

in *Baldwin*, AL 16-18 Nov was a state first (p. a, ph. SM, BS, m. ob.). **Black-headed Grosbeaks** were in *Lafayette*, LA 16 Nov (p. a. KD, vt. MS), and *St. Martin* 30 Nov (p. a. RCD). Rusty Blackbirds in *Marshall*, AL 16 Aug were early by two months (D&LR). A **Bronzed Cowbird** in *Santa Rosa*, FL 5-7 Nov (SD, RAD) and another at Ft. Pickens 18 Nov (DS, AK) were the 5th and 6th for the W.P. In New Orleans, 500 on 17 Nov was a discouraging tally (PW). A pair of American Goldfinches in *Bolivar*, MS 14 Aug was surprisingly early (NH, JCH).

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Prairie Provinces



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The season was generally dry and mild Regionwide; the odd early snowstorm aside, winter did not really arrive until late November. The placid conditions allowed a gradual retreat of

most migrants, while giving lingerers little trouble surviving into December. Numbers of "eastern" warblers moved west, particularly to Alberta.

Sadly, we have to report the untimely passing of Robert Kreba, our long-time provincial compiler from Saskatchewan. His thorough reports will be greatly missed; indeed, the Prairie Provinces' birding community is the poorer for his loss.

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

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

Highlighting a good loon migration in Alberta, one Red-throated, 4 Pacific, and 65 Common Loons passed Mt. Lorette, AB in a nine-minute period ahead of an advancing snowstorm 17 Oct (PS). Also noteworthy were up to 5 Pacific Loons at L. M. L. 31 Oct (RKr), and single Yellow-billed Loons at Bassano, AB 21 Oct (ASi), S. R. V. 1 Nov (WS), and L. M. L. 16 Oct-2 Nov (BL, m. ob.). A Double-crested Cormorant at Churchill, MB 17 Aug was a local rarity (BC).

A Great Egret at Lethbridge, AB 6 Aug was a good find (GG); more expected were lone birds at St. Ambrose, MB 23 Aug (PT, GT) and Minnedosa, MB 9 Sep (CC). A Snowy Egret at Riding Mountain N.P., MB about 7 Oct (PSu, DR) and a Little Blue Heron at Elie, MB 27 Aug (DS) were reported without details. Lone Cattle Egrets lingered at cattle feedlots near Riverton, MB 2 Nov (BT) and near Minnedosa 16 Nov (BF), while other singles were near Hodgeville, SK 14 Nov (M&JP) and Churchill 15 Oct (JD, MG). A White-faced Ibis obliged many observers at O.H.M. 4-21 Sep (PVI, m. ob.).

Snow Geese were scarce in se. Manitoba, but in the sw. up to 250,000 were in the Ww. L. area 20 Oct (RK), and in Saskatchewan they peaked at 100,000 at Good Spirit L. (B&JA). Ross's Geese lingered until about 20 Nov in all three provinces. A Brant near Outlook, SK 6 Oct was seen by many (BCa et al.). High swan counts included 500 Trumpeters and 4500 Tundras at Frank L., AB 4 Nov (ASi) and thousands of Tundras at Ww L. 20 Oct-10 Nov (RK, AW). An American Black Duck at Cold L., AB 22 Oct was w. of its usual

range (RKL, TH). A Harlequin Duck stayed at Pine Falls, MB from 17 Oct to 9 Dec (RP, LV, m. ob.). Out-of-season were 4 Barrow's Goldeneyes near Taber, AB 2 Aug (LB), and out of range was an undocumented male at St. Ambrose, MB 25 Oct (CA, RP, JS, AW).

A female Osprey, fitted with a satellite transmitter near Rosthern, SK, flew 2961 km in four days, including an astounding 2052 km 9-10 Sep to Matador, TX; she crossed into Mexico 13 Sep (SH). A late Sep movement of Swainson's Hawks in the Souris R. basin at Weyburn, SK peaked at an amazing 1918 birds in less than one hour on the 29th (CB, MB). An early Gyrfalcon was at S. R. V. 26 Sep (WS); 15+ were reported elsewhere in Alberta, but only one in Saskatchewan and none in Manitoba.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Exceptional among many late shorebirds were a Black-bellied Plover at Libau, MB 25 Nov (J&PC), 4 American Avocets at Regina Beach, SK 20 Oct (BL) and 28 the same date at Ww. L. (RK), a Marbled Godwit at Ww. L. 20 Oct (RK et al.), and 30 Stilt Sandpipers migrating past Windy Point, AB 2 Nov (WS). Other notable sightings were 150 Semipalmated Plovers at Beaverhill L., AB 18 Aug (BW), 115 American Avocets at Weyburn 23 Sep (CB, MB), 70 Long-billed Curlews at Frank L. 6 Aug (TK), a Western Sandpiper at Ww. L. 18 Aug (RP, AW), a juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Langdon Res., near Calgary, 30 Sep (PC, AF, MM, m. ob.), 2 Purple Sandpipers at Gordon Point, near Churchill, 6 Nov (GL et al.), and 300 Common Snipe at O.H.M. 21 Aug (CL).

The only jaeger reported was a Long-tailed at Park Lake P.P., AB 9 Sep (D&TD). A Franklin's Gull at Calgary 18-19 Nov was exceptionally late (MH, RS). Five Little Gulls—among thousands of Bonaparte's Gulls at Victoria Beach, MB 23 Oct (CA, RP, AW)—were the most ever seen in the south. Sixty Bonaparte's Gulls at Grand Beach, MB 25 Nov were record late (PT, RZ). Above-average numbers of Mew Gulls included 5 ads. at Calgary 9 Nov (TK), and wayward singles at Riding Mountain N.P. 3-6 Oct (PT, AW) and Regina 10 Oct (BL).

Manitoba's latest-ever California Gull was at the large landfill near St. Ambrose 26 Oct (PT, RK). Rarities included single Iceland Gulls at Cold L., AB 15-20 Oct (RKL, TH) and at Edmonton, AB 29 Oct (FW), an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at I. B. S. 22 Aug-20 Sep (TF, m. ob.), likely the same bird at Glenmore Res. 14-25 Oct (PC, MM, m. ob.), and a possible Slaty-backed Gull at Cold L. 26 Oct (RKL). An ad. Sabine's Gull graced Buck L., SK 6 Sep (BL); lone juvs. were spotted at Vegreville, AB 23 Sep (FW, m. ob.) and Calgary 12-13 Oct (TW, BW, m. ob.). Six migrat-

ing Common Terns at S. R. V. 10 Sep were the first for the valley (WS, RW), and one lingered at Twin Lakes Beach, MB 1 Nov (PT).

Up to 7 Eurasian Collared-Doves were present in Mortlach, SK 7 Oct (MF, m. ob.). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was accidental at Pincher Creek, AB 25 Nov (CBe). Snowy Owl numbers were highest in Manitoba, where 63 were tallied 17 Nov sw. and n. of Winnipeg (CA, RP, LV, AW). The highest Common Nighthawk count was 200+ at Falcon L., MB 21 Aug (JG). A Red-bellied Woodpecker in Regina from 15 Oct into Dec was Saskatchewan's 7th (IB, TR, m. ob.).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

An Ash-throated Flycatcher, seen and heard at Grosse Isle, MB 18 & 20 Sep, was a first for Manitoba (KG). A major movement of Clark's Nutcrackers, starting mid-Aug, yielded counts of 61 birds 29 Aug and 144 on 10 Sep at S. R. V. (WS). A Black-capped Chickadee at Dymond L., nw. of Churchill, was far n. 19 Oct (DF). From Alberta to Manitoba, Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in the best numbers in years, including 50 in a few hours at Park Lake P.P. 9 Sep (TK) and 30 in just two roadside stops at Riding Mountain N.P. 17 Nov (KK). Saskatchewan and Manitoba each had 3 Townsend's Solitaires. Sixty Hermit Thrushes were counted in a 5-km walk 10 Oct at Winnipeg (RK), where one was very late 18 Nov (B&LdM).

Rarely reported in fall were late Sprague's Pipits, near Taber, AB 30 Sep (LB) and at Mt. Lorette 8 Oct (PS). The only large Bohemian Waxwing concentration totalled 1300 near Nanton, AB 4 Nov (TK). Particularly tardy were a Tennessee Warbler 17 Nov (WC, MW) and a Nashville Warbler 6 Nov (CP), both in Winnipeg. Six Nashvilles were reported 2 Sep-4 Oct in s. Alberta (ASL et al.). Single Northern Parulas were out of range at Churchill 13 Oct (PR et al.) and at Wyndham-Carseland P.P., AB 21-27 Oct (MH, RS). Other warblers of note in s. Alberta were 4 Chestnut-sided 31 Aug-10 Sep (m. ob.), a Magnolia 23-25 Oct (C&DC), and a Cape May 18 Nov (GY). Black-throated Blue Warblers wandered to Delta, MB 3 Sep (HdH, PV), Grosse Isle 26 Sep (KG), Calgary 4-8 Oct (2 birds, ASL; NB, JL), Medicine Hat, AB 13 Oct (PH, m. ob.), and Saskatoon 4 Nov (CE). Saskatchewan's 2nd or 3rd Yellow-throated Warbler was discovered at Wascana Marsh, Regina 2 Nov (AS). Unusually late were single Palm Warblers at Calgary 15 & 17 Nov (D&LF; IH) and near Hodgeville 25 Nov (M&JP), and an Ovenbird at Winnipeg 14 Oct (B&LdM). A Connecticut Warbler at Mt. Lorette 16 Sep was the first for the site (JDn). Finally, Alberta's 3rd and 4th Hooded Warblers were at Medicine Hat 5 Oct (DBo) and at Edmonton from 4 Nov until found dead on the 25th (FS, m. ob.).

SA Once a major rarity in Manitoba, with just eight records prior to 1996, the **Summer Tanager** has occurred almost annually in recent years. The first this season was spotted near Dauphin in August (WW). A juv. lingered at a feeder near Eriksdale 29 Oct-7 Nov (SS). A weakened bird in Winnipeg was turned in for rehabilitation 28 Nov (WG, *fide* AM). The record-breaker—and our first winter tanager—was a likely second individual near Dauphin 21 Nov-14 Dec (D&JM, WW).

Noteworthy sparrow sightings included a late Chipping at St. Adolphe 12 Nov (AC), the first Baird's for S. R. V. 13 Sep (WS), and a late Swamp at Patricia Beach 17 Nov (PT, RK). A Northern Cardinal visited a feeder near Edmonton in the 2nd half of Nov (BTo). Manitoba's latest-ever Rose-breasted Grosbeak frequented Pinawa feeders until 21 Nov (SHa, RZ). In Jul and Aug, 82 Orchard Orioles were banded at Delta, compared with a previous high of 24 (HdH, PV). Red Crossbills were only numerous in Alberta, while White-wingeds were noted Regionwide. A strong Common Redpoll migration was noted in late Oct. A possible Eurasian Tree Sparrow was at Winnipeg 7 Nov (CCs, GH).

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