

Southern Great Plains



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Continuing dry weather conditions in much of the Region resulted in fewer available waterholes, which served to concentrate waterbirds, especially at predictable places such as Red Slough, Cheyenne Bottoms, and the marshes in the e. Rainwater Basin. Nevertheless, in such dry years, local nesting species such as Common Moorhen and King Rail are reported in lower overall numbers. There were significant differences in precipitation across the Region, even between adjacent areas; in the Oklahoma Panhandle, for instance, Texas County was relatively wet but nearby Cimarron County rather dry. Irruptive species such as Pine Siskin and Red-breasted Nuthatch were scarce, as were some waterfowl, but the Region's role as a crossroads for taxa from all corners of the continent was upheld by remarkable records such as Brant (*hrota*), Summer Tanager (*cooperi*), a fine mix of vireos (Blue-headed, Cassin's, Plumbeous), *Empidonax* flycatchers from Acadian to Gray, a dazzling array of hum-

mingbirds, and juncos of many forms.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton, KS); Hefner (L. Hefner, Oklahoma, OK); McConaughy (L. McConaughy, Keith, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R., Stafford, KS); Rainwater Basin (drainages of s.-cen. Nebraska); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., McCurtain, OK); Tenkiller (L. Tenkiller, Sequoyah/Cherokee, OK).

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL

Red-throated Loons, still rare in the Region, included 2 in Russell, KS 13 Nov (MR), one at Hefner 15 & 20 Nov (JAG, JWA), with 2 there 26 Nov (JAG, DB), and one in Cowley, KS 26 Nov (MT). At "loon heaven," Tenkiller, 2 Red-throateds were seen 5 & 22 Nov (JWA, MM), along with single Pacific Loons 5, 22, & 25 Nov (JWA, MM, JM). Pacifics were also found in Sedgwick, KS 8 Nov (KG, DDe) and Phillips, KS 29 Nov (SS). Nebraska's 3rd Yellow-billed Loon was an imm. at McConaughy on the exceptionally early dates of 2-8 Sep (ph. RS, BGr, RHo et al.). Rare Red-necked Grebes were reported in Dawes, NE 7 Oct (early; BW, DWa), Johnson, KS 9 Nov (DS), Tulsa 22 Nov (GK, BC, TM), Knox, NE 24 Nov (JC), McConaughy 26 Nov (one or 2 birds; JGJ), and Coffey, KS 27 Nov (AS). The fall buildup of Western Grebes at McConaughy included "thousands" by 8 Sep (TJW), still well below recent historical counts. In Morris, KS, the high count was only 6 on 26 Nov (CG). The only Clark's Grebes reported were 2 at McConaughy 21 Sep (WRS). Neotropical Cormorants were noted this season only in Coffey, KS: an ad. 19 Oct (MS) and 2 birds 27 Nov (AS). Large numbers of Double-crested Cormorants moved through the Region in Oct, with the highest count of 5000 in Harlan, NE 5 Oct (GH, WH). An excellent Great Egret count was the 325 in Tulsa, OK 2 Sep (BGy). Tardy were 2 Snowy Egrets in LeFlore, OK 15 Oct (JWA). Nebraska had a good showing of Little Blue Herons, with 8 birds reported 2 Aug-4 Sep (*vide* WRS). Probably spin-offs from this summer's wanderings were 2 juv. Tricolored Herons far n. in Clay, NE 30 Aug-2 Sep (JGJ, m. ob.); exceptional were 2 at Quivira 2-3 Aug (DS et al.), with 2 more seen through 9 Sep in Sedgwick, KS (CA, m. ob.). The now "regular" locations hosted other Tricoloreds: 3 in Alfalfa, OK 15 Aug (JWA) and one at Red Slough 19 Aug (DA, BH). Also wandering far afield were the 5 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in the e. Rainwater Basin 2 Aug (JGJ). Tardy was a Least Bittern in Knox, NE 23 Sep (TJW).

Two White Ibis lingered to 27 Oct at Red Slough (DA). Continuing their extensive wanderings of summer 2003, Roseate Spoonbills were reported from five locations in

Oklahoma (*vide* JWA), with up to 6 in *Canadian*, OK through 23 Aug (MO, SM) and others as far n. as Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira, where up to 2 were present 3 Aug–6 Sep (*vide* LM). Red Slough hosted 15 on 19 Aug (DA, BH), and the latest of the season was one in *Sequoyah*, OK 12 Sep (HS, CH).

