

new mexico region



SARTOR O. WILLIAMS III

Relatively mild and damp winters are no longer a novelty for New Mexico, and winter 1997–1998 was no exception. The bird season was characterized by an almost complete absence of submontane jays, parids, and cardueline finches (in stark contrast to last winter), while a number of other species (especially emberizids) wintered well north of usual. Although some may view global warming through political spectacles, the steady advance of warm-country birds northward, in both wintering and breeding seasons, argues that change is occurring.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (*Bitter Lake N.W.R.*); Bosque N.W.R. (*Bosque del Apache N.W.R.*); C.C.N.P. (*Carlsbad Caverns N.P.*); E.B.L. (*Elephant Butte Lake*); L.V.N.W.R. (*Las Vegas N.W.R.*); R.G.V. (*Rio Grande Valley*); Zuni (*Zuni Indian Reservation*).

LOONS TO DUCKS

A banner season for loons found 4 species in New Mexico: a **Red-throated Loon** at E.B.L. Feb. 8 (DE, BN) & 14 (JEP, JO), a Pacific at E.B.L. Jan. 18 (DE, BN), and a **Yellow-billed Loon** at Caballo L. Jan. 10 (BZ) & 13 (JO, PL), the latter the state's 7th in 7 years; one–six Commons were at 6 sites, including two far north at Heron L. Jan. 18 (JO, CR). Late for the north were 10 Pied-billed Grebes at Farmington Dec. 20

(AN) and three at Clayton Dec. 29 (CR, LH). Horned Grebes were at 12 sites in 9 counties, where they favored the larger lakes, and included three n. to Heron L. Jan. 25 (JT) and one at El Vado L. Jan. 7 & 18 (DS, JO, CR). Western Grebes were rarely encountered were singles at Mescalero L. Dec. 17 (AP) and Deming Feb. 27 (LM). At least one Am. White Pelican wintered n. to Morgan L. Dec. 20–Feb. 25 (v.o., ph. TR), a first for *San Juan*. Other winterers included 30 at Caballo L. Jan. 13 (GE) and 76 near Carlsbad Dec. 25 (SW). Now annual in New Mexico, an ad. Brown Pelican put in a brief appearance at Caballo L. Jan. 13 (F. Dirckx, GE).

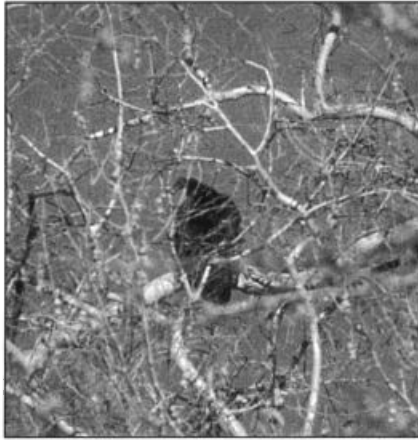
Two Neotropical Cormorants were n. to Isleta Feb. 15 (BV). An Am. Bittern at Willow L. Jan. 7 (SW) provided a rare *Eddy* winter record. Several Great Egrets overwintered at Bosque N.W.R. December–February (v.o.), where 11 were counted Dec. 20 (S&NC). A Snowy Egret at Loving Dec. 29 (SW) and 17 Cattle Egrets at Las Cruces Dec. 29 (GE) provided the only reports. Northerly were seven Black-crowned Night-Herons at Morgan L. Dec. 27 (TR).

Tundra Swans were scarce, with an injured one at Lyden Jan. 10 (Wildlife Rescue), one at L.V.N.W.R. Feb. 11 & 14 (CR, DE, BN), a probable at Sumner L. Dec. 31 (JO), and one at Bosque N.W.R. from late December to February 11 (v.o.). Greater White-fronted Geese in the northwest included one at Flora Vista Dec. 22 (TR) and

