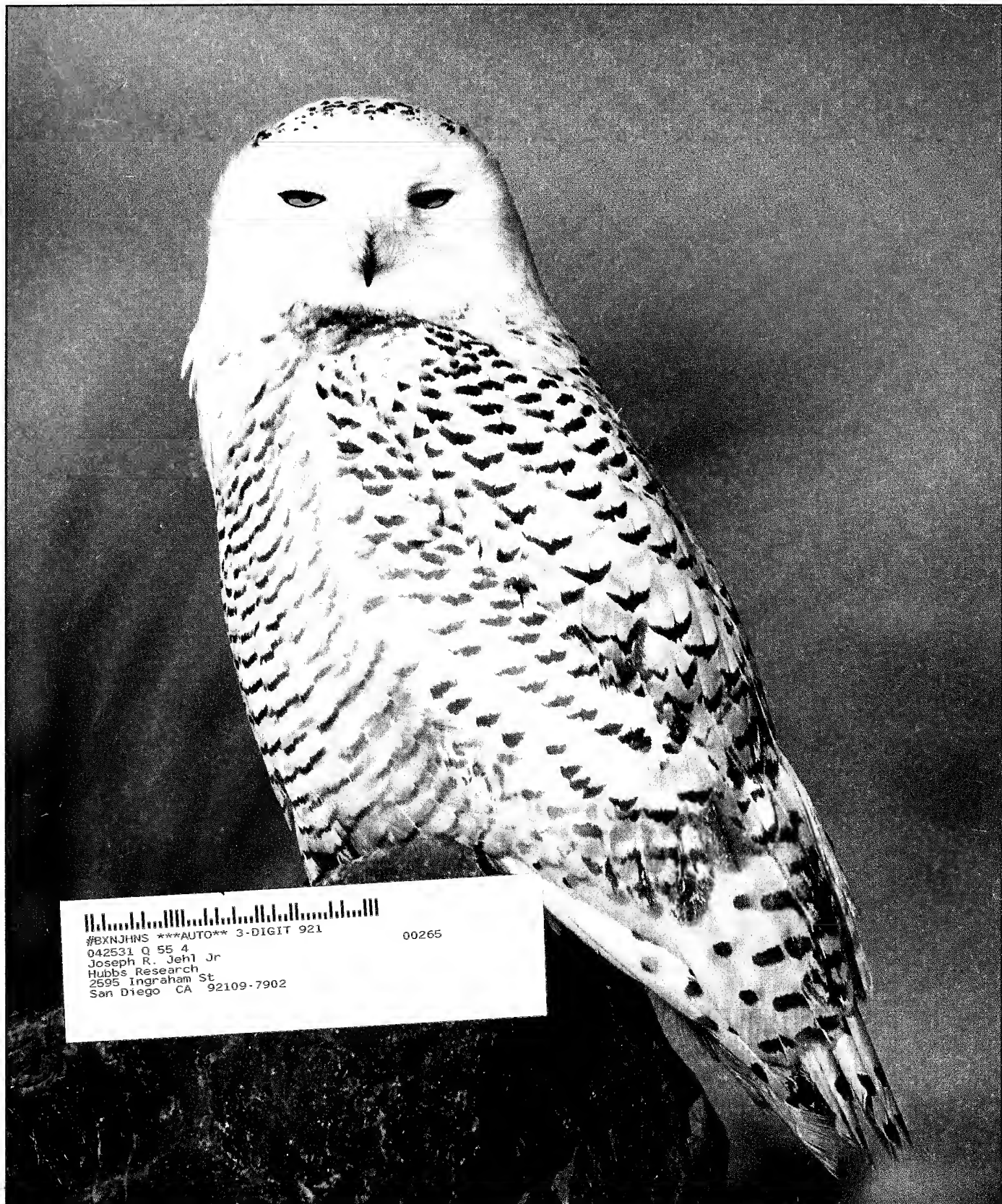


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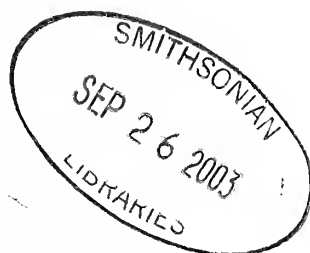
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On the cover

The Snowy Owl staged a modest invasion into the northeastern United States in late fall 2000, with some birds arriving fairly early, such as this immature male at Jones Beach State Park, Long Island, New York, 7 November 2000. By season's end, dozens had been reported in New England and Hudson-Delaware regions. *Photograph by Michael Stubblefield.*



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Little and Least Terns

Breeding on Midway Atoll:

Identification, Range Extensions, and Assortative Breeding Behavior

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The Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) and Least Tern (*S. antillarum*) represent Old World and North American forms, respectively, of a complex of small terns comprising from two to six species (Cramp 1985, Sibley and Monroe 1990, Higgins and Davies 1996, Thompson et al. 1997). Other members of this complex include the Saunder's Tern (*S. [albifrons] saundersi*) of the Middle East, the Yellow-billed (*S. [antillarum] superciliaris*) and Peruvian (*S. [antillarum] lorata*) Terns of South America, and the Fairy Tern (*S. nereis*) of Australia. Following work by Massey (1976) on the vocalizations of Little and Least Terns, the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU 1983) considered these two separate species, a belief that subsequently has gained widespread acceptance (Sharrock 1993, Olsen and Larsson 1995, Higgins and Davies 1996, Thompson et al. 1997, AOU 1998; but see Patten and Erickson 1996). These two taxa do not breed sympatrically, however, and the only previous record of them together involves a single bird identified as a Least Tern within a colony of Little Terns in England between 1983 and 1992 (Yates and Taffs 1990, Chandler and Wilds 1994). The British Ornithologists' Union (BOU) has withheld acceptance of this record pending a better understanding of variation within the African subspecies of Little Tern (Scott and Dickson 1996; BOU 1997, 1999).

The only records of Little Tern in the area covered by the AOU (1998) involve two specimens of the Asiatic subspecies (*S. a. sinensis*) and several sight and photograph records from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI; Clapp 1989, Conant et al. 1991, Pyle, pers. obs.). In the Hawaiian Islands overall, members of this species-pair have been observed annually since at least 1976, with up to 6 recorded at once and as many as 10–12 different individuals observed within a year (Clapp 1989, R. Pyle, pers. comm.). Records are from late March to early December, with the majority from June through October. Evidence of breeding has been reported from Oahu in 1984 (R. Pyle pers. comm.), French Frigate Shoals, NWHI, in 1980 (Pyle 1980), and Pearl and



Figure 1. Little Tern, Midway Atoll, early June 1999. Note the white rump and tail contrasting crisply with the gray back, and the reduced amount of dark to the inner webs of the middle primaries. Photograph by T. McKee.

Hermes Reef, NWHI, in 1988 (Conant et al. 1991). Except for two specimens of Little Tern (Clapp 1989, Conant et al. 1991), however, the specific identity of these terns, including breeding individuals, has remained unknown. It has been speculated that birds occurring in the "main" (southeastern) Hawaiian Islands have been Least Terns and those observed in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands have been Little Terns (Pyle 1987, Clapp 1989, Conant et al. 1991), but confirmation based on critical identifications is needed.

In the spring and summer of 1999 we observed 5 small terns on Sand Island, Midway Atoll, NWHI, 2 of which we identified as Little Terns (*S. a. sinensis*) and 3 as Least Terns (subspecies unknown). A pair of each species subsequently nested within 5 m of each other, near the water-catchment basin within Midway's runway system. Here we describe the identification and behavior of these terns and discuss the implications of their side-by-side breeding on Midway.

The first small tern observed on Midway in 1999 was a Little Tern recorded by McKee and Pyle on 15 May at the water-catchment basin (Figure 1). This individual was observed daily, or nearly so, through 14 June, most frequently in the water-catchment area but also feeding just off shore at several localities around Sand Island. On 15 June the bird was joined at the water-catchment basin by a Least Tern, on 18 June a pair of each species was present, and on 20 June a third Least Tern was observed.



Figure 2. Little Tern, Midway Atoll, 24 June 1999. Note the relatively long outer rectrices and the pale under surface to the middle primaries. This area averaged darker on the Least Terns. Photograph by Peter Pyle.

These 5 birds were studied thoroughly, photographed (Figures 2-6), and video-recorded by Pyle from 20 to 26 June, after which he departed. All 5 terns were in definitive-alternate plumage.

From 27 June through 26 July Hoffman and Casler observed breeding activity by both species of tern. On 28 June 1999 the Little Terns were found incubating eggs near the center of the water-catchment basin which, by this time, had largely dried up. On 30 June a rainstorm caused flooding of the basin and the nest was destroyed. On 11 July the Least Terns were found on a nest on a berm to the northwest of the basin, and on 14 July the Little Terns had re-nested approximately 5 m to the south of the Least Tern nest. By 18 July the Least Tern nest had failed. On 19 July the Little Terns were incubating two eggs, but by 26 July, this nest had failed as well. The terns continued to be observed in or near the water-catchment basin through 6 September 1999.

In May-June 2000 up to 6 small *Sterna* were recorded in the catchment basin by island personnel; the ages (subadult vs. adult) and identifications of all 6 were not confirmed. In July, Hoffman, Casler, and McKee observed up to 3 adult and one subadult Little Terns. A pair of adults bred and successfully fledged at least two chicks by 21 July, which continued to be observed through 20 September. This is the first confirmed successful breeding by small *Sterna* in the Hawaiian Islands, although several observations of juvenile Least or Little Terns in August-October, at times with adults, throughout the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands from 1979-1997 (R. Pyle 1980, 1987; P. Pyle 1984; Clapp 1989; Conant et al. 1991) suggest that successful breeding by these small terns had occurred previously.

The identifications of these terns were based primarily on three criteria, as follows:

Vocalizations: The 2 Little Terns consistently gave single-note nasal *chent* call notes. When courting they (or one of them) gave a dry chatter somewhat reminiscent of the call of a Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). On one occasion one of the Little Terns give a soft, warbler-like *chwip*. The Least Terns consistently gave double-noted *che-dic* call notes and (when courting) an up-slurred, guttural *rre-it*. The differences in the calls

between the two species were very distinct, such that single individuals could be identified by vocalizations alone.

Size and tail length: The 2 Little Terns were 10-15% larger than the 3 Least Terns and had longer outer rectrices (e.g., compare Figure 2 and Figure 4). Within each species there was some size variation (probably sex-specific), but the smaller of the 2 Little Terns was still approximately 10% larger than the largest Least Tern. This difference would be difficult to appreciate without direct comparison.

Plumage: The 2 Little Terns had white rumps and tails, contrasting crisply with the pale gray lower backs (Figure 1). The Least Terns had gray rumps and tails (except for white on the outer 2-3 pairs of rectrices) which did not contrast with the back color (Figures 4-6). In addition, the 2 Little Terns showed paler upper and under surfaces to the primaries than the 3 Least Terns (compare Figures 1-3 with Figures 5-6). There were no consistent differences between the two species in head plumage, bill color, or leg color.

These 5 birds in alternate plumage were easily identified by the combination of these three criteria, even when single birds were observed alone. Some of these identification features, along with other "average features", have been discussed by Massey (1976), Cramp (1985), Pratt et al. (1987), Clapp (1989), Yates and Taffs (1990), Conant et al. (1991), Chandler and Wilds (1994), Olsen and Larsson (1995), and Higgins and Davies (1996).

The difference in the color of the primaries on the Midway birds resulted from the more extensive black shading to the inner webs of the middle primaries (p4-p7) on the Least Terns (Figures 6-7) than on the Little Terns (Figures 2-4). This potential field mark has not been mentioned for the separation of these two species, although variation in the color of the outer primaries has been used to assign sub-specific status among populations of Least Terns (see Patten and Erickson 1996), with eastern subspecies (*S. a. antillarum*) averging paler outer primaries than western and southern subspecies (*browni* and *mexicana*). The amount of dark on the primaries in small *Sterna* is affected by the combination of a complex molt among these feathers and wear (Cramp 1985, Chandler and Wilds 1994, Higgins and Davies 1996). It is possible that the differences noted on the Midway birds were related to differences in the previous molt of the primaries. However, both species are reported to undergo similar primary molt patterns (Cramp 1985, Chandler and Wilds 1994), and on all of the Midway birds the outer 2-3 primaries were blackish (see Figures), indicating retention from the previous pre-basic molt, as expected in these species. Thus, middle primary color per se may be useful to distinguish Least and Little Terns throughout their ranges. This possibility, accounting for geographic variation, molt, and feather wear, should be researched further.

There is also variation in the color of the shafts of the outer two primaries: typically white to horn in Asian Little Terns (*S. a. sinensis*) and black, concolorous with the webs of these feathers, in Least Terns and nominate Little Terns from Europe (Cramp 1985, Clapp 1989, Conant et al. 1991, Higgins and Davies 1996). This difference could not be appreciated on the Midway birds in the field or on photographs. Note also that the tails of *sinensis* are longer than in other subspecies of Little Tern (Cramp 1985, Higgins and Davies 1996); thus, tail length may not be as useful in the separation of the Least Tern from European and African forms of the Little Tern.

The contrast between the rump color and back color is likely the best plumage feature to separate Little Terns from Least Terns in alternate plumage, although this contrast can be difficult to discern in harsh, sunny lighting. Certain individuals or populations of Little Tern (e.g.,

those from the Philippines; Cramp 1985, Clapp 1989) may have slightly grayer rumps and tails than others; however, a contrast with the back color is usually if not always present (Higgins and Davies 1996), unlike in Least Tern. Juvenile Little Terns average less black in their plumage than juvenile Least Terns, while the separation of adults in basic plumage requires further study (Chandler and Wilds 1994).

Behavioral interactions between the two species were consistent throughout the period of observation. The Little Terns (both alone and as a pair) clearly dominated the Least Terns, and would not tolerate their presence at the water-catchment area, actively and repeatedly chasing them away when both species occurred in the vicinity. This aggressive exclusion by the Little Terns increased through June as the area of water in the basin, containing "mosquito fish" (*Gambusia affinis*) as prey, became smaller and more easily defended. No aggressive intra-specific interactions were observed, except those related to courtship.

Our observations increase the known breeding ranges of both species by over 4000 km. Observations of the Midway birds by S. Conant (pers. comm.) in June 1999 led her, in retrospect, to identify as Little Terns those breeding in 1988 on Pearl and Hermes Reef (Conant et al. 1991), 120 km to the southeast of Midway. Otherwise, the closest known breeding of Little Tern occurs in Japan, with a single attempt recorded from Saipan, Micronesia (Reichel et al. 1989). Small terns of this complex, likely Little Terns, have also been recorded in Western Samoa, Kiribati, and on several islands throughout Micronesia (Pyle and Engbring 1985, Pratt et al. 1987). The closest known breeding of Least Tern occurs in western North America, over 4900 km from Midway. Except for birds thought to be Least Terns recorded in the main Hawaiian Islands (see above), we are aware of no records of migrants or vagrants of this species closer to Midway than California.

The Midway records indicate that both of these species clearly can travel successfully over large distances of ocean, and that vagrants of each might be expected more frequently within the ranges of the other species. In North America, we suggest that observers on both coasts carefully examine birds among Least Tern colonies and all extralimital small terns, for vagrant Little Terns. The behavior of the Midway birds is also of interest. Although of limited sample size, we suggest that the assortative interactions and breeding we observed support species status for these two closely related taxa.

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Figure 3. Little Tern, Midway Atoll, 17 June 1999. Note the reduced amount of dark to the inner webs of the middle primaries. Photograph by Peter Pyle.



Figure 4. Least Tern, Midway Atoll, 24 June 1999. Note the relatively short outer rectrices and gray rump and tail, concolorous with the rest of the upperparts. Photograph by Peter Pyle.



Figure 5. Least Tern, Midway Atoll, 24 June 1999. Note the gray rump and tail, concolorous with the rest of the upperparts, and the extensive amount of dark coloration to inner webs of the middle primaries. Photograph by Peter Pyle.



Figure 6. Least Tern, Midway Atoll, 24 June 1999. Note the gray rump and tail, concolorous with the rest of the upperparts, and the extensive amount of dark coloration to inner webs of the middle primaries. Photograph by Peter Pyle.

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Seasonal Trends in Species Richness and Density Among Landbirds Wintering on Block Island, Rhode Island

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Abstract

We used CBC-style counts in November, December, and February to study seasonal trends in the species richness and density of 75 species of landbirds on Block Island, RI. Across five winters (1995-2000), December values of species richness and birds per foot-mile consistently exceeded February values but varied in parallel; in contrast, year-to-year fluctuations in the generally higher November values of species richness and density were discordant with year-to-year variation in the other counts. We interpret this pattern as implying that the December counts (CBCs) tended to track wintering populations and were little influenced by the vicissitudes of late fall migration. Declines in density from December to February were observed in the vast majority of species each year, were statistically significant overall in four of five years, and were qualitatively similar in two subsets comprising the most migratory species (generally wintering south of southern New England) and the winter resident species most numerous on Block Island in February. We discuss methods for distinguishing between mid-winter dispersal and mortality as the proximal causes of particular examples of December-February decline.

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) has tracked early winter populations of North American birds for more than a century. Although contemporary observers have come to value and appreciate the resulting long-term database much more than CBC founder Frank Chapman could possibly have foreseen (LeBaron 2000), counting birds was undoubtedly one of Chapman's motives from the start. Ironically, the

monitoring function of the CBC may have been compromised to some extent by another of Chapman's priorities—providing a conservation-minded alternative to the traditional Christmas Day "Side Hunt" (Chapman 1900). The latter consideration evidently tied the timing of the counts to the early winter season (mid-December–early January)—a period that witnesses considerable southbound migration in much of North America—and some observers have suggested that the official CBC Period significantly precedes the period when many bird populations over much of the continent reach their most stable mid-winter levels (Peterjohn 2000).

The most important consequence of this early winter timing is that CBC data are suspected to be more variable than they would be if they were collected later, closer to the nadir of seasonal movement. Another, more welcome consequence has been the regular presence of numerous "half-hardy" lingerers on counts throughout the continent—birds that provide much of the excitement drawing observers to the CBC. Observations deemed unusual on CBCs have been interpreted variously as late migrants, birds likely to withdraw after the onset of severe weather, birds likely to perish after the onset of severe weather, or artifacts arising from intense CBC coverage in contrast to poor mid-winter coverage.

Heretofore, all of these considerations have been speculative, as no systematic attempt has been made to evaluate CBC data directly in relation to late fall migration and mid-winter stasis. From the appearance of an Orange-crowned Warbler or a Sooty Shearwater on a New England CBC to a dramatic change in the number of Northern Cardinals or Lapland Longspurs on an Ohio CBC, observers still lack the means to

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distinguish among the various possible causes underlying variation in December populations. Veit and Petersen (1993) proposed replicating CBCs in late February as a means of clarifying *to what extent* particular species actually decline in late winter. Extending this logic, we propose that a third count in November might lend insight into *how and why* various populations change through the colder months. Here we present the results of a five-year (1995–2000) study on Block Island, RI, in which we bracketed the traditional late December count with CBC-style counts in early–mid-November and mid–late February. Our goals were two-fold: to quantify declines in landbird density over the majority of the winter season; and to identify, where possible, the proximal causes of these declines.

We considered three potential causes of population change: stereotyped migration, facultative dispersal, and mortality. In practice, we recognized changes due to stereotyped migration by a combination of *a priori* knowledge of a species' phenology and an empirical pattern of regular occurrence on November counts and absence on February counts. Mortality presumably affected all species encountered, regardless of the significance of the other two factors. Although mortality's quantitative effects might be expected to vary considerably from year to year and from species to species, qualitatively it must affect all winter populations in the same manner—diminishing them to varying extents in the absence of reproduction, immigration, and emigration. Thus the real challenge was to identify instances where facultative dispersal was likely an important cause of changes in density. We predicted that the effects of facultative dispersal should vary from year to year, and that unlike mortality, dispersal should result in increased densities, particularly from November to December, for some species in some years. By examining trends from November to December, we identified potentially dispersing species *a posteriori*, as those increasing in density in both years exhibiting overall increases, *and* decreasing in density in the one year exhibiting an overall decrease.

Study Area and Methods

Located twelve miles south of the Rhode Island mainland, Block Island extends approximately seven miles from north to south and three miles from east to west. The CBC circle is centered near the north end (Sandy Point) and encompasses the entire island and much of the ferry route from Point Judith.

Block Island's winter avifauna is particularly amenable to analysis for several reasons. Although some characteristic year-round residents of the nearby mainland, such as Barred Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Rock Dove, and Tufted Titmouse, are essentially absent from the island, several other "residents" (e.g., Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, and White-breasted Nuthatch) breed locally in such small numbers that detection of their occasional—but sometimes dramatic—seasonal movements is greatly facilitated. Furthermore, Block Island's insular setting aids interpretation of winter counts of its most numerous year-round residents (e.g., Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Northern Cardinal, and House Finch). Populations of such species, whose winter dispersal or aggregation at feeding stations raise troubling questions for mainland CBCs (Veit and Petersen 1993), are almost closed systems on Block Island, where the extensive water barrier presumably discourages mid-winter immigration and emigration. The absence of significant summer populations of many other, more migratory, species (e.g., Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Purple Finch) further simplifies interpretation of their late-fall/early-winter phenology.

The winter status of half-hardies on Block Island in relation to the mainland is complex. The maritime climate and exposed habitats of Block Island appear to aid winter survival for some species (Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler) and hinder it for others (Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet). Likewise, Block Island could be a destination for some species and a source of others dispersing in mid-winter (R. Ferren in litt.).

A quick perusal of Block Island winter count data reveals exceedingly complex patterns of variation in the numbers of many waterbirds—particularly seabirds. Further complicating analysis of these species is variation in the amount and kinds of effort employed in their detection. Ferry-based observations have been a staple of all modern winter-season counts on Block Island, but land-based effort directed at waterbirds has varied considerably among counts, depending on, among other factors, the employment of day-long stationary sea-watches on many (but not all) counts. For these reasons, the present analysis is restricted to a set of diurnal terrestrial species generally detected by birding on foot. This set, referred to below as "Landbirds," consists of Mourning Dove, woodpeckers, and passerines. For some analyses, these Landbirds were further divided into two mutually exclusive subsets based on their winter status

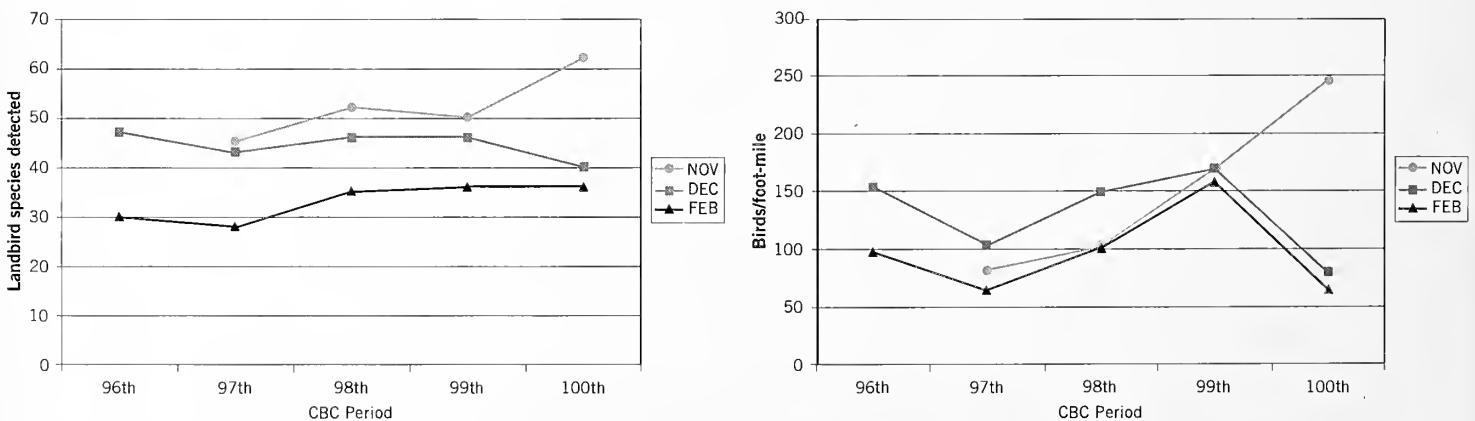


Figure 1. Trends in species richness (a) and density (b) among Landbirds on CBC-style counts conducted in November, December, and February (1995–2000) on Block Island, Rhode Island.

Winter Landbirds on Block Island

in the region: "Migrant" species were defined as those generally wintering south of southern New England (National Geographic Society 1999, Conway 1992, Veit and Petersen 1993, Levine 1998); and "Winter Residents" were defined as the fifteen species most numerous overall on the February counts. A complete list of the Landbirds encountered, along with the designation of some as Migrants or Winter Residents, is presented in Table 1.

We scheduled our November counts during the second week of the month, on or around Veterans' Day. Similarly, the February counts were clustered around Presidents' Day, during the third week of the month. In recent years the Block Island CBC has been conducted consistently

around 20 December. CBC methodology was employed on all counts. Variation in effort among counts was addressed by dividing all raw counts of Landbirds by the number of party-miles on foot (foot-miles). Changes in density from November to December or from December to February were tested by two-tailed Wilcoxon's Signed Ranks Tests for the full set of Landbird species and for the subsets of Migrant and Winter Resident species.