WATERFOWL

Tundra Swans, rare in the Region, included 5 at Quivira 9–22 Nov (GS, m. ob.), 3 in *Alfalfa*, OK 24 Nov (RSh), 2 in *Carter*, OK 25 Nov (BF), and an imm. in *Gosper*, NE 30 Nov (JSt). The *Omaha World Herald* published a photo of a *hrota* Brant shot near Columbus, NE in Nov, providing the 11th Nebraska record.

Good numbers of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued at Red Slough 4–26 Aug, with a peak count of 32 on 5 Aug (DA, BH). Elsewhere in the Region, rare singles were noted at Quivira 5–7 Sep (AP, AN, KG) and *Wagoner*, OK 6 Oct (JM, ES, LH), the latter a late date. American Black Duck, apparently declining, was reported only from *Knox*, NE 9 Nov (MB) and *Osage*, KS 27 Nov (AS). A poor showing was the count of only 15 Greater Scaup in Nebraska 2–24 Nov (JGJ, TJW), with only 2–3 noted 15 Nov in *Osage*, KS (DS).

Sniffing out the scoters is a fall pastime in the Region. This season was a good one, with 3 Surf Scoters in Nebraska 1–25 Nov (*vide* WRS), 4 from Kansas 5–15 Nov (*vide* LM), and 2 in *Tulsa*, OK 9 Nov (BC, TM, DW). Four White-winged Scoters were reported from four Nebraska sites 31 Oct–6 Nov (*vide* WRS); 11 were reported from Kansas (*vide* LM), including 5 at Quivira 4 Nov (B&NB), but only a single report came from Oklahoma, that in *Noble* 3 Nov (JWA). Still considered the rarest is Black Scoter, with singles reported from *Lancaster*, NE 2 Nov (JGJ), *Knox*, NE 9–24 Nov (JGJ, MB, JC), Cheyenne Bottoms 31 Oct (JLe), Quivira 4 Nov (MR), and *Russell*, KS 15 Nov (MR et al.), and one to 2 from *Tulsa*, OK 9–10 Nov (BC, TM, DW). Few Long-tailed Ducks were reported, beginning with 2 in *Knox* and *Cedar*, NE 8–9 Nov (MB), 3 in Kansas from 27 Nov on (NL, KF, PJ), and one in *Payne*, OK 15 Nov (TO). The 2–3 Common Goldeneyes at Hefner 14–16 Oct (JAG) were early, as was a Red-breasted Merganser in *Lancaster*, NE 12 Oct (KP).

Oh-so-fine for many birders were the excellent numbers of Hooded Mergansers that appeared in the Region this season.

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

Recent years have shown increasing numbers of migrating Mississippi Kites as far n. as the Missouri Valley of e. Nebraska; the 7+ imm. kites in *Sarpy/Cass* 7 Sep (BP, LP, DP, JP) were this year's contribution, with 3 a little farther s. in *Marshall*, KS 1 Sep (T&LP). A tardy Broad-winged Hawk was in *Platte*, NE 24 Oct (MB). An excellent flight of raptors in *Sumner*, KS 5 Oct included 4000 Swainson's Hawks (*vide* PJ). Somewhat early were Rough-legged Hawks in *Thomas*, NE 27 Sep (CNK) and *Lincoln*, NE 29 Sep (TJW); in Kansas, one in *Saline* 17 Oct (MR) was seasonally early. Golden Eagle reports reached e. to *Lancaster*, NE 18 Oct (imm.; DSt) and *McCurtain*, OK 19 & 24 Nov (BH). Prairie Falcons also appeared east rather early, with singles in *Knox*, NE 24 Sep (TJW) and *Garfield*, OK 4 Oct (JAG); the most easterly reports came from *Linn*, KS 25 Oct (MG) and *McCurtain*, OK 28 Oct (DA). The

tat (TJW). Late were Soras in *Lancaster*, NE 14 Nov (DO) and Red Slough 6 Nov (DA). Four to 5 Common Moorhens were at Red Slough 23–30 Sep (DA).

