

trale (JCs), Robert Cecil (RCe), **Robert Chapel** (RCh) (Illinois), Hap Chambers, Raymond Cummins (RCu), Myrna Deaton, Steve Dilks (SDI), Stephen Dinsmore (SDm), David Dugas, Jon Dunn (JDu), Barney Dunning (BDu), Beckie Dyer (BDy), Chris Edwards, Jackie Elmore (JEl), Josh Engel (JEn), Robert Erickson, Brad Etter, Judy Farris (JFa), Clyde Fields, James Fuller (JFu), JoAnne Garrett, Bruce Glick, Rita Goranson (RGo), Ralph Grundel (RGr), James Hancock (JHc), Ray Hannikman (RHn), Rob Harlan (RHn), Craig Harmer (CHa), Jim Haw (Haw), Susan Hazelwood (SHa), Scott Hickman (SHi), Jack Hilsabeck (JHi), Kanae Hirabayashi, Chris Hobbs (CHb), Peter Hoell, Craig Holt (CHo), Janet Howard (JHo), Robert Hughes (RHu), David Johnson, Dan Kassebaum, Ned Keller, **Thomas H. Kent** (TK) (Iowa), Matthew Kenne, Vernon Kleen, James Landing, Midge Lechner, Tom LePage, David Mandell, Walter Marcisz, Jeff McCoy (JMc), Knox McCrory (KMy), Keith McMullen (KMc), Lee McNeely (LMc), Kevin Metcalf (KMt), Igal Michtaich, Curt Nelson, Darrin O'Brien, John O'Brien, Brainard Palmer-Ball (BPB), Clell Peterson, Dave Pickett (DPI), Ed Pierce (EPi), Diane Porter (DPO), Joyce Porter (JPO), Eric Preston (EPr), Beth Proescholdt, Mark Proescholdt, Tom Pucelik, John Purcell (JPu), Frank Renfrow, Michael Retter (MRe), Kevin Richmond, Mark Robbins (MRo), David Romer (DRo), **Larry Rosche** (LRO)(Ohio), Gerry Rosenband, Richard Sandburg, Sandy Schacht, Ed Schlabach, Lee Schoenewe, Wes Serafin, Darrell Shambaugh (DSh), Andy Sigler (ASi), Jim Sinclair (JSi), James Smith (JSm), Alan Stokie (ASt), Dan Stoltzfus (DSt), Ed Thelen, Marie Tiemann, Jack Van Benthuyzen (JVb), John Van Dyk (JV), Edge Wade (EWd), Sandy Wagner, Jim Wallace (JWL), Eric Walters (EWt), John White (JWh), Don Whitehead (DWh), Barbara Williams, Dan Williams (DWi), Lowell Wilson, Helen Wustenfield, Leroy Yoder, Jim Zeibol.

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central southern region



GREG D. JACKSON

The fall period was difficult to categorize. Though birding was excellent in many areas, coastal observers were disappointed during the usual peak of early October. Generally it was considered a good season, with moderate numbers of vagrants, particularly from the West. Diving birds, large waders, geese, and rare flycatchers were prominent; many lingering passerines were recorded.

No extraordinary weather events occurred this autumn in the Region. The Alabama coast was recovering from the near-Biblical deluge in late July from hurricane *Danny*; numbers of resident birds seem to have been adversely affected. Temperatures were close to normal in most areas, though a little cool in November. Rainfall was higher than usual in the north and about average elsewhere. The largest passerine concentration on the Alabama coast followed the frontal passage of October 14. In the

five preceding days, Cimprich and associates banded only 67 birds; the next five days yielded 1573!

Reports of significant rarities not accompanied by convincing documentation have been excluded, excepting processed specimens. I appreciate the efforts by observers and subregional editors to provide this material.

