Barbara Martin, Doug McWhirter, Mike Mencotti, Chet & Miriam Meyers, Steve & Diane Millard, Kip Miller, Steve Minard, William Mueller (WMu), Brad Murphy, Jake Musser, Warren Nelson, Frank Nicoletti, Michael North, Mariette Nowak (MNo), Bridget Olson, Karl Overman, Tom Pavlik, Walter Pawloski, Larry Persico, David Peters, Michael Petrucha, Janine Polk, James Ponshair (Jpo), Shaun Putz, John Regan, Jack Reinoehl (JRe), Jim Rooks (Jroo), Joe Roose (JRo), Jethro Runco (JRu), Alan Ryff, Steve Santer, Jeff Schaffer, James Schei (JSc), Russ Schipper, Jeff Schultz (JSch), Scott Shaum (SSh), Ellen Slater, Drew & Becky Smith, Jerry & Karen Smith, Joe Soehnel (JSo), Charles Sontag, David Steen, Jeff Stephenson (JSt), Rob & Mickey Strong, Aaron Stutz, **Peder Svingen** (Minnesota), Carolyn Szaroletta (CSz), Scott Terry, **Daryl Tessen** (Wisconsin), Kevin Thomas, Tom Tustison, Tom Uttech, David Vinnedge, Philip Wedge, Keith Westphal, George Wickstrom, Jim Williams, Chris Wood, Tom Wood, Jonathan Wuepper, Joe Youngman.





middle western prairie

KENNETH J. BROCK

Department of Geosciences, Indiana University Northwest, 3400 Broadway, Gary, IN 46408 (kebrock@ucs.indiana.edu)

all 1999 was mild and dry. Strong frontal systems were conspicuously absent in August and September, creating what Alan Bruner graphically referred to as "stagnant" weather. This tranquil atmosphere provided perfect conditions for migrating passerines; there were few fall-outs or waves. Across the Region low precipitation desiccated mud flats and significantly lowered water levels, thereby modifying shorebird migration patterns in many areas. The season's highest temperatures, compared to average, occurred in November, the warmest on record in the western states. Taking advantage of optimum atmospheric conditions, most passerines over-flew the Region, producing, from the birder's perspective, one of the poorer autumn songbird migrations in recent memory. Balmy November temperatures also caused some waterfowl and many gulls to linger north of the Region, pushing migration into winter. As a result, mediocre numbers and precious few high daily counts characterized the season.

In the absence of a sterling flight among the regular migrants, Middlewestern Prairie Region birders compensated by ferreting out an unprecedented number of vagrants. The season's rarities list included an impressive seven first state records, two also firsts for the Region. Unfortunately, formal reports from Kentucky and Missouri did not arrive in time to be incorporated into this summary. Information from these states is represented only by personal data submitted by Brainard Palmer-Ball and Frank Renfrow (KY), and Mark Robbins (MO).

Abbreviations: Carl. L. (Carlyle Lake in Clinton, Fayette, and Bond Counties, IL); H.B.S.P (Headlands Beach S.P., OH); L. Cal. (Lake Calumet, Chicago); L. Chau. (Lake Chatauqua N.W.R., IL); O.N.W.R. (Ottawa Nat'l Wildlife Ref., OH); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO); Spfld. (Springfield, IL).



LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Red-throated Loons appeared in excellent numbers with 67 reported on the Indiana lakefront, 14 in Ohio, 11 in Illinois, four in Iowa, and one in Missouri. Pacific Loons were restricted to w. states; singletons were reported at three inland Illinois locations and two in Iowa. Com. Loons peaked 7 Nov with 520 at Oberlin Beach, OH (VF). Except for Eared Grebes, which were scarce, grebe numbers were near normal. Birders at Miller Beach, IN, were stunned when a close range imm. N. Gannet flew past 6 Nov (†JCd, EH, WS, SB, DG, m.ob.) to provide Indiana's third record in the past eight years. Once again Am. White Pelicans were plentiful across the Region; the peak count was 7,600 at Saylorville, IA, 19 Sep (BEn) and seven wandered e. to Ohio, where the largest count consisted of three near Dayton 28 Nov (KG). Brown Pelicans, accidental only a decade ago, are becoming casual in the Region. This fall singletons were reported at Geist Res., Hamilton, IN, 3-14 Aug (†DG, RBu, P & JK m.ob.) and an adult was at Saylorville Res., IA, 22-29 Sep (†JF, †TK, †JD, †CE et al.).

