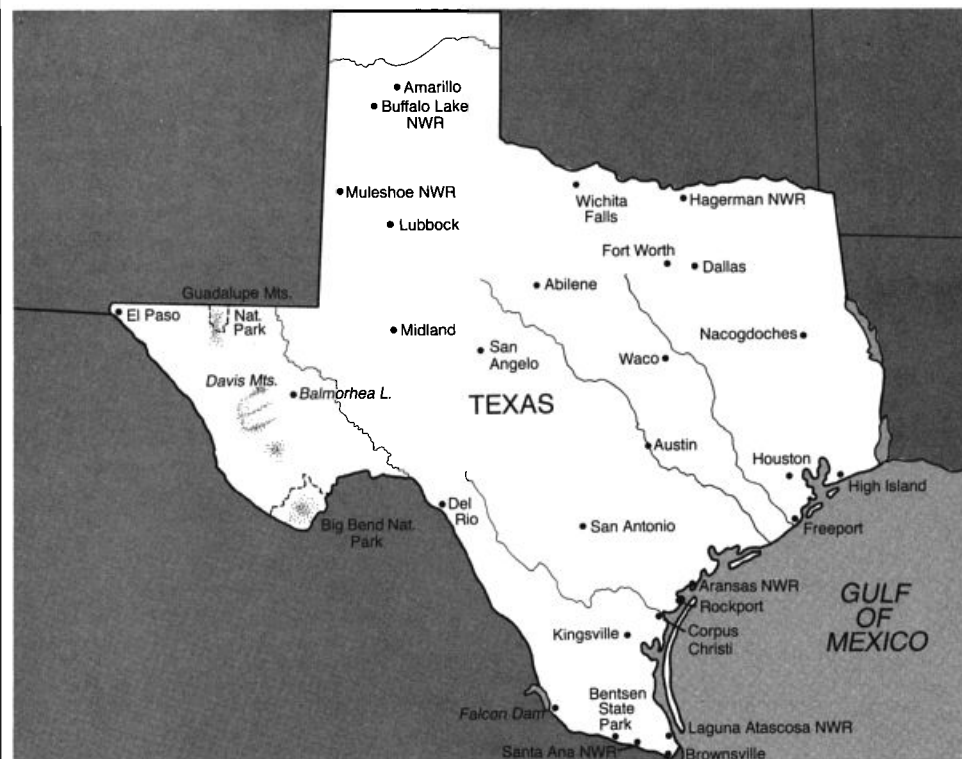
For a refreshing change, interesting avian occurrences were not concentrated just in the heavily frequented coastal and southern portions but were distributed more widely across the state. We can't tell you if this was caused by weather, birds, birders, or the whims of our reporting network. Observers in south or east Texas called the season “dull” to “average” at best. By contrast, Williams described a “great passerine migration” in Midland. The Panhandle and High Plains had some good fallouts in mid-September and Zimmer described “the best migration in recent memory” in the Trans-Pecos.

We found ourselves looking hard for areas that did *not* receive substantial rainfall during some part of the season. South Texas got lots of rain but Brooks County remained in pretty sad condition (Palmer). In the Pineywoods, where “dry” is a relative term, they actually “managed to observe dust” for several weeks (Helton). While Lake Tawakoni in north Texas got flooding rains in October, many playas in the Panhandle still had low water levels. Substantial rains elsewhere rendered habitat conditions excellent for late nesters and migrants alike.

The first substantial cool front crossed the state about September 17–20 with another about five days later. These wet fronts brought the best fallouts virtually statewide. A very early cold snap brought an early freeze to the northern half of the state Oct. 31 (and gave Amarillo its first “White Halloween” in memory!). Most of the surprising finds in the Trans-Pecos occurred following the passage of Pacific storm fronts between early September and mid-November.

Some great news from the upper Texas coast involved a long-term lease obtained by Houston Audubon Society for the productive Bolivar Flats area; this should allow better protection and management of this crucial migration stopover. Another productive area on the central coast is becoming available to birding groups on a limited basis. The Fennessey Ranch, a huge private tract along the Mission River in Refugio County, harbors two major freshwater marshes. Scouting trips this summer and fall showed that habitats for waterbirds there can be stunning when sufficient water is present. In the nearby Rockport/Fulton area, the Annual Hummingbird Celebration in September continued to increase in popularity; this year's attendance at the Celebration (est. 1500) far surpassed that at any other bird-oriented gathering in the state!

We are delighted to welcome Tony Gallucci as our new East Texas sub-regional editor. Tony has promised that his recently renewed research interest in turtles (don't get him started) will not interfere with his AB



Rayburn, *San Augustine*, was one of a handful ever for that area (DW, NB).

White Ibises continue to show up inland in increasing numbers in fall. An imm. White Ibis was in e. Fort Worth Aug. 3–10 (MP, MR, m.ob.), another was at Austin Aug. 4–Oct. 1 (BF *et al.*), and still another was at Tye, *Taylor*, Sept. 28. Glossy Ibis reports continue to mount; one was on Galveston I. Aug. 22 (†DP, AP), one was near High I. Aug. 23 (†DW). Last season's Glossy Ibis in *Dallas* remained through Aug. 15 (AV, PB, BG). An apparent 2nd-year Glossy Ibis frequented Village Creek W.T.P., *Tarrant*, Aug. 8–11 (†MR, CH, m.ob., ph.). At least one troublesome *Plegadis* ibis was present there in September showing a hint of "glossy type" facial pattern (MR). All of these records are being reviewed by the T.B.R.C. Wood Storks were widely reported in south and c. Texas during August and September. Perhaps most noteworthy were 34 in *Delta* Sept. 14 (MWh), a high number for n.e. Texas.

duties. Aside from his top-notch birding skills, Tony's breadth of experience with Texas natural history is the stuff of legends.

Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Fort Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee*); T.C.W.C. (*Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection at Texas A&M University*); T.O.S. (*Texas Ornithological Society*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*); W.T.P. (*Water Treatment Plant*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Anzalduas, Aransas, Attwater, Bentsen, Big Bend, Buffalo Lake, Kickapoo, Laguna Atascosa, Sabal Palm, and Santa Ana.

LOONS TO STORKS

Common Loons were unusually widespread for the fall season over much of the Trans-Pecos and Panhandle. A dead Com. Loon found at L. Buchanan near Austin Sept. 14 (GLam) was the earliest ever for that area. A pair of Pied-billed Grebes with downy chicks Oct. 24 in *Midland* provided a very late nesting record (D & AK, *vide* FW). Seven Horned Grebes at 6 Trans-Pecos locations during November were surprising, as was one on a *Randall* playa Sept. 21 (FC). In sharp contrast to the previous fall and winter, W. Grebes were almost common throughout the Trans-Pecos (m.ob.). Clark's Grebes also put on a good show with single birds at Ft. Bliss Nov. 8 & 14 (BZ), one at Ft. Hancock Res., Nov. 2 (JS) and two in n.w. *El Paso* Nov. 22 (BZ). Most incredible, however, was the mixed pair of a *Clark's Grebe* and a *Western Grebe* that successfully bred at L. Bal-

morhea, *Reeves*. Lockwood first discovered this strange couple with two downy chicks Oct. 20; they were watched through the rest of the season by many. This represents the first nesting record for the genus in Texas.

Somewhat surprising was a count of 20 Cory's Shearwaters about 70 mi off Sabine Pass Oct. 28 (†SC). This species is regular in Texas waters during summer and fall but rarely seen so far east or in such numbers. A *Greater Shearwater* was found dead Sept. 6 on Padre I., *Kleberg* (JK, MQ* to T.C.W.C.), the fifth documented state record. Explorations off Port Isabel, *Cameron*, during August turned up an observation of what were thought to be 18 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels; these birds were in Mexican waters. Discussions with charter boat captains indicate that storm-petrels may be fairly common well offshore in that area during August and September (RCa). We will look forward to other news from that area. A dead storm-petrel, thought to be a Leach's, was found at Port Aransas Aug. 20 (TA). The specimen has not yet been positively identified.

American White Pelicans staged a major Trans-Pecos invasion with birds present in *El Paso*, *Hudspeth*, *Brewster*, *Loving*, and *Reeves* (m.ob.). Most noteworthy were three over Big Bend Nov. 7 (BZ) (only 3 previous records), and an impressive 70 at Red Bluff L., Nov. 9 (CS). A Brown Pelican, one of the few ever reported in n.c. Texas, frequented L. Ray Hubbard Aug. 10–Sept. 7 (*vide* WP). A Brown Pelican on L. Meredith, *Moore*, Aug. 10 (TM) was only the 5th ever for the Panhandle area. Another Brown seen periodically on San Antonio lakes added to a growing number of c. Texas records (WS *et al.*). A single Neotropic Cormorant Sept. 9 at L. Sam

WATERFOWL

A count of eight downy young Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Austin Oct. 7 (CS) indicated a late nesting effort there. Elsewhere, 11 Black-bellieds in *Jefferson* Nov. 27 (WG) were quite unusual; strays this far east usually occur singly. An imm. Tundra Swan was discovered in *Chambers* Nov. 5 (GLc), establishing a new early date for the U.T.C.; the bird remained through the season and was later photographed. Three Greater White-fronted Geese were in *Nueces* Sept. 26 (GS) for a new early date there. Ross' Geese continue to show a remarkable rise in numbers relative to Snow Geese. Charlie Clark counted 27 Ross' in a flock of only 850 Snows near Rockport Nov. 26 for a 3% proportion. This is in line with the 2.5% Palmer has been estimating for the past two winters.

An early Wood Duck was near Corpus Christi Aug. 2 (GS), and a female with 10 young were seen at Santa Margarita on the Rio Grande Sept. 7 (CS), providing what is thought to be the first nesting record for the L.R.G.V. Up to 10 Wood Ducks were reported by many in this same area during October, probably the same birds. Elsewhere, Wood Duck sightings continued to increase in *El Paso*, yet they remain unrecorded in adjacent *Hudspeth* (BZ). A Wood Duck was at Lubbock Nov. 13–30 (CSt, DS), where the species is still considered accidental.

Four Mottled Ducks in *Harrison* Aug. 7 (GLu) were very unusual for n.e. Texas; three remained through September. In a similar occurrence, three Mottleds were unexpected at *Dallas* Aug. 10–31 (BS, JP *et al.*). A Mallard with seven small young at Buffalo Lake

provided an unexpected late Panhandle nesting record (KS). An unusual duck showing some characteristics of a White-cheeked Pintail was at Austin's Hornsby Bend Aug. 31–Sept. 5 (BW, JA). This strange bird was studied by many, but we cannot confidently assign it to a species at this time. Redheads on Eagle Mountain L. Oct. 26 totaled 2250 birds, a huge number for n.c. Texas (CH). Greater Scaup were reported more than usual with a pair in *Delta* Nov. 2 (MWh) and six at Red Bluff L. Nov. 9 (CS) representing unusual records. Always rare in Texas, single Oldsquaws were at Austin Nov. 5–30 (BF, m.ob.), and Goose L., Nov. 17 (P & TF). An Oldsquaw at L. Balmorhea Nov. 30 (BG *et al.*) provided one of a handful of Trans-Pecos records. Two Surf Scoters at Ft. Bliss Oct. 21 (BZ) and one at L. Theo, *Briscoe*, Oct. 22 (BP) were locally unexpected. White-winged Scoters, previously unrecorded w. of the Pecos, were one photographed at Ft. Bliss Oct. 31 (BZ) and another at L. Balmorhea Oct. 28 (PE). The latter was joined by a second Nov. 16 (WS). A Com. Goldeneye at Midland Nov. 15 was considered early (*fide* FW) while 25 at Red Bluff L. Nov. 28 was an unusually high count for w. Texas (P & TF). Hooded and Red-breasted mergansers were seen in abnormally high numbers across much of the Trans-Pecos. A Com. Merganser on L. Tanglewood, *Randall*, Sept. 21 was very early (TJ).

RAPTORS

An albino Turkey Vulture over Bentsen Oct. 11 (R & LG) must have been a strange sight. Hook-billed Kites were regularly reported from Anzalduas, Santa Ana, Bentsen, and other L.R.G.V. locations after several seasons of being somewhat hard to find. Seven Am. Swallow-tailed Kite reports over the U.T.C. and s. Texas Aug. 19–Oct. 9 was about average, but one over Santa Ana Oct. 26 (JI) was quite late. An incredible flight of 5000+ Mississippi Kites was w. of Corpus Christi Aug. 20 (JE, GS) and more than 500 were seen over Falfurrias Sept. 25 (AO). Three Mississippi Kites at L. Balmorhea Oct. 2 (KB) were very late there. Northern Harriers were in the highest numbers in 5 years in *Johnson* (CE), a trend repeated in other areas of n.c. Texas (*fide* CH).

A Sharp-shinned Hawk in *Jefferson* Aug. 17 (J & JW) provided a very early U.T.C. record. A total of 840 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 531 Cooper's Hawks was tallied on the first Smith Point Hawk Count, *Chambers*, Sept. 20–Oct. 9 (*fide* GLc). Several observers commented on the apparent increase of Harris' Hawks throughout the Trans-Pecos. If true, this would be a very encouraging sign. Hawk watchers again compiled some notable numbers of migrant Broad-winged Hawks. The banner day in s. Texas was Sept. 22, when 118,000 were seen over Corpus Christi's Bazemore Park (*fide* JE). Windham's radar analysis at Kingsville indicated the most notable flights were 104,000 Broad-wingeds Sept. 25, 88,000 Sept. 27, and

56,000 Sept. 30 (AW, *fide* JE). Elsewhere, 8000 were over Smith Point Sept. 20–21 (*fide* GLc), and 3700 were over *Morris* in n.e. Texas Sept. 28 (*fide* GLu, N.E.T.F.O.). Counts of 8000 Swainson's Hawks over *Hays* Oct. 3 (BA) and 15,000 seen Oct. 5 over s. San Antonio (DMu, WS) were spectacular.

A White-tailed Hawk nest with two young was found near Falfurrias on the extraordinarily late date of Sept. 1 (AO). Zone-tailed Hawks in the L.R.G.V. were one at Falcon Dam Sept. 8 (RCA, BSc) and two at Anzalduas during October (R & LG, m.ob.). More surprising were a Zone-tailed Hawk at Palacios, *Matagorda*, Sept. 13 and another at Corpus Christi Nov. 13 (*fide* JE). These tend to corroborate a view that Zone-taileds migrate SE from the Hill Country along river routes (JE). Eighteen Ferruginous Hawks hunted at a prairie dog town in w. Amarillo Nov. 28 (KS). A flurry of Prairie Falcon reports around Austin during the season was unusual; the species is usually encountered farther north or west.

QUAIL TO SHOREBIRDS

Montezuma Quail are reportedly "more abundant in the Vieja Mountains (*Jeff Davis* and *Presidio*) than in the past 50 years" (C & JMi). Twelve Gambel's Quail n. of Van Horn Nov. 10 (R & LG) were noteworthy; the species is seldom seen far from the Rio Grande in its very localized Texas range (*fide* BZ). A pair of Whooping Cranes was reported Sept. 19 near Alto, *Cherokee* (BBr, *fide* TS), well east of their normal route.

Late Lesser Golden-Plovers included one in *Bastrop* Nov. 8 (BF) and an incredibly late bird at McAllen Nov. 30 (JGo). The McAllen bird apparently had an injured leg. Totally unexpected were two Wilson's Plovers at Austin Sept. 22–23 (JSu, BO), a first record for that area. A Semipalmated Plover at Ft. Hancock, *Hudspeth*, Nov. 13 surpassed the previous late fall date in that area by nearly two months (BZ). There were several reports of good numbers of Piping Plovers on barrier islands of the c. coast with 129 Sept. 21 (MR, NBa) and 138 Oct. 31 (CC) on Mustang Island, and 71 on Padre I.,

Sept. 12 (A & MC). A Piping Plover at Hagerman N.W.R. Sept. 14 (EW) was a rare find.

A pair of Black-necked Stilts nested at Waco for the first nesting record in that area (JMu). Single Ruddy Turnstones at Village Creek W.T.P. Sept. 28 (JaGo, MR) and at Southside W.T.P., *Dallas*, the same day (JCu) were rare for n.c. Texas. One of the best shorebird finds in n.c. Texas this season was a Red Knot at Southside W.T.P. Sept. 2–4 (JCu, *fide* WP). Out-of-place Sanderlings included two at Ft. Hancock Sept. 20 and one at Ft. Bliss Sept. 21–24 (BZ). Seldom sighted in e. Texas, a few Baird's Sandpipers made appearances in *Harrison* in late August (GLu). A very late Red-necked Phalarope at Ft. Bliss Nov. 18 was thought to furnish the first November record for the Trans-Pecos (BZ). Other unusual Red-necked Phalarope reports included one at San Antonio Sept. 22 (WS), two in *Nueces* Oct. 21 (GS), and individuals in *Dallas* Aug. 24–25 (KL, BS, EW) and Sept. 15–27 (BS *et al.*). There were a surprising four reports of six individual Red Phalaropes this season. One was at Village Creek W.T.P. Sept. 20–22 (†ph. JWS, m.ob.), another was at Hagerman N.W.R. Nov. 2 (†RR), and one was in Cleburne Nov. 9–10 (CE *et al.*). In the Trans-Pecos a Red Phalarope was discovered at Ft. Bliss Sept. 17 and three were present there by Sept. 20th (†ph. BZ). At least one remained until Oct. 3.

JAEGERS TO SKIMMER

There were scattered reports of Pomarine Jaegers along the coast from Aug. 11 through the period from the Galveston area south to Port Isabel (m.ob.). Parasitic Jaegers turned up in very unexpected inland locations this fall with one at Calaveras L., *Bexar*, Oct. 28–29 (ph. WS, CS, JMu *et al.*) and two at Red Bluff L., *Loving*, Nov. 28 (P & TF). The latter record may represent the first for the Trans-Pecos.

Laughing Gulls turned up at more inland locations than in any season in recent memory. Two were found among 10,000 migrant Franklin's Gulls Oct. 26 at L. Tawakoni (MWh). Laughing Gulls were also quite ap-

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regular during this season in the Trans-Pecos. A Rufous Hummingbird provided a first *Collin* record Aug. 25–27 (RR, ph., HH, AV *et al.*).

A Red-headed Woodpecker made news at Midland Oct. 5 & 11 (DK, LB, *fide* FW) as did one at Rockport Nov. 18 (CC). A Golden-fronted Woodpecker in *Presidio* Sept. 5 (KB) may indicate continued westward expansion of this species. A Red-bellied Woodpecker in Quitaque, *Briscoe*, Oct. 13 (BP) was out of range. A Red-naped Sapsucker in Austin Sept. 28–Oct. 5 was farther east than normal (JSu); the species was reported as unusually common in the mountains of w. Texas. Five Williamson's Sapsuckers in the upper elevations of the Davis Mountains Oct. 22 (ph. KB, ML) probably represents the highest one-day total ever in this state. Another Williamson's in Lubbock Nov. 11 (GJ) was a good find.

FLYCATCHERS TO SWALLOWS

S.A.

Without doubt, the rarity of the season was the Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*) discovered at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend Nov. 3 (†BD). This delightful and cooperative bird remained in the same vicinity through the period and was seen, tape recorded, and photographed by multitudes of observers, providing a first record for the United States.

A very rare Greater Pewee was studied in Boot Canyon, Big Bend, Aug. 17 (†ML). A count of 25 calling Alder Flycatchers at Austin's McKinney Falls S.P. Aug. 15 (JA) provided continuing evidence that the species is a far more common migrant than once thought in that area. Late fall and wintering *Empidonax* are being seen with increasing frequency in the Trans-Pecos. Although probably overlooked in the past in areas with little birding activity, the status of the species involved is still somewhat murky (BZ). All this aside, at least eight Gray, one Hammond's, and three Dusky flycatchers were seen in various Big Bend locations during November (m.ob.). The Gray Flycatcher that wintered last year in Gillett, *Karnes*, returned to that location Nov. 5 (DMu). Tantalizing was an extremely yellow/green *Empidonax* at Rio Grande Village Nov. 10 (CPe, ph. CS, PS, BO *et al.*). Call notes given by the bird and the unusual date suggest the possibility of Pacific-slope Flycatcher, but with no known visual characters to separate that species from Cordilleran and no tape recordings from the suspect bird, its identity will remain a mystery.

A Vermilion Flycatcher in *Harrison* Nov. 16–21 (G & JLu, N.E.T.F.O.) provided a very rare n.e. Texas record. Continuing a string of recent Trans-Pecos reports, a Dusky-capped Flycatcher was observed in



This "Western-type" *Empidonax* at Big Bend National Park, Texas, on November 10, 1991, might have been a Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Status of this form in the state is still poorly known. Photograph/Chuck Sexton.

Big Bend Sept. 6 (†JGe *et al.*). A Great Crested Flycatcher in Lubbock Sept. 22 (AWF) was unexpected while a Brown-crested Flycatcher in El Paso Sept. 17 (BZ, JSp) provided a first fall record in that area. The Tropical Kingbirds in Brownsville continued to be seen throughout the season (m.ob.). A silent Couch's/Tropical Kingbird was in *Chambers* on the U.T.C., Oct. 15 (GLc). Lone E. Kingbirds in *Presidio* Sept. 4 (KB, ML) and *Brewster* Oct. 21 (BBou) were quite far west.

Luckner noted the migration of Purple Martins on the U.T.C. was large and long, not to mention exceptionally late. Flocks of 150+ were seen regularly through early October in e. *Harris* and *Chambers*. Seven Purple Martins in e. *Harris* Nov. 11 set a new late record for the U.T.C.; another in Corpus Christi Nov. 6 (GS) was also late. Impressive concentrations of swallows for L. Balmorhea included 1700 Cave Swallows and 1200 Tree Swallows Sept. 25 (ML) and 2000 Cave Swallows Oct. 6 (CS). Two Violet-green Swallows over *Bastrop* Sept. 4 (BF) were well e. of their usual range, and two Cave Swallows at Austin's Hornsby Bend Aug. 4 (BF) and another Oct. 6 (GL, BZ) provided rare records.

JAYS TO THRASHERS

A Blue Jay frequented Big Bend's Rio Grande Village during November for a rare park record. Several Chihuahuan Ravens during



Chestnut-sided Warbler at Fort Bliss, Texas, on November 5, 1991. Second record for the El Paso area. Photograph/Barry R. Zimmer.

umentation for review by the T.B.R.C. A total of 21 species of warblers was reported on the U.T.C. Aug. 31, including a numerical highlight of 125 Canada Warblers (DMu, JD). The rare warbler award of the season goes to a stunning **Red-faced Warbler** photographed in Boot Canyon, Big Bend, Aug. 17 (†ML).

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

An early migrant Summer Tanager showed up in *Hemphill* Aug. 2 (PA), and late Summer and Western tanagers lingered in the Big Bend region into mid-November. A single W. Tanager was in Aransas Pass Oct. 7 (E & NA). Single Scarlet Tanagers were found in *Wilson* Sept. 17 (WS) and *Travis* Sept. 20 (BF) where they are very rare in fall. A Black-headed Grosbeak at Hagerman Sept. 24 provided a rare fall sighting for that area (KH). Perhaps the excellent habitat conditions are to blame for encounters with lingering Varied, Indigo, and Painted Buntings in the Trans-Pecos in November. However, the increasing coverage of key areas by good observers may be a contributing factor as well. A Dickcissel in Franklin Mountains S.P., *El Paso*, Sept. 10 provided a first park record (BZ). The abundance of Green-tailed Towhees in the w. Texas migration range spilled a bit eastward. Single Green-tailed Towhees were at Aransas Nov. 16 (DP) and Kingsville Nov. 26 (NBa, P & RA). White-collared Seedeaters in ones and twos were found at the "usual" spots in San Ygnacio. A few seedeaters in the city park in Zapata proved fairly reliable, although this locality had not been widely known or checked in previous seasons.

Shackleford found a fledgling Bachman's Sparrow just out of a nest Sept. 12 in *San Augustine*, probably the latest confirmed nesting for the state. Many observers remarked on a somewhat late arrival of the major numbers of sparrows, but when they came, they were abundant nearly statewide. A cold front dropped at least five Clay-colored Sparrows at 2 locations in *Nacogdoches* Oct. 15-16. Another at Copper L., *Delta* Nov. 2 was a first record there (MWh). A Brewer's Sparrow was found in n. *Hays* Nov. 27 (JGe) for a rare Austin area record. Visitors to the G.M.N.P. for the fall T.O.S. meeting noted juncos in "super abundance," especially on recent burn areas. A very late Grasshopper Sparrow was in Lubbock Nov. 30 (CSt). An encouraging development this fall was the discovery of a few Henslow's Sparrows, presaging a number for the winter. Hulce and Luckner located different Henslow's in two *Chambers* locations Nov. 3 and Nov. 26. A Lincoln's Sparrow in w. Corpus Christi Sept. 4 may have been a record early arrival for the area (GS). The Trans-Pecos was visited by an unusual number of White-throated Sparrows. While many T.O.S. members raced down to Big Bend after their fall meeting to see the Tufted Flycatcher, several who lingered behind in the Guadalupe were rewarded with a Gold-crowned Sparrow which was studied and

described at Pine Springs Campground Nov. 10 (CP *et al.*). Three McCown's Longspurs in *DeWitt* Nov. 21-24 (DMu) were unexpected. After six years without a record, El Paso had lone Com. Grackles Oct. 23 and Nov. 22 (BZ). Almost as unusual was another in Big Bend Nov. 25 (PG). Well over 130 Orchard Orioles at Mitchell L., Aug. 16 constituted a big early push (S.A.A.S.). The next day, two Scott's Orioles at the same location were a rare find. Over a thousand N. Orioles moving past Bazemore in Corpus Christi Sept. 21 was an amazing count (E&NA). This season's influx of House Finches in e. Texas has already surpassed last year's. A flock of 100 was seen in *Dallas* and several other area firsts were reported. A single Red Crossbill was reported in G.M.N.P. in early November by T.O.S. observers, but a more unexpected find was a single crossbill Nov. 22 at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend (JD). Early Am. Goldfinches were observed in n. Texas at Hagerman Aug. 4 (RR) and in s. Texas on N. Padre I., Oct. 31 (CC). One Evening Grosbeak (which sounds like "one waxwing" or "one longspur") in Lubbock Nov. 24-25 was the only one reported (LS).

Corrigendum: Delete the Hooded Oriole record at Palo Duro Canyon, May 27, 1991 (AB45:473).

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19–21 (JG); a flock of 100 arriving Oct. 24 was an unusually high number at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, ID, (JR). Small numbers of Bonaparte's appeared around Flathead L. in n.w. Montana after the late October storm (DC). Deer Flat had a Herring Gull Aug. 14 and two Oct. 24 (JG). Alturas L., s. of Obsidian, ID, had ten Oct. 4; Stanley L., Stanley, ID, had six the next day (MC, FK). Up to three first-winter Thayer's Gulls were identified near American Falls Dam Oct. 17–Dec. 3 (CHT). Montana's 3rd Glaucous-winged Gull was at the Polson, MT, dump in early November (DC, DH, PLW); a Glaucous Gull was there Nov. 23 (DH).

Common Terns built up to a peak of 150 near American Falls Dam Oct. 4 (CHT). A Forster's Tern at Deer Flat Sept. 12 was noteworthy (JG).

DOVES TO WRENS

The last flock of Mourning Doves in the Flathead Valley was of 50 near Somers, MT, Sept. 22. Two at Big Flat, 8 mi n. of Salmon, ID, Nov. 28 were very late (HR). The early winter storm brought in several N. Saw-whet Owls around Kalispell, one even in the city in a shrub in front of a fast food restaurant (DC)! Great Gray Owls continued to be found in Harriman S.P., *Fremont*, ID (CHT); they also appeared in the Tetonia, ID, area (SP). Two were observed at Red Rock Lakes starting in September (KN). A late Com. Poorwill was in the Blackfoot Valley n.e. of Missoula in late September (JBr).

Black Swifts were migrating over L. Kooanusa, *Kootenai*, MT, Aug. 27. Deer Flat had a Lewis' Woodpecker Sept. 12 (JG). A Three-toed Woodpecker was found along Moccasin Cr. w. of Salmon Oct. 11 (HR). One Three-toed, two Black-backed, and two Pileated Woodpeckers were in the Missions Mts. w. of Condon, MT, in late September (JE). The biggest news was discovery of a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, photographed at Hayspur Fish Hatchery e. of Picabo, ID, Aug. 25 (FR), for the first state record; it remained until about Sept. 7. Some 3000 Bank Swallows gathered at Deer Flat N.W.R. Sept. 15–28 (JG).

Single Blue Jays appeared in Idaho at Moscow Oct. 29–Nov. 6 (DLH), near Troy Oct. 7 (LS, VS), in Gooding about Oct. 13 (DT), and at Boise Oct. 5 (TC). In Montana, Glacier N.P. had two Sept. 24 (TM); Somers had one in early November, and one was at a Condon feeder from late October through November (DC). The species was becoming so common in the Missoula area that it was felt unnecessary to report them in detail (PLW). A Scrub Jay was sighted n. of Juniper Mt. in the Owyhee Mts. of s.w. Idaho (MC, FK). Two Bewick's Wrens were sighted in upper Coyote Gulch s. of Genesee, ID, Oct. 19 (C.B.).

THRUSHES TO FINCHES

Single Varied Thrushes appeared at Deer Flat Oct. 19 & 24 (JG). Migrating Am. Pipits

were estimated at thousands at Deer Flat the last week of September (JG). The birds arrived "in numbers" in the Flathead Valley n. of Flathead L. Sept. 16, remaining until mid-October (DC). A Sprague's Pipit was reported near Gardiner, MT, Aug. 31 (TM). Large flocks of waxwings, mostly Bohemian, arrived in the n. Flathead Valley in mid-October (DC). A flock of 30 Cedar Waxwings appeared near Helena Nov. 16 (GH). A migrating Solitary Vireo appeared at Deer Flat Sept. 12 (JG).

Orange-crowned Warblers reached a peak of 15 at Deer Flat the week of Sept. 9–16 (JG); "large numbers" were reported in the Missoula area in mid-September (DH). A migrating Townsend's Warbler at Deer Flat Sept. 11 was unusual (JG). A Palm Warbler was identified in the Owyhee Mts. n. of Juniper Mt. Sept. 17, the latilong's first (MC, FK). An Am. Redstart was banded at Pocatello, ID, Sept. 13 (JJ).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak visited Boise Sept. 18 (MC, FK). A small group of Am. Tree Sparrows was near L. Lowell Nov. 30 (DTa), and one was sighted near Cataldo Sept. 21 (SHS). A Black-throated Sparrow was observed in the Owyhee Mts. near the Mud Flat BLM Station area Sept. 17 (MC, FK). Two Swamp Sparrows were identified near Grandview, ID, about Nov. 16 (TE), and one appeared at Bruneau Dunes S.P. Nov. 23 (BH). The species is very rare in Idaho. An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow accompanied White-crowns at Boise Oct. 13 (MC, FK). White-throated, White-crowned, and Harris' Sparrows were quite common in the Missoula area (PLW). Two Lapland Longspurs were w. of Pocatello just after a snowstorm Nov. 3 (CHT). An unusual concentration of the species was noted near Helena in late October (DS, JBr).

An ad. ♂ **Brambling** was banded at Swan L. Oct. 26 (after the storm), for Montana's 3rd record (EJ). All three Montana records have been of males, all in October or November; one of the previous records was at the same feeder. Pine Grosbeaks at Georgetown L. ate sunflower seeds at a feeder (DS). House Finches outnumbered Cassin's Finches at Kalispell and Somers feeders (DC). The only White-winged Crossbills were in the Swan Valley-Mission Mts. area Nov. 24 (JE). Common Redpolls made good appearances in the Missoula area, Swan Valley around Condon, South Fork of the Flathead R. valley, and in the Fortine vicinity. Evening Grosbeaks were reported only for the Swan Valley-Mission Mts. area.

Observers cited: Frank Andrews, Bob Bradley, Joan Bergstrom (JB), Jim Brown (JBr), Dave Burrup, Canyon Birders (C.B.), Tim Carrigan, Mark Collie, Dan Casey, Terry Edwards, Joseph Engler, Charlene Gaiser, John Gatchet, Pam Gontz, LaRue Gregerson, Brad Hammond, Winnie Hepburn, John Hofflund, David L. Holick (DLH), Denver Holt (DH), George Holton, Joe Jeppson, Florence Knoll, Merlene Kolin-

er, Louise La Voie, Dean Jones, Elly Jones, Terry McEaney, Kenneth Niethammer, Opal McIntyre, John Nigh, Barb North, Sue Parla, Lou Potter, Jimmie Reynolds, Hadley Roberts, Frank Robertson, Suzette Severre (SS), Valerie Steffen, Lou Sternberg, Don Stoecker, Shirley H. Sturts (SHS), Dan Taylor, Joel Tinsley, Dave Trochlell, C. H. Trost, Stephen & Jamie Turner, Carole Vande Vorde, Susan Weller, Winton Weydemeyer, Philip L. Wright.—THOMAS H. ROGERS, 10820 E. Maxwell, Spokane, WA 99206-4805.



