

one was very late at Matachewan Nov. 30 (LT), while high counts included 150 at Beachville Nov. 6 (JMH) and 300 at Portland Oct. 30 (PH). A count of 100 Brewer's Blackbirds at Trout L., Oct. 1 (RTa) was noteworthy there. A migrant at Brighton Nov. 11 (DS) was unusual. A Baltimore Oriole at Ottawa Nov. 30 (TG) was exceptionally late there. While Pine Grosbeaks remained in c. and n. Ontario, singles at Thornhill Sept. 1 (EG) and Pittock L., Nov. 3 (JMH) were noteworthy. Heading in the opposite direction, lone House Finches at Thunder Bay Nov. 4 (GW) and Atikokan Nov. 16 (DE) were notable. Crossbills also remained in the north, so a single at Long Pt., Aug. 2 (PPr) and five at Port Royal Oct. 16 (FW, TW) were of interest, as were two White-winged at Kingston Oct. 22 (KE) and Plainfield Nov. 28 (AB). The same was the case with lone Com. Redpolls at Oshawa Oct. 23 (DR) and Pelee Nov. 22 (DD).

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Appalachian Region

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It was a fall season of extremes, both in weather and in the birding. While overall temperatures were quite mild, August was slightly warmer than normal, September and October were cooler, and November was quite a bit cooler. September had rainfall greatly in excess of normal—2.66 inches above average at Pittsburgh. The other months were drier than average.

The feature of the weather was hurricane *Fran*, whose remnants moved through east West Virginia and west Virginia September 6–8, bringing heavy rains, as much as 13 inches in some places. Some areas of the West Virginia highlands were hit with the fourth major flood event of the year. *Fran* did make some interesting birding in western Pennsylvania. Besides *Fran*, at least two other tropical disturbances brought heavy rain to the eastern part of the Region. On November 10–11 an early-season snow storm deposited 15–20 inches of snow on Erie, Pennsylvania, and other northern areas.

Besides the hurricane systems, there were a number of good frontal passages. A



low pressure system that moved through September 18–20 produced several concentrations of birds. One interesting report came from the Snowshoe Ski Resort, high in the Cheat Mountains of West Virginia, where in the early morning hours of September 18 thousands of passerines were heard flying over with a strong north wind (AW).

The data from the two big banding stations were in disagreement. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pennsylvania, 5341 birds (about average) were banded in 113 days, with a capture ratio of 31.5 birds per 100 net-hours (lowest in 20 years). Of 65 species analyzed, four were more than two standard deviations (S.D.) above the 10-year average, five were more than one S.D. above, 14 were more than one S.D. below average, and one was more than 2 S.D. below average (RCL, RM). At Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, West Virginia, 2004 birds (lowest ever) were banded in 62 days, with a capture ratio of 29.48 birds per 100 net-hours (poorest). Of 44 species analyzed, 41 were in numbers below the 10-year average. Of these, 26 were more than one S.D. below, and three were more than 2 S.D. below (GAH).

The generally mild weather induced a number of late "last seen" dates, but at the end of the period there was no sign of any potential winter invasion of northern species.

Abbreviations: A.F.M.O. (*Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant Co., WV*); B.E.S.P. (*Bald Eagle State Park, Centre Co., PA*); Ch.N.F. (*Chattahoochee National Forest, Georgia*); G.B.W.M.A. (*Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell Co., WV*); H.W. (*Hawk Watch Station*); K.C.P.P. (*Kyger Cr. Power Plant, Gallia Co., OH*); M.C.F.H. (*Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan Co., KY*); P.I.S.P. (*Presque Isle S.P., Erie Co., PA*); P.N.R. (*Powdermill Nature Reserve, Westmoreland Co., PA*); Y.C. S.P. (*Yellow Creek S.P., Indiana Co., PA*).

Hurricane Fran

While the remnants of hurricane *Fran* moved through w. Virginia and e. West Virginia Sept. 6–7, the rainfall in that area was too heavy to permit much field work and no unusual species were reported from that area. However, the backside of the low pressure system brought a host of interesting species to w. Pennsylvania. A grounded **Black-capped Petrel** was found in *Somerset*, taken to a rehabilitator, and subsequently escaped. A 2nd petrel was found dead near the same place (*Somerset Daily American, fide AM*). A 3rd Black-capped Petrel was found near Butler. This bird was sent to a rehabilitator in Florida,



Brought far inland by Hurricane Fran, this Cory's Shearwater was found in a parking lot near Williamsport in central Pennsylvania September 9, 1996. Photograph/Paul W. Schwalbe.

but later died (*fide PH*). On Sept. 9, a bird ultimately identified as **Cory's Shearwater** was picked up at a shopping center near Williamsport for a new state record. The bird died and the specimen sent to A.N.S.P. (P&GS).

Lake Arthur had a **Pomarine Jaeger** (GW, RS), a **Parasitic Jaeger** (RS, GW), a gull which was probably a **Mew Gull** (PH, RBy), and \geq four **Sabine's Gull** (m.ob.). A Parasitic Jaeger was also seen at Keystone Res. in *Armstrong* (M&RH), and \geq seven jaegers (two definite Parasitics) were at P.I.S.P. (JM). A **Black Skimmer** was found at B.E.S.P. (P&GS). Laughing Gulls were abnormally numerous at inland locations, including one at Mosquito L., OH (the only non-Pennsylvania report, *fide DH*). There were unusual concentrations of shorebirds and the normal terns—Common, Forster's, and Black. Most of these unusual birds had departed by Sept. 10–11.

Loons to Ibises

There were more reports than usual of Red-throated Loons: nine from P.I.S.P., Oct. 20–Nov. 22 (JM); Pymatuning L., PA Nov. 10 (RFL); B.E.S.P., Oct. 19 (BS) and Nov. 30 (DHo, JF); Y.C.S.P., Nov. 22 (GL); *Westmoreland*, PA Nov. 22 (DL); and *Fayette*, PA Nov. 26 (MF). There were 2 major fallouts of Com. Loons: 580 on S. Holston L., TN Nov. 13–14, and 505 on Boone L., TN (RK); and 700 at Y.C.S.P.,

Nov. 26 (MH). All 3 of these counts exceeded the previous highs for the states. Elsewhere loons were in good numbers, but fewer than usual flew by hawk watch stations. Pied-billed Grebes were more numerous than usual. The only Red-necked Grebe reports came from *Montour*, PA Nov. 7 (G&PS), Mosquito L., OH Nov. 12 (D&JH), and P.I.S.P., Nov. 2 (JM). An Eared Grebe was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 2 & 24 (JM), and for the 3rd consecutive year Eared Grebes were present at S. Holston L., TN from Sept. 14+, with a remarkable count of 21 Oct. 6 (RK).

Twenty-one Am. White Pelicans were found Sept. 22 on one lake and three on another lake in *Montour*, PA, for first county records (CSs), and 14 were seen at Leachtown, *Wood*, WV Oct. 3, providing a first local fall record (GH). The Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase and it was reported from throughout the Region, including flocks flying over the hawk watch stations and over the mountain banding station at A.F.M.O. More remarkable was an **Anhinga** at the Town Hill H.W., Sept. 10 (JPa).

American Bitterns were reported from Conneaut Marsh, PA Aug. 4 (RFL) and *Hamilton*, TN Oct. 13 (KC), while a Least Bittern was reported from Y.C.S.P., Aug. 19 (LCA). Great Egrets were in somewhat lower numbers than usual in the fall, but a count of 55 in *Cocke*, TN Sept. 22 was noteworthy (RK). There was only one record for Snowy Egret, at *Cocke*, TN Sept. 4 (RK), but Little Blue Herons were found in *Clinton*, PA, in August for a first county record (P&GS); *Bluestone S.P.*, WV Aug. 5 (JP); *Greene*, TN Aug. 11 (JBr, AH); and *Augusta*, VA Sept. 1 (YL). Cattle Egrets were found at Pymatuning L., PA Aug. 8 (IF, JBa), Austin Springs, TN Aug. 9 (RK), 18 at Hiwasee R., TN Aug. 11 (KC); and Crown City, OH Oct. 31 (HS). Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen at Roanoke, VA Oct. 6 (TF) and very late at Fishersville, VA Nov. 2 (YL).

From e. Tennessee came 3 records of White Ibis: *Sullivan* Aug. 6 (VR), *Greene* Aug. 8 (JHo), and Austin Springs Sept. 6–16 (RK). A White Ibis was found in *Clinton*, PA Oct. 21–23 (*fide PS*). Single Glossy Ibis (same bird?) were seen at 2 locations in *Crawford*, PA Nov. 3–9 (ME, JF), and a *Plegadis* sp. was at P.I.S.P. in October (JM, GR).

Waterfowl

As usual there were mixed reports on waterfowl, but the consensus called it a good flight, with numbers somewhat less than last year. The Tundra Swan flight

peaked in mid-November, but an Oct. 16 record in *Hamilton*, TN, was quite early (LD), and at P.N.R. the flight lasted from Oct. 20–Dec. 9 (RCL, RM). The only large flocks were 350 at L. Arthur, PA Nov. 11 (BM) and 239 at Y.C.S.P., Nov. 9 (MH). Mute Swans were reported from P.I.S.P., Nov. 10 (JG) and Conneaut L., PA Oct. 19 & 20 (RFL). A Greater White-fronted Goose was at Pymatuning L., PA Nov. 9 (JF). Snow Geese were reported from *Erie*, PA Nov. 11 (LM), St. Mary's, PA Nov. 13 (LC), *Venango*, PA Nov. 24–30 (JSt), Pymatuning L., PA Oct 20–Nov. 3 (RFL), *Augusta*, VA Oct. 22 (early) and Nov. 10–19 (YL), *Murray*, GA Nov. 16 (HD), Bristol, TN Nov. 9 & 13 (WC), and Johnson City, TN Nov. 20–21 (JN). With a low pressure area centered to the northeast Nov. 7–9, there was a major influx of Brant in n.w. Pennsylvania. About 500 were seen flying W over *Erie*, PA (*vide* AM), and a flock of 65 was seen in *Lycoming*, PA (P&GS). With the passage of the weather system Nov. 9, several large concentrations flying E were seen (JM, AM). The Canada Goose population at Pymatuning L., PA increased from 550 Aug. 4 to 11,300 Nov. 30 (RFL). The peak count in *Augusta*, VA, was 841 Oct 4 (YL).

An ad. N. Pintail in August at Pymatuning L. (*vide* RFL) is suggestive of breeding there. In general, the dabbling ducks were in good numbers, with high counts reported of 254 Mallard at Deep Creek L., MD Nov. 23 (CS), 70 Gadwall, at Pymatuning L., Oct. 27 (RFL), and 188 Am. Wigeon at Y.C.S.P., Oct. 20 (GL). A Cinnamon Teal was at L. Arthur, PA Nov. 4 (JF) and an Eurasian Wigeon was at Silver L., VA Nov. 13 (LT).

Diving duck numbers were about normal, with some high counts: 500 Ring-necked Duck at Tamarack L., PA Nov. 10 (RFL); 253 Redhead at S. Holston L., TN Nov. 10 (WC, LMc), and 50 at Pymatuning L., PA Nov. 3 (RFL); 425 Com. Goldeneye at Pymatuning L., PA Nov. 3 (RFL); 258 Bufflehead at Mosquito L., OH Nov. 9 (J&DH); and 440 Ruddy Ducks at L. Arthur, PA Nov. 10 (PH). Reports of large

numbers of Hooded Mergansers came from throughout the Region, with a high count of 3700 at Pymatuning L., Nov. 23 (RFL). A Greater Scaup, seldom reported in this Region, was at Pymatuning L., Nov. 9 & 10 (RFL). Oldsquaws were more numerous and more widely reported than in any recent year. The systematic "Waterbird Count" at P.I.S.P. listed 25 Black Scoters Nov. 2–22, 19 Surf Scoters, Oct. 20–Nov. 24, and 35 White-winged Scoters Oct. 19–Nov. 9 (JM, EK). Other reports of Black Scoters came from Y.C.S.P., Oct. 29 and Nov. 9 (MH), and *Westmoreland*, PA Nov. 9 (KB). Surf Scoters were also found at Y.C.S.P., Oct. 12 (MH), 2 locations in *Westmoreland*, PA Oct. 20 (KB) and a 3rd site there Nov. 10 (DL), and *Watauga* L., TN Nov. 2 (RK).

Raptors

Thirty-three Black Vultures were logged during the season at the Tuscarora Mountain H.W. (CG), and as many as 10 in one day were seen near State College, PA, where they are now regular (JPe). Near Glen Lyn, WV >150 were seen leaving a roost Nov. 5 (JP), four were counted on the *Allegheny*, MD, Fall Bird Count Sept. 26 (RKi), and three were seen Nov. 2 along route I-70 in s.e. Ohio, far from the usual range (CE).

The organized hawk counts had only moderately successful seasons, with most reporting fewer birds than last year, although the Harvey's Knob station had record counts for 5 species. The data from several of the stations are given in Table 1. Several other stations did not submit enough data to be included, and several stations had not reported by the deadline. Broad-winged Hawks peaked Sept. 18 with the heavy passerine movement.

Ospreys were in good in good numbers throughout the Region, with some one-day record counts of 51 at Bald Eagle Mountain H.W., PA Sept. 18 (DBr) and 48 at Stone Mountain H.W., Sept. 18 (GG). A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen in *Lee*, VA Aug. 19 (HT ph.), while a Mississippi Kite was seen at the Town Hill

Golden Eagle over the Town Hill hawk watch, Allegany County, Maryland, November 27, 1996. Photograph/Jim Paulus.

H.W., MD Aug. 27 (JPa ph.). Besides those listed in Table 1, 58 Bald Eagles were reported from 13 locations away from the organized watches. Sharp-shinned Hawks were in low numbers at most places, and only one was banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH) and none at P.N.R. (RM, RCL). A total of 14 N. Goshawks was reported from the hawk watches, and two were seen at other locations: Delmont, PA Oct 25 (KB) and St. Mary's, PA Oct. 8 (LC). Broad-winged Hawk counts were lower than last year, although the 9994 at Harvey's Knob, VA, represented a record count (MS). The southward movement of Rough-legged Hawks was light, with only five reported from the hawk watches and 13 from 6 other locations, mostly in Pennsylvania and Ohio. On Nov. 24 at Bald Eagle Mountain H.W., 23 Golden Eagles were counted in a 5-hour period (DBr). The season count at Rockfish Gap, VA was 17 (YL). Away from the ridges Golden Eagles were seen at *Allegheny*, PA Oct. 3 (CT), and very early in *Hawkins*, TN Aug. 28 (RP, TL).

American Kestrels were more common than in recent years, and a total of 74 Merlins was reported from 13 locations as far south as Roan Mt., TN (RK), and Ch.N.F. (HD). Twelve locations reported a total of 93 Peregrines.

Galliforms to Plovers

Ruffed Grouse populations were at high levels throughout, and in n. West Virginia Wild Turkeys were abundant. Virginia

Table 1. Appalachian Hawk Watch Results, Autumn 1996.

	Days Obs	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Broad-winged Hawk	Broad-winged High (Date)	Bald Eagles	Golden Eagles	Total
Harvey's Knob, VA (MS)	68	746	9994	5563 (Sept. 23)	20	14	11,853
Stone Mountain, PA (GG)	56	755	678	450 (Sept. 18)	16	976	3017
Town Hill, MD (JPa)	77	555	229	65 (Sept. 18)	11	53	1970
Tuscarora Summit, PA (CG)	59	742	1564	1190 (Sept. 18)	17	35	3352

Rails were heard in *Augusta*, VA for a 4th county record Aug. 15 (SR, and in *Centre*, PA Sept 21 (JPe). There were many reports of large flocks of Am. Coots, headed by 1200 at L. Arthur, PA, in late October–early November (PH), and 1000 at Y.C.S.P. in November (m.ob.). The nesting pair of Sandhill Cranes and their two young which have been present in w. Pennsylvania were joined by two adults, probably offspring of an earlier year (*fide* PH). One was seen from the Harvey's Knob H.W. in mid-September (TF *et al.*), and 45 were seen at M.C.F.H., Nov. 11 (*fide* FB). The flock of 20 Sept. 29 and 50 Oct. 20 at Soddy Mountain H.W. (WH) were on the expected migration route, as were the 400 in *Murray* and *Whitfield*. GA in November (HD).

Black-bellied Plovers were at Pymatuning L., PA Sept. 21–Oct. 28, with 20 counted Oct. 20 (RFL, IF); in *Alleghany*, MD Sept. 21 (RKi), and *Cocke*, TN Sept 14–22 (RK). The Am. Golden-Plover was reported from 5 locations in w. Pennsylvania, headed by 24 at Pymatuning L., Sept. 21 (EK), and birds at M.C.F.H. (FB) and *Cocke*, TN (RK). A Piping Plover, on the Endangered list and almost unknown away from L. Erie, was seen at Woodcock L., *Crawford*, PA Sept. 22 (RFL, IF).

Shorebirds to Terns

While the excessive rains of the season left water levels at some places too high for a good shorebird flight, at other sites flooded fields did attract waders. The migration was a good one, with both Yellowlegs and the usual sandpipers—Least, Semipalmated, and Solitary—in good numbers at most places. There was also a good list of unusual species, some in higher numbers than usual.

There was an unusual number of Am. Avocets recorded: three at P.I.S.P., Aug. 8 (TC) and two Aug. 13 (AK); three at Mill Run Res., *Fayette*, PA Aug. 8 (EK); one at Stuart's Draft, VA Aug. 22, providing a 2nd county record (ph., JBd); and one at *Rockingham*, VA Aug. 26 (m.ob.). Another was in a flooded field at Stuart's Draft, VA Sept. 8 after *Fran* (YL).

Four species were reported only from P.I.S.P.: four Willets Aug. 14–27 (AT, GR); two Whimbrels Aug. 16 (JM); six Red Knots Sept. 7–8 (EK, DS); and two Purple Sandpipers Nov. 28–30 (DD, F&BH). The only report of Ruddy Turnstone came from S. Holston L., TN Sept. 6 & 17 (WC, RK).

Sanderlings at B.E.S.P., Sept. 7 & 8 (P&GS), Y.C.S.P., Sept. 7 (MH), and Mosquito L., OH Sept. 8 (J&DH) were no doubt the result of *Fran*. Other records

came from M.C.F.H., Aug. 17 (FB); Wood, WV Aug. 31 (m.ob.); and *Cocke*, TN Sept. 14 (RK). White-rumped Sandpipers were found at P.I.S.P., Sept. 14–15 (JM), Conneaut Marsh Aug. 25, and Pymatuning L., Sept. 21 (RFL), Mosquito L., OH Sept. 8 (J&DH); and M.C.F.H., Oct. 13–18 (FB). Baird's Sandpiper was reported from P.I.S.P., Sept. 4–8 (JM); Pymatuning L., Aug. 11 & 18 (RFL); Wood, WV Aug. 30 (JE); and *Cocke*, TN Sept. 14 (RK). Dunlin were reported from most of the shorebird locations, topped by a report of >700 at P.I.S.P., Nov. 2 (JM). Stilt Sandpipers were at B.E.S.P. (HH) and Imperial, PA (MF, WS) after *Fran*, and were also reported from M.C.F.H., Aug. 24 and Sept 3 & 13 (FB), and *Cocke*, TN Sept. 14–22 (RK). The rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper was reported from P.I.S.P., Sept. 7 (DS), K.C.P.P., Sept. 8 (KP), Roanoke, Aug. 25 (TF), and *Cocke*, TN Sept. 14 (RK). While several places reported Short-billed Dowitchers, the much rarer Long-billed was reported from Pymatuning, PA Aug. 4 remaining until Nov. 16 (RFL), and *Lawrence*, PA Sept. 8 (MF).

The only record of Wilson's Phalarope was from Imperial, PA Aug. 28 (BMA), and the only Red Phalarope was at P.I.S.P., Oct. 19 (JM, EK). There were 4 reports of Red-necked Phalarope, all Sept. 7–8 (probable hurricane waifs): one at P.I.S.P. (JM, EK); one at Imperial, PA (WS); one at *Lawrence*, PA (B&GD); and four at Mosquito L., OH (D&JH)

In addition to the birds seen after the hurricane, another Parasitic Jaeger was at P.I.S.P., Oct. 19 (JM). As usual, the rarer gull records come from P.I.S.P.: Franklin's Gull Oct. 31 (JM); Little Gull Aug. 24 (EK) and Sept. 14 & 26 (JM); and Lesser Black-backed Gull Oct. 18 (JM). Besides the Laughing Gulls with *Fran*, one was seen at Elizabethton, TN Aug. 5 (TM). A Bonaparte's Gull in *Cocke*, TN Sept. 14 was the earliest local date (RK). There were several large concentrations of Bonaparte's Gulls, topped by 1340 at Mosquito L., OH Nov. 9 (D&JH). The high count for Ring-billed Gulls was 3600 at Pymatuning L., PA Nov. 23 (RFL). A Herring Gull at Dalton, GA Nov. 20 (JL) was noteworthy, as was the report of one flying over Roan Mt., TN Sept. 23 (RK).

Small numbers of Caspian Terns were present at most Pennsylvania lakes after the hurricane, and there were a few other reports. A **Royal Tern** was with Caspians at Mosquito Lake S.P., OH Sept. 17 (NB). Common Terns outnumbered Forster's after the hurricane, but both were widespread and numerous. The peak count was >500 Com. Terns at P.I.S.P., Sept. 8 (JM).

Black Terns were more common than usual, even in places unaffected by the hurricane; a high count of 53 was made at P.I.S.P., Sept. 8 (JM).

Doves to Wrens

Mourning Doves had young in the nest on the very late date of Sept. 24 at Staunton, VA (YL). A Eur. Collared-Dove of uncertain history was at Chattanooga, TN Oct. 12 (TR). In *Butler*, PA, a Black-billed Cuckoo was incubating eggs Sept. 12 (PB, GR). The only report of Barn Owl came from Kingston Steam Power Plant, TN Aug. 17 (*fide* KC). A Snowy Owl was at P.I.S.P., Nov. 30 (SSm). The only Long-eared Owl report was also at P.I.S.P., Nov. 28 (DD). Short-eared Owls were at P.I.S.P., Sept. 14 & 27 and Oct. 27 (JM, DD), Homer City, PA Sept. 22 (LC), Imperial, PA Nov. 4 (CT), and Volant, PA Nov. 2 (SB). After last year's heavy flight, N. Saw-whet Owls were uncommon. Four were banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH, SH) and one was found dead at P.I.S.P., Nov. 1 (LM).

The flight of Com. Nighthawks was not impressive. At Johnson City, TN, the season count Aug. 16–Oct. 15 was 1888, lower than previous years (RK), while the only high daily counts were 150 at State College, PA Aug. 29 (TO) and 147 at Staunton, VA Sept. 5 (YL). There were reports of large concentrations of Chimney Swifts, with 1000 at L. Arthur, PA Sept. 28 (EK) being the largest, followed by 750 at Pine L., OH Sept. 13 (D&JH). There were mixed reports for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, with many places considering them in low numbers. At A.F.M.O., only 299 were counted, compared with 487 last year (RB), but at P.N.R. 214 captured was 2 S.D. above the 20-year average (RCL, RM). There were a number of late dates into October. Rufous Hummingbirds were present at Staunton, VA Sept. 31+ (YL) and Dalton, GA Nov. 17 (CM).

More than the usual number Red-headed Woodpecker reports were received. A migratory flight of 45 Com. Flickers at Roan Mt., TN, was unusual (RK). The seven Olive-sided Flycatchers at 6 locations was about average for this species. At P.N.R., 60 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers banded was about average, while 77 Least Flycatchers was the best total since 1987, one S.D. above the 10-year average. Eastern Phoebes were reported as late as Nov. 13 at Waterford, PA (JS), and Nov. 10 at Morgantown, WV (SS). Some heavy concentrations of migrating swallows were reported. Purple Martin: 15,000–20,000 by mid-August roosting on an island in Presque Isle Bay (JM), and "thousands" congregating in a shopping area at Park-

ersburg, WV July 29–Aug. 11 (JE). Tree Swallows: 8060 at Pymatuning L., Sept. 22 (RFL), 1400 in *Cocke*, TN Sept. 29 (WC), and 381 at Elkton, VA Sept. 14 (MGS). Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 1480 at Elkton, VA Sept. 14 (MGS). Cliff Swallow: 100 at Pine L., OH Sept. 13 (D&JH). Barn Swallow: “thousands” on the same island as the martins at Presque Isle (JM), 350 at Somerset L., PA Sept. 9 (RCL), and 200 at Pine L., OH Sept. 13 (J&DH). Small numbers of Barn and Cliff swallows were seen flying through Carver’s Gap at 5500 ft. on Roan Mt, TN, the first time this had been observed (RK).

Only 45 Blue Jays were counted flying past A.F.M.O., compared with 6400 last year (RB). Since most of the jays seen at this station are birds of the year, does this indicate failure in the breeding season in at least a part of the northern range? A Black-billed Magpie was reported from Charleston, WV, in late August (KA, *fide* JP). The Com. Raven continues to increase at lowland stations. In 1995 there had been a great influx of Black-capped Chickadees southward, and a very heavy southbound migration of Red-breasted Nuthatches. This year there was no sign of Black-capped Chickadees s. of the normal range, and the only Red-breasted Nuthatches reported came from n. Pennsylvania and high elevations in the south, where they normally breed.

Carolina Wrens remained in low numbers. House Wrens, in low numbers in spring and summer, remained uncommon, but Winter Wrens were in unusual numbers at most places. At P.N.R., a record high 45 was banded, 2 S.D. above the long-term average. The only Sedge Wrens were in e. Tennessee: 4 sightings of eight birds Sept. 20–Oct. 24 in *Hamilton* (KC), two in *Washington* Sept. 29 (RK), and two in *Unicoi* Oct. 5 (RK, FA). Marsh Wrens were at *Garrett*, MD Oct. 3 (banded; CS); G.B.W.M.A., Sept. 8 (KP); 3 sightings of 8 birds at *Hamilton*, TN Oct. 5–24 (KC); *Carter*, TN Sept. 17 (TM); and *Washington*, TN. Sept. 29 (RK).

Kinglets to Warblers

Both kinglets were in lower-than-normal numbers, with A.F.M.O. counts for Golden-crowneds 64% below average and Ruby-crowneds 43% below (GAH). But in *Augusta*, VA, a count of 25 Nov. 19 was a record high (YL). The spotted thrushes were generally in low numbers. Captures of Swainson’s Thrushes at P.N.R. were the 2nd-lowest total in 20 years, and at A.F.M.O. they were the lowest in 25 years. Hermit Thrushes were banded in average

numbers at P.N.R. and in somewhat above average at A.F.M.O. They were almost totally missing in n.e. Ohio (CB, J&DH). Wood Thrushes were in average numbers at P.N.R., but the eight banded at A.F.M.O. was the lowest total ever, 76% below the ten-year average.

The 172 Gray Catbirds banded at P.N.R. were one S.D. below the average (RM, RCL). A N. Mockingbirds in *Elk*, PA Oct. 6 (LC) was well n. of the usual range. A number of Brown Thrashers remained in the Region into November. American Pipits were present from early October–mid-November and were in more-than-usual numbers, with reports from ≥ 10 locations throughout the Region including a high count of 499 at Kahle L., *Venango*, PA Oct. 6 (JSt). Cedar Waxwings were building nests in *Highland*, VA Aug. 6 (JBz). A concentration of 150 was seen at Mosquito Wildlife Area, Oct. 14 (J&DH). There were 2 reports of N. Shrike: single birds at Kahle L., *Venango*, PA Nov. 17 & 23 (JSt) and one in *Crawford*, PA Nov. 28 (CGe). The Johnson City region of n.e. Tennessee is one of 2 areas in the Region where Loggerhead Shrikes are found, but they were “very scarce” this year (RK). Two unexpected reports came from *Crawford*, PA: Pymatuning L., Aug. 11 and Conneaut Marsh Oct. 20 (RFL).

The warbler flight was pretty good at most places, although some areas had poor flights. The captures at A.F.M.O. were 57% below the 10-year average. At P.N.R., 3 species were more than 2 S.D. above average, with record high catches: 97 Chestnut-sided Warblers, 28 Black-and-white Warblers, and 222 Am. Redstarts. Three species were between 2 S.D. and one S.D. above average, and only the Golden-winged Warbler was more than one S.D. below average. At A.F.M.O., the Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll warblers were all more than one S.D. below the 10-year average. In *Elk*, PA Sept. 20 a brief trip listed 71 warblers of 8 species (DHo). In Dalton, GA Sept. 19 DiGoia saw 10 warbler species in an hour in her backyard. Of the rarer species, the Orange-crowned was reported from 8 locations. Yellow-throated Warblers were at several places, with a northerly record from *Venango*, PA Aug. 18 and Sept. 15 (JSt). A Swainson’s Warbler at Johnson City, TN Sept. 29 was very noteworthy (TM, DHu). Thirteen Connecticut Warblers were banded at P.N.R. (RCL, RM), but only one was banded at A.F.M.O. (GAH). Other reports came from Natrona Heights, PA Sept. 1 (PH), *Alleghany*, MD Sept. 21 (RKi), and *Venango*, PA (RSt).

There were 4 reports of “Brewster’s” Warbler: P.N.R., Sept. 6 & 13 (RM, RCL), Scotia Barrens, *Centre*, PA Aug. 10 (JP), Natrona Heights, PA Sept. 1 (PH); and *Indiana*, PA Sept. 5 (MH). A “Lawrence’s” Warbler was banded at P.N.R., Aug. 14 (RM, RCL), and one was seen at Natrona Heights, PA Sept. 15 (PH).

Grosbeaks to Finches

The 52 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks banded at P.N.R. made the poorest season since 1978, but elsewhere they were thought to be in good numbers, with a record one-day count of 35 in *Augusta*, VA Aug. 15 (YL). A Blue Grosbeak was at Elkton, VA Aug. 20 (MGS), and one at Morgantown, WV Sept. 5 (SS) was out of normal range. One of the Dickcissels that bred in *Westmoreland*, PA remained to Sept. 15 (DSm).

Most reporters agreed that Field Sparrows were in below-normal numbers, but other species had mixed reports. American Tree Sparrows were more numerous than in most recent years. A Clay-colored Sparrow Oct. 18 represented the 2nd *Centre*, PA record (DHo), and one at Lyndhurst, VA Oct. 24 provided the 5th county record (NBr). A Henslow’s Sparrow was banded at P.N.R., Oct. 15 (RCL, RM) and one in *Hamilton*, TN Oct. 13 furnished the first county record in many years (KC). A Harris’ Sparrow was seen in *Mercer*, PA Oct. 27 (SB *et al.*) The only reports of Lapland Longspur were singles at P.I.S.P., Sept. 27 (early; JM) and Kahle L., PA Nov. 12 (JSt). Small numbers of Snow Buntings were reported from n.e. Ohio and n.w. Pennsylvania, but three seen at Donegal L., PA Nov. 12 (RCL, M&EW) were s. of the normal winter range.

Rusty Blackbirds were more widespread and in greater-than-normal numbers, with high counts of 159 at Mosquito L., OH Oct. 14 (J&DH) and Lyndhurst, VA Nov. 12 (YL).

The “northern” finches were almost totally absent. Purple Finches had a moderately good flight. A White-winged Crossbill was at B.E.S.P., Nov. 30 (JF), and a flock of 25–30 Red Crossbills were present in a park in *Erie* on the remarkable dates of Aug. 5–8 (J&DK). Pine Siskins were present in small numbers on Roan Mt., TN all season (RK), but there were only 3 scattered reports, one banded at P.N.R., Oct. 9, one seen in *Alleghany*, MD Sept. 21 (RKi), and one at Parkersburg, WV Nov. 12 (BM). Two reports of Evening Grosbeaks included 15 at Rockfish Gap, VA Nov. 10 (YL) and one at State College, PA Nov. 23 (NBo).

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Western Great Lakes Region

DARYL D. TESSEN

Weather proved uneventful, which undoubtedly contributed to the lackluster migration. For most of the Region the season commenced very mild, remaining so until the arrival of the first major front during the late October (unusually late). This ushered in significantly colder air that remained for the duration of the period. As a result, November was an unusually cold month that saw the early freeze-up of numerous lakes. Precipitation proved more variable, with Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan's Upper Peninsula characterized by mainly below-average rainfall. However, the Lower Peninsula was considerably wetter, especially in the southeastern portion, where remnants of two hurricanes (*Fran* and *Hortense*) dropped substantial rain during early and late September. Unfortunately, no hurricane-displaced birds could be located as a result of either storm.

This fall's migration was unbelievably quiet, even exceeding last year. There was

a remarkable absence of migrants, including even the common species, with many observers commenting on the low numbers for various species, especially the passerines. For example, the Lake Pumping Station at Duluth tallied 790 migrants/hour this year in contrast to 1340/hour last autumn (RE). What caused this lackluster migration? There are any number of possible causes, including the abnormally late spring, the wet June, and the lack of major fronts during September and October. Even more disturbing would be if this migration became the pattern for ensuing autumns.

Shorebirds proved the exception this fall. Good concentrations (100s-1500) and variety 15-25 species at specific sites for a total of 36 species) were found, especially in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Best sites included the Horicon National Wildlife Refuge and Shiocton areas for Wisconsin and the *Roseau* and Lewiston sewage ponds and Duluth for Minnesota.

The season produced a limited number of rarities. Best finds included Pomarine Jaeger, Mew Gull (second), and Pygmy Nuthatch (first) for Minnesota. Michigan's contributions included the Curlew Sandpiper, White-winged Dove (third), and Green Violet-ear (first), the latter being a carry-over from summer. Wisconsin had an interesting collection, including Black Vulture (fourth), Prairie Falcon, Curlew Sandpiper, Pomarine and Long-tailed jaegers, Chuck-will's-widow, two Rufous Hummingbirds, Western Wood-Pewee (first) and Dusky Flycatcher (first).