With two exceptions herons and egrets appeared in typical numbers. An exceptional count of 1,200 Great Egrets was made at L. Chau. 21 Aug (RCh), and in Missouri Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons were deemed scarce (MRo). Additionally, the 47 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Turning Point I., *Erie*, OH, 29 Nov (RHa, SW), were remarkable for the late date. Unidentified *Plegadis* ibis were reported in Indiana, Iowa, and Ohio. Impressive Turkey Vulture concentrations included 500 at Heuston Woods S.P., OH, 13 Oct (DRu) and 250+ at Newton L., IL, 15 Oct (LH).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Although the main goose flight was late, a Gr. White-fronted appeared at Terra L., IA, 22 Aug (BEn) and 3,000 Snow Geese were at

Carl. L. 27 Nov (DKa). Three Ross's Geese were logged in Iowa and one was at Fermi-Lab, Batavia, IL, 7 Nov (AS). A count of 2,000 Tundra Swans in Allamakee, IA, 27 and 29 Nov (TK, JF, DC) was exceptional. The fall duck flight was fairly light. Noteworthy dabbler reports included an ad. male Eur. Wigeon at Carl L. 16-31 Oct (DKa, KMc, †FBe) and 1,400 Green-winged Teal at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, 3 Oct (EPi). The Region's only Harlequin Ducks appeared along the Indiana lakefront, where three were reported, including an early arrival 22 Oct at Miller Beach (JMc et al.). Scoter numbers were down on the Great Lakes, but typical numbers appeared inland, with small groups of Surf and Black Scoters reported in all four n. states. Long-tailed Ducks were decidedly scarce; the peak count was 12 at Miller Beach 25 Nov (BGr), but a record-early ad. male arrived at Smithville L., MO, 13 Oct (MRo). Other early records included a Bufflehead at Miller Beach, IN, 4 Sep (RHu) and Com. Goldeneyes at Iowa City, IA, 22 Oct (MDo) and Boonville, IN, 14 Aug (female; †ML, †DA, ph.).

The diurnal raptor flight was relatively uneventful, with no reports of major movements. Perhaps the most noteworthy fall raptor was a Mississippi Kite that dallied in Des Moines, IA, through 3 Sep (JD, JF). N. Goshawks were scarce, with only eight reports across the four n. states, the Region's lowest fall tally in three years. Broad-winged Hawks went virtually unreported in every state except Iowa; there the peak count con-

sisted of 326 at Grammer Grove 20 Sep (BPr). Twenty Swainson's Hawks counted 30 Sep at Hitchcock W.M.A., IA (B & LP) provided a better-than-average peak tally for w. Iowa. Rough-legged Hawks staged a good flight in e. states, with 29 in Ohio and 18 in nw. Indiana. A distinct wave of Golden Eagles passed through 23 Oct-7 Nov. during which ten were recorded in the four n. states. Most noteworthy were four in Ohio, an adult in Parma 24 Oct (CR) plus imms. at Ravenna Arsenal 27 Oct (LRo), in Pauling 4 Nov (MDu), and at Oak Openings 8 Nov (JHa et al.). The Region's Merlin population continues to burgeon: 80 were scattered across every state except Kentucky.

It was an extraordinary fall for Yellow Rails. A remarkable seven were found at Riverton W.M.A., IA, 8 Oct (Carl Priebe fide RS), singletons were discovered at four different Illinois locations and were flushed at two sites in Ohio, Big Island W.M.A. 15 Aug (†JG) and Gordon Park, Cuyahoga, OH, 30 Sep (†JHa, DS). In contrast, King Rail reports were restricted to Illinois, where three were seen in Sep. Most impressive for autumn were the 51 Soras at Arcola, IL, 3 Oct (RCh). Following last spring's Purple Gallinule incursion, only one fall bird was reported, an immature at the Daly Center in downtown Chicago 29 Sep with an injured leg; ultimately the bird perished (SP). Sandhill Cranes were observed in all reporting states; the peak count at the Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., IN, staging area was 13,300 (fide JCs).