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Table 1. Main Species Seen at Hawkwatches

Species	Goshutes	Wellsvilles
Turkey Vulture	327	39
Osprey	62	34
Sharp-shinned	3705	996
Cooper's	2781	623
Goshawk	147	19
Broad-winged	44	10
Red-tailed	2979	906
Golden Eagle	327	292
Am. Kestrel	1563	1307
Merlin	37	21
Peregrine	6	10

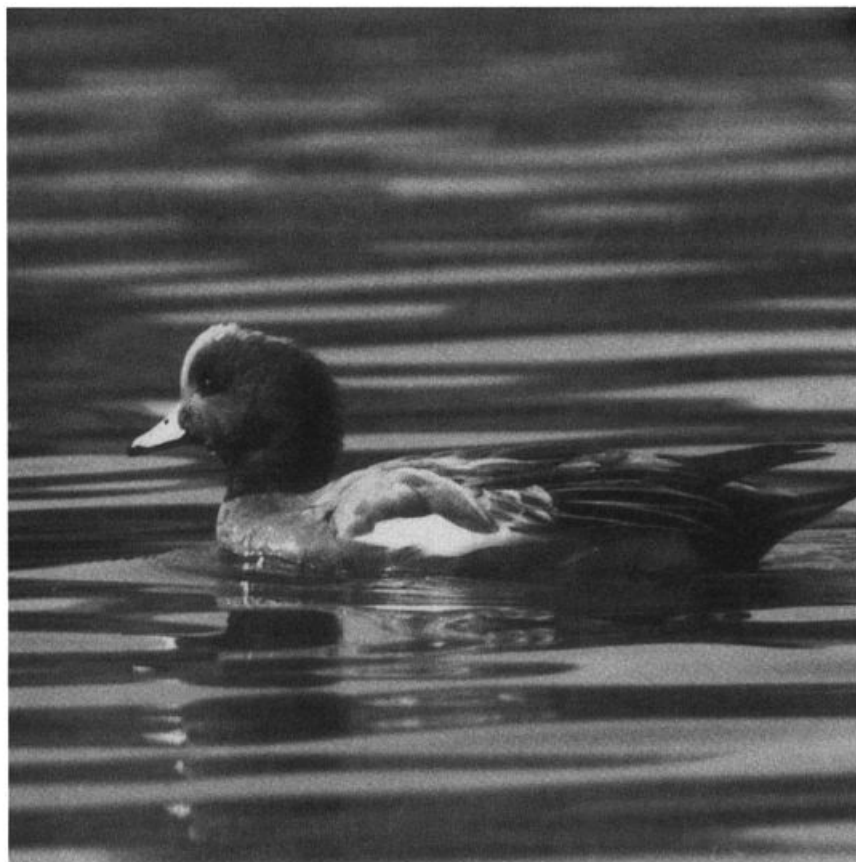
Hawk reports doubled, from 42 in 1990 to 104 this fall; so did Ferruginous Hawks, from 18 to 41, and Am. Kestrels, from 82 to 182. At L. Powell the Park Service counted 10 Peregrine Falcons Sept. 16–18 (MB).

GROUSE, SHOREBIRDS

A birders' expedition to Dripping Chicken Water Ranch w. of Dinosaur National Monument, CO, found, among 45 Blue Grouse, one Ruffed Grouse—at the site of the state's



Yellow-billed Loon at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, Utah, November 1991. First state record. Photograph/Jay Banta.



Male Eurasian Wigeon at Virginia Lake, Reno, Nevada, on November 8, 1991. Photograph/Jane Thompson.

first record 3 years ago (DN ph, VZ *et al.*).

Stillwater's annual fall shorebird count (Aug. 18–25) dropped to 23,549 from 72,523 in 1990 and 65,089 in 1989. Biologists blame the drop on the 5th year of drought: many prime shorebird areas such as Humboldt Sink are completely dry. Avocets and peeps (Least and Western) dropped 74%, to 5833 and 2609; Black-necked Stilts dropped 71% to 408; and dowitchers dropped 55% to 13,229 (LN, AJ, WH). Peak August shorebird counts at Great Salt L. were 100,000 Wilson's Phalaropes, 10,000 W. Sandpipers (80% juveniles), 4000 Am. Avocets, and 3000 Black-necked Stilts (PP). Fish Springs shorebirds peaked on Aug. 27 at 2900, with 1883 W. Sandpipers (JB). In Colorado, the Arkansas Valley attracted the most shorebirds. Among the 4300 at Timber L. near Las Animas Aug. 4 were 2000 Stilt Sandpipers and 1500 Wilson's Phalaropes (MJ). At nearby Cheraw, the 4225 Aug. 13 included 1800 Stilt Sandpipers, 1000 Baird's, and 1000 Wilson's Phalaropes (A.V.A.S.).

All 4 states reported Lesser Golden-Plovers, on dates ranging from Aug. 10–11 at Bear R. (†JV) to Nov. 12 at Grand Jct. (†RL, CD). On Sept. 27, 100 Mt. Plovers (in trouble in their Pawnee National Grassland stronghold) assembled at Walsh, CO (JnIT). One Mountain Plover sneaked into a 300-Killdeer flock at Lahontan Valley Nov. 11 (†LN). Nevada has only about 10 records even though it lies directly between their main nesting range in Colorado and main wintering site in California. Seventeen sites in all 4 states reported 55 Sanderlings. Timber L. had 200 Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 4 among 400 other peeps (MJ), and Grand Jct. had nine Semipalmateds on 4 dates from Aug. 10–Sept. 22 (‡CD). Observers reported 250 Pectorals, from 28 sites in all 4 states, the first at Las Vegas Aug. 2 (MC) and the last at Denver Nov. 17 (LM).

S.A.

Stilt Sandpipers, formerly considered accidental in Utah, were there on 7 dates, topped by 46 at Great Salt L. Oct. 19–21 (TS, CK). They have also increased markedly in Colorado (note the 3800 in the Arkansas Valley, above) and in Wyoming: 33 were in Casper and 45 at Laramie, WY, Sept. 21 (FL).

Wyoming had more Short-billed Dowitchers than Colorado: three adults at Rock Springs Sept. 5 (†FL); at Casper, four Aug. 8 (J & VH) and one Oct. 19 (J & VH, J & GL); and six at Yellowstone Oct. 24 (†TM). The state previously had only about 10 records. The 500 Wilson's Phalaropes Aug. 22 were impressive for Las Vegas (MC), regardless of the numbers at Great Salt L. The Region had 16 Red Phalaropes—in 3 states, over twice as many as in any year this decade. See Table 2.



Juvenile Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Longmont, Colorado, on November 3, 1991.
Photograph/Dave Leatherman.

rains, which was late (†KH). A flock of 2000 Bank Swallows that gathered at Layton, UT, Aug. 1 increased to 5000 Aug. 4 (PP). A Scrub Jay made a rare appearance in Casper Sept. 11–12 (J & GL). Nuthatches moved onto the plains in August, with Red-breasted at Pueblo and Walsh, and LLBL recording 56 (only six last year); there were two White-breasted at Walsh in November (SM, JnIT, 1st Lat).

Vocal but secretive, a Sedge Wren, Colorado's 15th, fed in dense grass at Colorado City Oct. 16–17 (†RD, DS, †MJ). Eastern Bluebirds continue their Colorado presence, with 69 reported. Mid-October's cold weather did not diminish their numbers particularly, though two were found dead at Walsh in November. Mountain Bluebirds also were numerous; D.F.O. field trips tallied 99 (6-year range of 12–43); LLBL observers reported 509 (158 last year)—but 375 in October and only three in November. Corn Cr. had three Varied Thrushes Oct. 10–18, and one flew into a banding net at Ogden Nov. 20–23, the first time since 1983 (MK). Late Gray Catbirds were at Casper Oct. 26–28, Grand Jct. Oct. 26, and Denver Nov. 2. On Sept. 28, grouse-seekers at Dripping Chicken Water Ranch, Moffat, CO, came across a Brown Thrasher (DN, CD, VZ), and Las Vegas had three birds on 3 dates after Oct. 27. Migrating Sprague's Pipits stopped again at Julesburg, CO; at least four were present Oct. 12–19 (DBr, †MJ, DL). A Red-eyed Vireo, uncommon in Utah, was banded at Ogden Sept. 10 (MK).

WARBLERS

Among warblers with fewer than 25 state records were a Chestnut-sided Sept. 30 at Tonopah, NV (CL); Magnolias at Corn Cr. Oct. 4 and Las Vegas Nov. 17, (MC); an imm. female Cape May Nov. 24 at Fountain, CO, Nov. 24 (†GM, 1st Lat.); a Prairie Warbler at Grand Jct. Sept. 25, Colorado's 10th (‡CD), and Nevada's first Mourning Warbler, described in detail and photographed (recognizable but not suitable for reproduction) at Dyer Sept. 27–28 (†PL, †SF ph, †JD).

Rare warblers included the following. In Nevada: Black-throated Blue at Las Vegas Nov. 22; Blackpoll at Dyer Sept. 28; four Am. Redstarts; and four N. Waterthrushes. In Utah: N. Waterthrush Oct. 20 at Moab (GL, 1st Lat). In Colorado: Blue-winged Sept. 4 at Barr L.; Golden-winged at Wheat Ridge, Fountain, and Bonny; eight Nashvilles at La Veta Pass, CO, Aug. 23 (BP); Tennessee at Whitewater Sept. 1 (†RL, 1st Lat); Grace's at Westcliffe, CO, Aug. 24 (A.V.A.S., 1st Lat); Am. Redstart at Keystone, CO (high mountain record—NORAC).

November warblers included Tennessee Nov. 17, Berthoud, CO, (†RM); Townsend's Nov. 3 at Pueblo, Nov. 5 at Logan, and Nov. 15 at Longmont (SS); Blackpoll at Las Vegas Nov. 2 (DG); and Wilson's at Longmont Nov. 3 and Casper Nov. 5. The Regional Wilson's count was 177 in Wyoming and 245 in Colorado, but these were drops from totals of the past 2 falls—in 1990, 315, and 328, respectively, and in 1989, 813 and 508.

TANAGERS TO GOLDFINCHES

A "cadmium-colored" Summer Tanager appeared at Moab, UT, Nov. 2 amid wind, snow, and low temperatures (†GL). Another female or immature dropped in at Eagle, CO, Oct. 14 (†JM). Pueblo and Rye, CO, hosted molting ♂ Scarlet Tanagers Aug. 18 & 25 (MY, DS). A Monte Vista feeder attracted a late Chipping Sparrow Nov. 28 (†J & ER). Corn Cr. had a Clay-colored Sparrow Oct. 4–12 (MC, VM). Eastern Colorado had a surprising count of Field Sparrows: 15 from Longmont south to Colorado City. Marian Cressman photographed Nevada's 2nd LeConte's Sparrow, at Indian Springs Oct. 21. A 1st Lat Golden-crowned Sparrow stayed only a day at Fountain Nov. 16 (†TB). One Lapland Longspur strayed west to Scotty's Jct., NV, on an early date, Sept. 27 (PL), and 10 were at Farson, WY, Nov. 2 (FL, RSt—1st Lat). Wyoming's 2nd Great-tailed Grackle fed in an Evanston horse pasture then flew off with some magpies Sept. 12 (RD, †FL). One made its way west to Mason Valley W.A., NV (†JWI); eight adults and young stopped at Stillwater Ref. Sept. 4 (LN, WH, AJ). Colorado had larger groups—21 at Cortez (LB), 25–30 at Las Animas, 30 at Walsh. The Orchard Oriole at Amargosa Valley Sept. 26 was Nevada's 5th (GR, †PL, SF ph); I missed the 4th record, from Indian Springs in September 1990 (†PL), in last fall's report. A pair of Scott's Orioles, watched all summer near Rock Springs, appeared with two immatures Aug. 17, Wyoming's 2nd nesting record (FL). A Purple Finch was at Walsh Nov. 20–25 (†JnIT—1st Lat). Yellowstone reported one White-winged Crossbill Sept. 18, and Utah's Uinta Mts. had five Sept. 19.

EXOTICS

Gunnison, Colorado's Red-backed Buzzard returned to her hayfields and cottonwood groves Mar. 26, mated with the same Swain-

son's Hawk as in 1989, and nested this year, though unsuccessfully. In October they gorged themselves on voles stirred up during haying and were last seen Oct. 20 (DR).

Omitted: This report omits several rarities reported without descriptions or documentation, viz. Red-throated and Yellow-billed Loons, Brown Pelican, Reddish Egret, Little Blue Heron from Colorado, Mew Gulls from Utah and Nevada; Harlequin Duck and Long-tailed Jaeger from Utah; Ruddy Turnstone from Nevada; and Flammulated Owls in Wyoming.

Corrigenda: I mixed up Nevada geography in the spring report. The Com. Loons reported from Lahontan Valley (AB 45(3): 476) were actually on Walker L.—near Hawthorne, about 35 mi. s. of Lahontan Valley. The observer of the Grace's Warbler at Jarbidge, omitted from AB 45(5): 1144, was D. Trousdale. The observer of the Trumpeter Swan at Las Animas (AB 45(3): 476) was DJo.

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Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper (with Least Sandpiper) in southwest Phoenix, Arizona, on September 19, 1991. Small numbers of juveniles seem to be regular in the state in fall. Photograph/Gary H. Rosenberg.

Snowy Plovers were more prevalent than usual, with individuals throughout s. Arizona August and September. Noteworthy was one at Kayenta Sept. 9–11 (GHR, CL), as there are very few n. Arizona records, and a late individual at Snyder Hill STP Oct. 2 (JB). There are virtually no Mt. Plover records in Arizona away from known wintering sites (e.g., Colorado River Valley, Sulphur Springs Valley). Therefore, of note were one at GFP Sept. 16–29 (SGa *et al.*) and another at Snyder Hill STP Oct. 31 (JH, BL, KK).

A Black-necked Stilt w. of Sedona Sept. 15 (B. Girvin, *vide* AG) was n. of its normal Arizona range. Two Whimbrels were found this season, one at GFP Aug. 7 (SGa), and a 2nd at Gilbert Aug. 23 (TC). Scarce as a migrant in n. Arizona, a single Long-billed Curlew was at MFL Aug. 11 (CL). Despite increased coverage of shorebird areas throughout Arizona the past ten years, Red Knot continues to be a very rare fall migrant, occurring less than annually. Therefore, two this fall were certainly noteworthy; one was at Snyder Hill STP Sept. 14–15 (MS, J. Higgins *et al.*), while another was at GFP Sept. 15–16 (GHR *et al.*). Above-average Sanderling numbers were seen around the state. Of note were singles at Kayenta Sept. 16 and Sept. 19–25 (CL). In the s. portion of the state, four were at Chandler STP Sept. 19 (DS, GHR), four at Willcox Sept. 20 (R. Dorrance), and three at GFP Sept. 27–29 (DS *et al.*). Eleven Semipalmated Sandpipers were

seen statewide Aug. 7–Sept. 19; it has become evident that virtually any large concentration of W. Sandpipers throughout August and most of September is likely to have a Semipalmated mixed in. Somewhat early for such a concentration was a flock of 19 Stilt Sandpipers at Willcox Aug. 10 (DT *et al.*).

Although expected in s. Arizona in early fall, Short-billed Dowitchers are still worth noting. One was found at Snyder Hill STP Aug. 16 (DS); one was at Gilbert Aug. 23–Sept. 2 (TC, SGa), one was at Painted Rock Dam Sept. 2 (TC *et al.*), one was near Palo Verde Sept. 2 (TC *et al.*), one was at Willcox Sept. 14 (S. Mlodinow), with another there Sept. 24 (B. Lyons), and one was in s.w. Phoenix Sept. 19 (GHR, DS). This fall we were witness to what was certainly the best fall on record in the West for interior migrant Red Phalaropes. No fewer than eight were in Arizona: one at GFP Sept. 27–29 (DS *et al.*), one at MFL Sept. 28 (CL), perhaps only a 2nd n.e. Arizona record, one at Gilbert Sept. 28 (SGa), one near Roosevelt L. Oct. 25 (H. Messing), one at Snyder Hill STP Oct. 30 (D. Jones), two late individuals at Snyder Hill Nov. 15 (C. Cutler), and another late bird was at Willcox Nov. 16 (C. Cutler). A concentration of 75–100 Red-necked Phalaropes was early Aug. 16 at Tucson (DS).

Practically annual in s. Arizona in fall, a Heermann's Gull put in its appearance, this time at Tucson Nov. 9–15 (MS *et al.*). Fewer than normal numbers of Franklin's Gulls

were reported, with only four individuals found. In contrast, Sabine's Gulls were much in evidence this fall, with five found throughout the state. Two were reported in n.e. Arizona, where there were only 2 or 3 previous records: one was at Springerville Sept. 21 (CB), with another at Kayenta Sept. 27–28 (CL). In s. Arizona, one was at Tucson Sept. 26 (LD), one was at the GFP Oct. 1 (ph. SGa), while another was at Willcox Oct. 13–15 (J. Woofenden, LD). Caspian Terns are always unusual away from the Lower Colorado River Valley; two were at GFP Sept. 15 (TC). The only Com. Terns away from the LCR valley were in s.w. Phoenix Sept. 19 (DS, GHR) and at Kayenta Sept. 28 (CL).

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS

A single Band-tailed Pigeon at BTA Oct. 10 (SGa) was at a lower elevation than usual, but this montane species is prone to wandering and has been recorded at the arboretum several times in the past. A Common Ground-Dove at Lee's Ferry Oct. 13 (SGa) provided only the 3rd or 4th record for all n. Arizona. Another individual was at Skull Valley near Prescott Nov. 24 (B. Pierson). Only 10 years after the first Ruddy Ground-Doves were found in Phoenix, their status in the Southwest has become established as a regular fall and winter visitor. This fall, five new individuals brings the total of Arizona records to 21 and the total of individual seen to at least 34. A female was at PAP pecan grove Oct. 3 (JK, WR), and a male was located there Oct. 4 (JK *et al.*); both were seen off and on through Oct. 27. Another male was in s.w. Phoenix Oct. 31 (M. Eisenach), and two more were s. of Phoenix Nov. 9–16 (R. Jones). It is too soon to tell whether this rapid explosion of records truly represents the permanent expansion of this species into the United States.

A Groove-billed Ani was seen and tape recorded at the Granite Reef Picnic Area n.e. of Phoenix Oct. 19 (J. Hentz); there have been few recent records of this straggler from Mexico. A calling Whip-poor-will Sept. 21 near Christopher Cr. on the Mogollon Rim (PS) was extremely late for this area. Exciting was the report of 8–10 **Black Swifts** flying with Vaux's Swifts over Horse Shoe L. e. of Show Low in the White Mts. Aug. 19 (†BZ *et al.*); amazingly, this species has yet to be properly documented in Arizona despite the many sight records.

The White-eared Hummingbird at Ramsey Canyon was last seen Sept. 25, and the Berylline Hummingbird that attempted nesting there was last reported Aug. 31 (*vide* JWh). Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were reported away from known nesting areas at Portal Aug. 11–26 (m.ob.), at Dixie Canyon near Bisbee Aug. 31, and at a Bisbee feeder Sept. 6 through the period (JWh). A Blue-throated Hummingbird was at an unusually low elevation at Bisbee Nov. 2–3 (JWh); this species is not known to wander nearly as much as the Magnificent Hummingbird reported this fall from Sedona Sept. 18 (D. Bell). Lucifer Hummingbirds were reported

A ♀ Purple Martin in s.w. Phoenix Sept. 19 (DS, GHR) was well away from known breeding areas. Two at the Tucson STP Oct. 27 (KK) were surprisingly late as migrants. This fall provided 2 Cave Swallow reports: one was well-described from Kino Springs Aug. 17 (†S. Mlodinow), and a 2nd individual was seen well at Tucson Oct. 27 (†KK, T. Hoar). There were two previous state records: one that frequented the University of Arizona campus with Cliff Swallows for several summers and one on the Phoenix CBC in 1987. A Black-billed Magpie at Kayenta Sept. 30 (CL) was w. of its normal breeding range in n.e. Arizona. Intriguing was the pair of **Black-capped Gnatcatchers** reported from Chino Canyon on the w. side of the Santa Rita Mts. Aug. 28 (†S. Mlodinow *et al.*); this is the location where a pair nested in 1981 and 1982.

A Townsend's Solitaire was reported from Yuma Nov. 2 (H. Beatty *et al.*). Arizona's 14th Wood Thrush was at the BTA Oct. 22–28 (LH, BD, CT *et al.*). Single Varied Thrushes were at Shonto, e. of Page, Oct. 4 (P. Norton), and at Madera Canyon Nov. 2 (J. Burns). This fall saw 2 reports of **Aztec Thrush** from Arizona; a male and female were together in upper Ramsey Canyon Sept. 25–27 (JK, RBe, SH); in fact, the observers had both Aztec Thrush and Eared Trogon in the same binocular field! The 2nd report came from Madera Canyon Oct. 26 (†S. Lindenmayer). These represent the 12th and 13th state records. Gray Catbirds are extremely scarce as migrants in the state away from their breeding grounds in the White Mts.; one at the Desert Museum w. of Tucson Nov. 7–9 (CT) was not only a local rarity but one of the latest state records. Rare but regular in fall, Brown Thrashers were reported from VOC Oct. 14 (V. Todd) and in Scottsdale Nov. 4 (Carol Wong *et al.*).

Although Sprague's Pipit is a regular winter visitor throughout the grasslands in s. Arizona, it is rarely seen in migration away from its normal areas of occurrence. One n.w. of Tucson at the PAP pecan grove Oct. 11 (JK) represents one of the few local records. This fall, N. Shrike was first detected in n.e. Arizona Oct. 14 on Black Mesa, and four were between Kayenta and Cow Springs L. Nov. 17 (CL). Red-eyed Vireos were reported from Patagonia Aug. 9 (P. Stuart), Tumacacori Sept. 15 (R. Haaseth), and BTA Oct. 10 (SGA). One of the few state migrant records of Gray Vireo came from the BTA Sept. 25 (CT). Unusually late was a Warbling Vireo at BTA Oct. 26–28 (SGA, CT).

WARBLERS TO SPARROWS

The warbler of the season was the **Blue-winged Warbler** at the BTA Sept. 19 (†CT), for a 5th state record. A stunning ♂ Golden-winged Warbler was in Ramsey Canyon Nov. 21 and remained into December (JWh), marking only a 14th Arizona record; there is only one previous winter record for the state (and N. America). Tennessee Warbler records came from e. Tucson Aug. 25 (MS),



Yellow-throated Warbler at Granite Reef Dam, east of Phoenix, Arizona, on September 29, 1991. Photograph/Steve Ganley.

from the PAP pecan grove Oct. 12 (JB), and from Granite Reef Dam Oct. 27 (SGa); this warbler continues to be one of the rare but regular fall "vagrants" in the state. Only two N. Parulas were found: one at Tucson Aug. 10 (C. Thompson) and another at Madera Canyon Oct. 20 (WR). Six Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported Sept. 27–Oct. 11 statewide; the Sept. 27 individual was at Navajo in the northeast, where there are very few records. The only Black-throated Blue Warbler this fall was a male at the PAP pecan grove Oct. 10 (BL *et al.*). A Yellow-throated Warbler was at the Granite Reef Picnic Area Sept. 29–Oct. 6 (ph. SGA); this species has become almost annual in the state. Palm Warblers have also become regular in the fall, with 2 sightings this year, one from the PAP pecan grove Oct. 3 (WR *et al.*) and one near the town of Maricopa, s.w. of Phoenix Nov. 16 (R. Jones). Blackpoll Warbler is another species that only a few years ago was considered a real rarity but today is almost annual. One was along the Salt R. near the Granite Reef Picnic Area Oct. 26–27 (BN, DT, ph. SGA). At least seven Black-and-white Warblers and eight Am. Redstarts were reported around the state this fall, about average. Exciting was a Prothonotary Warbler at Kayenta Sept. 28; there are only a couple of other records from n. Arizona. The only Ovenbird was at Nogales Nov. 5 (D. Flower). At least eight N. Waterthrushes were reported. A Louisiana Waterthrush was in lower Madera Canyon Oct. 12–Nov. 23 (LD), likely the same individual returning to an Arizona wintering site.

A Hepatic Tanager at the BTA Sept. 20–23 (CT) was at an unusually low Arizona

elevation; there are few state lowland records. This fall was particularly good for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks: one was at the PAP pecan grove Oct. 3 (WR); one was in Madera Canyon Oct. 5 (LD); one was at Ganado Wash Oct. 12 (TC *et al.*), one at Patagonia Nov. 3 (JB), and another at Phoenix Nov. 10. No fewer than *nine* Painted Buntings were scattered throughout s. Arizona, many in the last half of August. One at S. Fork in the White Mts. Sept. 13 (GHR *et al.*) was among few records for the n.e. portion of the state. The only Dickcissels all came from the PAP pecan grove, where one was seen Sept. 19 (DS, GHR); up to three were there into late September (m.ob.). Reliable Clay-colored Sparrow reports were received from Kayenta Sept. 16 (CL), Apache L. Sept. 28 (JK), and from the PAP pecan grove, where one was present Oct. 3–27, with a 2nd individual Oct. 23–27 (KK, BL, WR *et al.*). Undoubtedly, the prize passerine of the season was the **Field Sparrow** photographed at Cow Springs L., w. of Kayenta, Oct. 14 (†TC, †LH, †CL, ph. DT), only the 2nd Arizona record; this remains one of the rarest vagrants in all the West. Unusually n. and w. of their normal Arizona range were two Grasshopper Sparrows at Prescott Valley Oct. 14–23 (W. Anderson, CT), providing what may be only the 2nd *Yavapai* record. Only one Harris' Sparrow report was received, from the desert oasis at Theba Oct. 19 (CB *et al.*). Still exceptional in the state but undoubtedly overlooked was a Lapland Longspur in the San Rafael Grasslands Nov. 28 (WR, JK). Three Bobolinks were found this fall, with one at the Empire Cienega Aug. 20 (TC), another was at Sierra Vista Aug. 27 (†S. Mlodinow), and a 3rd was at Phoenix Oct. 2 (JD). Six Lawrence's Goldfinches at Skull Valley near Prescott Nov. 26 (CT) were the only ones reported.

Contributors (area compilers in boldface):

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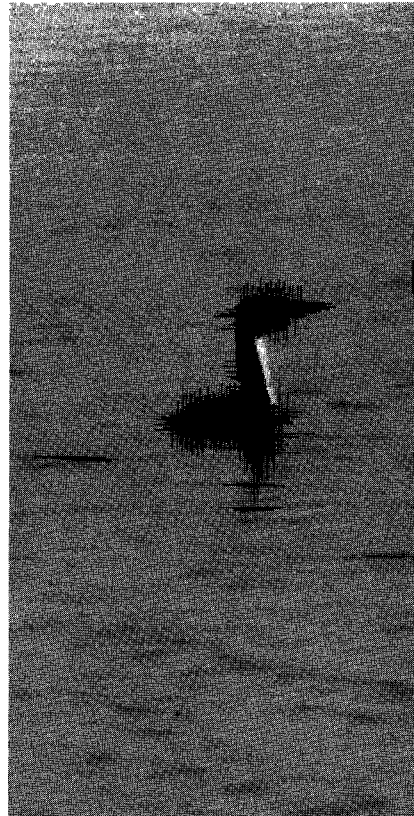
Table 1. Main Species Seen at Hawkwatches

Species	Goshutes	Wellsvilles
Turkey Vulture	327	39
Osprey	62	34
Sharp-shinned	3705	996
Cooper's	2781	623
Goshawk	147	19
Broad-winged	44	10
Red-tailed	2979	906
Golden Eagle	327	292
Am. Kestrel	1563	1307
Merlin	37	21
Peregrine	6	10

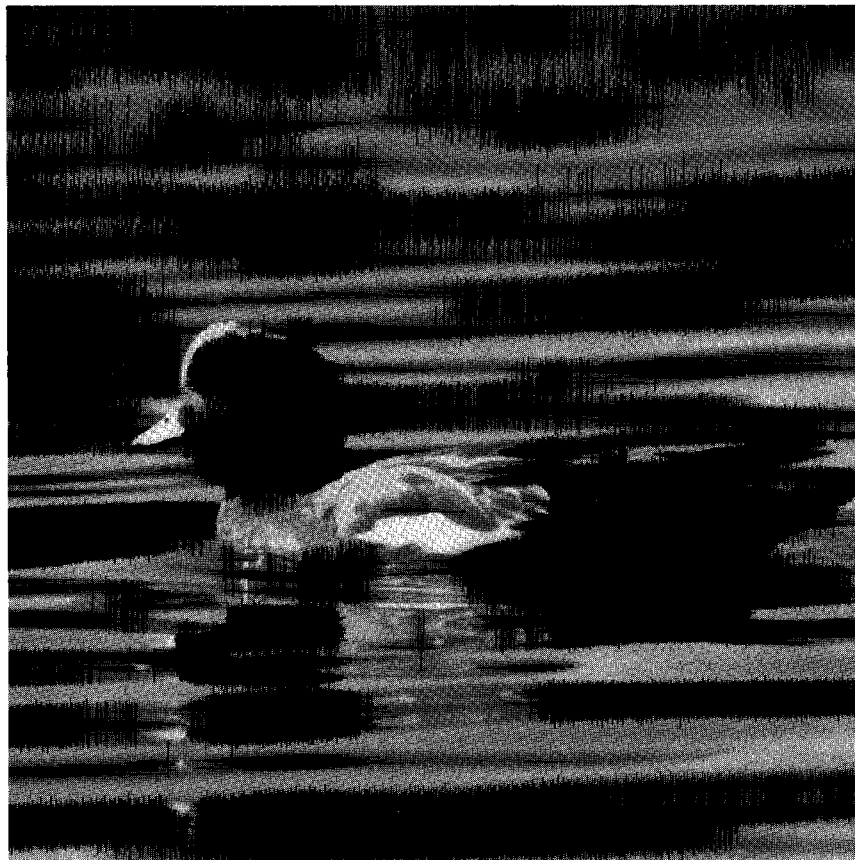
Hawk reports doubled, from 42 in 1990 to 104 this fall; so did Ferruginous Hawks, from 18 to 41, and Am. Kestrels, from 82 to 182. At L. Powell the Park Service counted 10 Peregrine Falcons Sept. 16–18 (MB).

GROUSE, SHOREBIRDS

A birders' expedition to Dripping Chicken Water Ranch w. of Dinosaur National Monument, CO, found, among 45 Blue Grouse, one Ruffed Grouse—at the site of the state's



Yellow-billed Loon at Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge, Utah, November 1991. First state record. Photograph/Jay Banta.



Male Eurasian Wigeon at Virginia Lake, Reno, Nevada, on November 8, 1991. Photograph/Jane Thompson.

first record 3 years ago (DN ph, VZ *et al.*).

Stillwater's annual fall shorebird count (Aug. 18–25) dropped to 23,549 from 72,523 in 1990 and 65,089 in 1989. Biologists blame the drop on the 5th year of drought: many prime shorebird areas such as Humboldt Sink are completely dry. Avocets and peeps (Least and Western) dropped 74%, to 5833 and 2609; Black-necked Stilts dropped 71% to 408; and dowitchers dropped 55% to 13,229 (LN, AJ, WH) Peak August shorebird counts at Great Salt L. were 100,000 Wilson's Phalaropes, 10,000 W. Sandpipers (80% juveniles), 4000 Am Avocets, and 3000 Black-necked Stilts (PP) Fish Springs shorebirds peaked on Aug. 27 at 2900, with 1883 W. Sandpipers (JB). In Colorado, the Arkansas Valley attracted the most shorebirds. Among the 4300 at Timber L. near Las Animas Aug. 4 were 2000 Stilt Sandpipers and 1500 Wilson's Phalaropes (MJ). At nearby Cheraw, the 4225 Aug. 13 included 1800 Stilt Sandpipers, 1000 Baird's, and 1000 Wilson's Phalaropes (A.V.A.S.).

All 4 states reported Lesser Golden-Plovers, on dates ranging from Aug. 10–11 at Bear R. (†JV) to Nov. 12 at Grand Jct. (†RL, CD). On Sept. 27, 100 Mt. Plovers (in trouble in their Pawnee National Grassland stronghold) assembled at Walsh, CO (JnIT) One Mountain Plover sneaked into a 300-Killdeer flock at Lahontan Valley Nov. 11 (†LN). Nevada has only about 10 records even though it lies directly between their main nesting range in Colorado and main wintering site in California. Seventeen sites in all 4 states reported 55 Sanderlings. Timber L. had 200 Semipalmated Sandpipers Aug. 4 among 400 other peeps (MJ), and Grand Jct. had nine Semipalmateds on 4 dates from Aug. 10–Sept. 22 (‡CD). Observers reported 250 Pectorals, from 28 sites in all 4 states, the first at Las Vegas Aug. 2 (MC) and the last at Denver Nov. 17 (LM)

S.A.

Stilt Sandpipers, formerly considered accidental in Utah, were there on 7 dates, topped by 46 at Great Salt L. Oct. 19–21 (TS, CK). They have also increased markedly in Colorado (note the 3800 in the Arkansas Valley, above) and in Wyoming: 33 were in Casper and 45 at Laramie, WY, Sept. 21 (FL).

Wyoming had more Short-billed Dowitchers than Colorado: three adults at Rock Springs Sept. 5 (†FL); at Casper, four Aug 8 (J & VH) and one Oct. 19 (J & VH, J & GL); and six at Yellowstone Oct. 24 (†TM) The state previously had only about 10 records. The 500 Wilson's Phalaropes Aug 22 were impressive for Las Vegas (MC), regardless of the numbers at Great Salt L. The Region had 16 Red Phalaropes—in 3 states, over twice as many as in any year this decade See Table 2



First detected in Colorado in 1989, Ruffed Grouse may be a regular resident in the northwest corner of the state. This bird represented the third actual Colorado record: September 28, 1991, at the Dripping Chicken Water Ranch, Moffat County. Photograph/ Duane Nelson.

the distinctive tail feathers, stayed Oct. 18–26 (†J & VH); if confirmed, it would be Wyoming's 2nd record. The 6th jaeger was a Parasitic at Longmont Nov. 23 (MN). Of five Mew Gulls from Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming, only one at Yellowstone Oct. 24—Wyoming's 3rd report and the first since 1913—had good documentation (†TM). Nevada reported two well-described Glaucous-winged Gulls—from Mud L. Oct. 21 (†JZ) and Pyramid L. Nov. 26 (†EM, JT ph); it now has 12–15 records. The Glaucous Gull at Grand Jct. Nov. 2 provided a 1st Lat record (CD). Joining the influx of coastal birds were four Colorado Black-legged Kittiwakes and 16 Sabine's Gulls. The kittiwakes, Oct. 25–Nov. 30, were at Fountain (†TB, 1st Lat), Estes Park (WR), Loveland, and Grand Jct. Colorado had 11 Sabine's, Wyoming had four, and Las Vegas one. An impressive flock of 85 Black Terns flew over L. Cheraw Aug. 4 (MJ).

contributors, this fall only 7 reported them, and only Logan provided a positive prognosis ("prevalent"—KA). In winter they tend to hide in unbirded grasslands, so our perception of a decline may not be entirely accurate. In Wyoming, W.G.&F. found 15 Boreal Owls in the Medicine Bow N.F. and five in Yellowstone. A Blue-throated Hummingbird hung around a Durango, CO, feeder during the C.E.O. convention Aug 31–Sept. 1 (†MJ).

A clear photograph documents Nevada's first Red-headed Woodpecker, an adult which, typically, perched on a fence post to capture insects on the ground; it stayed at Pahranaagat N.W.R. Nov. 4–7 (†VM, CG, CL ph). Las Vegas also had s. Nevada's 4th Downy Woodpecker Nov. 9–11 (†RSc, †CL ph).

S.A.

The status of Red-naped and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers requires further field study and analysis. First, many observers do not know that the two have been re-split into 2 species. For those initiated to that rewrite of history, and based on numerous field guides' instructions, any imm. sapsucker of this duo is a Yellow-bellied if seen October or later. The red nape of ad. Red-naped is not always red, so observers should also look at the throat and boldness of the black malar stripe.

Yellow-bellieds seem regular in Colorado in fall and winter; at least observers see a lot of imm. sapsuckers. From 8 Front Range cities, Mt. Westerners reported 18 Yellow-bellieds: two males, no females, eight immatures, but eight not specified (and perhaps not distinguished from Red-naped). They reported two ad. Red-naped, all from w. Colorado. Five s. Utah Christmas counts last year reported 19 sapsuckers, all called Red-naped.

Red-naped nest in the Rockies; Yellow-bellieds nest straight n. of e. Colorado in Alberta, mostly e. of the mountains. They could easily migrate on a path along the edge of the mountains and land in Fort Collins or Lyons.

After all that, Las Vegas birders did look carefully and found Nevada's 2nd Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, an immature at Corn Cr. Oct. 10–20, which stayed with two ad. Red-naped (†MC, †VM, †RR). Earlier, on Sept. 26, they found a hybrid Red-naped/Red-breasted Sapsucker (PL), and later, three Red-breasted Sapsuckers.

Table 2. Red Phalarope Reports.

1991 Records: Date	No.	Location	Observers
Sept. 14–24	1	Jackson Res., n.e. CO	#BP, JP, DN
Sept. 26	2	Indian Springs, w. NV	†PL
Sept. 26	5	Ash Meadows N.W.R., w. NV	†PL
Sept. 28–Oct. 1	1	Cherry Creek Res., Denver	†LM, BRi
Sept. 29–30	1	Logan, UT	†KA ph, LR
Oct. 11–Dec. 5	1–4	Farmington Bay, UT	†CK
Nov. 1	1	L. Powell, s.w. UT	†MB
Nov. 18	1	Indian Springs, NV	#VM

1982–1991, by State*

Year	Reg.	NV	UT	WY	CO
1991	16	8	6		2
1990	6			1	5
1989	5	2			3
1988	5	1		1	3
1987	2				2
1986	1		1		
1985	0				
1984	0				
1983	1				1
1982	0				
1982–91	36	11	7	2	16
1972–81	25	11	1	1	12

* All are fall records except Colorado in 1975 and 1989.

JAEGERS TO TERNS

Three of six jaegers reported were definitely Pomarine Jaegers. Utah's first, with full tail streamers, stayed at Utah L. Nov. 2–7 (†MW, †TEM ph). At Pueblo, CO, two Pomarines stayed Oct. 30–Nov. 23 (†RD, †MJ); a 3rd one there, a dark-phase immature, was called as both Parasitic and Pomarine. A jaeger at Casper, most likely a Pomarine but lacking

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

Ruddy Ground-Doves arrived in Utah for the first time and Nevada for the 2nd. Nevada's was at Indian Springs Oct. 24 (†MC). Utah's, at Beaver Dam Wash Oct. 30–Nov. 2, was judged an ad. male upon a later, leisurely review of a videotape (†MW, MHo). Any observation of the increasingly scarce Short-eared Owl rates a mention by

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS

A Black Phoebe at Mud L., NV, Nov. 26 was late and unusual (JZ), and two E. Phoebes Oct. 19–29 provided Nevada's 6th and 7th records—both from Corn Creek (†SG, †MC ph). An Ash-throated Flycatcher visited Rocky Mt. Arsenal, CO, Sept. 22 (†LM), a Great Crested Flycatcher at Jefferson, CO, Oct. 13 had traveled 40 mi into the moun-



Juvenile Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Longmont, Colorado, on November 3, 1991.
Photograph/Dave Leatherman.

rains, which was late (†KH). A flock of 2000 Bank Swallows that gathered at Layton, UT, Aug. 1 increased to 5000 Aug. 4 (PP). A Scrub Jay made a rare appearance in Casper Sept. 11–12 (J & GL). Nuthatches moved onto the plains in August, with Red-breasted at Pueblo and Walsh, and LLBL recording 56 (only six last year); there were two White-breasted at Walsh in November (SM, JnlT, 1st Lat).

Vocal but secretive, a Sedge Wren, Colorado's 15th, fed in dense grass at Colorado City Oct. 16–17 (†RD, DS, †MJ). Eastern Bluebirds continue their Colorado presence, with 69 reported. Mid-October's cold weather did not diminish their numbers particularly, though two were found dead at Walsh in November. Mountain Bluebirds also were numerous; D.F.O. field trips tallied 99 (6-year range of 12–43); LLBL observers reported 509 (158 last year)—but 375 in October and only three in November. Corn Cr. had three Varied Thrushes Oct. 10–18, and one flew into a banding net at Ogden Nov. 20–23, the first time since 1983 (MK). Late Gray Catbirds were at Casper Oct. 26–28, Grand Jct. Oct. 26, and Denver Nov. 2. On Sept. 28, grouse-seekers at Dripping Chicken Water Ranch, *Moffat*, CO, came across a Brown Thrasher (DN, CD, VZ), and Las Vegas had three birds on 3 dates after Oct. 27. Migrating Sprague's Pipits stopped again at Julesburg, CO; at least four were present Oct. 12–19 (DBr, †MJ, DL). A Red-eyed Vireo, uncommon in Utah, was banded at Ogden Sept. 10 (MK).

WARBLERS

Among warblers with fewer than 25 state records were a Chestnut-sided Sept. 30 at Tonopah, NV (CL); Magnolias at Corn Cr. Oct. 4 and Las Vegas Nov. 17, (MC); an imm. female Cape May Nov. 24 at Fountain, CO, Nov. 24 (†GM, 1st Lat.); a **Prairie Warbler** at Grand Jct. Sept. 25, Colorado's 10th (‡CD), and Nevada's first **Mourning Warbler**, described in detail and photographed (recognizable but not suitable for reproduction) at Dyer Sept. 27–28 (†PL, †SF ph, †JD).

Rare warblers included the following. In Nevada: Black-throated Blue at Las Vegas Nov. 22; Blackpoll at Dyer Sept. 28; four Am. Redstarts; and four N. Waterthrushes. In Utah: N. Waterthrush Oct. 20 at Moab (GL, 1st Lat). In Colorado: Blue-winged Sept. 4 at Barr L.; Golden-winged at Wheat Ridge, Fountain, and Bonny; eight Nashvilles at La Veta Pass, CO, Aug. 23 (BP); Tennessee at Whitewater Sept. 1 (†RL, 1st Lat); Grace's at Westcliffe, CO, Aug. 24 (A.V.A.S., 1st Lat); Am. Redstart at Keystone, CO (high mountain record—NORAC).

November warblers included Tennessee Nov. 17, Berthoud, CO, (†RM); Townsend's Nov. 3 at Pueblo, Nov. 5 at Logan, and Nov. 15 at Longmont (SS); Blackpoll at Las Vegas Nov. 2 (DG); and Wilson's at Longmont Nov. 3 and Casper Nov. 5. The Regional Wilson's count was 177 in Wyoming and 245 in Colorado, but these were drops from totals of the past 2 falls—in 1990, 315, and 328, respectively, and in 1989, 813 and 508.

TANAGERS TO GOLDFINCHES

A "cadmium-colored" Summer Tanager appeared at Moab, UT, Nov. 2 amid wind, snow, and low temperatures (†GL). Another female or immature dropped in at Eagle, CO, Oct. 14 (†JM). Pueblo and Rye, CO, hosted molting ♂ Scarlet Tanagers Aug. 18 & 25 (MY, DS). A Monte Vista feeder attracted a late Chipping Sparrow Nov. 28 (†J & ER). Corn Cr. had a Clay-colored Sparrow Oct. 4–12 (MC, VM). Eastern Colorado had a surprising count of Field Sparrows: 15 from Longmont south to Colorado City. Marian Cressman photographed Nevada's 2nd **LeConte's Sparrow**, at Indian Springs Oct. 21. A 1st Lat Golden-crowned Sparrow stayed only a day at Fountain Nov. 16 (†TB). One Lapland Longspur strayed west to Scotty's Jct., NV, on an early date, Sept. 27 (PL), and 10 were at Farson, WY, Nov. 2 (FL, RSt—1st Lat). Wyoming's 2nd **Great-tailed Grackle** fed in an Evanston horse pasture then flew off with some magpies Sept. 12 (RD, †FL). One made its way west to Mason Valley W.A., NV (†JWL); eight adults and young stopped at Stillwater Ref. Sept. 4 (LN, WH, AJ). Colorado had larger groups—21 at Cortez (LB), 25–30 at Las Animas, 30 at Walsh. The **Orchard Oriole** at Amargosa Valley Sept. 26 was Nevada's 5th (GR, †PL, SF ph); I missed the 4th record, from Indian Springs in September 1990 (†PL), in last fall's report. A pair of **Scott's Orioles**, watched all summer near Rock Springs, appeared with two immatures Aug. 17, Wyoming's 2nd nesting record (FL). A Purple Finch was at Walsh Nov. 20–25 (‡JnlT—1st Lat). Yellowstone reported one White-winged Crossbill Sept. 18, and Utah's Uinta Mts. had five Sept. 19.

EXOTICS

Gunnison, Colorado's Red-backed Buzzard returned to her hayfields and cottonwood groves Mar 26, mated with the same Swain-

son's Hawk as in 1989, and nested this year, though unsuccessfully. In October they gorged themselves on voles stirred up during haying and were last seen Oct. 20 (DR).

Omitted: This report omits several rarities reported without descriptions or documentation, viz. Red-throated and Yellow-billed Loons, Brown Pelican, Reddish Egret, Little Blue Heron from Colorado, Mew Gulls from Utah and Nevada; Harlequin Duck and Long-tailed Jaeger from Utah; Ruddy Turnstone from Nevada; and Flammulated Owls in Wyoming.

Corrigenda: I mixed up Nevada geography in the spring report. The Com. Loons reported from Lahontan Valley (*AB* 45(3) 476) were actually on Walker L.—near Hawthorne, about 35 mi. s. of Lahontan Valley. The observer of the Grace's Warbler at Jarbidge, omitted from *AB* 45(5): 1144, was D. Trousdale. The observer of the Trumpeter Swan at Las Animas (*AB* 45(3): 476) was DJo

Compilers (boldface), contributors (italics), and cited observers: Jean Adams, Arkansas Valley Audubon Society, *Lu Bainbridge*, *Jay Banta*, **Dean Bjerke** (27 observers), D. Boardman (DBo), *Nelson Boschen*, *Toni Brevillier*, D. Bridges (DBr), *Mike Britten*, B. Christensen, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado Field Ornithologists, *Calleen Cox*, **J. & Marian Cressman** (13), R. Deen, Denver Field Ornithologists, **Coen Dexter** (6), R. Dickson, J. Dunn, *Ruby Ebright*, S. Finnegan, **Elva Fox**, S. Ganley, P. Gay, *Jewel Gifford*, C. Goddard, **May Hanesworth** (30), K. Hawkins, D. Hawksworth, Hawkwatch International, **Phil Hayes** (24), **William Henry**, M. Hopkins (MHo), **Anne Janik**, *Mark Janos*, Dave Johnson (DJo), Joey Kellner, **Ursula Kepler** (22), *Merlin Killpack*, C. Keedy, *Edward Kurtz*, **Jim & Gloria Lawrence** (10), **Dave Leatherman** (24), *Paul Lehman*, **Rich Levad** (6), **Forrest Luke** (5), *Jeff Mackay* (JMa), T. E. Madden, G. Maentz, **Larry Malone** (4), **Terry McEaney** (29), S. McKinney, M. Meador, **Jack Merchant**, *Eric Meyer*, R. Mueller, **Larry Neel**, Nevada Department of Wildlife, M. Nikas, North American Atlas Conference, **Paul Opler** (24), B. Palmer-Bell, D. Pantle, *Peter Paton*, *Norma Peterson*, B. Prather, J. Prather, D. Radovich, *John J. & Elizabeth Rawinski*, **Bert Raynes** (23), *W. Reeser*, B. Rieger (BRi), J. C. Rigli, J. Roller (JRo), R. Rucker, R. A. Ryder, **Terry Sadler** (20), R. Schlageter (RSc), S. Seitz, **Dave Silverman** (18), *Arnold Smith*, **ELLA SORENSEN**, Utah Editor (11), R. Steenberg (RSt), **Jane Thompson** (12), Janeal Thompson (JnlT), *Julie Van Moorhem*, C. & G. Vaughn, *Alan Versaw*, J. Walters (JWL), *Jim & Rosie Watts*, Merrill Webb, *Eric Wilson*, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, M. Yaeger, Yellowstone Valley Audubon Society, *Vic Zerbi*, and Jim Zook.—**HUGH E KINGERY**, 869 Milwaukee St., Denver CO 80206

SOUTHWEST REGION

Arizona

Gary H. Rosenberg and
David Stejskal

Like most fall seasons, fall 1991 provided its usual excitement across the state. Outstanding highlights originated from south of the border and from the eastern reaches of the continent. Mexico provided us with the likes of Brown Booby, Ruddy Ground-Doves, Eared Trogons (confirmed nesting for the first time in the U.S.!), Black-capped Gnatcatchers, and Aztec Thrushes, plus the usual bevy of coveted hummingbird species. Excitement from eastern North America came in the form of Red-headed Woodpecker, Wood Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, and the state's second Field Sparrow. Although there's still room for improvement, we'd like to congratulate the majority of Arizona's birders, and numerous out-of-state visitors, for their fine job of documenting a number of these, and other rarities.

Abbreviations: BTA (*Boyce Thompson Arboretum*); LCR (*Lower Colorado R.*); GFP (*Gila Farms Pond*); MFL (*Many Farms L.*); PAP (*Pinal Air Park*); SPR (*San Pedro R.*); STP (*Sewage Treatment Plant*); VOC (*Village of Oak Creek*).

LOONS TO RAILS

Despite wintering abundantly in the Gulf of California, only a mere 60 mi s. of the Arizona border, Com. Loon remains an uncommon fall migrant throughout the s. portion of the state; the only one reported was at Willcox Oct. 20 (MS). One was also at Prescott Valley Nov. 2–28 (CT). Two Horned Grebes were at Fountain Hills, n.e. of Phoenix, Nov. 5, one remaining into December (SGa). Western Grebe reports were widespread, with scattered individuals turning up the first 3 weeks of November at many of s. Arizona's water areas. Ten adults with young were at Painted Rock Dam Sept. 2 (TC, DT, BN); amazingly, this represents only a 2nd *Maricopa* nesting record.

For the 2nd year in a row, an imm. **Brown Booby** wandered north into Arizona; incredibly, this individual was on a pond on a private ranch n. of Congress, *Yavapai*, Oct. 21–26 (M. Pierce, BD, LH). A single Double-crested Cormorant was at Cow Springs L., w. of Kayenta, Sept. 22 (CL); it is still a sparse visitor anywhere on the Navajo Indian Reservation. Away from any regular areas was a single Neotropic Cormorant, with a flock of Dou-

ble-crested, at Tacna on the Gila R. Nov. 3 (J & RW *et al.*).

An Am. Bittern at Peck's L. Sept. 18 (VG) was reported to have spent the summer there; there are few, if any, recent nesting records from Arizona. Both Great and Snowy egrets were standing on empty nests below Painted Rock Dam Sept. 2 (TC *et al.*); surprisingly, these represent first *Maricopa* nesting records for either species. The Tricolored Heron at Guevavi Ranch near Nogales in summer was still present Aug. 10 (m.ob.). A Cattle Egret was at Kayenta Sept. 22 (CL), providing yet another record for this species in n.e. Arizona.

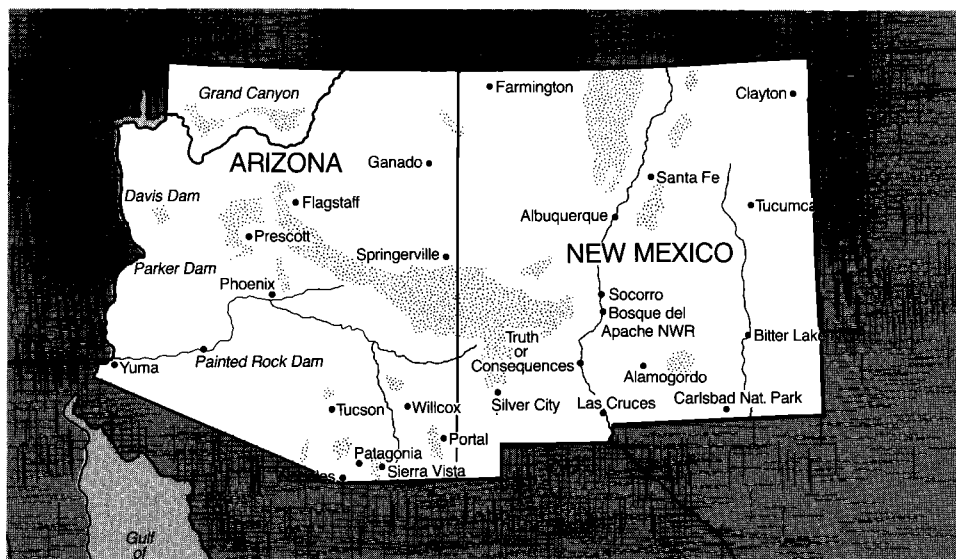
Two **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** were at GFP Oct. 24–November (CBa *et al.*), providing one of few recent records in Arizona. The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck population in the Phoenix area continues to increase with maxima of 63 (including six young) at the Sun Lakes Ponds Aug. 2 (m.ob.), and 22 at Avondale Aug. 17. The only reports this fall of Tundra Swan came from L. Montezuma Oct. 29 (VG) and a 2nd one at Chino Valley Nov. 19 (V. Miller). Ross' Geese, considered sparse migrants and winter visitors, were reported much more frequently than usual, with reports from most regions of the state. Two were at Peck's L. Oct. 14 (C. Van Cleve), one was at Casa Grande Oct. 19–21 (N. Boyagen), one was at Tucson Oct. 26 (KK *et al.*), four were at MFL Nov. 3 (CL) (where this species is turning out to be annual), one was at Gilbert Nov. 13–29 (R. Jones *et al.*), one was at Chino Valley Nov. 19 (V. Miller), and four were at Lower L. Pleasant Nov. 23 (TG *et al.*). The only Eur. Wigeon report came from Scottsdale, where a male was located in late November (S. Stangeland). A Greater Scaup at the Snyder Hill STP Oct. 31 (KK, BL) represents one of the few recent records in Arizona away from the Lower Colorado River Valley. Perhaps a bit more regular on s. Arizona lakes were two Oldsquaw that remained at Snyder Hill STP Nov. 9 through the period (S. Sams *et al.*). A ♂ Surf Scoter was at Lee's Ferry, Colorado R., Oct.

13–20 (SGa), providing one of the few n. Arizona records of this species. Much more scarce within the state as a migrant, although not unprecedented for the n. portion, was a ♀-plumaged White-winged Scoter at Flagstaff Oct. 29 (VG, E. Keefe).

As many as 10 Black Vultures were roosting at the Pinal Air Park pecan grove, n.w. of Tucson, Nov. 3 (PS); there are few recent records as far north as Tucson. A dying Red-shouldered Hawk was picked up Sept. 2 in s.w. Phoenix and brought to a local raptor rehabilitation center, where it later died (R. Maniates, *vide* K. Ingram); there were only 5 previous *Maricopa* records of this hawk and fewer than 25 for the state. The status of Black-shouldered Kite in s. Arizona continues to be confusing. First found nesting in the state in the early 1980s, this species appears to be somewhat cyclic in its occurrence, it was widely reported throughout the s. portion of the state the later part of the decade only to seemingly disappear from the state the last couple of years. This fall provided two cases of circumstantial evidence that this species continues to breed locally; three were seen sporadically Sept. 19–27 at the PAP pecan grove (GHR *et al.*), the same locality where the first Arizona nest was found in 1981, and two adults and two immatures were n. of Sonoita Oct. 3 (GM, R. Dorance), suggesting local breeding. An imm. Gray Hawk at the PAP pecan grove Sept. 21 (GHR *et al.*) provided one of few migrant records away from known breeding localities. Four Soras on Black Mesa Sept. 12–30 (CL) represented a new locale for this species on the Navajo Indian Reservation.

SHOREBIRDS TO TERNS

Individual Black-bellied Plovers were at Willcox Aug. 10–11 (DT, PS), at GFP Aug. 10 (TC, LH), at Gilbert Sept. 28 (TC, DT), and at Willcox Oct. 9 (JB). More unusual was a Lesser Golden Plover at GFP Sept. 21–22; this species has turned out to be a virtually annual fall migrant, with usually no more than one or two found in any given fall





Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper (with Least Sandpiper) in southwest Phoenix, Arizona, on September 19, 1991. Small numbers of juveniles seem to be regular in the state in fall. Photograph/Gary H. Rosenberg.

Snowy Plovers were more prevalent than usual, with individuals throughout s. Arizona August and September. Noteworthy was one at Kayenta Sept. 9–11 (GHR, CL), as there are very few n. Arizona records, and a late individual at Snyder Hill STP Oct. 2 (JB). There are virtually no Mt. Plover records in Arizona away from known wintering sites (e.g., Colorado River Valley, Sulphur Springs Valley). Therefore, of note were one at GFP Sept. 16–29 (SGa *et al.*) and another at Snyder Hill STP Oct. 31 (JH, BL, KK).

A Black-necked Stilt w. of Sedona Sept. 15 (B. Girvin, *vide* AG) was n. of its normal Arizona range. Two Whimbrels were found this season, one at GFP Aug. 7 (SGa), and a 2nd at Gilbert Aug. 23 (TC). Scarce as a migrant in n. Arizona, a single Long-billed Curlew was at MFL Aug. 11 (CL). Despite increased coverage of shorebird areas throughout Arizona the past ten years, Red Knot continues to be a very rare fall migrant, occurring less than annually. Therefore, two this fall were certainly noteworthy; one was at Snyder Hill STP Sept. 14–15 (MS, J. Higgins *et al.*), while another was at GFP Sept. 15–16 (GHR *et al.*). Above-average Sanderling numbers were seen around the state. Of note were singles at Kayenta Sept. 16 and Sept. 19–25 (CL). In the s. portion of the state, four were at Chandler STP Sept. 19 (DS, GHR), four at Willcox Sept. 20 (R. Dorance), and three at GFP Sept. 27–29 (DS *et al.*). Eleven Semipalmated Sandpipers were

seen statewide Aug. 7–Sept. 19; it has become evident that virtually any large concentration of W. Sandpipers throughout August and most of September is likely to have a Semipalmated mixed in. Somewhat early for such a concentration was a flock of 19 Stilt Sandpipers at Willcox Aug. 10 (DT *et al.*).

Although expected in s. Arizona in early fall, Short-billed Dowitchers are still worth noting. One was found at Snyder Hill STP Aug. 16 (DS); one was at Gilbert Aug. 23–Sept. 2 (TC, SGa), one was at Painted Rock Dam Sept. 2 (TC *et al.*), one was near Palo Verde Sept. 2 (TC *et al.*), one was at Willcox Sept. 14 (S. Mlodinow), with another there Sept. 24 (B. Lyons), and one was in s.w. Phoenix Sept. 19 (GHR, DS). This fall we were witness to what was certainly the best fall on record in the West for interior migrant Red Phalaropes. No fewer than eight were in Arizona: one at GFP Sept. 27–29 (DS *et al.*), one at MFL Sept. 28 (CL), perhaps only a 2nd n.e. Arizona record, one at Gilbert Sept. 28 (SGa), one near Roosevelt L. Oct. 25 (H. Messing), one at Snyder Hill STP Oct. 30 (D. Jones), two late individuals at Snyder Hill Nov. 15 (C. Cutler), and another late bird was at Willcox Nov. 16 (C. Cutler). A concentration of 75–100 Red-necked Phalaropes was early Aug. 16 at Tucson (DS).

Practically annual in s. Arizona in fall, a Heermann's Gull put in its appearance, this time at Tucson Nov. 9–15 (MS *et al.*). Fewer than normal numbers of Franklin's Gulls

were reported, with only four individuals found. In contrast, Sabine's Gulls were much in evidence this fall, with five found throughout the state. Two were reported in n.e. Arizona, where there were only 2 or 3 previous records: one was at Springerville Sept. 21 (CB), with another at Kayenta Sept. 27–28 (CL). In s. Arizona, one was at Tucson Sept. 26 (LD), one was at the GFP Oct. 1 (ph SGa), while another was at Willcox Oct. 13–15 (J. Woofenden, LD). Caspian Terns are always unusual away from the Lower Colorado River Valley; two were at GFP Sept. 15 (TC). The only Com. Terns away from the LCR valley were in s.w. Phoenix Sept. 19 (DS, GHR) and at Kayenta Sept. 28 (CL).

PIGEONS TO WOODPECKERS

A single Band-tailed Pigeon at BTA Oct. 10 (SGa) was at a lower elevation than usual, but this montane species is prone to wandering and has been recorded at the arboretum several times in the past. A Common Ground-Dove at Lee's Ferry Oct. 13 (SGa) provided only the 3rd or 4th record for all n. Arizona. Another individual was at Skull Valley near Prescott Nov. 24 (B. Pierson). Only 10 years after the first Ruddy Ground-Doves were found in Phoenix, their status in the Southwest has become established as a regular fall and winter visitor. This fall, five new individuals brings the total of Arizona records to 21 and the total of individual seen to at least 34. A female was at PAF pecan grove Oct. 3 (JK, WR), and a male was located there Oct. 4 (JK *et al.*); both were seen off and on through Oct. 27. Another male was in s.w. Phoenix Oct. 31 (M. Eisenach), and two more were s. of Phoenix Nov. 9–16 (R. Jones). It is too soon to tell whether this rapid explosion of records truly represents the permanent expansion of this species into the United States.

A Groove-billed Ani was seen and tape recorded at the Granite Reef Picnic Area n.e. of Phoenix Oct. 19 (J. Hentz); there have been few recent records of this straggler from Mexico. A calling Whip-poor-will Sept. 21 near Christopher Cr. on the Mogollon Rim (PS) was extremely late for this area. Exciting was the report of 8–10 Black Swifts flying with Vaux's Swifts over Horse Shoe L. e. of Show Low in the White Mts. Aug. 19 (†BZ *et al.*); amazingly, this species has yet to be properly documented in Arizona despite the many sight records.

The White-eared Hummingbird at Ramsey Canyon was last seen Sept. 25, and the Berylline Hummingbird that attempted nesting there was last reported Aug. 31 (*vide* JWh). Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were reported away from known nesting areas at Portal Aug. 11–26 (m.ob.), at Dixie Canyon near Bisbee Aug. 31, and at a Bisbee feeder Sept. 6 through the period (JWh). A Blue-throated Hummingbird was at an unusually low elevation at Bisbee Nov. 2–3 (JWh); this species is not known to wander nearly as much as the Magnificent Hummingbird reported this fall from Sedona Sept. 18 (D. Bell). Lucifer Hummingbirds were reported

from their regular locales of Madera Canyon and Portal, but one in Dixie Canyon near Bisbee Aug. 31 (JWh) represented a new locale. A very late ♂ Broad-tailed Hummingbird was still at a feeder in Ahwatuckee, s. of Phoenix, Oct. 28–Nov. 6 (PB) and another was in Tucson Nov. 12 into December (LK, KK). A late Rufous Hummingbird was at Bisbee Nov. 22 (JWh).

S.A.

Ever since their initial sighting in Cave Creek Canyon in fall 1977, reports of Eared Trogons have become almost an annual Arizona event. Although few of the sightings have been documented, and most have been single-observer sightings and remain unconfirmed, some birdwatchers have suggested that perhaps this rare "Mexican" endemic had colonized the Chiricahua or Huachuca mts. and that the individuals seen virtually annually were the young or adults dispersing from these nests. Despite the farfetchedness of this theory, it is equally hard to imagine a family group of Eared Trogons flying perhaps hundreds of miles over inhospitable habitat to reach the isolated canyons of s.e. Arizona (although Elegant Trogon is a known migrant). The events that transpired in fall 1991 certainly suggest that both theories may indeed be true. No fewer than eight Eared Trogons, and perhaps as many as *twelve*, were found throughout the canyons of the southeast, while at least one pair was confirmed nesting! Three individuals were found in Upper Ramsey Canyon Aug. 6 (*fide* JWh), with a pair seen there throughout September. A nest with two young was located Oct. 12, monitored until it was abandoned Oct. 26, when the young were collected, which apparently died of hypothermia (*U.A.). The pair continued to be heard until at least Nov. 16 (TW, SW). As if this wasn't exciting enough, another pair was in Madera Canyon Aug. 7 (RS) and was seen sporadically into September; a pair was found in Cave Creek Canyon for one day only Aug. 8 (C. Benesh); and a 4th pair was reported from Pinery Canyon Aug. 9 (with no details). Additional records from this fall included a female in upper Gardner Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., Aug. 19 (TC), and another female in Cave Creek Canyon Nov. 22 (D. Jasper). It seems likely that these records represent a major invasion this fall from Mexico. But with the confirmed (unsuccessful) nesting in the Huachucas, one can still only speculate as to their origin.

Another puzzle to contemplate is the status of Green Kingfisher in s.e. Arizona. Since the first nest was located on the upper SPR a few years ago, one or two kingfishers have been present continuously (yet seen sporadically), with this fall being no exception). A female was seen along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia Aug. 12–26, where it has been inconsistently reported for several years. Two



Juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker near Green Valley, Arizona, on November 24, 1991. Sixth state record. Photograph/Steve Ganley.

were at Guevavi Ranch Sept. 21 (DT), one female was at Arivaca Oct. 18–Nov. 23 (W. Burson, PS), and another was at Nogales Oct. 20. Could all these records represent a natural dispersal from breeding grounds in Mexico, or are we witnessing a more widespread expansion of this species' breeding range into s. Arizona? The only report of Lewis' Woodpecker in the lowlands this fall came from Patagonia Nov. 3 (JB). One of the outstanding fall finds was the imm. **Red-headed Woodpecker** at the edge of a pecan grove near Green Valley Nov. 21 (†M. Hansen, †J. Vinck, B. Jones; ph. GHR, SGa) that remained until the end of the period, stuffing pecans into cavities of a large, dead cottonwood tree; this established only a 6th Arizona record. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, a rare fall and winter visitor to the state, were at Madera Canyon Oct. 20 (WR) and at Kino Springs near Nogales Nov. 16 (RF). Equally scarce in the state, Red-breasted Sapsuckers were reported from Kino Springs Nov. 16 (BN) and in s.w. Phoenix Nov. 23–24 (CB *et al.*). In recent years, the "Yellow-shafted" form of N. Flicker has been reported infrequently from Arizona. Four sightings occurred this fall; one was at Keams Canyon Oct. 12 (TC *et al.*), one was at Scottsdale Oct. 13 (BN), one male was at the BTA Oct. 20–29 (CT), while a female was there Nov.

9–16 (CT, D. Rosey).

FLYCATCHERS TO VIREOS

A late Greater Pewee was out of place at the BTA Sept. 22–23 (CT) while another remained at Madera Canyon until at least Nov. 14 (LD). Extremely early were the reports of an E. Phoebe in Dixie Canyon near Bisbee Aug. 31 (JWh) and one at the Granite Reef Picnic Area n.e. of Phoenix Sept. 24–Oct. 1 (ph. SGa). Two additional individuals were at Arivaca Nov. 24 (JK) and along the Gila R. s.w. of Phoenix Nov. 29 (CB). Incredibly late for a nesting record was a pair of Say's Phoenix with nestlings at Apache L. Nov. 19 (D. McGehee). Also late was a single Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Ramsey Canyon Oct. 14 (J. Higgins). Two E. Kingbird reports were received this fall, one from Kayenta (S. Studebaker, W. Allen, *fide* CL) and another from s.w. Phoenix Sept. 8 (M. Jakle, T. Gatz), the latter representing the first *Mari-copa* record. Two Cassin's Kingbirds at Continental Nov. 24 (JB) were somewhat late despite this species' tendency to linger in small numbers. A Tropical Kingbird along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia Aug. 9 (BZ *et al.*) is one of few records we know of for this flycatcher away from known breeding areas in the state, the closest being just a short distance south near Nogales.

A ♀ Purple Martin in s.w. Phoenix Sept. 19 (DS, GHR) was well away from known breeding areas. Two at the Tucson STP Oct. 27 (KK) were surprisingly late as migrants. This fall provided 2 **Cave Swallow** reports: one was well-described from Kino Springs Aug. 17 (†S. Mlodinow), and a 2nd individual was seen well at Tucson Oct. 27 (†KK, T. Hoar). There were two previous state records: one that frequented the University of Arizona campus with Cliff Swallows for several summers and one on the Phoenix CBC in 1987. A Black-billed Magpie at Kayenta Sept. 30 (CL) was w. of its normal breeding range in n.e. Arizona. Intriguing was the pair of **Black-capped Gnatcatchers** reported from Chino Canyon on the w. side of the Santa Rita Mts. Aug. 28 (†S. Mlodinow *et al.*); this is the location where a pair nested in 1981 and 1982.

A Townsend's Solitaire was reported from Yuma Nov. 2 (H. Beatty *et al.*). Arizona's 14th Wood Thrush was at the BTA Oct. 22–28 (LH, BD, CT *et al.*). Single Varied Thrushes were at Shonto, e. of Page, Oct. 4 (P. Norton), and at Madera Canyon Nov. 2 (J. Burns). This fall saw 2 reports of **Aztec Thrush** from Arizona; a male and female were together in upper Ramsey Canyon Sept. 25–27 (JK, RBe, SH); in fact, the observers had both Aztec Thrush and Eared Trogon in the same binocular field! The 2nd report came from Madera Canyon Oct. 26 (†S. Lindenmayer). These represent the 12th and 13th state records. Gray Catbirds are extremely scarce as migrants in the state away from their breeding grounds in the White Mts.; one at the Desert Museum w. of Tucson Nov. 7–9 (CT) was not only a local rarity but one of the latest state records. Rare but regular in fall, Brown Thrashers were reported from VOC Oct. 14 (V. Todd) and in Scottsdale Nov. 4 (Carol Wong *et al.*).

Although Sprague's Pipit is a regular winter visitor throughout the grasslands in s. Arizona, it is rarely seen in migration away from its normal areas of occurrence. One n.w. of Tucson at the PAP pecan grove Oct. 11 (JK) represents one of the few local records. This fall, N. Shrike was first detected in n.e. Arizona Oct. 14 on Black Mesa, and four were between Kayenta and Cow Springs L. Nov. 17 (CL). Red-eyed Vireos were reported from Patagonia Aug. 9 (P. Stuart), Tumacacori Sept. 15 (R. Haaseth), and BTA Oct. 10 (SGA). One of the few state migrant records of Gray Vireo came from the BTA Sept. 25 (CT). Unusually late was a Warbling Vireo at BTA Oct. 26–28 (SGa, CT).

WARBLERS TO SPARROWS

The warbler of the season was the **Blue-winged Warbler** at the BTA Sept. 19 (†CT), for a 5th state record. A stunning ♂ Golden-winged Warbler was in Ramsey Canyon Nov. 21 and remained into December (JWh), marking only a 14th Arizona record; there is only one previous winter record for the state (and N. America). Tennessee Warbler records came from e. Tucson Aug. 25 (MS),



Yellow-throated Warbler at Granite Reef Dam, east of Phoenix, Arizona, on September 29, 1991. Photograph/Steve Ganley.

from the PAP pecan grove Oct. 12 (JB), and from Granite Reef Dam Oct. 27 (SGa); this warbler continues to be one of the rare but regular fall "vagrants" in the state. Only two N. Parulas were found: one at Tucson Aug. 10 (C. Thompson) and another at Madera Canyon Oct. 20 (WR). Six Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported Sept. 27–Oct. 11 statewide; the Sept. 27 individual was at Navajo in the northeast, where there are very few records. The only Black-throated Blue Warbler this fall was a male at the PAP pecan grove Oct. 10 (BL *et al.*). A Yellow-throated Warbler was at the Granite Reef Picnic Area Sept. 29–Oct. 6 (ph. SGa); this species has become almost annual in the state. Palm Warblers have also become regular in the fall, with 2 sightings this year, one from the PAP pecan grove Oct. 3 (WR *et al.*) and one near the town of Maricopa, s.w. of Phoenix Nov. 16 (R. Jones). Blackpoll Warbler is another species that only a few years ago was considered a real rarity but today is almost annual. One was along the Salt R. near the Granite Reef Picnic Area Oct. 26–27 (BN, DT, ph. SGa). At least seven Black-and-white Warblers and eight Am. Redstarts were reported around the state this fall, about average. Exciting was a Prothonotary Warbler at Kayenta Sept. 28; there are only a couple of other records from n. Arizona. The only Ovenbird was at Nogales Nov. 5 (D. Flower). At least eight N. Waterthrushes were reported. A Louisiana Waterthrush was in lower Madera Canyon Oct. 12–Nov. 23 (LD), likely the same individual returning to an Arizona wintering site.

A Hepatic Tanager at the BTA Sept. 20–23 (CT) was at an unusually low Arizona

elevation; there are few state lowland records. This fall was particularly good for Rose-breasted Grosbeaks: one was at the PAP pecan grove Oct. 3 (WR); one was in Madera Canyon Oct. 5 (LD); one was at Ganado Wash Oct. 12 (TC *et al.*), one at Patagonia Nov. 3 (JB), and another at Phoenix Nov. 10. No fewer than *nine* Painted Buntings were scattered throughout s. Arizona, many in the last half of August. One at S. Fork in the White Mts. Sept. 13 (GHR *et al.*) was among few records for the n.e. portion of the state. The only Dickcissels all came from the PAP pecan grove, where one was seen Sept. 19 (DS, GHR); up to three were there into late September (m.ob.). Reliable Clay-colored Sparrow reports were received from Kayenta Sept. 16 (CL), Apache L. Sept. 28 (JK), and from the PAP pecan grove, where one was present Oct. 3–27, with a 2nd individual Oct. 23–27 (KK, BL, WR *et al.*). Undoubtedly, the prize passerine of the season was the **Field Sparrow** photographed at Cow Springs L., w. of Kayenta, Oct. 14 (†TC, †LH, †CL, ph. DT), only the 2nd Arizona record; this remains one of the rarest vagrants in all the West. Unusually n. and w. of their normal Arizona range were two Grasshopper Sparrows at Prescott Valley Oct. 14–23 (W. Anderson, CT), providing what may be only the 2nd *Yavapai* record. Only one Harris' Sparrow report was received, from the desert oasis at Theba Oct. 19 (CB *et al.*). Still exceptional in the state but undoubtedly overlooked was a Lapland Longspur in the San Rafael Grasslands Nov. 28 (WR, JK). Three Bobolinks were found this fall, with one at the Empire Cienega Aug. 20 (TC), another was at Sierra Vista Aug. 27 (†S. Mlodinow), and a 3rd was at Phoenix Oct. 2 (JD). Six Lawrence's Goldfinches at Skull Valley near Prescott Nov. 26 (CT) were the only ones reported.

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New Mexico

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Abbreviations: Bitter Lake (*Bitter Lake Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*); Bosque Refuge (*Bosque del Apache Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*); C.C.N.P. (*Carlsbad Caverns Nat'l Park*); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte Lake*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas Nat'l Wildlife Ref.*); P.O. Canyon (*Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.*); R.G.N.C. (*Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*). Place names in italics are counties.

LOONS TO QUAIL

A Pacific Loon was at E.B.L. Nov. 2–17 (JP *et al.*, ph. LG). At least 27 Com. Loons were reported, including highs of five to seven at Heron L. (JH *et al.*), Maxwell N.W.R. (CR, CS), and Conchas L. (CR) Oct. 24–Nov. 14. Late were small young Pied-billed Grebes at L.V.N.W.R. Oct. 6 (CR) and *Aechmophorus* spp. at E.B.L. Nov. 7–9 (LG *et al.*). Fifty-five Eared Grebe nests were at Zuni in August, and most were successful (DC). At least 17 Horned Grebes were reported, with maxima of three to four at Heron L. (JH *et al.*), L.V.N.W.R. (CR), Bosque Refuge (JP *et al.*), and E.B.L. (JP *et al.*) Oct. 28–Nov. 28. Peripheral Am. White Pelicans included one at L.V.N.W.R. (CR) and 22 at Zuni (DC) Oct. 16–20, while an imm. **Brown Pelican** at Bitter Lake was last seen Aug. 23 (ph. T. Rossignol).

An Am. Bittern was at Black L., *Colfax*, Aug. 7 (SOW), and two were at Brantley L. Oct. 26 (SB). A local first were four Great Egrets in the Las Vegas area Aug. 10 (CR)—with one still there Aug. 28 (PES) and Sept. 26 (CR). New Mexico's first **Reddish Egret** was an imm. at Bitter Lake Sept. 2–27 (JS *et al.*; ph. JS) with a Tricolored Heron there Sept. 20 (CB *et al.*). Cattle Egrets in the Pecos Valley included a northerly one at Sumner L. and a high of 65 at Brantley L. Sept. 23–24 (JH *et al.*). Noteworthy was an ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Bosque Refuge Aug. 24 (JP, MR) and a Green-backed Heron at Watrous Aug. 11 (CR). Highs for White-faced Ibises were 148 at Zuni (DC), 40 at Galisteo (PI, LH), and 30 at Sumner L. (JH *et al.*) Aug. 31–Sept. 24; the last at Las Cruces was Oct. 25 (CS).

Noteworthy was a Ross' Goose (plus one *Chen* sp.) at Wagon Mound Aug. 31 (JH, JV); nine to 15 were at Maxwell N.W.R. and 32+ at L.V.N.W.R. Nov. 5–24 (CR *et al.*). Also notable were a Snow Goose at Zuni Oct. 19 (ph. DC) and 18 Greater White-fronteds at L.V.N.W.R. Nov. 5 (CR). A pair of "Mexican" Ducks was at Avalon L. Sept. 25 (JH *et al.*).

al.). One to three Greater Scaup were at Maxwell N.W.R. (CR, CS), L.V.N.W.R. (CR), and E.B.L. (JP, A. Kraynik) Nov. 9–28. An imm. Oldsquaw was at Bosque Refuge Nov. 6 (T. Huning, ph. JB), while southerly was a Com. Goldeneye at Palomas, Chih., Nov. 9 (JB, CB). Highs for Hooded Mergansers were three to four at Manzano L., *Torrance*, Oct. 30 (F. & R. Slown) and Caballo L. Nov. 38 (JP, LG). Unusual numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers were reported, including as many as 30 at E.B.L. (JP, CB), 20 at Caballo L. (JP, LG), and five at Evans L., *Grant* (RF), Oct. 26–Nov. 30.

Some 24 Ospreys flew over the Manzano Mts. lookout Sept. 4–24 (SH *et al.*), a record there. A pair of Mississippi Kites fledged at least one young at Mesilla in August (CS). Counts of migrant accipiters in the Manzanos yielded 1081 Sharp-shinned Aug. 28–Nov. 5 and 1104 Cooper's Aug. 27–Oct. 29; the 10 N. Goshawks Oct. 8–Nov. 3 (SH *et al.*) represented a 17% decline from the 1985–1990 average. Notably late was an ad. Com. Black-hawk at Glenwood Nov. 21 (JH). Harris' Hawks reportedly continued to increase in numbers and range in *Eddy* (*vide* SW). Noteworthy were five Broad-winged Hawks over the Manzano Mts. Sept. 20–30 (SH *et al.*). An injured imm. **Red-shouldered Hawk** at Alameda Nov. 28 (M. Haederle, L. Linthicum) later died and was preserved as New Mexico's first specimen and 2nd verified record. Late was a Swainson's Hawk at L.V.N.W.R. Oct. 19 (JH, JV) and two catching bats at C.C.N.P. Oct. 29 (*vide* SW). The count of 124 Golden Eagles at the Manzano Mts. lookout was a 36% increase over the 1985–1990 average (SH *et al.*). Ten Merlins were detected over the Manzano Mts. Oct. 4–25 (SH *et al.*). A record 21 Peregrines passed over the Manzano Mts. Aug. 29–Oct. 29 (SH *et al.*).

Late Blue Grouse were broods on Johnson Mesa, *San Miguel*, Aug. 6 (CR) and east of Mogollon Aug. 19 (D. Holderman). Adult Montezuma Quail with young were in P.O. Canyon Sept. 12 (RS); six N. Bobwhites were at Ft. Sumner Sept. 10 (CR).

RAILS TO TERNS

Young Virginia Rails were at Mangas Springs Aug. 1 (RF); two Com. Moorhens were near Loving Oct. 22 (PES). Early Sandhill Cranes were at L.V.N.W.R. Sept. 19 (CR) and in the Gila Valley Sept. 29 (RF), while 10 at Las Cruces Sept. 26 (BZ) were the earliest ever for *Doña Ana*. Also notable were 150 near McIntosh, *Torrance*, Nov. 28 (JH, RD) and 40 over P.O. Canyon Nov. 16 (RS). The season's first Whooping Crane was at Bosque Refuge Nov. 7 (RT, PB), with 12 expected to winter in New Mexico.

At least 12 Black-bellied Plovers were at Bitter Lake (v.o.), with singles at Bosque Refuge (CB *et al.*), Holloman L. (GE), and Laguna Grande (SW) Aug. 14–Nov. 3. Thirty-five Snowy Plovers (including young) were at Holloman L. Aug. 17 (CS); numbers were down in the Laguna Grande area, *Eddy*,

perhaps due to ditching and illegal dumping of toxicants—including 19 tons of arsenic (*vide* SW). Noteworthy were 39 Mt. Plovers near Melrose Sept. 10 (CR), with turf-farm highs of 135 at Moriarty Aug. 3 (JP) and about 200 at Los Lunas Sept. 8 (LG)—where the last bird was seen Nov. 16 (JP *et al.*).

The only Willets reported were one to two at Maxwell N.W.R. Sept. 26 (CR) and at Tyrone Aug. 13 & 15 (EL). Low to moderate numbers of Upland Sandpipers passed through *Eddy* and *Lea* in mid-August (SW *et al.*), with a high of 25 near Otis Aug. 16 (JP); a westerly straggler was at Los Lunas Aug. 16 (ph. LG) and Sept. 9 (ph. JB). Noteworthy numbers of Sanderlings were reported, with maxima of five to eight at Bitter Lake (JP, DH), Holloman L. (CS), and Mesilla (CS *et al.*) Aug. 17–Sept. 22. Single White-rumped Sandpipers were reported at Bitter Lake Sept. 2 (SW, T. Hines) and Laguna Grande Oct. 20 (SW), as well as a Red Knot at Bitter Lake Sept. 2 (JS). Two late Baird's Sandpipers were at Storrer L. Oct. 19 (JH, JV), as were one to two Pectorals at Isleta Marsh Oct. 27–28 (BO *et al.*) and Holloman L. Nov. 2 (GE). A probable **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** was reported at the latter site Oct. 27 (BO, D. Ferguson), for the 2nd state record. New Mexico's first verified **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were one to two at the Los Lunas turf farm Sept. 7–14 (JP *et al.*, ph. SC, LG). Up to four possible Short-billed Dowitchers were at Zuni Aug. 6–17 (DC). One to two **Red Phalaropes** were reported at L.V.N.W.R. Oct. 1 (CR) and E.B.L. Oct. 14 (LG, CB), while up to three Red-neckeds were Chicosa Lake S.P. (CR), Zuni (DC), Bitter Lake (JP), and Laguna Grande (JH *et al.*) Aug. 17–Oct. 5.

Single, highly-probable juv. **Pomarine and Parasitic jaegers** were at E.B.L. Oct. 12–14 (JP *et al.*). The state's first verified **Western Gull** was an immature collected Nov. 7 at Heron L. (JH *et al.*, specimen identification *vide* J.R. Jehl and G. McCaskie); single imm. Thayer's and Herring gulls and over 50 Californias were also present. Other Californias included up to 12 at Zuni Oct. 5 (DC), Eagle Nest L. Aug. 7 (JH) and Nov. 14 (CS), and Cochiti L. Oct. 27 and Nov. 27 (JH), plus one at E.B.L. Oct. 5 and Nov. 2 (JP). Late was a Franklin's Gull at Las Cruces Nov. 1 (BZ). Unprecedented was an influx of Sabine's Gulls Sept. 20–Oct. 14, with four at Maxwell N.W.R. (CR), two (including the only adult) at L.V.N.W.R. (CR), one at Bitter Lake (v.o., ph. JB, LG), and up to five at E.B.L. (CB *et al.*).

Rare terns included one to two Caspians at Bitter Lake Sept. 20–22 (BO *et al.*; ph. JB) and E.B.L. Oct. 25 (CB, JB), plus single imm. Commons at Springer L. (CR), Santa Rosa L. (JH *et al.*), La Joya W.M.A. (JP, DH), Bosque Refuge (JS, JP), and Bitter Lake (JP) Aug. 16–Oct. 5, plus two immatures and an adult at Brantley L. Sept. 25 (JH *et al.*).

DOVES TO SWALLOWS

White-winged Doves remained at Albuquerque until at least Nov. 7 (AS), and

through September at Redrock where usually gone by August (AF). Single White-winged were at Silver City and Tyrone Aug. 7–8 (EL) and 50 were at Percha Dam Nov. 23 (JP); numbers were reported growing in Carlsbad, with single stragglers in e. *Eddy* Aug. 13 and near Jal Aug. 31 (SW). An Inca Dove at Redrock Oct. 7 (AF) was the first there in several years. In the Rio Grande Valley, northerly Incas were at Socorro (JS *et al.*) and Bosque Refuge (CB *et al.*).

An ad. Yellow-billed Cuckoo was feeding a young near Evans L. Sept. 5 (EL); late was a bird at Percha Dam Oct. 12 (JP). Twenty Yellow-billed and one Black-billed Cuckoo were at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 15 (LG). A Whiskered Screech-Owl was heard in Cottonwood Canyon Nov. 29 (JP, LG). Extremely late was a Com. Nighthawk seen and heard at Albuquerque Nov. 6 (BO). Blue-throated Hummingbirds were present in P.O. Canyon Oct. 16–23 (RS) and one (plus several Magnificents) were in the Animas Mts. Aug. 18 (CB, JB). Two Magnificent, 33 Calliope, and 213 Rufous hummingbirds were banded near Roberts L., *Grant*, Aug. 12–17 (W. Calder). The season's first imm. Lucifer at P.O. Canyon was Aug. 1, where the species remained at least until Sept. 28 (RS). Anna's Hummingbirds were there in August and September (RS), plus one or two at Las Cruces beginning in mid-October (CS).

Seven southbound Lewis' Woodpeckers were over Sandia Crest (10,500 ft.) Sept. 15 (JP, HS); westerly was an imm. Red-headed Woodpecker at Mesilla Oct. 30–Nov. 1 (EW *et al.*). Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were at Bosque Refuge Oct. 19–Nov. 16 (v.o., ph. JB) and Percha Dam Oct. 5 (JP), while also notable was a Williamson's at P.O. Canyon Oct. 18 (RS). Southerly was a Downy Woodpecker at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 22 (PES), while northerly were single Ladder-backed at Miami L., *Colfax*, Oct. 26 and Las Vegas Nov. 24 (CR, AM).

A westerly Least Flycatcher was banded at R.G.N.C. Aug. 31 (LG), while late was a singing Willow Flycatcher at Isleta Marsh Aug. 3 (JP). Early were single E. Phoebes at L.V.N.W.R. Aug. 7 & 10 (CR, JP) and Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 14 (CR), while a highly probable Great Crested Flycatcher was at the latter site Sept. 21–22 (CB *et al.*). Westerly were single E. Kingbirds at Zuni Sept. 7 (ph. DC), and Bosque Refuge Aug. 24 (JP, MR); another was at Galisteo Aug. 31 (PI, LH), while also notable were two Westerns at 9400 ft in *San Miguel* Aug. 6 (CR). "Fair numbers" of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were present in *Eddy* and *Lea* (*vide* SW), including 15 at Bell L. Sept. 26 (JH *et al.*); the last was one near Carlsbad Oct. 22 (PES). Notable were one to two Purple Martins at Mesilla Sept. 4 (GE) and near Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 10 (ph. SW). Late were two Tree Swallows at Bosque Refuge Nov. 16 (JP *et al.*) and one at E.B.L. Nov. 23 (JP, CB); easterly were three Violet-greens at Bell L. (Allread Tank) Aug. 15 (SW). Cave Swallows at C.C.N.P. peaked at 2800 Sept. 26 (SW)

CORVIDS TO WAXWINGS

Westerly Blue Jays were at Sugarite Canyon, *Colfax* (CR), Las Vegas (CR), Santa Fe (LH, JH), and in the Albuquerque area (BO, J. Phillips) in October or later, and one was at Percha Dam Nov. 28 (*vide* PRS). Flocks of up to 200 Pinyon Jays exploited abundant pinyon crops in the Santa Fe (JH *et al.*) and Las Vegas (CR) areas, with juveniles noted in the former Aug. 18–20 (JH). Easterly were about 60 near Trujillo Oct. 24 (CR) and 11 near Ragland, *Quay*, Sept. 10 (CR), while about 100 were at Mangas Springs Sept. 14 & 20 (RF). Notable were one to two Clark's Nutcrackers at Heron L. (JH *et al.*) and near Pilar (CR *et al.*) Nov. 7–9, plus five in Sugarite Canyon Oct. 17 (CR). Local firsts were eight Am. Crows at Conchas L. Oct. 24 (CR). At least 100 Chihuahuan Ravens were reported in the vicinity of Stanley Sept. 23 (CR *et al.*), in an area where the first *Santa Fe* nest was recorded last spring. Up to eight were at roosts in s.e. Albuquerque Oct. 29–Nov. 26 (B. Willard).

Notable were 21 Black-capped and five Mountain chickadees in Sugarite Canyon Oct. 17 (CR). Lower-elevation Red-breasted Nuthatches included eight at Trujillo Canyon, *San Miguel*, Oct. 24 (CR) and one at Bell L., Sept. 26 (JH *et al.*). Up to five Canyon Wrens were n.e. of Clayton in late fall (A. Fry, *vide* WC). Very rare in New Mexico, a Carolina Wren at Cedar Crest Oct. 21 and earlier (JP, LG) was the 3rd for the Sandia Mts. Submontane Golden-crowned Kinglets were at Springer (CR, AM), Trujillo Canyon (CR), and Rattlesnake Springs/Cass Draw (JP, LG) Oct. 19–26, plus one at Columbus Nov. 28 (JP, LG). Five E. Bluebirds remained in the Gila Valley near where young fledged in June (S. MacDonald, *vide* RF); others were near Moriarty (JH, RD) and in the Rio Grande Valley Oct. 30 or later (v.o.).

An easterly Townsend's Solitaire was at Bell L. Sept. 26 (RD), while rather late were a Gray Catbird at Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 19–20 (JP, LG) and a Sage Thrasher in the Sandia Mts. Nov. 21 (CR, PA). Westerly was a Brown Thrasher near Belen Nov. 17 (AS *et al.*). A Curve-billed Thrasher near Las Vegas Sept. 1 & 12 (CR) was a local first; singles were in the Sandia Mts. Nov. 21 (CR, PA) and at Forrester, *Quay*, Sept. 10 (CA). A few Cedar Waxwings were in the north beginning Sept. 8 (v.o.), with southerly reports at Zuni Nov. 17 & 23 (DC), Moriarty Sept. 23 (CR *et al.*), and Nogal Canyon, *Lincoln*, Oct. 19 (K. Herman *et al.*). Young Phainopeplas were at Redrock Aug. 3 (RF).

VIREOS TO TANAGERS

A first for the Sandia Mts. was a Gray Vireo nest with young near Piedra Lisa Spring Aug. 1 (HS). Somewhat late were one to two non-plumbeus Solitary Vireos at Dripping Springs, Organ Mts., Oct. 24 (CS, EW) and Rattlesnake Springs Oct. 19 (LG, JP). A Hutton's Vireo was at the former site Oct. 6 (GE) & 24, where the species has been ob-

served in autumn for the past 3 years (CS). A Yellow-throated Vireo was at Boone's Draw Sept. 20 (JB, CB), and single Philadelphia Vireos were at Valmora Sept. 26 (CR) and Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 14–15 (LG). Still unverified in New Mexico, a highly-probable Yellow-green Vireo was at Rattlesnake Springs Aug. 11–18 (R. Webster *et al.*).

Unusually late were single Yellow Warblers at Bosque Refuge Nov. 23 (CS) and Glenwood Nov. 21 (JH). The 12–15 Hermit Warblers in Indian Creek, Animas Mts., Aug. 18 (CB, ph. JB) constitute the highest count ever for the state. Among the more acceptable records of rarer species were a Yellow-throated Warbler at Percha Dam Sept. 24–Oct. 12 (CB, ph. LG), ♀/imm Cerulean Warbler at Percha Dam Oct. 5–14 (JP *et al.*), and Louisiana Waterthrush at Bell L. Aug. 12 (SW). Other notable warblers were single Tennessees at R.G.N.C. (JP, LG), Boone's Draw (BO), and Percha Dam (CB, CS) Aug. 25–Oct. 19 (CS); solitary Palms were at Variadero Oct. 24 (CR), Caballo L. Nov. 23 (JP, CB), and Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 21 (BO); a Black-and-white at Socorro Sept. 12 (PRS) and Percha Dam S.P. Sept. 25 (CB)—plus others in the east; a ♂ Black-throated Blue at Albuquerque Oct. 14–17 (m.ob.; ph. JB, LG); a ♀ Hooded at R.G.N.C. Sept. 15 and a male Oct. 26–27 (LG, JP)—plus a female at Percha Dam Sept. 24 (CB); an Ovenbird banded at R.G.N.C. Sept. 29 (LG); and a Painted Redstart at Waldrop Park, e. *Chaves*, Sept. 23 (ph. LG). Northwesterly and late was a Summer Tanager at Zuni Oct. 29 (ph. DC); also notable were Westerns at Percha Dam S.P. (CS) and Rattlesnake Springs (LG) until Oct. 19–20.

CARDINALS TO CARDULINES

Local firsts were single N. Cardinals at the WIPP site, *Eddy*, Aug. 1 and at Bell L. Aug. 12 (SW). A juv. Blue Grosbeak was being fed by an adult at L.V.N.W.R. Oct. 1 (CR). A Lazuli Bunting lingered until Oct. 19–20 at Rattlesnake Springs (JP, LG), where up to eight Indigos and six Painteds were present Aug. 14–18 (CR, CS). Three Indigos were singing in the Organ Mts. Aug. 17 (CS), while northerly was an imm. Painted banded at R.G.N.C. Aug. 11 (LG). A Dickcissel was singing at Maxwell N.W.R. Aug. 8 (B. Foy), while single migrants were near Yeso Sept. 9 (CR) and Jornada Sept. 13 & 16 (CS). Easterly were four Canyon Towhees in the Bell L. area Aug. 12–15 (SW *et al.*).

New Mexico's first verified Botteri's Sparrows were three or four singing along Animas Cr. on the Gray Ranch, *Hidalgo*, Aug. 19 (JB, CB, ph., tape-recording), where first detected in June; the only prior report for the state was of birds summering near Rodeo in 1977. A Lark Sparrow was still near Cimarron Oct. 26 (CR, AM) and a Black-throated near La Bajada Oct. 27 (JH). Clay-colored reported in areas of note included a few in the n. Sandia Mts. (HS), Los Lunas (JP *et al.*), and Bosque Refuge Aug. 24–Sept. 7, plus a very late one at Jornada Nov. 21 (CS) No-

table were a Sage Sparrow at L.V.N.W.R. Oct. 6 (CR), three Lark Buntings near Angel Fire Aug. 9 (JH), and a probable Baird's Sparrows at L.V.N.W.R. Oct. 6 (CR). Two Grasshopper Sparrows were at San Simon Cienega, *Hidalgo*, Oct. 3-4 (B. Hayward *et al.*); a few others were reported in the east from Maxwell N.W.R. to Rattlesnake Springs and Jal. Aug. 1-Oct. 22 (v.o.).

A juv. **Le Conte's Sparrow** taken at San Simon Cienega Oct. 4 (RD) was a first for s.w. New Mexico and one of the few westerly records from the state. Early were one to two Song Sparrows at L.V.N.W.R. and Watrous Aug. 7 & 11 (CR). Swamp Sparrows were at Zuni Nov. 23 (DC) and Glenwood Nov. 21 (JH), with four or five at Gray Ranch Nov. 19 (CB). An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow was banded at R.G.N.C. Oct. 26 (ph. LG), as was a Fox in P.O. Canyon Nov. 23 (RS). A Harris' Sparrow banded at Las Cruces in 1989 was recaptured there Nov. 3 (CS); single birds were seen at Springer Oct. 26 (CR, AM) and Bosque Refuge Nov. 23 (LG). At least 35 McCown's Longspurs were near McIntosh Nov. 28 (JH, RD) and over 250 at Las Cruces Nov. 15 (ph. BZ)—where they greatly outnumbered Chestnut-collareds; one or two Laplands were also at the latter Nov. 1 & 15 (ph. BZ). Highly unusual were two **Snow Buntings** at Stubblefield L. Nov. 14 (CR, CS).

A Bobolink was at L.V.N.W.R. Aug. 10 (JP) and five at Rattlesnake Springs Sept. 21 (JP, DH). Notable were three to five Great-tailed Grackles at Los Ojos Nov. 7 and Santa Fe Sept. 28 (JH *et al.*), plus 60 near Clayton Aug. 27 (WC). Late Com. Grackles were at Santa Fe Oct. 14 & 20 (JH) and Cimarron Nov. 14 (CR, CS). Twelve Rosy Finches were at Angel Fire Nov. 12, with as many as 150 there in mid-October (*vide* CS); up to 40 were at Sandia Crest Nov. 24-28, including mostly "Brown-capped" but at least a few "Gray-crowned" and one "Black" (JP *et al.*). One or more Pine Grosbeaks were on Sandia Crest Nov. 10 (HS) & 24 (JP). The only Cassin's Finches reported were one at Santa Fe Sept. 29 (JH) and six in the Sandia Mts. Sept. 3 (PES). Peripheral Red Crossbills included one or two in Trujillo Canyon Oct. 26 (CR) and at El Malpais N.M. Aug. 30 (JH), plus 10 in the Gallinas Mts. and 25 in the Jicarilla Mts., both *Lincoln*, Oct. 28 (SOW). A few submontane Pine Siskins appeared as early as August at Santa Fe (JH, LH), the Las Vegas Area (CR), El Malpais N.M. (JH), and Pleasanton (JH), becoming more widespread but generally in small numbers by mid-October. One to two Am. Goldfinches were at Parkview Aug. 22 (PES) and L.V.N.W.R. Aug. 15 (CR). Late Lesser Goldfinches in the north included a few at Trujillo Canyon Oct. 24 (CR), Springer Oct.

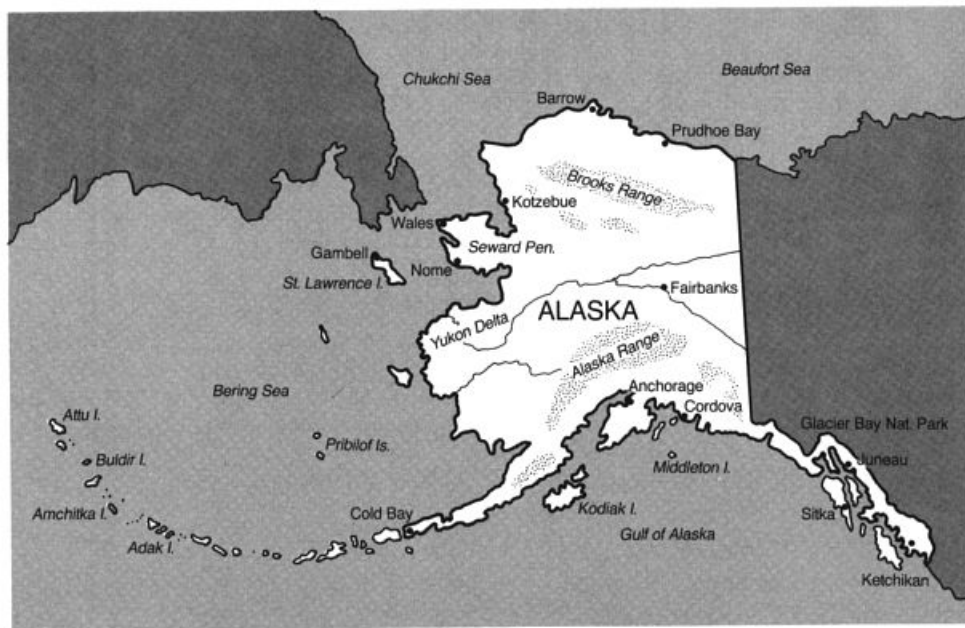
26 (CR), and Santa Fe Nov. 8 (JH); six were at Jal L. Oct. 21 (PRS). Low to moderate numbers of Evening Grosbeaks were present in the Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Las Vegas areas (v.o.), plus three in Sugarite Canyon Oct. 17 (CR).

Cited observers: Paul Adel, Pat Basham, Sarah Battin, Charles Black, James Black, David Cleary, Wes Cook, Steve Cox, Robert Dickerman, Gordon Ewing, Ralph Fisher, Alton Ford, Larry Gorbet, Lois Herrmann, Stephen Hoffman, John Hubbard, David Hughes, Pat Insley, Eugene Lewis, Andre Mackey, Bruce Ostyn, John Parmeter, Mary Root, Christopher Rustay, Catherine Sandell, Robert Scholes, Hart Schwarz, John Shipman, Patricia R. Snider, Paul E. Steel, Alan Swain, Ross Teuber, James Vaught, Steve West, S.O. Williams, Eleanor Wootten, Barry Zimmer.—**SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III and JOHN P. HUBBARD**, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

ALASKA REGION

*T. G. Tobish, Jr., and
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Autumn 1991 began with widespread mild conditions that continued to late September, at which time cold high pressure took over the mainland. Observers Regionwide noted an early passerine peak by mid-September. A following cold period prevailed long enough to usher in an early freeze-up throughout the mainland by mid-October. Passerines, shorebirds, and even waterfowl were pushed out of the north, northwest, and interior sections by mid-October. Unfortunately, although milder weather followed well into November, few birds had remained. Except for a break from the early October high pressure system, the southern half of the Region was inundated with the fall monsoon. At least two low pressure storms with associated



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heavy rain fronts reached into the Gulf of Alaska after beginning as tropical monsoons off the northern Philippines. Southeast Alaska was particularly stormy all season, and September and October monthly rainfall records were broken at scattered locales from Yakutat to Ketchikan. Interminable November snow storms battered Southcoastal and by period's end snowfall accumulations had nearly exceeded averages for most entire winter seasons in the Cook Inlet Basin. Typical for fall seasons, the majority of rare species and late records came from coastal locations.

Observers visited isolated Middleton Island in the Gulf of Alaska and again produced interesting and valuable migrant data. For the first time since Harrold conducted surveys in 1927, an intense effort was mounted to monitor migration on Nunivak

Island. Many interesting records of both Asiatic and Nearctic species were obtained from the south end of the island. This site appears to have great potential as a migrant trap, but difficult logistics may never allow us to cover it completely.

GREBES TO WATERFOWL

After a two-year hiatus, single Pied-billed Grebes reappeared, at Ketchikan Nov. 2–9 (SCH) and at Mitkof Island's productive Blind Slough Nov. 16–29 (PJW). Counts of incoming wintering Western Grebes at traditional sites near Mitkof I. in October and into November were one-third of normal numbers (PJW), but a group of 330 near Ketchikan Nov. 5 was above average, and a flock of 150 in Peril Strait north of Baranof I. Nov. 17 (AW) was unprecedented. Any aggregations of W. Grebe north of Mitkof I. are most unusual. Quite unexpected was a W. Grebe in the surf at *Adak I.* Nov. 28 (GVB, BR), for a 3rd Aleutian district report. The season's only report of Short-tailed Albatross came from pelagic waters west of Umnak I., where a first-year bird was described Aug. 23 (AB, SH).

Three active Double-crested Cormorant nests were discovered on an islet off the s.w. shore of *Nunivak I.*'s Cape Mendenhall Aug. 26 (BJM *et al.*). A total of 11 adults and fledged young were located at this colony, and single adults were found north to Duchikthluk Bay sporadically to Oct. 1. These nests extend the species' northernmost breeding range in Alaska by some 375 km from the previous northern outpost on tiny Shaiak I. n.e. of Cape Pierce in outer Togiak Bay.

Dispersing Great Blue Herons made a broad showing north and west to Kachemak Bay, where two were at Homer Sept. 17–22 (JK, WN) and a single at Seldovia for most of August was joined by five others Nov. 25 (JK). Beyond there, singles were found near Girdwood Sept. 29 (MN), in an Anchorage bog Nov. 1–10+ (JO), and at Kodiak I. Nov. 5 (CC). Based on recent fall reports, Great Blue Heron should be upgraded from casual to merely rare in Upper Cook Inlet and Kodiak.

We received no Whooper Swan reports from the Aleutians this fall. The Upper Tanana Valley Trumpeter Swan population continues to expand. Biologists have estimated over a 1000% increase in numbers of adults with cygnets since 1982 (TJD). The first fall arriving Brant were found at Izembek Lagoon Aug. 10 and numbers peaked at an average 156,430 birds in mid-October (CPD). The peak fall departure was Nov. 9, when nearly 100,000 birds left for their traditional cross-Pacific flight. An ad. ♀ **Wood Duck** at Ketchikan's Ward L. Nov. 2–9 (DB, †SCH, ph.) represented the Region's 6th report. Three of these records are from late fall. Wood Ducks breed or have bred in British Columbia's Queen Charlotte Is., and recently expanded as far north as Prince George (AB44 483, 45 487)

Statewide duck population showed no significant deviations from running averages except in the e. Interior, where August duck brood surveys confirmed that production was down dramatically from the long-term average (TJD). Late summer surveys on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta revealed a staging population of over 800,000 N. Pintails (*vide* BJM), which must represent nearly one-third of the continental population of the species. Gadwall expanded its breeding range northwesterly to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta where 2 broods with three young each were located at Kokechik Bay Aug. 13 (BJM). This appears to be a first breeding on the Delta this century. The closest regular nesting areas lie on the north side of the Alaska Peninsula.

A staging flock of 76 Ring-necked Ducks on Ft. Richardson ponds near Anchorage Aug. 28 (DFD) easily constitutes South-coastal's record high and one of the Region's biggest also. Wooded ponds on this expansive army base provide SC's most ideal breeding habitat, and virtually all past fall peaks are from here. Noteworthy was a flock of 10 Spectacled Eiders staging in late molt in the Cinder R. Lagoon on the north side of the Alaska Pen. (TAB). This group dwindled to a single male from Sept. 17 to Oct. 20. Fall staging concentrations are typically found on the n. and e. sides of Bristol Bay. Noteworthy Steller's Eiders east of traditional winter areas included six near Seward Oct. 26 (TGT, RLS), where the species is now annual, and a single female Oct. 17 (PG), and large group of 56+ near Cordova Nov. 26 (REF). At Izembek Lagoon, the fall's peak Steller's Eider count reached 33,175 birds Oct. 9 (CPD), a slight increase from several previous years' declining totals. A single ♀ Surf Scoter was reported from nearshore at Adak I. Nov. 29 (GVB, BR). Surf Scoter is casual in the e. and cen. Aleutians.

RAPTORS TO SHOREBIRDS

Bald Eagle is distinctly rare on the North Slope, so one along the lower Kongakut R. near Drain Cr. Aug. 6 (GC) was of interest. The Taku R. Steller's Sea-Eagle was last reported from Swede Pt. in late September and it presumably remained in that area until driven out by freeze-up. What was either a female or an imm. **Eurasian Kestrel** came aboard a fishing vessel in the s. Bering Sea, roughly 165 km east of the Pribilof Is. and some 250 km south of Nunivak I., Oct. 4 (WH, ph., SD). Remarkably, this bird stayed on deck for 4 days and quickly took to eating Pacific Cod livers! This was the Region's 2nd at-sea sighting, and the 6th total. American Kestrel reached the Bering Sea coast, where casual, in exceptional numbers this fall. A single female found along Izembek Lagoon Sept. 11 was joined by a 2nd female and a male the next day, and the male remained in the area through Sept. 23 (JP). Another male appeared near *Nunivak I.*'s Cape Mendenhall Sept. 24 (MS). These were certainly w. Interior nesting birds that moved west to the

Bering Sea instead of east through the Interior. American Coots were widespread in Southeast between Juneau and Ketchikan, mostly as singles, with extreme dates of Sept 15 and Nov. 30 at Petersburg (PJW). Maximum was a group of 10 Oct. 18 on Petersburg's Blind Slough (PJW).

Shorebird passage was uneventful and early, and few records or concentrations of note occurred away from the Bering Sea Islands. Still distinctly rare in fall in the Region, a single Wood Sandpiper passed through Shemya I. Aug. 8 (ILJ). The Terek Sandpiper at Nunivak I.'s Cape Mendenhall Sept. 27 was one of the Region's latest. A juv Semipalmated Sandpiper was described from Buldir I. Aug. 6–7 (GVB, ILJ, JW, MH). There are two previous w. Aleutian records, one each from spring and fall Sharp-tailed Sandpipers made a nice showing at either extreme of the species' fall range. A single at Prudhoe Bay Sept. 11 (EEB, ph.) was a first local and about the 3rd Beaufort Sea report, and in SE a group of nine showed up near Petersburg Oct. 18, also a first local report. Sharp-taileds are annual in small numbers on the nearby Stikine R. Delta.

LARIDS TO OWLS

As last fall, **Franklin's Gulls** were widespread in SE with an adult at Eagle Beach near Juneau Aug. 25 (†MWS), a juvenile at Petersburg Sept. 9–22 (†PJW, ph.), and at least two juveniles on the Ketchikan waterfront Sept. 2–7 and 16–21 (†SCH, ph.). This form is proving to be annual in fall in small numbers at the standard gull concentrations in Ketchikan and Petersburg. Following years of anticipation, based on post-breeding dispersal patterns, **Heermann's Gull** (a juvenile) finally appeared in the Region at the Ketchikan waterfront Aug. 22 (†SCH, ph.) Heermann's Gull migrates into North Pacific waters annually to central Vancouver I.; the most northerly report in British Columbia appears to be from Smith Sound north and east of n. Vancouver I. (Campbell *et al.* 1990, *The Birds of British Columbia*). Mostly juv Ring-billed Gulls, up to three per day, were reported from Ketchikan from August to Sept. 17 (SCH). Another adult was described from the Juneau waterfront Sept. 27 (†SS). California Gulls were more common than usual at Ketchikan, where the peak of 335 Sept. 2 (SCH) established a new Region high. A 2nd-summer California Gull was picked out of the Homer Spit gull flocks Sept. 7–13 (DWS) for a first local record.

Nice photos were received of a near-adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** from Kodiak's Larsen Bay Aug. 16 (†RAM, ph.). This marks Alaska's 3rd confirmed record. On the heels of last fall's initial SE reports, another Slaty-backed Gull appeared at Ketchikan Oct. 24–Nov. 16 (†SCH, ph.). Heinl again submitted details of apparent Western X Glaucous-winged Gulls from the Ketchikan area, with five noted, all but one from November at the dump (†SCH, ph.). Extralimital reports of Red-legged Kittiwake

included a single adult in the Gulf of Alaska from *Middleton I.* Sept. 29, a 2nd local record, and an immature inshore at the south end of Nunivak I. Sept. 14 (†BJM). This kittiwake is very rare in pelagic waters north of about 58° North in the Bering Sea. An imm. Ivory Gull was found feeding on salmon on the Chilkat R. upstream of *Haines* Nov. 19 (AW). We now have three November records from SE, and one from SC, of this high Arctic gull. Some speculate that the SE birds made an overland migration perhaps following river systems to the Gulf Coast.

The e. Prince William Sound Caspian Tern population still contained 63 adults and 12 begging young into late August (MEI). Noteworthy inshore, and a first for Cook Inlet, was an ad. Crested Auklet at *Homer* Sept. 7–17 (*vide* DWS, GCW). This *Aethia* is distinctly rare east of waters around the Shumagin Is., although small numbers are known later in winter around Kodiak I.

A gray morph *Cuculus* sp. cuckoo was chased about the dunes on the south end of Nunivak I. Sept. 27 (†MS) but could not be positively identified. There is only one previous fall *Cuculus* report for the Region. Since the bird had been on no one's agenda as a possible visitor to the Region, we were shocked to receive a salvaged cat-killed **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** from a Ketchikan yard from Aug. 18 (*SLN), a first for Alaska. This species probably historically bred in the west as far north as the lower Fraser R. valley in s.w. British Columbia where there has been one record since 1927 (Campbell *et al.* 1990, *Birds of British Columbia*).

Casual for the North Slope, a N. Hawk Owl wandered to the Beaufort Sea shore at Prudhoe Bay Aug. 21 (DT, ph.), for a first local record. There are 2 previous North Slope records of this diurnal taiga owl; this was the first in fall. The Boreal Owl carcass found at tidewater on the mainland at Thomas Bay n.e. of Petersburg Sept. 30 (*SB) represented only the 2nd SE record. Boreal Owl breeds at this latitude but well to the east through the Coast Range into interior British Columbia.

HUMMINGBIRDS TO THRUSHES

The season's only Anna's Hummingbird report came from Skagway, where a female visited a feeder Oct. 21–31 before being captured (MEI). Rufous Hummingbirds dispersed west to Kodiak I., where there were singles in town Aug. 3 (RC) and Sept. 6 & 16, and north to the Matanuska Valley, where two were found at Finger L. Aug. 9 (*vide* TGT). Casual in fall to the west half of the Gulf of Alaska, a Red-breasted Sapsucker reached Kodiak I. Oct. 25–Nov. 10 (PS). The previous Kodiak record came in fall from the same tree! Single N. Flickers wandered to the Bering Sea to the s. end of Nunivak I. Sept. 14 (*BJM), and to Kodiak I. Oct. 18 (RAM, JBA). This form is casual in both areas, and both sightings represent the respective island's 2nd record.

The only flycatcher record of note was a

Western Kingbird at Sitka Sept. 21–22 (MLW, †MET). Most records from the Region of this casual visitant are from spring or summer. The only notable swallow report was of a Barn Swallow located in Girdwood Aug. 6 (BH). Prone to fall dispersal, single Red-breasted Nuthatches this season wandered north of the Alaska Range to Norton Sound at Bluff Sept. 3 (RSM) and to Fairbanks, where one remained at a feeder Sept. 28 into December (KW). The species was abundant in passage in Upper Cook Inlet around Anchorage after late August.

The Kodiak Golden-crowned Kinglet population has begun to recover from mortality of the 1989 freeze (RAM). An excellent breeding season has allowed an approximate 25% increase. Storm-deposited Golden-crowned Kinglets reached Nunivak I., where up to one to three were seen at several sites on the south end Sept. 24–28 (BJM). Observers throughout coastal sites commented on the continued scarcity of Ruby-crowned Kinglets. The species went unrecorded on many days of even heavy passage in Cook Inlet, Middleton I., and south to Ketchikan where only three were seen all season. In all of these sites, Ruby-crowned Kinglet is normally the most consistently common passerine.

Still casual in Autumn in the Region, Eyebrowed Thrush occurred at Nunivak I. Oct. 1 (CH, †BJM). A worn and aggressive **Northern Mockingbird** was found in the Middleton I. willow thickets Sept. 29–30 (MEI), furnishing a 2nd island record and the Region's 5th.

WAXWINGS TO FRINGILLIDS

At least two Cedar Waxwings reached Middleton I. Sept. 26–28 (SCH, RAM, MEI), for a 3rd island record. Since we have few data that outline Eur. Starling migration to, from, or within the Region, observations in Anchorage of small fly-by groups, of 12 Sept. 9 (SW) and 3+ Sept. 17 (TGT), were noteworthy. Extreme late warbler observations included an Orange-crowned from a feeder at Kodiak Nov. 17 into December (RAM), a Yellow-rumped on campus in Fairbanks Nov. 17 (DDG), and a Wilson's in Juneau Nov. 10 (MEI, MWS). Latest for the Region was a Tennessee Warbler at Ketchikan Oct. 18 (SCH). Perhaps the most exciting record from this fall's Nunivak I. survey was an imm. Magnolia Warbler Sept. 18 (†BJM), a second Bering Sea fall report. Following recent fall records, **Palm Warblers** appeared at 4 sites. Singles were at Dry Lake in the e. Interior Sept. 11 (*THP), Prudhoe Bay Sept. 24–25 (†EEB), Nunivak I. Sept. 24–29 (†BJM), and Barrow Oct. 16 (*DWN). The Barrow and Prudhoe sightings were the first for Northern Alaska; both specimens were nominate *palmarum*. A window-killed Indigo Bunting was recovered from a downtown Anchorage office building Aug. 20 (*GMT). This monotypic species was confirmed for Alaska when an ad. male was photographed at Wainwright in August 1989 There is a previous Anchorage sight

record from September.

An ad. Chipping Sparrow appeared Aug. 17–21 (DWS) at the same Anchorage feeder where one had spent much of last winter. Alaska's 3rd **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found in the passerine flocks at Haines Sept. 18 (†MEI). This *Spizella* breeds across the n. Coast Range in e. Interior British Columbia. Casual on the North Slope, and Prudhoe Bay's first, was a Lincoln's Sparrow located there Sept. 25–29 (†EEB). The Region's 3rd report away from traditional Bering Sea/Aleutian islands and a first for SE was an imm. Rustic Bunting on Mitkof I. Nov. 11 (*PJW).

Bramblings appeared at 4 locations around the Gulf of Alaska. One was at Middleton I. Sept. 29–30 (RAM, SCH, MEI), one was at Juneau Oct. 14–16 (MEI, RHA), one at Kodiak I. Nov. 24 was joined by a second Nov. 26 (PS), and at Anchorage three ended up at feeders beginning Nov. 3, 9, & 19, staying into December (JB, DR). Elsewhere two Bramblings were found at Nunivak I. Sept. 29 and Oct. 1 (†BJM, CH). An imm. **Cassin's Finch** was heard and seen briefly in the thickets at Middleton I. Sept. 30 (†SCH, RAM). The Region's only previous record was also from SC where a male appeared at a feeder in early spring at Homer White-winged Crossbills remained local and distinctly rare at best throughout the Region, while Pine Siskins appeared in above-average numbers throughout SC only by late November. **Eurasian Bullfinch** showed up at 3 widely separated locales. Female types were identified from Cape Krusenstern Oct. 9–12 (*vide* WRU) and from North Pole e. of Fairbanks Nov. 24 (*vide* DDG), and a male was seen in Bethel Oct. 26 (†BJM). None was seen thereafter.

Observers: J.B. Allen, R.H. Armstrong, A. Bayer, S. Blatt, D. Bowers, T.A. Burke, J. Burris, E.E. Burroughs, G.V. Byrd, C. Carlson, D. Carlson, R. Chichenoff, G. Chisholm, C.P. Dau, S. Davis, D.F. Delap, T.J. Doyle, R.E. Fairall, D.D. Gibson, P. Green, B. Hallett, C. Harwood, S. Hatch, W. Hayes, S.C. Heintz, M. Hipfner, I.L. Jones, J. Klein, R.A. MacIntosh, B.J. McCaffery, J. Melegari, R.S. Mullen, W. Noomah, M. North, D.W. Norton, S.L. Norton, J. O'Neale, D. Patterson, J. Pearce, C. Perham, T.H. Pogson, D. Robbins, B. Romberg, R.L. Scher, M. Schulz, M.W. Schwan, S. Senner, D.W. Sonneborn, P. Sundberg, G.J. Tans, M.E. Tedin, D. Tillotson, W.R. Uhl, P.J. Walsh, M.L. Ward, A. Welv, G.C. West, K. Whitten, J. Williams, S. Wulkowicz. Details (†), specimens (*), and photographs (ph.) referenced are *on file* at Univ. of Alaska Museum.—T. G. TOBISH, JR., 2510 Foraker Drive, Anchorage 99517; M. E. ISLEIB, 9229 Emily Way, Juneau 99801.

BRITISH COLUMBIA/ YUKON REGION

Chris Siddle

This fall, a long series of intense storms battered the coast with severe winds. On the Queen Charlotte Islands, these storms brought an array of rarities ashore, including Red-throated Pipits, an Eurasian Skylark, a Steller's Eider, a skua, a Yellow Wagtail, and Canada's first Black-tailed Gull. The province's interior also felt the wind's effects, with two Ancient Murrelets on Okanagan Lake.

The season was exceptionally mild except for a short cold snap in late October. Coincident with it was passage of small Snow Bunting flocks throughout southern British Columbia. With the return of mild temperatures, many passerines lingered to record-late dates.

I once again plead with birders to document their sightings with field notes and/or photos. Several rarities will not appear in this report because of lack of documentation. On the other hand, several very rare species, especially in the Queen Charlotte Islands, were exceptionally well supported by detailed notes made at the time of observation.

Abbreviations: BC (*British Columbia*); Iona (*Iona Island R.P. and jetty, Vancouver*); NYNP (*Northern Yukon N. P.*); P.P. (*Provincial Park*); QCI (*Queen Charlotte Islands*); Van. (*Vancouver*); VI (*Vancouver I.*); Vic. (*Victoria*); YT (*the Yukon Territory*).

LOONS TO DUCKS

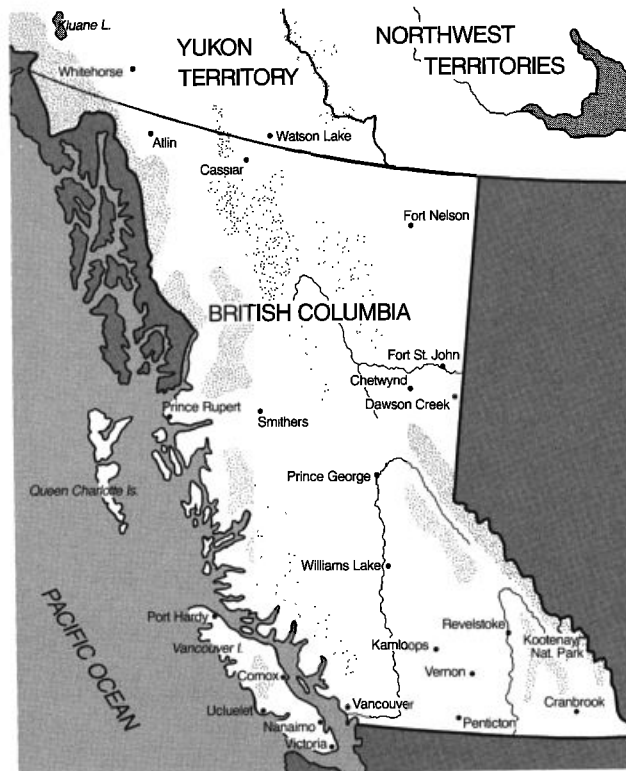
An imm. Red-throated Loon at Kelowna Nov. 16–22 (†CS, DB, PR, MC) provided about the 9th record for the Okanagan Valley.

Five Red-throateds were on Clarence Lagoon, NYNP, Aug. 4 (HG), where expected. Four reports of individual Pacific Loons was an average number of interior sightings, coming from Mabel L. Oct. 3 (MC), Anderson L. near Lilloett Oct. 17 (BT), Penticton Oct. 20 (LR), and Vernon Oct. 27 (PR, CS). Single Yellow-billed Loons were at 4 interior locations: Summerland Sept. 15–21 (LR, SC, JC); Vaseux L. Nov. 10 (RJC); Kelowna Nov. 14 (DB, JBu), and Christina L. Oct. 23–34 (RW). This is about average for fall interior sightings. Victoria had 3 reports, possibly of the same adult, at Oak Bay Nov. 26–27 (RS, PG). A well-documented Clark's Grebe was at Iona Sept. 29 (†BGS).

Three pelagic trips ran—July 29, Aug. 11, and Oct. 12—along Ucluelet to about 25–30 mi offshore. Unusually low numbers



Sprague's Pipit at Riske Creek, British Columbia, on June 19, 1991. Photograph/Anna Roberts.



of tubenoses were reported on all 3 trips. Maximum counts were: three Black-footed Albatrosses Oct. 12 (BGS, m.ob.); 400 N. Fulmars both July 29 and Aug. 11 (CEG, m.ob.); 10 Pink-footed Shearwaters Oct. 12 (BGS, m.ob.); three Flesh-footed Shearwaters Oct. 12 (BGS, m.ob.); 35 Buller's Shearwaters Oct. 12 (BGS, m.ob.); 200 Sooty Shearwaters July 29 (CEG, m.ob.); four Short-tailed Shearwaters Oct. 12 (BGS, m.ob.); 50 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, both July 29 and Aug. 11 (CEG, m.ob.), and one Leach's Storm-Petrel, both July 29 and Aug. 11 (CEG, m.ob.). One report of Brown Pelicans was received: 40 Brown Pelicans (ages not noted) at Botanical Beach P.P., s.w. of Port Renfrew, Aug. 24 (LRR, m.ob.), the highest number ever recorded in BC. A Great Blue Heron, rare in the YT, was at Kookat-

soon L., 26 km s.e. of Whitehorse Sept. 14 (WN). This, or another, was found dead in Whitehorse Sept. 22 (DD). Cattle Egrets suddenly appeared in the interior in early November, with two at Nakusp Nov. 14–23 (GD, MP), five at Revelstoke Nov. 11–18 (AP, MPa), one at Penticton Nov. 10–18 (TMC), one at Oliver Nov. 13 (HK, JK), and one at Vaseux L. Nov. 11 (FM). On the coast, Cattle Egrets appeared about 1–2 weeks later, with up to four at Port Alberni Nov. 24–26 (DGC, BJ, SM) and one at Comox Nov. 21 (PC). The earliest coastal egret was at Jordan R. Nov. 3 (KT). This was the largest fall Cattle Egret invasion since the early 1980s, perhaps no surprise considering the mild weather.

Only a few small Greater White-fronted Geese flocks were reported on VI at Port Alberni, Esquimalt Lagoon, Merville, and the highest number, 49, at Lazo Marsh Sept. 3 (WH). Mild weather enabled a Green-winged Teal to linger at Walcott in the Bulkley R. valley until Nov. 29 (JMH). Two Gadwalls, rare in the YT, were on a lake just s. of Pelly Crossing, central YT, Aug. 17 (HG). A Red-head, rare in the YT, was at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse Oct. 13 (HG). Two ♀ Tufted Ducks were at Nelson Nov. 30 and lingered at least a week or two into December (DG, LVD), a first for the W. Kootenays. Common Eiders, some with downy young, were seen daily in numbers up to 100 along the YT arctic coast Aug. 1–7 (HG). Two King Eiders were at Clarence Lagoon, NYNP, Aug. 4 (HG). A first winter Steller's Eider, recorded only once before in the QCI, was at Sandspit Oct. 13–21 (†MB, ph. †MH, PH).

The largest concentration of Com. Mergansers ever found in BC was discovered several years ago but not documented until this fall. Annually in November, 2000–3000 Com. Mergansers congregate on Swan L., Vernon (PR). Numbers build in November until freezeup; then the birds shift in large flocks to nearby Okanagan L. and presumably move S in December. This fall, 1072 were on Swan L. Nov. 3 (CS). On Nov. 19 the flock numbered approx. 2500, with a male-to-female ratio of about 7:3 (CS); the lake froze over Dec. 15. At Walcott, Bulkley R. valley, a Nov. 13 flock of 50–60 was termed unusually large for the area (JMH). Three Ruddy Ducks, rare in the YT, were once again on a lake just s. of Pelly Crossing Aug. 17 (HG).

OSPREY TO SHOREBIRDS

On s. VI, Turkey Vulture numbers began to climb around mid-September. About 45 were over Discovery I. Sept. 15 (DC), and

125 were over Rocky Point, Metchosin, Sept. 14 (ALM, RS). Over the next 2 weeks, numbers climbed with 300 Sept. 27 and an all-time high of 477 Sept. 29, both over Rocky Pt. and East Sooke Park (ALM, RS, MGS). Numbers declined quickly in October. The last report was 26 over East Sooke Park Oct. 14 (ALM). There is no clear migration of vultures over Juan de Fuca Strait; kettles drift east and west along the coast and are seldom conclusively seen heading S over the ocean. Southern VI hawk watches saw only six Ospreys. An Osprey, rare on the QCI, was at Masset Inlet Oct. 14 (JD).

The earliest fall report of a N. Harrier for the Vic. area was one Aug. 4 (RS). Thereafter, 49 other reports were received, up from 27 last year and 12 the year before (BW). The high at a hawk watch, Sooke, was five Oct. 5 (ALM, DA). Most Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported from hawk watches, with 7 to 15 on most days. High counts were 36 Sept. 14 at Rocky Point (ALM) and 56 Sept. 29 at East Sooke Park (DA). Richard Cannings witnessed a Sharp-shinned Hawk migration over Sheep Mt., Kluane L., YT, Aug. 23; eight passed in 2 hours, going S on a N wind. Ninety-seven Cooper's Hawk reports came from the Vic. area, up 50 percent from last year. This did not include hawk watch sightings. Highs of Cooper's noted by hawk watches were five Oct. 4 at Rocky Pt. (ALM) and nine Oct. 12 at East Sooke Park (DA).

For the 2nd fall in a row, Broad-winged Hawks migrated over s. VI hawk watches. An adult Sept. 29 over East Sooke Park was well described (†DA), but an immature over Rocky Point the next day was reported, with no details. Five to twenty Red-tailed Hawks passed over each of the 2 hawk watches daily through September, peaking in early October (BW). High counts were 101 over East Sooke Park Oct. 5 (DA) and 85 there Oct. 13 (DPe). No counts were made after Oct. 13 (BW). Three Swainson's Hawks, rare and poorly known in the n. parts of their range, were at Swan L., 20 km n. of Whitehorse Aug. 28 (HG).