Abbreviations: acc. (accepted by the state bird records committee); b. (banded); C.P. (Cameron Parish, s.w. LA); F.W.B.S.F. (Ft. Walton Beach spray field, Okaloosa Co., FL); L.S.U. (Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, Baton Rouge); M.L. (Millwood Lake, s.w. AR); N.N.W.R. (Noxubee Nat'l. Wildlife Ref., e.c. MS); p.a. (Pending acceptance by the state bird records committee); S.G. (St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish, s.e. Louisiana); T.E.C. (The Earth Complex, a.k.a. Ensley Bottoms, Shelby Co., s.w. TN); T.N.W.R. (Tallahatchie Nat'l Wildlife Ref., n.w. MS); W.P. (western Panhandle—westernmost three counties—FL).

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Four N. Shovelers Aug. 13 in *Benton*, AR (MM, DW), were unusually early. In *Henry* Nov. 9, approximately 100 Redheads provided a new Alabama Inland Coastal Plain maximum (GRB). A significant concentration of 3000 Ring-necked Ducks was encountered Nov. 25 at T.N.W.R. (FB). Oldsquaw is rare but regular in many parts of our territory; 5 reports of six birds Nov. 17–28 were unusual in c. and s.w. Arkansas (KN, LN, CM, W&ML et al.). The Black Scoter Nov. 15–23 at Oxford, *Lafayette* (GCK, SK, m.ob.), provided one of the few n. Mississippi records. Surf Scoter appears inland more frequently; five Surfs were discovered at 3 Arkansas sites beginning Oct. 16 (KN, LN, CM et al.), and another was in *Putnam*, TN, Nov. 27 (SJS). White-winged Scoter can be tough to find, especially away from the coast; single birds were in *Putnam*, TN, Oct. 29–30 (SJS, GKE, ALM, DSS), and in *Yell*, AR, Nov. 22 (KN, LN).

Impressive tallies of Swallow-tailed Kite included 60–62 in *Clarke* Aug. 2 (PHF, m.ob.), setting a new Alabama maximum, and 81 birds counted Aug. 4 in an aerial survey near the Pearl R., LA/MS (JOC, TDC, PS, RCH). Two Mississippi Kites were rare at N.N.W.R. Aug. 21 (TLS). Alabama's first dark-morph Broad-winged Hawk was exciting Oct. 17–18 at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin* (ALMi, VBE, CRF et al.). Swainson's Hawk is expected in small numbers each autumn in s.w. Louisiana, but farther east it becomes scarce. I received 5 reports of eight Swainson's in s.e. Louisiana and along the coast in Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida Oct. 18–Nov. 5; three were surprising Oct. 18 at Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, LA (PW, CS et al.). A rare "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk was described from *Acadia*, LA, Nov. 28 (PW).

Always a thrill, Golden Eagles appeared Nov. 6 at S.G. (DLD, SWC), Nov. 15–27 at T.N.W.R. (GCK, SK, WMD), and in *Sevier*, AR, Nov. 16 (DA). Very rare in our territory, a **Prairie Falcon** was in *Lafayette*, MS, Nov. 2 (GCK, p.a.); an individual has been present each of the last 6 winters not far from this location. Good numbers of Peregrine Falcons were noted in the Region; the Ft. Morgan hawk watch set a new Alabama maximum with 41 flying W Sept. 30 (CRF).

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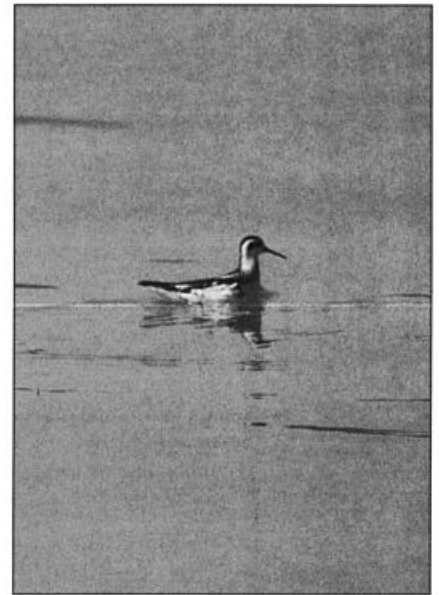
SHOREBIRDS TO NIGHTJARS