SA Undoubtedly the discovery of an ad. Common Crane at Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., IIN, on the afternoon of 30 Oct (Janis Jokela and members of the Champaign County [Illinois] and Stockbridge [Fort Wayne] Audubon Societies), provided the season's most exciting birding event. Taking full advantage of contemporary high-technology, word of its presence spread almost instantly and on the following morning some 100 observers gathered to ogle this striking bird. Over the next two weeks hundreds more converged on the site. As a result of efficient coordination by site manager Jim Bergens and his staff, plus Hoosier birder Phil Kelly, the vast majority of the throng successfully saw the bird. It was last seen 13 Nov (†JMc, †EPo, P&JK, RAu, †m.ob., ph.).

Actually, a 7 Oct Common Crane report from nw. Quebec had alerted Indiana birders to the possibility that the bird might appear at the Jasper-Pulaski staging area for Greater Sandhill Cranes. Interestingly, the Quebec bird associated with two juveniles and an adult Sandhill Crane. Careful scrutiny quickly revealed that the Indiana crane also associated with an adult Sandhills and two immatures that clearly showed the characters of hybrids. Even more interesting, a crane authority determined that the Common Crane's mate was in fact a Lesser Sandhill Crane. During spring 1999, a Common Crane was reported associating with Lesser Sandhill Cranes in Nebraska; consequently, bonding with a Lesser Sandhill Crane might well have a bearing on the Indiana's bird's origin, which is invariably a thorny and often unresolvable issue. Despite correspondence with the International Crane Foundation and other sources, as yet the origin investigation has provided nothing definitive.

SHOREBIRDS

No large Am. Golden-Plover concentrations were reported; the peak count was 119 at Red Rock Res., IA, 22 Sep (ABe). A fine Semipalmated Plover count of 100 was logged at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, 19 Aug (JHa, DSa). Typical fall Piping Plover numbers were reported, with four in Illinois, four in Iowa, and one in Indiana. Peak yellowlegs counts included 90 Greaters at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, 25 Aug (RHa, SW) and 4,458 Lessers at L. Chau. 5 Aug (RBj, SBj). Solitary Sandpipers were unusually sociable this fall, with a Missouri record 41 at S.C.R. 1 Aug (MRo) and 40 at L. Bloomington, IL, 29 Aug (MRe). The only Upland Sandpiper concentration consisted of 30 in Decatur, IL, 8 Aug (MDe). Whimbrels numbers were near average except in Ohio, where 20 were at the Ravenna Arsenal 24 Aug (LRo). One of the season's best finds was a Long-billed Curlew in Holmes, OH, 1-2 Oct (†BGl, RHa, SW, m.ob.), providing Ohio's third record for the 20th Century. The peak Hudsonian Godwit counts consisted of 22 at L. Chau. 25 Aug (KR) and a flock of 12 that flew past Miller Beach 24 Aug (JMc, EPo, KB), the latter constitutes a record count for Indiana. Red Knots were scarce on the Great Lakes, with seven on L. Erie and five on L. Michigan. Inland knot reports included singletons at Horseshoe Bend, IA, 3-4 Sep (CFu, †JF) and at L. Chau. 4-9 Sep (RCh). Sanderling counts were disturbing low; the Region's peak tally was 45 at Sheldon Marsh S.P., OH, 15 Sep (DS); typical maxima exceed 100 birds.

Peak counts among smaller sandpipers included 1,500+ Semipalmateds at L. Chau. 14 Aug (IOS), 2,143 Leasts at L. Chau. 29 Jul (RBj, SBj), 27 White-rumpeds at Berlin Res., OH, 9 Sep (BM), 30 Baird's at Union Slough N.W.R. (MK), 3,654 Pectorals at L. Chau. 19 Aug (RBj, SBj), and 1,570+ Dunlin at Ottawa N.W.R., OH, 26 Oct (VF). Also noteworthy was an ad. White-rumped Sandpiper at Coralville Res., IA, 10-11 Aug (†TK et al.), where rare in fall. An early Nov influx of Purple Sandpipers produced four birds along L. Erie's shoreline and a record daily count of four on the Indiana lakefront 6 Nov (BGr et al.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were unusually plentiful across the Region; more than 30 were recorded in Ohio and tardy individuals lingered until 31 Oct at Carl. L. (FBe) and 30 Oct at Waukegon, IL (CW, CFi, VM), establishing new late departure dates for that state. An impressive 100 Com. Snipes were found a L. Monroe, IN, 20 Nov (J & SH). It was a good season for phalaropes. Two to nine Wilson's were