Results

A total of fourteen counts were conducted, beginning with the 96th CBC on 18 December 1995 and concluding—for the purposes of the present

Table 1. Records of Landbirds on winter counts on Block Island, RI (1995-2000)

Species	M ¹	WR ²	#Counts			Max	Max (Date ³)	Species	M ¹	WR ²	#Counts			Max	Max (Date ³)
			Nov	Dec	Feb						Nov	Dec	Feb		
Mourning Dove		1	4	5	5	145	NOVE	Blackpoll Warbler	1		1	0	0	5	NOVE
Red-bellied Woodpecker			4	4	1	3	NOVE	Common Yellowthroat	1		4	1	0	3	NOVC
Downy Woodpecker			4	5	5	35	DECC	Yellow-breasted Chat	1		0	0	1	1	FEBD
Hairy Woodpecker			2	3	2	4	NOVE	Eastern Towhee	1		4	5	5	21	DECB
Northern Flicker		1	4	5	5	186	DECA	American Tree Sparrow			3	5	5	60	DECD
Eastern Phoebe	1		1	0	0	1	NOVE	Chipping Sparrow	1		2	1	0	3	NOVE
Northern Shrike			1	3	1	15	DECA	Field Sparrow			4	5	1	16	DECC
Blue-headed Vireo	1		1	0	0	1	NOVD	Lark Sparrow	1		1	0	0	1	NOVE
Blue Jay			4	5	5	58	NOVE	Ipswich Sparrow			0	3	1	2	DECB, DECE
American Crow		1	4	5	5	603	DECD	Savannah Sparrow	1		4	4	3	7	NOVE
Fish Crow			3	4	3	10	DECC	Sharp-tailed Sparrow Sp.	1		2	1	0	3	NOVD
Horned Lark			1	1	1	6	DECE	Seaside Sparrow	1		1	0	0	1	NOVB
Tree Swallow	1		0	1	0	2	DECA	Fox Sparrow	1		3	3	3	6	NOVC
Black-capped Chickadee		1	4	5	5	218	FEBD	Song Sparrow		1	4	5	5	370	NOVE
Red-breasted Nuthatch		1	4	5	5	137	DECA	Lincoln's Sparrow	1		1	0	0	1	NOVE
White-breasted Nuthatch			3	3	2	5	DECA	Swamp Sparrow	1		4	5	4	39	NOVE
Brown Creeper			3	2	0	6	NOVE	White-throated Sparrow		1	4	5	5	525	DECD
Carolina Wren		1	4	5	5	169	DECD	White-crowned Sparrow	1		2	2	1	3	NOVE
House Wren	1		1	2	1	1	NOV, DEC, FEB	Dark-eyed Junco		1	4	5	5	221	NOVE
Winter Wren			3	5	3	8	DECE	Lapland Longspur			2	0	1	6	NOVE
Marsh Wren	1		1	2	0	3	DECB	Snow Bunting			4	5	3	511	NOVE
Golden-crowned Kinglet			4	4	1	101	NOVE	Northern Cardinal		1	4	5	5	96	DECA
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1		4	4	2	29	NOVE	Dickcissel	1		1	0	0	1	NOVD
Eastern Bluebird			2	2	2	69	NOVE	Red-winged Blackbird			4	4	3	644	NOVE
Hermit Thrush	1		4	5	5	38	DECD	Eastern Meadowlark	1		3	4	2	31	DECA
American Robin		1	4	5	5	1188	NOVE	Rusty Blackbird	1		4	1	0	6	DECC
Gray Catbird	1		4	5	5	31	DECD	Common Grackle			4	2	1	19	NOVE
Northern Mockingbird			4	5	5	50	DECA	Brown-headed Cowbird			4	3	0	26	DECB
Brown Thrasher	1		2	4	2	4	FEBD	Baltimore Oriole	1		1	0	0	1	NOVC
European Starling		1	4	5	5	1795	DECC	Purple Finch			4	2	0	9	NOVB, NOVE
American Pipit	1		4	3	0	21	NOVC	House Finch		1	4	5	5	124	DECD
Cedar Waxwing			4	4	2	221	NOVE	Red Crossbill			1	3	2	40	NOVE
Orange-crowned Warbler	1		4	2	0	1	4 NOV, 2 DEC	White-winged Crossbill			1	1	0	199	DECC
Nashville Warbler	1		1	0	0	1	NOVC	Common Redpoll			1	2	1	52	DECC
Yellow-rumped Warbler		1	4	5	5	1814	DECD	Pine Siskin			2	0	0	137	NOVE
Pine Warbler	1		1	1	0	5	NOVE	American Goldfinch			4	5	5	799	NOVE
Prairie Warbler	1		0	1	0	1	DECC	House Sparrow		1	4	5	5	169	FEBE
Palm Warbler	1		3	2	0	10	NOVD								

¹ Migratory species wintering south of southern New England (see text).

² Winter resident species—the 15 most numerous species on February counts (see text).

³ Letters A through E refer to the 96th through 100th CBC periods, respectively.

Table 2. Summary of winter bird counts on Block Island, Rhode Island (1995-2000).

Count	Year	Julian Date	Miles on Foot	Landbirds ¹	
				Species	Density (inds./mi)
Veterans	1996	316	28.0	45	81.3
	1997	317	23.0	52	101.5
	1998	318	29.5	50	168.8
	1999	312	31.0	62	245.5
	Average	316	27.9	52.2 (71)	149.3
Christmas	1995	352	26.5	47	153.8
	1996	358	34.0	43	103.1
	1997	356	36.5	46	148.7
	1998	355	41.0	46	169.3
	Average	355	35.7	44.4 (63)	130.8
Presidents	1996	50	16.0	30	97.3
	1997	49	20.0	28	63.8
	1998	47	28.5	35	100.5
	1999	46	28.0	36	157.5
	Average	49	26.2	33.0 (50)	96.6

¹Landbirds defined as Mourning Dove, woodpeckers, and passerines (see text).

analysis—with the fifth Presidents' Day Count (PDC) on 21 February 2000. Species totals averaged 98 in November (Range 91-115, $n=4$), 96.4 in December (Range 90-103, $n=5$), and 72.6 in February (Range 66-78, $n=5$). A grand total of 162 species were recorded across all of the counts. Considering Landbirds only, species totals averaged 52.2 in November (Range 45-62), 44.4 in December (Range 40-47), and 33.0 in February (Range 28-36). A grand total of 75 species of landbirds were recorded across all of the counts. Estimates of Landbird density (individuals per foot-mile) varied a great deal (two- to three-fold in each type of count), averaging 149.3 in November, 130.8 in December, and 96.6 in February.

Not surprisingly (in view of the average values just presented), species richness of Landbirds was consistently highest in November (Fig. 1a).

Table 3. Changes in Landbird densities (individuals per foot-mile) between November and December on Block Island, Rhode Island (1996-2000).

	97th	98th	99th	100th	Average
Landbirds					
Spp. Decr:Incr	23:28	35:24	26:29	59:5	47:27
Wilcoxon's Z	0.98	-1.01	1.10	-6.28***	-1.50
Average Δ in Density	0.29	0.63	0.01	-2.22	-0.25
Average % Δ in Density	26.0	38.0	7.4	-67.2	19.3
Migrants¹					
Spp. Decr:Incr	7:9	14:7	11:8	21:1	24:7
Wilcoxon's Z	0.47	-2.32*	0.36	-3.92***	-2.78**
Average Δ in Density	0.02	-0.05	0.01	-0.15	-0.03
Average % Δ in Density	6.6	-40.2	-32.2	-77.7	-48.4
Winter Residents¹					
Spp. Decr:Incr	5:10	8:7	4:11	14:1	5:10
Wilcoxon's Z	1.14	0.06	1.25	-3.29**	0.68
Average Δ in Density	1.70	3.22	0.11	-5.12	0.32
Average % Δ in Density	72.3	55.8	51.9	-42.2	14.9

* $P < 0.05$

** $P < 0.01$

*** $P < 0.001$

¹See text and Table 1 for definitions.

Even so, November estimates of density were rather unpredictable, variously resembling the December value, the February value, or exceeding both, depending on the year (Fig. 1b). The December values of both species richness and density of landbirds were consistently higher than the February values in a given year, and year-to-year fluctuations in these counts varied in parallel (Fig. 1). Landbird species totals and densities for all fourteen counts are summarized in Table 2.

Twenty-five species of Landbirds present in November or December were never detected in February (Table 1). Eleven of these reflected unique occurrences of seasonally rare species—Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo, Tree Swallow, Nashville Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Lark Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Dickcissel, and Baltimore Oriole. In contrast, eight of the species absent in February were essentially annual in November (often in multiples and sometimes in double-digit numbers) and occurred at least once each in December—Brown Creeper, American Pipit, Orange-crowned Warbler, Palm Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Rusty Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Purple Finch. Six other species absent in February were of ambiguous or intermediate status in early winter, appearing on two–three November or December counts each: Marsh Wren, Pine Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Sparrow sp., White-winged Crossbill, and Pine Siskin.

The proportion of Landbird species declining to those increasing, from November to December, varied from 23:29 in 1996 to 59:6 in 1999 (four year average 36.2:22.0). Across all Landbird species, no significant change in density from November to December was observed overall or in any year with the exception of 1999, when a dramatic decrease was evident ($P < 0.001$). This overall pattern—or lack thereof—was also noted among the subset of 15 Winter Resident species, for which the only significant change from November to December was a decline noted in 1999 ($P < 0.05$). Among the Migrant subset, a significant decrease in density was noted in 1997 ($P < 0.05$) as well as in 1999 ($P < 0.001$). The full results of tests contrasting November and December densities are presented in Table 3.

In contrast to the November–December interval, during which changes in landbird density tended to be variable and non-significant, a striking trend of diminishing density was observed between December and February, reflecting a consistent diminution for the vast majority of Landbird species encountered. From December to February, the proportion of Landbirds declining to those increasing varied only from 31:18 in 1998–99 to 44:5 in 1995–96 (five-year average, 35.4:11.6), and statistically significant decreases in density were detected in four out of five years. Furthermore, the trend in the exceptional year (1998–99), although not statistically significant, showed decreases for 63% of the species and an overall average decline of -16% per species (Range -100% to +605%, $SD=113\%$, $n=47$). Comparisons restricted to Migrant species were qualitatively similar to the overall Landbird sample, as were comparisons restricted to Winter Residents. In other words, the trend of diminishing landbird density between December and February was comparable among species north of their "normal" winter ranges and among the core constituents of Block Island's winter avifauna. The percentage by which density changed between December and February (data pooled across years to reduce the number of zero counts) averaged -46% across all Landbirds (Range -100% to +177%, $SD=53\%$, $n=63$), -67% for the Migrants (Range -100% to +42%, $SD=41\%$, $n=21$), and -19% for the Winter Residents (Range -55% to +30%, $SD=24\%$, $n=15$, see Fig. 2). The full results of

Table 4. Changes in Landbird densities (individuals per foot-mile) between December and February on Block Island, Rhode Island (1995-2000).

	CBC Period					
	96th	97th	98th	99th	100th	Average
Landbirds						
Spp. Decr:Incr	43:5	39:6	33:14	30:18	27:15	52: 12
Wilcoxon's Z	-4.81***	-4.45***	-2.72**	-0.78	-2.32*	-4.94***
Average in Density	-0.75	-0.52	-0.64	-0.16	-0.20	-0.46
Average % in Density	-56.9	-34.0	-40.3	-14.5	-14.8	-43.9
Migrants¹						
Spp. Decr:Incr	10:0	11:1	10:4	10:4	6:4	19:3
Wilcoxon's Z	-2.82**	-2.75**	-2.29*	-1.48	-1.78	-3.43***
Average in Density	-0.06	-0.06	-0.03	-0.04	-0.01	-0.04
Average % in Density	-74.4	-89.1	-48.1	-30.8	-38.7	-66.9
Winter Residents¹						
Spp. Decr:Incr	13:2	14:1	10:5	7:8	10:5	12:3
Wilcoxon's Z	-2.95**	-2.90**	-0.85	+0.51	-1.70	-2.90**
Average in Density	-3.37	-2.27	-2.65	-0.66	-0.94	-1.98
Average % in Density	-30.9	-21.3	-14.2	-4.0	-0.5	-19.0

*P<0.05
**P<0.01
***P<0.001

¹See text and Table 1 for definitions.

comparisons between December and February are presented in Table 4.

As noted above, our results revealed two years (1996 and 1997) in which overall Landbird density increased over the November–December period, and one year (1999) in which it decreased (Fig. 1b). Thus, we defined our profile of candidates for facultative dispersal as those species that increased in density from November to December in both 1996 and 1997 and decreased over that period in 1999. Only nine species satisfied these criteria: Downy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, Field Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Eastern Meadowlark, and House Finch.

Discussion

Our observation that year-to-year variation in species richness and density appeared congruent between the December and February counts—and discordant between the November and December counts—did not arise from systematic biases in our sampling efficiency. If anything, those birds still present tended to be easier to detect in February than in December as a consequence of a resurgence of singing behavior. Similarly, the weather did not pose consistent problems for bird detection in February relative to December, as one might have expected. One February blizzard was more than offset by several balmy, spring-like PDCs featuring choruses of Carolina Wrens, Song Sparrows, and Northern Cardinals and spring-migrant Killdeers and Red-winged Blackbirds. The congruence between December and February values of landbird species richness and density was real, and it implies that the CBC is actually an effective means of assessing winter populations—as opposed to late fall populations—on Block Island. This is an important result that lends support to an important premise—heretofore largely untested—underlying many applications of CBC data (reviewed by Peterjohn 2000 and Hochachka and Kelling 2000).

The eleven species whose only occurrence involved unique events on November or December counts might be regarded as seasonal vagrants, lagging far behind the vast majority of conspecifics, whose potential persistence into the southern New England winter would be fortuitous and dependent on favorable circumstances—most notably mild weather. Individuals of these species are hardly expected locally even in November, but if present then, might just as easily remain through the

CBC period if weather permits their survival. Another species that might belong in this category is the Yellow-breasted Chat, which was detected on just a single February count.

In contrast, the eight species encountered regularly (and often in numbers) in November and December—but never in February—should be regarded as late-fall migrants. Their withdrawals between late fall and early winter are regular and predictable consequences of their migration phenology and appear not to be governed (at least proximally) by weather-induced dispersal or mortality. Despite the fact that they are not really authentic members of the local winter avifauna, a few of these birds should be expected annually on regional CBCs, regardless of late fall weather, at the tail end of their

normal southbound migration. These species expose some bias arising from the CBCs early winter timing, but at least on Block Island, the overall impact of such non-wintering birds on CBC results appears quite limited.

Of eleven Migrant species detected during February, three (House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and White-crowned Sparrow) were represented by only one or two individuals over the five February counts and cannot be regarded as regular members of the winter avifauna. Four others (Winter Wren, Brown Thrasher, Savannah Sparrow, and Fox

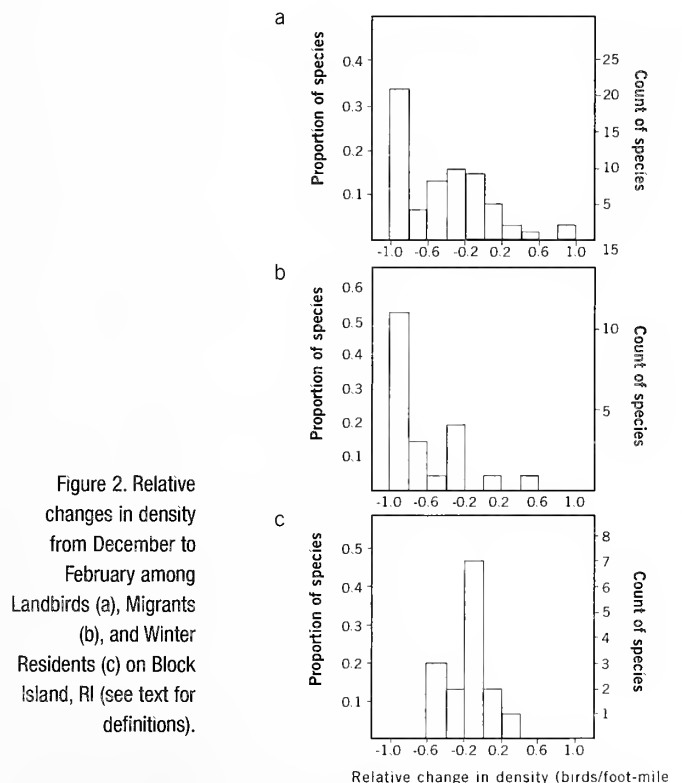


Figure 2. Relative changes in density from December to February among Landbirds (a), Migrants (b), and Winter Residents (c) on Block Island, RI (see text for definitions).

Sparrow) were represented by five–eleven total individuals on two–three PDCs, rendering their status ambiguous. In contrast, the remaining four Migrants (Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Eastern Towhee, and Swamp Sparrow) clearly were perfectly regular winter residents on Block Island. In fact, the population trends of these species closely resembled those of the full Landbird sample: average change from December to February –38.6% for these four vs. –43.9% for all Landbirds. Although this resemblance could be construed as implying that these four species should have been classed with the Winter Residents from the start, it also underscores a more meaningful result: such characteristic and numerous Winter Residents as Northern Flicker, European Starling, and Dark-eyed Junco showed December–February declines >50%—even greater than the declines of the four half-hardy species.

The nine species identified as likely candidates for facultative dispersal form a diverse group. Several of these species—Downy Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, and House Finch—have been suspected of undertaking mid-winter movements along coastal vantages by many observers in the region (R. Ferren in litt., S. Mitra unpubl. data, C. Raithel unpubl. data, R. Veit pers. comm.). Although such movements have not been reported for Gray Catbird, Field Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark, a perception exists that these birds sometimes appear in larger than expected numbers on regional CBCs when severe cold strikes just prior to the count period (S. Mitra pers. obs.). This sort of corroboration, although admittedly tenuous, suggests that our methodology might prove to be a powerful tool in future prospective studies seeking to quantify the relative effects of dispersal and mortality as agents of winter population changes. The remaining two species—Northern Mockingbird and Northern Cardinal—are more enigmatic, as they are generally regarded as relatively sedentary species unlikely to undertake extensive over-water movements outside of their peak periods of dispersal/migration (late summer to early fall). We propose that application of our methods to other CBC circles might confirm heretofore unsuspected winter mobility in these species.

Variation from year to year in season-specific values of species richness and density of Landbirds might have arisen from several independent sources, including biasing effects of weather (especially wind) on detection rates; “real” effects of weather on patterns of migration, dispersal, and mortality; availability of berry, cone, and other food resources on Block Island; and extrinsic population changes attributable to factors, such as breeding success and boreal irruptions, affecting the populations far in time or space from Block Island. As discussed above, we endeavored to identify and minimize sources of bias affecting our data. We also depended, to a certain extent, on real differences between years in the numbers of several Landbird species dispersing to and from Block Island. Our goal of describing the basic patterns underlying the dynamics of winter bird populations on Block Island were achieved without explicitly identifying the underlying mechanisms. A thorough analysis of these mechanisms, particularly of the roles of temperature, snow cover, and food availability, must await an expanded data set.

In conclusion, we found that bracketing a long-standing CBC with similar counts in November and February was an extremely gratifying exercise that clarified the winter status of many species on Block Island. In a coastal region replete with half-hardy species that are rare or unknown on CBCs just a few tens of miles inland, we were able to confirm that late December landbird counts were, in fact, robust indicators of mid-winter populations. Furthermore, we were able to quantify consistent mid-winter declines in density over a broad array of species ranging from those at the northern edges of their winter distributions

to the most numerous and characteristic winter residents in the area. Variation between years in population trends from November to December yielded some provocative insights into the relative roles of dispersal and mortality as the proximal causes of these declines. We urge participants in other CBCs to apply similar techniques to quantify seasonal trends in the species richness and density of other North American winter bird populations.

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I am quite honored to introduce two new regional reports: Baja California Peninsula and Central America. I urge each of you to read these initial reports and keep in the back of your mind that they exist, for now there is an outlet for all those goodies that you will discover in these regions, either due to travel or, for the lucky birders who live in these regions, every-day birding. If we can just get the rest of Mexico up and running! Additionally, the Mountain West Region has been separated into two: Wyoming and Colorado retain together the "Mountain West" moniker and the "Great Basin" region comprises Utah and Nevada. This action has already produced the desired effect of greatly increasing the reporting rate from Utah and Nevada. I heartily welcome the new Regional Editors!

Now that I have gotten the introductory comments out of the way, please indulge me while I conduct some philosophizing. While thinking about this season, a fact broke into my consciousness that I hadn't considered before and one that I find quite amazing: All of the text included in the various regional reports is based mostly on an incredible number of individual answers to the question, "Where should I go birding today?" Individual answers are often seemingly "wrong"—the individual didn't find anything of particular note or interest. Maybe she or he might have found a first local (or county or province or national or whatever) record of Bird X if only she or he would have gone to the sewage-treatment plant rather than the passerine hotspot that day. But, more likely, there just wasn't anything out-of-the-ordinary around that day. And, as we all know, there are many, many more days like that than there are days marked by important firsts. Again, as we all know but don't like to admit, these "negative-data" days are just as important as the opposite. They offer reinforcement to our idea of what normal is and provide good opportunities to *really* study that common species that one has been ignoring. Maybe these days are a bit less exciting, but they are still very important to our knowledge of bird distribution, proximal effects of weather on migration, and a host of other aspects of bird behavior and ecology.

The Future of Migration Studies

The advance of technology has created new ways to study an aspect of birds that is, arguably, the most fascinating—migration. For most of the past century or so, all of our knowledge about bird migration has come from those very, very rare conjunctions in space and time of a previously banded bird and human eyes. Recently, radio telemetry (and particularly very recently, satellite telemetry) has enabled us, at fairly great expense and/or with much effort, to track individual banded birds on sections of their migrations. The expense of this technique has meant that the species studied are usually those for which we have great concern (e.g., Endangered species). In addition, the technology, at least the readily available technology, also has limits that cause us to be able to study only fairly large species.

Ornithology sits at the threshold of new science—stable-isotope analysis. This method enables scientists to pluck one or a few feathers

from any individual bird and determine from analysis of the ratios of various isotopes (or variations) of a particular chemical element, where, on a gross scale, that feather was grown (Chamberlain et al. 1997, Hobson and Wassenaar 1997, Kelly and Finch 1998, Hobson 1999). Thus, depending upon the molt strategy of the individual or the species, we can determine where the bird summered or wintered. Each feather is produced from the resources that the individual bird obtains from the environment at the time the feather is grown. This feather then contains the approximate ratios of various isotopes found in the local environment, which vary due to a few factors, such as rainfall patterns.

These types of studies are beginning to be published (Wassenaar and Hobson 1998, Wassenaar and Hobson 2000, Meehan et al. 2001) and the technique of stable-isotope analysis promises to revolutionize bird-migration research. This method will enable us to obtain information relating to migration (and other facets of ecology) from *every* individual bird handled. No longer will we be reliant on that 1-in-100 or 1-in-1000 chance (or worse) that a banded bird will repay our effort with a recovery elsewhere.

This method also creates another way for all birders to contribute directly to migration research. Though there are hurdles to be leaped (e.g., organization, permitting, funding), every road-, window-, or tower-killed bird offers the opportunity to learn about individual choices on migration routes and breeding and wintering areas.

For those that don't have access to folks studying stable-isotope patterns, there is another way to advance ornithology. It involves a very low-tech methodology called counting. Some birders identify thrushes in active migration by the call notes given sporadically as the birds fly overhead at night. I have been aware that counts of migrant thrushes on the ground are always considerably lower than capture totals at banding stations. Somewhat recently, it has also become fairly common knowledge that counts of migrant thrushes on the ground have, in many respects, no bearing to the number of thrushes that migrated over those locations the previous night.

Fortunately, there is an expanding cadre of intrepid birders conducting at least sporadic counts of calling, migrating thrushes (and, presumably, other species). In fall 2000, such counts were reported from five states and two provinces (Table 1). These few data, of course, provide a far-from-complete picture of the shape and extent of thrush migration. However, just imagine a network of hundreds of observers counting and reporting such data. Of course, there will still be the very difficult problem of separating Gray-cheeked and Bicknell's Thrushes by their flight calls. However, if separation were widely possible, it would certainly help in determining the latter species' migration range. Hopefully, the long-awaited and imminent release by Bill Evans and Michael O'Brien (M. O'Brien pers. comm.) of a commercial CD of flight calls of nocturnal migrant species (replacing the long-existing, but nearly invisible, thrush tape) will surely stimulate many others to embark on this exciting endeavor.

Table 1. Nocturnal counts reported of migrating *Catharus thrushes* in Fall 2000.

Species	Date	Number	Location
Veery	2 Sep	250	Westwood, MA
Swainson's Thrush	9–10 Sep	1,420	Chicoutimi, PQ
	12–13 Sep	36,000	Kingston, ON
	15 Sep	80	Northampton, MA
	25 Sep	350	Berks Co., PA
	27 Sep	300	Berks Co., PA
	4 Oct	790	Kennesaw Mtn., GA
Gray-cheeked Thrush	6 Oct	50	Portsmouth, NH
	12–13 Sep	300	Kingston, ON
	17–18 Sep	300	Kingston, ON
	18 Sep	50	Berks Co., PA
	21–22 Sep	185	Chicoutimi, PQ
	4 Oct	61	Kennesaw Mtn., GA

Multi-region Phenomena

One of the most important uses of these regional reports lies in the synthesis of the reports from multiple regions. While an event may be interesting even when occurring in only one place or province or region, landscape-scale phenomena are truly exciting and probably result from events happening on populational or even species-wide scales. These pages can offer the first inkling of awareness of changes in the population, distribution, and migration of various species. Thus, it behooves us to read more than just our home regional report. Here are a few multi-regional events that caught my eye and that might point to large-scale events:

- Northern Fulmar numbers were apparently high in the Pacific, but low in the Atlantic.
- Out-of-range Great White Herons were reported on the Atlantic Coast as far north as Cape May, NJ, with mentions from at least five states. This is especially interesting, given the recent suggestive evidence published that we may be in for a re-split of this form, currently considered a subspecies or morph of Great Blue Heron.
- Great Egrets were reported in high numbers in quite a few northern regions.
- Individuals of small forms of Canada Geese were mentioned in a number of regions where they are rare.
- High numbers of both eagle species were reported from numerous hawkwatches across the continent.
- Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported in higher numbers than of late in many regions.
- Wilson's Phalarope were reported in low numbers in virtually all Atlantic Coast regions and in Hawaii.
- Note how much space is devoted to hummingbirds in virtually all eastern regions, and also note the timing of the various birds' arrivals.
- Lark Sparrow numbers seemed high in a number of Atlantic Coast regions.
- With five of the nine Painted Bunting records in the Middle Pacific Coast region being birds found in mist nets, how many more went undetected? Note also that California birders found three on the Baja in three days in early September.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird numbers were reported as low in both the Atlantic Provinces and New England regions, a continuation of a recent trend on the Atlantic seaboard.

Words of Caution: Juvenile vs. Immature...

These pages are used by a fair few birders and ornithologists researching the occurrence of species, either locally or on a larger scale. Though there are many that have opined that records of rarities are meaningless to species and to ornithology, recent literature is, in my opinion, more enlightened (e.g., Veit 2000). With increasing attention being paid by scientists to out-of-range occurrences, these pages may be subject to more intensive mining for information. We, as contributors, should endeavor to make this information as useful as possible by reporting to our regional or sub-regional editors all possible information, particularly age and/or sex of individual rare birds. It is then incumbent upon those editors to faithfully forward that information to the readers of these pages.

In that vein, I wish to implore reporters and editors to use the terms "juvenile" and "immature" consistently. As example, a Thayer's Gull reported south of Canada in early August as an immature is at least possible. However, if one intermingles "immature" and "juvenile" in other references to gull ages, the reader may be led to believe that the early-August Thayer's was a juvenile. Since it is patently unlikely that a juvenile (young-of-the-year) Thayer's (or Pomarine Jaeger or Black-legged Kittiwake among many other Arctic-breeding species) could get to the Lower 48 in early August (or even early September for certain species), some could interpret that this bird was, at best, incorrectly aged, but, more likely, misidentified (since correct ageing is often critical to correct identification of many taxa).

Young-of-the-year jaegers, Thayer's and Sabine's Gulls, and Black-legged Kittiwakes that we find off Manitoulin Island, or on American Falls Reservoir, or at the Altamaha River mouth in fall are juveniles. Many individuals may retain juvenal plumage longer than this, sometimes, much longer (Howell et al. 1999). "Immature" should be used in two situations only: for those individuals that have conducted at least one pre-basic molt and are obviously not adults, and for those individuals that are not adults but which are not seen well enough to age more precisely. Correct usage of these terms is particularly critical for larids and other slow-maturing species that often summer south of normal breeding grounds and, thus, could be found in southern areas much earlier in the fall than could juveniles of the same species.

...and identifiable forms...

There is a fairly strong movement afoot to identify forms/races/subspecies, one which I applaud most vigorously. Though we humans require sharp lines of distinction in order to wrap our minds around "species," evolution is nowhere near that particular. We identify birds during a snapshot in evolution's long life, a snapshot that catches many forms in the process of changing, even becoming "new" species. These forms are geographic sub-units of existing species and many have their own migration routes and timetables, molting patterns, and wintering areas. These various features of difference can and do isolate these sub-units and are some of the building blocks of speciation.