The 2 juv. Snowy Plovers in *Harlan*, NE 2 Aug (JSt, DSt, MB) were away from the species' only known breeding site in Nebraska. Quite tardy was a Semipalmated Plover at Hefner 20 & 24 Nov (JWA). While Nov records of American Avocet were exceptional 20 years ago, they are no longer exceptional in Oklahoma; excellent counts were of 700 in *Barton*, KS 4 Nov (MR) and 600 on 26 Sep in *Sheridan*, NE (AK). Tardy were a Solitary Sandpiper in *Tulsa*, OK 21 Oct (JL), a Willet in *Brown*, NE 27 Sep (JCy), and a Spotted Sandpiper in *Tulsa*, OK 28 Oct (PM). A juv. Hudsonian Godwit at McCaughy 21 Sep (WRS) provided only the 3rd documented fall report for Nebraska.

Observations of single Ruddy Turnstones, a rare fall migrant, were made in *Platte*, NE 31 Aug (DP, JP) and at Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira 1–2 Aug (both DS et al.). The only Red Knots observed were at Cheyenne Bottoms 5 Sep (AP, AN) and Quivira 6 Sep (MR). McCaughy was clearly a staging area for Baird's Sandpipers this fall, with estimates of 3000 there 3 Aug (CGd) and 1500 on 21 Sep (WRS). Quite late were single Baird's in *Knox*, NE 6 Nov (MB) and *Tulsa* 13 Nov (JWA). Notable were the 100 Dunlin at Cheyenne Bottoms 7 Nov (HH). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were faithful to their migration corridor in the e. and cen. parts of the Region, with counts of 283 in the e. Rainwater Basin 2 Aug (JGJ) and up to 50 at other locations in Kansas (*vide* LM) and Oklahoma (*vide* JWA). A few Short-billed Dowitchers put in token appearances through 10 Sep, when a juv. was noted in *Douglas*, NE (JGJ). Rarer so far w. were the 3 Short-billeds in *Texas*, OK 26 Aug (JM, BG). A scattering of Red-necked



Part of a widespread irruption of the species was this Roseate Spoonbill, one of six at El Reno Lake, Canadian County, Oklahoma 23 August 2003. Photograph by Steve Metz.

20+ reports of Peregrine Falcon began with 2 at Quivira (SS) and 3 in *Cimarron*, OK 23 Aug (BH, JM) and concluded with one 25 Nov in *Sequoyah*, OK (JM, JH).

The only Yellow Rails reported were the one to 2 at Red Slough 3–6 Nov (DA). Red Slough also provided the only King Rail report, that of a late individual 28 Oct (DA). A Sora with a downy chick in an "irrigation-fed playa wetland" in *Lincoln*, NE 12 Aug was of interest for its unusual choice of habi-

Phalaropes included good counts of 24 in *Morton*, KS (SP) and 45 at Quivira (ML), both 18 Sep, probably the peak of migration here. Late and very late Wilson's Phalaropes included birds at Hefner 30 Sep–3 Oct (JAG) and 19 Oct in *Seward*, KS (KH).

The recent paucity of jaegers in the Region was relieved by a Parasitic Jaeger at Hefner 5–16 Sep (NK, PV, m. ob.). Only 2 Laughing Gulls were found, a juv. in *Pawnee/Osage*, OK 20–26 Aug (JWA, JM,

BH) and a juv. in *Tulsa* 3 Oct (JWA). A good find was a second-winter Little Gull in *Knox*, NE 1 Nov (MB). Scarce transient California Gulls were reported at *Hefner* 25-26 Aug (ad.; MO) & 6 Sep (MO, JWA), with other singles 4-7 Sep (DS et al.) and 1 Nov (SS) at *Cheyenne Bottoms*; in *Reno*, KS 22 Nov (KG); and in *Rooks*, KS 29 Nov (SS). The only Thayer's Gull reported was in *Cedar*, NE 9 Nov (MB). Lesser Black-backed Gulls included one in *Reno*, KS 22 Nov (KG) and a juv. in *Wagoner*, OK 26-27 Sep (ph. JWA), the latter one of the Region's first in that plumage. Fewer Sabine's Gulls have been reported in recent years, but this season 7 were seen 12 Sep-4 Oct (*vide* WRS, LM, JAG); an exceptionally early single was at *Quivira* 3 Aug (DS et al.). Record-late for Nebraska were 2 Caspian Terns in *Frontier* 7 Nov (TJW). Good numbers of Common Terns were found: 10 in *Creek*, OK 15 Sep (JA) and 8 in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 20 Sep (WRS). Other Commons were seen 31 Aug (MO) to 14 Oct (JAG) throughout the Region.