58 NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS

middle western prairie

SA It was a phenomenal year for jaegers, with 107 reported on L. Michigan, 22 on L. Erie, and ten inland birds. The flight was unprecedented, even surpassing numbers reported in the halcyon days of the 1950s. The largest daily counts were logged in Indiana, where a remarkable 101 jaegers were tallied along the lakefront. This total included daily flights of 27 on 14 Nov (four †Pomarine, 11 Parasitic, and 12 unidentified); 15 on Oct 23 (two †Pomarine, three Parasitic, and 10 unidentified); and 13 on Nov 11, including a single flock of nine unidentified birds. Also on L. Michigan one Parasitic (†MRe) and five unidentified jaegers were reported along the Illinois lakefront. Oddly, Pomarine Jaegers dominated the L. Erie flight; an astonishing 17 were reported (but none documented) in Nov, with a peak of five at Huron 28 Nov (JPg). The L. Erie total also included one Parasitic and four unidentified jaegers.

Inland jaegers were also plentiful. In Illinois a Pomarine was present at Clin. L. 31 Oct-7 Nov (MDe, †MRe, †RCh et al.) and two more Illinois birds were unidentified. Indiana's L. Monroe attracted two Parasitic and two Pomarine Jaegers 21 Oct-6 Nov (†J & SH et al.). On 4 Nov one of the Poms was observed killing and eating what appeared to be a Ring-billed Gull (J & SH). An inland Pomarine Jaeger was also reported at East Fork S.P., OH, 30 Oct-15 Nov (HA, JLe, DO, m.ob., ph.). Highlights within the above throng included two juvenile **Long-tailed Jaegers**. The first, at Carl. L., was discovered 19 Sep (DKa, MDe, KMc, LH, m.ob.), was still present 25 Sep (†MRe, †RM, RHe, †IOS, ph.), and was last seen 2 Oct (*fide* KMc). It provided the second confirmed record for Illinois. Another Long-tailed spent several hours at Miller Beach 29 Sep (†KB, †JMc, BEt, P&JK). In total, the Region was graced with some 139 jaegers.

reported in all four n. states and the Rednecked tally included 18 in Ohio, 18 in Iowa, and 15 in Illinois. Red Phalaropes were reported only on the Great Lakes, with seven in Ohio and four in Indiana. One of the latter, a basic-plumaged adult, arrived at Michigan City, IN, on the exceptionally early date of 1 Sep (†DP).

JAEGERS THROUGH TERNS

One to three Laughing Gulls were recorded in each of the four n. states. Following last fall's Franklin's Gull invasion, the situation returned to normal this fall. The most notable single observation consisted of 20,000+ Franklin's at Smithville L., MO, 3 Oct (CH, MRo). Between 1 Oct and 13 Nov one to two Black-headed Gulls were reported at the traditional Iowa location at Spirit L. (LS, PH, JF, RAl et al., ph.). California Gulls were restricted to Indiana, where an adult was at Michigan City Harbor 25 Nov (†KB, †Haw). Thayer's Gulls were scarce except in Indiana, where a peak of seven was reported on the lakefront 14 Nov (JMc, BEt). The westward expansion of Lesser Black-backed Gulls continued, with 12 reported in Indiana, 11 in Illinois, and one (a first-year bird) at Spirit L., IA, 6 and 24 Nov (LC, MK, PH). Glaucous Gull numbers remained low; only four were reported on s. L. Michigan. Black-legged Kittiwakes were surprisingly scarce, with only singles at Lakeshore Metropark, OH, 7 Nov (JPg) and at Miller Beach 14 Nov (JMc, m.ob.). The few Sabine's Gulls found were well distributed across the Region. Single birds appeared on four central Illinois reservoirs, an adult flew past Miller Beach 20 Sep (JMc, BEt et al.), an early juv. was at Coralville Res., IA, 18 Aug (TK, JF), and another juv. was at Conneaut Harbor, OH, 23 Sep (JPg). The most noteworthy **Sabine's Gull** was a juv. on the Ohio R., in *McCracken*, KY, 7 Oct (†FBe), where this species is accidental.