It behooves us to note, where possible, the occurrences of these different forms, as they help us understand the patterns of vagrancy in birds. At least two East Coast regions noted the occurrence of individuals of Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows, the pale-lored subspecies that breeds in central Canada (and which geographically separates the black-lored forms in the northeast, *leucophrys*, and the Rockies and Cascades/Sierras form, *oriantha*); Gambel's winters in the central and western parts of the Lower 48. This form is readily identified given reasonable views, though intergradation can be a problem requiring consideration. However, I also urge caution in identifying subspecies, particularly out-of-range subspecies.

...and "Western" Flycatchers...

The split of the former "Western" Flycatcher into two species, Pacific-slope and Cordilleran, has caused no little consternation in birding circles, particularly in the Sierras and Cascades, where the respective ranges of the two species abut and/or overlap. Apparently, individuals of one species can speak the other's language in the overlap zone. This has produced the admirable trait in numerous Pacific-slope birders of conservatism in identification of individuals of the species complex, particularly away from known breeding areas.

Though I applaud attempting to identify *Empidonax*, I am concerned that many birders in the Rockies, where Cordilleran is the only breeder of the Western Flycatcher complex, routinely identify silent and/or female, yellowy *Empidonax* as Cordilleran; many do not consider Pacific-slope Flycatcher. While a large percentage of these identifications is undoubtedly correct, particularly in the spring, we have absolutely no idea which. However, most migrant species and subspecies that are restricted as breeders to the same habitats and/or range as Pacific-slope Flycatcher (e.g., Cassin's Vireo and Townsend's Warbler) are uncommon to common migrants through the Rockies and out onto the Great Plains, so why not Pacific-slope Flycatcher?

The editors of the Great Basin region report that, "In Nevada, a heavy passage of Western Flycatchers was noted through the valleys and in the mountains 10 Aug–18 Oct (v.o.); banding data indicated that most were Pacific-slope Flycatchers..." These data suggest that Utah and Colorado birders should be on the lookout for Pacific-slope Flycatcher, a sentiment with which I strongly agree. However, Pyle (1997) states, "The separation of Pacific-slope from Cordilleran Flycatchers by in-hand criteria alone should be performed with extreme caution and the realization that many individuals cannot be identified." He goes on to write that the formula used to separate the two species allows "separation of about 60% of individuals" and further states that the "formula is based on specimens and the values may differ somewhat on live birds..."

...and late records of early-fall migrants

Many Neotropical migrant bird species depart North America early in fall. For some of these, there is ample physical evidence that individuals of some species can and do linger late in North America. However, for a minority of these, there is very little proof that any individuals are present on the continent within their breeding ranges after mid-autumn. One example of the latter category is Purple Martin. Cape May, NJ, has a long history of late-season records for a large number of early-migrating species, e.g., November records for Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, and Bank Swallow, to name a few. However, to my knowledge, there has never been a Purple Martin correctly identified there after September. Thus, I wholeheartedly agree with Bruce Mactavish in hoping that the observer of a 24 October Purple Martin in the Atlantic Provinces region considered other species of *Progne* in his identification. Other species in the genus may be more likely in late fall in North America, with a couple of strong contenders, including Southern Martin, providing particularly horrible identification headaches.

Jaegers and Other Arctic-breeding Larids

Birders across the continent enjoyed the fruits of what must have been either a terrific breeding season for various Arctic-breeding larids or an abnormal distribution of these migrants. Jaegers, Sabine's Gulls, Black-legged Kittiwakes, and Arctic Terns are pelagic migrants that normally are seen in large numbers only on the ocean. However, all of these species are well-known for their annual occurrence in inland areas of the continent, but on a very sporadic basis in both time and space. Fall 2000 saw a plethora of reports of these species away from the coasts and in most

regions, highlighted by large numbers of Long-tailed Jaegers (at least 69 by my count) and Sabine's Gulls (75 in Colorado alone).

The Hudson-Delaware editors asked, "Are Long-tailed Jaeger numbers increasing or are we looking more closely?" I would agree with Margaret Bain, who writes in regard to large numbers of Long-tails in southern Ontario, "...birders' improving identification skills are more accurately estimating the relative abundance of the three jaeger species... with Long-tailed almost certainly under-estimated until recently."

Historically, most inland jaegers (and particularly juveniles) were identified as Parasitics because the then-current dogma was that Parasitic was the default species away from the ocean. Many of us believe that the dogma is wrong (Lee 1989, P. Lehman pers. comm.). I do not write this to disrespect my elders; they simply had little chance to get it right. There was little in the way of accurate identification information available, and inland birders didn't have the luxury of seeing multiple jaegers in a season, much less in a day. And, of course, Parasitic was the default jaeger!

We now know much more about jaeger identification and, equally important, jaeger migration timing. We now know that if you are looking at a juvenile jaeger well south of the breeding grounds and your calendar tells you that it is late August or early September, then you are looking at a Long-tail (Table 2). A few more developing jaeger "rules," the first being somewhat of an antithesis to the previous dogma: 1) Pomarine may be the most common jaeger species in the interior of the continent away from very large bodies of water (P. Lehman, J. Dunn pers. comm., pers. obs.); it is certainly this writer's experience in Colorado (which does not have any very large water bodies); 2) if you're watching a juvenile jaeger walking around catching grasshoppers in the weedy fringe of a lake that holds hundreds or thousands of gulls, you are looking at a Long-tail; it is certainly this writer's experience in Colorado. So my sample size on this "rule" is only one; I still think it significant.

From the Fall 2000 regional reports I extracted all inland jaeger records (that is, away from the ocean and outer coast) and all occurrences of Long-tails off the Atlantic Coast, where the species is rare (Table 2). Among the Long-tail records, note the preponderance of August and early September dates (28 of 41 specific records). Of interest in the Parasitic records is the preponderance of records from west of the Rocky Mountains (11 of 15 specific records). Are Parasitics truly more common there than east of the Rockies (and away from very large bodies of water), as suggested by Michael Patten (pers. comm.)? This fact certainly suggests an interesting avenue of research. Finally, I would like to commend the Southern Pacific Coast editors for supplying the age of each jaeger reported. Age data, supplied for all inland jaeger records, would provide another interesting avenue of research.

Lesser Black-backed Gulls

To stay with the Larid theme a bit longer, Lesser Black-backed Gull, as all but the most isolated birder knows, is rapidly becoming a ho-hum species across the breadth of the continent. Counts of more than 100 at and near the Tullytown landfill in southeastern Pennsylvania do not even raise eyebrows any more. The species is so regular in Colorado that it is shortly to be removed from the review list. This population expansion has greatly increased speculation that the species "must" be breeding in the New World. How else can it be explained that the species is annual in numbers in California; that juveniles show up in Ontario in August/September; that it has even made it to both coasts of Mexico? It "must" be breeding in Herring Gull colonies on this side of the Pond! However, there is another, conservative camp that supports the notion that all Lessers in the New World are products of the Old. I still don't know which theory is correct and, as with most things biological, the

Table 2. Reports of Long-tailed Jaegers and all other jaegers away from the ocean, Fall 2000.

Species	First date	Dates (if a span), number (if not 1), age (if reported), and location	Species	First date	Dates (if a span), number (if not 1), age (if reported), and location	
unidentified		undated—4-5 in MN in season	Long-tailed <i>(cont.)</i>	13 Sep	13-24 Sep—Pt. No Point, WA	
		undated—34 at Whitefish Pt., MI		19 Sep	juv, Pt Pelee, ON	
		undated—4 in MI away from Whitefish Pt.		21 Sep	juv., Irvine, CA	
		undated—12, Van Wagner's Beach, ON		21 Sep	Woodlawn Beach SP, NY	
		undated—3, CO		22 Sep	3 ads., Van Wagner's Beach, ON	
		27 Aug-8 Oct—16, L. Champlain		23 Sep	Mono Co., CA	
	26 Sep	26 Sep—1 "possible Long-tailed" nr Morris, MB		23 Sep	off Montauk, NY	
				25 Sep	Calhoun Co., TX, oil platform	
Long-tailed	15 Aug	Whitehorse, YT		30 Sep	Long Pt, ON	
	15 Aug	15-18 Aug—ad., Maxwell, NM		02 Oct	Calhoun Co., TX, oil platform	
	26 Aug	Placer Co., CA		11 Oct	Derby Hill, NY	
	27 Aug	dark juv., Van Wagner's Beach, ON		14 Oct	Kingston, WA	
	27 Aug	juv., Amherst I., ON		03 Nov	Kenedy Co., TX, oil platform	
	27 Aug	Lake Co., TN		17 Nov	New Buffalo, MI	
	27 Aug	2 juvs., Grimsby STP, ON			4 reports in Sep off Grand Manan I., NB	
	27 Aug	6, Atlantis & Block Canyons, off New England		Parasitic	29 Aug	Salt Lake, UT
	28 Aug	juv., Van Wagner's Beach, ON	30 Aug		Alvord Basin, OR	
	28 Aug	juv. off Savannah, GA (1st for GA)	05 Sep		"believed to be a juv. Parasitic," China Lake, CA	
	28 Aug	Pt. Townsend, WA	07 Sep		Lesser Slave Lake, AB	
	28 Aug	Sutter Co., CA	10 Sep		10-15 Sep—3, Pyramid L., NV	
	31 Aug	31 Aug-1 Sep—2, El Paso Co., TX	11 Sep		Fern Ridge Res., OR	
	01 Sep	1-9 Sep—Deer Flat, ID	13 Sep		13-17 Sep—ad., SE Salton Sea, CA	
	01 Sep	Bonner Co., ID	15 Sep		15-20 Sep—Sprague, WA	
	02 Sep	juv., Van Wagner's Beach, ON	Pomarine		03 Aug	imm., Pinery PP, ON
	02 Sep	2-5 Sep darkish juv., Jackson Lake, CO			26 Aug	light ad., Summit Co., UT
	03 Sep	MD waters		23 Sep	juv., Duluth, MN	
	03 Sep	off DE (1st for DE)		08 Oct	juv., Wisconsin Pt., WI	
	04 Sep	3 out of Oregon Inlet, NC		13 Oct	Thatcher Pass, WA	
	05 Sep	Hamlin Beach, NY		18 Oct	Porter, NY	
	09 Sep	Moisie, PQ		11 Nov	Sandpoint, ID	
	09 Sep	Kings Co., CA		11 Nov	Pt. Edward, ON	
	09 Sep	9-10 Sep—2, Lake Enid, MS (1st for MS)		15 Nov	15-16 Nov—Polson, MT	
	09 Sep	9-25 Sep—4+, Pyramid L., NV			undated—Hamlin Beach SP, NY	
	10 Sep	juv., NE Salton Sea			30 Sep-7 Nov—6 during period in CO	
	11 Sep	L. Tawakoni, TX			9-28 Sep—3 during period off Pt. No Point, WA	
	11 Sep	juv., Owens L., CA				

answer is probably some combination of the two competing theories.

Since I have spent some time pondering this issue, I will lay out what I think are the relevant points in the past discussions I have had with many:

- 1) Lesser Black-backed Gull is mostly a highly colonial, temperate-zone breeder (Cramp and Simmons 1983);
- 2) many, if not most, of the temperate-zone North American Herring Gull colonies (Great Lakes, northeast U.S., Canadian Maritimes) are probably monitored at least somewhat regularly;
- 3) juveniles of large, Arctic-breeding gulls do not show up in the Lower 48 or on the Great Lakes in August/September;
- 4) the dispersed, one-pair-per-nutrient-poor-lake breeding population of Herring Gulls in northern New York and the Canadian

Shield is unlikely to hide the large number of Lessers being found in the New World;

- 5) Lesser is a fairly-regular winter inhabitant of the pelagic zone (Cramp and Simmons 1983);
- 6) Lesser is rarer in the Great Lakes than it is in any of the three northernmost Atlantic Coast regions.

Now, consider a few points gleaned from the fall 2000 reports:

- 1) Bruce Mactavish, in the Atlantic Provinces, reported that "Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers continue to surge..." with 12 in Nova Scotia and 25 in St. Johns, NF, of which, counts of "9 in farm fields 16 Oct and 10 at the landfill 17 Nov" are possibly duplicative;
- 2) The New England editors stated that their region "has generally lagged behind the rest of the East Coast in the numbers of Lesser

Black-backed Gulls reported, but the region is catching up. Up to 80 frequented S. Beach and N. Monomoy I. in early Aug....”

- 3) Lesser is so common and regular in the Hudson-Delaware region that those editors didn't even mention the species, but this is the region that hosts the largest number of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the New World (the aforementioned counts of 100-plus in southeast Pennsylvania).

In the above, note the trend of increasing numbers, both totals and one-time, one-place counts, as one travels from the Atlantic Provinces south through New England to the Hudson-Delaware region. Note also the differing dates of the high counts in the northern two regions. These points do not suggest that a large percentage of Lessers is coming across the Atlantic from northern European colonies and trickling south along our shores from the Maritimes. They, instead, suggest that at least some sizable proportion are resident in North America or are finding routes other than through the Canadian Maritimes.

Now, I am going to throw in another monkey wrench, just in case you were starting to believe that the species breeds in numbers in North America. If Lesser Black-backed Gull were to breed in interior or Arctic Canada, one would expect birds to be at least as common in either the Atlantic Provinces (as for Iceland Gull) or the Great Lakes (as for Glaucous Gull) as it is in southeast Pennsylvania. That is because the birds would surely traverse one of those areas to get to Tullytown. But, the species is considerably less common in those areas than in Tullytown. However, there are many fewer birders in the Atlantic Provinces than further south along the coast, thus perhaps creating an artificial disparity in abundance.

Here is more grist for the mill: Perhaps the birds are crossing the Atlantic, but on a more southerly track, such that they make landfall farther south—New England through New York and New Jersey. Perhaps key gull colonies in the St. Lawrence region hide a large number of breeding Lessers, which then split the gap between the Atlantic Provinces and the Great Lakes on their way south (witness the recent discovery that a major breeding ground for Barrow's Goldeneye has been hiding in Québec). Perhaps the vast majority of the August New England birds and the wintering Pennsylvania birds are immatures and/or non-breeders. Perhaps someone will catch a few of these birds and pluck some feathers for stable-isotope analysis. I am hoping that this discussion will generate some interest in answering the question once and for all. Comments, anyone?

Northern Forest Owls

After last fall's major flight of Northern Saw-whet Owls through the north-east and the Middle Atlantic region, Fall 2000 saw a return to something resembling, in the manufactured word of President Kennedy, "normalcy" in many locations. However, the Freeport, ME, banding station captured 367, and a new station (in the growing list of banding stations targeting this species) at Delta, MB, recorded 237 captures this fall. An interesting tidbit about the species can be found in the Ontario report. Though the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory (TCBO) banded 318 "Swets", Boreal Owl upstaged its smaller congener. TCBO had banded an "unprecedented" 16 Boreals by 10 October. Banders at Tadoussac, PQ, caught 113 Boreals in their season, and banders at Whitefish Point Bird Observatory in Michigan banded an "incredible" 176 Boreals. This flight sent Boreals to such far-flung locations as Boston, MA, and Napanee, ON.

Despite the flowery verbiage expended on Boreal Owl, the superlatives really dripped off the pens (er, word processors) of some of these same editors when writing about the Northern Hawk Owl flight. In Ontario, "October also brought an unprecedented movement of Northern Hawk Owls...." Québec "experienced its most spectacular invasion of Northern Hawk Owl ever." In Minnesota, 34 were found by the end of November. Whether or not connected to the mid-continent flight, Washington

recorded three Hawk Owls this fall; the state only has about 11 previous records.

Okay, now let's move on to the coolest bird in the world. In Ontario, "at least 15 Great Gray Owls were reported in *Rainy River* during Nov, very high numbers for the District...." In Québec, "*only* [italics mine] about 15 had been recorded by the end of the period...." In the Prairie Provinces, "Great Gray Owls were also prominent, with 18 at Buffalo Point, MB, 29 Sep..., 7 banded in Saskatchewan..., and numerous other sightings." Minnesota birders had counted 75 by the end of the period. Though there may have been larger numbers of Great Grays noted in previous years in some places, the species usually doesn't show up in great numbers until after the fall reporting period. Thus, the large numbers reported in fall 2000 presaged a very sizable flight (about which, check out the winter season report in the next issue of *North American Birds*).

Fires and Bird Movements

Summer and early fall 2000 saw one of the "worst" (depending on your point of view) fire seasons in the western U.S. in recent memory. In addition, fall 2000 saw two fairly widespread migratory phenomena in the West. The first, which was evident as early as July, was a very large movement of various western mountain species out of the mountains. Virtually all western U.S. regions reported on irruptions into lowland areas of, variously, Lewis's Woodpecker, Steller's, Western Scrub-, and Pinyon Jays, Mountain Chickadee, all three nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Red Crossbill. The Southern Great Plains region would also have mentioned this phenomenon had we received it, as many of these species made it east at least to western Kansas (S. Seltman in litt.).

The second phenomenon was the appearance in the Rockies and western Great Plains of greater-than-usual (Cassin's Vireo) or nearly unprecedented (Townsend's Warbler) numbers of migratory breeding species from wetter forest types to the north and west (see the Great Basin, Mountain West, and Northern Great Plains regional reports). In addition to large numbers, arrival in Colorado also seemed quite a bit early, at least for Townsend's Warbler. At the Barr Lake, CO, banding station, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory personnel banded 67 Townsend's Warblers, as compared to a previous six-year average of 6.5 and previous record seasonal total of 9 (with roughly similar effort).

The juxtaposition of these various events (fire season, mountain-bird exodus, and tremendous numbers of normally uncommon migrant species) spawned the inevitable attempts at linkage among them. Perhaps, so the theory goes, the fires caused locally breeding or resident birds to flee, thus pushing them further to the south and east than they would normally travel. Generating theories to explain natural phenomena is a very fruitful pastime and is standard operating procedure in science. However, though a relatively large area of the western montane landscape burned in summer 2000, that area is still an infinitesimal percentage of the landscape. I just cannot see it driving such huge movements of birds. The current "accepted" theory holds that these movements of montane birds are related to food shortage in source areas. Now, the food shortage may be a result of dry conditions that also spawn fires, but it does not mean that fires produce montane-bird irruptions.

In previous similar irruptions of montane residents, out-of-range individuals have been collected in eastern Colorado and Kansas that were referable to extra-regional subspecies (e.g., Steller's Jay). That is, the birds were not simply local birds moving onto the Plains, they were birds moving long distances from the Northwest. In fact, in discussing the irruptions of various montane breeders in the Pacific Northwest this fall, the Oregon-Washington regional editors wrote that "given the number of corvids on the move, these birds may not have come from the nearby Coast Range populations." Such was the case in winter 2000–2001, when Alan Versaw, a

Colorado Springs, CO, birder, noted a number of odd-looking Steller's Jays that he determined looked like Steller's Jays from the Pacific Northwest, and not like the locals. So, could it be that the sources of at least some of these irrupting corvids and parids and sittids were some of the same places as the sources of the Cassin's Vireos and Townsend's Warblers? What would cause such a widespread, both geographically and taxonomically, phenomenon? Are all these species' movements related, or is each responding to different factors that happened to coincide in the Summer and Fall of 2000?

Since all these species eat different foods that they capture in different ways in different strata of local habitats, I would think it unlikely that all these movements could be tied to only one factor. Sure, drought is probably a factor (probably even a strong one), but I doubt that it's the only one. In fact, some seed-producing trees respond to stress by producing seed sets that are larger than normal, not smaller (possibly to ensure survival of its genes if not itself).

There is one more small piece of the puzzle that I wish to supply. At Barr Lake, CO, 62 of the 67 Townsend's Warblers RMBO banded were immatures—young-of-the-year. That is a very high percentage (>92.5%), even for a species of which the preponderance of birds RMBO captures are immatures.

While poor food supplies could easily be the ultimate cause of the montane-bird irruption, I would be very interested to know what effect, if any, the seemingly successful breeding season in the Pacific Northwest had on this phenomenon. It is too bad that these regional reports are biased toward the unusual. With isotopic analysis and better and more widespread eyeballing of and reporting on bird populations of the regular species in all regions, particularly on subspecific forms (see discussion, above), we may stand a chance of getting a handle on the next such event.

Dove Perambulations (or, "Blimey! Another White-winged Dove!")

Are we getting tired of Eurasian Collared-Doves yet? The species continued its near-light-speed colonization of the continent, with numerous records at new localities (e.g., Moose Jaw, SK), while consolidating recent range expansions (e.g., in New Mexico), and beginning a takeover of at least one new state (Arizona). I repeat the urging of Romagosa and McEneaney (1999) to continue to monitor this species' colonization of the continent.

Now, "wassup" with White-winged Dove? For decades, this species has caused hearts to flutter by sporadically and rarely, with the emphasis on "rarely," showing up at extralimital locations for annoyingly brief periods of time. While the number of extralimital occurrences has been increasing with regularity for the past few years, fall 2000 seemed to be some sort of break-out season. I found this species mentioned as occurring out-of-range in no fewer than 12 regions!

Inca Dove seems poised to be the next Columbidae to become somewhat ho-hum. While this species has been expanding its range northward out of Mexico slowly for over a century, there is some indication that it, like its larger cousins, is also undergoing a rapid change in status in some places. The two or three birds first found in February 2000 in Rocky Ford, CO, mushroomed to six in the summer and fall (via local breeding) and were present deep into the winter of 2000-2001, despite it being the coldest winter (by far) of my seven in Colorado. The species has also recently become established in the Mexicali Valley (in Baja) and Kentucky recorded its first record for the species in Fall 2000.

Finally, Common Ground-Doves put in appearances in a number of extralimital regions, despite much concern about rapidly declining breeding populations in the species' stronghold in the southeast. Though I realize that this may seem like a stretch, I hope birders are considering the pos-

sibility of Ruddy Ground-Dove when viewing an out-of-range *Columbina*. That species, like most other southwest dove species, is becoming more and more common and regular in the U.S., and females and immatures of the two species of ground-dove provide a real identification challenge.

The Sources of Vagrants

The Middle Pacific Coast editors provide an interesting commentary on the source of California records of eastern breeding birds; I suggest reading the introduction to that report. However, in brief, numbers of taiga and eastern broadleaf-forest breeding migrants were down considerably in northern California this fall. Some support for the notion that this was not just a phenomenon preventing the delivery of most vagrant species to California was provided by their observation that southern vagrants appeared in above-average numbers.

So, I went to the best source on fall migration numbers of eastern birds. This source is the Appalachian region, which supports two long-term banding stations that catch and band large numbers of migrant warblers, among many other species. For only two species did both the Middle Pacific and Appalachian reports provide comparisons of fall 2000 with a previous average: Cape May and Blackpoll Warblers. For these two species, the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, WV, reported capture totals 79% and 76% below the previous averages, respectively. At the Powdermill Nature Reserve, PA, both species were captured in below-average numbers. In northern California, quite interestingly, Blackpoll numbers were down 16% and Cape May Warblers went unreported! These bits of data echo the theory, but in reverse, put forth by Veit (2000) that records of western birds in the east are tied to positive trends in breeding populations of those species, with those breeding populations usually not in close proximity to the locations of the records.

Exciting Rarities, "Mind-boggling" Numbers, and Other Interesting Bits

I encourage all readers to check out every regional report in this issue and find for themselves the records that interest them. However, just to whet your appetite, various *meas* reported by the regional editors included: Fea's Petrel in Newfoundland (second Canadian record), Manx Shearwater in Michigan (first Regional record; please see the S.A. in the Western Great Lakes about this exciting record), Audubon's Shearwater in Belize (first and second country records), Aplomado Falcon pair in New Mexico, Sora in Hawaii, Common Crane in Québec (returned with two more hybrid young), Whooping Crane in Tennessee (connect the dots of this Florida-released bird summering in Michigan!), Limpkin in Alabama (first state record); Heermann's Gull in Florida (first state record), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Nevada (first state record), Ash-throated Flycatcher on Bermuda, Piratic Flycatcher in Texas, Tropical Kingbird in Massachusetts (first state record), Dusky Thrush in Yukon, MacGillivray's Warbler in Nova Scotia (first Regional record), Rufous-crowned Sparrow in Wisconsin (first Regional record), Brewer's Sparrow in panhandle Florida (first state report; note also the large number in e. Texas); Bronzed Cowbird in Nova Scotia (first substantiated Canadian record), Crested Oropendola in Costa Rica (second country record), and Black Rosy-Finch in Arizona.

I noticed a number of records of large ("mind-boggling" in the words of Bill Pranty) *one-day* numbers of individual species in the various regions: 30,000 Cattle Egrets in Caddo County, LA; 1071 Golden Eagles at Mt. Lorette, AB; 520 Soras in Crittenden County, AR; 48,000 American Avocets at Summer Lake, OR; 29 Sabine's Gulls at Wisconsin Pt., WI; 25,000 Common Terns at South Beach, MA; 30,000 Vaux's Swifts at Portland, OR; 50 Gray Kingbirds at Bayport, FL; 3400 Chihuahuan Ravens near Hobbs, NM; 5000+ Common Ravens near Baker, OR; 250,000 Barn

Swallows near Yamhill, WA; 674 House Wrens at Lake Apopka, FL; 1200 Winter Wrens at Pt. Pelee, ON; and 36,000 Swainson's Thrushes at Kingston, ON.

Check out the incredible Black-footed Albatross report in the Hawaii region. Interesting were records of the dispersal of coastal-breeding pelagic species up the St. Lawrence River and in inland areas of the northeastern U.S. A Black Rail was found in Lubbock, TX—could it have been heading south from the isolated breeding population in Colorado? Note the report of breeding Arctic Terns in southern Alberta, which helps to connect the recently discovered Montana breeders to the rest of that species' breeding range. The Ontario region reported on the adaptability of a late and lost Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Well, that's it for this installment. Please read through the fascinating season that was Fall 2000, and keep your dial tuned right here for the next installment of the "Changing Seasons."

Acknowledgments

Thanks to the many with whom I have discussed one or more of these topics in years gone by. However, I would particularly like to single out Dave Czaplak, Scott Gillihan, Bill Iko, Paul Lehman, Michael O'Brien, and Michael Patten for particularly fruitful discussions. I also greatly appreciate helpful reviews of previous drafts of this manuscript by Doug Faulkner, Paul Lehman, Rich Levad, Michael Patten, and Larry Semo.

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How to Read the Regional Reports

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

Abbreviations used in place names

In most regions, place names given in *italic* type are counties. Other abbreviations:

A.F.B.	Air Force Base
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
Hwy	Highway
I.	Island or Isle
Is.	Islands or Isles
Jct.	Junction
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mi	mile (s)
Mt.	Mountain or Mount
Mts.	Mountains
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
Ref.	Refuge
Res.	Reservoir (not Reservation)
S.P.	State Park
Twp.	Township
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste) Water Treatment Pond(s) or Plant

Other abbreviations and symbols referring to birds:

ad.	adult
imm.	immature
juv.	juvenile or juvenile
ph.	photographed
sp.	species
tape	audio tape-recorded
v.t.	video-taped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected
@	subject to review by appropriate records committee
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CBC	Christmas Bird Count

Birds have no respect for range maps. Bird distribution in North America is constantly changing, as birds expand their ranges into new areas, disappear from former strongholds, or alter their patterns of migration.

Our knowledge of bird distribution is also changing constantly, as discoveries continue to come in. Keeping up with all these developments is a challenge for ornithologists, conservationists, and birders.

