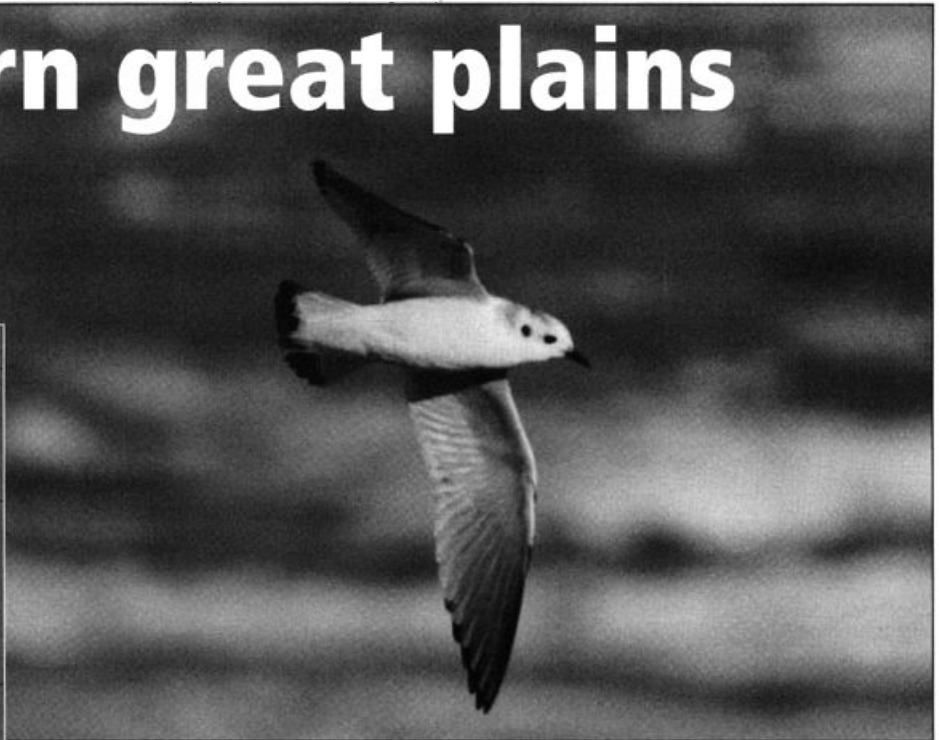


southern great plains region



A recent trend in the continent's heartland has been the presence of juvenile Little Gulls; this bird was present at Keystone Dam, near Tulsa, Oklahoma, November 22. Photograph/Steve Metz

JOSEPH A. GRZYBOWSKI

Can birds tell you if global warming is a legitimate phenomenon? They are obviously not as direct a measure as the average global temperature or recession of glaciers, and the observations are still only correlational (rather than depicting causation). However, this Region's records of many tardy and lingering species—across a spectrum of taxa from herons to Neotrops (all too numerous to list in this account)—may be an indicative of real change.

There are also those things that happen in far away places for entirely different reasons that can reveal themselves in the Region. Among some general patterns, herons, both breeders and vagrants, seemed to be blossoming in numbers. There was a fair scatter of eastern warblers west—not much of the opposite. Some arctic-nesting species such as Sabine's Gull, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, Greater Scaup, and Black Scoter were well reported this season, continuing a several-year pattern. Some grassland birds also seemed more common this fall. Several concentrations were exceptional, including those of Purple Martins and Franklin's Gulls. This fall also made for good showings of rarities.

Somewhat discouraging was the spotty cooperation in documenting unusual occurrences. For example, no Red-throated

Loon observations for the season were documented. Obviously, this takes some encouragement, and birders in some areas understand and are more supportive for the archival value of such. However much the instant communication of hot-lines, web-pages, and chat-lines may have facilitated the sport of birding, even those rarities studied by many should be painstakingly documented by the observers.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (*Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton Co., KS*); McConaughy (*L. McConaughy, Keith Co., NE*); Ogallala (*L. Ogallala, Keith Co., NE*); Quivira (*Quivira N.W.R., Stafford Co., NE*). Place names in *italics* are counties.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Three reports of Red-throated Loon from Kansas during Nov. were unfortunately undocumented (*vide* LM). Pacific Loons were reported from 2 locations in *Scotts Bluff*, NE, Oct. 31–Nov. 7 (SJD) and Nov. 7 & 20–27 (SJD), *Ogallala* Nov. 7 (SJD), *Reno*, KS, Nov. 13–14 (DV, PJ), *Russell*, KS, Nov. 16 (MR), and *Clark*, KS, Nov. 27 (GP). Quite a surprise for geography and season was a **Yellow-billed Loon** in basic or imm. plumage photographed at McConaughy Aug. 8–Oct. 18 (SJD et al., m. ob.)—Nebraska's 2nd.

Peak counts of W. Grebes were an

astounding 17,600+ at McConaughy Oct. 18 (SJD) and a still remarkable 1400 farther e. in *Lincoln*, NE, Nov. 7 (SJD et al.). Adults with young were noted at Cheyenne Bottoms into mid-Sep. (DW, GP et al.). Other reports were too numerous to list—clearly on a population surge for this species in the Region. Clark's Grebes were widespread, with one–three at *Scotts Bluff*, NE, Sep. 19–Nov. 27 (SJD), one at Cheyenne Bottoms Oct. 17 (SS, DB), 22 at McConaughy Oct. 18 (SJD), eight in *Lincoln*, NE, Nov. 1 (SJD), four in *Russell*, KS, Nov. 15 (TS, SS, MR), as well as singles in *Morris*, KS, Nov. 21 (MR, TC) and *Chase*, NE, Nov. 28 (SJD).

Neotropical Cormorants were found at *Phillips*, KS, Aug. 4 (SS) and *Quivira* Aug. 20 (TC, MR). Pleasantly for the mostly wet cycle of the past decade, herons and egrets have prospered, though this has placed some of their colonies in harm's way in *Wichita* and *Oklahoma City*. Reports of Least Bittern, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, and Cattle Egret have become more numerous this season in s. Nebraska (*vide* WRS, JGJ). Tricolored Herons nested in *Alfalfa*, OK, fledging three young from their 2nd nesting attempt about Aug. 8 (SFe, RS); this represented only the 2nd breeding record for the Region. They were last noted Oct. 2.

Juv. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons invaded s.e. Nebraska, with four in *Phelps*

Aug. 19 (SJD), and two there Sep. 13 (LR, RH). An incredible 13 were found Aug. 15–Sep. 13 (JGJ), the latest being in *Clay*, NE, Oct. 11 (JGJ). The summer fling of imm. White Ibises included up to five in *Sequoyah*, OK, Aug. 15 (SB, KM, PB), two in *Tulsa* Aug. 8–12 (PS, JL, JWA), one in *Alfalfa*, OK, Aug. 14, and one in *Canadian*, OK, through Aug. 15 (m. ob.). Other rare summer vagrants included two imm. Roseate Spoonbills in *Oklahoma* Aug. 5–Sep. 26 (ES, m. ob.), and a Wood Stork Sep. 19 in *Choctaw*, OK (S&JM).

A Black-bellied Whistling Duck was noted at *Quivira* Sep. 4 (PJ et al.). Single Trumpeter and Tundra swans wandered to *Quivira* by Nov. 15 (TC, SS, MR), and nine Tundra Swans were counted in *Jefferson*, KS Nov. 20 (RR). Among the species-pair identification issues in the Southern Plains are Am. Black Ducks/Mottled Ducks. This season, reports of Am. Black Ducks (with details) came from *Platte*, NE, Aug. 22 (an intriguingly early date) and Nov. 18 (JGJ), and *Washington*, NE, Nov. 7 (JS). A curious pair were an Am. Black Duck Nov. 23 at *Quivira* (MR) and a Mottled Duck noted there Sep. 4 (PJ et al.). A male **Eurasian Wigeon** managed a stay in *Alfalfa*, OK, Oct. 2–15 (USFWS).

If it is possible to “surf the net,” birders clearly “surf up” some scoters this season. Surf Scoters threaded a narrow window, with singles at *Ogallala* Oct. 31–Nov. 1 (SJD) and *Tulsa* Nov. 2 (JWA), two in *Oklahoma* Nov. 2–14 (MOI), and other in *Cleveland*, OK, Nov. 3 (JSt), *Miami*, KS, Nov. 7 (ML), and *Lyon*, KS, Nov. 14–16 (CH et al.). White-winged Scoters were observed at *Cheyenne Bottoms* Nov. 7 (ML), *Ogallala* Nov. 7 (SJD), *Lancaster*, NE, Nov. 11 (JS), *Jefferson*, KS, Nov. 25–29 (GP), and *Noble*, OK, Nov. 27 (JWA). Black Scoters, the most sought after, were more common this season, with singles at *Lancaster*, NE, Oct. 31 (JS), *Douglas*, NE, Nov. 15 (JGJ), *Wabaunsee*, KS, Nov. 26–27 (DL, LM), and *Knox*, NE, Nov. 26–28 (MB, DH), with 3–4 at *Ogallala/Keystone L.* Nov. 27–29 (SJD, JS). Five reports of Oldsquaws included a whopping nine–11 birds in *Keith*, NE, Nov. 28–29 (SJD, JS). A Barrow’s Goldeneye at *Noble*, OK, Nov. 27 (JWA) was the only one reported for the season.

RAPTORS THROUGH TERMS

Ospreys were well reported this season, with double-digit counts at several locations in Nebraska and Oklahoma (JAG; *vide* WRS, JGJ). Broad-winged Hawks, very rare in w. parts of the Region, included one Sep.

4–6 (BPe) and two Sep. 19 (MR et al.) in *Morton*, KS, and one in *Cimarron*, OK, Sep. 22 (JM, JSt et al.). At least 32 Merlins were reported for the Region beginning Aug. 20 in Nebraska (*vide* WRS, JGJ, LM). Happily more numerous were Peregrines, with eight from Nebraska (*vide* WRS, JGJ) and nine from Oklahoma.

Also more commonly reported this season were Com. Moorhens, with at least 12 young fledged by late Aug. at *Sarpy*, NE (BP, LP). A juvenile was noted in *Clay*, NE, Aug. 30 (JGJ), and eight were at *Cheyenne Bottoms* Oct. 17 (SS, DB). A Black Rail in *Riley*, KS, Oct. 3 (JK) provided a late date.

A newly-fledged Black-necked Stilt noted in *Garden*, NE, Aug. 7 (JGJ) added another breeding site for Nebraska. Only last fall did Nebraska tally its first Nov. record for Am. Avocet. This year, 97 (!!) avocets lingered into Nov., with the last at *McConaughy* Nov. 28 (SJD). On Aug. 5, Bob Gress and Suzanne Fellows managed to locate 214 Mountain Plovers in *Morton*, KS, a modest but encouraging count. The 56 Black-bellied Plovers at *Quivira* Nov. 5 (MR, TB) was one of the more impressive Regional counts.

A juv. Hudsonian Godwit at *York*, NE, Aug. 30 (JGJ) is the only fall record documented for Nebraska. Red Knots were reported from *McConaughy* Aug. 7 (SJD), *Quivira* Aug. 13 (MR), *Platte*, NE, Aug. 15 (JGJ), *Oklahoma* Aug. 15 (MOI), and *Scotts Bluff*, NE (juvenile), Sep. 12 (SJD). Dunlin were much more common this fall, with 67 birds tallied in Nebraska from Oct. 11 (JGJ)–Nov. 26 (JS) and counts of 40 in *Oklahoma* Oct. 31 (JAG). Also showing well were Buff-breasted Sandpipers Aug. 8–Sep. 27, with 247 birds tallied in Nebraska (*vide* WRS, JGJ), most in the e. part of the state, at least 145 from Kansas (*vide* LM), and 80+ seen in Oklahoma (JM, JNm, JAG et al.).

An adult **Curlew Sandpiper** in basic plumage was documented in *Seward*, KS (TC, MR). Nebraska documented its 5th

Ruff, a juvenile male, in *York*, NE, Sep. 27 (JGJ). Red-necked Phalaropes made a respectable showing with 21 birds in e. and c. Nebraska (*vide* WRS, JGJ). By far the rarest phalarope in the Region is Red; two molting juveniles were documented at *Platte*, NE, Sep. 13 (JGJ) for (pending review) the 8th Nebraska record. Other Reds (undocumented) were reported from *Oklahoma* Oct. 18–20 and *Quivira* Nov. 2.

A juv. light-morph or intermediate-morph **Long-tailed Jaeger** was documented at *McConaughy* Oct. 3 (SJD) and will likely become only the 2nd state record for Nebraska or the Region. A dark-morph jaeger was also found at *McConaughy* Oct. 3 (SJD).

The normally big list of gulls was perhaps a little shorter this season but still far from disappointing. It includes Laughing Gulls at *Lancaster*, NE, Aug. 3 (BP, LP), *Pottawatomie*, KS, Oct. 2 (TC), and *Douglas*, KS, Oct. 31 (MM), with five or six from n.e. Oklahoma Aug. 29–Nov. 8 (JWA et al.). Regular, but still astounding, were the 200,000 Franklin’s Gulls estimated in *Coffey*, KS, Oct. 24 (LM, GP) and 100,000 in *Sedgwick*, KS, Oct. 31 (PJ, JB).

This may have been the year of Little Gulls—most, surprisingly, juvenile or first-winter birds, and most documented. For Nebraska, they were at *McConaughy* Sep. 8 (SJD, JS), *Ogallala* Sep. 8 (SJD, JS), *McConaughy* Sep. 20 (SJD), *Scotts Bluff* Oct. 17 (SJD), and *Lincoln*, NE, Nov. 1 (SJD). Kansas birders reported Little Gulls at *Sedgwick* Oct. 2 (BG) and *Coffey* Nov. 14 (CH et al.), with one first-winter bird also in *Coffey* Nov. 2 (AS). Of two Little Gulls at *Tulsa* Nov. 16–29, one was in first-winter plumage (JWA et al.). Only one Black-headed Gull was reported, this in *Tulsa* Nov. 14 (JWA).

California Gulls, rare away from *McConaughy* but increasingly expected, included reports of four birds from Kansas (*vide* LM) and six from n.e. (JWA et al.) and



Yellow-billed Loon on the remarkable date of August 10 on Lake McConaughy, Keith County, Nebraska. Photograph/Mark A. Brogie

c. Oklahoma (MOI). A first-winter **Great Black-backed Gull** was documented at Lancaster, NE, Nov. 19–20 (JGJ, JS, BP, LP). Terribly disappointing were the undocumented reports for first-winter Mew, Great Black-backed, and Lesser Black-backed gulls from Kansas (*fide* LM). This year's Black-legged Kittiwake multiplied into the four seen below Gavin's Point Dam, Knox/Cedar, NE, Nov. 22–29 (WRS et al.), with singles in Riley, KS, Nov. 12 (GS) and Cheyenne Bottoms Nov. 26 (GP).

It will be difficult to replicate last year's surge of Sabine's Gulls, but they made a good try. Nineteen reports totaled 32 birds Sep. 12 (MB, JG, SJD) through Oct. 20 (JS, WRS) in Nebraska; only three were reported from Kansas—Sep. 20 in Reno (PJ), Sep. 23 in Riley (LJ), and Oct. 2 in Sedgwick (PJ et al.). Two or three were in Oklahoma Sep. 15 (VA) through Oct. 3 (LMA et al.). While typically only juveniles are seen, the exception was the adult in Lancaster, NE, Sep. 30–Oct. 7 (JS). Quite tardy was a Black Tern at McConaughy Oct. 17–18 (SJD).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Among the less expected visitors, two female/imm. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were documented in Kimball, NE, Aug. 8 (SJD) and Aug. 9 (JS, WRS); these were apparently separated from three female/

SA The dove outbreak continues unabated. Up to nine Eurasian Collared-Doves, including immatures, were counted in Kearney, NE (LR, RH *fide* RN; m. ob.). One was sitting on a nest in a leafless sycamore there Oct. 23 (LR, RH)! A **White-winged Dove**, Nebraska's 3rd, found these good company through the period (LB). Eurasian Collared-Doves were also reported from 4 locations in Kansas (*Jefferson, Wallace, Stevens, and Finney; fide* LM). They were present in Oklahoma City, and up to 12 were counted in *Alfalfa*, OK, during Sep. and Oct., also accompanied by a White-winged Dove (TH, et al.). Up to 30 White-winged Doves have been counted in *Canadian*, OK (LR, MOI, m. ob.), equivalent to more than the entire past Regional tally. White-winged Doves were also reported from *Douglas*, KS, Aug. 11 (LM) and *Cowley*, KS (MTh). Inca Doves were found in *Comanche*, OK, two beginning Aug. 15 (JMc), as well as in *Morton*, KS, Aug. 20 (TC, MR) and *Cherokee*, OK (CW) during Nov.

imm. Rufous Hummingbirds also present Aug. 9 (JS, WRS). Other Rufous/*Selasphorus* Hummingbirds were noted Jul. 27 in *Pawnee*, KS (DKa), Aug. 10 in *Muskogee*, OK (BF), Aug. 27 in *Riley*, KS (NJW), and Nov. 29–30 in *Wagoner*, OK (K&BG).

The specimen record from Oklahoma and Kansas depicts Dusky Flycatchers as rare spring migrants and Hammond's as a

SA Perhaps the find of the year was a **Ringed Kingfisher**, probably an immature, at a neighborhood pond in Stillwater, OK (EG). It was first noted the week of Sep. 21 but not brought to the attention of birders until late Sep. 30. It was verified Oct. 1 (JD) and seen and photographed by a small entourage of birders Oct. 2. It was last observed being chased by a Cooper's Hawk that afternoon. This appears to be the northernmost record for North America, and perhaps the only record n. of c. Texas.

fall migrant. A Hammond's documented Sep. 6 at in *Kimball*, NE (SJD), falls in the range for Nebraska of Sep. 2–21. Kansas birders again reported Hammond's and Dusky from Morton Aug. 20–Sep. 11 (*fide* LM). However, a suspected Dusky in Cimmaron, OK, netted Sep. 6 turned out to be a pale Least Flycatcher with a narrow dark-tipped mandible (JAG, JWA). Who knows? Two Cordilleran Flycatchers were also reported from *Morton*, KS (*fide* LM). Rounding out the rare *Morton*, KS flycatchers were Ash-throateds Aug. 20 (TC, MR) and Sep. 4 (BPe). Among a collection of tardy flycatcher species was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher Nov. 20 in *Canadian*, OK (SM).

Another good identification hazard in the Plains is the "Solitary" Vireo group. Imm. female Blue-headed and any old Cassin's provide an underestimated challenge. The few Regional Cassin's specimens depict an earlier fall migration than for Blue-headed. With these caveats in mind, Plumbeous Vireos were reported from *Morton*, KS, Sep. 5 (PJ et al.) & 11 (MM, MC) and *Kimball*, NE, Sep. 6 (SJD). Several Cassin's Vireos were recorded from *Kimball*, NE, Aug. 29–Sep. 12 (SJD, MB, m. ob.) and *Morton*, KS, Sep. 19 (MR et al.). The first Nebraska Panhandle record of Blue-headed Vireo was photographed Sep. 27 in *Scotts Bluff* (SJD); another was westerly in *Morton*, KS, Sep. 5 (BPe).

Ahhh, 50,000 Purple Martins in *Sedgwick*, KS, Aug. 5 (PJ et al.) sounds nice. A

Purple Martin Nov. 1 (unprecedented) in Tulsa (CB), two N. Rough-winged Swallows in *Neosho*, KS, Nov. 26 (RM), and a Barn Swallow Nov. 14 in *Coffey*, KS (CH et al.) were exceptionally late. A Clark's Nutcracker at McConaughy Nov. 1 surprised at least one birder (SJD). For a mini-outburst, Rock Wrens managed to wander east to *Russell*, KS, Oct. 3 (TC et al.), *Sedgwick*, KS, Oct. 13 (BG), *Pawnee*, KS, Oct. 28 (SS), and Tulsa Nov. 5–17 (MK et al.). A Varied Thrush appeared in *Finney*, KS, Nov. 28 (MO, MR).

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

While bridging east and west, when it comes to warblers, the Plains might seem more like the vacuum in the middle than a panacea. Nonetheless, this vacuum can draw its own crowd of mostly eastern warblers west.

Surprising was a Blue-winged Warbler in *Sedgwick*, KS, Sep. 28 (DV). A N. Parula wandered west to *Morton*, KS, Sep. 5 & 7 (PJ et al.), as did Chestnut-sided Warblers in *Morton*, KS, Sep. 7 (PJ et al.) and *Garfield/Loup*, NE, Sep. 19 (JGJ). Certainly sought after, a Black-throated Blue Warbler appeared in *Garfield/Loup*, NE, Sep. 19 (JGJ). Dishearteningly, undocumented Black-throated Blue reports came from *Sedgwick* and *Leavenworth*, KS (*fide* LM).

Eastern warblers west: certainly a fall treat was an imm. male Blackburnian Warbler in *Sheridan*, NE, Sep. 7 (SJD). There was a small flurry of Pine Warblers west to *Sedgwick, Geary, Butler, Douglas, and Harvey* in Kansas (*fide* LM). Amazing were an ad. male Pine Warbler singing at *Kimball*, NE, Aug. 29–Oct. 13 (SJD, m. ob.), a first Nebraska Panhandle record, and an imm. male Prairie Warbler documented in *Scotts Bluff*, NE, Sep. 6 (SJD). Also wandering west were a Prairie Warbler at Cheyenne Bottoms Sep. 11 (MM), and a Bay-breasted Warbler in *Morton*, KS, Sep. 5 (PJ et al.). Blackpoll Warblers, which normally go trans-Atlantic in the fall, were noted at *Morton*, KS, Sep. 5 (PJ et al.), *Garden*, NE, Sep. 7 (SJD), and *Kimball*, NE, Sep. 24 (SJD). Among other eastern warblers west were a male Mourning Warbler in *Kimball*, NE, Aug. 29 (SJD, BP, LP), and two in *Morton*, KS, Sep. 12 (MR et al.). Among the most tardy lot were an Ovenbird Nov. 22 in Tulsa (TM).

Three Bachman's Sparrows were found Aug. 21 at a population outpost in *Osage*, OK (JL et al.). Le Conte's Sparrow numbers were high this fall, with double-digit

reporting from Nebraska (*fide* WRS, JGJ). More than the usual, about 13 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported (mostly from Nebraska) Sep. 21 (*Lancaster/Saunders*, NE; JS) to Oct. 23 (*Otoe*; NE, LE). Always worth noting, Baird's Sparrows were reported from *Seward*, KS, Oct. 25 (MR) and *Pawnee*, KS, Oct. 28 (SS). Encouraging was a count of 1230 McCown's Longspur in *Kimball*, NE, Oct. 13, clearly indicative of peak movement.

Purple Finches are becoming scarce in the Region, with almost none reported. No outburst of Red Crossbills occurred this season, and there were only a few scattered records in Nebraska away from breeding areas, with three in *Sedgwick*, KS, Nov. 11 (JN). Extralimital was a Lesser Goldfinch in *Creek*, OK, Oct. 3 (JWA).

Cited Observers (area editors boldfaced):

KANSAS: James Barnes, Dave Bryan, Tim Barksdale, Ted Cable, Mark Corder, Suzanne Fellows, Bob Gress, Chris Hobbs, Lowell Johnson, Pete Janzen, Don Kasmier, Jeff Keating, Mark Land, Dan LaShelle, Robert Mangile, Mick McHugh, **Lloyd Moore**, John Northrup, Marie Osterbuh, Brandon Percival (BPe), Galen Pittman, Richard Rucker, Mike Rader, Art Swallowell, Tom Shane, Dan Svingen, Guy Smith, Scott Seltman, Max Thompson, Don Vannoy, Don Weiss, Norma Jean Wesley. NEBRASKA: Laurel Badura, Mark Brogie, Stephen J. Dinsmore, Larry Einemann, Joe Gubanyi, Robin Harding, David Heidt, **Joel G. Jorgensen**, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Lanny Randolph, **W. Ross Silcock**, John Sullivan. OKLAHOMA: Virginia Anderson, James W. Arterburn, Sandy Berger, Peter Boesman, Charles Brown, John Dole, Shane Feirer (SFe), Bea Ford, Ed Glover, K.&B. Godley, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Tyler Hicks, Marty Kamp, **Jo Loyd**, Sarah & Jim Maple, Larry Mayes (LMa), Shirley McFarland, Janet McGee (JMc), Karen McGee, Jeri McMahan, Terry Mitchell, Jim Norman, Mitchell Oliphant (MOL), Linda Robinson, Pat Seibert, Euelda Sharp, Ron Shepperd, John Sterling (JSt), U.S. Fish Wildlife Service, Cory Westin.

Joseph A. Grzybowski, 715 Elmwood Drive, Norman, OK 73072



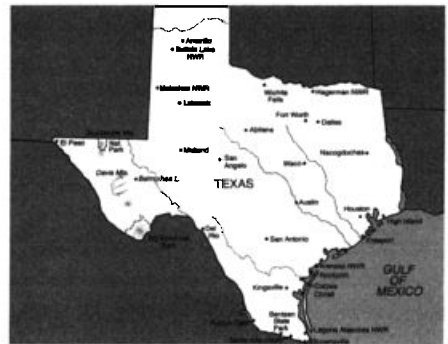
texas region

**GREG W. LASLEY,
CHUCK SEXTON,
MARK LOCKWOOD,
WILLIE SEKULA,
and CLIFF SHACKELFORD**

There never seems to be an even keel in Texas weather. The brutally hot summer was extending its reach into Aug., when slow moving cool fronts crept through Aug. 3–7 and again Aug. 10–15. It wasn't particularly cool after those initial offerings, but they did begin to bring some local relief from the drought. Tropical weather in late Aug. signaled the beginning of the end of drought, yet the low water level at Sam Rayburn Reservoir in east Texas still allowed for good shorebird habitat well into Sep. As Oct. passed, most weather worries were about the disastrous flooding! Moisture training north from two hurricanes off of southwest Mexico and an advancing cold front brought a deluge to the eastern edge of the Hill Country for "Octoberfest" (ca. Oct. 17). The Trans-Pecos and Panhandle were still complaining about the heat in Oct. and Nov., but at least the latter area got one good downpour that filled Buffalo Lake for the first time in 20 years. Truly cold weather did not arrive until the very end of the period; many observers mentioned the wildflowers still blooming during their Thanksgiving holiday.

Two pelagic trips on Aug. 8 and Sep. 5 brought the now-expected array including Audubon's Shearwaters, storm-petrels, and pelagic terns. In fact, we will henceforth skip over the latter group in future reporting on pelagic trips—remarkable since Bridled Tern was considered an exceptional rarity as recently as 1990.

Fall invasions began to take shape in Oct. There was a clear movement of Blue Jays into Texas starting in late Sep., the first sizeable invasion in four years. Blue Jays were noted passing by the thousand at Cooper Lake in n.e. Texas, and just days later hawk-watchers at Smith Point, Hazel Bazemore, and Balcones Canyonlands were remarking about the species. The jays spread well into the Hill Country and eventually reached the Devil's River, Del Rio, and the upper part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Another conspicuous invader was Golden-crowned



Kinglet, which graced the eastern three-fourths of the state, arriving in good numbers Oct. 20–23. There were lesser movements of Brown Creepers, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Downy Woodpeckers, and a number of western species such as Sage Thrasher and Pyrrhuloxia inched a bit eastward. American Robins, of all species, actually drew notice with their high numbers in many areas.

Abbreviations: Ft. Bliss (*Ft. Bliss sewage ponds, El Paso*); G.M.N.P. (*Guadalupe Mountains Nat'l Park*); L.R.G.V. (*Lower Rio Grande Valley*); S.S.W.T.P. (*South Side Water Treatment Plant, Dallas*); T.B.R.C. (*Texas Bird Records Committee*); T.C.W.C. (*Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection, Texas A&M University*); U.T.C. (*Upper Texas Coast*). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks, wildlife refuges, etc.: Attwater, Balcones Canyonlands, Bentsen, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Brazos Bend, Caprock Canyon, Choke Canyon, Hagerman, Hazel Bazemore, Laguna Atascosa, Palo Duro, San Bernard, and Santa Ana.

LOOKS THROUGH VULTURES

A Red-throated Loon at Cooper L., *Delta*, Nov. 15 († MWh) was the only report of the season. Of three Pacific Loon records, the most significant was at White River L., *Crosby*, Nov. 13–15 (CSt, AF). Least Grebes seemed to respond well to the fall rains, with nesting reported at N. Padre I., *Beeville*, and Choke Canyon. Extralimital Least Grebes showed up at Brazos Bend Nov. 9 and L. Alcoa, *Milam*, Sep. 12 (BFR). There were unprecedented numbers of W. Grebes in the Panhandle and South Plains, with 14 reported during Nov. from *Randall, Hutchinson, Potter, Lubbock, and Crosby*. In the El