In Ohio, tardy Caspian Terns lingered at both Huron (DSa, JHa) and Conneaut Harbor (JPg) until 3 Nov. The only large Com. Tern movement occurred at Miller Beach, where 3,200 were counted 20 Sep (JMc et al.). The season's best terns were two Arctic Terns at Saylorville Res., IA, providing Iowa's first records. The first was an adult 18 Aug (†SDi, †JD, ph.) and seen again 20 Aug (†AJ). Incredibly, while searching for the adult 19 Aug, a juvenile was discovered (†SDi, †ID, †TK). Extralimital Least Terns were seen only in Illinois, where an ad. an two imm. were at L. Chau. 21 Aug (RCh) and an imm. was on L. Bloomington 6 Sep (†MRe). Refreshingly, Black Tern numbers were up this fall, with a peak count of 270 at Miller Beach 24 Aug (JMc, EPo), the highest Indiana tally in a decade.

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

This fall Eur. Collared-Doves strengthened their beachhead in the Region. In addition to multiple sightings at the traditional Grinnell, IA, site one was also reported at a new location at Ankey, IA (†SDi). Elsewhere they were reported at five Illinois locations and two immatures were observed at Brook, IN (BDu, I & SH), where that state's first



Given their penchant for appearing at inland locales across the middle of the continent, this adult Arctic Tern at Sayorville Reservoir, Polk, 18–20 Aug 1999 provided a somewhat "overdue" first for lowa. This photo was taken the first day of its stay. Remarkably, a juvenile joined this adult the following day. Photograph/Stephen J. Dinsmore

record was established only last May. Whitewinged Doves are becoming casual in the Region; this fall had one documented at Urbana, IL, 18 Oct (RCh). Ohio's first Common Ground-Dove was found at Breksville Reservation 5-6 Nov (†JMz). In Ohio several Yellow-billed Cuckoos lingered into late Oct, the latest 27 Oct at both Rockbridge (LG) and the Spring Grove Cemetery (NC). N. Saw-whet Owls invaded, providing records in all four n. states, plus an unprecedented occurrence in Kentucky. In Madison, KY, Mark Monroe's banding effort on nine Nov evenings yielded a phenomenal 19 N. Saw-whets (and one E. Screech-Owl), doubling the number of Kentucky records (fide BPB). One Saw-whet in Mark's net had been previously banded near Bedford, PA, 24 Oct 1998. Only modest Com. Nighthawk flights were recorded this fall; peak tallies included 900+ over Alsip, IL, 22 Aug (SF), 500 at Whitehorse, OH, 29 Aug (MA), and 314 in New Richmond, OH, 25 Aug (DM). Rarely observed in migration, the discovery of an injured Chuck-will'swidow migrant at Chicago's Navy Pier 20-21 Oct (SP*) was noteworthy. Top billing on this fall's unusually short vagrant hummingbird list went to a Green Violetear that visited Taylor Mill, Kenton, KY, 25-27 Aug (†LMc, BPB, RD, FR, ph.) to provide the Region's first record. A Selasphorus hummingbird, either Rufous or Allen's, visited Urbana, IL, 30 Nov-4 Dec (HR, m.ob.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were unusually common and widespread this fall. The earliest report consisted of a bird in Urbana, IL, 30 Jul (RCh) and the last was at H.B.S.P 2

Oct (RHn). Migrant Alder Flycatchers were reported in Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa; the latest was a tardy bird at Carl. L. 27 Sep (KMc). Most impressive was a count of five W. Kingbirds in Madison, IL, 7 Aug (KMc, IOS). An imm. E. Kingbird lingered at Smithville L., MO, until 3 Oct (MRo, CH). A vanguard of the largest N. Shrike flight since 1995 appeared 17 Oct at Lake Forest, IL (RP). The shrike tally by state consisted of 17 in Ohio, 14 in Illinois, 13 in Iowa, and three in Indiana. An extraordinarily late Philadelphia Vireo lingered at North Chagrin Park, Cuyahoga, OH, 18-24 Nov (KMt, HP, VF, LRo). Vying for most astonishing record of the season was a Western Scrub-**Jay** that arrived at the feeding station of Bob and Karen Vester, s. of Lafayette, IN, and remained through the season (BDu, KA, †m.ob., ph.). It represented apparently only the second record e. of the Mississippi R., the other from Illinois in fall 1984 (Am. Birds 39:62). Although the origin of this bird cannot be determined with certainty, the bird's behavior and appearance provided no evidence that it had been in captivity. Blackbilled Magpies appeared in two w. Iowa counties, one at Hitchcock W.M.A., Pottawattamie, 27 Sep (SM) and the other was in Plymouth 9 Oct (WF).