The Regional Reports, published four times a year, contain a wealth of information about North America's dynamic birdlife. When seeing the reports for the first time, they might appear difficult or technical, but they are not; anyone with any birding experience will find the reports easy to understand. We invite you to read the report from your area of the continent; we predict that the information there will alternately surprise you and confirm your ideas about birdlife in your region. To help you get started, here are answers to some questions that may occur to first-time readers.

What kind of information is included? Do the Regional Editors just report everything that's reported to them?

Regional Editors do not report every sighting of every bird. Such a list would be huge, unwieldy, and not very useful. Instead, they solicit reports from as many observers as possible, screen the records for accuracy, choose those that are most significant, look for trends and patterns of occurrence, connect scattered bits of information, and ultimately come up with a concise, readable summary of the real bird news—the important avian events and trends of the season throughout their region.

Why are there so many abbreviations in the text?

We abbreviate some frequently-used words and phrases to save space. Most of these are easy to understand and remember. (See the list of abbreviations at the end of this section.) In addition to these standard abbreviations, some Regional Editors use shortened versions of the names of some birding hot spots; they list these local abbreviations in a separate paragraph, just after their introductory comments and just before their main species accounts.

What do the initials in parentheses mean?

Most records published in each report will be followed by initials, to indicate the source: the person(s) who found or reported the bird(s) mentioned. The initials may be followed by *et al.* (short for *et alia*, meaning “and others”), or preceded by *fide* (literally, “by the faith of”—meaning that this is a second-hand report, and the person initialed is the one who passed it along to the Regional Editor). A dagger (†) before the initials means that this person turned in written details on the sighting.

There are good reasons for giving credit to the observers involved. Readers may be reassured about the accuracy of surprising sightings if they know who the observers were; researchers who want to know more about a certain record may be able to contact the observers directly. In some cases, when a bird was seen by many birders, the Regional Editor may add “v.o.” (for “various observers”) or “m.ob.” (for “many observers”) after the first sets of initials.

Who are the people who send in their sightings?

All observers are invited to send in notes to their Regional Editors: details on rare sightings, species that were scarcer or more numerous than usual during the season, unusual concentrations or migration, and so on. Reading the reports for your region for a few seasons is the best way to find out what kinds of information are desired. Although the Regional Editors cannot cite every record that they receive, every contributor helps them to produce a more thorough and accurate summary.

Why are some bird names in heavier or blacker type?

We use **boldface** type to draw attention to outstanding records of rare birds. General categories of birds that the Regional Editors would place in boldface would include: any species that has been recorded fewer than 10 times previously in a given state or province; any new breeding record for a state or province; or any bird totally outside established patterns of seasonal occurrence. (For the most part, records are not boldfaced unless they are backed up with solid details or photographs.) Birders who like to know about rare birds (and most of us do) can get a complete rundown of the season's outstanding rarities by scanning all the Regional Reports for those boldfaced birds.

Why are some of the place names in italic type?

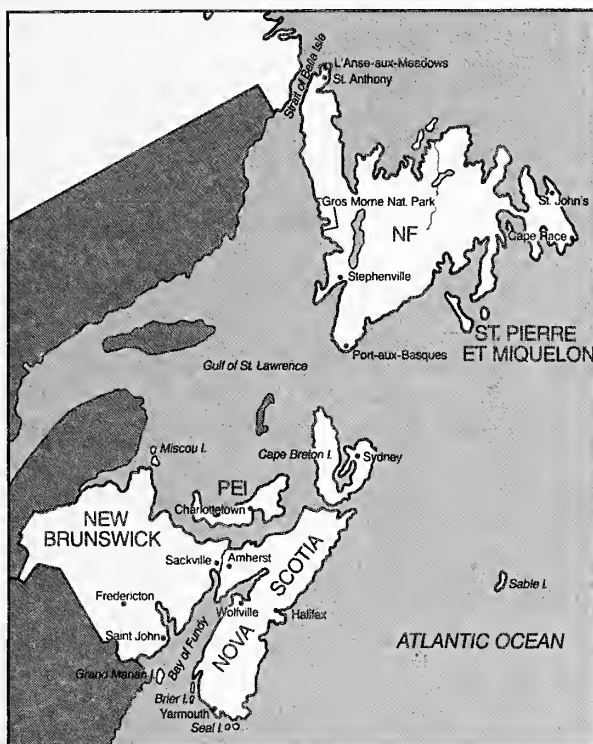
In most of the regional reports, place names given in *italic* type refer to counties. (Italics represent parishes in Louisiana, and in parts of Ontario they may refer to districts or regional municipalities.)

What are the boxes in the text marked “SA”?

“SA” stands for “Special Attention” (and, by coincidence, is pronounced “essay”). The purpose of the boxed essays is to draw attention to particularly noteworthy phenomena or trends.

Likely SA topics include new population trends or new bird distribution patterns, unusual invasions or migration events, field research yielding new data, specific conservation problems that have an impact on birdlife, or detailed discussion of an outstanding (or perplexing) rare bird record. Experienced readers of *North American Birds* make it a point to flip through all the Regional Reports and read all the S.A.s, even in regions where they do not read the rest of the text.

Atlantic Provinces



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It was an average autumn for weather and rarities in the Atlantic Provinces. There was one new species for the Region—a MacGillivray's Warbler in Nova Scotia. Highlights came from various compass directions. The Region's second Fea's Petrel appeared in Newfoundland. One of the few substantiated King Rails for the Region crashed into a Nova Scotia window. Six White-winged Doves, 2 Fork-tailed Flycatchers, a Mississippi Kite, and a Mountain Bluebird were among the other entertainers of the season.

Abbreviations: C.B.I. (Cape Breton Island, NS); C.S.I. (Cape Sable Island, NS); G.M.I. (Grand Manan Island, NB), S.P.M. (St. Pierre et Miquelon).

Loons Through Cranes

A Fea's Petrel well-studied and photographed on the edge of the continental shelf 100 mi s. of the Burin Pen., NF, 13 Aug (Jwe) was the first for Newfoundland and second for Canada.

The previous record was also on the edge of the continental shelf, in Nova Scotia waters 180 mi to the wsw., raising hopes the species is regular along the Region's rarely visited southern edge of the continental shelf. Several Cory's Shearwaters, a provincial rarity, were noted in the same area mid-Aug (JWe). The only other Cory's was off G.M.I. 14 Aug (RI). Late dates for Greater Shearwater were 13 on 12 Nov from Cabot Strait ferry (RK) and 3 on 30 Nov near Machias Seal I., NB (DI). An **American White Pelican** near Alberton, PEI, 4 Sep (BR) was probably the same bird that showed up at French L., NB, 19–24 Sep (fide DG).

A late and rare Least Bittern was at The Hawk, C.S.I. 12 Nov (fide MN). Great Egret reports totaled 7 in Nova Scotia, 3 in New Brunswick, one at S.P.M., and a late one in Newfoundland 16 Oct–7 Dec. The only Snowy Egret appeared 10–16 Oct at Miquelon, S.P.M. (RE). Most unusual of the 4 Regional Little Blue Herons was a late individual 30 Nov+ at Shediac, NB (JP). A Tricolored Heron was at Cape Light, C.S.I., NS, during the first two weeks of Aug (m.ob.). Six Cattle Egrets showed up in sw. Nova Scotia during the first week of Nov (fide RK). Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reports were one 18 Aug at C.S.I. (MN, JN),

one 17–22 Sep at River Bourgeois, C.B.I. (fide RK), and a late adult 21 Oct at Castalia Marsh, G.M.I. (PP). An unusual Glossy Ibis was at Schooner Pond, C.B.I. 13–14 Oct (CM, RK). A Green Heron was a rarity at Bear Cove, NF, 8 Oct (JWe).

Maximum counts of Turkey Vulture were 15 on 29 Aug in Kings Co., NB (JWi) and 20 on 12 Nov on Brier I., NS (EM). An imm. Greater White-fronted Goose was at Lanark, NS, 10–29 Oct (RL). Two Gadwalls at St. Shotts, NF, 8 Oct were provincial rarities (BMt). Eurasian Wigeon totaled 4 in NB, 7 in NS, 3 at S.P.M., and 10 in NF. The only Common Teal identified was a male at St. John's, NF, 24 Nov (TB). Tufted Ducks arrived nearly simultaneously in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, with one 21 Oct at Cole Harbour, NS (fide JN) and one 23 Oct, peaking at 7 during Nov, at St. John's, NF (BM et al.). Rare in the Region, but reported with greater frequency in recent years, a **Mississippi Kite** was on Brier I., NS, 23 Sep (RS et al.) and 2 Oct (EM). Impressive raptor day totals from Brier I., NS, were 400 Broad-winged Hawks 24 Sep (RS et al.) and 500+ Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 Oct (EM). An ad. Golden Eagle was at Waterside Marsh, NB, 24 Oct (DC, MM) and an imm. was at Hampton, PEI, 16 Oct (DM). An impressive 352 American Kestrels flew s. over Bon Portage I., NS, 23 Sep (fide RK). A dark Gyrfalcon was at C.S.I. 26 Nov (MN). An imm. **King Rail** made fatal contact with a window in Glace Bay, NS, 23 Oct, furnishing one of few substantiated records for the Region (fide RK, IM). A Common Moorhen was a rarity at St. John's, NF, 29 Nov–5 Dec (RD et al.). Sandhill Cranes were 2 at Salisbury, NB, 19 Sep (AS), 2 at Nackwack, NB, 4–15 Oct (EMa), one at Nauwigewauk, NB, 28 Nov (SF), one at Lanark, NS, 1 Oct–29 Nov (RL), and one at Shubenacadie, NS, during Oct (fide RK).

Shorebirds Through Terns

Three pairs of American Oystercatchers, plus 3 offspring from two successful nests, departed C.S.I. by late Sep (MN, JN). Newfoundland recorded its first **American Avocets**, with a total of 4 individuals: at Cape Freels 6 Aug–4 Sep (KB et al.), at Cape Broyle 21–22 Aug (DF), at The Goulds 22 Aug (JPr) and again at nearby Kelligrews 26–29 Aug (MP et al.), and near Cape Race 7 Sep (DF). Despite this phenomenon the only other avocet was one at Memeon's Head, Shelburne, NS, 13–16 Aug (DY). Impressive concentrations of Hudsonian Godwits were 85 at Neguac, NB, 5 Aug (MD) and 69 at Miscou I., NB, 23 Aug (MD). Nova Scotia's 5th **Bar-tailed Godwit** was an adult thought to be of the Asian subspecies *baueri* at

The Hawk, C.S.I. 27 Sep–8 Oct (JN et al.). The season's report of Marbled Godwit was of one at Cap Bimet, NB, 9 Sep (DW). Highest counts of Semipalmated Sandpipers from traditional concentration sites in the Bay of Fundy were 20,000+ on 14 Aug at Windsor Causeway, NS (JWo), and 90,000 on 17 Aug at Mary's Pt., NB (DC). There were 4 Western Sandpipers in sw. NS between 4 Aug and 18 Sep (*vide* SF). A Western at Portugal Cove S., NF, 8–9 Sep was one of few for the province (PL). It was a good year for the more westerly sandpipers, with Regional totals of 21 Baird's, 25 Saults, and 32 Buff-breasted. Juvenal-plumaged Curlew Sandpipers were identified at North Cape, PEI, 10 Sep (EMa) and Hartlen Pt., NS, 17–18 Oct (*vide* SF). Single Ruffs were at Malbaie North, Miscou I., NB, 9 Sep (MD) and Melbourne, Yarmouth, NS, 20 Sep (PG). The high total of 11 Long-billed Dowitchers was from New Brunswick in August, including 6 at Beausejour Marsh 9 Aug (WP). High counts of shorebirds from C.S.I., unlikely to be matched by any other location in the Region, were 3345 Sanderlings 18 Sep (*vide* SF), 800 Dunlins 27 Oct (MN), and 6715 Short-billed Dowitchers 5 Aug (*vide* SF). Perhaps under-reported, the only Wilson's Phalaropes were 5 in New Brunswick and one in Nova Scotia. Maximum counts of phalaropes from Old Proprietor Shoals, G.M.I., were 10,000 Red-neckeds 5 Aug and 250 Reds 21 Aug (LM).

Half of the 16 skuas seen in Newfoundland were identified as Greats, the latest 5 Nov at Cape Spear (BMt). Nova Scotia reported 2 skuas, both from Brier I., with one identified as a Great 16 Sep and one as a South Polar 7 Oct (*vide* BMy). New Brunswick reported single Great Skuas 17 Sep (LM) and 19 Sep (LM), and a South Polar Skua 29 Sep (ST), all from G.M.I. Long-tailed Jaegers are rare in the Bay of Fundy, so 4 reports off G.M.I. during Sep was significant (*vide* BD). Laughing Gulls by province were 2 in NB and one each in NS and NF. There were as many as 15 Little Gulls reported from coastal New Brunswick through the period; the only other report was of one at Watervale, Antigonish, NS, 12 Nov (*vide* BMy). The peak of 80 Black-headed Gulls in St. John's, NF, was near average, but included 2 adults that had been banded as chicks in Iceland (BMt). Five Common Gulls were noted, 4 at St. John's, NF: an ad. 4 Oct, a second-winter 7 Oct–15 Nov, an ad. 17 Nov, and a first-winter 29 Nov (Bmt). Another first-winter was at Pointe-à-Boulea, NB, 14–18 Nov (RD). Lesser Black-backed Gulls numbers continue to surge. Twelve were reported in Nova Scotia, while in St. John's, NF, there were perhaps 25 individuals, including counts of 9 in

farm fields 16 Oct and 10 at the landfill 17 Nov (PL, BMt). Three Sabine's Gulls occurred around G.M.I., with an ad. 3 Sep (LB) and juvs. 14 Sep (ST et al.) and 22 Sep (DG). An early and southerly imm. Ivory Gull was at Bonavista, NF, 24 Nov (*vide* BMt). Less-than-annual in the Region, a Forster's Tern was at Pembroke Yarmouth, NS, 30 Nov (MN). A Black Tern was far e. at Mirande L., S.P.M., 22–28 Aug (RE).

Doves Through Warblers

An incredible 6 **White-winged Doves** were reported: one at White Head I., NB, 12 Sep (ST), one at Fredericton, NB, 13 Sep (BS), one at Alma, NB, 23–24 Oct (DR), one at Cape North, Victoria, NS, 2–8 Sep (*vide* IM), one at Sydney, NS, 7–15 Oct (CM et al.), and one at St. Pierre, S.P.M., 29–30 Sep (GC). Seven Snowy Owls in New Brunswick and one in Nova Scotia during the last half of Nov indicate a moderate flight. It was a relatively light northward movement of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, with all 4 reported in Nova Scotia in the last half of Nov (*vide* IM). A female Three-toed Woodpecker was considered unusual at Benjie's L., Cape Breton Highlands N.P., NS, 13 Aug (BMy). Only 8 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported for the entire Region, half in Newfoundland. A Say's Phoebe was at The Hawk, C.S.I., 23 Sep (JN et al.). A Great Crested Flycatcher at Bear Cove, NF, 20–22 Sep was a provincial rarity (TB et al.). Western Kingbird totals by province were 2 in NB, one at PEI, 4 in NS, and 3 in NF. Always an exciting find, single **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** were at Whale Cove, G.M.I., 30 Sep (ST et al.) and Economy, NS, 20 Oct (FS).

Nova Scotia had 3 White-eyed Vireos in s. coastal localities between 23 Sep and 13 Oct, while Newfoundland's 8th was at Blackhead 8 Oct (TB et al.). Most noteworthy of the 4 Yellow-throated Vireos reported was one at Blackhead 6 Oct (PL, BMt). Warbling Vireo totals were 9 in NS and 6 in NF. There was an intriguing report of a Cave Swallow at Seaforth, NS, 22 Nov. A late report of a displaced Purple Martin at Langlade, S.P.M., 24 Oct (MD) was, I hope, identified with other exotic species in mind. Both Carolina Wrens were in New Brunswick, one at Point La Nim 22 July–4 Aug, a first for n. NB (JC), and one at Fredericton 13 Oct (DG). Although probably under-reported, totals of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were 5 in NB, 11 in NS, and 5 in NF. Just 2 Northern Wheatears for the Region is a return to more normal numbers after several high autumn totals: one at Renewes, NF, 6–10 Sep (DP et al.) and one near Halifax, NS, 24 Oct (TP). A **Mountain Bluebird** at

Pennfield, NB, 24–25 Nov furnished the 2nd provincial record (KMa). Unlike recent autumns there was little sign of Bohemian Waxwings during the season.

It was good year for Blue-winged Warblers, with 11 seen between 23 Aug and 29 Sep, 2 in NB, 7 in NS, and 2 in NF. Consistently rare over the years, Golden-winged Warblers included individuals at Schooner Pond, C.B.I., 17 Sep (CM), The Hole, C.S.I., 29 Sep (SF et al.), and Blackhead, NF, 8–12 Oct (TB et al.). A male Brewster's Warbler was reported at Church Pt., Digby, NS, 1 Sep (RT). A late Chestnut-sided Warbler was killed by a cat 30 Nov at Kentville, NS (*vide* KM). Both Yellow-throated Warblers were at the easternmost point of land in the Region, Cape Spear, NF, 19 Sep (DP) and 11–12 Oct (DB et al.). Prairie Warblers were almost too numerous to track. Totals reported by province were 2 in NB, 20 in NS, and 8 in NF. Single Prothonotary Warblers were at The Hawk, C.S.I., NS, 1 Sep (BMy), on a fishing boat on Georges Bank, NS, late Sep (*vide* KM), and at Blackhead, NF, 22 Sep (DB). The first Kentucky Warbler for S.P.M. was, unfortunately, captured by a cat at St. Pierre 26 Sep (LJ); Nova Scotia had 2, one banded on Bon Portage I. 4 Sep (*vide* KM) and one at White's L. 4 Oct (PM). A Connecticut Warbler was reported at Whale Cove, G.M.I., 12 Oct (KT). The Region's first **MacGillivray's Warbler** was well-observed and photographed at Halifax, NS, 20 Nov–4 Dec (ED et al.). The date fits with other records of this species from the Atlantic Coast of North America. Nova Scotia and Newfoundland had 3 Hooded Warblers each, all in Sep, except for one on an oil rig 100 mi se. of St. John's, NF, 30 Aug (*vide* PL).

Tanagers Through Finches

The only Summer Tanager was at Church Pt., Digby, NS, in early Oct (MN, RT). An Eastern Towhee was at Woody Pt., NF, where rare, 30 Oct (HM). Clay-colored Sparrow totals were near average: 2 in NB, 8 in NS, and 3 in NF. Average numbers of Lark Sparrow were encountered 25 Aug–12 Oct, with 2 in NB, 7 in NS, and 2 in NF. The only Grasshopper Sparrows were one at Cape Spear, NF, 19 Sep (DP) and singles at Halifax, NS (CS), and C.S.I. (MN), both in mid-Oct. New Brunswick's 5th **Harris's Sparrow** was at White Head I. 20 Oct (PP). There were 5 Blue Grosbeaks 25 Sep–22 Oct, 3 in NB and 2 in NS. Twenty-nine Dickcissel across the Region represented a typical autumn total. Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were slightly below-average, with one at C.S.I. 4 Sep (MN), one at Apple R., NS, 16 Nov (KFS), and one at Miquelon,

Québec

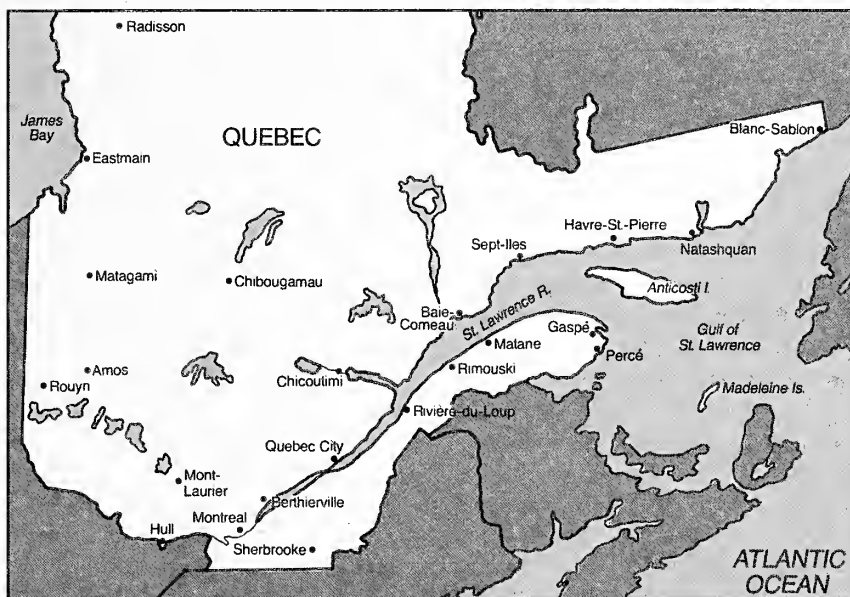
S.P.M., 20–22 Sep (RE). A Western Meadowlark at Inkerman, NB, 5–10 Oct was the 6th for the province (RR et al.). Iron-clad records of **Bullock's Oriole** are scarce in the Region; happily, an imm. male in Halifax, NS, 30 Nov+ was such a record (IM et al.). White-winged Crossbills were locally abundant in Nova Scotia in early autumn, but declined in Oct. Purple Finches were widespread in Nova Scotia; finches were otherwise generally low in numbers across the Region.

Addendum

An imm. male **Bronzed Cowbird** picked up freshly dead in Dartmouth, NS, 8 Jul (specimens preserved; full details to appear elsewhere) represented the first substantiated record for Canada and adds some plausibility to 2 other sight records from Nova Scotia (S. Harvey, IM).

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Few rarities of note embellished the fall season. Shorebirds and gulls, in particular, were meager in number and diversity. Counts of gulls were astonishingly low in the Montréal region. Only a few hundred large gulls were tallied at the Beauharnois dam, a site visited by at least 10,000 of these birds in November throughout the 1970s and the 1980s. Likewise, numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls on the Richelieu River were remarkably low. On the other hand, the Snow Goose and its diminutive, Ross's Goose, continued to flourish and were turning

up in new localities. A nice collection of locally rare warblers was noticed late in the season. By mid-October, most northern owls were showing some signs of a massive southern movement. This was particularly noteworthy for the Northern Hawk Owl throughout November. Great Gray and Boreal Owls also appeared south of their summer range later in the period. A better account should be available in the Winter Report for the last two species. The weather was generally cool and dry, with a slight increase in precipitation in November.

Loons Through Cranes

Although Pacific Loons are known to nest regularly in coastal regions of Hudson Bay, most probably migrate west and few fully documented records are known for the s. part of the Region. This fall, the only well-described individual was recorded at Lévis 31 Oct (GL). Rare in the St. Lawrence estuary, single Sooty Shearwaters were spotted from the Trois-Pistoles-Les Escoumins ferry 26 Aug (G. Gendron et al.) and from the Rimouski-Forestville ferry 7 Sep (R. Saint-Laurent et al.). An American White Pelican graced Île Saint-Ours, at Contrecoeur, 26 Sep (A. Boucher, *vide* A. Desrosiers). An exceptional count of 70 Great Egrets was made in late Aug at Saint-Timothée, where the species has been increasing dramatically since 1998 (ES, AL, m.ob.). There were no unusual heron and egret



reports, except for single Cattle Egrets at LaSalle 8 Aug (J. C. Sorel) and at Beauharnois 11 Aug (JM. Béliveau).

Numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese were roughly normal, with a total of 10 individuals. In the past two decades, the Greater Snow Goose has been steadily exploring new territories. This fall, incredible numbers invaded *Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean*, a region not regularly visited by this taxon thus far. A staggering one-day count of 240,000 was made in late Oct (*fide* GS). High numbers of Ross's Geese were also associated with the Snow Geese. From 17 Oct to 13 Nov, 13 Ross's turned up in the above-mentioned region, where only one had been reported previously. Interestingly, 5, including a blue-morph, were immature (*fide* GS). In the south a family group comprising one ad. and 3 imm. was discovered at Victoriaville 11 Oct (MGr). Although Ross's Geese have been increasing for the last two decades in the Region, few immatures were reported until recently. Finally, 3 blue-morph adults visited the Québec City region 8 Oct–12 Nov (*fide* JLaC). A small Canada Goose exhibiting dark sides and breast at Victoriaville 19 Oct appeared to be of the race *minima* (CR). While the Mute Swan is definitely established in most of the neighboring regions, it is not yet established in the province, where 4 birds were reported, some or perhaps all locally escaped. A swan showing more yellow than black on the bill in Yamaska Park, Granby, 27 Aug was identified as a **Whooper Swan**, the 2nd for this locality

in a little more than a year (R. Morin, RP. Pépin, S. Ouellet).

Our two regularly monitored hawkwatches, Montréal and Tadoussac, produced above-average numbers (B. Barnhurst, M. McIntosh, CA, CG), while a promising hawkwatch at Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré was manned for the first time (G. Lemelin). Numbers of Northern Goshawks were probably peaking this year, evidenced by excellent counts at Tadoussac (CA, CG) and in the *Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean* region (*fide* GS). Unusual so early in the season were the persuasive sightings of single dark Gyrfalcons at Saint-Timothée 20 Aug (ES, AL) and at Isle-Verte 23 Aug (JY. Frémont, A. Larousse, Y. Trévoux, *fide* NDa). A sign of the times, 90 Peregrine Falcons were tallied at Tadoussac (CA, CG).