Six Golden Eagles along the cliffs between Hedley and Keremeos Nov. 9 were impressive (RJC). Golden Eagles were well reported from the Vic. area, with 12 reports compared to 9 in 1990 (BW). This does not include hawk watches, which had a small peak the 2nd week of October. Nine were over East Sooke Park Oct. 12 (KT). The main movement of Am. Kestrels over s. VI occurred in mid-September, with a high count of 14 Sept. 14 over Rocky Point (ALM). Numbers then fell steadily to almost none one month later (BW). In the Vic. area, 43 Merlin sightings were up slightly from last year. A *richardsonii* type was at Cowichan Bay Oct. 17 (DM). The hawk watch high count was three Sept. 14 over Rocky Point (ALM). The East Sooke Park Hawk watch reported three Peregrine Falcons (DA); 31 other sightings, down slightly from fall 1990, were from the usual Vic.-area spots (BW). A Peregrine was migrating over Rose Hill, Kamloops, Oct. 12

(RWC). Gyrfalcons appeared in late October and November, with three reported from Vernon Nov. 10 (†CS), Sandspit Oct. 28 (MB), and Smithers in late November (KH).

A hunter reported a Mt. Quail on Mount Work, Sooke, Sept. 1 (DMa *vide* BW). The last definite BC record was in 1986.

The interior high count for Black-bellied Plovers was eight at Tranquille Sept. 22 (SR). Seven Lesser Golden-Plover records were received from Vic., Aug. 30–Oct. 5. Three juv. or imm. *dominica* were identified. Kelowna had an ad. Lesser Golden-Plover Aug. 19 with black flanks, suggesting a Pacific rather than an American (†CS, CC, RB). Pacific Golden-Plovers were reported from Sandspit, QCI, where uncommon, with three Sept. 4 and eight Sept. 16 (MB). Two Am. Avocets roosted each evening at Chichester marsh, Kelowna, Aug. 5–12 (CC). Perhaps the same two birds were at Robert L., Kelowna, Aug. 19 (CS, CC, RB). A white-backed Whimbrel, possibly of the *variegatus* subspecies, was reported Aug. 22–24 from Sandspit (†MB). The only Hudsonian Godwit was a juvenile at Sandspit Aug. 23 (MB), the first QCI record. Two Bar-tailed Godwits, very rare in BC and unheard of in early summer, were seen at Sandspit June 7–14 (MB, MM). It was a good fall on the coast for Marbled Godwits, with about three around Vic. Aug. 9–15 (RS, JG, MGS). The QCI had one Aug. 10–14 and a flock of ten Aug. 15 at Sandspit (MB). Fifty Surfbirds at the end of the Iona jetty Aug. 24 was a large concentration of this uncommon species in the Van. area (BGS). A W. Sandpiper at Tranquille Nov. 11 & 17 was very late for an interior bird (SR). A Baird's Sandpiper, rare in the QCI, was seen Sept. 13 at Sandspit (RWe). Following a 10-year trend, Rock Sandpipers were in fewer numbers than the previous year, with a maximum count of two Nov. 27 at Cattle Point (CO).

Only 2 Stilt Sandpiper reports were received from w. of the Rockies, down from recent falls. Three juveniles were at Robert L., Kelowna, Aug. 19 (CS, CC, RB); another was at Sandspit Aug. 17 (MB), a first for the QCI. The usual scattering of records of Buff-breasted Sandpipers occurred, with a maximum of four at Sandspit Sept. 1 & 4 (MB), one at Reifel I. Aug. 27 (DV), and 1–2 at Sidney Aug. 30–Sept. 7 (DFF, IMc, RS, BB). A juv. Wilson's Phalarope, very rare on the QCI, was at Sandspit Aug. 8–11 (MB). The only coastal Red Phalaropes were about five on the July 29 and one on the Aug. 11 pelagic cruises off Ucluelet (CEG). A winter male at Tranquille Nov. 3 was a first for the Kamloops latilong (SR, †RH).

JAEGERS TO HUMMINGBIRDS

A skua, presumably a S. Polar, was ill on a Tleil beach, QCI, Nov. 17 (SD, TR). One of its rescuers, Dr. Tom Reimchen, became the first person in the islands' ornithological history to be bitten by a skua. A S. Polar Skua appeared on the Oct. 12 pelagic trip (BGS). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger, very rare in the in-

terior, was at Tabor L., Prince George, Sept. 1, a first local record (ph. JB, CA, NK, *et al.*).

A juv. Little Gull was with 90 Bonaparte's Gulls at Goldstream R. estuary Sept. 7 (MMc), about the 14th record for Vic. Two thousand five hundred Bonaparte's Gulls at Blackie Spit, Crescent Beach, Oct. 10 (RJC) was the highest single count this fall and probably represented the migration peak. Bonaparte's Gulls, rare in the QCI, were noted twice at Masset: two Nov. 20 and one Nov. 23 (MB). One thousand Heermann's Gulls at Clover Pt., Vic., Sept. 30 was a high number (RS). Seven-hundred and fifty were at Rocky Pt., Metchosin, Sept. 27 (BRG, ALM). Compared to flock sizes reported in *The Birds of British Columbia*, Vol. 2, (Campbell *et al.*), these numbers are extremely high. An early ad. Thayers' Gull was at Iona Sept. 14 (DV). A W. Gull, rare in the QCI, was at Sandspit Sept. 16 (MB). Glaucous-winged Gulls were in record-high numbers throughout the Okanagan Valley and a few other s. interior locations. Bill Tweit found 30 first-years at Anderson L. in the Lilloet area, where Glaucous-wingeds outnumbered both Herring and California Gulls at salmon-spawning streams. At least 10 Glaucous-winged Gulls, frequented the Kelowna waterfront throughout November (†CS, PR). Two or three first-years were near a Vernon spawning stream Nov. 24 (CS, PR). The usual few Sabine's Gulls were found with a single at Penticton Sept. 13 (SC), a rare adult at Tranquille Aug. 24, an immature there Sept. 13–14 (SR), and very small numbers on the 3 pelagic trips out of Ucluelet.

Canada's first Black-tailed Gull was between Skonun Pt. and the Masset airport, QCI, Nov. 22 (†PH, MH). Carefully described, the bird was also photographed, though the photos did not show diagnostic features.

Two ad. Caspian Terns, one with a juvenile Aug. 28–31, and another adult with 2 juveniles Aug. 30, were at Sandspit (MB). Caspian Terns are rare in the QCI. A well-described, oiled Arctic Tern seen in contrast with two Common Terns, was at Clover Point, Vic., Aug. 2–5 (†BB, RS). Arctic Terns are so scarce in s. BC that field descriptions and/or photos are required. Common Terns can usually be seen any day in September on the Sunshine Coast, except this fall, when only one flock of about 20 birds was seen the whole period (TG).

A very tame Thick-billed Murre, rare in the YT, was encountered one km offshore, near drift ice, at the arctic coast between Kay Pt. and King Pt. Aug. 9 (HG). The park wardens of Herschel Island Territorial Park, YT, counted 38 young Black Guillemots in the abandoned buildings of the Pauline Cove settlement Aug. 5 (AT, FE). Two Ancient Murrelets were on Okanagan L., where they provided the 11th and 12th inland BC records, well within the usual fall dispersal pattern. The first was at Penticton Sept. 11–15 (GL, ph. SC), while the 2nd turned up 4 mi to the north Oct. 14 (SC, JC). The

high count of Ancient Murrelets was 105 at Ten Mile Pt., Saanich, Nov. 26 (RS). Sixty Cassin's Auklets were counted on the Oct. 12 pelagic trip off Ucluelet (BGS, m.ob.).

A Mourning Dove was at a Prince George feeder Nov. 8 into December, a late record for the area (JB).

A road-killed Flammulated Owl near Penticton Oct. 1 (RJC, UBC collection) was the 2nd October record for BC. A Great Gray Owl was near Boundary L., Peace R. area, Aug. 4, one of very few summer records for the area (CA, NK). Three hundred Vaux's Swifts circling over Port Alberni Aug. 27 (DBC) was the largest assembly this season. Single Anna's Hummingbirds lingered in the Okanagan until Oct. 18 at Vernon (TL) and at least until Nov. 27 at Osoyoos (HK, JK). A Calliope Hummingbird at Sechelt Sept. 4-18 was a first Sunshine Coast record (TG).

WOODPECKERS TO THRASHERS

A Red-naped Sapsucker lingered in Vernon until Oct. 23 (EN). A Say's Phoebe, rare in the Prince George area, was photographed at the Shelley sewage lagoons Aug. 17 (CA). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was first discovered at Blackie Spit, Crescent Beach, Aug. 18 and lingered well into October (HM, JMc). An Eur. Skylark was with American and Red-throated Pipits at Sandspit Nov. 20 & 21, a first QCI record (MB). One would like to speculate that this bird may have been a stray from Asia rather than one of the introduced s. VI birds blown N. The high skylark count at Saanich was 19 Oct. 18 (BB). Three Purple Martins at Nanaimo Sept. 3 were n. of their usual range (NFN). Mild weather enabled Cliff Swallows to linger very late. One was at Swan L., Saanich, Nov. 19 (BC, LH), and two were over Kamloops L. Nov. 9 (ph. JB).

A family of three newly fledged Blue Jays was reported from Invermere, July 31-Aug. 1 (DS, CAi). This could be the first breeding reported w. of the Rockies and is not a surprise in the aftermath of last winter's invasion of s. BC. A few Blue Jays appeared w. of the Rockies again this fall, with three at Edgewood from Sept. 23 to period's end (JP), one between Smithers and Moricetown Sept. 29-Oct. 2 (RP), two at Kelowna Nov. 2 (JBu, m.ob.), one at Kamloops from Nov. 1 onward (RH, SR), and one at Kimberley in October (*vide* MW). A Steller's Jay, very rare in the YT, was at Marsh L. Oct. 10 (MM, MN). White-breasted Nuthatches continue to spread into s.c. BC. Individuals appeared at Nakusp, Edgewood, Revelstoke, McBride, and Fraser L. Prince George had at least four at feeders (JB). Are these "eastern" birds, continuing their expansion from the Peace R. area, or "western" birds heading north? Time, and a specimen or two, will tell.

Mild weather caused single Mt. Bluebirds to linger until very late October, past their usual departure dates, at Nakusp and Edgewood (GD, AJ). A ♀ Mt. Bluebird turned up at Sandspit Nov. 19, where the species is only casual (MB). One was at the Englishman R. estuary Nov. 2 (ENy, NKD). A Swainson's



Ancient Murrelet on Okanagan Lake at Penticton, British Columbia, on September 15, 1991. The species disperses far inland more often than any other alcid, and this individual was the eleventh for inland areas of the province. Photograph/Chris Siddle.

Thrush lingered at Kelowna until Nov. 1, very late (CC). Also quite late were two in Vic. Oct. 27 (JG, RS, DA, AMc). Very few interior reports of Varied Thrushes were received. The only N. Mockingbird reported was at Tata Cr., Kimberley area, Aug. 3 (PO). A Sage Thrasher at Chopaka Sept. 16 (SGC) beat the previous latest date by 12 days.

WAGTAILS TO FINCHES

The storms that hit the QCI most of the season were probably responsible for bringing a Yellow Wagtail to Sandspit Sept. 1 (†MB, †KM). Independently discovered by 2 birders, it was well described by both. This is the 2nd or 3rd BC record. The same winds probably also helped a handful of Red-throated Pipits to find Sandspit, where one-four were present Sept. 4-Nov. 21 (†MB, MM, MH, PH). These are the first for the QCI and the 3rd BC record. Warm interior weather enabled Cedar Waxwings to linger in large flocks in Revelstoke in late October (DP).

Rare on the QCI, single Yellow Warblers were at Sandspit Sept. 17 & 26 (MB). Nine very late Yellows were at Martindale Res., Saanich, Nov. 9 (BB). A very late Black-throated Gray Warbler was at Port Alberni Nov. 3 (DGC). A Palm Warbler, the QCI's 2nd, was at Sandspit Nov. 20-30 (†MB, MH, PH). A 2nd was on Sidney I. Sept. 16 (RT), and a 3rd was in Saanich Nov. 17 (HVP). Yellow-rumped Warblers lingered in Vernon until at least late November (PR).

American Tree Sparrows were unusually widespread and more common than usual throughout the s. half of the province, including VI. They mostly appeared in late October, the season's only arctic outbreak, and were found from Cowichan Bay to Revelstoke. Unusual coastal records included

one at Sandspit Nov. 20 (MB) and two at Port Alberni Nov. 30 (†DGC). Fifty Chipping Sparrows Aug. 10 at Apex Mt. was the highest concentration (RJC, SGC, MHo). A Lincoln's Sparrow was late at Kelowna Nov. 3 (CC). A Swamp Sparrow at Kelowna Oct. 14 (CC) was the only report from the interior and the 5th Okanagan record, but Saanich and Duncan were invaded by six or seven birds, including three at Swan L., Saanich, Nov. 9 (KT). The earliest VI bird was in Duncan Sept. 16; all other records were for November. Sechelt had the first Sunshine Coast Swamp Sparrow Oct. 5 (TG). Kelowna had one Golden-crowned Sparrow Nov. 7 (DB), and Vernon had another Sept. 10 (CS). Harris' Sparrows were much less frequent than last fall, with only three: at Nakusp, Kelowna, and Saanich. On Oct. 6, a maximum of 35 Lapland Longspurs were at Sandspit, QCI, where this species is normally a rare fall transient. Smaller numbers had occurred in the same location Aug. 23-Oct. 11 (MB, RW). Snow Buntings exploded southward, just ahead of the season's only cold weather; most flocks appeared around the cold weekend of Oct. 25-26. Iona jetty had sixteen Oct. 26 (BGS); Sandspit had one Oct. 21 (MB). A maximum of seven were there Nov. 1. Port Alberni had one on Oct. 27 (DGC), while Nakusp reported several small flocks Oct. 19-Nov. 11; Kimberley had 60 Nov. 2.

Thirty ad. and young Bobolinks were last seen along Road 22 s. of Oliver Aug. 13 (SC). Sandspit had a ♂ Red-winged Blackbird Sept. 10-15 (MB) and two imm. Brown-headed Cowbirds Aug. 3 (MB). Both species are rare on the QCI.

Brambling sightings were about average in number, with a female at Revelstoke Nov.

23–26 (no details) and two males and a female together (!) at Delkatla Wildlife Sanctuary Oct. 17 (†MH, PH). A Rosy Finch turned up in Prince George Nov. 4, where it was photographed (JB). White-winged Crossbills were abundant in the W. Kootenays but were mostly noted in the mountain passes, such as the Salmo-Creston summit, where 100 were reported Aug. 12 (CE). At this location, a female was seen feeding a fledged juvenile Sept. 11 (LVD). Fifteen appeared at Sandspit Oct. 26 (MB), while 15 were present on Seymour Mt. near Van. Sept. 22 (CE). Common Redpolls were almost absent from the s. interior valleys. A flock of 20 was at 5500 feet on Silver Star Mt. Nov. 15 (CS). Evening Grosbeaks were scarce in Prince George and the Okanagan (JB, CS).

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OREGON/WASHINGTON REGION

Fall Season report was not submitted by editor for inclusion.

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

David G. Yee, Stephen F. Bailey, and Bruce E. Deuel

As northern California entered its sixth year of drought, there appeared to be a weak El Nino in the fall. Storm-petrels unusually close to land and low numbers of Brown Pelicans, jaegers, and terns may have been due to low ocean productivity. Among western migrant landbirds, many felt their numbers were low and late in movement.

However, fall 1991 will best be remembered as one of the most spectacular in terms of rarities. In addition to a new state record and 18 species worthy of being boldfaced, there were the fantastic numbers of many vagrant species that caused the masses to pause in delight. It was as if the forces of vagrancy were all working together for a season so that avian gems from the high seas, south, east, far north, and Siberia could put on an amazing display in concert. Perhaps leading the way

were Wood Warblers, epitomized by 24 species on Southeast Farallon Island September 15, an island record. But read on, and you be the judge.

Abbreviations: CCRS (*Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Santa Clara*); CV (*Central Valley*); FI (*Southeast Farallon Island*); HRS (*Hayward Regional Shoreline, Alameda Co.*); SF (*San Francisco*); ph. (*photo on file with Regional editors*). All records from FI and Palomarin should be credited to Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

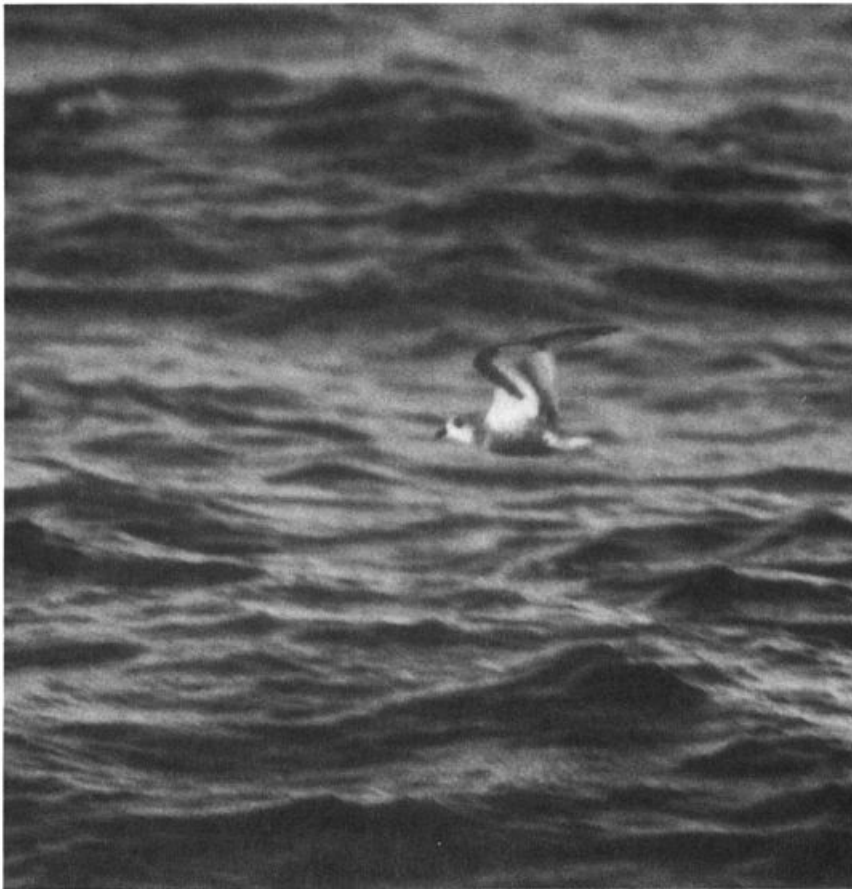
LOONS TO FRIGATEBIRDS

The season's highlight for many birders was the imm. **Arctic Loon** at Abbott's Lagoon, *Marin*, Nov. 2–17 (†SNGH, †D. Reinking; †m.ob., †ph. DR). Only a few years ago the field separation of Arctic and Pacific loons in basic plumage was considered impossible, but this individual was considered by nearly all experts to be a "perfect" Arctic, according to our current understanding. As such, it would be the first for N. America outside of Alaska. Inland Pacific Loons were at Comanche Res. Nov. 2 (2nd for *San Joaquin*—DGY, WRH), L. Solano, *Solano*, Nov. 13 (J. Knight), and Rodman Slough, *Lake*, Nov. 20–Dec. 11 (JRW *et al.*). A Horned Grebe at Clearlake Park Oct. 25 was the first fall record for *Lake* (JRW). There were few Red-necked Grebe reports, and only one of even two birds; one was inland on Kutras L., Redding, Oct. 15 (J. C. Robinson).

Six single Laysan Albatrosses Aug. 4–Nov. 16 were eclipsed by 38 counted 62–90 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 16 (BH*i*, AdW, m.ob.). Even better, on that long boat trip were 17

Mottled Petrels 66–90 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes, including four lured into point-blank range by cod liver oil slicks (†SFB, †ph. SBT, †JM, ph. AdW, ph. M. M. Taylor). These were the first Mottled Petrels seen on a boat trip for birders off the w. coast. Only six single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were found on most coastal pelagic trips Sept. 6–Nov. 3, but three were 15 mi w. of Fort Bragg, *Mendocino*, Oct. 6 (RJK, RoM) and three Flesh-footeds outnumbered two Pink-footeds 62–90 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 16 (SFB, JM, m.ob.). Similarly, Buller's Shearwaters were scarce except for 75 on the long Nov.





Mottled Petrel 70+ miles southwest of Point Reyes, California, on November 16, 1991. The plump head and body and stubby black bill are evident in this photo. On this individual, the dark gray belly patch extends to include the breast and the vent. Photograph/Monte M. Taylor.



Laysan Albatross 70+ miles southwest of Point Reyes, California, November 16, 1991. The underwings are heavily mottled with dark at all ages, but the pattern is variable. Photograph/Scott B. Terrill.

16 trip (SFB). A very early Short-tailed Shearwater Sept. 6 was in Monterey Bay (RS). Scarce farther north, Black-vented Shearwaters were present all period in Monterey Bay, with a peak of 1500 just off Moss Landing Nov. 3 (AB).

Single Wilson's Storm-Petrels were in Monterey Bay Sept. 6–Oct. 5 (AdW, m.ob.), near FI Sept. 14 (MLE), and 90 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 16 (JM, SFB). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel in Monterey Harbor Nov. 29 (†P. Johnston, KVV, SHa) followed a storm, but other coastal storm-petrels were more likely due to a weak El Nino. Up to five Leach's and 200–300 Ashys Sept. 14 (MLE) were unusual near FI in daylight hours. Single Ashys were also at Berkeley Pier Oct. 12 (ES), picked up alive at L. Merced, SF, Oct. 14 (ASH), and in Princeton Harbor, *San Mateo*, Oct. 27 (RSTh). Two to six Least Storm-Petrels were in the Monterey Bay flock Sept. 8–Oct. 5 (DLSh, RS, AdW).

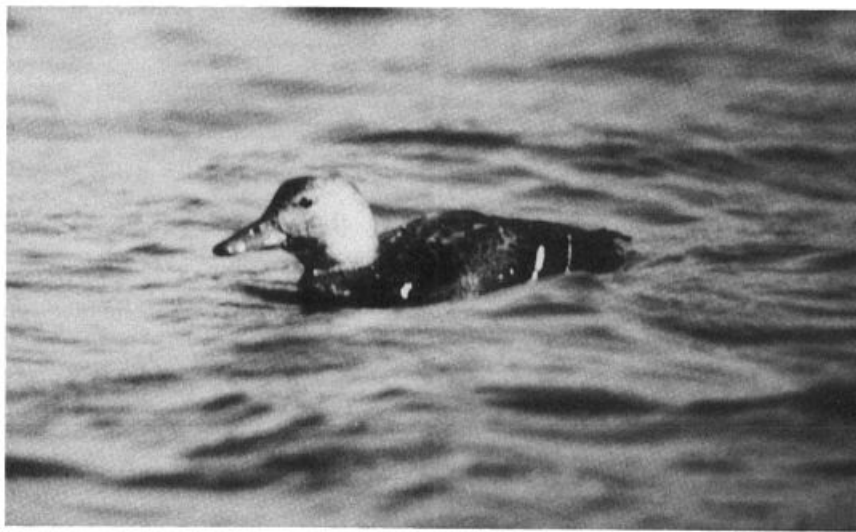
An ad. Red-billed Tropicbird only 3 mi offshore at Cypress Pt. Aug. 3 (DLSh) was the 5th *Monterey* record. A booby at Santa Cruz Sept. 26 (†I. Armstrong, †EFe) may have been a Brown Booby, as reported. A Double-crested Cormorant was far offshore over the n. edge of Pioneer Canyon, *San Mateo*, Aug. 14 (SFB). An imm. Magnificent Frigatebird over Pt. Pinole, *Contra Costa*, Aug. 22 (RJR) came one month after the last one inside SF Bay.

EGRETS TO DUCKS

The yellow-legged Snowy Egret last winter in *Del Norte* appeared again at the Smith R. mouth Aug. 25 (ADB, C. Dillingham), while two fledglings on Twain I. in Mono L. Aug. 20 (ES) were from *Mono's first* nesting. Adult Little Blue Herons strayed to Bodega Bay Aug. 17 (BeR, RoR) and the Albany mudflats, *Alameda*, Aug. 19 (AWi). Twenty-seven Cattle Egrets were widely scattered along the coast, and one straggled to Crowley L., *Mono*, Sept. 15 (JLD). They were numerous in *Merced* (450) and *Colusa* (185), as expected. Flocks of 745 White-faced Ibis near Alturas, *Modoc*, Aug. 26 (DS) and 500 in *Colusa* Nov. 10 (DES) contrasted with low numbers reported in summer. However, only six birds reached the coast.

California's 3rd Whooper Swan appeared at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, Nov. 24 through the end of the period (†RE, †DR, m.ob.). The origin of all Whoopers is still hotly debated. A pair of Trumpeter Swans was in the same area Nov. 30 (†DR). A flock of 45 Greater White-fronted Geese flying E over Broken Rib Mt. on the *Del Norte-Siskiyou* line Oct. 7 (FJB) provided a clue as to how coastal migrating waterfowl reach the interior. A juv. Emperor Goose at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, Oct. 21–Nov. 11 (†S. Mlodinow, †RE) caused some consternation because of its white undertail coverts. Early migrant Brant stopped inland at Mono L. Aug. 24–29 (ES, PJM) and Crowley L. Aug. 24 (LJP, RJR).

All 50 Blue-winged Teal reported were



Steller's Eider at Bodega Bay, California, October 27, 1991. Third state record. Photograph/Dan W. Nelson.

coastal, including a flock of 15 at the Salinas sewer ponds, *Monterey*, Oct. 16 (PJM). Eurasian Wigeon sightings continue to increase in coastal and CV locations, but a male at Frenchman L., *Plumas*, Nov. 9 (E. Sorensen, †MMC, KL) made a rare trans-Sierra appearance. A ♂ Tufted Duck returned to L. Merced, SF, Oct. 23 (†m.ob.) for what is probably its 4th winter. The apparent resident male at the HRS, *Alameda*, was reported Sept. 8–Oct. 5 (†RJR).

Monterey's on again/off again King Eider was last seen at Moss Landing Sept. 14 (CKf). A probable ♀ King Eider was flying past Pt. Reyes Oct. 18 (†JM). The state's 3rd **Steller's Eider** was in Bodega Harbor Oct. 27 (†SBT, L. Terrill, ph. m.ob.) and delighted many through the end of the period. Inland sea ducks included an imm. ♂ Oldsquaw on Copco L., *Siskiyou*, Nov. 21 (RE), an imm. ♂ Surf Scoter at the Quincy sewer ponds, *Plumas*, Nov. 20 (†LJ, KL), and two White-winged Scoters at Lower Indian Creek Res., *Alpine*, Oct. 31–Nov. 5 (J. Thompson). Barrow's Goldeneyes concentrate in certain regular areas in the Region, but a group of 42 off Mare I., *Solano*, Nov. 27–28 (DASH, RLCL) was in a previously unknown spot. A ♀ Red-breasted Merganser at the Mokelumne R. mouth Oct. 28 (DGY) was casual for *San Joaquin*.

RAPTORS

A very late Black-shouldered Kite nest was active Sept. 16–30 at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* (RSTh). The Golden Gate Raptor Observatory recorded new season highs for Sharp-shinned Hawk (4290), Red-shouldered Hawk (278), Broad-winged Hawk (251, up from last year's record of 159), and Peregrine Falcon (44), but fog and E winds kept other totals down (CLF). Elsewhere in *Marin*, high counts of Broad-winged Hawks were six and eight on the Point Reyes Pen. Sept. 29 (KH *et al.*), but there were only five singles in other coastal counties. A light morph ad. Swainson's Hawk in Sierra Valley,

Plumas and *Sierra*, Nov. 10 & 30 (†LJ, †DS, *et al.*) was very late, especially for an intermountain site. An imm. Swainson's Hawk banded by Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Nov. 13 was also late. Three "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawks were reported in November, including one near Sacramento Nov. 19–21 (†TDM, GEw). A 3-mi stretch in Sierra Valley, *Plumas* and *Sierra* held 46 Ferruginous Hawks Nov. 18 (LJ).

CRANES TO SHOREBIRDS

Rare at any time on the coast, three Sandhill Cranes appeared at the Salinas sewer ponds Oct. 13 (BHG). A breeding-plumaged Lesser Golden-Plover at the Davis sewer ponds, *Yolo*, Aug. 10 (RSt) was the earliest of the 47 *fulva*, 36 *dominica*, and 15 unspecified birds reported. A juv. *dominica* at the Corcoran irrigation ponds Sept. 21 (DGY) established one of few *Kings* records. A Snowy Plover on FI Sept. 20–21 (*fide* PP) was the 4th island record. Mountain Plovers reached the coast in *Marin* (five) and *Monterey* (18), while three at Mono L. Aug. 24 (ES) comprised the 6th *Mono* record.

Lesser Yellowlegs appeared in large numbers, topped by 83 seen near Alturas, *Modoc*, Aug. 26 (DS). Nine Solitary Sandpipers e. of the mountains, five in the CV, and eight coastally, were good numbers. A rare inland Wandering Tattler was at Mono L. Aug. 29 (PJM). The Region's 6th **Hudsonian Godwit** was a juvenile at Crescent City, *Del Norte*, Aug. 29 (†ADB, †GSL). Another, believed by observers to be the same bird, graced the Arcata Bottoms and Mad R. estuary, *Humboldt*, Sept. 9–21 (†BBA, ph. B. Sil-lasen, †m.ob.). A **Bar-tailed Godwit** was on the n. *Alameda* bayshore Aug. 11–Sept. 22 (†CCr, ph. m.ob., †m.ob.), and another was reported from Bolinas Lagoon, *Marin*, Aug. 28 (†B. Nikula).

Single Ruddy Turnstones, still considered rare inland, were at Mono L. Aug. 24–25 (LJP, RJR) and Stockton Sept. 6–13 (WRH, DGY). Two juv. Red Knots at Goose L. Aug.

24 (DS) provided *Modoc's* first record. Three inland Sanderlings is about normal for recent years. Twenty-four Semipalmated Sandpipers (six inland) were, as last year, slightly below average. Baird's Sandpipers were reported in average numbers, but Pectorals rebounded from the previous 2 falls, with double-digit reports in many locales. Most impressive was a total of 207 on various *Santa Clara* mudflats Sept. 28 (PJM). Eight Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were reported coastally, the recent average.

In contrast to last fall, only two Stilt Sandpipers were seen, an adult at the Tracy sewer ponds Aug. 18–Sept. 1 (*San Joaquin's* 2nd, †DGY, †GFi) and a juvenile at the Salinas sewer ponds Aug. 31–Sept. 8 (RJK, DR, DSe). Ten Buff-breasted Sandpipers (eight described) were reported, with three at the San Jose/Santa Clara sewage plant Aug. 25–Sept. 14 (†PJM, ES), a *Santa Clara* first. Of eight coastal Ruffs, four were in *Santa Clara*, while three of four in the San Joaquin Valley were in *Kings*. A count of 61 Wilson's Phalaropes at the Salinas sewer ponds Aug. 24 (DR, RC) was high for the coast, while one near Lemoore, *Kings*, Nov. 5 through the end of the period (DS) was very late.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

Jaeger numbers were low. Only two were reported away from tidewater, including an ad. Parasitic at Bridgeport L., *Mono*, Sept. 9 (WEH, B. Hallett). A subadult Long-tailed Jaeger 73 mi s.w. of Pt. Reyes Nov. 16 (JLD, JM, SFB, ph. SBT) was very late. South Polar Skuas may have peaked early; eight were n. of the Pioneer Canyon and w. of FI Aug. 14–17 (SFB, P. Jones); six were offshore *Monterey* Aug. 17 (DGY); only one–three were reported later.

Nine imm. Franklin's Gulls were well scattered, but the only two adults were on the Regional boundary at Tulare L. Drainage Pond 2, *Kern* and *Kings* Aug. 16 (†J. Wilson). A very early juv. Mew Gull was "carefully studied" at CCRS Sept. 19 (JLD). A first basic Thayer's Gull at Trinity Dam Oct. 17–20 (†RE) was apparently *Trinity's* first. At least five W. Gulls in s.w. *Sacramento* Oct. 2–25 (†TDM, GEw) were rare in the Delta. A first basic Glaucous-winged Gull at Tule L., *Siskiyou*, Oct. 12 (SAL, RE) was early so far inland. Also early was a Glaucous Gull at Brooks I., *Contra Costa*, Nov. 5 (JCS). Five Sabine's Gulls well inland included an adult at the Davis sewage ponds, *Yolo*, Sept. 24–27 (JMHu, SHH) and three immatures in *Mono*: one at Crowley L. Sept. 15 (JLD) and two at Mono L. Sept. 29 (L. Ford).