The largest swallow build-ups included 3,000 Purple Martins at L. Chau. 28 Aug (RCh), 5,000 Tree Swallows at Big Island, OH (DO), and 10,000 Bank Swallows at L. Chau. 14 Aug (RCh). A pair of late Barn Swallows lingered at the Brazil, IN, sewage ponds until 14 Nov (AB). Red-breasted Nuthatches irrupted this fall; beginning in mid-Aug good numbers invaded the entire Region. Kentucky's first Brown-headed **Nuthatch** appeared below Wolf Creek Dam. Russell, 26 Sep-12 Oct (DRo, BPB et al., ph.). Overanxious Golden-crowned Kinglet migrants got an early start with singletons at Spencer, IA, 17 Aug (LS) and at Johnson's Is., OH, 31 Aug (RHa, SW). The Region's only Varied Thrush was seen at Fenton, IA, 20 and 30 Nov (MK, JF). Am. Pipits were more numerous than normal, with counts exceeding 70 birds reported in all four n. states. A record-early Sprague's Pipit was at St. Joseph, MO, 14 Sep; four more were at the same location 8 Oct (MRo). Most correspondents lamented that the fall warbler flight was significantly less than exciting. An extremely tardy N. Parula was recorded at Saylorville Res., IA, 13 Nov (†JD) and another was still at H.B.S.P 25 Oct (RHn). Two Pine Warblers at L. Davis Memorial Forest, MO, 21 Sep were well w. of their normal range (MRo). A Palm Warbler of the

yellow race *hypochrysea* was found in *Holmes*, OH, 28 Oct (ES) and a rarely seen Cerulean Warbler migrant was identified in Chicago's Jackson Park 11 Sep (CW). Urban birding was taken to a new level when a remarkable ten Connecticut Warblers (five visible in one binocular view) were in Seneca Park (downtown Chicago) 5 Sep (WS, CA, SF). A single Connecticut in Indianola, IA, 6 Sep (JSi), was well west of this species' primary fall-migration corridor.

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

Summer Tanagers were widespread and lingered later than normal. The latest were single birds at Algoma, IA, 7 Nov (†MK), in Union Co. W.M.A., IL, 16 Oct (KMc, RM, FBe, VL), and in Dallas, IA, 16 Oct (JD). Also quite tardy was a female Scarlet Tanager in Columbus, OH, 20 Nov (AG). East of the Mississippi R., Spotted Towhees were reported at Union County W.M.A., IL, 16 Oct (KMc et al.) and at Clin. L. 20-21 Nov (JCh, m.ob.). The easternmost Clavcolored Sparrow was observed on the jetty at Huron, OH, 22 Sep (JHa, DSa). Unexpected migrant sparrows on the Chicago lakefront included a Lark at Lincoln Park 23 Oct (RF, KF) and a Grasshopper in Jackson Park 3 Oct (PC). Typical Le Conte's Sparrow numbers were recorded in the w. states; one was also found at Kelly's Is., OH, 3 Oct (BF, SZ, PL), where this species is casual. Other noteworthy reports included a tardy Lincoln's Sparrow in Evanston, IL, 6 Nov (MRe) and a Harris's Sparrow at Salamonie Res., IN, 25 Sep (Haw et al). Large numbers of Lapland Longspurs arrived early, with 3,000 in n.-cen. Iowa 25 Oct (TK) and 5,000 in Vermilion, IL, 18 Nov (JSm). Smith's Longspurs were also surprisingly plentiful in the w. states, with six records involving 33 birds in Iowa (where there were only two previous fall records) and 80+ at St. Joseph, MO, 5 Nov (MRo). An astonishingly early Snow Bunting was identified at Evanston, IL, 25 Sep (EW, JE).