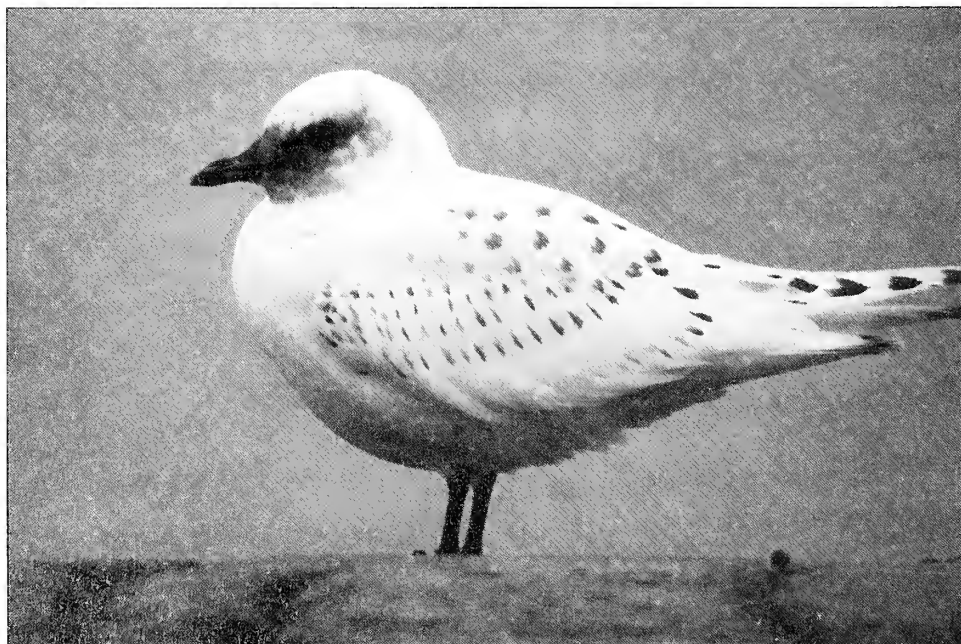
Wild Turkeys appeared for the first time in *Pontiac*, where 30 were at Onslow Corners 31 Oct (J. Van Velhuizen, *fide* MGo); more were reported from Quyon (*fide* MGo). These birds were believed to have originated from previous releases at Arnprior, ON (*fide* D. Saint-Hilaire). Continuing recent trends of excellent fall numbers, Sandhill Cranes reached a high of 1000 birds in *Abitibi* in late Sep (*fide* SG). A flock of 11 strayed to Saint-Luc-de-Vincennes, e. of Shawinigan, 7 Oct (B. Grégoire, E. Hainz, *fide* M. Robert). In *Témiscamingue*, 16 at Fugèreville 7 Nov were record late (*fide* JF) and 4 at Duhamel-Ouest 11 Nov were even later (JF). Incredibly, a **Common Crane** reappeared at Barraute, *Abitibi*, in one of the same fields where it resided in fall 1999. Again this bird

SA The Region experienced its most spectacular invasion of Northern Hawk Owls ever recorded. From mid-Oct to the end of Nov, almost 100 birds were reported (*fide* SB), and it is expected that approximately 200 will have been recorded by the end of the winter. Although it is possible that some were counted more than once as they moved from one locality to another, this possibility appears remote in a region as large as Québec. On the other hand, birders in Québec generally concentrate their efforts along the valleys of the St. Lawrence, Outaouais, and Saguenay Rivers during the winter months, an area representing < 20% of the whole territory of the southern half of the province. Consequently, the real extent of the invasion was certainly underestimated, so it is possible that over 500 birds were involved. Moreover, data from the Québec Birds Populations Study show a significant increase in numbers involved in winter invasions over the past two decades, even if one accounts for the increase in observer effort. Two invasions in the 1980s were relatively minor, comprising fewer than 40 birds. The past two invasions, in 1991–1992 and 1996–1997, totaled 123 and 102 birds, respectively, Oct–Apr (*fide* JLaR). Whether these statistics reflect a genuine increase in the population remains to be determined.

was part of a family group comprising an ad. Sandhill and two putative juvenile hybrids. The group arrived 30 Sep, a day earlier than last year, and left 7 Oct, the same date as last year (G. Galarneau, SG, m.ob.).

Shorebirds Through Owls

A female American Avocet delighted many at Métabetchouan, *Lac Saint-Jean*, 6–16 Sep (DG, Mi.T). Although few Western Sandpipers have been thoroughly described and photographed in the Region, a molting juvenile at Saint-Blaise 5–14 Nov, the latter record late, was corroborated by an impeccable description and a photograph (M. Bertrand, m.ob., ph. CM). Other sightings included 2 unaged birds at Pointe-au-Père 5 Aug (R. Fortin), one also unaged at Île aux Basques 29 Sep (RL, G. Breton), and a juv. at Venise-en-Québec 19 Sep (P. Savoie). A Least Sandpiper was record late at Saint-Blaise 5–17 Nov (D. Daigneault, m.ob.). Purple Sandpipers made a strong showing in sw. Québec, where 9 were at Victoriaville 5 Nov (AD) and 12 at Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours 11 Nov (GZ, PB,



This first-winter Ivory Gull at Les Escomins 21 November 2000 provided one of the earliest record ever for Québec. Photograph by Claude Auchu.

m.ob.). Ruff sightings included singles at Baie-du-Febvre 8 Aug (AD), Sainte-Martine 13 Sep (P. Hilton), and Île aux Grues 21–28 Oct (P. Lane, J. Labrecque). Almost unreported just a few years ago, the *hendersoni* race of the Short-billed Dowitcher is now reported more frequently, with birds appearing in five different localities of s. Québec in early Aug (*fide* PB). Now a regular fall migrant in the Montréal and Québec City regions, the Long-billed Dowitcher is also beginning to appear to the north and east. In *Gaspésie*, one at Hope and 3 at Saint-Siméon 8 Aug were the first reported there (LS, M. Ouellet), while one at Saint-Méthode 23–24 Sep was only the 2nd for the *Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean* region (DG, Mi.T et al.). The only inland Red Phalarope was at Aylmer 4 Nov (B. Dilabio).

Particularly interesting was a Long-tailed Jaeger at Moisie 9 Sep (B. Duchesne, JF. Laporte). Well-described Thayer's Gulls included a juv. at Sainte-Catherine 29–30 Oct (PB, m.ob.) and a third-year bird at Pointe-au-Père 25 Nov (JLar, D. Gagné). A concentration of 5 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Victoriaville 28 Sep was noteworthy (MGr). A Regional total of 10 Sabine's Gulls was below normal. An imm. Ivory Gull at Les Escoumins 21 Nov was one of the earliest ever found in the Region (ph. CA, CG). A first-winter Forster's Tern, providing a first for the *Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean* region, was a prize find for birders at Métabetchouan 3 Oct (S. Boivin et al.). Dovekeys were well in evidence in Nov in the St. Lawrence estuary (*fide* CA, *fide* JLM), *Gaspésie* (*fide* PP), and *Îles de la Madeleine* (*fide* DGG). A Thick-billed Murre at Chandler 18 Nov provided a rare occurrence (PP, G. Roy). Two Black Guillemots at Saint-Pierre-les-Becquets 21 Oct were well w. of their range (R. Barbeau); there have been fewer than a handful of records w. of Québec City. Atlantic Puffins also strayed w. along the St. Lawrence R., where singles were observed from the Trois-Pistoles ferry 10 Sep (CA, CG) and at Sainte-Pétronille 29 Oct (C. Nadeau, G. Lord). The Region's 9th and 10th **White-winged Doves** were at Havre-aux-Maisons, *Îles de la Madeleine*, 26–27 Aug (C. Poirier, B. Vigneault) and Rivière-Madeleine, *Gaspésie*, 1–7 Sep (R. & G. Blanchette).

Following Northern Hawk Owls by about a month, Great Gray Owls started to appear s. of their breeding range in Nov, and only about 15 had been recorded by the end of the period (*fide* SB). The number of Boreal Owls banded at Tadoussac reached 113 by the end of the banding program 27 Oct (NDu, Y. Rochepault), but few reached the upper St. Lawrence valley before winter's arrival (*fide* PB).

Hummingbirds Through Finches

A hummingbird exhibiting some rufous on the back and also on the tail, most probably a Rufous/Allen's type, was present at Saint-Boniface, near Shawinigan, early Oct–24 Nov (G. Ayotte, *fide* NDa). The Red-bellied Woodpecker at Dubuisson 30 Oct was the 2nd only for the *Abitibi* region (M. Collin); another at Trois-Rivières 25 Oct was more expected (JF. Langevin). A Western Kingbird at St-Anaclet, near Rimouski, 9–17 Oct, provided one of few recent records (S. Rhéaume, J. Marcoux). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers strayed to St-Jean-des-Piles, near Shawinigan, 5 Oct (E. Allard et al., ph. M. Sokolyk) and to Matane 17 Nov, the latter providing a record-late date (A. Gagnon).

Considering that fall dispersal by the Tufted Titmouse was not as spectacular as last year, 2 individuals at St-Nicolas, near Québec City, until 12 Oct were notable (P. Auger). Out-of-range Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers included singles at Rimouski 27 Aug (Y. Gauthier, S. Morand) and Grande-Rivière 26–27 Oct (D. Mercier). High numbers of thrushes were identified by their specific calls during nocturnal migration at Chicoutimi, as evidenced by 1420 Swainson's recorded 9–10 Sep and the 185 Gray-cheeked 21–22 Sep (CC).

A good variety of stray warblers drew attention; some occurred on very late dates. A Prairie Warbler stopped at St-Roch-de-l'Achigan 22 Oct (P. Franche, A. Gosselin). For the 2nd consecutive year a **Swainson's Warbler** was briefly seen at Cap Tourmente 22 Sep, providing our 2nd Regional record (RL). A *Seiurus* warbler at Rivière-Saint-Jean, *Lower North Shore*, 29 Aug was thought to be a Louisiana Waterthrush (Ndu), which would represent one of the northernmost records in North America. A male Kentucky Warbler was discovered at the Montréal Botanical Gardens 20 Oct and seen by dozens of observers 30 Nov+ (GZ, ph. CM). A Connecticut Warbler was a big surprise at Cap Tourmente 22 Oct, providing our latest record (LM). Also unexpected was the finding of an ad. male Hooded Warbler at the Montréal Botanical Garden 20 Oct, a record-late date, by the same lucky observer who had found the Kentucky less than an hour before (GZ). A Yellow-breasted Chat made a brief appearance at Trois-Pistoles 7 Aug (JP. Ouellet, M. Lafleur).

The only Yellow-headed Blackbird of the season visited a feeder at Dubuisson 2–28 Oct (F. Trudel). A male **Common Chaffinch**, a Regional first, was well-studied by an observer familiar with the species as it was eating on the ground under a feeder at St-Benoit-du-Lac 18 Nov (H. Tremblay). Although birds seen in the

northeast have sometimes been looked upon as wild (*Birding* 28:403), recent sightings in New Jersey were apparently birds of captive origin (*fide* P. Lehman). Considering the issue of recent European strays in Québec, however, it would be unwise to conclude too quickly that a bird originated from captivity.

Addendum

A first-year male Summer Tanager was seen and photographed at Pincourt 11–12 May 2000 (S. Badanjak).

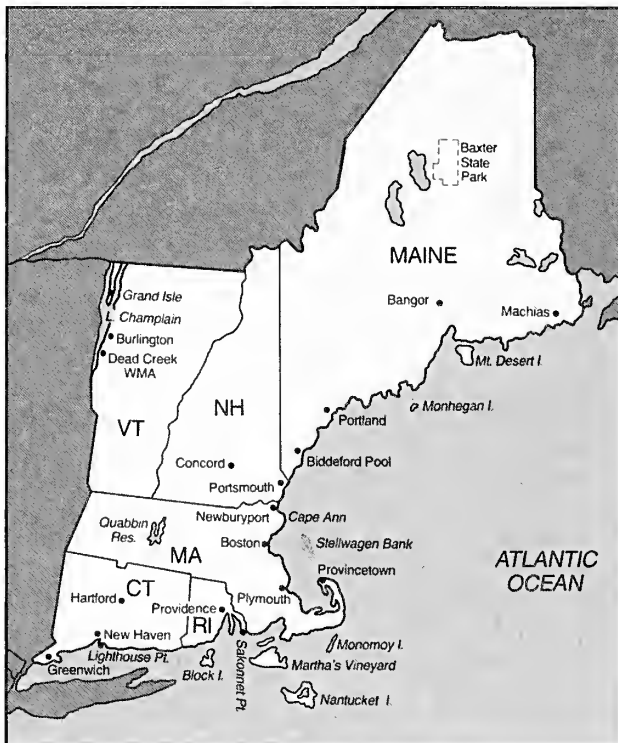
Exotics

A Greylag Goose stopped at Cap Tourmente 7 Sep (RL), and a Bar-headed Goose found at La Baie 21 Aug was captured 19 Nov (M. Gauthier). An Emperor Goose at Saint-Lazare 5 Sep was joined by a second 27 Sep; both disappeared 7 Nov (LS, m.ob.). A Ruddy Shelduck was at Cowansville 28 Sep–10 Nov (B. Hamel). A Mandarin Duck accompanied a group of Mallards at Saint-Bruno 19 Oct (F. Werner), and a White-cheeked Pintail made a brief appearance at Sainte-Martine 16 Sep (PB, m.ob.). The Gambel's Quail reported last summer at Lennoxville was captured 15 Oct (*fide* C. Dufresne). Single Northern Bobwhites were discovered at Beauharnois 16 Sep (A. Hogue) and at Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley 28 Sep (D. Labbé, G. Lachance). A Ring-necked Pheasant at Hopetown, *Gaspésie*, 17 Oct was certainly an escaped bird (É. Arsenault). A Budgerigar was at Chicoutimi 12 Oct (CC, GS) and a Yellow-fronted Canary was at Québec City 14 Sep (LM).

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New England



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If it is possible to describe anything as dynamic as New England birdlife as “average,” this autumn’s avian events came close. Most general trends continued to hold (e.g., appearances by several *Selasphorus*, low tallies of spruce-budworm warblers), and most other patterns shifted only slightly. The season’s weather was a bit cool; Boston maintained a streak of eight consecutive cooler-than-average months through November, and it was also drier-than-average. However, a wet spring and early summer kept water levels high enough to dampen the inland shorebird migration. Cold fronts induced many of the major migration fallouts. A major front falling precisely at mid-month in September was followed by a good migrant push 17 and 18 September. Other fronts associated with migratory fallout occurred 5–6, 15, 18, and 26 October. A storm bringing heavy rain 10–11 November correlated with excellent counts of seabirds and waterfowl along the coast and inland. A strong Thanksgiving cold snap appeared to cause a heavy hard-weather move-

ment to the outer coast by bluebirds, robins, and White-throated Sparrows.

Broader avian trends included the best all-around November alcid flight in many years, good but not great flights of far northern owls and shrikes, and apparent widespread breeding by White-winged Crossbills south to the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts. Low-density migrants from the Midwest, such as Western Kingbird, Dickcissel, and Clay-colored and Lark Sparrows had good seasons, but Yellow-headed Blackbird dropped from sight. On the other hand, southern strays were even scarcer than usual. Lake-watching continues to reveal that waterbird migrations on Lake Champlain are more diverse and spectacular than heretofore appreciated. The number of rarities seemed lower than in recent falls, but birders were compensated with a regional third Tropical Kingbird in Massachusetts, Garganey, and Mountain Bluebird among many others with greater regional precedent.

Abbreviations: Charlotte (Charlotte, Chittenden, VT); Gay Head (Gay Head, Martha’s Vineyard, Dukes, MA); Monhegan (Monhegan I., Lincoln, ME); Plum I. (Plum I., Newbury/Rowley, Essex, MA); Rockport

(Andrew’s and Halibut Pts., Rockport, Essex, MA); S. Beach (South Beach I., Chatham, Barnstable, MA).

Loons Through Herons

Strong inland flights of loons have been well-documented on L. Ontario and Cayuga L. in New York; as lake-watching efforts increase on L. Champlain we are gaining a better understanding of the size of flights on this easternmost Great Lake. Maxima from Charlotte were 61 Red-throateds 12 Nov and 379 Commons 29 Oct (TGM et al.); until recently the Red-throated Loon was considered an uncommon transient in Vermont. High coastal counts of loons included an impressive 2500+ Red-throateds at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, Barnstable, MA, 12 Nov (KH), and 350 Commons at Chilmark, MA, 28 Nov (VL). A juv. Pacific Loon was identified at Plymouth, MA, 22 Nov (†S & J Dinsmore). Modest numbers of grebes were reported. Early Red-necked Grebes included one heading s. at Charlotte 6 Aug (TGM) and one at Gloucester, Essex, MA, 13 Aug (RH). This year’s Eared Grebes were the Niles Beach, Gloucester, MA, bird back 2 Oct for its 6th winter (JS, m.ob.), and one on Block I., RI, 23 Sep–1 Oct (S. Tsagarakis, R. Fox, et al.).

Tubenose numbers seemed about average, although 600 Sooty and 25 Manx Shearwaters at Stellwagen Bank n. of Cape Cod 5 Aug were good late summer tallies (EN). We usually do not consider shearwaters predators of birds, but some were seen 14 Oct on Nantucket Shoals giving chase to a passerine that eventually succumbed to a Great Black-backed Gull (SP). A single Audubon’s Shearwater was encountered at Block Canyon far off Rhode Island 27 Aug (WP et al.). What was the story with **Northern Fulmars**? Few were seen on salt water, but 3 turned up ashore, in a Mount Desert I., Hancock, ME, parking lot in early Oct (*vide* J. Markowsky, JD), flying over land on the Kennebunk Plains, York, ME, 27 Oct (†LB), and one seen by lake-watchers at Charlotte 23 Nov (†TGM), providing the 2nd record for the Green Mountain State. This fall’s inland Northern Gannet hung around n. L. Champlain at Charlotte from 16–31 Oct (†TGM, †P. Gillis et al.). An American White Pelican was reported without details at the mouth of the Connecticut R. on Griswold Pt., Old Lyme, New London, CT, 14 Sep (P. Spitzer). Two Great Cormorants strayed inland, with one above the fall line at Concord, Merrimack, NH, 11 Nov (RQ).

Relatively few Great Egrets ventured northward and inland; one 11 Nov at Bristol, Lincoln, ME, was late (M. Libby *vide* KG). Noteworthy Snowy Egret reports were a single

inland sighting from Longmeadow, *Hampden*, MA, 27 Aug (BB), and one late and northerly 18 Nov at Back Bay, Portland, *Cumberland*, ME (R. Eakin *vide* KG). Little Blue Herons were widespread and numerous, with 2 in Vermont, one in w. Massachusetts, and August high counts of 24 in coastal Maine (B. Crowley), 8 in Connecticut (PC), and 13 in Rhode Island (R. Bowen). The Cattle Egret high count again originated from the Champlain Valley's nesting population; 3 late birds seemed to have been displaced by the same conditions 14–17 Nov, with sightings from New Hampshire (SM), Rhode Island (SMi et al.), and Connecticut (W. Schultz). Black Vulture reports included single birds at W. Springfield, *Hampden*, MA, 17 Oct (N. Eaton), and Bourne, *Barnstable*, MA, 19–23 Nov (H. Willoughby, J. Kricher).

Waterfowl

Greater White-fronted Geese were limited to s. New England, but still totaled 6, with 3 each in e. Massachusetts and Connecticut 10 Oct–19 Nov. Snow Geese continue in high numbers, with massive Champlain Valley flocks up to 15,000 and hundreds reaching the outer Coastal Plain. Ross's Geese again reached Vermont, with 1–2 at Dead Creek W.M.A., *Addison*, 5–26 Oct; also at Dead Creek were 1–2 presumptive Ross's x Lesser Snow Goose hybrids (m.ob.). Brant again had a good inland showing, with the first on 24 Sep at Grand Isle, VT, a maximum of 300 there 5 Oct (DH), and many scattered flocks and individuals in the interior, including 65 at Pittsfield, *Berkshire*, MA, 18 Oct (E. Neumuth). On the coast, 8 early Brant were at Stellwagen Bank 26 Aug (ML et al.), a good flight of 398 was detected in Hampton, *Rockingham*, NH, 7 Oct (SM), and, not least, a **Black Brant** (*nigricans*) was found and photographed in Plymouth, MA, 2 Nov (JT, ph.). The only Tundra Swans were 4 at Acoaxet, *Bristol*, MA, 18 Nov (P. O'Neill).

Nine Eurasian Wigeons 9 Oct+ included one in New Hampshire (A&BD), one in Rhode Island (*vide* J. St. Jean, DE), and the rest in e. Massachusetts, with a maximum of 3 on 19 Oct at Marstons Mills, *Barnstable* (J. Liller). A much scarcer Eurasian visitor was an eclipse-male **Garganey** at Plum I. 4–11 Aug (RH, ph. DL, m.ob.). Although the bird's origin cannot be absolutely assured, the cryptic eclipse-plumaged male and hen have seldom been detected in North America and there is no reason to hypothesize these plumages should be less likely than breeding plumage. The Sterling, *Worcester*, MA, Tufted Duck returned 3 Oct for its 6th season (F. McMenemy, m.ob.). The 600 Lesser Scaup counted at W. Swanton, *Franklin*,

VT, 18 Nov was an excellent tally for L. Champlain (FAP).

The 6 King Eiders reported were all from the coast, beginning at Pt. Judith, *Washington*, RI, 22 Oct (SMi). Harlequin Duck numbers continue to burgeon at traditional sites; an early arrival was noted 12 Sep at Gay Head (AK) and high counts were 76 at Rockport 10 Nov (KH) and 42 in York and Ogunquit, ME, 25 Nov (J. Suchecki *vide* KG). A record 50,000+ Surf Scoters were reported from Chilmark, MA, 26 Oct (AK). Excellent inland scoter tallies included 46 Surfs on Cherry Pd., Jefferson, *Coos*, NH, 1 Nov (D. Govatski), 500 White-wings 5 Oct at Addison (BP), followed by 488 White-wings and 940 Blacks at Charlotte 15 Oct (TGM). Long-tailed Ducks were also numerous inland, with 115 and 117 at Charlotte 12 & 30 Nov, respectively (TGM), and 19 on Quabbin Res., MA, 28 Oct (TG). The Nantucket I. Long-tailed Duck spectacle peaked 23 Nov at 185,000 (A. Charder). Single Barrow's Goldeneyes made late Nov appearances in New Hampshire, Maine, and Massachusetts. Ruddy Duck numbers were mixed; they were low in Rhode Island but continued numerous in n. New England and Massachusetts. High counts included 12 in Highgate, *Franklin*, VT, 12 Oct (RBL), 360 on Sabbatus Pd., *Androscoggin*, ME, 3 Nov (D. Mairs), 105 on Beaver L., Derry, *Rockingham*, NH, 5 Nov (A&BD), and 959 at Marlboro, *Worcester*, MA, 1 Nov (ML et al.).

Raptors Through Cranes

The Sharp-shinned Hawk migration peaked in mid-Oct, centering around 20 Oct, when high counts were noted in coastal New Hampshire (SM et al.) and Granville, *Hampden*, MA (T. Swochak). A remarkable leucistic Cooper's Hawk awed observers at Lighthouse Pt., *New Haven*, CT, 9 Oct (GH et al.); the bird was almost entirely white with black portions of the plumage replaced by buff. The Broad-winged Hawk flight had a less discrete peak than usual, as high counts were wrapped around a mid-Sep low; the best counts occurred 13, 16, 18, and 22 Sep. Connecticut hawk enthusiasts found the season's 2 Swainson's Hawks 30 Sep at Naugatuck, *New Haven* (MS), and Quaker Ridge, Greenwich, *Fairfield*, 13 Oct (D. Manwaring). If a Rough-legged Hawk irruption was in the offing, fall reports offered no clue, with only 25 reported beginning 13 Oct. On the other hand, good numbers of Golden Eagles were reported, the two dozen including an unprecedented season total of 10 at Putney Mt, *Windham*, VT (via Bird Source) and an equal number in eastern Massachusetts 10

Sep–20 Nov (*vide* MR). The Merlin is quietly becoming a Regional permanent resident, albeit scarce in summer and winter; indicative of this trend were reports of 9th Aug and 24th Nov from e. Massachusetts. Three gray Gyrfalcons were reported at Turner, *Androscoggin*, ME, 2 Nov (†JD), at Plum I. 18 Nov–Dec (R. Harlow, †RH, m.ob.), and at Shelburne, *Chittenden*, VT, 27 Nov (S. Miller).

Spruce Grouse were again encouragingly well-reported, with 12 from n. New Hampshire and 2 from ne. Vermont, where they are state-endangered. Although seemingly self-sustaining Northern Bobwhite populations are limited to a small portion of the s. coast, apparently released birds continue to appear in strange contexts, such as 3 haunting the summit ridge of Mt. Mansfield, *Lamoille*, VT, in mid-Aug (C. Rimmer et al.). Rare rails included Purple Gallinules 13–14 Oct at Exeter, *Rockingham*, NH (J. Mittermeier, ph. SM), and one found dead 25 Oct at Westboro, *Worcester*, MA (*vide* B. Blodget), and a late Yellow Rail at Nantucket 28 Nov (*vide* ER). Common Moorhens continue to dwindle, with only 7 reported. Two Sandhill Cranes were found, the first 21–26 Aug in Enosburg Falls and Berkshire, *Franklin*, VT (S. Faccio et al.), and 2 Nov at Gill, *Franklin*, MA (B. Coyle *vide* D. Small).

Shorebirds

The shorebird migration appeared average along the coast, and spotty inland due to a wet spring and early summer. No Eurasian rarities spiced the season. American Golden-Plovers were widely reported in modest numbers; the best count was 38 in Hadley and Northampton, *Hampshire*, MA, 24 Sep (SS). Good numbers of golden-plovers were noted regularly on sod farms in Rhode Island, where farmers are converting from potatoes as a defense against and concession to sprawl (*vide* DE). A golden-plover photographed at Grand Isle 6 Sep (ph. †DH) proved controversial, as the finder firmly held that it was Vermont's first Pacific Golden-Plover, but others could not agree on the bird's identity. Whatever it was, the bird proved once more that some birds are not identifiable without recourse to in-the-hand examination. Piping Plovers had a poor nesting season; this fall's staging maximum at Chatham, *Barnstable*, MA, was only 46, versus 200 in 1999. American Oystercatchers still summer at the n. tip of their range at Scarborough, *Cumberland*, ME, but nesting success has been poor (*vide* JD); an excellent count of 170 was achieved at S. Beach 2 Sep (BN); the last there was seen 27 Nov (DL). American Avocets were found 13–19

Aug at Plum I. (GW et al.) and 12 Oct at Hammonasset Beach SP, Madison, *New Haven*, CT (D. Provencher et al.).

Upland Sandpipers were scarce, especially in n. New England, where only one was reported; the best count was 14 at Bedford, *Middlesex*, MA, 4 Aug (R. Lockwood). The early August Hudsonian Godwit peak in Chatham, MA, was average at 109 (BN); other reports included up to 3 at Highgate, VT, 2–15 Oct (RBL et al.) and 3 for the season in Connecticut 11 Sep–22 Oct. Virtually all of this season's 13 Marbled Godwits were found at the elbow of Cape Cod late Jul–Dec; the lone exception was at Sandy Pt., *New Haven*, CT, 11 Sep (F. Mantlik). Good counts of largely adult White-rumped Sandpipers included 260 at Plum I. 30 Aug (RH) and 250 at S. Beach 2 Sep (BN); a good inland count of juveniles was 29 at Highgate, VT, 8 Oct (RBL, WS). Two late White-rumpeds turned up 25 Nov at S. Beach (RD) and, remarkably, at Button Bay, Ferrisburgh, *Addison*, VT (WS, TGM); not surprisingly the latter bird bore an injured leg. The total of 25 Baird's Sandpipers was about average but the fewest since 1996; one on Mt. Watatic, Ashburnham, *Worcester*, MA, 9 Sep (BN) was at a strange location. Stilt Sandpipers made a poor showing in n. New England, but were numerous to the south, with state maxima of 73 at Plum I., MA, 2 Aug (RH) and 28 on the same date at Wood River Junction, *Washington*, RI (S. Hempstead). The 48 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was the best total since 1996; these included a Vermont record 5 juv. at Charlotte 15–16 Sep (†TGM et al.), a maximum of 9 at Newburyport, *Essex*, MA, 19 Sep (JS, RH et al.), 2 in w. Massachusetts, 8 in Connecticut, and 3 at Richmond, *Washington*, RI, 3 Sep on an aforementioned sod farm (PB). Only 5 Wilson's Phalaropes were reported, a far cry from totals in the 1970s and 1980s.

Jaegers Through Alcids

For the first time in many years neither skua species was reported. Good counts of Pomarine Jaegers included 15–20 on the Grand Manan Banks 9 Sep (LB et al.), 20 on Stellwagen Bank 10 Sep (BN), and an impressive and late count of 44 at Rockport 27 Nov (RH). Terns staging on S. Beach attracted great numbers of Parasitic Jaegers, with a maximum of 70 on 23 Sep (BN). A 27 Aug trip to the edge of the Continental Shelf produced an impressive 6 Long-tailed Jaegers, with 2 at Atlantis Canyon and 4 at Block Canyon (WP et al.). Jaegers were again observed in large numbers on L. Champlain, with at least 16 reported 27 Aug–8 Oct (TGM, DH); no details were submitted on the sightings, although given the rel-

atively early dates most were likely Parasitics. Clearly a fairly regular phenomenon has been discovered.

Bonaparte's Gull numbers were lower this fall, especially on L. Champlain, where counts were less than half recent maxima; perhaps high lake levels affected biotic productivity or the high cormorant population has somehow affected the small bait-fish favored by the smaller gulls. Little Gull numbers were also down at L. Champlain, with a seasonal tally of 12+ from 5 Sep–18 Nov; other Little Gulls included 4 from Maine, 3 in New Hampshire, and 10 in Massachusetts, with a high count of 4 at Katama, *Dukes*, 10 Nov (VL). Thirteen Black-headed Gulls were reported—both of those found in Vermont antedated the seven prior records for the state with birds 1 Aug at Grand Isle (†DH) and 15 Sep at Charlotte (TGM); others were single reports from coastal Maine and New Hampshire and 9 in e. Massachusetts 10 Aug–Dec, with one in Newburyport and 4 each on Cape Cod and in Boston Harbor. An ad. **Thayer's Gull** was early 5 Nov at Chappaquiddick, *Dukes*, MA (VL). New England has generally lagged behind the rest of the East Coast in the numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported, but the region is catching up. Up to 80 frequented S. Beach and N. Monomoy I. in early Aug (BN, RH et al.), ≤8 haunted the New Hampshire coast 29 Aug–27 Nov (*vide* SM), and 3 at Hadley, MA, 19 Nov was a good inland tally (SS). Among the gulls at S. Beach 3 Sep was a bird believed to be a Herring x Lesser Black-backed hybrid (SP); perhaps some nesting Lesser Black-backed are hiding in North American gull colonies. Leucistic gulls can produce headaches for would-be gull identifiers. Witness a black-billed, entirely white, young Great Black-backed Gull at Biddeford, *York*, ME, 15 Oct (PC). Sabine's Gulls included at least one inland 28–29 Sep at Charlotte (*TGM) and 3 from Stellwagen Bank, 2 on 10 Sep (BN) and one 30 Sep (D. Clapp). Another benefit of late-season lake-watching in Vermont was the best autumn Black-legged Kittiwake flight ever for L. Champlain, with at least 5 juv./first-winter birds at Charlotte and Burlington, *Chittenden*, 4–12 Nov (†TGM, †BP et al.).

Forty-two Caspian Terns included sightings of birds associated with probable nesting in Vermont in Grand Isle and Milton, *Chittenden*, to 5 Aug (RBL), and high counts of 9 at N. Hampton, *Rockingham*, NH, 23 Sep (ph. SM) and 7 at the Charlestown Breachway, *Washington*, RI, 24 Sep (J. Murphy). A lone Royal Tern was reported at S. Beach 19 Aug (BN), and a single Sandwich Tern was reported from Chappaquiddick 10 Sep (MP). Peak

counts of the endangered Roseate Tern were 2000+ at S. Beach 3 Sep (SP) and 400 at Napatree Pt., *Washington*, RI, 21 Aug (CR). News of Common Terns was encouraging, with an impressive count of 1060 at Seabrook, *Rockingham*, NH, 4 Sep (A&BD), apparently linked to the great success of tern reintroduction in New Hampshire's Isles of Shoals at White and Seavey I. (*vide* SM). Staging at S. Beach topped out at a staggering 25,000 on 5 Aug (RH et al.). Numbers of Forster's Terns were rather low, with only 5 in New Hampshire and Maine, and a low maximum of 3 in Rhode Island (*vide* DE). An ad. Sooty Tern made a pass over the White and Seavey I., NH, tern colony 11 Aug (†V. Saint-Amant, †M. Charette, DD). Although we usually expect these tropical terns in the aftermath of tropical storms and hurricanes, summer visitation of tern colonies by strays is not unprecedented.

The late-season alcid flight was more diverse and widespread that it has been over the last decade, including 100 Dovekies, with an early sighting 14 Sep on Stellwagen Bank (BB), over 70 region-wide 11–12 Nov, and a maximum of 35 in Wellfleet harbor, *Barnstable*, MA, 11 Nov (S. Miller et al.). Shoreline Common Murres included one 26 Oct at Scarborough, ME (J. Davis *vide* KG), one at Rye, *Rockingham*, NH, 18 Nov (A&BD), and 5 in Massachusetts, with a high count of 3 at Rockport 3 Nov (JS et al.). Razorbills remain the most numerous alcid, with an early bird s. of regional breeding colonies 9 Sep at Rockport (R. Guthrie) and maxima of 680 at Race Pt., Provincetown, *Barnstable*, MA, 12 Nov (KH) and 300 at Rockport 27 Nov (GW). Atlantic Puffins included an early 12 Aug bird at White and Seavey I., NH (DD et al.), and singles at Sandy Neck, *Barnstable*, MA, 11 Nov (D. Comeau et al.) and 4 at Race Pt. 12 Nov (KH).

Dove Through Woodpeckers

The growing population of **White-winged Dove** continued to cast off distant prospectors; this autumn produced 2 such pioneers. One 2 Sep was Vermont's first; although it was a rather brief single-observer encounter, the details clearly supported the identification at Chimney Pt., *Addison* (†RBL). Another seen 29 Oct at Edgartown, *Dukes*, MA, was less unprecedented, but later than most Bay State reports (†MP). Northern owls made a good showing. Twenty-one Snowy Owls occurred in all states save for New Hampshire, beginning 2 Nov. A Northern Hawk Owl was reported 3 Nov at Weld, *Franklin*, ME (*vide* JW). Rounding out the north-woods owls were 2 Boreal Owls; one found 21 Oct in the Back Bay

area of Boston (KHu et al., ph. MR) might have been the long-staying bird seen in the same neighborhood in the winter of 1996–1997. Another was captured for banding at Freeport, *Cumberland*, ME, 3 Nov (JW). The continued great success of owl banding at Freeport was also documented by the 367 Northern Saw-whet Owls caught there 25 Sept–7 Nov (JW). Numbers of migratory Common Nighthawks continued a slow downward spiral, with a maximum of 1500 at Worcester, MA, 24 Aug (ML et al.); no other count exceeded 500, although a 27 Aug total of 400 at New Hartford, *Litchfield*, CT (J. Grohoski) was one of the best recent ones for the Nutmeg State. Hawkwatchers at Lighthouse Pt., CT, 5 Sep achieved an impressive count of 47 migrating Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (GH). Most of the autumn's *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were eventually identified as Rufous, including the venerable female at Agawam, *Hampden*, MA, back for her 4th fall 24 Aug–30 Nov (L. Fieldstad, et al.), and 3 females determined from photographs and in-hand measurements (*vide* MS) in Connecticut at Avon, *Hartford*, 27 Oct–21 Nov (*vide* B. Kleiner), Cheshire, *New Haven*, mid-Sep–Dec (A. Norwell), and Stratford, *Fairfield*, mid-Sep–Dec (K. Barron). Unspecified rusty hummers were a first-year male at W. Hartford, CT, 29 Sep–15 Oct (E. Fried) and one at Worcester, MA, 7 Oct–19 Nov (A. Pax, ML). Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce, with only singles in Maine and Massachusetts reported. Eleven Red-bellied Woodpeckers were encountered in n. New England, including juveniles at Colchester, *Chittenden*, VT (J. Marsh), and Cape Elizabeth, *Cumberland*, ME (V. Scamman, *vide* KG), giving hope of true breeding confirmation in the near future.

Flycatchers Through Wrens

A juv. Olive-sided Flycatcher at Monhegan 7 Oct (LB) was about three weeks beyond the expected departure date for the species. Connecticut birders visiting Monhegan the next day located the season's only Say's Phoebe at Pulpit Rock; it remained to 10 Oct (†M. Root et al.). Massachusetts birders found a belated Great Crested Flycatcher in Hingham, *Plymouth*, 18 Nov, while seeking a **Tropical Kingbird** first discovered at Worlds End 8 Nov (S. Avery, v.o., tape, ph.). The kingbird, a first for Massachusetts, remained to the end of the month. It was a good season for the more expected Western Kingbird, with 17 total in the region, including one in New Hampshire, 3 in Connecticut, and the balance in Massachusetts. A respectable 67 Northern Shrikes were nonetheless about half 1999's

total. A White-eyed Vireo in Scarborough, ME, 17 Sep was well n. of its nearest breeding areas in se. MA (G. LaRiviere *vide* KG), and a Warbling Vireo in S. Boston 5–7 Nov was tardy by a month (RD et al.). Common Ravens continue to prosper, with maxima of 35 in Manchester, *Bennington*, VT, and 27 at Mt. Watatic, MA. Lone wanderers reached Truro, *Barnstable*, MA (E. Samella et al.), Chepachet, *Providence* (found dead, *vide* C. Raithel), and Saundertown, *Washington*, RI (PB).

Distressingly few Purple Martins were reported, including in Grand Isle, VT, which has been the species stronghold in the Champlain Valley. Coastal maximum of Tree Swallows were one-third their usual size (30,000 vs. 100,000), although inland counts of 10,000 at Northampton 27 Aug and Hadley, MA, 1 Sep were noteworthy (TG). Also noteworthy were 4 Bank Swallows lingering to 3 Oct in Isle La Motte, *Grand Isle*, VT (RBL). Carolina Wren numbers continue to build in s. New England, but only 12 were reported from the n. mainland. Northern outposts were *Grand Isle*, VT, and Waterville, *Kennebec*, ME. The only Sedge Wren this season was very late on Nantucket 28 Nov (*vide* ER). Golden-crowned Kinglets left the n. country in much higher numbers this year, with a maximum count of 95 on Cuttyhunk, *Dukes*, MA, 8 Oct (T. Raymond).

Thrushes Through Warblers

A Northern Wheatear was reported without details 20–21 Sep in Longmeadow, MA (L. Kendall et al.). Eastern Bluebirds concentrated in good numbers on coastal islands in late November, with 70 in Chilmark, MA (*vide* VL) and 69 on Block I, RI (CR et al.). A male **Mountain Bluebird** found at a water-treatment plant in Concord, *Middlesex*, 27 Oct furnished a 6th Massachusetts record and delighted observers until 2 Nov (ph. †MR, v.o.). Listening for characteristic nocturnal flight calls has become a preferred method of detecting migrating thrushes and can produce impressive high counts, such as the 250 Veeries and 25 Wood Thrushes over Westwood, *Norfolk*, MA, 2 Sep (EN), plus 80 Swainson's over Northampton, MA, 15 Sep (SP et al.) and 50 over Portsmouth, *Rockingham*, NH 6 Oct (SM, J. Matthews). Coastal locations gave indications of a good American Robin winter to come, with counts of 6000+ at Gay Head 26 Oct (JT et al.) and 8500+ at S. Kingstown, *Washington*, RI, 24 Nov (SMi). American Pipits arrived early in opposite corners of the region, at Grand Isle 16 Aug and at Napatree Pt., RI, 21 Aug. Bohemian Waxwings were scarce, save for in Maine, where 1000+ were tallied in Roque

Bluffs, *Washington*, in late Nov.

The season's 11 Golden-winged Warblers were divided between Massachusetts (7) and Rhode Island (4). Forty Orange-crowned Warblers were more spread out, with 2 in Vermont, singles in New Hampshire and Rhode Island, 7 in Maine, and the balance in the Bay State. There were 3 reports of lingering Nashville Warblers: 29 Oct at Northfield, *Merrimack*, NH (†P. Hunt), 11 Nov in Concord, NH (RQ), and 9–29 Nov in Melrose, *Middlesex*, MA (D.&I. Jewell). The first was described as a western *ridgwayi* individual, but subspecific identification of such birds may have to wait until identification experts and authors come to a consensus on usable field characters. More easily identified strays from the west were a male **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, *Middlesex*, MA, 27 Sep–2 Oct (†K.&T. Kresser, v.o., ph.) and a **Townsend's Warbler** at Gay Head 28 Sep (†MP). Southern representatives included Yellow-throated Warblers making their way n. to New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, a Prothonotary in Rhode Island, a single Cerulean and 3 Kentuckies in Massachusetts, and lone Hoodeds in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. The only migrant count from Bluff Pt., Groton, *New London*, CT, received this year was of 4000 birds, 98% of which were Yellow-rumped, 12 Oct (*vide* GH). Large numbers of Yellow-rumped were still moving along the coast 14 Oct, including 850 far offshore headed nw. (toward land) over Nantucket Shoals (SP). The 14 Connecticut Warblers reported were distributed across the region, while 30 Yellow-breasted Chats were concentrated along the coast from Maine southward. Other notable Nov warblers included a Magnolia in the Boston Public Gardens 19 Nov (KHu), an American Redstart in Melrose, MA, 4 Nov (P.&F. Vale) and 4 Wilson's Warblers in Massachusetts.

Tanagers Through Finches

Two Summer Tanagers were found, on Monhegan and in Connecticut. Vermont's first Clay-colored Sparrow pair fed nestlings until 6 Aug, and an ad. and juv. were seen for another two weeks (DH, ph.). About 50 others were scattered along the coast, 45 in Massachusetts. Among the less-common migrant sparrows were 31 Vesper, 16 Lark, 12+ Grasshopper, and 2 November Henslow's Sparrows. One or two Le Conte's Sparrows were reported without details from Northampton, MA, 1 & 16–17 Oct. This season's high count of Ipswich Sparrow was 15 at South Beach 25 Nov (RD et

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al.) Impressive maxima for mainland Savannah Sparrow were 340 in Newbury, Essex, MA (RH) and 200+ in Northampton, MA (B. Packard et al.), both 7 Oct. The Lincoln's Sparrow maximum of 18 came on the same date in W. Bridgewater, Plymouth, MA (S. Arena). A tardy Lincoln's was in Lexington, Middlesex, MA, 25 Nov (†MR). White-throated Sparrow maxima were not as impressive as in 1999, but good numbers seemed to settle in to winter, evidenced by a count of 133 in Cambridge/Boston 25–26 Nov. At least 2 (perhaps 4) young Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows were found in Newbury, MA, 14–20 Oct (†RH). An early Lapland Longspur surprised observers on Star I., Rockingham, NH, 18 Sep (†R. Suomala, I. Hayward).

Twenty Blue Grosbeaks were mostly in coastal Massachusetts 16 Sep–21 Oct; the exception was in Connecticut. The Indigo Bunting high count corresponded with those of several sparrows: 60 on Martha's Vineyard 7 Oct (JT et al.); the last was at Cunnaquid, Barnstable, MA, 2 Nov (S. Miller et al.). Dickcissels put on a strong showing of 70+ birds, the first at Milford Pt., CT, on the early date of 5 Aug (GH).

Good numbers of Bobolinks made their usual departure for the pampas in Aug and early Sep, although one lingered to 15 Nov in Sudbury, Middlesex, MA (KH). For the first fall season since at least 1975, no Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found. The species has shown a declining trend in the region since the mid-1980s; is this trend reflected in other areas? The boreal-nesting Rusty Blackbird gathered in good numbers on migration in Massachusetts, with maxima of 100+ at Provincetown 7 Oct (BN) and 220+ at Newburyport 14 Oct (RH); 75 were still present at Bolton Flats, Worcester, 14 Nov with 1800 Red-winged (KH). A male Brewer's Blackbird was reported without details from Gay Head 22 Oct (VL). In Connecticut, a female Boat-tailed Grackle at Milford Pt., New Haven, 27 Aug (D. Sosensky) was thought to be the same individual that stayed into Dec in Stratford (m. ob.); another was farther afield in Waterford, New London, 12 Oct (T. Hendrickson). An enormous roost of 66,500 Common Grackles was at Portsmouth, NH, 8 Nov (SM et al). An imm. Orchard Oriole that appeared on Monhegan mid-Sep to early Oct (B. Boynton *vide* KG), about six to eight weeks past the species' usual departure date, may have been a reversed migrant.

Purple Finches appeared in moderate numbers, with 60 in Hingham 12 Nov the highest count in the Bay State. White-winged

Crossbills were widespread and seem to have bred across n. New England s. to the Berkshires of Massachusetts. The largest flocks encountered were 50 in Bethlehem, Grafton, NH, 5 Aug (J. Williams) and ≤ 20 in Windsor, Berkshire, MA (G. LeBaron et al). Two reached as far s. as W. Hartford Res., CT, 6 Aug (P. Cianfaglione). Given no other reports, a count of 100 Common Redpolls at New Braintree, Worcester, MA, 25 Nov was remarkable (J. Baird). Only 70 Evening Grosbeaks were tallied region-wide, leaving the sunflower-devouring flocks of the 1960s and 1970s a fading memory.

Exotics

Up to 3 Whooper Swans continue in residence in Ipswich, Essex, MA (JB, RH). Eight Monk Parakeets in S. Dartmouth, Bristol, MA, were not far from Rhode Island populations.

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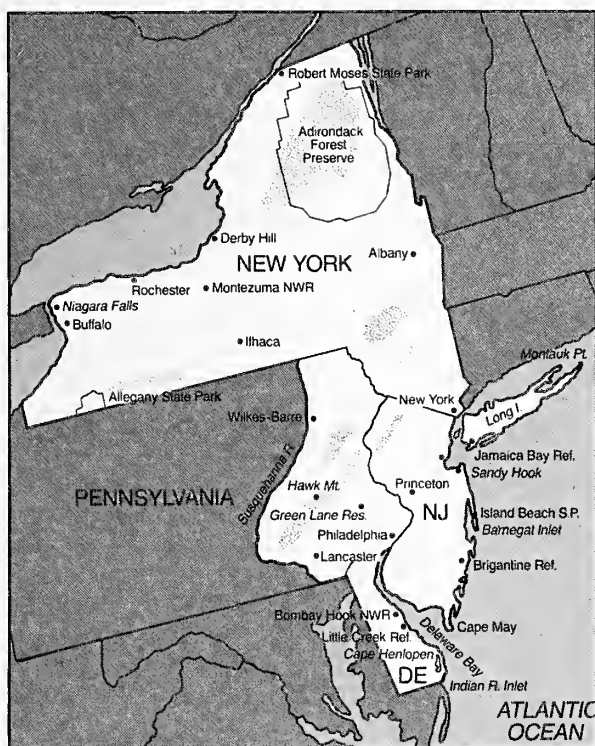
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Full ought to be the year's climax, when populations are highest and migrants are pouring through. But numbers, especially of insectivorous tropical migrants, are not what they once were. This fall seemed even quieter, partly because a persistent Bermuda High blocked the alternation of lows with cold fronts, the weather pattern that best concentrates migrants. Moreover, abundant food, following a wet growing season, kept irruptive species in place (see White-winged Crossbills).

The cool, wet summer extended into fall (except for a dry October) and no great weather events occurred until November. Then win-

ter arrived with a bang; Buffalo had its snowiest November ever. Some stellar rarities were gratifyingly well-documented: Calliope and Allen's Hummingbirds, Hammond's Flycatcher, and Cassin's Sparrow. Careful descriptions of other remarkable observations are before records committees: possible Neotropic Cormorants, Little Stint, and Kirtland's Warbler, all in Pennsylvania; European Golden-Plover in New Jersey; and Virginia's Warbler in New York. Other notable finds included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, White-winged Tern, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, and Townsend's Solitaire.

Abbreviations: Avalon (seawatch n. of Cape May, NJ); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N.W.R., near Smyrna, DE); Brig (Brigantine Unit, Edward P. Forsythe N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Conejohela Flats (Susquehanna R. at Washington Borough, Lancaster, PA); Derby Hill (hawkwatch at se. corner L. Ontario, Mexico, Oswego, NY); Hamlin Beach (S.P. on L. Ontario, Monroe, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York City); Kaiser-Manitou (banding station w. of Rochester, NY); L.I. (Long Island, NY); Montezuma (Montezuma N.W.R., n. of L. Cayuga, Seneca, NY).

Loons Through Storm-Petrels

Loon migration down L. Champlain is better understood thanks to a Vermont lakewatch, now in its second year, opposite Split Rock Pt., Essex, NY. The best day, 6 Nov, produced 61 Red-throateds and 376 Commons, half in New York waters (TM, J. Osborn, F. Pratt, C. Provost, A. Strong). Six Eared Grebes, evenly split between the Great Lakes and coast, were above normal. One at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, Genesee, NY, 5 Aug (WD'A, BPo) was the 3rd Aug record there in five years.

Only one Northern Fulmar was reported, 35 mi. s. of Montauk Pt., L.I., 7 Oct (A. Graves). Regular tubenoses (often with whales) were numerous offshore. Among rarer species, 1–2 Manx Shearwaters were found on all four sea trips off L.I. 5 Aug–10 Sep. A fisherman who knows birds well reported 50 s. of Montauk 31 Aug (J. Passey, *vide* HMcG). Audubon's Shearwaters were also in above-normal numbers at Hudson Canyon, with 8 on 2 Sep (FONT, PG, SF, MF, SB) and 7 on 3 Sep (MV, MB et al.); one was off Delaware 3 Sep (FONT, PG, MG, FR). Last year's White-faced Storm-Petrel bonanza was not repeated.

Gannet Through Vultures

More Northern Gannets than expected (all imm.) visited the lakes. Five passed Hamlin Beach in Nov (WS et al.); 3 in Split Rock Narrows, L. Champlain, 16 Oct (TM, S. Morica) furnished the first Adirondack record. Singles passing Derby Hill 4 Nov (KMcG) and 11 Nov (BPu) were the first in the Oneida L. Basin since 1983. At least 3 American White Pelicans appeared, with two flying over Cape May 28 Aug and 16 Sep (MH et al.). One since 22 Jul at the Thousand Acre Marsh on the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, *New Castle*, DE, was joined by another, perhaps one of the above, 29 Sep–6 Oct (H. Vanderhoorst). On 8 Oct they (or 2 others) flew over Bivalve, *Cumberland*, NJ, farther down Delaware Bay (K.&B. Johnson). Two small cormorants believed to be Neotropics were independently identified on L. Ontelaunee, *Berks*, PA, 5 Oct (@†KKn, MS, JS).

A **Great White Heron** was widely studied at Nummy's I., *Cape May*, NJ, 9–18 Sep (m.ob.) The only White Ibis flew over the Cape May hawkwatch 25 Sep (VE). Glossy Ibis wandered far into Pennsylvania, where one at Plymouth 6 Aug (R. Koval) was the second for *Luzerne*; another was at Blue Marsh L., *Berks*, 28 Sep (JS, H. Silagy). A **Wood Stork** passed the Avalon, *Cape May*, NJ, seawatch 30 Oct (MO'B). One at Bivalve, *Cumberland*, NJ, 13–14 Nov (ph. AP, m.ob.) was probably the same. There were ± 8 previous state records. A Black Vulture at Fort

Drum, near Watertown, *Jefferson*, NY, 10 Sep (J. Bolsinger) was among the most northerly ever in the region.

Waterfowl

Following last spring's New Jersey record, a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** at Cedar Neck, near Oceanville, *Sussex*, DE, 5–18 Aug (A. Hutchins, m.ob.) provided potentially Delaware's first record of this expanding species, though the possibility of escape is being evaluated. The number of Greater White-fronted Goose reports continues to increase, with the usual caveats about origin. This season we learned of 2 in central New York (*Saratoga* and *Onondaga*), 2 reports (one of 4 birds) from s. New Jersey, 3 in Delaware, and 7 birds in three groups in Pennsylvania. Ross's Geese are now found wherever there are Snows in this region, probably because of closer observation. They are nearly annual along L. Champlain and expected in Delaware, where the maximum was 4 at Bombay Hook 10 Oct (MG), plus an adult blue-morph there 7 Oct (FR). Another 4 were found from Jamaica Bay to Prime Hook N.W.R., DE. Good records inland were of 3 adults at Point au Roche 18 Nov (L.&P. Osenbaugh) and 3 in the Savannah Mucklands, *Seneca*, NY, 19 Nov (GP).

Many more *hutchinsii* Canada Geese are being reported, perhaps because of closer observation. Last fall's astonishing numbers at Iroquois N.W.R., *Genesee-Orleans*, NY, recurred (maximum 25 on 20 Oct; MM), and singles were found at Utica Marsh, *Oneida*, NY, 11 Oct (M. Perry) and on L. Champlain at Pt. au Roche, *Clinton*, 12 Oct (†D. Hoag), plus the usual handful at Peace Valley Park, *Bucks*, PA (AM). A black-bellied Brant judged of the Pacific race *nigricans* was at Jones Beach S.P. 7 Oct (N. Laviola, TWB et al.). A Barnacle Goose at Peace Valley 10 Nov into December was unbanded and seemed wild (AM). An imm.

SA A female Common Eider with flightless chicks in early Aug on Fisher's I., NY, had apparently bred there for the second summer (ph. J. Williamson, *fide* AJL). Breeding was hitherto unknown in New York, though the species bred in Rhode Island in 1999 (*N. Am. Birds* 53:364) and has recently increased in Massachusetts following reintroduction efforts (Veit and Peterson 1993, *Birds of Massachusetts*). Summer lingerers were above normal in numbers on Long Island in 1996 and 1997, following two exceptional winter concentrations at Montauk Pt.

Trumpeter Swan without tags or bands at Newstead, *Erie*, NY, 21 Oct (†MM), untraceable to the reintroduction project at Oak Orchard W.M.A., *Genesee*, was apparently wild-reared.

A female Ring-necked Duck with one newly-hatched young through 14 Aug at Cornwall, *Lebanon*, provided Pennsylvania's first breeding record since the 1930s (R. Groff). The only Tufted Ducks were returnees to Old Sam's Pond, Pt. Pleasant, *Ocean*, NJ (G. Nixon), and Silver L., Rehoboth Beach, DE (FR).

The Split Rock Narrows lakewatch on L. Champlain produced record scoter counts for the Adirondacks. The peak was of 488 White-wingeds and 940 Blacks 15 Oct, half in New York waters (TM, S. Morrical). A Barrow's Goldeneye was excellent at Merrill Creek, *Warren*, NJ, 12 Nov (R. Dunlap et al.).

Raptors

We thank the following hawkwatches for data: Mount Peter, *Orange*, NY (J. Cinquina); Hook Mt., *Rockland*, NY (F. Bonanno); Fire I., L.I. (D. Panko); Central Park, NY City (B. DeCandido); Montclair, *Essex*, NJ (E.&W. Greenstone); Chimney Rock, *Somerset*, NJ (C. Aquila); Hawk Mt., *Berks*, PA (D. R. Barber); Second Mountain, *Lebanon*, PA (D. Schwenk); Militia Hill, Fort Washington, PA (J. Henderson); Cape May, NJ (B. Maransky, VE); and Cape Henlopen, DE (CB).

Most hawkwatches counted below-normal numbers of all regular raptors, except Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons. Even Osprey numbers were down, maybe because of weather. There is no escaping, however, the continuing decline of Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned and Red-shouldered Hawks, and American Kestrel. Harrier counts were half or less of an already low ten-year average at Cape May (743), Chimney Rock (199), and Hawk Mt. (140). Mississippi Kites, regular at Cape May in early summer, lingered exceptionally through Sep. Three were there 6 & 9 Aug (RC, SF, et al.). The only other was an ad. over Second Mountain 16 Aug (m.ob.). Bald Eagles broke records at Mt. Peter (24) and Hook Mt. (50), while 135 at Hawk Mt. were 45% above the ten-year average. Six (one ad., 5 imm.) gathered at a hunting camp's offal dump near Tupper L., *Franklin*, NY, in the Adirondacks (C. Delahanty).

Broad-winged Hawk migration was protracted and dispersed; no watch had a five-figure day. A first push came after a front 13–16 Sep. After a lull, passage continued 20–22 Sep and was exceptionally late. Chimney Rock counted half of its great total of 21,558, its second highest ever, after 23 Sep. Central Park's biggest day was 28 Sep. That day, massive num-

bers of raptors and other migrants moved coastally: 41% of the seasonal tally at Central Park (1877, including 1615 Broad-wings) and 20% of Fire Island's total (635, mostly falcons). Swainson's Hawks avoided the Cape May hawkwatch for the first time since 1979, but singles were reported at Turnersville, *Camden*, NJ, 19 Oct (light-morph, D. Roell), Militia Hill 3 Oct, and Second Mountain 25 Sep. Golden Eagles occurred in above-average numbers inland (91 at Hawk Mt., a record 85 at Second Mountain, *Lebanon*, PA) but below at Cape May, so coastal records were noteworthy at Central Park 15 Oct and Little Creek, DE, 18 Nov (FR). Merlins set records at Hawk Mt. (168) and Second Mountain (66); the inland hawkwatches have received a growing share of this increasing, once largely coastal migrant. A white Gyrfalcon (†) made Frank Bonanno's day 4 Nov at Council Cup Overlook, Wapwallopen, *Luzerne*, PA. A gray Gyrfalcon was reported at the Kittatinny Mt. Research Station, *Warren*, NJ, 31 Oct. Peregrine Falcon numbers were at or above-average everywhere, especially at Hawk Mt., where 10 on 6 Oct was the largest daily total since the DDT era. Most Peregrines migrate coastally, of course, and Cape May's best day (217) also came 6 Oct.

Cranes Through Shorebirds

Sandhill Cranes, now annual, may turn up anywhere. This fall's dozen or so birds in five groups was more than last year's counts, but set no record. Near L. Ontario (where breeding is possible), 2 were at Butler, *Wayne*, NY, 16 Sep (RGS, A. Strong, K. Whittum). Singles were reported as flyovers in *Albany* (R. Budliger) and *Nassau*, NY (SW). A s. New Jersey assemblage started building early, with 2 on 29 Aug at the Johnson sod farm, *Salem* (K&JL, B&NM), and 5 at Seeley, *Cumberland*, 5–7 Oct, accompanied by a Common Crane of unknown origin (J. Jansen).

High water curtailed shorebirding at some inland sites but numbers were all the better where opportunity allowed. The Shartlesville farm pond, *Berks*, PA, hosted 13 species, and the Conejohela Flats had its best fall season ever with 32. No great concentrations of American Golden-Plovers occurred in a tranquil season. Even so, respectable numbers gathered at Alabama, *Genesee*, NY (71 on 6 Oct; BK); the Riverhead, *Suffolk*, LI, sod farms (14 Aug–19 Oct, maximum 63 on 22 Sep; AJL et al.); the Johnson sod farm, *Salem*, NJ (44 on 4 Sep; E. Bruder), and Bombay Hook and adjacent harvested potato fields (30 on 7 Oct; MG). Four at Martin's Creek, *Northampton*, PA, 14 Sep was good so far inland (RW). A possible European Golden-Plover was studied at Sandy

Hook 17 Sep (@†MF, PBa, SB). A Piping Plover at the Conejohela Flats 1 Sep (m.ob., ph), probably from the endangered inland population, provided only the second Lancaster, PA, record.

In addition to up to 3 single American Avocets on Long Island and the usual handful in coastal New Jersey, a male was unusual inland at the Conejohela Flats 7 Aug (DH, BS). Upland Sandpipers approached the vanishing point; the maximum was a pathetic 6 at Westhampton Airport, Suffolk, LI, 27 Aug (NYRBA). A Whimbrel of the Eurasian race among 81 North American birds concentrated by high tide at Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ, 14 Aug was rediscovered 29–30 Aug (PL, RC, JDo). Along the New York shore of L. Ontario, 3 Whimbrels at Braddock Bay, Monroe, 12 Aug (DT) and one at Sandy Pond, Oswego (M. Rusk), were good finds away from the coast. In a year when only a handful of both godwits reached the coast, a Hudsonian inland at the Conejohela Flats 7 Aug (DH) was exciting, as were 2 Red Knots 28 Aug (BS) and another 6 Sep (P. Robinson); both are mostly coastal migrants.

A juvenile Little Stint was studied at the Conejohela Flats 17 Sep (@†BS), representing a potential first Pennsylvania record. About 18 Baird's Sandpipers were widely scattered in ones and twos along L. Ontario and the coast. One was notable inland at Shartlesville, Berks, PA, 27 Aug (MS). The only Curlew Sandpiper was at Bombay Hook 2 Sep (G. Lovelace). Stilt Sandpipers were in good numbers, with several counts in the 50–100 range along the coast, but still well below norms of 10 years ago. One at the Chazy riverlands, Clinton, NY, 5 Sep (B. Krueger, C. Mitchell) provided only the 5th Adirondacks record. Buff-breasted Sandpipers built to an amazing 48 at sod farms on e. Long Island 4 Sep (AB, P. A. Buckley). Elsewhere, 4 visited the Pittstown, Hunterdon, NJ, sod farms 3 Sep (RKa, E. Obercian), and ones and twos were scattered down the coast. Rare inland records included 2 at Montezuma 4 Sep (B. Farmbrough, T. Nix) and singles at Martin's Creek 13 Sep (the first Northampton, PA, record; RW) and Conejohela Flats 3 Sep (D. Heathcote). A female Ruff was at the Shartlesville, PA, farm pond 1 Aug (@†J. Eckert), a 3rd Berks record. At the more usual coastal sites we know only of a black-and-white Ruff at Brig 8–10 Aug (JDo, D. Dowdell). Wilson's Phalaropes were scarce, but about 8 Red-necked Phalarope records included one well inland 19 Sep at Conejohela Flats (DH). The only Red Phalaropes seen ashore were 2 at Dunkirk Harbor on L. Erie 11 Nov (BK) and one at Conejohela Flats 20 Sep (J. Book, M. Dale).

Skuas Through Alcids

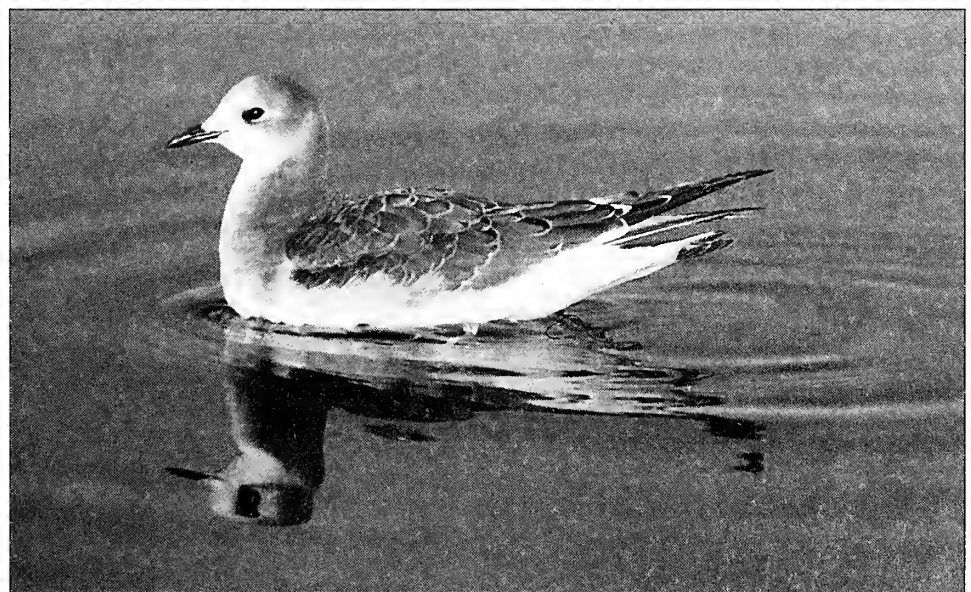
A South Polar Skua off Delaware 3 Sep (FONT, APE, P. O'Brien, M. Iliff) produced the 2nd state record. Single Pomarine Jaegers were good at Porter, Niagara, 18 Oct (BK) and below-average at Hamlin Beach. Offshore, the best of many reports was a remarkable 13 at Hudson Canyon 2 Sep (FONT, PG, SF, SB, MF).

SA Are Long-tailed Jaeger numbers increasing or are we looking more closely? A juv. photographed off Delaware 3 Sep (FONT, APE, P. O'Brien, ph. M. Iliff) was that state's first. On the Great Lakes, one 5 Sep at Hamlin Beach (DS, J. Skelly, WS) was the 3rd there in two years, while another at Derby Hill 11 Oct (†GP, KMcG, J. Wright) was the 3rd found alive in the Oneida L. Basin. One at Woodlawn Beach S.P., Erie, NY, 21 Sep (WW) was only the Niagara region's 3rd. Another was reported off Montauk Pt. 23 Sep (HMcG, AB).

Franklin's Gulls were low in numbers, with none at Niagara and singles on L. Ontario at Charlotte, Monroe, NY, 30 Sep (RGS, S. Spahn), down the Susquehanna at Conejohela Flats 7–14 Oct, and at Rehoboth Beach, DE, 19 Oct (PL). Little Gulls remained scarce, with only a few on L. Ontario and along the coast. One at Westport, Essex, 21 Oct (JMCP, S. Peterson, J.&P. Thaxton) furnished a rare Adirondack record. Three Black-headed Gulls—typically more coastal—were notable

on L. Ontario; one was at Somerset, Niagara, 22 Oct (BPo) and 2 were at Hamlin the same day (WS, MD). Two adults were a good find at Barnegat Light, Ocean, NJ, 19 Nov (F. Lesser), but Long Island (the stronghold in the 1970s) had only one, at Southampton 11 Nov (AJL). A California Gull visited the Niagara region for the 9th fall straight 12 Nov (WD'A, BK). A juv. Black-legged Kittiwake furnished an overdue first Adirondacks record at Split Rock Narrows lakewatch 12 Nov (TM, J. Osborn, F. Pratt, C. Provost, A. Strong). Four at Hamlin Beach the same day (WS et al.) was the peak of the L. Ontario passage. Only a handful of Sabine's Gulls frequented Niagara and L. Ontario, but nearly simultaneous with 3 at Hamlin Beach (Oct. 8–9) was one at Ithaca, NY, 7 Oct (M. Harribal, m.ob.); a juv. delighted many at Merrill Creek Res., Warren, 9–12 Oct (RKa, m.ob.; ph. RW, AP, BH), providing about the 7th documented New Jersey record.

Two Caspian Terns at L. Carey 28 Aug (WR) provided a first Wyoming, PA, record, while 2 the same day over Hawk Mt. were a first there. About 4 Sandwich Terns reached L.I. 26 Aug–10 Oct at Jamaica Bay (ph. M. Stubblefield), while several at Cape May were more typical. Bridled Terns gathered offshore in unprecedented numbers, without storms. Five were out of Brielle, NJ, toward Hudson Canyon 2 Sep (FONT, PG, MV, MB et al.). On 3 Sep, two boats out of Cape May into Delaware waters counted 23 and 13, with little apparent overlap, feeding in sargassum weed in 80° water (FONT, PG, MG, ph. RW, m.ob.). A **White-winged Tern** was discovered 2 Aug



Only the 7th documented in New Jersey, this juvenile Sabine's Gull was seen by many at Merrill Creek Reservoir, Warren, New Jersey, 9–12 October 2000; this image was captured on the last day of its stay. Photograph by Alexander Pochek.

at Perch River W.M.A., *Jefferson*, NY (S. Muller), where one bred with a Black Tern in 1992 and was observed again in 1994. The Adirondacks' first Atlantic Puffin, at Crown Pt., *Essex*, NY, 6 Nov (J. Huchro), was taken to rehabilitation, where it died.

SA No fewer than three extralimital hummingbird species appeared. Three Rufous could be positively identified: an imm. female in E. Hampton, LI, that died when the feeder owner captured it 28 Nov (HMcG, SM, *AMNH); an imm. male at Wiltraut's feeder in Nazareth, *Northampton*, PA, 14 Nov into December (ph. RW); and one banded at Hockessin, *New Castle*, DE, after 18 Nov (J. White, MG, m.ob.). A **Calliope Hummingbird**, New Jersey's 2nd, was videotaped around *Salvia* plants at Cape May Bird Observatory headquarters, Goshen, 11–15 Nov (ph. SF, KL). Also at Cape May after 16 Nov was an **Allen's Hummingbird**, New Jersey's first and the region's 2nd, verified in hand 2 Dec (MG). An additional 7 hummingbirds could be identified only as *Selasphorus* sp. One far north at a Port Byron, *Cayuga*, NY, feeder 3 Sep (D. Trumble, ph.) was a first for the Oneida L. basin. E. Pennsylvania hosted 4, at McMichaels, *Monroe*, 20 Nov (ph. BH), Minersville 25–28 Sep (E. Hymes), Schuylkill Haven after mid-Sep (AK, E. Hymes), and both *Schuylkill*, and Brodheadsville, *Carbon*, 5 Nov–4 Dec. Additional undifferentiated *Selasphorus* reached E. Hampton, LI, 25–28 Nov and Linwood, *Atlantic*, NJ, 11–15 Nov (K. Post et al.).

Owls Through Woodpeckers

Snowy Owls staged a modest invasion that reached as far as *Lebanon*, PA, 9–12 Nov and *Cape May*, NJ. Curiously, they arrived earlier on L.I. (7 Nov) and in New Jersey (Brig 4 Nov, *Salem* 5 Nov) than at Niagara (12 Nov). Common Nighthawks still managed a few good flights: 200 on 25 Aug in Cambria and Wilson Townships, *Niagara*, NY (S. O'Donnell), 92 over Harrisburg, PA, the same day (DH), 175 following the Wissahickon Valley, Philadelphia, 24–25 Aug (DAC), and 200–300 between 1730 and 1930 EDT 4 Sept over Bivalve and Norris, *Cumberland*, NJ (K. Johnson). Remarkably late were 95 over the Wissahickon Valley 1 Oct (DAC). Some 3000 Chimney Swifts funneled into a chimney at Reading, PA, 9 Sep (B. Uhrich).

Flycatchers Through Tanagers

A **Hammond's Flycatcher** videotaped and voice-recorded at the Monocacy Nature Center, Bethlehem, *Northampton*, 18 Nov+ (L. Freedman, J. Zajacek, ph. RW, m.ob.) follows closely one banded near Philadelphia in May 2000 (*N. Am. Birds* 54:226), providing a 2nd or 3rd state record (a 1966 specimen lacks rectrices). Five Ash-throated Flycatchers, all coastal, continued recent good fall numbers, starting early at Jamaica Bay 5–12 Sept (M. Duffy, RJK, SW, m.ob.). Two Western Kingbirds were unusual together at Hamlin Beach 30 Aug (R. O'Hara, R. McKinney, RGS et al.), and ± 10 coastal records was low. A **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** at Roxana, *Sussex*, 22–23 Sep (J. Landers, ph. APE, m.ob.) furnished the 3rd Delaware record, all since 1985. Encouraging were 3 Loggerhead Shrikes, late at Baldwinsville, *Onondaga*, NY, 21 Oct (†J. Brin), at Troy Meadows, *Morris*, NJ, 7 Oct (RR), and at Cedarville, *Cumberland*, NJ, 12 Sep+ (R.&L. Kegel, m.ob.). Northern Shrikes staged a modest invasion into cen. NY and n. NJ.

Three **Cave Swallows** appeared at Cape May 6 Nov (PL), for at least the 8th straight fall, but did not linger; none were seen elsewhere. Golden-crowned Kinglets were the second-most commonly banded species at Kaiser-Manitou, with 814 (EBr). A **Townsend's Solitaire** at Hamlin Beach 29 Sep (†MD et al.)

was the Rochester area's first. Peak nights for thrush calls over *Berks*, PA, came 18 Sep (50 Gray-cheeked), 25 Sep (350 Swainson's), and 27 Sep (300 Swainson's; RK).

An amazing 22 Golden-winged Warblers, a species easily missed altogether in fall, were observed in the NY City-L.I. area; one was record late 23 Oct. Others were at Palmyra, *Burlington*, NJ, 19 Aug (B&NM), Cape May 6 Sep (B. Mulrooney), Brandywine Creek S.P., *New Castle*, DE, 20 Aug (MG, B. Peterjohn), and late at Hook Mt. 22 Sep (F. Bonanno). A Virginia's Warbler was studied n. of Sterling Forest, *Sullivan*, NY, 20 Oct (@†J. Yrizzary); the record is under review as a possible state first. Magnolia Warblers comprised nearly a third of all the warblers banded at Kaiser-Manitou (265 of 877). Cape May Warblers, the hardest-hit of the spruce-budworm feeders, went unreported in many areas; Kaiser-Manitou banded only 3. An ad. Kirtland's Warbler was carefully described at Easton, *Northampton*, PA, 26 Aug (@†AK). A Swainson's Warbler was rare at Cape May 5 Sep (RC).

A Summer Tanager was wildly astray at Buffalo 8–12 Nov (†WW, †BK, †WD'A, †D. Suggs). Late atasing turned up a **Western Tanager** in Champlain Township, n. *Clinton*, NY, 24 Aug (S. Arthus, E. Marshall, C. Murphy), a first for the Adirondacks. Another was at Sandy Hook 7–12 Oct (P. Dorosh, L. Mack et al.)



One of a remarkable 23 Bridled Terns off Cape May, New Jersey, 3 September 2000. The species is seldom noted so far north, particularly in such large numbers. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.



Steadily increasing as a winter visitor to eastern North America, Ross's Goose is now annual in much of the Northeast. This first-winter frequented Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York, in October 2000. Photograph by Michael Stubblefield.

Sparrows Through Finches

A Clay-colored Sparrow nest with young in Andover Township, *Allegheny*, NY, 2 Aug (EBr) continues a series of w. New York breeding records. Coastal migrants amounted to a normal 20 or so, while more unusual inland observations included a first *Bradford*, PA, record in Standing Stone Township 30 Nov (WR), 2 in e. Pennsylvania, and 2 in interior New Jersey. Eleven Lark Sparrows, a little low, were all coastal. A Lark Bunting, less frequent than a generation ago, was welcome at Stone Harbor Pt., *Cape May*, NJ, 15–16 Sep (JDo, MH). A Henslow's Sparrow at Blue Marsh game lands, *Berks*, PA, (KKn, JS) was the first in that area in many years. A Le Conte's Sparrow at Montauk Pt. 14–15 Oct (AB, B. Wilson, HMcG, RJK, m.ob.) was a 3rd or 4th for L.I.; several reports came from coastal New Jersey.

SA New York's first **Cassin's Sparrow**, discovered at Jones Beach S.P., *Suffolk*, 9 Oct (TWB, G. Benson, ph. A. Wilson, S. Ausubel), lingered three days (m.ob.). Only 2 northeastern U.S. records are documented: one photographed at Mount Desert, ME, 16–25 Sep 1986, and a specimen from Island Beach, *Ocean*, NJ. There are a half-dozen Canada records (Nova Scotia and a handful from the L. Erie shore of Ontario).

Nearly one-quarter of all the birds banded at Kaiser-Manitou this season were White-throated Sparrows (1183). A major movement of White-crowned Sparrows 15 Oct brought 160, along with hundreds of other sparrows, to Hogan Pt., *Monroe*, NY (DT); an "incredible" 110 to e. L.I. included a Gambel's (AJL, AG). The following day 115 were s. of the Cape May canal (PL et al.). Three Oregon Juncos turned up in *Erie*, NY, 2 at Colden 21 Nov (†K.&J. Landau) and one at Eden Valley 21–24 Nov (†RA). Others at Parish, *Oswego*, NY, 20 Nov+ and Cape May 1 Nov (K. Duffy) completed a remarkable season for western juncos. Three Painted Buntings were exceptional: one banded at Cape May 13 Sep (D. Mizrahi, VE), another there 24 Nov–1 Dec (B. Fogg, K&JL), and a male at Bombay Hook 29 Sep (K. Liehr).

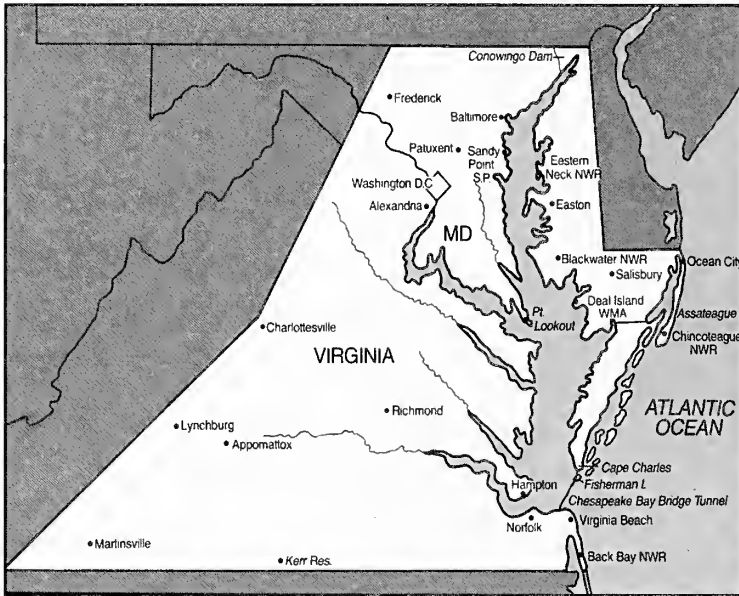
Many reports noted diminished numbers of House Finches; only 3 were banded at Kaiser-Manitou all season. Vigorous nesting activity by White-winged Crossbills in the Adirondacks in Aug–Sep (JMCP, RPY) would normally have heralded an irruption, but abundant natural food seems to have kept them there. A juv. Red Crossbill at a Cedar Run feeder 4–7 Aug and 28 Aug (D. Desjardins, PBa) suggested local breeding.

Observers (subregional compilers in boldface): **Deborah Allen** (Central Park, NY), **Robert Andrie** (Niagara Frontier Area), Pete

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Middle Atlantic Coast



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Migration activity this fall was a fairly slow. Hawk flights at Kiptopeke were below average, and relatively few fronts precipitated large landbird flights. Still, there are always interesting phenomena to note. Seasonal highlights included good numbers of terns and *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, and the beginnings of a Snowy Owl invasion (though other northerners failed to appear). Exceptional rarities came from all corners of the globe, including a Regional first Mountain Bluebird, Maryland's sixth Ash-throated Flycatcher, Maryland's second Black-tailed Gull, the continuing Kelp Gull, and a Gyrfalcon!

Note that Jim Stasz, who has provided invaluable assistance with the compilation and assimilation of data for the column since 1995, will no longer be the contact for observers' reports. From now on, please report directly to me. I extend my sincerest of thanks to Jim for his help over the past six years.

Abbreviations: Assateague (Assateague Island National Seashore, Worcester, MD); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Northampton, VA); Chincoteague (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); Chino (Chino Farms banding station, Queen Anne's, MD); D.C. (District of Columbia); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton, VA); Hart (Hart-Miller Dredge Spoil Containment Facility, Baltimore, MD); Kiptopeke (Kiptopeke S.P., Northampton, VA); P.L.S.P. (Point Lookout S.P., Saint Mary's, MD); P.R.N.A.S. (Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Saint Mary's, MD); U.M.C.F. (University of Maryland Central Farm, Howard, MD); Vaughn (E.A. Vaughn W.M.A., Worcester, MD). All locations can be assumed to be in Maryland except that each Virginia location is noted as such the first time it appears in the text.

Grebes Through Raptors

Although Eared Grebe is the more likely small *Podiceps* Aug–mid-Oct, a Horned Grebe was at Edgewater, Anne Arundel, 22 Aug (S. Ricciardi, B. Taylor). Other reports during that period

were of Eareds, including a *Caroline* first at Ridgely W.T.P. 1–20 Sep (G. Miller, MLH, ph., m.ob.); it was joined by 2 more 15 Sep (RFR, et al.). One at Hurlock W.T.P., Dorchester, 22 Sep–6 Oct (RFR et al.) was joined by a 2nd from at least 30 Sep–2 Oct (SA, MJI). Others were at Havre de Grace, Harford, 6 Oct (EB) and P.R.N.A.S. 10 Oct (KR). A 3 Sep Focus on Nature Tours pelagic trip out of Lewes, DE, reported 15 Greater and 9 Cory's Shearwater, and 25 Wilson's Storm-Petrels from Maryland waters (APE et al.). Single American White Pelicans appeared at Blackwater N.W.R., Dorchester, 13 Oct (@SA, L. Willey) and another dropped in on the tiny Schoolhouse Pond, Prince George's, 29 Nov (@JLS, ph. m.ob.). Two were at Fisherman I., Northampton, VA, 21 Oct (ESB, SHa). Northern Gannets moved into the Bay, with 65 at Scientists Cliffs, Calvert, 18 Nov (A. Ripley, SS). Brown Pelicans remained in the Lower Bay through Oct, with a surprising high count of 150 from Roaring Pt., Wicomico, 28 Oct (SHD). Four at Turkey Pt. 31 Oct (L. Fisher, C. Gant) provided a 2nd *Cecilia* record. Two **frigatebird sp.** over Cape Charles, Northampton, VA, were a surprise 23 Oct (ESB, SHa). Early Great Cormorants were at C.B.B.T. 10 (LW) & 14 Sep (GLA) and Smith I., Somerset, 10 Sep (MJI, JLS). An imm. Great Cormorant at Blue Plains 7–25 Nov (D. Mozurkewich, m.ob.) provided a rare D.C. record. Anhingas are regular only at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach, VA, but 4 there 13 Aug (D.L. Hughes) was a new high count; one lingering through 24 Nov (K. Kearny) was unusually late. A Tricolored Heron made rare inland appearances at Carderock, Montgomery, 21 Aug (DC) and Four-Mile Run, D.C., 1 & 3 Sep (PP), the latter bird moving to Hunting Cr., Fairfax, VA, 2 Sep (SS).

Greater White-fronted Geese included one at Airlie, Fairfax, VA, 3 Oct+ (SH, m.ob.), 3 at Chino 2–25 Nov (JG et al.), one at Rte. 309, Queen Anne's, 15 Nov (MH, JLS, MJI), and 3 at nearby Rte. 301/213, Queen Anne's, 18 Nov (SA). All but the Chino birds were specifically identified as the expected Greenland *flavirostris*, but one in Columbia, Howard, 13–30 Nov+ (S. Peruzzi et al., ph., m.ob.) was clearly of one of the pink-billed western subspecies, surprisingly the first such confirmed report in Maryland [although bill color varies–ed.]. We received 13 reports of small Canada Geese, most presumably *hutchinsii*, and 4 reports of Ross's Geese, evidence of increased observer attention to geese. There were a number of reports of Brant from Bay counties, where they are unusual; one at Havre de Grace 21 Oct (L. Eastman, D. Powell) immediately followed a large Brant fallout in Pennsylvania. Eurasian

Wigeon was reported only at Airlie 10–11 Oct (SH, TMD, C.French) and Leeds Cr., *Talbot*, 23 Oct (LR). A Common Teal was at Chincoteague 19 Nov (AL). The only King Eider reports were of one 18 Oct (BLS) at C.B.B.T. and 7 fly-bys at Ocean City 11 Nov (EB). Two Harlequin Duck at P.L.S.P. 16 Nov (PC) provided the only Bay report. The earliest was 18 Oct (BLS) at C.B.B.T. Scoters in unusual locations included a Black at the Tidal Basin, D.C., 8 Nov (B. Dobbins) and a Surf at Ridgely W.T.P. 10 Nov (ph. MJI), a *Caroline* second.