It took some negotiating with a boater to obtain a diagnostic image of this Parasitic Jaeger on Lake Hefner, Oklahoma City 7 September 2003. Photograph by Steve Metz.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The spread of White-winged Dove continues through Oklahoma and Kansas; even Nebraska now has 26 records, 25 of those since 1994 (*vide* WRS). Also creeping northward is Inca Dove, with Kansas its current frontier as it reached *Finney* (MR et al.) and *Meade* (TF) this season. Not to be left out, Common Ground-Doves were found in *Bryan*, OK 11 Oct (BV, DWd) and *Red Slough* 29 Oct (DA), with 3 found in *Cleveland*, OK during mid-Oct (JY, *vide* JAG). A Common Poorwill in downtown *Tulsa* 5 Oct (SM) was likely a migrant of the sparse e. Kansas population. Very rare in the w. parts of the Region, a nominate-race Whip-poorwill was found roosting in *Finney*, KS 30 Aug (T&SS, *vide* SS). Perhaps overdue was Oklahoma's first documented record of *White-throated Swift*, a single bird found in *Cimarron* 6 Sep (JWA).

Identification of *Archilochus* hummingbirds in w. parts of the region can be extremely difficult. A Black-chinned Hummingbird (the more likely species here) was reported in *Pawnee*, KS 17-19 Aug (MR, DK, SS, StS). A few imm. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were also identified in *Finney*, *Haskell*, and *Pawnee*, KS, with an ad. male present at the latter 17 Aug (MR, DK), while

a Ruby-throated in *Sioux* 30 Aug (MB) was only the 2nd for the Nebraska Panhandle. Tardy was a Ruby-throated in *Tulsa* 21 Oct (BGy). Almost unheard of 10 years ago, *Calliope Hummingbird* reports continue apace: five of the six reports from Nebraska were from w. locations, but one was far e. in *Knox* 26-28 Aug (MB). There were at least 10 reported from w. Kansas 7 Aug-21 Sep (*vide*

LM), but only one from the Oklahoma Panhandle 23-30 Aug (BG, JM et al.; JAG, TM). Similarly, *Broad-tailed Hummingbirds* were reported from w. reaches of the Region 13 Aug-17 Sep (*vide* WRS, LM, JWA); farthest e. was one in *Ellsworth*, KS 23 Aug (MR). Commonest of the migrant w. hummingbirds in the Region is *Rufous*, with records extending across the Region. This season, 7 were reported in ne. Oklahoma alone between 25 Jul (*Osage*, RC) and 4 Sep (*Ottawa*, E&CS), with another in *Crawford*, KS 9 Sep (SF).

Unexpected were up to 3 *Lewis's Woodpeckers* in *Comanche*, OK 5-25 Nov (DF, KM); there are very few records away from *Cimarron*. A *Ladder-backed Woodpecker* continued its stay, far out of range in *Riley*, KS (LJ). Rare as a migrant in the far w., a *Red-naped Sapsucker* was in *Morton*, KS 21 Sep (*vide* SS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

Quite tardy was an *Olive-sided Flycatcher* in *Wagoner*, OK 6 Oct (JM, ES, LH). Two *Acadian Flycatchers* were banded in *Thomas*, NE 3 Sep (RG). The array of fall *Empidonax* flycatchers from the w. edges of the Region is always intriguing. All four reports of *Hammond's Flycatcher* this fall (31 Aug-20 Sep) came from the Nebraska Panhandle (*vide*

WRS). Careful study was given to 2 *Gray Flycatchers* found at different locations in *Cimarron*, OK 24 Aug (BH, JS, JM) and 4-5 Sep (JWA, m. ob.). A regular but rare migrant along the w. edge of the Region, *Dusky Flycatcher* was reported in *Kimball*, NE 30 Aug (BFH), *Finney*, KS 31 Aug (SS, DiS, StS), and *Texas*, OK 29-30 Aug (JAG). Birds reported as *Cordilleran Flycatchers* were in *Cimarron*, OK 25 Aug (JM, JS), *Morton*, KS 5 Sep (DS, SP et al.), and *Sioux*, NE 6 Sep (HKH): in such cases, *Pacific-Slope Flycatcher* is usually difficult to rule out, even in the hand, so caution is urged. A *Say's Phoebe* in *Dixon*, NE 13 Sep (JJ) continued the series of sporadic sightings to the e. of usual range. At its breeding outpost in *Cimarron*, OK, 3-6 *Vermilion Flycatchers* were found through 10 Sep (*vide* JWA), while an *Ash-throated Flycatcher* was still present in *Morton*, KS 12 Sep (PJ et al.). *Western Kingbirds* in *Grant*, KS 6 Oct (KH) and *Scotts Bluff*, NE 8 Oct (KD) and an *Eastern Kingbird* in *Osage*, OK 6 Oct (JWA) were somewhat tardy. November records of *Scissor-tailed Flycatcher* are not unknown in Oklahoma, but one in *Cherokee*, OK 22 Nov (MM) and 2 in *Carter*, OK 23 Nov (BF) were part of a recent later-departure pattern.