A late Dickcissel was at Maumee Bay S.P., OH, 20 Nov (JHa et al.). Rarely seen in migration, 230 Bobolinks at Pine Creek W.M.A., IN, 2 Sep (BDu) were impressive. Also extraordinary was a flock of 200 E. Meadowlarks in *Licking*, OH, 14 Oct (HN). A distinct highlight of this fall's winter finch irruption was a Pine Grosbeak in *Paulding*, OH, 20 Oct (†PA), the Region's only report. Red Crossbills were reported in every n. state except Iowa; the maximum was 18 at Woodlawn Cemetery, Toledo, OH, 28 Nov (GL). White-winged Crossbills arrived in late Nov to provide the backbone of the

winter finch flight; they were widespread in all four n. states. Small to modest numbers of Com. Redpolls and Pine Siskins accompanied the crossbills. By far the most surprising finch was a male **Lesser Goldfinch** at Rockford 5 Aug (†Ellen S. Montgomery, ph.), providing Iowa's first record. Evening Grosbeaks were scarce, with small numbers in Ohio and one in Illinois.

Contributors cited (subregional editors in **boldface):** An additional 100 observers contributed information on various states but could not be personally acknowledged. Pam Adams, Cindy Alberico, Reid Allen (RAI), Matt Anderson, Donald Andrews, Hank Armstrong, Kyle Arvin, Ron Austing (RAu), Susan Bagby, Frank Bennett (FBe), Richard Bjorklund (RBj), Sigurd Bjorklund (SBi), David Bohlen (DBo), Aaron Brees (ABe), Ken Brock, Alan Bruner (AB) (Indiana), Robert Buskirk (RBu), Neill Cade, Dennis Carter, John Cassady (JCd), John Castrale (JCs), Robert Chapel (RCh) (Illinois), Paul Clyne, Jack Cochran (JCh), Me, Brad Etter (BEt), Vic Fazio, Carolyn Fields (CFi), Will Fields, Bob Finkelstein, Karen Fisher, Robert Fisher, Sue Frisia, Chuck Fuller (CFu), James Fuller, Kurt Gaskill, Bruce Glick (BGI), Adam Goloda, Lamar Gore, Jeff Grabmeier, Brendan Grube (BGr), Joe Hammond (JHa), Ray Hannikman (RHn), Rob Harlan (RHa)(Ohio), Leroy Harrison, Jim Haw (Haw), Jim & Susan Hengeveld (J & SH), Ralph Herbst (RHe), Paul Hertzel, Chris Hobbs, Ed Hopkins, Robert Hughes (RHu), Illinois Ornithological Society (IOS), Ann Johnson, David Johnson, Dan Kassebaum (DKa), Phil & Joanne Kelly (P & JK), Thomas H Kent (TK) (Iowa), Matthew Kenne, James Landing (JLa), Vickie Lang, Midge Lechner, Jay Lehman (JLe), Greg Links, Paula Lozano, Walter Marcisz, Sue Mattix, Jeff McCoy (JMc), Keith McMullen (KMc), Lee McNeely (LMc), Kevin Metcalf (KMt), Jared Mizanin (JMz), Rhonda Monroe, Ben-Morrison, Donald Morse, Vince Moxon, Heather Nagy, Doug Overacker, Babs and Loren Padelford (B & LP), Brainard Palmer-Ball (BPB), Sebastian Patti, Roy Peterson, Haans Petruschke, Ed Pierce (EPi), Dick Plank, John Pogacnik (JPg), Ed Powers (EPo), Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Frank Renfrow, Michael Retter (MRe), Craig Rieker, Kevin Richmond, Helen Ritter, Mark Robbins (MRo), David Roemer (DRo), Larry Rosche (LRo), David Russel (DRu), Dan Sanders (DSa), Ed Schlabach, Lee Schoenewe, Wes Serafin, Ross Silcock, Jim Sinclair (JSi), Jim Smith (JSm), Alan Stokie, Sandy Wagner, Eric Walters, Cindy Williamson, Geoffrey Williamson, Sean Zadar.



60 NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS