were part of the fallout at F.D.C.P. 2 Oct (LA, MWi, CBu), and Robinson counted 25 Indigo Buntings at L.A.R.A. 19 Oct. Over 3,000 Bobolinks were in agricultural fields at W. Kendall 11 Sep (JoB). Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Sanibel I. 12 Sep (VM, CE), P.P.M. 19 Sep (PT, CG), Naples 24-25 Sep (EP), Sarasota 23 Nov (BoP, JP), and three were at Gainesville 8-10 Oct (RR). Shiny Cowbird reports were of two at Cedar Key 9 Aug (DHe), a female at H.P.M. on the late date of 20 Nov (BB, BaP), and 12 at Sarasota 23 Nov (BoP, IP), Multiple Baltimore Orioles included eight at Crystal River 6 Sep (TR), 17 at "Ding" Darling N.W.R. 6 Sep (JeB, CE, AS), four at Honeymoon I. 10 Sep (PBI), three at L.A.R.A. 23 Sep (HR), and four at Turkey Creek 7 Oct (B&SH). A male Bullock's Oriole was reported from Cedar Key 22-26 Oct (DHe et al.). House Finches continue to increase in range and numbers in the Region, as evidenced by 180 in Alachua 18 Sep (fide MMa), two at Spring Hill, Hernando, 7-8 Nov (SC, AH, BHa), and one at Cedar Key 18-23 Nov (DHe).

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ontario

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t was a lovely, long, leisurely fall season. The south was warm and dry throughout, while in the northwest it was also mild, with much rain in August but drier than usual later; November in Rainy River was the mildest on record. All the promised hurricanes in North America remained coastal, so no storm-driven pelagic species were recorded. Hawk migration was excellent in the south, with several species, including Golden Eagle, in record numbers. Otherwise, birding was uneventful for most of the season until a sudden, welcome influx of rarities in November.

Abbreviations: L.P.B.O. (Long Point Bird Observatory); P.E.Pt. (Prince Edward Point); T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape Bird Observatory). Place names in *italics* refer to counties, districts, and regional municipalities.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Five definitive basic Red-throated Loons at Radiant L. 18 Nov (CJo, RSt, DTz, RGT) were only the second for Algonquin P.P. Three hundred Com. Loons were off Pt. Pelee 5 Nov (KML et al.). A severe botulism outbreak on L. Huron killed three Red-throated Loons, 1,000 Common Loons, five

Horned Grebes, three Red-necked Grebes, and many ducks, especially mergansers, between Kettle Pt. and Bayfield mid-Nov (fide AHR). The 243 Pied-billed Grebes in Rondeau Bay, Kent, 1 Oct (JTB, KJB) were a record high. A high number for the N. Bay area were 25 Horned Grebes off Jocko Pt., L. Nipissing, mid-Oct (RT). Two pairs of Rednecked Grebes in Bronte Harbour, Halton had seven young 8 Aug, with some eggs still unhatched (MG). Eared Grebes included one at Sheguiandah, Manitoulin I. 7 Aug (E&GG), one at LaSalle Marina, Aldershott, Halton 17 Aug (RZD, m.ob.), two off Burlington 28 Aug (KML, m.ob.), one at Pt. Pelee 20 Sep (AW), and one at Rondeau P.P. 9-30 Nov (AHR et al.).

Thunder Bay had a record high count of Am. White Pelicans, with 300+ at W. Bay, L. Nipigon, 19 Aug (RSw); in the s., one at Erie Beach, Kent 18 Oct (JTB) was noteworthy. Indicative of the huge influx of recent years, 2,500 Double-crested Cormorants were on Sandy I., L. Nipissing, 20 Aug (RT). Up to six Great Egrets continued at Presqu'ile P.P. through Aug to early Sep, with two still there late Sep (fide MRg). Six frequented a wetland near Napanee, Lennox-Addington 10-17 Sep (ST, AT) and 131 were in the Holiday Beach area, Essex, 18 Aug (FU). Numbers at Luther Marsh, Wellington-Dufferin peaked at 43 on 14 Sep (HB); a late bird lingered near Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma 25 Oct-7 Nov (fide RK). Snowy Egrets were at Napanee 10 Sep (ST, AT) and Niagara-onthe-Lake 8-14 Nov (RHC et al.). Cattle Egrets included one near Westport, Leeds-Granville 7 Sep (NLB) and one at Ottawa 31 Oct (TB); three appeared in the Thunder Bay area after two days of record high temperatures, at Chippewa 9 Nov (fide AH), the Chapple golf club 9 Nov (DMK), and the Thunder Bay airport 10 Nov (BR). Another was at Massey, Sudbury, 21 Nov (CBI). Single Plegadis ibis were at Presqu'ile P.P. 12 Sep (RPa) and Long Pt. Causeway 28 Nov (MC, LN). A Black Vulture flew over the Dundas Valley, Hamilton-Wentworth, 3 Nov (BD). Migrating Turkey Vulture numbers were high, with record one-day counts of 2,161 at Seacliff, Essex, 6 Oct (AW, KML)

and 1,418 at Rondeau P.P. 7 Oct (JTB); the season total at Holiday Beach was 16,957 (fide BL).

GEESE THROUGH RAPTORS

Greater White-fronted Geese included four flying over T.C.B.O. 19 Sep (fide NGE) and two over Old Cut, Long Pt., 11 Nov (HV). An imm. Ross's Goose frequented the Thunder Bay waterfront 1-19 Sep (DBs et al), up to four were on Mission I., Thunder Bay, 12 Sep (GGo), another was at the Winchester lagoons, Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry, 30 Oct (BB), and an ad. was seen by many at Humber Bay Pk., Toronto, 5–30 Nov (fide RBHS). An unusual breeding record for Toronto was provided by a female Canvasback with seven young at the Leslie St Spit 2 Aug (VH, HD); one juv. remained to 10 Oct (GC et al.). Greater Scaup numbers built to 50,000 at Wolfe I., Frontenac, 14 Nov (JHE, RoDW) and over 35,000 at Rondeau 28 Nov (JTB). A female King Eider frequented Cobourg Harbour, Northumberland, 11-30 Nov (CEG, m.ob.). Two male Harlequin Ducks were at Sault Ste. Marie 6-7 Nov (fide RK). Very unusual for Algonquin P.P. were 50 Black Scoters on White Partridge L. 20 Oct (GB); the Ottawa R had 70 on 24 Oct (MTt). The peak count of Long-tailed Ducks at P.E.Pt. was 75,200 on 7 Nov (K.F.N.); the vocal 11,242 at Humber Bay Pk. 21 Nov (GC) made it sound more like spring than late fall. Two male Barrow's Goldeneyes were at Lemieux I., Ottawa-Carleton, 11-28 Nov (CL et al.). Hooded Mergansers were in good numbers, with a flock of over 100 at Talon L. 19 Nov (RT) most unusual for N. Bay and 82 at the Leslie St. Spit, Toronto, 21 Nov (RBHS) was a record for that location. The 1,320 Ruddy Ducks at Big Creek Marsh, Holiday Beach, 10 Nov were a record high count (fide BL).

The 43 Bald Eagles at the Atikokan town dump 24 Oct (DHE) were usual for fall. Over 1,000 Broad-winged Hawks at Thunder Cape set a one-day record at T.C.B.O. 15 Sep (fide NGE), as did 4,802 at High Park, Toronto, 17 Sep (fide RBHS); the season total at Holiday Beach was 59,442 (fide BL). Unprecedented sightings of Swainson's Hawks began with a juv. at Cranberry Marsh, Durham, 3 Oct (MBo et al.), followed by an ad and two juv., a high count for Ontario, at Seacliff, Essex, 6 Oct (AW, KML), and one over Waupoos Pen., Prince Edward, 7 Nov (K.F.N.). A Harlan's Hawk was unusual at T.C.B.O. 15 Sep. A strong cold front there 23 Oct brought a record 223 Roughlegged Hawks (fide NGE). An early Golden Eagle was n. of Napanee 15 Aug (fide JHE). The species' passage through the south was

exceptional: Rondeau tallied 11 on 7 Oct (KJB, JTB, SC); High Park, *Toronto*, had a record 11 on 18 Oct, with 12 on 24 Oct and 11 near Woodbine Beach, *Toronto*, the same day (DP). Hawk Cliff, *Elgin*, had more than 40 from 24–25 Oct (*fide* MS), while Holiday Beach, *Essex* had 34 birds 27 Oct, 24 more 7 Nov (*fide* MS), and 130 for the season. Urban Peregrine Falcons suffered a high attrition rate due to accidents, but one youngster in London, *Middlesex*, had shotgun pellets in its head (*fide* ID).

GROUSE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

The Sharp-tailed Grouse 30 km n. of Atikokan 14 Nov (DHE) was a rare fall visitor to the e. edge of Rainy River. A N. Bobwhite egg was identified in a small Conservation Area in London in Oct and the bird itself was found 7 Nov (fide PR), evidence of renewed breeding in the area. Am. Coots were plentiful, with 250 at Cache Bay, L. Nipissing mid-Oct a large number for the area (RT); in the s., Erieau, Kent had over 4,500 on 18 Nov (JTB). Sandhill Crane migration was excellent, with numbers building in Algoma from 207 on 15 Aug to a record 1,905 on 19 Sep (RK); Manitoulin I. had a record 1,700 birds 17 Oct (CBl, JLm et al.), and 57 were at Holiday Beach 7 Nov (fide BL) and 51 in the Long Pt. area 29 Nov (S&CW). A Piping Plover banded at Michigan's Whitefish Pt. was at Van Wagners Beach, Hamilton-Wentworth, 12-13 Sep (JG, VG, m.ob.) and nearby Hamilton Beachstrip 14 Sep (DD) and 16 Sep (WL). Single Am. Avocets were at Long Pt. 17 Aug (CJa), Corner Marsh, Durham, 29 Aug-25 Sep (DWo, m.ob.), Pt. Pelee 23 Sep (MTy et al.), and Mission Bay, Thunder Bay, 17-19 Oct (NGE, m.ob.). At least six Willets were in the s. late Aug-early Oct, all single birds, but four were together on Pelee I., Essex, 2 Oct (DWa, DBr). Hudsonian Godwits were in ones and twos across the south, with four at Cootes Paradise, Hamilton-Wentworth, 22-23 Sep (RW, BW); the latest was at the Long Pt. Causeway 6 Nov (HV). A juv. Marbled Godwit was at Hamilton's Windermere Basin 22 Aug-16 Sep (JO et al.), another at Blenheim Lagoons 3-5 Sep (PP et al.), and a third at the Long Pt. Causeway 11 Sep (HV). Single W. Sandpipers were at Parkhill Lagoons, Middlesex, 29 Aug (TH, BHy), Bismark, Niagara, 6 Sep (KR, JB et al.), Blenheim Lagoons 8 Sep (RHC et al.), Presqu'ile P.P. 1 Oct (DSh, IS), Long Pt. Causeway 17 Oct (PB), and Amherst I. 21 and 25 Sep and 15 Oct (K.F.N.). Sturgeon Creek, Essex, had 20 White-rumped Sandpipers 4 Oct (AW), but elsewhere numbers

were low. Baird's Sandpipers, however, had a strong fall passage. A Sharp-tailed Sand**piper** was closely studied by several birders, but not photographed, 19 Oct on Mission I. (GGo, SG et al.). An early Purple Sandpiper was at Cobourg Harbour 1 Oct (MJCB), with a high count of seven at Presqu'ile P.P. 7 Nov (DSh, IS). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were widely reported in the s., with high counts of six at Gore Bay airport, Manitoulin, 13 Sep (RZD, BCh) and three at Mt. Hope, Hamilton-Wentworth, 25 Aug-5 Sep (JO, RSm). A **Ruff** was at Blenheim Lagoons 8 Sep (RHC et al.), with another at the Long Pt. Causeway 26 Sep-17 Oct (DGa, m.ob.). Long-billed Dowitchers included two early ad. at Oshawa Second Marsh 12 Aug (JI), 10 from 4 Sep-26 Oct in the Kingston area (K.F.N.), a juv. at Mission I. 19 Sep (JAl, JAn, NGE), two at the Long Pt. Causeway 10 Oct (m.ob.), and three at Oshawa Second Marsh 16 Oct (RPy). Red-necked Phalaropes were well reported, with a high of three at Hearst, Cochrane, 12 Sep (BDL). Ten Red Phalaropes were more than the seasonal average and included two at Ottawa 24 Oct (MTt) and one at T.C.B.O. 22 Oct (fide NGE), a first for Thunder Bay.

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

Hamilton's Van Wagners Beach saw excellent numbers of Pomarine Jaegers, from the first on 26 Sep (KML) to an amazing 13 juvs. 11 Nov (RZD, JC), for a total of 29 birds. Parasitic Jaegers were not exceptional at this site, but Presqu'ile P.P. had an unusually high seasonal total of at least 16 (fide DSh); Long Point Breakwater had two on 17 Sep (MO) and one 19 Sep (MO, HV), and a juv. was at Pt. Pelee 19 Sep (AW). Plowed fields in Rainy River held over 600 Franklin's Gulls of all plumages from juvenile to adult 2 Aug (DHE, RSi); singles were at Presqu'ile P.P. 19 Sep (KK) and Sturgeon Creek, Essex, 1 Oct (JK). Thunder Bay's first Little Gull was at T.C.B.O. 14 Oct (HV); 17 were at Turkey Pt. 23 Oct (NM). A definitive basic Black-headed Gull provided a first fall record for Presqu'ile P.P. 7-8 Sep (GGi, DSh, RGT). An ad. and three imm. Bonaparte's Gulls at Nym L. e. of Atikokan 12 Aug (DRE) were a rare fall sight for Rainy River. Although persisting in many locations in the s. of the province through Nov, there were no large concentrations of Bonaparte's on the Niagara R., where gull numbers in general remained low, presumably due to continuing mild weather.

The seven Ring-billed Gulls at Atikokan 20 Nov were record-late for the area (DHE). An ad. California Gull frequented river

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SA The sensation of the fall was undoubtedly Ontario's first Heermann's Gull. In early November, reports of a small dark gull in the Toronto docklands were initially discounted as a bird badly oiled or perhaps melanistic. On 14 Nov a first-winter Heermann's Gull was identified there (BM), only to disappear until 28 Nov, when refound at nearby Ashbridge's Bay (TR et al.). Photographs of it at the Cherry St. Shipping Canal 29 Nov (CML, BY) opened the floodgates, and many appreciative birders thronged to view this first for Ontario. Workers at the salt storage facility frequented by the bird claimed it had been present since the summer.



Not to be outdone by its West Coast brethren, the Elegant Tern in Florida, this Heermann's Gull in Basic I plumage also provided a second record for eastern North America. It remained in Toronto, Ontario, from 14 Nov 1999 well into December, with this image taken 1 Dec. Photograph/Kayo Roy

Although this statement was received with some skepticism, it may mirror dates for the only other Heermann's for eastern North America: a third-year come adult at Metro Beach Metropark, Michigan, Aug 1979–Nov 1981 (fide AC), with presumably the same bird at Lorain, Ohio, 12 Feb–12 Mar 1980 and 20 Dec 1980–Feb 1981 (fide VF).

rocks beside Adam Beck Generating Station on the Niagara R. 7-27 Nov (WDA, BP, m.ob.) and a second was at Niagara Falls 21 Nov (WDA, BP). Lesser Black-backed Gulls numbers were low but nine were at Niagara Falls 28 Nov (MM, KF). In the s., "whitewinged" gulls remained scarce through the period. Black-legged Kittiwakes included one at Presqu'ile P.P. 9 Sep (RGT), two juvs. at Dundas Marsh, Hamilton-Wentworth, 12 Sep (KML), and singles at Amherst I. 26 Oct (RKE, KFE), Erieau 10 Nov (SC, JTB), and Van Wagners Beach 11 Nov (RZD, JC). Van Wagners Beach also had a juv. Sabine's Gull 3 Oct (DGa, BSm et al.). A Caspian Tern was record-late for Rondeau 26 Oct (JTB). The 11,000 Com. Terns at Pt. Pelee 4 Oct provided an exceptional count for the late date (RHC et al.). A late Forster's Tern was at Niagara Falls 6 Nov (WDA).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Rare for fall was a Mourning Dove at Atikokan 15 Oct (DHE). A red-morph E. Screech-Owl was banded at L.P.B.O. 14 Oct (fide JW). In Toronto 23 Oct were 15 Short-eared Owls on Leslie St. Spit (MCr) and eight at Col. Sam Smith Pk. (AR) migrating w. along the shoreline in broad daylight, some far out over water; two at Two Rivers Airfield 30 Oct (fide RGT) were rare for Algonquin P.P. There was an excellent flight of N. Saw-whet Owls, with record numbers at several banding stations, including 600+ at T.C.B.O. (fide NGE) and 766 at L.P.B.O. (fide JW). The fourth Lewis's Woodpecker for Ontario, a spectacular adult, delighted many birders 1-7 Oct w. of Brockville, Leeds-Granville (V&LW, m.ob.). Northerly Red-bellied Woodpeckers included one banded at T.C.B.O. 28 Oct (fide NGE) and 2 at Evansville, Manitoulin I. 7 Nov (CBl). An intriguing sighting 16 Oct was a Williamson's Sapsucker flying northeast from Taconite Harbour, Minnesota, toward nearby Ontario, where the species is unrecorded (fide NGE). At least 20 Black-backed Woodpeckers were in a forest burn s. of Temagami mid-Oct (BDL). T.C.B.O. had three Western Kingbirds 19 Sep (fide NGE). A Scissortailed Flycatcher flew w. at Derry Rd., Halton, 25 Aug (DTb). A late, unbanded adult Loggerhead Shrike was at Corner Marsh, Durham, 6 Oct (GC).

The southbound Blue Jay flight was

spectacular, with 121,000 over Holiday Beach 15 Sep (*fide* BL) and 37,120 in four hours at Seacliff 3 Oct (AW et al.). Seacliff, *Essex* had a good passage of 725 Tree Swallows in four hours 3 Oct (AW et al.).

Good numbers of Boreal Chickadees migrated along the n. shore of L. Superior in Oct (fide NGE); one with no tail was much farther s. at Presqu'ile P.P. 24 Oct (DMR, MRb). A Tufted Titmouse was n. to Ottawa 5-19 Nov (CBw et al.), with others at feeders in St. Marys, Perth, 26 Nov (CD) and N. York, Toronto, 26-30 Nov (SP). Unusual in the north, a White-breasted Nuthatch visited feeders at Marathon, Thunder Bay, 31 Oct-8 Nov (BCl) and two were at Terrace Bay, Thunder Bay, early Nov (GS). A Bluegray Gnatcatcher was unexpected at Moose Factory, Cochrane, 15 Sep (BDL). A beautiful male Mountain Bluebird was at Fishers Glen, Haldimand-Norfolk, 25-30 Nov (SM, m.ob.). Three Townsend's Solitaires were at Squaw Bay, Thunder Bay, early Nov (BR, EC); one was in London 5 Nov (B&CL) and another at Pt. Pelee 23-30 Nov (AHR et al.). Peak night flights of thrushes occurred at Kingston 8/9 Sep, with 400 Gray-cheeked and 4,500 Swainson's identified by calls (RDW). At T.C.B.O., 4,000 Am. Robins flew s. 22 Sep (fide NGE). Grandview Beach, Thunder Bay, had a N. Mockingbird 10 Oct (SB). The 24 Am. Pipits at Atikokan 17 Sep (DHE) were unexpected, usually overflying Rainy River; numbers on Amherst I. peaked at 750 on 25 Sep (K.F.N.), and over 10,000 moved through agricultural fields at Sault Ste. Marie ahead of a cold front 2 Oct (RK). Small flocks of Bohemian Waxwings appeared in Rainy River 15 Oct (DHE), Algonquin P.P. 24 Oct (RGT), Sudbury 30 Oct (JLe), and farther s. in early Nov. The berry crop was good n. of L. Superior but poor in the s., where few flocks remained for long.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Warbler migration was diffuse and protracted, lacking notable concentrations. A Yellow Warbler was record-late for Rondeau P.P. 27-28 Nov (SC, JTB). Ottawa had a Yellowthroated Warbler 16-23 Oct (CR et al.) and another was at Long Pt. 4 Nov (CJa). A N. Waterthrush was late in Hamilton 7 Nov (GN). Usually elusive on migration, 13 Connecticut Warblers were recorded at Long Pt., with four at the tip 28 Aug (fide JW). Unusual for fall, a male Hooded Warbler was at Pelee 8 Oct (JMC,BHm) and a late bird was at Centre I., Toronto, 30 Oct (AA et al.). Single Yellow-breasted Chats were unexpected at Peterborough 26 Aug (BS) and P.E.Pt. 18 Sep (RTS). A female Summer Tanager was seen briefly in Port Hope, *Northumberland*, 19 Oct (EK) and an imm. male was a first for Sudbury 24–26 Oct (EG, CBl, JLe).

An E. Towhee visited Marathon 10 Nov (CV, PC). A Field Sparrow at Algonquin P.P. 24 Oct (AB, DG) was rare there and recordlate. A Lark Sparrow was at P.E.Pt. 12 Sep (RDW). The only Henslow's Sparrow report was from Rondeau 10 Oct (KJB). Single Le Conte's Sparrows were at the traditional long-grass site at Two Rivers Airfield in Algonquin P.P. 7–9 Oct (CJo et al.) and Rondeau 11 Oct (KJB). Nelson's Sharptailed Sparrows were sparse at usual migration spots. Hundreds of Snow Buntings moved through the Atikokan area 19–30 Oct (DHE), a major movement unlike anything seen there before. N. Cardinals contin-

The big excitement was the A unprecedented influx of Cave Swallows into s. Ontario in early Nov after a strong low-pressure system with sw. winds came up from the Gulf of Mexico, followed by a strong cold front sweeping in from the west. Ontario had two previous records of Cave Swallows, both singles at Pt. Pelee, the first 21 Apr 1998 (AW) and the second 7-9 Dec 1998 (AW et al.). At Pt. Pelee, 2 Nov brought five to the Visitor Center and W. Beach at Pt. Pelee (KML), followed the next day by 25 flying s. off the tip in the morning (KML) and three there in the afternoon (KML et al.). Also 3 Nov, two were at nearby Sturgeon Creek (GTH) and four were at Long Pt. (IR). Also at Pelee, two roosted in a Barn Swallow nest at the Visitor Centre 3-4 Nov (GTH et al.)—one died and will go to the Royal Ontario Museum-three birds were at the Marsh Tower and Sanctuary Pond 4-5 Nov (MBk et al.), and two were flying s. off the tip 5 Nov (KML, WGW, HW, MTt). Meanwhile, L.P.B.O. reported up to 25 at Old Cut and 13 at the tip 4 Nov (fide JW), for a total of at least 44 seen 3-10 Nov (fide JW). Rondeau P.P. recorded its first, with three at Erie Beach 3 Nov (JTB) and six at Erieau 4-6 Nov (SC et al.). Port Burwell, Elgin, had one 5 Nov (DM et al.) and L. Huron had one at Gallimere Beach, Lambton, 6 Nov (JLs, CO). This tidal wave of Cave Swallows swept on through Quebec and the northeastern states to the Eastern Seaboard.

ued their expansion in *Thunder Bay*, with four at Marathon 2–8 Nov (BCl) and singles at Pine Bay 8 Nov (S&BI) and Rossport 12 Nov (DSp). Atikokan had its third, a male 10 Nov (DHE). A Dickcissel was banded at T.C.B.O. 19 Sep; another was seen but not banded 2 Oct (*fide* NGE). There was a heavy flight of Pine Siskins through s. Ontario in Oct but birds did not stay. Com. Redpolls arrived early in n. areas; hundreds were in Atikokan 16 Oct (*fide* DHE). A Hoary Redpoll was at a feeder with Com. Redpolls at Hanmer, *Sudbury*, 18 Nov (CBI, CW).

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appalachia



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pry, summer-like conditions extended over the entire Region through August and into September, during which time there were few notable fallouts of migrants. Heavy rains associated with hurricanes Dennis and Floyd skirted the eastern edge of the Region, followed by good waves of passerines in the West Virginia mountains. Heavy rainfall during the long Thanksgiving weekend produced a good fallout of waterfowl in western Maryland and Pennsylvania. Otherwise the season was marked by generally weak cold fronts. Nearly every contributor summarized the migration as being just average—the Regional editor concurs

Quantitative data generated by the Region's two large, long-term bird-banding sta-