The first *Northern Shrike* of the fall appeared in *Dawes*, NE 7 Oct (BW, DWa), and one had reached *Pawnee*, KS by 24 Oct (SS). Three *Plumbeous Vireos*—a species not often reported in migration in the Region—were noted in the Nebraska Panhandle 31 Aug (BFH) through 6 Sep (JG, AK, KD). *Cassin's Vireos*, apparently regular during fall in the Nebraska Panhandle, were reported there 30 Aug (BFH) and 6 Sep (KD), with another in *Morton*, KS 21 Sep (SP et al.). *Blue-headed Vireos*, rare along the w. edge of the Region, were found in *Kimball*, NE 30 Aug (BFH), *Sioux*, NE 6 Sep (KD, AK), and *Finney*, KS 23 Oct (MR). A *Blue-headed in Sequoyah*, OK 30 Aug (JM) was early.

A *Clark's Nutcracker* in *Sioux*, NE 30 Aug (MB) was unexpected. Late swallows included 2 *Northern Rough-winged Swallows* in *Jackson*, OK 4 Nov (JS, BH), a *Cliff Swallow* in *Tulsa* 9 Oct (JL, PS), and a *Barn Swallow* at *Hefner* 8 Nov (JAG). The only *Violet-green Swallow* was one in *Haskell*, KS 16 Aug (MR). A *Brown Creeper* arrived early in *Muskogee*, OK 14 Sep (JH). *Rock*

Wrens wander e. in fall on occasion: singles in *Dodge*, NE 12 Oct (DP, JP) and *Kay*, OK 15 Sep (MY) were the only ones reported this fall. A House Wren in *Johnson*, KS 1 Nov (WCT) was rather late.

A Swainson's Thrush in *Dixon*, NE 19 Oct (JJ) was tardy, while somewhat early were 6 Townsend's Solitaires in *Morton*, KS 14 Sep (SP, HA). Rare in the w., but of the expected w. subspecies, a Veery in *Greeley*, KS 17 Sep (SP) was a good find. A Gray-cheeked Thrush, only casual in fall, was in *Knox*, NE 6 Sep (MB). Gray Catbirds in no hurry to leave included one in *Sioux*, NE 29 Oct (HKH), the latest ever for the Nebraska Panhandle. The long-staying and freshly-molted Curve-billed Thrasher in *Sioux*, NE was still present into Oct (LF, *fide* AK). Vagrant Curve-billeds in Kansas were also found in *Grant* 15 Aug (KH, SG) and *Morton* 13 Sep (AP, AN). Encouraging was the dependable presence of Sprague's Pipits at Spring Creek Prairie, *Lancaster*, NE 15 Sep–21 Oct, with an outstanding count of 56 on 12 Oct (KP).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Only 3 Blue-winged Warblers were reported: in *Shawnee*, KS 26 Aug–3 Sep (DG), *Sequoyah*, OK 30 Aug (JM), and *Osage*, OK 7 Sep (BG, MD). Other "zooties" included single Golden-winged Warblers in *Sarpy*, NE 31 Aug (BP, LP) and *Sedgwick*, KS 12 Sep (MLi). Early Orange-crowned Warblers were in *Sarpy*, NE 24 Aug (CNK) and *Cimarron*, OK 30 Aug (JAG). A Nashville Warbler in *Dawes*, NE 7 Oct (BW, DWa) was only the 8th Panhandle record; details were suggestive of the w. subspecies *ridgwayi*. A Yellow Warbler in *Tulsa* 5 Oct (SM) was tardy. Westerly was a Chestnut-sided in *Alfalfa*, OK 19 Sep (AW). One of the more sought-after warblers in the Region, single Black-throated Blue Warblers were found in *Cimarron*, OK 24–25 Aug (JM et al.), *Morton*, KS 14 Sep (SP), and *Sioux*, NE 22 Sep (HKH). Also a good find was a Black-throated Gray Warbler in *Morton*, KS 17 Aug (DS). Townsend's Warblers were reported from 17 Aug (*Morton*; KS, DS) through 3 Oct (*Scotts Bluff*, NE; AK). The only Blackburnian Warblers were in *Sarpy*, NE 31 Aug (*fide* WRS) and *Johnson*, KS 13 Sep (MG). Palm Warblers, rare during fall, were found 10 (NH) & 19 Oct (DA et al.) at Red Slough, with others in *Cowley*,

KS 5 Oct (*fide* PJ) and *Wagoner*, OK 23 Oct (JWA). The only Bay-breasted Warbler report was of one in *Johnson*, KS 14 Sep (DS). Single Worm-eating Warblers were in *Johnson*, KS 29 Aug and 13 Sep (EM, MG). A well-described imm. Mourning Warbler in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 4 Oct (PD, DD, m. ob.) provided only the 2nd fall Nebraska Panhandle record for this species. A Yellow-breasted Chat in *Tulsa* 5 Oct (SM) was quite late.

Providing multiple "firsts" was a *cooperi* Summer Tanager in extreme se. *Garden*, NE 21 Sep (WRS); it was both the first Panhandle record and first record of the sw. subspecies for Nebraska. The only Green-tailed Towhees were along the w. edges of the Region in *Morton*, KS 13–14 Sep (DS et al.), *Kimball*, NE 20 Sep (WRS), and *Sioux*, NE 28 Sep (HKH). An excellent count of 50 Le Conte's Sparrows was made in *Sumner*, KS 19 Oct (PJ). Birders searching out Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow were successful: at least 13 were reported in the Region 5 Oct–2 Nov (*fide* WRS, LM, JWA); the high count of 5 came from *Sumner*, KS 5 Oct (m. ob.). Somewhat early were several Fox Sparrows in *Cherry*, NE 27 Sep (LR, RH). The only White-winged Junco report was from *Finney*, KS 30 Oct (T&SS). Among only a few records for the Region was a Gray-headed Junco banded in *Thomas*, NE 27 Sep (RG). A McCown's Longspur straggled e. to

spread in eastern Nebraska, about 58 birds reported in all, earliest the 2 in *Sarpy* 24 Oct (RB). Far to the s., 5 were in *McCurtain*, OK 24 Nov (BH). Perhaps a herald of things to come this winter were 2 Common Redpolls in *Omaha* 27 Nov (NR) and 4 in *Burt*, NE 29 Nov (TJW). Almost no Pine Siskins were reported. Five Lesser Goldfinches stretched their range into *Morton*, KS 14 Sep (PJ et al.).

Cited observers (area editors in boldface): KANSAS: Henry Armknecht, Charles Anderson, Bill & Nancy Beard, Will Chatfield-Taylor, Duane DeLong (DDe), Kat Farres, Tom Flowers, Steve Ford, Matt Gearheart, Dan Gish, Chet Gresham, Kevin Groeneweg, Sam Guy, Helen Hands, Kellye Hart, Pete Janzen, Don Kazmaier, Mark Land, Nancy Leo, Jean Leonatti (JLe), Matthew Linnabary (MLi), Earl McHugh, Lloyd Moore, Arpad Nyari, Tom & Lori Parker, Sebastian Patti, Alexis Powell, Mike Rader, Greg Schrott, David Seibel, Diane Seltman (DIS), Scott Seltman, Steve Seltman (StS), Tom and Sara Shane, Art Swalwell, Max Thompson. NEBRASKA: Roland Barth, Mark Brogie, Jay Carlisle, Jackie Canterbury (JCy), Kathy DeLara, Dean Drawbaugh, Phyllis Drawbaugh, Lonnie Frimann, Carlos Grande (CGd), Ruth Green, Betty Grenon (BGr), Joe Gubanyi, Robin Harding, Rocky Hoffman (RHo), Glen Hoge,

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Although Lesser Black-backed Gulls are now seen annually in the Southern Great Plains Region, this bird on Fort Gibson Lake, Wagoner County 26 September 2003 was only the second in juvenal plumage documented in Oklahoma. Photograph by James W. Arterburn.

Red Slough 16 Oct (DA), clearly outside the zone of open prairie.

Unexpected was a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at a feeder in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 1–7 Sep (KD). Another westerly Rose-breasted was in *Morton*, KS 12 Sep (PJ et al.). A first documented fall report of Baltimore Oriole for the Nebraska Panhandle was of a juv. in *Scotts Bluff* 30 Aug (KD). After several years with few reports, Purple Finches were wide-