Inland Piping Plover sightings are scarce in most areas, though they are more frequent in the n.w. quadrant of our Region; three were spotted Aug. 17–Sept. 1 in *Lake*, TN (WGC, m.ob.), and *Prairie*, AR (KN, ph. LN, m.ob.). Generally seen in Mississippi in small numbers, 26 Am. Oystercatchers were noteworthy Nov. 26 in *Jackson* (GCK, SK). The Solitary Sandpiper Nov. 28 in *Jefferson Davis*, LA (DPM), was behind schedule. Willet can be hard to find inland; of several noted this season, most unusual were the seven Aug. 9 in *Prairie*, AR (KN, LN, RD, LY). An Upland Sandpiper was tardy Oct. 11 at Grand Isle, LA (PW, CS, BMM). Very rare far-inland reports of Marbled Godwit included up to two Aug. 16–Sept. 4 in *Lonoke*, AR (KN, ph. LN, m.ob.), and a lone bird Sept. 6 in *Lake*, TN (CAS, MAG, LPH).

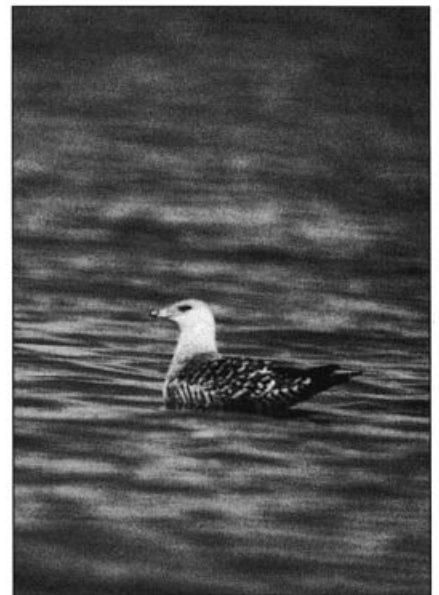
An outstanding count of 21 Ruddy Turnstones Aug. 8 in *Prairie* (KN, ph. LN) established a new maximum for Arkansas. In the same county Sept. 20, a Red Knot was a very rare inland find (KN, ph. LN).

Of several observations of White-rumped Sandpiper, rare in autumn, most impressive was the tally of 12 in *Mobile*, AL, Aug. 27 (GEH, SL). The Pectoral Sandpiper Nov. 30 in *Lafayette*, MS (WMD), was very late. Always exciting, an ad. **Curlew Sandpiper** appeared in *Vermilion*, LA, Aug. 17 (BMM, PW, ph., p.a.). Highest counts of the uncommon Buff-breasted Sandpiper were of 12 in *Natchitoches*, LA, Sept. 7 (RJB, CL), and 22 in *Orleans*, LA, Sept. 14 (PHY). The ad. **Ruff** Aug. 17 at T.E.C. (JRW, BR, m.ob.) was a great find. Wilson's Phalarope is casual in the W.P.; up to three were at F.W.B.S.F. Sept. 5–24 (RAD, DMW). Red-necked Phalarope is rare throughout the Region. One appeared in *Lonoke*, AR, Aug. 24 (KN, ph. LN), and up to two were in *Prairie*, AR, Aug. 30–Sept. 7 (KN, ph. LN). Another Red-necked provided the 5th record for Alabama's Mountain Region Sept. 27 (HHK, GA, MB, p.a.); a late individual was reported Oct. 11 in *Dyer*, TN (WGC).

Representing the 3rd record for Arkansas, a juv. **Long-tailed Jaeger** thrilled observers Sept. 26–28 at M.L. (CM, DH, DnH,



One of the two Red-necked Phalaropes in Prairie County, Arkansas, on September 6, 1997. Photograph / LaDonna Nichols



Juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger at Millwood Lake, Arkansas, on September 27, 1997. Third state record. Juvenal plumage is variable in this species, but this pale-headed bird is near the pale extreme. Photograph/Max Parker