six at Farmington Feb. 21 (TR). Among the few "Blue" Geese away from the R.G.V. were one at Farmington Dec. 18 (ph. TR) and six at Texico Feb. 22 (CR). The 18 Wood Ducks at Rattlesnake Springs Feb. 5 (SW) represented a high number for *Eddy*; other peripheral Wood Ducks were three at Española Jan. 4 (BF), one at Silver City December–January (v.o.), two at Deming Feb. 19 (LM), and 296 were tallied at Albuquerque Dec. 21 (HS). Cinnamon Teal are unexpected in winter, so noteworthy were a male at Zuni Jan. 17 (DC) and a pair in the Percha area Jan. 2 (BZ) & 10 (JEP, JO); Blue-winged perhaps are more unexpected, so puzzling were undetailed reports of one at Silver City Dec. 20 (RSS) and three at Loving Dec. 29 (SW). A male Eur. Wigeon was at Albuquerque Dec. 26 (CR) and Jan. 11 (BV, ph. BZ); the species has recently become annual in New Mexico. Among the few Greater Scaup reports were two males at Clayton Dec. 29 (CR, LH); unusual were two Lessers near Rodeo Dec. 27 (AC). The only Oldsquaw was one at L.V.N.W.R. Feb. 21 (JEP, JO). Barrow's Goldeneyes away from their *San Juan R.* stronghold were an ad. male below El Vado Dam Jan. 7 (DS) and an imm. male at L.V.N.W.R. Feb. 11 (CR). An apparent Com. Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser hybrid was at Caballo L. Jan. 13 (JO).

VULTURES TO CRANES

Turkey Vultures do not winter in New Mexico, so remarkable was one soaring near Caballo L. Jan. 1 (DE) and perched there Jan. 2 (JNP, ph. BZ); just to the south at Janos, Chihuahua, Mexico, however, 208 were counted Jan. 2, along with two Blacks (*vide* WH). Unexpected concentrations of Bald Eagles were 20 at an Albuquerque roost Jan. 6 (DS) and, very far from water, up to 15 in pinyon-juniper country at Corona Feb. 16 (C. Painter). An imm. Harris's Hawk at Farmington Feb. 21 (ph. TR) provided a *San Juan* first, although extralimital occurrences of this popular falconry species must be viewed with caution, elsewhere, Harris's were found persisting in both *Hidalgo* and *Luna* (v.o.). West of expected was a well-described "Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk at Zuni Dec. 20–21 (CR, JAT) Rough-legged Hawks were relatively plenti-



Most unexpected for New Mexico in winter was this Turkey Vulture near Caballo Lake on January 2, 1998.
Photograph/Barry R. Zimmer

ful in the north; far south were singles at Rodeo Dec. 28 (RTS), s. Animas Valley Jan. 11 (JO), Artesia Jan. 17 (SW), and C.C.N.P. (SW), plus two at Deming Dec. 31 (LM). Yet another good Merlin winter found one–three at 30 locales statewide, including one e. to Milnesand Jan. 10 (DS). Adding to the on-going **Apomado Falcon** intrigue were detailed but unverified sightings of singles at Albuquerque Dec. 7 (J. Happy) and near Bernardo Jan. 9 (J. Harden), both locales just n. of historic range. Overwintering Peregrine Falcons favored river valleys and large lakes, especially in the R.G.V., where there were two at Cochiti L. Jan. 11 (CR, DE) and singles at Albuquerque, Bosque N.W.R., Caballo L., and Las Cruces Dec. 20–Feb. 7 (v.o.); north was one near Navajo L. Dec. 17 (DS).

Up to eight N. Bobwhites were in the Clayton area Jan. 19 (LF); 16 were w. to Ft. Sumner Jan. 8 (CR). Noteworthy were 17 February Virginia Rails at Zuni Dec. 20 (JAT), where up to 10 persisted through February (DC). January Soras were singles at Zuni Jan. 4 (DC) and Bosque Redondo Jan. 2 (JEP, JO), plus six near Cliff Jan. 3 (RSS). The only Corn. Moorhen was at Loving Dec. 29 (SW). All efforts to artificially establish Whooping Cranes in the Rocky Mts. have ceased, although the experimental birds that winter in New Mexico may persist for another decade; by season's end, only four of them remained in existence (U.S.F.W.S.).

SHOREBIRDS TO GULLS

North for the season were three Greater Yellowlegs at Santa Rosa Dec. 30 (WW). The 15 Long-billed Dowitchers at Caballo

L. Jan. 2 (CR) made a high number for the season; also noteworthy were 10 in the Uvas Valley, *Doña Ana*, Jan. 10 (JO). Common Snipe make their living finding open water; this season three were n. to Clayton Dec. 29 (CR, LH) and six were in the Sacramento Mts. at Ruidoso Jan. 1 (AP). In the southwest, lingering Bonaparte's Gulls were singles at Bill Evans L. Dec. 4 (RF) and Tyrone Dec. 26 (EL), plus six at Deming Dec. 1 (LM); four were at Loving Dec. 29 (SW), while high count (and latest report) was of 13 at Caballo L. Jan. 2 (BZ). Rare gulls (or, at least, reports of rare gulls) continue to proliferate. Leading the way, **Mew Gulls** had perhaps their best season ever, with reports from 4 sites totaling six individuals: a winter adult at Conchas L. Feb. 24 (WW), a 2nd-winter at E.B.L. Jan. 3 (JEP, JO), an extensively documented first-winter at Caballo L. Jan. 1–17 (DE, CR, JNP, JEP, ph. BZ, vt. JO), a winter adult at Caballo L. Jan. 10 (JEP, vt. JO), another winter adult at Sunland Park Jan. 21 that split its time with Texas (ph. BZ), and a first-winter also at Sunland Park Jan. 19–23 (JNP).

Rare in winter, single ad. California Gulls were at E.B.L. Jan. 17 (JEP, JO), Caballo L. Jan. 2 (BZ) & 13 (JO), and Sunland Park Jan. 21 (JNP). The always-popular Thayer's put in several appearances, with a first-winter (or hybrid?) at Storrie L. Feb. 11 (CR) & 21 (JO), at least one first-winter (possibly a November holdover?) at E.B.L. Dec. 26 (MP) into February (v.o., ph. JO), plus an adult there Dec. 30 (ph. JO) and Jan. 13 (JO, PL), and a first-winter at Caballo L. Jan. 10 (ph. BZ). An apparent 2nd-year **Glaucous Gull** was E.B.L. Jan. 3 (JEP, JO) & 10 (DE, BN). Almost slipping through unnoticed was an ad. **Black-legged Kittiwake** at Willow L., *Eddy*, Dec. 29 (ph. C. Cranston).

DOVES TO FLYCATCHERS

In Roswell, 18 *Streptopelia* doves were counted Jan. 3 (SB); this population continues to perplex. A White-winged Dove was n. to La Mesilla, *Rio Arriba*, in December (*vide* BF); elsewhere, notable maxima were 39 at Albuquerque Dec. 21 (HS), 221 at Roswell Jan. 3 (SB), about 50 in Silver City all season (EL), and a respectable 7294 at Las Cruces Dec. 20 (GE). The three Com. Ground-Doves at Redrock Dec. 6 (D&MZ) comprised the largest "flock" reported in New Mexico in over a decade. Thirteen Barn Owls were roosting in saltcedars at Loving Dec. 29 (SW). Unusual for the Pecos Valley was a N. Pygmy-Owl at Loving Dec. 29 (SW). Three Short-eared Owls

roosting in tall grasses in the s. Animas Valley Jan. 12 (PL, ph. JO) provided the only report of this now-scarce visitor. Out-of-habitat was a N. Saw-whet Owl in pinyon woodland at Zuni Dec. 19 (JAT).

Early as well as out of range was a female Broad-billed Hummingbird at Las Cruces Feb. 22 (ph. JNP). A Rufous Hummingbird persisted at P.O. Canyon until Dec. 10 (RTS); one–two hummers in Las Cruces through Dec. 20 (GE) may have been Rufous. A Belted Kingfisher at Zuni Dec. 30–Feb. 21 (DC) may have been the first to overwinter there.

A Lewis's Woodpecker was s. to Percha Jan. 2–Feb. 7 (v.o., ph. BZ). One–three Red-headed wintered in the Ft. Sumner area Jan. 2–Feb. 13 (CR, JEP, JO). Only two Gila Woodpeckers were found on the Gila R. count Jan. 3 (RSS), but an encouraging nine were in the Animas Valley Dec. 27 (AC). An ad. male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker provided a treat at Percha Jan. 2–18 (v.o., ph. BZ); the only other report was an imm. probable Yellow-bellied in the Peloncillo Mts. Dec. 27 (B. Bradley). Single "Yellow-shafted" Flickers were at 7 sites December–February (v.o.), including a male w. to Zuni Dec. 20–21 (JAT, CR) and a female in the Peloncillo Mts. Dec. 27 (JO, A. Moorhouse, D. Danforth). One of the four *Empidonax* flycatchers seen near Cliff Jan. 3 (RSS) later proved to be a Gray, which persisted there until Feb. 3 (DZ). Scarce in winter, two Vermilion Flycatchers were near Cliff Jan. 3 (RSS) and one was at Las Palomas Jan. 2 (DE, CR). A silent kingbird of the Tropical/Couch's type was seen in the Gila Valley s. of Riverside Feb. 24 (LM); tune in next month for further developments there.

SWALLOWS TO THRUSHES

Apparently overwintering were three Tree Swallows at Percha Jan. 2 (BZ, JNP) and two–three N. Rough-winged there and at nearby Caballo Dam Jan. 2 & 10 (BZ, JNP, JEP, JO). Remarkably early were two Cliff Swallows at Bosque N.W.R. Feb. 27 (JEP). Among the very few submontane Steller's Jays were singles at Roswell Jan. 3 (*vide* SB) and Las Animas Cr., *Sierra*, Jan. 2 (CR, DE). Blue Jays may now winter regularly in the Española and Santa Fe areas, where there were up to four at each locale December–January (v.o.). Consolidating their southern beachhead were seven Black-billed Magpies at Albuquerque Dec. 21 (HS). American Crows were rarely encountered included singles in the Mimbres Valley Feb. 13 (D&MZ) and at C.C.N.P. Dec. 31 (B&J



Well to the north of the species' normal range, this Long-billed Thrasher spent the winter (after having spent most of 1997) at Bosque Redondo, De Baca County, New Mexico. Photograph/Jerry R. Oldenettel

Bliven); for better or worse, wintering crows are approaching ubiquity in New Mexico.

A Cactus Wren near Trementina, *San Miguel*, Feb. 21 (JEP, JO) provided a new n.e. locale; others in that region included one at Sabinoso Jan. 18 (SW) and three near Conchas Dec. 27 (MP). A singing **Carolina Wren** was at Socorro Feb. 26–28 (JO, JEP, DE). Very late was a House Wren at Zuni Dec. 20 (CR). Up to three Winter Wrens were at Zuni in late December (*vide* JAT); elsewhere, singles were near Sabinoso Jan. 18 (SW) and at Albuquerque Dec. 21 (T. Brownell). Six Am. Dippers below El Vado Dam Jan. 18 (JO, CR) comprised a notable concentration. Two Golden-crowned Kinglets found their way e. to Clayton Dec. 29 (CR, LH), but otherwise the species was scarce statewide. The 18 Ruby-crowneds far n. to Farmington Dec. 20 (AN) provided a record count there. Noteworthy was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Caballo Dam Jan. 2 (CR, BZ). Moderate numbers of E. Bluebirds were widespread from the R.G.V. eastward; the only s.w. report was a single in the Peloncillo Mts. Dec. 27 (AC). Surprising was a male **Variied Thrush** at San Nicholas Spring, San Andres N.W.R., Feb. 25 (M. Weisenberger), a local first and the first for New Mexico since 1990.

MIMIDS TO WARBLERS

Several N. Mockingbirds stayed north, including one at Clayton Dec. 29 (CR, LH) and two at Ute L. Jan. 4 (JO); certainly

surprising was one at Heron L. Jan. 25 (JT). Whether encouraged by milder conditions or by abundant juniper crops, Sage Thrashers likewise stayed north, including at Zuni all season (DC), where seven were counted Dec. 20 (JAT); other Sages pushing the n. limits were two at Española Jan. 4 (BF) and singles at Cochiti L. Jan. 11 (CR) and Eldorado Jan. 30 (SOW). One–two Brown Thrashers were at 8 sites from the R.G.V. eastward (v.o.), including one all season in *Union* (LF). Meanwhile, the “resident” **Long-billed Thrasher** at Bosque Redondo was seen Dec. 31 (ph. JO) and Jan. 2 (JEP, JO), and marked its first complete year there by breaking into song Feb. 21 (CR). A pair of Curve-billed Thrashers again overwintered n. to Eldorado, where one was singing Feb. 14 (SOW).

An exhaustive search succeeded in locating only a single Sprague's Pipit in the Animas Valley Jan. 12 (PL, ph. JO). A few Cedar Waxwings persisted into December, but none was noted after Jan. 13 until 15 appeared at Milagro, *Guadalupe*, Feb. 15 (JO), followed by 16 at Clovis Feb. 22 (CR) and six at Socorro Feb. 28 (DE). A record-high 96 Phainopeplas were in the Peloncillo Mts. Dec. 27 (AC). Single N. Shrikes were at 13 n. locales Dec. 27–Feb. 14 (v.o.), including e. to Clayton Dec. 29 (LH), Solano Jan. 31 (JEP, JO), and Ute L. Jan. 18 (SW). Over 35,000 Eur. Starlings was judged a conservative estimate for a flight that darkened the Albuquerque skies Dec. 21 (*vide* HS).

A Cassin's Vireo at Mesilla Park Jan. 9 (BZ) was in an area where the species had wintered before. A Hutton's Vireo, a species now apparently regular in winter in the lower R.G.V., was n. to E.B.L. Dam Dec. 30 (JO), where there was also an Orange-crowned Warbler Feb. 14 (JEP, JO). Lingering Com. Yellowthroats were singles at Las Cruces Dec. 20 (GE) and Loving Dec. 29 (D&C Cassingham).

PYRRHULOXIA TO LONGSPURS

Continuing a northward trend were two Pyrrhuloxias at Arch, *Roosevelt*, Jan. 17 (SW); another was at Ft. Sumner Jan. 2 (JO). Lingering n. of usual were single Green-tailed Towhees at Zuni Dec. 20–29 (DC) and Santa Rosa Dec. 30 (WW); early was one at Ft. Sumner Feb. 8 (JO). Perplexing was a “green-backed” Spotted Towhee at Zuni Dec. 19 (JAT). A near-record 354 Canyon Towhees was in the Peloncillo Mts. Dec. 27 (AC). Rarely are Cassin's Sparrows satisfactorily identified in New Mexico in winter; this season, two were well-described w. of Caballo Jan. 2 (BZ, JNP). West were

eight Am. Tree Sparrows at Morgan L. Feb. 27 (CR), high was 40 at Española Jan. 4 (BF), and south were 15 at Elida, *Roosevelt*, Jan. 1 (JO); also southerly were four at Albuquerque Dec. 21 (HS), while northerly were 10 Chipping Sparrows there the same day (HS). Remarkable for winter was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** that died at Albuquerque Jan. 24 (S&NC, *vide* WH); another was reported with Chippings and Brewer's on Las Animas Cr. Jan. 17 (JO). A Brewer's Sparrow at Zuni Dec. 20–21 (CR, JAT) provided a first December record for there, while elsewhere unprecedented numbers of Brewer's wintered n. to the Albuquerque area, including nearly 200 at Petroglyph N.M. December–February (HS).

Far west was an especially bright (eastern?) Field Sparrow at Zuni Dec. 20 (JAT), other Fields were one at Logan Jan. 4 (JO), a high nine in n. *Roosevelt* Feb. 13 (CR), and three at C.C.N.P. Dec. 31 (SW). Vesper Sparrows were found n. of expected—the 19 at Zuni Dec. 20 (CA) provided only the 2nd December record for that area (*vide* JAT). Lark Buntings were particularly conspicuous n. of the usual winter range, including 250 near San Jon Dec. 27 (MP) and 50 each at Logan Jan. 4 (JO) and in the Melrose area Jan. 1–2 (JEP, JO); the one at Albuquerque Dec. 21 (WH) was considered so unusual for the season that written details were called for. **Baird's Sparrows** are excessively scarce or (more likely?) absent from New Mexico in winter; this season's Christmas snowstorm brought a late one to a Bitter Lake N.W.R. feeder Dec. 23–25 (ph. GW), while another was well-described in the n. Animas Valley Dec. 27 (AC, NMC) Single Fox Sparrows were at 5 sites from Alma (JO), Los Alamos (PS), and Roswell (ph. GW) south, plus four were tallied on the Gila R. count Jan. 3 (RSS); to paraphrase R.T. Peterson, however, efforts to separate the many races in the field can be (were) frustrating.

Very late was an ad. black-lored White-crowned Sparrow at Zuni Dec. 21 (JAT). A good Harris's Sparrow season found singles at Española Jan. 4 (BF), Eldorado all season (SOW, ph. JO), Las Vegas Dec. 21 (JT), Zuni Dec. 25 (JO), Alameda Dec. 18 and Jan. 11 (CR), House, *Quay*, Jan. 1 (ph. JO), near Percha Jan. 3 (JEP, JO), and Las Cruces Dec. 20 (GE). Single “White-winged” Juncos were at Clayton Dec. 29 (CR, LH), Eldorado Nov. 15–Feb. 15 (SOW, ph. BF), and Zuni Dec. 20 (JAT). Notable were 11 Lapland Longspurs at Clayton Dec. 29 (CR, LH), as were singles near Trujillo, *San Miguel*, Dec. 27 (MP) and at Zuni Dec. 20

(JAT). A high 26 Chestnut-collareds were at Zuni Dec. 20 (JAT), where up to four persisted through January (DC) and 14 were counted Feb. 7 (DC).

ICTERIDS TO FINCHES

Very rare in New Mexico, up to three **Rusty Blackbirds** were in the Caballo area Jan. 2 and later, including one–two on Las Animas Cr. Jan. 2–17 (DE, JEP, ph. JO) and one at Arrey Jan. 2 (JNP, ph. BZ). Several Com. Grackles lingered very late, including eight n. to Ft. Sumner Jan. 2 (JEP, JO), one at House Jan. 2 (JO), three at Santa Rosa Dec. 30 (WW), and three at San Antonio Jan. 11 (BZ). Very late was a Scott's Oriole at C.C.N.P. Dec. 31 (V. Sartori). Rumors of “rosy-finches” at the Los Alamos Ski Basin in early December unfortunately remained just that—rumors; birders again are encouraged to document their sightings, not just “phone them in.” In contrast to a year ago, Cassin's Finches were practically non-existent, with only small numbers noted in a few mountain ranges and with no sub-montane movement. Red Crossbills were similarly conspicuous by their absence; the 2 reports consisted of eight in the Chuska Mts. Dec. 20–30 (ph. TR) and three in the Sandia Mts. Dec. 27 (JY). The only Evening Grosbeak reports were 30 at Chama Jan. 18 (JO, CR) and 17 at Tesuque Dec. 27 (CR). In contrast to other carduelines, however, small to moderate numbers of Pine Siskins were relatively widespread, including to the e. plains and s. to the Mexican border (v.o.). Lesser Goldfinches lingered late, but went unreported anywhere after Jan. 3; singles reappeared at Gila Feb. 24 (LM) and Zuni Feb. 25 (DC).

Initialed observers: Sherry Bixler, David Cleary, Alan Craig, Narca Moore Craig, Steve & Nancy Cox, Doug Emkalns, Gordon Ewing, Ralph Fisher, Bernard Foy, Lavina Fry, Lois Herrmann, William Howe, Paul Lehman, Eugene Lewis, Larry Malone, Alan Nelson, Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldenettel, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Michael Patten, Anita Powell, Tim Reeves, Christopher Rustay, Robert T. Scholes, Hart Schwarz, Roland S. Shook, Dale Stahlecker, Joyce Takamine, John A. Trochet, Brad Vaughn, Gordon Warrick, Steve West, William West, S. O. Williams, Jonalyn Yancey, Barry Zimmer, Dale and Marian Zimmerman.

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alaska region



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After one of the most consistently mild winters since the early 1980s, winter 1997–1998 ended up producing near-record numbers of waterbirds and wintering raptors. Although the fall season protracted moderate conditions and little snow into December, the late October freeze-up and initial snow accumulations drove out lingering or late-migrant passerines at least from the North Gulf and points south. The influential Aleutian Low drifted well east into the western North Gulf for most of December, at least 1000 miles east of its usual semipermanent position. This unusual condition produced heavy and relentless snow storms that covered the Region south of the Alaska Range. But no High Arctic cold high pressure systems filled in after this snow season, and the entire Region languished in mild, well-above normal temperatures through the period. Although El Niño was quick to be blamed for this unusual winter, remaining near-record high surface water temperatures (from late summer) in the North Gulf and the eastern Bering Sea certainly were more important in this weather moderation. The Bering Sea pack ice peaked well north of average and was very late moving south in the autumn, no doubt one of the factors contributing to the widespread late arrivals of winter waterbirds in the North Gulf. Weather permitting, Christmas counts were exceptional and Kodiak broke the State's count record.

Waterbirds and winter raptors showed above-average densities, and record-high counts came in for several species and from numerous sites. Although the season's snowpack remained minimal for most of the State, passerines were disappointing given the mild conditions.

Terry Doyle, one of Alaska's pioneer biologist/birders, has left the Region for points south. Since his arrival as refuge biologist in the eastern Interior, Terry and his staff produced more data on bird status and distribution from the field in the Upper Tanana Valley in his short tenure there than had been realized all century. Terry's systematic and relentless field presence will be difficult to replace, but we know he'll be a valuable contributor to the Florida Region. We wish him well.

Abbreviations: North Gulf (*North Gulf of Alaska*); SE (*Southeast Alaska*); SC (*Southcoastal Alaska*); SW (*Southwest Alaska*); UCI (*Upper Cook Inlet*).

LOONS TO RAPTORS

Although waterbird winter concentrations were unusually high after late and protracted arrivals well into December, there were surprisingly no notable peak counts. With most local fresh water frozen after the season's only cold snap, Kodiak CBC crews were amazed to find a Pied-billed Grebe in a shallow pool in the Buskin R. Jan. 3 (DWS, †RAM). Not found after the 3rd, this individual constituted a first for the