An imm. Arctic Tern was in SF Bay at Hayward (RJR), and an adult was far inland at Crowley L. (†JLD), both Sept. 15. Forty Black Terns at Crowley L. Aug. 16–19 (DS) topped July's high count of 34. Always rare, a Black Skimmer visited *Alameda* July 30–Aug. 26 (A. Cowell, K. Taylor).

An Ancient Murrelet off Pt. Bonita, *Marin?*, Aug. 24 (MLE) was early. A Cassin's



Hudsonian Godwit at Crescent City, California, on August 29, 1991. Seventh Regional record. Photograph/Brad Sillasen.

Auklet was unusual inside Bodega Harbor Nov. 9 (SBT). Two Horned Puffins were 6 mi s. of FI Aug. 23 (MLE), and another was only 1/3 mi off Pt. Pinos, *Monterey*, Sept. 30 (RT).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

A paltry three coastal White-winged Doves Aug. 2–Sept. 21 was reprinted by *Alameda's* first at HRS Aug. 2–3 (R. Lindeman, RJR). All Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports are noteworthy these days: coastally, singles were at FI Aug. 6 & 21 and Wilder Ranch State Park, *Santa Cruz*, Sept. 4 (RMrr); a calling bird in Loyalton Sept. 9–21 (†E. Myers, †LJ) was a possible breeder and *Sierra's* first. Low water levels on n. Trinity L. appeared to account for a Burrowing Owl's visit Nov. 9 (RE), possibly a *Trinity* first.

The only wayward Lesser Nighthawk was 13 mi out in Monterey Bay Aug. 17 (DGY, m.ob.). Two Chimney Swifts over Bolinas, *Marin*, Sept. 20 (KH) and another over FI Sept. 21 were well studied and the Region's first in fall since 1987. An amazing concentration of 5,000–10,000 Vaux' Swifts were gathering to roost each evening in a huge cinder-block chimney in Healdsburg, *Sonoma*, Sept. 20–24 (†DN). The magnitude of the phenomenon has no Regional precedent. The ♀ Black-chinned Hummingbird in SF Sept. 21 (†SFB) was the city's first.

Del Norte's first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker returned to Smith River Nov. 2 (ADB). Two more were in *Marin*: Palomarin Oct. 13 (KH) and Pt. Reyes Station "late November"



Bar-tailed Godwit (left) with Marbled Godwit at Albany, California, on September 2, 1991. Photograph/Alan Walther.



Yellow-green Vireo captured for banding at Palomar, Bolinas, California, on October 11, 1991.
Photograph/Rich Stallcup.

(DDeS). Three cismontane Red-naped Sapsuckers were found Oct. 8–Nov. 15. The sapsucker frenzy along the n. coast continued as the Williamson's Sapsucker at Willow Cr. Sept. 17 (TWL) was *Humboldt's* 3rd, less than a year after its first.

FLYCATCHERS TO THRUSHES

Despite favorable weather conditions, flycatchers fared poorly. Two Least Flycatchers at Pt. Reyes Sept. 8 (JM, m.ob.) & 15 (RS), one banded at CCRS Sept. 18 (ph. SBT), and one on FI Sept. 20 were well below the recent average. Only 198 "Western" Flycatchers were banded at CCRS July 31–Oct. 12, a 63% drop from the previous 4-year average.

For the 4th fall in the past 5, a **Dusky-capped Flycatcher** graced the Region: El Granada, *San Mateo* (county first), Nov. 25–26 (†BS, †RSTh, †CBe). Coastally, a meager 13 Tropical Kingbirds were reported Sept. 19–Nov. 12, with none n. of *Marin*. Our lone Cassin's Kingbird was at El Granada Sept. 17 (BS). Western Kingbirds went unreported along the coast for the first time in 13 years!—an oversight or a real event? Five E. Kingbirds were along the c. coast Sept. 8–16. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at the Salinas sewer ponds Oct. 25–Nov. 2 (JSo, †DR, ph. BJW, ph. †SBT, m.ob.) was only the Region's 5th in fall.

Away from the lowlands, Horned Lark can be rare and local n. of SF, illustrated by *Lake's* first since 1982 at Clearlake Nov. 11 (JRW). Refuting their name, 200 Townsend's Solitaires along a one-mi stretch in Antelope Valley, *Sierra*, Nov. 10 (LJ) was the largest Regional concentration on record. A Swainson's Thrush in Sacramento Sept. 25 (TDM) was very rare for the CV in fall, while one at the Carmel R. mouth Oct. 1 appeared to be an eastern/"Rocky Mountain" type (DR).

CATBIRD TO VIREOS

A very impressive three **Gray Catbirds** were found: two at FI Oct. 1 (†PP) and Oct.

22–Nov. 2 (†PP), and one at Pt. Reyes Oct. 17 (†DGY). There were fewer than 12 previous Regional records. The state's 9th **Yellow Wagtail** (7th Regional) was at FI Sept. 21 (†PP); all 9 records have been within Sept. 4–21.

S.A.

A highlight of this spectacular season was the invasion of **Red-throated Pipits**, primarily along the c. coast Sept. 20–Nov. 2. Since 1968, there have been approximately 18 records, mostly of single birds along the outer coast. This fall no fewer than 58 birds graced 9 counties. Not only were first records obtained along the coast for *Sonoma* and *San Mateo*, but for the first time slightly inland counties were invaded: two at HRS Sept. 22–Oct. 9 (†RJr, †JM, m.ob.); one at CCRS Oct. 16–18 (CBe, †SBT); and one at Montezuma Slough, *Solano*, Oct. 17 (RS). Leading the charge was FI, with 14 birds. They even came in flocks, as there were up to six at Bolinas, *Marin*, Sept. 24–Oct. 2 (KH, †m.ob.), eight at Moss Landing, *Monterey*, Oct. 4–20 (G. Rosenberg, †m.ob.), and eight at Pt. Reyes Oct. 6–14 (†JM, m.ob.).

The same forces that brought the wave of Red-throated Pipits to the Region were probably also responsible for up to six Am. Pipits showing characteristics of the race *japonicus* being found: one–two at Pt. Reyes Oct. 7–13 (KH, m.ob.), up to three at FI Oct. 13–Nov. 5 (†PP), and one at Bodega Bay Nov. 10 (AWa). The only previous record away from Alaska appears to be *Del Norte's* in 1989.

Five "Blue-headed" Solitary Vireos Sept. 12–29 along the c. coast was a record total. We also tallied two "Plumbeous" birds at Pt. Reyes Sept. 12 (RS) and Golden Gate Park Sept. 17 (JM *et al.*). Philadelphia Vireo was a disappointment as only two birds were

found in *Marin*: Stinson Gulch Oct. 9 (DaS, †KH) and Pine Gulch Cr. Nov. 25–27 (†D. Reinking *et al.*). Six Red-eyed Vireos Sept. 7–Oct. 12 along the c. coast was above average. For the 3rd fall in the past 4, a Yellow-green Vireo reached the Region: one at Palomar Oct. 11 (ph. RS) was the Region's 11th.

WOOD WARBLERS

In an era when nostalgia reigns supreme, how appropriate that the stars of birding's vagrant world should stage a fall revue that would conjure up visions of the "Glory Days" nearly 20 years ago. Despite the great reduction of these tropical species in recent years, that special blend of weather and chance created the best coastal fallout of vagrant warblers since the epochal years 1974 and 1979. The vast majority of this activity was in the Pt. Reyes, FI, and SF areas.

Of our regularly occurring vagrant warblers, only Tennessee was in below-average numbers: 11 birds Sept. 9–Oct. 18 and two in late November. Those in record or near-record numbers were: Chestnut-sided (34) Sept. 3–Oct. 16; Blackburnian (21) Aug. 31–Oct. 27; Prairie (17) Sept. 9–Oct. 22; and Am. Redstart (75) Aug. 8–Nov. 3. Above-average totals were garnered for: Magnolia (24) Sept. 5–Oct. 19; Black-throated Blue (16) Sept. 4–Nov. 5; Black-and-white (28) Aug. 11–Nov. 30; and Ovenbird (9) Sept. 7–Oct. 17. Those maintaining the status quo were: Palm (137) Sept. 12–Nov. 26; Blackpoll (78) Aug. 14–Nov. 3; and N. Waterthrush (14) Sept. 7–Oct. 31.

Adding zip to these exceptional numbers was a ♂ **Golden-winged Warbler** at Sunset Heights Park, SF, Sept. 21 (†SFB, †m.ob.). In light of last Season's findings, single Virginia Warblers at Mono L. County Park Aug. 20 (G. Pasquariello) and Lee Vining Aug. 21 (PJM) were probably post-breeding dispersants. One at FI Sept. 26 was of vagrant status. Up to two N. Parulas at Ano Nuevo State Preserve, *San Mateo*, July 26–Sept. 3 (GJS, m.ob.), plus another in Robinson Canyon, *Monterey*, Sept. 8 (RS) was an average showing. Cape May Warbler has become one of the state's rarer vagrants in recent years, so a record-matching seven birds Sept. 9–Oct. 8 was exciting. An impressive seven Black-throated Green Warblers included an early bird at El Granada, *San Mateo*, Aug. 29 (†BS); the others ranged from Sept. 21–Oct. 24. A scintillating Yellow-throated Warbler at Pt. Reyes Sept. 10–16 (†FGB, †m.ob.) was the "yellow-lore" race. The only noncoastal Palm Warbler was in Stockton Oct. 14 (WRH), a *San Joaquin* first. Bay-breasted Warbler also showed impressively, with five split between FI and *Marin* Sept. 14–Oct. 15.

An amazing five Prothonotary Warblers was a record: singles at Pt. Reyes Sept. 7 (B. Chilson) and Sept. 28–Oct. 3 (BiL, †JM, †S. Cox, m.ob.); singles at the Carmel R. mouth Sept. 29–Oct. 5 (RFT, †DR, m.ob.) and Nov. 1–4 (K. Kelman, GJH, †RC *et al.*); and *Santa Clara's* first at Palo Alto Baylands Sept. 29–Oct. 1 (M. Roening, †JM). An inland N.

Waterthrush was on Sherman I, *Sacramento*, Oct. 2 (†TDM). For the 3rd fall in the past 4, FI scored a Kentucky Warbler: Sept. 15 (†PP). Three Connecticut Warblers were on FI Sept. 7–15 (all †PP), with another at CCRS Sept. 25 (†ph. SBT *et al.*). Five Mourning Warblers were divided between FI (four) Sept. 7–Oct. 6 (†PP, †JCS) and Pt. Reyes Sept. 14–17 (†DSg, †JM, m.ob.). Four Hooded Warblers Sept. 11–25 along the c. coast, and single Canada Warblers at Pt. Reyes Sept. 15 (LJP, SNHG) and Pescadero Nov. 5–6 (†BS *et al.*), were only average totals.

TANAGERS TO FINCHES

Tanagers abounded: a record eight Summers were along the c. coast (six in September/October, two in late November), and a Scarlet visited FI Oct. 22–24 (†ph. DaS). Coastally, 11 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, five Blue Grosbeaks, and five Indigo Buntings in September/October were average totals. Another Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Mono L. Aug. 20 (DS). The Region's 8th **Painted Bunting** at FI Sept. 15 (†PP) matched the timing and locale of five of the previous seven. A healthy three Dickcissels included *Alameda's* first at the HRS Sept. 20 (†RJR). The others were at FI Sept. 21 and Pt. Reyes Sept. 22 (SBT). *Spizella* sparrows blazing a hot trail along the coast included three Am. Trees Nov. 1–19, 56 Clay-colored Aug. 21–Nov. 16, and 13 Brewer's (10 on FI) Sept. 5–Oct. 10. Most impressive were a Chipping x Clay-colored Sparrow hybrid at FI Sept. 13–16 (†PP) and what would be the Region's 2nd Field Sparrow at Hopland Field Station, *Mendocino*, Oct. 11–18 (†RJK, †C. Vaughn). Four Lark Buntings visited the c. coast Aug. 28–Nov. 2.

A "Large-billed" **Savannah Sparrow** (*A. s. rostratus*) was at Princeton Marsh, *San Mateo*, Sept. 8 (†RSTh). This race is making a comeback in its s. California wintering range after practically disappearing in the late 1970s–early 1980s. The only other Regional record is from Santa Cruz Aug. 27, 1895. a **Baird's Sparrow** at FI Sept. 7 (†PP) was the Region's 3rd. And for the 2nd straight fall the state cornered a **Smith's Longspur**: a striking male at Pt. Reyes Oct. 6–8 (G. Rosenberg, †SBT, †JM, m.ob.). Lapland Longspur gave us an interesting show by going shy along the n. coast (11) and Pt. Reyes (12) and going big on FI, with an all-time high of 30 Oct. 17–Nov. 15. Singles also pioneered new countries at Trinity L., *Trinity*, Oct. 9 (†RE) and near Long Barn, *Tuolumne*, Oct. 27–28 (†S. Baldwin, ph. S. Gershen). Four along Dyson Lane in Sierra Valley Nov. 15–30 (DS, †LJ *et al.*) were *Pluma's* 2nd. Single Chestnut-collared Longspurs away from traditional areas were at Chico State University, *Butte*, Sept. 27 (JHS, †TDM *et al.*) and Sierra Valley Nov. 15–24 (DS, †LJ—*Pluma's* first).

Snow Buntings made an unprecedented invasion into the Region this season, almost doubling the previous high count in 1977.

At least 16 birds were accounted for *six* on FI Oct. 22–28; *six* at Pt. Reyes Oct. 22–Nov. 17; one at Ano Nuevo, *San Mateo*, Oct. 26 (†GJS); one at Ft. Funston, SF, Oct. 27–30 (J. Becker, †m.ob.); and two at Crescent City, *Del Norte*, Nov. 5–6 (ph. ADB). In addition to 24 coastal Bobolinks Sept. 10–Oct. 6, one was at HRS Sept. 27 (RJR). Five Rusty Blackbirds Oct. 17–Nov. 1 and six Orchard Orioles Aug. 14–Oct. 17 were slightly above-average sums for the coast. And as an exclamation point to this most eventful season, the state's 6th **Common Redpoll** was at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, Nov. 23–25 (†K. Spencer).

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

Guy McCaskie

Drought conditions prevailed throughout the season, leaving the Region dangerously dry. Most coastal observers commented on the lack of normal West Coast migrants, but observers working the eastern portion of the Region considered the numbers of these birds passing through that area higher than usual. Observers on a CAL COFI research cruise between September 29 and October 12 reported on birds far offshore, where most observers were unable to reach. We witnessed a movement of Red Phalaropes and Sabine's Gulls through the interior in September and were almost inundated with Red-throated Pipits in October. Birders looking for rarities were well rewarded with a better-than-average selection of stragglers that included some real rarities, with a Little Bunting in San Diego topping the list.

Abbreviations: CLNWC (*China Lake Naval Weapons Center, extreme n.e. Kern Co.*), EAFB (*Edwards Air Force Base, s.e. Kern Co.*), FCR (*Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, Inyo Co.*); HDL (*Harper Dry Lake, n.w. of Barstow, San Bernardino Co.*); NESS (*north end of the Salton Sea, Riverside Co.*); SBCM (*San Bernardino County Museum*); SCRE (*Santa Clara River Estuary near Ventura, Ventura Co.*); SDNHM (*San Diego Natural History Museum*); and SESS (*south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial Co.*). As most S. California rarities are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for all rarities listed in this report is on file with the California Bird Records Committee (c/o Michael A. Patten, P. O. Box 8612, Riverside, CA 92515). Records submitted without documentation are not published.

LOONS TO PELICANS

A Pacific Loon flying S along the freeway through Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, Oct. 26 (JLD), one that landed on a highway near HDL Oct. 26 (FEH), another on the highway near Ridgecrest, *Kern*, Oct. 30 (MOC), and a 4th on Klondike L. near Pig Pine, *Inyo*, Nov. 7 (T & JH) were in the e. portion of the Region, where very rare. A Horned Grebe at the SCRE Sept. 15 (SEF) was early; seven away from areas of normal occurrence in *Inyo* and *Kern* between Oct. 16–Nov. 16 (T & JH, MOC) occurred at the time this species was migrating S through the Region.

Observers on the CAL COFI research cruise off S. California Sept. 29–Oct. 12 saw at least two Cook's Petrels in the vicinity of 30°30'N, 123°40'W (about 300 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Diego) Oct. 1 (RRV), where this species is undoubtedly regular, and four Stejneger's Petrels between 32°50'N, 123°54'W and 33°23'N, 124°19'W (about



120 nautical mi s.w. of Pt. Conception) Oct. 10 (RRV). What was almost certainly a *Townsend's Shearwater* was about 3 mi off Pt. Buchon, *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 11 (KAH, JSR), this the 3rd reported in California waters. A *Wilson's Storm-Petrel*, very rare in S. California waters, was photographed 10 mi n.w. of Santa Catalina I. Oct. 12 (MH). A *Band-rumped Storm-Petrel* was identified at 30°59'N, 121°17'W (just over 200 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Diego) Sept. 30 (RRV), this being close to the area where at least nine were seen July 20, 1989 (AB43:1367, 1989). A massive flock of storm-petrels 10 mi off the n.w. tip of Santa Catalina I. Oct. 12 contained an amazing 3000 Least Storm-Petrels (JKA), the largest concentration ever reported in California waters.

Nine Red-billed Tropicbirds off S. California during the CAL COFI research cruise Sept. 29–Oct. 12 (RRV) is about normal. A subad. *Red-footed Booby*, only the 4th in S. California, was captured on the beach in Redondo Beach, *Los Angeles*, Aug. 18 (DM, JAJ) and died in a rehabilitation center 8 weeks later. A *Brown Pelican* on L. Elsinore, *Riverside*, Aug. 14–27 (DRW) was the only one reported inland away from the Salton Sea.

HERONS TO RAPTORS

The only Little Blue Herons away from coastal *San Diego* were an immature in Ventura Aug. 8–9 (BSi), another at Pt. Mugu, *Ventura*, Aug. 24 (FH), and a 3rd immature photographed at Malibu Lagoon Aug. 15–17 (NBB). A *Reddish Egret* on s. San Diego Bay Sept. 27 through the end of the period (RCh) is the same adult with a slightly deformed bill that spent the past 9 winters in

the area; an immature was in Del Mar, *San Diego*, Oct. 16–19 (JO'B), and another immature was on s. San Diego Bay Nov. 11 through the end of the period (GMcC). The subad. *Yellow-crowned Night-Heron* in the Tijuana R. valley near Imperial Beach June 16 molted into ad. plumage and was joined Oct. 13 by what was probably the adult present here last winter, with both remaining through the end of the period (D & MH); another adult photographed along the Los Angeles R. near downtown Los Angeles Sept. 13–Nov. 30 (KLG) was the 4th found in *Los Angeles*.

A family group of *Tundra Swans* first seen at CLNWC Oct. 30 (DVB) and later on Klondike L. near Big Pine and elsewhere in the Owens Valley, *Inyo*, Nov. 2–14 (T & JH) was made up of what appeared to be a typical adult *bewickii* mated with either a *bewickii* with reduced yellow on the bill or a *columbianus* with an abnormal amount of yellow on the bill, and three young showing varying amounts of whitish coloration at the base of the bill. Individual "Bewick's Swans" are occasionally found with the large flocks of *Tundra Swans* wintering in N. and C. California, but this subspecies is previously unreported in S. California.

A *Garganey* at Arroyo Laguna, *San Luis Obispo*, Oct. 2–13 (TME) was the 8th found in S. California; it now appears likely that this long-distance migrant will prove to be a very rare but regular spring and fall visitor to North America's Pacific coast. Reports of *Eurasian Wigeon* included at least 20 individuals along the coast, along with an imm. male at FCR Nov. 5 (JLD), an ad. male on Little Lake, *Inyo*, Nov. 7–23 (T & JH), and a female there Nov. 10 (GMcC); this species is

regular in small numbers along the coast but is decidedly rarer in the n.e. portion of the Region. The only *Tufted Duck* was a returning male on Quail L. near Gorman, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 11–17 (JB). An *Oldsquaw*, rare inland, was on Tinnemaha Res. near Big Pine Nov. 5–30 (JLD), another was at CLNWC Nov. 1–28 (DVB), a 3rd was near Lakeview, *Riverside*, Nov. 23 through the end of the period (CMcG), and a 4th was in Santee, *San Diego*, Nov. 6–8 (CGE). Inland scoters reports included a ♂ *Black Scoter* flying over Hollywood Res., *Los Angeles*, Oct. 27 (SSu); an unusually early *Surf Scoter* at CLNWC Oct. 5 (MTH), along with one at HDL Nov. 7 (EAC) and single birds at SESS Oct. 16–19 (WRR) and Nov. 15 (SSc); and a *White-winged Scoter* on Tinnemaha Res. Nov. 13 through the end of the period (T & JH) and up to two more at SESS Nov. 11–16 (RCI). Single ♂ *Barrow's Goldeneye* on Tinnemaha Res. Nov. 5

(JLD) and Nov. 16 (T & JH) were in the Region's n.e. portion, where small numbers are suspected to occur each fall.

An imm. *Bald Eagle* near Cantil, *Kern*, Nov. 27 (MTH) was at an unusual location. An imm. *Broad-winged Hawk* near Oxnard Oct. 14 (BSi), a dark-morph immature on the Palos Verdes Pen. Sept. 29 (MH), a typical immature over Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 18 (D & MH), and an adult there Nov. 9 (TC) were the only four reported in S. California. Where do all those birds passing through *Marin* in central California go? A flock of 138 *Swainson's Hawks* near Shafter, *Kern*, Aug. 20 (MOC) and 30 over Mt. Washington near downtown Los Angeles Oct. 7 (MJJ) were the only migrant flocks. An ad. *Zone-tailed Hawk*, very rare to casual away from known nesting localities, was over Santee Nov. 2–3 (GD). A *Merlin* of the dark race *suckleyi*, very rare in S. California, was in the Tijuana R. valley near Imperial Beach Oct. 18 (GMcC). Single *Peregrine Falcons* near Lancaster Aug. 31 (NBB) and at nearby Palmdale Nov. 24 (KLG) were far from any reintroduced populations.

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS

Sandhill Cranes are very rare away from known wintering locations, such as in the Carrizo Plain, on the Kern N.W.R., and around SESS; hence two over Lone Pine, *Inyo*, Nov. 2 (MP) and another over nearby Independence Nov. 10 (BED) were of interest.

Reports of *Lesser Golden-Plovers* included over 50 *fulva* along the coast from Aug. 24 through November, single *dominicas* inland at CLNWC Sept. 21–23 (MTH) and Oct. 12 (JCW), up to two at HDL Sept. 26–27

(CMcG, *SBCM), up to three there Oct. 6–10 (RMcK, *SBCM), and five more migrant *dominicas* along the coast between Oct. 3–Nov. 2 along with a couple of unidentified birds in the same period; *fulva* regularly winters along the coast at a few select locations, whereas *dominica* is only known as a migrant through this Region. Since Mountain Plovers are now quite rare along the coast, 10 on Vandenberg A.F.B. in *Santa Barbara* Nov. 21 (KH), up to 12 near Oxnard Oct. 19–Nov. 3 (FH), one photographed in Carson, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 1 (MH), one near San Clemente Oct. 9 (RAE) and up to five near Imperial Beach Oct. 19 through the end of the period (GMcC) are of interest; one inland at EAFB Aug. 10 (MTH), one at HDL Sept. 5 (EAC), and three at SESS Aug. 24 (RMcK) were early. An ad. Wandering Tattler at SESS Aug. 3 (MAP, KAR) is one of a very few ever found inland in fall. Single Spotted Sandpipers at FCR Oct. 27 (JLD) and at CLNWC Oct. 31 (JLD) were late for the Region's extreme n.e. portion, where this species is unknown in winter. A bird believed to be a **Terek Sandpiper** was reported along the Santa Ynez R. in Lompoc, *Santa Barbara*, the morning of Oct. 10 (HM) but could not be refound later. A juv. Ruddy Turnstone on Owens L., *Inyo*, Sept. 1 (BED), an adult at CLNWC Aug. 11–19 (DVB), an adult at EAFB Aug. 10 (MTH), and a juvenile there Sept. 7 (MTH) were the only ones inland away from the Salton Sea. More than the expected numbers of Sanderlings were in the Region's n.e. portion, with three adults between Aug. 10–25 and more than 40 juveniles there between Sept. 6–Oct. 3. Fifteen juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers were along the coast between Aug. 4–Sept. 30, and nine more were inland between Aug. 17–Oct. 2, including up to three at HDL on the unusually late dates of Sept. 27–Oct. 2 (MAP *SBCM). Expected numbers of Baird's Sandpipers passed through the Region in August and September, with two exceptionally late birds still at CLNWC Oct. 26 (MTH) and another on Tinnemaha Res. Oct. 29 (T & JH). Pectoral Sandpipers also appeared in expected numbers between late August and early October, with 66 at HDL Oct. 17 (EAC) and 51 on Owens L. in the Owens Valley Sept. 23 (T & JH) being the largest flocks; two at CLNWC Nov. 4 (JLD) were quite late for the interior, and five at Pt. Mugu Nov. 22 (DD) were late for the coast. Two Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were seen, a juvenile near Santa Maria Nov. 1–5 (SEF), and another photographed at Pt. Mugu Nov. 16–20 (DD). A Dunlin still in juvenile plumage in Long Beach Sept. 9–10 (BED) was early; this species is one of our latest arriving fall shorebirds. The only Stilt Sandpipers away from SESS were an adult inland near Delano, *Kern*, Aug. 25 (JCW) and another adult on the coast at Pt. Mugu Aug. 31 (LS). Four Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported with an adult in the Tijuana R. valley near Imperial Beach Aug. 26–Sept. 7 (DWA, GMcC), two juveniles there Sept. 2–3

(GMcC), and another juvenile on Batiquitos Lagoon, *San Diego*, Sept. 8 (GmcC). The ♂ Ruff in Goleta July 31 remained through Sept. 2 (SEF); five more in September and October included a juvenile inland near Lancaster Sept. 7 (KLG), a juvenile on the coast at Arroyo Laguna Oct. 4 (GPS), another juvenile at SCRE Sept. 4–11 (BSi), a 3rd juvenile on Batiquitos Lagoon Sept. 8 (JO'B), and a male near the mouth of the San Diego R. in San Diego Oct. 26–30 (JM).

An unexpected movement of Red Phalaropes through the interior placed three on Owens L. Sept. 23 (T & JH), up to two at FCR Sept. 8–23 (MAP), another there Sept. 29–Oct. 2 (GMcC), one at nearby Stovepipe Wells Sept. 27 (PEL), up to two near Cantil Sept. 21–22 (MTH), along with at least 22 at CLNWC and EAFB Sept. 20–Oct. 1 (MTH, DVB), at least seven at HDL between Sept. 27–Oct. 28 (MAP, EAC, *SBCM), and one at Imperial Dam Sept. 10 (MMS); late individuals on Tinnemaha Res. Nov. 18 (T & JH), near Lancaster Nov. 16 (KLG), HDL Nov. 21 (EAC), and near Victorville, *San Bernardino*, Nov. 18 (RMcK) may not have been associated with the earlier movement.

JAEGERS TO ALCIDS

An ad. Parasitic Jaeger at NESS Oct. 13 (MAP) was the only inland jaeger this fall. A S. Polar Skua, somewhat rare in S. California waters, was off Pt. Fermin Aug. 17 (BED); two more were off San Diego Sept. 7 (GMcC). A Laughing Gull, very rare along the coast, was near Imperial Beach Oct. 5 (EAC). Reports of Franklin's Gulls included two adults near Delano Aug. 16 (JCW), one near Lancaster Aug. 3 (LS), three around the Salton Sea between Oct. 13–26 (MAP), and three more along the coast Aug. 8–Nov. 8 (RJM, LRH, SEF). A subad. Heermann's Gull, accidental inland away from the Salton Sea, was on Tinnemaha Res. Oct. 9 (T & JH), and a first-winter bird was near Lancaster Oct. 23 (RCl). A Mew Gull, very rare in the interior away from the Salton Sea, was



Juvenile Arctic Tern inland at Edwards Air Force Base, California, on September 28, 1991. Photograph/John Wilson.

near Lost Hills, *Kern*, Nov. 7 (DS). Far more than the expected number of Sabine's Gulls were reported from the interior, with two juveniles on Tinnemaha Res. Sept. 26–28 (T & JH), a juvenile on Diaz Lake in Lone Pine Sept. 21 (RL), an adult at FCR Sept. 24–29 (T & JH), up to three juveniles at CLNWC Sept. 17–28 (RH), another juvenile there Oct. 3–5 (DVB), up to three juveniles at EAFB Sept. 21–28 (MTH), a juvenile in Baker Oct. 6–15 (DAG), a juvenile at HDL Sept. 26–27 (CMcG), a juvenile near Victorville Sept. 19 (MAP), an adult and juvenile together near Lancaster Sept. 20–24 (B & RS), with the juvenile remaining till Sept. 28 (KLG), eight juveniles together at NESS Oct. 5 (CMcG), two more there Oct. 9 (CMcG), and another there Oct. 13 (MAP), giving a remarkable 27 individuals between Sept. 19–Oct. 15.

A juv. Arctic Tern was inland on Tinnemaha Res. Oct. 8 (T & JH), and another juvenile was well photographed at EAFB Sept. 28–Oct. 3 (MTH); a healthy looking adult was photographed on the coast at the Santa Maria R. mouth Sept. 4 (BHi), and an oiled juvenile was at the mouth of the San Diego R. in San Diego Oct. 6 (GMcC). This species is most unusual on shore, with most records involving oiled or sick birds. An exceptionally late Black Tern at Oso Flaco L. near Santa Maria Nov. 3 (JSR) was the first in *San Luis Obispo* in 5 years; they are quite rare along the coast nowadays. Three Black Skimmers on Morro Bay Aug. 11–12 (JSR) and two more there Oct. 12 (JL) were the northernmost reported.

A Marbled Murrelet on Morro Bay Sept. 28–Oct. 13 (RR) was a little south of normal range and at an unexpected locality. At least six of a loose gathering of 20 Xantus' Murrelets 20 nautical mi w.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Oct. 5 (RRV) were of the southern form, *hypoleuca*, known to move north into California waters in small numbers in late summer. The only Craveri's Murrelets were one off San Miguel I. Aug. 3 (PP), two off Pt. Buchon Aug. 18 (BSc), and at least 12 off Morro Bay Sept. 21 (BSc).

DOVES TO WOODPECKERS

The northernmost of the 10 White-winged Doves on the coast was one near Nipomo, *San Luis Obispo*, Aug. 20 (DA). Up to four Inca Doves at FCR Sept. 28 through November (KAR, T & JH) and another at Iron Mountain Pump Station in extreme s.e. *San Bernardino* Oct. 2–30 (JLD) were n. of this species' normal range. A Com. Ground-Dove at Iron Mountain Pump Station Oct. 9 (MAP), one at FCR Aug. 16 (KAR), followed by up to three there Oct. 16–Nov. 1 (T & JH), and another there Nov. 15 through the end of the period (T & JH), were also unusually far north. Again, Ruddy Ground-Doves reached the e. portion of the Region, with a male at Iron Mountain Pump Station Oct. 28 (RAE), another in Baker Oct. 25 (RMcK), single birds near Cantil Sept. 21 (BED) and Oct. 17–18 (MTH), at least six



Four Ruddy Ground-Doves together (of the five present) at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, California, on October 27, 1991. Photograph/Jon L. Dunn.

individuals at FCR between Sept. 21 and the end of the period (T & JH, *et al.*), and one at nearby Stovepipe Wells Oct. 26 (JLD). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo, now most unusual away from known nesting locales, was in Independence Aug. 9–10 (AKi), and another was in Morongo Valley the late date of Oct. 22 (CB).

A Short-eared Owl, which has become alarmingly scarce in recent years, was at FCR Sept. 27 (JLD). Since there are virtually no fall records of migrant Calliope Hummingbirds, single females in Mojave, *Kern*, Aug. 30 (BED) and Sept. 12–14 (MTH), and two together at nearby Butterbredt Spring Sept. 12 (JLD) are of extreme interest.

Reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (whose true status is not yet fully understood due to lack of well-documented records, but which appears to be a rare but regular fall and winter visitor to California) include single juveniles at FCR Oct. 4 (JLD), Galileo Hill in extreme e. *Kern* Oct. 12–24 (MTH), California City, *Kern*, Nov. 8–10 (JCW), in the Cuyama Valley, *Santa Barbara*, Nov. 9 (BSi), *Santa Barbara* Nov. 19 (JEL), Brock Ranch in s.e. *Imperial* Oct. 26 (BED), and in Santa Isabel, *San Diego*, Nov. 16 through the end of the period (DWA), and an ad. female in Cambria, *San Luis Obispo*, Oct. 27 through the end of the period (TME).

FLYCATCHERS

A Greater Pewee in San Diego Nov. 7 through the end of the period (DH) was the same bird that spent the past 3 winters at this location; one in Huntington Beach Sept. 11 (BED) and another in nearby Newport Beach Sept. 14 (BED) were much earlier than any previous fall records. The only Least Flycatchers this fall were one in California City Sept. 24–29 (JLD), another near Cantil Sept. 29 (ST), one in Irvine, *Orange*, Sept. 15 (RAE), and another in Huntington Beach

Oct. 6–9 (JP, BED). Reports of E. Phoebes, a rare but somewhat regular California straggler, included one inland at FCR Oct. 19 (KAR), one on the coast in Montana de Oro S.P., *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 13 through the end of the period (WDAs), another in Santa Barbara Nov. 23 through the end of the period (RL), a 4th at SCRE Nov. 24 (BN), a somewhat early individual in Westminster, *Orange*, Oct. 11–12 (BO'C, RAE), another there Nov. 16 through the end of the period (DRW), one in nearby Tustin Nov. 13 (BO'C), and an 8th near San Diego Nov. 3–11 (CGE). A Vermilion Flycatcher in Bishop, *Inyo*, Oct. 1 (JRJ) was unusually far north. A Great Crested Flycatcher near Victorville Oct. 6–7 (SJM) was only the 3rd in inland California. A Sulphur-bellied Fly-

catcher in Huntington Beach Sept. 13 (BED) and another in San Pedro Oct. 20 (RLB) are the 7th and 8th California reports. Eighteen Tropical Kingbirds along the coast between Sept. 22–Nov. 26 was an average number this time of year. A Thick-billed Kingbird in Seal Beach Oct. 29 through the end of the period (TW, JP) is the 9th found in California. The only E. Kingbirds this fall were one inland at FCR Aug. 31 (MAP), one on the coast at Morro Bay Aug. 27 (AKn), and a 3rd in San Pedro Sept. 7 (MH). Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported, one inland at FCR Sept. 21–22 (MAP) and the other along the coast in Irvine Oct. 14–Nov. 12 (TB).

WRENS TO VIREOS

A Winter Wren on Pt. Loma Oct. 31 (GJ) was the southernmost found on the coast, and another at 1000 Palms Oasis near Indio Oct. 25 (CBa) was in the s.e. portion of the Region, where few indeed have been found. A Sedge Wren in Huntington Beach Oct. 15–17 (JP) is the first in S. California and only the 4th in the state. A Veery photographed at Galileo Hill Sept. 19–24 (RAE) was felt to show characteristics of the western race *salicicola* and is only the 4th Veery found in S. California.

A Gray Catbird, a casual California straggler, was at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nov. 3 (RCI); another hit a window at FCR Nov. 17 (CC, *SDNHM); a 3rd was in Nippon, *San Bernardino*, Oct. 18 (RMCK); and a 4th was photographed along the coast in Malibu Oct. 5–8 (CY). A Sage Thrasher on Pt. Conception Nov. 2 (BHe) was unexpected since few are found along the coast, especially n. of *Los Angeles*. Three Brown Thrashers were found, with one photographed at Panamint Springs, *Inyo*, Oct. 19–Nov. 5 (KAR), another at FCR Nov. 23 (GMcC) in the e. portion of the Region, and one pho-



Veery at Galileo Hill, Kern County, California, on September 22, 1991. Fourth record for southern California. Photograph/Jon L. Dunn.



Tropical Kingbird at McGrath State Beach, Ventura, California, on October 9, 1991.
Photograph/Brad Sillasen.

tographed along the coast in Wilmington, Los Angeles, Nov. 10–13 (MH). A Bendire's Thrasher, a casual coastal straggler, was on Pt. Loma Aug. 18–22 (REW).

Far more than the expected number of Red-throated Pipits were found, including single birds inland at FCR Sept. 21 (MAP), Sept. 23 (JLD), Oct. 4–5 (T & JH) and Oct. 11–24 (MAP), one at CLNWC Sept. 20 (MTH), and another in California City Sept. 22 (MTH); along the coast, two were at Arroyo Laguna Oct. 2 (GPS), one was at Arroyo de La Cruz, *San Luis Obispo*, Oct. 2 (JSR), another was near Santa Maria Oct. 20–26 (DF), three were in Goleta between Oct. 6–28 (CBe, RPH), two were near Oxnard Oct. 13–19 (DD) and another was there Oct. 26 (FH), one was photographed in San Pedro Sept. 28 (MH), up to two were in the Sepulveda Basin near Encino Oct. 16–20 (WDam), and at least 20 were in the Tijuana R. valley near Imperial Beach between Oct. 6–Nov. 11 (PU, GMcC, REW). Also of interest was an American Pipit showing the characteristics of the Asiatic race *japonicus* in Irvine Oct. 25 (RAE), at least two well-studied in the Tijuana River valley Oct. 26–Nov. 11 (GMcC, REW), and another on nearby Mission Bay in San Diego Nov. 23 (JWF); this race is a rare to casual visitor to extreme w. Alaska that normally winters in Asia; it has previously been seen in California only once (AB44:158, 1990), but there is a specimen-supported record for n. Sonora, Mexico. A Sprague's Pipit, very rare anywhere in California, was well photographed in the Sepulveda Basin near Encino Oct. 20 (LS). The only N. Shrike known

to reach this Region was an adult near Big Pine Nov. 6 (T & JH).

A Solitary Vireo showing characters of the e. race *solitarius* was well seen at FCR Sept. 23 (JLD); another was along the coast on Pt. Loma Sept. 15 (SM); and a 3rd was there Sept. 29 (REW). A Yellow-throated Vireo, a casual California straggler, was banded near Victorville Sept. 22 (SJM), the 2nd fall interior record. Four Red-eyed Vireos were reported, including single birds inland at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, Sept. 22 (AME) and at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nat. Mon. Oct. 1 (T & JH); the other two were along the coast, with one in Huntington Beach Oct. 20 (JP) and the 4th on Pt. Loma Sept. 14 (REW). A Yellow-green Vireo, a surprisingly regular California vagrant, was in La Jolla Oct. 5 (JO'B); another was on nearby Pt. Loma Sept. 29 (REW).

WOOD WARBLERS

Although wood warbler numbers were low, variety was better than average: 38 species. In addition to the 11 normally occurring species, all regular vagrants were present, with 15 Tennessee Warblers; 10 Virginia's Warblers, excluding birds near known breeding locales along the Region's e. border; about 50 Palm Warblers, including six in the Region's n.e. portion, where much rarer than along the coast; at least 35 Blackpoll Warblers, including single birds inland, where very rare, at Scotty's Castle Sept. 14 (GMcC), Nipton Oct. 18 (RMcK, *SBCM), HDL Oct. 2 (EAC), and Morongo Valley Sept. 13 (MAP); nearly 50 Black-and-white Warblers; over 80 Am. Redstarts; and about

45 N. Waterthrushes.

A Lucy's Warbler, a casual coastal straggler, was near Imperial Beach Sept. 21 (GJ); another was on nearby Pt. Loma Nov. 1 (REW). The only N. Parulas this fall were singles inland at FCR Oct. 17 (JCS), at Butterbredt Springs Sept. 15 (H & PB), and along the coast near Santa Maria Aug. 24 (DB). Ten Chestnut-sided Warblers along the coast between Sept. 12–Oct. 26 and an additional bird near Malibu on the late date of Nov. 24 (MH), along with single birds inland at Deep Springs Sept. 14 (JLD) and in California City Nov. 2 (JCW) was about average. Eleven Magnolia Warblers scattered throughout the Region between Sept. 14–Nov. 1 were fewer than expected. Five Cape May Warblers was better than recent years, including a male inland at FCR Oct. 4–5 (JLD), single birds on the immediate coast near Oxnard Oct. 5–8 (BHe), on Pt. Loma Sept. 14–15 (REW), near Imperial Beach Oct. 16 (PAG), and a male photographed on the CAL COFI research cruise ship off the n. end of San Clemente I. Oct. 3 (RRV). Thirteen Black-throated Blue Warblers, remarkably regular stragglers to California, scattered throughout the Region between Sept. 27–Nov. 5, was about average. Five Black-throated Green Warblers were found, including single birds inland in California City Nov. 6 (JLD) and Morongo Valley Oct. 18 (MAP), and three in coastal Los Angeles between Oct. 12–Nov. 19 (JFi, JFu, DM). Nine Blackburnian Warblers were along the coast between Sept. 14–Nov. 6, and another was inland at Morongo Valley Oct. 27–30 (KAR, RAE). A Yellow-throated Warbler, a very rare California straggler, was in California City Sept. 22–24 (MOC) and was clearly of the w. race *albiflora*. A Grace's Warbler was on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 14 (DWA), and another in Santa Barbara Oct. 6 through the end of the period (HPR) was the same bird present here last winter. Four Pine Warblers were with a male on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 11 (PAG), another male there Oct. 19–20 (REW), a female near Laguna Beach, *Orange*, Nov. 24 through the end of the period (RAE) along the coast, and an imm. female inland near Westmorland, *Imperial*, Oct. 13 (RHi * SDNHM). Nine Prairie Warblers along the coast between Sept. 15–Oct. 13, along with one near Glendale, Los Angeles, Oct. 26–Dec. 13 (KLG) and another near San Diego Nov. 3 through the end of the period that is attempting to winter locally (CGE), was a better-than-average showing for this species. A Bay-breasted Warbler, very rare in recent years, was on Pt. Loma in San Diego Sept. 9 (REW); another was photographed there Oct. 28 (BJR); one was in La Jolla Oct. 10–13 (PAG); and a 4th was on Palos Verdes Pen. Nov. 2 (MH). More than the expected number of Prothonotary Warblers were found, with singles inland at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley Nat. Mon. Sept. 25 (T & JH), FCR Oct. 6 (DAG), in California City Sept. 19 (MTH), near Palmdale Sept. 22 (KLG),



Male Common Grackle at Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley National Monument, California, on November 15, 1991. Photograph/Tom Heindel.

along the coast in Bolsa Chica Aug. 31 (CTC), Encinitas Oct. 21 (JK * SDNHM), La Jolla Sept. 15–18 (JO'B), and near Imperial Beach Oct. 13–16 (JO'B), a total of eight. A Worm-eating Warbler, one of the rarer vagrants, was photographed in Redondo Beach, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 28–Oct. 10 (EM); another was well seen on Point Loma in San Diego Oct. 11 (PAG). The only Ovenbirds were single birds inland in California City Sept. 12–15 (MTH), at nearby Galileo Hill Oct. 18 (JCS) and Sept. 26–27 (MTH), and near Trona, *San Bernardino*, Oct. 26 (JLD); and along the coast in Santa Barbara Oct. 24 (FS). A Mourning Warbler, another scarce California vagrant, was in Goleta Sept. 13 (KB). Single ♀ Hooded Warblers were in Imperial Beach Oct. 1 (EC) and on Pt. Loma Oct. 22–25 (BED); the male that spent the summer at Morongo Valley was last seen Sept. 15 (MAP). Single Canada Warblers were in Montana de Oro S.P., *San Luis Obispo*, Sept. 9 (TME); Oceano, *San Luis Obispo*, Oct. 27 (JV); at San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego*, Oct. 19 (RP); in La Jolla Sept. 13–15 (JO'B); and on the CAL COFI research cruise ship 20 mi w.s.w. of San Nicolas I. Oct. 5 (RRV). The only Painted Redstarts this fall were one at SESS Sept. 26 (HD) and another near Lakeside, *San Diego*, Oct. 14 (CMK).

TANAGERS TO ORIOLES

As usual, Summer Tanagers were scattered throughout the Region, with about 25 reported in September and October; most, if

not all, were probably the nominant form *rubra*. A ♂ Scarlet Tanager was inland at Stovepipe Wells Oct. 11 (BED); a female was along the coast in Huntington Beach Nov. 11 (LRH); another female was on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 20–26 (SM); and a 3rd female was there Nov. 3 (REW). Some 25 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region in September and October was an average number. An imm. ♂ Blue Grosbeak in Pico Rivera, *Los Angeles*, Nov. 24 (JS) was exceptionally late. Twelve Indigo Buntings in various locales Aug. 30–Dec. 2 was fewer than in recent years. An imm. Painted Bunting, casual in California, was at FCR Sept. 21 (MAP); an ad. male of uncertain origin was at a Santa Barbara feeder Nov. 3–5 (PW). Five Dickcissels were reported, with single birds inland near Independence Oct. 5 (AKi), FCR Oct. 19 (GMcC), Galileo Hill Sept. 13–15 (MOC), Iron Mountain Pump Station Sept. 29 (JLD), and one photographed along the coast in Los Osos Sept. 7–10 (KAH).

As usual, a few Am. Tree Sparrows reached the extreme n.e. portion of the Region, indicated by single birds at Scotty's Castle Oct. 19–20 (T & JH), FCR Nov. 1 (T & JH) and Nov. 15 (T & JH), and in California City Nov. 23 (MTH); one on San Miguel I. Nov. 8 (DAG) was the only one along the coast. Twenty-five Clay-colored Sparrows, scattered throughout the Region Sept. 9–Nov. 9, was an average number. A Black-throated Sparrow, very rare along the coast, was in Solvang, *Santa Barbara*, Nov. 8 (HS). Lark

Buntings were decidedly rare, with single birds on the Carrizo Plain, *San Luis Obispo*, Nov. 11–12 (KJZ), on the Kern N.W.R. Nov. 7 (JE), in Twentynine Palms, *San Bernardino*, Nov. 1–7 (CMcG), and on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, *Los Angeles*, Sept. 11–15 (RAE, BO'C), and three together near Blythe, *Riverside*, Oct. 13 (RMcK) being the only ones reported. Large-billed [Savannah] Sparrows, *Passerculus sandwichensis* *rostratus*, were again along the coast, with three at the SCRE Sept. 2–Oct. 11 (BSi), one at the Santa Ynez R. mouth, *Santa Barbara*, Sept. 4 (BHi), and two on Morro Bay Oct. 25 (GPS) the northernmost. Since Grasshopper Sparrows are rarely in the e. portion of the Region, single birds at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, Sept. 14 (JLD), Stovepipe Wells Oct. 5 (JLD), FCR Oct. 5 (GMcC) and Oct. 11–12 (BED), and at Iron Mountain Pump Station Oct. 2 (JLD) were of interest. Two Le Conte's Sparrows were at FCR, one Oct. 5–6 (JLD) and the other Oct. 12–16 (MAP), bringing S. California's number up to 10. Swamp Sparrows were in above-expected numbers, indicated by reports of at least 50 scattered throughout the Region between Oct. 5 and the end of the period. White-throated Sparrows were in normal numbers, indicated by reports of about 40 scattered throughout the Region between Oct. 5 and the end of the period; but a Harris' Sparrow near Cantil Nov. 27 (MTH) and another in Nipton Oct. 25 (RMcK) were the only two found. An early McCown's Longspur in Salton City, *Imperial*, Oct. 13

(KAR) was followed by up to six near Palmdale Nov. 9 through the end of the period (MH, KLG), one in Irvine Oct. 29 (BED), and another in the Tijuana R. Valley near Imperial Beach Nov. 10 (REW). At least eight Lapland Longspurs were in the n.e. portion of the Region between Oct. 16–Nov. 27, but two near Imperial Beach Nov. 10–18 (REW) and another there Nov. 24 (GMcC) were the only three along the coast. Chestnut-collared Longspurs were present in expected numbers, with about 60 in the Region's e. portion between Oct. 5 and the end of the period, including a flock of 20 at HDL Nov. 26 (RMcK), at least 15 near Palmdale Nov. 24 through the end of the period (KLG), and at least 40 along the coast between Oct. 29 and the end of the period, including a flock of about 30 in Irvine Nov. 17 (SM) and one photographed on the CAL COFI research cruise ship 15 mi w. of San Clemente I. Oct. 3 (RRV). Undoubtedly the most unusual bird was the **Little Bunting**, *Emberiza pusilla*, well photographed on Pt. Loma in San Diego Oct. 21–24 (GMcC, REW); there are only 3 previous records of this Asiatic bunting in North America, two from the extreme w. end of the Aleutian Is. and the 3rd on a boat in the Arctic Ocean, some 150 nautical mi w. of the n. Alaska coast.

Bobolinks numbers along the coast have declined in recent years, with up to two at Arroyo Laguna Oct. 3–6 (TME), one in Goleta Sept. 19 (PEL), another near Glendale Oct. 2 (KLG), and a 5th in Huntington Beach. Sept. 29 (LRH) being the only ones reported; inland single birds were at FCR Sept. 28–Oct. 4 (KAR) and Oct. 17–19 (T & JH); up to three were near Independence Sept. 27–29 (AKi); four were in e. Kern between Sept. 26–Oct. 3 (MTH, DVb); another was in Baker Sept. 25–Oct. 5 (RMcK); and one was in Desert Center, *Riverside*, Oct. 25 (RMcK). The only Rusty Blackbirds were one at FCR Nov. 15 (T & JH) and another in Twentynine Palms Oct. 19 (EAC). A Com. Grackle, a casual California straggler, was well photographed at FCR Oct. 18 (JCS); another was photographed there Nov. 15 (T & JH). Orchard Orioles were less numerous than usual, with only four along the coast between Sept. 14 and the end of the period; one inland near California City Oct. 31 (MTH) was Kern's first documented record. The only N. (Baltimore) Orioles were a male inland at Stovepipe Wells Sept. 14 (GMcC), single females on Pt. Loma Sept. 9 (REW) and Sept. 15 (REW), and an imm. male in Irvine Nov. 29 (TM). A Scott's Oriole in Lompoc Nov. 4–Dec. 7 (PR) was not only on the coast, where considered rare, but was also unusually far north; one at FCR Nov. 5 (JLD) and another at SESS Aug. 24 (GMcC) were both in areas where virtually unrecorded.

Corrigendum: A Wilson's Petrel off Ventura May 17 (Gerry McChesney) is the first reported off S. California in spring; and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on Santa Barbara I. July

16–17 (Gerry McChesney) is only the 2nd found on the Channel Is. These reports were received too late to be included in the appropriate seasonal reports.

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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

Robert L. Pyle

Rainfall through the fall was above average at two-thirds of reporting stations, with the northern islands of Kaua'i and O'ahu being a bit wetter and the southern islands generally drier. Rains were uneven; unusually warm, dry periods were occasionally broken by short, stormy periods, causing some flooding on northern islands. Except for an inundation of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, transient and wintering shorebird and duck numbers were generally low, continuing the trend of recent years.

Abbreviations: BPBM (*prefix for catalog numbers of specimens in B.P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu*); FFS (*French Frigate Shoals*); H (*Hawai'i I.*); K. (*Kaua'i I.*); M. (*Maui I.*); O (*O'ahu I.*); JCNWR (*James Campbell Natl Wildlife Ref., O.*); PHNWR (*Pearl Harbor Natl Wildlife Ref., O.*).

ALBATROSSES TO TROPICBIRDS

The first Laysan Albatross returned to nesting grounds at Kilauea Point N.W.R., K., Nov. 6; at least eight were present by Nov. 21 (DP). A citizen picked up a **Juan Fernandez Petrel** alive in the Waimanalo Beach area of O'ahu and turned it in to Sea Life Park July 27; it died July 30 (MB) and became the 2nd specimen for Hawaii (BPBM-178481, ID confirmed by LS). These petrels occur regularly in the central Pacific but are very rarely reported in near-shore waters. Two more were sighted from a research vessel cruising 50–200 mi s.e. of Hawai'i I. Nov. 12 (LS). Also seen from the vessel that day were seven-plus Dark-rumped (Hawaiian) Petrels (*Endangered*), four light-morph **Kermadec Petrels**, two **Herald Petrels**, seven Black-winged Petrels, and one Leach's Storm-Petrel (LS). Another light-morph Kermadec Petrel was sighted Nov. 19 about 30 mi off the w. coast of Hawai'i I. (LS). Kermadec and Herald petrels are very rarely reported in Hawaiian waters; the others are seen occasionally nearer to shore.

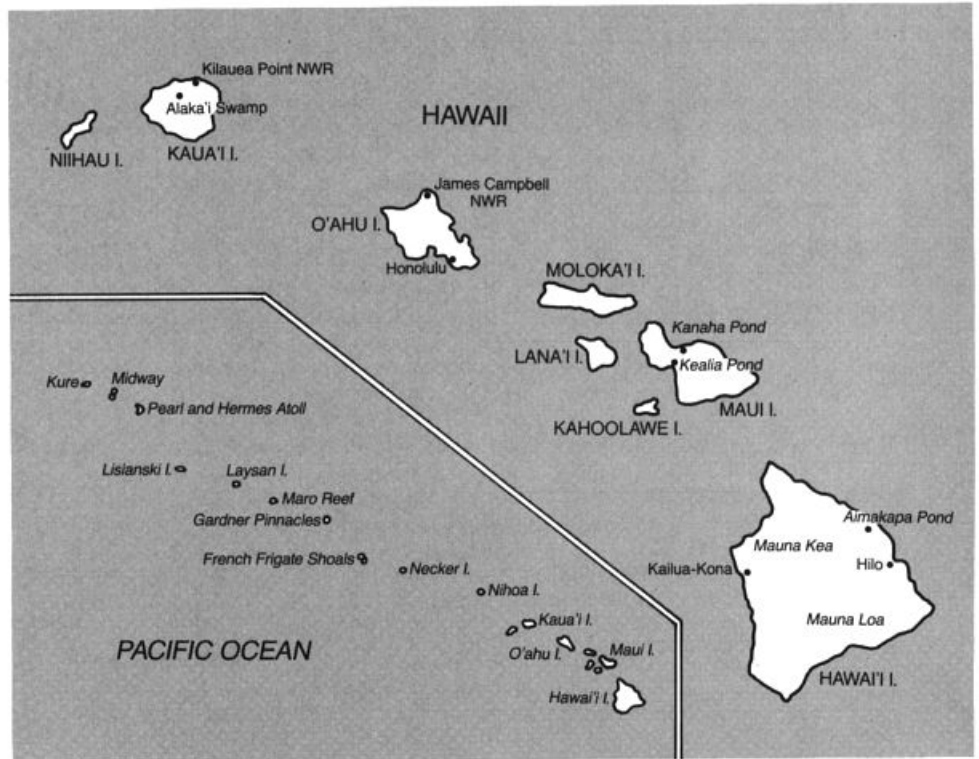
Eight Bulwer's Petrels were brought to Sea Life Park between Sept. 11–24. Three died, the others were banded and released (MB). One Bulwer's was seen Aug. 11 from a boat just off the e. coast of Lana'i I. (KW). Good counts of White-tailed Tropicbirds were reported at the n. tip of Maui I.: three off Honokahua Bay Aug. 6 (KW) and five off nearby Kahakuloa Bay Oct. 23 (JO).

GEESE TO DUCKS

Two imm. **Snow Geese**, rarely recorded in Hawaii, were first seen Oct. 20 (PD) at Ki'i Unit, JCNWR, and remained well into mid-winter (m.ob.). Two also appeared at Hanalei N.W.R., K., Dec. 3 (KF) and were seen repeatedly thereafter (RV) What may have

been the same two birds were flying at sea off nearby Lumahai Beach Nov. 21 (DP). Ten Canada Geese, an unprecedentedly large group for Hawaii, were first seen at Hanalei N.W.R. Oct. 23 (*vide* CF); nine were still there in mid-December and had been identified as the Cackling race (RV). The small Taverner's Canada Goose resident at Waiakea Pond in Hilo, H., was there alone Nov. 14 and had been joined by three other Canadas by Nov. 18 (DP). Twelve Nene reared in captivity (Hawaiian Goose, *Endangered*) were released on Crater Hill in Kilauea Point N.W.R., K., Aug. 14 (TT). Eight were still around Crater Hill in mid-fall, an optimistic sign that they might breed there this winter. The free-flying Nene that have been breeding in Kipu Kai and roaming over s. Kaua'i in recent years have now built up to around 50 birds (TT).

Returning migrant N. Pintails and N. Shovelers were first re-



A group of about 40 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, less than half the number that were at Kealia Pond, Maui, Hawaii, in October 1991. Photograph/Jerry Oldenettel.

ported in mid-September on O'ahu and at Kealia Pond, M. High counts of each species through the fall were in the 40s at PHNWR and JCNWR (PD), and up to 65 pintails and 75 shovelers were at Kealia Pond, M. (JO). Up to three Green-winged Teal appeared at several sites in late October and early November. Higher counts at more favored locales were nine teal at Makalawena Pond, H., Nov. 29 (JL) and 15 at Kealia Pond, M., Nov. 16, climbing to 30 by Nov. 28 (JO), an unusually high number for Hawaii. Most of the teal were in basic plumage, and several basic-plumaged Garganey were evidently included in the Kealia flock (DP, JO) and perhaps also in the Makalawena group. Eurasian Wigeon first appeared at Kealia Oct. 27, and on Dec. 4 had built up to a flock of 14 wigeon, including six ♂ Eurasians, two ♂ Americans, and the rest in ♀ plumage (JO).

OSPREY TO PHALAROPES

An Osprey (perhaps the same individual) was reported at Wahiawa, O., Aug. 12 (CC) and in the Pearl Harbor area 3 times in late August and September (PD). A Peregrine Falcon with a bright aluminum band made 3 passes over Kealia Pond, M., Oct. 5 then was gone (RD). At the same time, another banded Peregrine accompanied a research vessel working from 115 mi n.e. of Pearl & Hermes Atoll (Oct. 3) to about 150 mi n.e. of Laysan I (Oct. 6). Excellent photos were obtained of the bird eating a White Tern (HRBP-931, 932 JN; *Elepaio* 51:77).

At least 19 Gambel's Quail were recorded Oct. 16 on Kaho'olawe I. (BE, RD), where the species has been long established but inaccessible to casual visitors. Eleven Black-bellied Plovers, an unusually high count for Hawaii, were on Kaho'olawe Oct. 15, where they outnumbered the usually more abundant Lesser Golden-Plovers in barren areas of the island's interior (BE). The high count of Black-bellieds at Kealia Pond, M., was five Oct. 29 (DP).

A bird identified as a Gray-tailed Tattler was at Waialua Settling Ponds, O., Oct. 14 and Nov. 10 (BE, RD). One Spotted (or possibly Common) Sandpiper was at West Loch, O., Aug. 8 & 11 (PD). A similar sandpiper at Kealia Pond, M., was examined and described in great detail Aug. 31 and Sept. 1; it was finally identified as a juv. Spotted (†JO). A color-banded Bristle-thighed Curlew observed at Kahuku Pt., O., Sept. 13 (PD) & 15 (MO, RLP) had been originally captured on Laysan I. as a hatching-year bird in October 1988. It was seen there each year until its May 1991 departure, probably for its first trip back to Alaskan breeding grounds (JM).

It was a banner fall for migrant Sharp-tailed Sandpipers. The first appeared at Kealia Pond, M., Sept. 28 (JO). Numbers built steadily (RD, RW) to 80–100 birds present mid-October into early November (JO, DP). Peak count was 110 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers on Kealia Pond Oct. 10 (JO), an unprecedented high count for Hawaii. On O'ahu, nine to 11 were reported the 3rd

week of October at Waipi'o Pen., Ki'i Ponds, and Waialua Settling Ponds (PD, RLP), unusually high counts for recent years. Two were at Hanapepe Salt Ponds, K., Nov. 20 (DP), and three remained at Kealia Pond Nov. 30 (JO). Pectoral Sandpipers with the Sharp-taileds reached a high of 15 at Kealia Sept. 28 (JO), and one to four were at various O'ahu sites. All were gone by season's end.

A probable Rufous-necked Stint was studied closely at Ki'i Ponds, JCNWR, Sept. 15 (MO, RLP) & 16 (†PD); one was reported at Kealia Pond, M., several times in November and early December (HRBP-943, †JO, †DP). A Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Kealia Pond Aug. 17–28 (HRBP-944, JO). A Least Sandpiper was at Ki'i Ponds Sept. 13 & 16 (PD) and Oct. 20 (MO, RLP), and single Western Sandpipers were observed at Kealia Aug. 6 & Sept. 17 (JO). A 3rd Western, one with a damaged leg, was at Kealia Oct. 5–Nov. 16 (RD, HRBP-945 JO, DP). These four peep species are casual to rare Hawaii migrants. A Wilson's Phalarope appeared at Kealia Pond Oct. 3 (RD), and a weak juv. Red Phalarope was at Hanapepe Salt Ponds, K., Nov. 20 (DP) & 22 (RD, PD). Both are casual to rare in the state.

JAEGERS TO TERNS

An ad. light-morph Parasitic Jaeger, well-observed from a research vessel 160 mi s.e. of Hawai'i I. Nov. 17 (LS), furnished the first state record. It was harassing a large feeding flock of terns and shearwaters, along with a Pomarine Jaeger and another subadult dark-morph jaeger, which may also have been a Parasitic (LS).

A breeding-plumaged Franklin's Gull wandered to Tern I., FFS. It was first seen Aug. 16 and was observed there daily until found dead Sept. 12 (*BPBM-178477). Another Least/Little Tern was at Tern I. from Aug. 4 until found dead Aug. 9 (*BPBM-178466); it has not yet been identified to species. One earlier specimen from Tern I. and another from Midway Atoll have proven to be of the Asiatic race of Little Tern (*S. albigrons*). No Least Tern specimen (*S. antillarum*) has yet been recorded for Hawaii. "Hundreds" of Gray-backed Terns were over Moku Manu Islet, O., Nov. 12 (DP), a very late date for Gray-backed here. No Sooty Terns were reported.

OWLS TO PUAIOHI

A Barn Owl came aboard a research vessel 20 mi s. of w. Moloka'i I. Sept. 21 and remained with the vessel for several hours before flying off toward land (ph. JN). Barn Owls have been successfully introduced to all the main Hawaiian Islands. A Belted Kingfisher occasionally turns up in Hawaii, apparently making it to the islands under its own power. One was seen Sept. 29 for a few moments, perched on a tree stub over the beach in front of a home at Kawela Bay, O.; it was not seen again (CS). Japanese Bush-Warblers are now regular on the flume trail along the 4300' contour on the slope of Haleakala Mtn, M

(FD), one was also recorded in the lowlands at Wailuku Res. Nov. 30 (JO). They have only recently reached Maui I.

LAUGHING-THRUSHES TO JAVA SPARROW

A flock of about 25 Greater Necklaced Laughing-Thrushes, perhaps the largest single-group count on record, was encountered Nov. 22 along Haiku Rd., K., one of the original traditional localities for this spectacular but scarce introduced species. Another occurrence of Eur. Starling has been recorded. One and perhaps two were discovered at Hickam Air Force Base in September (BG), and one was seen there repeatedly over the next 2 months (BG, PD, RD *et al.*), last reported Nov. 23. One or two ad. Red-crested Cardinals were observed in early August at 4 sites from Ka'anapali to Kihei along the w coast of Maui (KW), an island where still quite scarce. Several Yellow-billed Cardinals and three to four Yellow-fronted Canaries found at Manuka S.P. in s. Kona, H., were farther south than these species have generally been reported (TP).

A Maui Parrotbill (critically *Endangered*) was recorded Nov. 14 in the upper part of Waikamoi Preserve, M. (DP), where several sightings have been reported in the past few years. Three families of 'Akiapola'au (*Endangered*) were observed and followed this fall in a research study area in Hakalau N.W.R., H (JL). Only one Kaua'i Creeper was found in 3 days of hiking along the Pihea and Alaka'i Swamp Trails Oct. 21, 22, & 25 (RW). This species could formerly be found fairly often along the accessible trails in the Koke'e area but has been rarely reported in the past few years.

Several Java Sparrows at Hanalei Beach Park, K., Nov. 7 & 21 and two in Lahaina, M., Nov. 13 (DP) are interesting locales for these 2 islands, where the species is just getting established. Javas are abundant on O'ahu and Hawai'i Islands.

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WEST INDIES REGION

American Birds has no Regional Editor for this season. Therefore, no summary appears in this issue.