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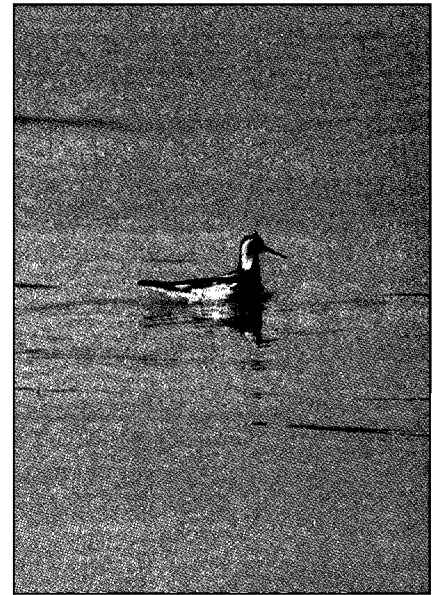
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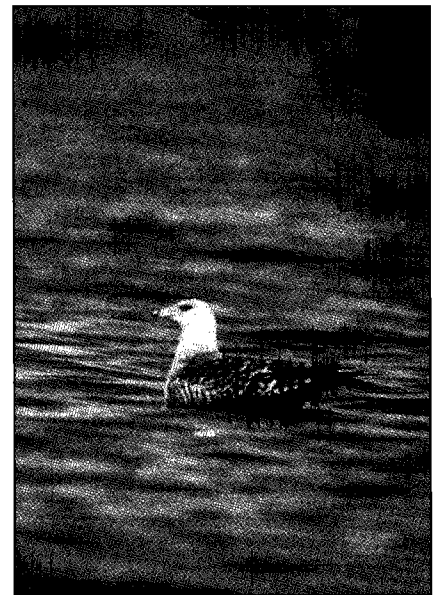
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m ob., ph., acc.). Uncommon in the w. half of the Region, Franklin's Gull becomes scarce farther east. One found Sept. 1 in *St. Charles*, LA (PW), was early. Noteworthy concentrations included counts of 94 Franklin's Oct. 22 in *Bossier/Caddo*, LA (RS, PD, HH); 100 in *Yalobusha*, MS, Oct. 25 (GCK, SK); and 65 birds Nov. 2–4 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS). These were overshadowed by the report of 500 at *Grenada L.*, Grenada, MS, Nov. 2 (FB). Notable observations in the e. extreme of our area included single birds Nov. 13–29 in *Santa Rosa*, FL (CA, MLR, CWM et al.), and the 3rd record for Alabama's Inland Coastal Plain Nov. 30 in *Henry* (GEH).

An imm. **Little Gull** provided one of the few Mississippi records Nov. 9 at Grenada L (GCK, SK, p.a.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls are routine now on the Louisiana coast, especially in C.P.; up to 10 birds were located at Rutherford Beach Sept. 20–Oct. 31 (DLD, SWC et al., two specimens to L.S.U.).

Much less frequent in other areas, a 3rd-year **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was discovered Nov. 2 at Pace Pt., TN (JRW). Rare Great Black-backed Gulls were in *Plaquemines*, LA, Sept. 13 (DPM et al.), and at Dauphin I., *Mobile*, AL, Oct. 9 (SWM, m ob.). Two juv. **Sabine's Gulls** were a rush in C.P. Oct. 24 (PW, DPM, CS et al., p.a.). A high tally of 180 Com. Terns was recorded Sept. 27 at Fourchon Beach, *Lafourche*, LA (BMM, PW, CS). Other excellent tern counts were of 56 Least Aug. 9 in *Lonoke*, AR (KN, LN), and 102 Blacks Aug. 17 at T.E.C. (JRW, BR).

Uncommon along the coast, 25 White-winged Doves were exceptional Aug. 31 in C.P. (AA, MJB, DFL, JW, CCW). The 2nd Arkansas nesting of **Inca Dove** was recorded July 21 in *Sevier* (DA). A Com. Ground-Dove at T.N.W.R. Nov. 1 (GCK, SK) was rare so far north. Groove-billed Ani is uncommon in s.e. Louisiana, where five birds were noted at 3 sites Sept. 28–Oct. 18 (DPM, BMM, PHY et al.). Farther east along the coast the species is more rare; one was at Ft. Morgan, AL, Sept. 29 (MD, KVS et al.), and two appeared at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia*, FL, Oct. 29 (RAD).

Seven Short-eared Owls provided a new local maximum Nov. 20 in *Grenada*, MS (WMD). A Com. Nighthawk Nov. 11 (DRC) set a new late date for Alabama's Tennessee Valley region; three were tardy in *Shelby*, AL, Nov. 29 (GDJ, DGJ). Also running behind the pack was a Chuck-will's-widow Nov. 30 in C.P. (DPM, CS, PW, BMM, PHY), conversely, the Whip-poor-

will Aug. 30 at S.G. (DLD, SWC, JVR) was very early.

HUMMINGBIRDS TO VIREOS

Rare but regular in s. Louisiana, I received reports of eight Buff-bellied Hummingbirds at 7 sites beginning Sept. 21; one returning banded individual was at least 5.5 years old, a new longevity record for the species (*vide* NLN). Ruby-throateds lingered later than usual in many areas (*vide* RRS, NLN). Tennessee's 2nd **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was in *Will* beginning Nov. 26 (FS&PLF et al., b. RRS, ph. MBS, p.a.). The state's first **Calliope Hummingbird** appeared not far away in Nashville Nov. 2, remaining to the end of the period (EA&EMW et al., b. RRS, ph. MBS, p.a.). Another rare Calliope was in *St. John the Baptist*, LA, beginning Nov. 21 (GS, RJS, p.a.). **Allen's Hummingbird** is increasing in incidence, or at least in recognition, in our area. An ad. male arrived Oct. 8 in *St. Tammany*, LA (M&JO, b. NLN, p.a.); even more unusual was the ad. female banded Nov. 21 in *Jackson*, MS (JP, BC, p.a.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher, a scarce but expected transient, was well represented this fall. I received 12 reports of 15 individuals from all states except Florida for the period Aug. 11–Sept. 28; most notable was a sighting of four Olive-sideds in C.P. Aug. 24 (AA, RE, RG, DFL et al., 2 specimens to L.S.U.). Lingered E. Wood-Pewees included the latest on record for n. Alabama Oct. 25 in *Limestone* (DRC, RC), and a singing bird Nov. 10 in New Orleans (PHY). Good numbers of eastern *Empidonax* flycatchers were recorded; of many reports, the two most unusual were of an Acadian Oct. 20 at Ft. Morgan (DCi et al., b.), setting a new late Alabama date, and four calling Alders Aug. 24–25 at S.G. (DLD, SWC, *L.S.U.). One of the few records for the East, Alabama's first **Dusky Flycatcher** was a stunning discovery Sept. 26 at Ft. Morgan (MD, DCi, b., ph., p.a.). Providing the 4th record for

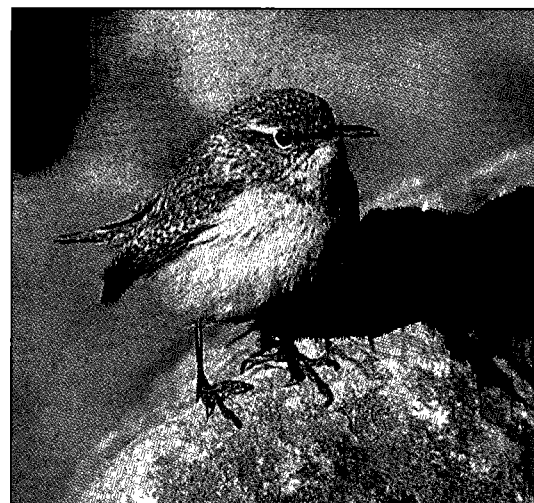
Arkansas, a **Say's Phoebe** was an excellent find Oct. 18 in *Benton* (MM, DC, acc.). An early Vermilion Flycatcher, one of several in Louisiana this fall, appeared Sept. 14 at New Orleans (JOC, TDC, MMu). The species is very rare in the W.P.; one was located at Ft. Pickens Oct. 15 & 17 (RAD)

A few Ash-throated Flycatchers are expected each autumn in s. Louisiana; this was a good season for the species, with five carefully identified Oct. 26–Nov. 30 in C.P., *Jefferson*, and *Plaquemines* (PW, PHY, DPM, SWC et al., *L.S.U.). Much more unusual was the **Brown-crested Flycatcher** in *Plaquemines*, LA, Nov. 11 (DPM, p.a.). Rare in w. Tennessee, W. Kingbirds were in *Crockett* Aug. 21 (MAG) and in *Lake* Aug. 31 and Sept. 18 (JRW, NM, ph.).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is rare inland away from the w. part of our Region. One was spotted Oct. 23 in *Sharkey*, MS (DT, LM); two immatures were in *Morgan*, AL, Sept. 12–Oct. 8 (SWM) at a site where the species has nested for several years. Top count for this graceful bird was 67 in C.P. Oct. 26, with 55 in one flock (DPM, PHY). A late Scissor-tailed was spotted Nov. 10 in *White*, AR (WMS, MAT).

The Tree Swallow Sept. 5 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS), was very early. An amazing sight, more than a million Trees massed Nov. 4 in *Jefferson*, LA (DPM); this was considered a conservative assessment. The erratic Red-breasted Nuthatch was moderately numerous across the Region this fall, very early individuals were noted at multiple sites, with the first Sept. 1 in *Pickett*, TN (RCH). Two Rock Wrens were very rare discoveries in Arkansas this season; one was at the dam of M.L. beginning Oct. 20 (DA, BH, ph. CM), and the other was in *White* Nov. 5–24 (KN, LN, TB, KnN, ph.). Bewick's Wren has been reduced almost to the

A rare fall stray just east of its normal range, this Rock Wren remained at the dam at Millwood Lake, Arkansas, from late October at least into December 1997. Photograph/Charles Mills



status of a vagrant in much of our Region. It was thus slightly encouraging to receive sightings of five individuals, though three were from the w. periphery, where the species is more frequent. The Bewick's Oct. 2 in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS), set a new local arrival record. A tardy Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was noted Nov. 28 at N.N.W.R. (TLS); the following day in C.P., 85 were unusual so late.

An imm. male **Northern Wheatear** was a great discovery, providing one of the few Regional records, at Johnson's Bayou, C.P., Oct. 10–11 (JT, DFL, MJB et al., *L.S.U., p a). The Swainson's Thrush found dead Oct. 26 at S.G. (JVR, *L.S.U.) was late, whereas a Gray Catbird Aug. 24 in C.P. (CCW) was ahead of schedule. Florida's 6th, and the 4th for the W.P., a **Sage Thrasher** delighted observers Nov. 17–21 at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* (RAD, LRD, m.ob., p a). Cedar Waxwing is a scarce nesting bird in most of the Region, though incidence is increasing in many areas. Unusual sightings included an August nesting (producing three young) in *Boone*, AR (H&MJL); seven waxwings in *Lafayette*, MS, Aug. 2 (GCK); and a pair in *Benton*, AR, Aug. 3 (MM, DAJ).

In s. Louisiana, Bell's Vireo is a rare but regular transient; single birds were found Sept. 3 (BF), 20 (KK, *L.S.U.), & 21 (SWC, DLD, *L.S.U.) in C.P., and Nov. 9 in *Orleans* (PHY). Seven Philadelphia Vireos Sept. 28 in *Davidson*, TN (PDC, MAZ), represented a good number for this uncommon transient. A late Yellow-throated Vireo was at S.G. Oct. 24 (JVR).

WOOD-WARBLERS TO FINCHES

Locally late were Blue-winged Warblers Oct. 12 in *Caddo*, LA (J&JT), and Oct. 14 at S.G. (DLD, SWC); the Golden-winged in C.P. Oct. 26 (PHY et al.) also was behind schedule. Scarce "Brewster's" hybrids were spotted Sept. 14 in *Colbert*, AL (SWM), Sept. 16 in Nashville (PDC), and Sept. 24 in *Tipton*, TN (DDP). The Tennessee Warbler Nov. 29 in C.P. (PW, CS, BMM et al.) was very late; at the opposite extreme was an early Orange-crowned in C.P. Sept. 21 (DLD, SWC). Lagging behind, a N. Parula was in *Plaquemines*, LA, Nov. 11 (DPM).

A huge flight of Yellow-rumped Warblers Nov. 2 was associated with a cold front; "thousands" were reported that morning in *Bolivar*, MS (NH). A rare "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped was detected Nov. 11 in *Plaquemines*, LA (DPM, BRu). Notably late was a Black-throated Green Warbler Nov. 15 in *Washington*, AR (MM),

as was the Prairie Warbler Nov. 30 in C.P. (DPM, PW, PHY).

Palm Warbler is rare in Arkansas in the autumn; two were in *Cleburne* Oct. 6 & 14 (KN, LN), and another was spotted in *Washington* Oct. 27 (MM). Blackpoll Warbler is rare in the fall in our area, so individuals banded at Ft. Morgan, AL, Sept. 22 and Oct. 9 & 21 (DCi et al., ph.) were unexpected. A lingering Black-and-white Warbler was noted in *Jefferson Davis*, LA, Nov. 28 (DPM); also tardy was a Prothonotary Oct. 25 in C.P. (MAS, EB, GL). Four Mourning Warblers, scarce in the Region, were noteworthy at Ft. Morgan, AL, Sept. 8–27 (DCi et al., b., ph.). Of six in Louisiana, most unusual was a late Mourning Oct. 17 in *East Baton Rouge* (CCW). High numbers of Com. Yellowthroats were banded this fall at Ft. Morgan, AL (DCi et al.).

The rare W. Tanager is usually detected each fall in the s. part of our area; one was in *East Baton Rouge*, LA, Nov. 1 (CCW, JW, DFL, RF). Very late were a Blue Grosbeak and four Indigo Buntings Nov. 30 in C.P. (PHY, BMM, CS, PW, DPM). Straggling Dickcissels were at S.G. Oct. 19 (DLD, SWC), in *Benton*, AR, Oct. 22 (MM, JPr), and at N.N.W.R. Nov. 15 (TLS, MHS, MG, MC). A rare Spotted Towhee was in C.P. Nov. 30 (PHY, PW, DPM, p.a.).

Clay-colored Sparrow is scarce in our Region, though small numbers are expected along the coast and on the w. periphery. Two were at F.W.B.S.F. Oct. 16 (RAD), one appeared Oct. 18 in *Benton*, AR (MM, DC), and another was at Ft. Pickens, FL, Nov. 7–10 (RAD). More unusual was an ad. **Clay-colored Sparrow** Oct. 18 in *Lake* (JRW), providing one of the few Tennessee records. The Lark Sparrow Sept. 4 at Ft. Pickens, FL (RAD), was locally rare.

A **Lark Bunting** was discovered Nov. 25 in *Jefferson*, LA (PHY et al., p.a.). The Grasshopper Sparrow Nov. 22 in *Carroll* (MM, DC) set a new late date for n.w. Arkansas. Four Henslow's Sparrows, some singing, were in *Stewart*, TN, Aug. 17 (CAS). This site was discovered in 1994 (CAS) and produced 18 singing birds in June 1997 (MW); the locale is one of 2 known probable breeding sites in the Region (*vide* CAS). Fourteen Le Conte's Sparrows were impressive Nov. 20 at T.N.W.R. (FB). Rarely detected far inland, four Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were seen Oct. 22 in *Bossier*, LA (RS, PD, HH). A tally of 90 Lincoln's Sparrows was noteworthy Nov. 29 in C.P. (PW, CS, BMM, DPM, PHY). Swamp Sparrows were banded in higher-than-usual numbers this season at Ft. Morgan, AL (DCi et al.)

Alabama's 11th, and first Inland Coastal Plain, record of Harris's Sparrow was provided by the bird at Marion, *Perry*, Nov. 11 (HHK, MB, AGM, GA et al., p.a.). A Dark-eyed Junco Sept. 21 in Memphis (JEW) set a new arrival date for Tennessee (excluding breeding areas in the e. mountains). The rare "Gray-headed" Junco was an excellent find in C.P. Oct. 25–26 (A&LR et al.). Appearance of a Lapland Longspur in *Benton* as early as Nov. 1 (MM, DC) was unprecedented for n.w. Arkansas; also early on that date was the less common Smith's at M.L. (CM).

Bobolink can be difficult to find in the fall in our area. Up to 14 were unusual at F.W.B.S.F. Sept. 5–Oct. 16 (RAD, BB et al.), another Oct. 31 at that site was very late (RAD). Three calling W. Meadowlarks were noteworthy in *Tunica*, MS, Nov. 27 (JRW). Rare in the W.P., an imm. male Yellow-headed Blackbird was spotted Sept. 16 in *Escambia* (TP). Very early, and unusual, was a Brewer's Blackbird Oct. 4 in *Davidson*, TN (MLM). A yellow-eyed Boat-tailed Grackle with a partially-grown tail caused a stir in *Tallapoosa* Sept. 17–Oct. 13 (W&LB; GEH, m.ob., ph., v.t.). This was only the 2nd inland Alabama occurrence of a "large" grackle; identification was deferred until diagnostic calls were heard the final day (BS).

The rare and erratic Red Crossbill was discovered in 3 states this fall; an immature was in *Yalobusha*, MS, Sept. 14 (GCK, SK, TLS, m.ob.), three immatures were seen Sept. 21 in *Lauderdale*, AL (WJR, FS), and nine crossbills appeared Oct. 27 in *Washington*, AR (MM). The Am. Goldfinch Sept. 7 at S.G. (JVR) was very early.

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prairie provinces region



RUDOLF F. KOES and PETER TAYLOR

Placid weather with warm temperatures and low precipitation prevailed across most of the Region, with much open water remaining to the end of the period. Many water birds and passerines lingered until record or near-record late dates, sometimes necessitating unusual diets, and a good variety of rarities was found.

Abbreviations: I.B.S. (*Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary, AB*); L.M.L. (*Last Mountain Lake, SK*); O.H.M. (*Oak Hammock Marsh, MB*).

LOONS TO FALCONS

Red-throated Loons were noted in each province: one at Regina Beach, SK, Oct. 26 (RKr); two at Silver Falls, MB, Nov. 8 (RKo, PT, RZ); and two at Calgary, AB, Nov. 9 (BW). At least eight Pacific Loons were found in Alberta Sept. 21–Nov. 15, and six in Saskatchewan Sept. 28–Nov. 10. Single Yellow-billed Loons were at Barrier L., AB, Oct. 13 (J&MM); near Bassano, AB, Oct. 13 (BG, MB); and at L.M.L. Nov. 15 (RKr, M&JP, DP). At Manitou L., SK, 125 Eared

Grebes was a large count for the late date of Oct. 17 (RKr). A few Clark's Grebes in Saskatchewan included a record-late bird at Regina Beach Oct. 26 (RKr). A Double-crested Cormorant was late at Wabamun L., AB, Nov. 23 (BoP). The only southern herons were Cattle Egrets: one at Camrose, AB, Aug. 14–30 (BoR, TT, BrR); up to 10 at the n. end of L.M.L. Sept. 21–28 (RW et al.); and one at Dilke, SK, Oct. 6–10 (JS et al.).

Nine-hundred Tundra Swans was a good count at Stirling L., AB, Oct. 25 (LB), and 400 Trumpeter Swans, including 22 neck-collared birds, provided a grand sight 20 mi. s.e. of Cardston, AB, Oct. 18 (D&TD). A collared Trumpeter Swan in Regina Oct. 17–27 had been captured in Yellowstone and released in Idaho before wandering E (DV, PSA, RKr); a second, unbanded bird was also present Oct. 29–31 (CP, RKr). At the fringes of their main migration route were 150 Ross's Geese at Sullivan L., AB, Sept. 16 (SB) and 72 at O.H.M. Sept. 20 (RKo). A "Black" Brant visited Radisson L., SK, Oct. 4–6 (AH, BL).

A Blue-winged Teal was late at O.H.M. Oct. 29 (KG). Thousands of Am. Wigeon and Canvasbacks were dispersed around