A rare **Swallow-tailed Kite** at Chino 20 Sep (@JG) was seen heading ne., providing a *Queen Anne's* first and only the 2nd reported in Maryland in fall. The Kiptopeke Hawkwatch, in its 6th consecutive year of complete coverage, was manned this year by Calvin Brennan. Hawks and vultures totaled 31,197 in 695 hours. The season was slow overall, without strong fronts, and especially lacking in ne. winds that produce the best flights. Persistent high pressure produced clear blue skies abhorred by hawkwatchers, and many of the birds probably passed undetected high overhead or down the e. side of the peninsula. Highlight of the season was an ad. or 2nd-year gray **Gyr Falcon** that passed 21 Oct (@†CB et al.) and was seen again 22 Oct (ESB, M. Garland) at E.S.V.N.W.R. If accepted it will provide a 3rd record for Virginia and a first for *Northampton*. Several others were reported from other e. hawkwatches, though the question of falconer's birds necessitates excellent documentation for out-of-range Gyrfalcons. Totals of other species were 2274 Black and 9601 Turkey Vultures, 2726 Ospreys, 315 Bald Eagles, 674 Northern Harriers, 5969 Sharp-shinned and 1575 Cooper's Hawks, 11 Northern Goshawks, 77 Red-shouldered, 812 Broad-winged, and 930 Red-tailed Hawks, 18 Golden Eagles, 4391 American Kestrels, 1132 Merlins, and 744 Peregrine Falcons. Notable peak flights included 397 Ospreys 29 Sep and 147 Peregrine Falcons 6 Oct, whereas peaks of 109 Merlins 29 Sep and 552 Sharp-shinned Hawks 22 Sep were indicative of a slow season without any exceptional flights. A leucistic Merlin was seen 14 Sep (CB, BLS). A complete copy of Brennan's report is available from Coastal Virginia Wildlife Observatory (P.O. Box 111, Franktown, VA 23354)

Cranes Through Hummingbirds

The *Dorchester* Sandhill Crane was last reported 14 Aug (*fide* LR); another dropped in at Chesapeake Farms, *Kent*, 24–28 Nov (J. Tardiff). An American Golden-Plover at John Brown Rd. Turf Farm, *Queen Anne's*, 8 Aug (LR) was early, but 2 at Ironshire Station Rd.,

Worcester, 11–12 Nov (TMD et al.) were late. The species was found regularly on the Eastern Shore, but 62 near Kiptopeke 4 Sep (BLS et al.) was the only count over 25. Whimbrels are unusual in the Bay; birds this year were at Hart 3, 9 & 28 Sep (EJS) and at P.L.S.P. 9 Sep (PC). A first for *Somerset* was a Marbled Godwit at Deal I. W.M.A. 10–12 Nov (RFR, ph., v.o.). Hudsonian Godwits are surprisingly rare in the Region, but this year 4 flew over E.S.V.N.W.R. 25 Aug (BLS), one spent 6–10 Sep (GLA, m.ob.) at Cheriton, *Northampton*, VA, one was seen 12 Sep (MJI) at Rum Pointe Golf Course, *Worcester*, and 3 were counted 19 Sep (F.&L. Mantlik) on the Chincoteague causeway. Most notable were 14 at Hart 3 Sep (EJS et al.), which tied the second-best count (high is 21) for Maryland. A long-overdue first for *Wicomico* was a Ruddy Turnstone at a Salisbury sod farm 4 Sep (SHD, v.o.). Three Red Knots at Rumbley Pt. Rd., *Somerset*, were in an unusual location 14 Sep (JLS). Ad. Baird's Sandpipers at Hart 5 (MJI, JLS, MH) & 19 Aug (EJS et al.) were unusual because most reports in the East are of juveniles. Unusual in the Bay was a Purple Sandpiper at P.L.S.P. 5 (R. Wall) & 12 Nov (PC, A. Bishop) and 8 at Poplar I., *Talbot*, 26 Nov (MJI). They may winter regularly at the latter location now that rip-rap has been installed. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were regularly found at traditional Eastern Shore locations in MD and VA, with the best count (by far) being 10 at John Brown Rd. Turf Farm 2 Sep (T.D.&J. Coskren). Stilt Sandpipers (1–3) were at Hunting Cr., *Fairfax*, VA, through much of Aug; a Long-billed Dowitcher there 3 Aug–10 Oct (SS, KG, v.ob.) was more noteworthy. A female Ruff at Hart 3 Sep (EJS et al.) was a good find; one at the Newark Landfill, *Worcester*, 12–14 Oct (MJI, ph., m.ob.) may have been the first juv. found in Maryland. Ridgely W.T.P., *Caroline*, put in another good phalarope show, with a hatch-year Red 22–26 Sep (ph. JBC, ph. m.ob.) and a Wilson's 6 Oct (vt. RFR, DT). The former species had occurred once previously, on 2 Oct 1997, while the latter was a first for the locale.

The 3 Sep pelagic out of Lewes had 6 Pomarine and one light juv. **Long-tailed Jaeger** (@†MJI, †APE, m.ob.), the latter only the 8th for Maryland (3rd documented). A 29 Nov trip off Ocean City had 2 Parasitic and one Pomarine Jaegers (MJI). The two rare small gulls are turning up less frequently, with an ad. Black-headed at Oyster, *Northampton*, 26 Sep (GLA) and an ad. Little off Ocean City 29 Nov (MJI) constituting the only reports. An ad. Silver Gull (native to Australia/New Zealand) among Laughings and Ring-billeds at Brown's Station Landfill, *Prince George's*, 30

Nov (ph. †MJI) was a shocker, but undoubtedly of captive origin. This species has recently been kept unbanded in flight cages at the National Zoo in D.C. (*fide* DC) and has been reported in Delaware/New Jersey in 1996 and in Maryland during the mid-1990s. The star Maryland rarity for the fall was a 3rd-winter **Black-tailed Gull** in the Off-Road-Vehicle (O.R.V.) Zone of Assateague 7 Oct (@†MJI, ph. JLS) and seen again 8, 14, & 15 Oct (JLS et al., vt., ph., v.o.). This well-documented bird was on the beach just a mile n. of the Virginia line, spending much of its time pirating mole crabs from Sanderlings. Maryland's previous record at Sandy Point S.P. in July 1984 predates the spate of records since 1995. The only Thayer's Gull was a first-winter at Brown's Station Landfill 30 Nov (MJI), and the season's lone Franklin's Gull was a first-winter at Schoolhouse Pond 11 Oct (JLS). The Sandgates **Kelp Gull** continued through the season. A tarrock Black-legged Kittiwake at C.B.B.T. 8 Oct (GLA et al.) was quite early; 5 off Ocean City 29 Nov (MJI) were the only others reported.

Cruising the O.R.V. Zone of Assateague proved fruitful for running up high tern counts. The 109 Caspian Terns counted 30 Sep (JLS, MJI), together with other reports, indicated it was an exceptionally good year for the species on the coast. Seventeen Sandwich Terns on the beach and another 6 at nearby Eagle's Nest Campground 26 Aug (JLS, MH) bested the previous Maryland high count by 11. The latter count itself was topped by an amazing 63 (49 ad., 14 juv.) in the O.R.V. Zone 2 Sep, following persistent se. winds (MJI, JLS). Perhaps related, 5 Bridled Terns in Maryland waters on the 3 Sep pelagic trip were a mere handful of the incredible 18 totaled on that trip, the rest in Delaware waters (APE et al.). A pair of rare terns on e. winds at C.B.B.T. 6 Sep (GLA, BLS) included a Roseate and an ad. Arctic Tern, the latter only the 2nd recorded at that location. Three Black Terns at C.B.B.T. 1 Oct (HTA) were unusually late for the Region.

A **White-winged Dove** at Kiptopeke 5 (CB) & 6 Sep (ESB) may have been the same one seen a few miles away 27 Sep (ESB). This expanding species is expected to occur with increased frequency. Snowy Owls staged a significant invasion, with a *Carroll* first at Taneytown 6 Nov (vt. *fide* J. Wilkerson), and one at Oland Rd., *Frederick*, possibly arriving as early as 7 Nov (*fide* local residents). Northern Saw-whet Owl banding held no surprises, as the post-invasion year numbers were average at all stations, implying that n. prey populations crashed this summer after booming last year.

An *Archilochus* hummingbird on the Mall, D.C., 26–28 Oct (J. Felley, RH, PP) was late but the description matched Ruby-throated. Definitive Ruby-throateds were late at Bishopville, *Worcester*, 17–26 Nov (AD, ph. MJI, v.o.) and 21 Nov+ (GMJ, v.o.) at White Plains, *Charles*, the latter banded and identified as an imm. male (MG). Reports of Regional *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, most presumably Rufous, continue to increase. This year's included an ad. female Rufous 4 Oct–24 Nov in Orange, *Orange*, VA (G. Harris, banded by MG), an imm. male Rufous/Allen's at St. Michael's, *Talbot*, 16–18 Oct (@ph. M. Stephens, †, v.o.), a *Selasphorus* at Royal Oak 11 Oct (@J. Crump *vide* JR), an imm. male Rufous (showing completely rufous feathers through much of the back) at Cambridge, *Dorchester*, 12 Nov+ (@I. McLaughlin, ph. †MJI, v.o.), an ad. female Rufous in Bishopville that shared the Deward feeders with the Ruby-throated 17 Nov+ (AD, banded by MG, ph., v.o.) and a *Baltimore* first *Selasphorus* at Randallstown 18–21 Nov (@vt. K.E. Costley).

Flycatchers Through Swallows

The 13 Olive-sided Flycatchers this season was an excellent total. Western Kingbirds also had

SA One of the better birds of the season in Maryland was *Worcester's* first **Ash-throated Flycatcher** that visited a small woodlot at the Assateague Island Visitor Center 11–12 Nov (N.&E. Saunders, ph., vt., m.o.). Not worthy of an "S.A." itself, the process of its discovery may be of interest to some observers. November 11 marked the first annual "rarity roundup", a CBC-style survey in Maryland's coastal *Worcester*, where some 31 observers in 20 parties split up the most promising habitats of the county with the hope of crossing paths with such November vagrants as Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, western warblers, etc. The day was extremely windy, but the effort in the usually under-covered coast also produced 2 Le Conte's Sparrows and a Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow, both Maryland review species, along with a number of significant late dates or surprising numbers (note the frequency of 11 Nov observations in these pages). Most of us feel the excitement during CBC season as we wait to see what surprises all the party-hours will produce, but in most parts of the country, peak vagrant season is not during Christmas!

an excellent season. The Kiptopeke area of Virginia has the best track record for this species, and this year 8 birds were seen there on six dates, with a high of 3 on 17 Nov (BLS). Maryland had an unusual 4 reports, including singles 3 Oct (K. Fehskens) at College Park, *Prince George's*, 1 Nov (JLS) at Wayson's Corner, *Aune Arundel*, 20 Nov (J&R Geuder) at Eastern Neck N.W.R., *Kent*, and 26 Nov (GMJ, GB) at Colonial Farm, *Prince George's*. *Northampton*, VA, had 2 **Gray Kingbirds**; a typically uncooperative one 10 Oct (†GLA) stayed only a few minutes, while another at Latimer's Bluff 13–25 Nov (ph. BLS, m.ob.) was unusual in that it lingered for almost two weeks. The nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in *Culpeper*, VA, were last seen 26 Aug (KH). An imm. Northern Shrike banded at Chino 25 Oct was early (JG).

The latest White-eyed Vireo was at Latimer's Bluff 19 Nov (AL). A tardy Warbling Vireo at Assateague 9 Oct (MLH, MJI, PG) tied the Maryland late date and improved on the 30 Sep *Worcester* late date set there just a week earlier (MJI, JLS). A month later than any other Regional report this year, a Red-eyed Vireo was seen eating berries in a Rapidan, *Culpeper*, VA, yard 21 Nov (KH).

The tail-end of the swallow migration produced a 30 Sep Bank Swallow at Papermill Mudflats, *Baltimore* (DT), 4 Oct Northern Rough-winged Swallows (v.o.), and a 9 Oct Cliff Swallow near Kiptopeke (ESB, B. Patteson). The best swallow was a **Cave Swallow** at Cheapside, *Northampton*, 20 Nov (@CB) feeding over a field with Tree Swallows. This year is the 3rd straight year that the Cape Charles peninsula has joined Cape May with reports of Nov Cave Swallows.

Chickadees Through Finches

Although a chickadee invasion was not evident in the Region, a surprising 3 Black-cappeds were banded at the Chino banding station 8 Nov (JG). The fall was poor for Red-breasted Nuthatches. A fairly early Winter Wren was at Gwynn Acres Path, *Howard*, 9 Sep (JBC). Of the 2 Nov Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, the latest was 19 Nov (KG) at Dangerfield I., *Alexandria*, VA. The most sensational D.C. rarity of the season was a female **Mountain Bluebird** that dropped into Rock Creek Park 12 Nov (@†RH, L. Shannon). Descriptions of this first Regional report (Maryland has one record from the west) will be reviewed by the Maryland/D.C. Records Committee. Brennan counted an impressive 30,000 American Robins in a dawn flight at Kiptopeke 19 Nov. Six Bicknell's Thrush reports 25 Sep–23 Oct included 3 banded birds, one found dead, and 2 sight records. Given the

difficulties of field identification, well-documented records are highly desirable to aid in our understanding of the migration timing of this recently-split species.

Relatively few days produced exceptional flights of warblers on the coast, though 5 Sep was noted as a good day at Kiptopeke. Brinkley witnessed a good flight at Kiptopeke 14 Sep, dominated by Black-and-white Warblers and Common Yellowthroats, and hundreds of American Redstarts, Northern Parulas, and Red-eyed Vireos as well. Maryland rarely gets Oct Blue-winged Warblers, but 3 this year included one 8 Oct at U.M.C.F. (BO) and one 10 Oct in Ocean City, *Worcester* (MJI). More noteworthy was a Golden-winged Warbler at Vaughn 1 Oct (MJI, JLS) that was record-late for Maryland. A Nashville Warbler at Churchville, *Harford*, 2 Aug (MH, K. Fehskens) was one day behind Maryland's record early arrival date. The latest Yellow Warblers were 3 on 30 Sep (ph. JLS, MJI) at the Assateague Visitor Center, including 2 bright individuals and one dull one, presumably representing different subspecies (e.g., *ammicola*). Observers are encouraged to pay attention to late-season birds because dull northerly subspecies tend to pass through near the end of the Yellow Warbler migration. Other late-season warblers included a 7 Nov Magnolia Warbler at Oakland Mills, *Howard* (J. Wilkinson), a 13

SA Perhaps the most shocking (and frustrating) bird of the season flew across the road in front of a startled Iliiff on a frigid and windy 21 Nov: a **martin sp.!** It was quickly relocated feeding over a cattle feedlot and a small pond about 2 mi s. of Kennedyville, *Kent*. The somewhat sickly ad. male martin was photographed and watched for some 45 minutes; an hour later it could not be refound, nor was it located in searches the next day (which included careful checks of likely roosting sites for a dead bird). Purple Martin is essentially unknown in the Northeast after mid-Oct and given the precedence for austral migrants (e.g., Fork-tailed and Variegated Flycatchers, Brown-chested Martin) occurring in Nov, Southern Martin seems a possible, if not probable, contender. Unfortunately this species and Cuban Martin, both recorded in the United States from Florida, are separable from Purple Martin as adult males only by in-hand examination. This may have been a good one that got away! Photos are available to anyone interested.

Nov male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Ocean City (D. Burggraf), a 11 Nov Prairie Warbler on Assateague (PO) and Ovenbird near Newark, Worcester (TMD), a 3 Nov American Redstart in Baltimore (DT), a 15 Nov Northern Waterthrush in Salisbury, Wicomico (SHD), and a 21 Nov Yellow-breasted Chat at P.L.S.P. (PC). A 30 Sep Prothonotary Warbler on Assateague (MJI) was late; 3 Sep reports of Louisiana Waterthrush, including one 16 Sep (M. McLure, C. Stirrat), makes one hope that Northern Waterthrush, a common Sep migrant, was carefully eliminated in each case.

Clay-colored Sparrow is now expected along the coast, where it was formerly considered rare, the result of a real increase combined with better observer awareness. This fall we received reports of at least 15 birds, all from the Delmarva peninsula, 11 from the immediate coast. Similarly, 8 Lark Sparrow reports were all from the immediate coast as well and included highs of 2 at E.S.V.N.W.R. 29 Aug (GLA, BLS) and 2 at Assateague on 20 (ph. MLH) & 27 Sep (MJI); late individuals were at the Assateague boat ramp 18–19 Nov (ph. MJI), Vaughn 19 Nov (R. Wilson), and Kiptopeke 24 Nov (CB). Le Conte's Sparrows continue to be found with regularity. An early migrant, still in mostly juv. plumage, was at C.B.B.T. 14 Oct (GLA, MJI), one was at E.S.V.N.W.R. in mid-Nov (BLS), and singles at Vaughn 11–12 Nov (@†ph. MJI,

m.ob.) and nearby Bayview Farm 11 Nov (@†MJI) were probably wintering. The only inland Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at U.M.C.F. 15 Oct (BO, JS), where there are two prior records. Six Ipswich Sparrows on north Assateague 11 Nov (PO) provided one of the earlier dates for Maryland, presumably only resulting from the inaccessibility of habitat. Although Lincoln's Sparrow is not uncommon in the Piedmont, a count of 20 at Mount Pleasant, Howard, 11 Oct (BO) was exceptional and the combination of good timing and intense effort. This fall was a good one for White-crowned Sparrows, and perhaps as a result 6 *gambelli* were reported. Singles were banded at Chino 12 & 26 Oct and 3 Nov (@JG), and observed at P.L.S.P. 8 & 22 Oct (@PC) and Vaughn 11 Nov (@†MJI). Seemingly annual now in winter in Tidewater, a female Painted Bunting was at Craney 28 Nov (D. Clark).

Brewer's Blackbirds have become fairly scarce recently, so 3 reports this fall were noteworthy: one was at Nanticoke, Wicomico, 25 Oct (C.&D. Broderick), one female was at North Beach, Calvert, 28 Oct (D. Bystrak), and 3 males were at Fairlee, Kent, 18 Nov (JLS), with one male still present 21 Nov (MJI). Winter finch counts this season were the lowest ever. The Purple Finch and Pine Siskin flight was minimal, with no counts over 10 for either species. Surprisingly, Evening Grosbeaks went

unreported. One Red Crossbill flew over Kiptopeke 14 Oct (BLS).

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Southern Atlantic Coast

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Weather of the long fall season was characterized by average temperatures and above-average precipitation during the first half, colder and drier conditions in the second. For much of the Carolinas November was one of the coldest on record; North Carolina experienced one of its heaviest early snowfalls on the 19th! Cold-front passage was about average, some bringing good numbers of passerine migrants. This season had some excellent rarities, such as White-faced Ibis in South Carolina, Long-tailed Jaeger and Black-headed Gull in Georgia, and Green-breasted Mango in North Carolina.



Abbreviations: BRC (Bird Records Committee); C. H. (Cape Hatteras, NC); E.L.H. (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton, GA); H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach State Park, SC); P.I. (Pea I. N.W.R., NC); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC); W.M.A. (Wildlife Management Area); W.T.P. (Wastewater Treatment Plant).

Loons Through Hawks

Always noteworthy inland, Red-throated Loons were found in North Carolina at Salem L., Forsyth, 5 Nov (RS et al.) and Jordan L. 20 Nov (RD). Common Loon inland migration was about average, the best count being 200+ at West Point Dam, GA, 24 Nov (GB et al.). The number of Eared Grebe reports was average, the best counts being 5 each at Rum Creek W.M.A., GA, 11 Nov (TJ) and the usual Goldsboro, NC, W.T.P. site (ED). Only one Northern Fulmar was found, off Hatteras 4 Nov (BP et al.). North Carolina pelagic trips in August were highlighted by another **Bermuda Petrel** off Oregon Inlet 19 Aug (the sixth sighting for the year!), an amazing total of 4 Herald Petrels off Hatteras 26 Aug, 3 rare-in-summer Manx Shearwaters off Oregon Inlet 20 Aug, a White-faced Storm-Petrel off Oregon Inlet 13 Aug, and a record one-day total of 234 Band-rumpeds off Hatteras 6 Aug (BP et al.). Masked Booby reports consisted of one off Oregon Inlet 21 Aug (BP et al.), one onshore that ranged from Hatteras Inlet to Oregon Inlet 19–25 Sep (MW, SCa, JL, PM et al.), and one off C. H., NC, 27 Oct (BP). The best American White Pelican totals were 16 over Darien, GA, 7 Oct (DCo) and 37 at S.S.S. 15 Nov (SC). Only one Magnificent Frigatebird was reported, at Jekyll I., GA, 23 Sep (GK et al.).

Great White Herons, unusual in the region, were reported from two areas: at least 2 were along the Chattahoochee R., GA, 17–21 Aug (*vide* JS) and one was seen at H.B.S.P. 4 Nov (SS). Reddish Egret reports were again widespread, the best totals being 7 at S.S.S. 20 Sep (SC), 6 at Little St. Simons I., GA, 10 Aug (SH) and 15 Sep (BW), and 4 at Portsmouth I., NC, 3 Aug (W1). The wader of the season had to be the **White-faced Ibis** observed sporadically at Savannah N.W.R., SC, 1 Nov+ (S&PSu, BM, PW, D&DF). Although no documentation was obtained, this bird provided the first good sight report of the species for the Region. Interestingly, it may have been seen there as early as 5 May (*vide* DF). Roseate Spoonbills away from the usual Brunswick, GA, area included the summering individual at P.I. as late as 27 Aug (JL), one in the Charleston, SC, area during the last half of Sep (CW), and one inland at Albany, GA, 19 Aug (*vide* JH). Rare inland

Wood Storks included 2 at the E.L.H. 19 Aug (JS) and one at Goldsboro, NC, 28 Aug (ED).

Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were found in much higher than normal numbers. A flock of ≤ 50 was in the Jekyll I., GA, area 15 Oct (GK); a flock at P.I. 26 Oct–21 Nov peaked at 26 on 4 Nov (JL, KW, m. obs.); ≤ 7 were at Magnolia Gardens, SC, in late Nov (*vide* PN); and 3 were at L. Mattamuskeet, NC, 27 Oct (*vide* TP). The only Greater White-fronted Geese reported were ≤ 5 at L. Walter F. George, GA, 17–28 Nov (BZ, EH, WC). Ross's Goose reports included 2–5 at P.I. 28 Oct–12 Nov (JL, KW et al., HW et al., m.ob.) and one at E.L.H. 30 Nov (CL). Another goose, rare in Georgia, was the **Brant** seen at Jekyll I. 17 Nov (RT, BE). Duck numbers were down somewhat this fall, with much of the wintering populations arriving late. Of interest were inland scoters, including three reports of Blacks (GA, SC) and six of Surfs (GA, SC). Easily one of the rarest birds was the ad. **Northern Goshawk** seen at Simpsonville, SC, 20 Sep (PW). There are only a couple of reports for the state, none documented. Of note, an adult was seen several days earlier in the not-too-distant mountains of North Carolina (HW)! There were two sightings of the rare Golden Eagle in North Carolina, an immature in Carteret 3 Nov (*vide* JF) and an adult at L. Mattamuskeet 25 Nov (RB, SA).

Rails Through Terns

The always elusive Yellow Rail was seen once, in a ditch near New Holland, Hyde, NC, 7 Nov (KD). Rare in the region, a **Limpkin** was at the confluence of the Altamaha and Ochoopee Rivers in Tattnall, GA, 4 Aug (LC et al.) but was not relocated. Sandhill Crane migration went as usual in Georgia, the best one-day count being 2000+ in the Marietta area 30 Nov (*vide* TM). More unusual was the flock of 8 at the Savannah N.W.R., SC, 24 Nov (MT). Causing much excitement this fall, one of the Florida Sandhill-fostered Whooping Cranes was seen at St. Simons I. 13 Aug (EY); the same or another spent the night near Statesboro 27 Nov (*vide* TM). It remains to be seen if the Florida fostering program will lead to more sightings in our region.

Inland shorebirding highlights included 9 American Golden-Plovers at Sod Atlanta, Harris, GA, 9 Sep (BD), 2 Black-necked Stilts (extremely rare inland) at the Goldsboro, NC, W.T.P. 11 Aug (MS, SM), 11 American Avocets at L. Auman, Moore, NC, 23 Oct (DD), 21+ Upland Sandpipers at Super Sod, Macon, GA, 26 Aug (WC), and a Red-necked Phalarope at the Goldsboro, NC, W.T.P. 9 Sep (ED, GH). Piping Plovers were present in good numbers, the best count being 44 on Little St. Simons I.,

GA, 18 Oct (BW et al.). The best Long-billed Curlew report was of an impressive total of 4 on Little Tybee I., GA, 4 Aug (DB). Hudsonian Godwits are rare in the region outside coastal North Carolina. This fall ≤ 7 were at Bear I. W.M.A., SC, 9–23 Sep (B&BM, RC, CE, MB, LG et al.), and a **Hudsonian Godwit** at Andrews I., GA, 18 Sep (BW) provided the first report for that state since 1983! A well-described **Red-necked Stint** at S.S.S. 18 Aug (SC, PR) awaits review by the SCBRC. Baird's Sandpipers were reported more often than usual, with at least six reports from Georgia, one from South Carolina, and three from North Carolina. The best count was the 4 at Andrews I., GA, 18 Sep (BW et al.). Georgia's 2nd **Curlew Sandpiper** was a surprise at Andrews I., GA, 27 Aug (MC) to 2 Sep (BW), closely following the state's first from the summer season! The Stilt Sandpiper peak count at S.S.S. was 482 on 20 Sep (SC). Buff-breasted Sandpipers came through the region in excellent numbers again, with at least 25 reports from all three states. The highest numbers reported included 35+ at the Thomas Bros. Sod, Floyd, GA, 9 Sep (*vide* JH), 28 at Sod Atlanta, Euharlee, GA, 2 Sep (BD), and 22 at Legacy Sod, Cartersville, GA, 2 Sep (BD). The always exciting Ruff was reported only once, a single at S.S.S. 3 Oct (SC). Wilson's Phalarope reports were down, the best being one at the Goldsboro, NC, W.T.P. 4 Sep (GH, ED), one at Bear I., SC, 10 Sep (MB), and 1–2 at Andrews I., GA, 29 Aug (GB et al.) to 30 Sep (WC et al.).

Three Long-tailed Jaegers off Oregon Inlet, NC, 4 Sep (BP et al.) were good finds but the juv. **Long-tailed Jaeger** photographed off Savannah, GA, 28 Aug (GB et al.) provided that state's first documented record. North Carolina pelagics yielded 1–2 South Polar Skuas (BP et al.) across six trips. Franklin's Gull also made news this fall. Two were at L. Auman, Moore, NC, 4 Nov (DD), one was at Jekyll I., GA, 7 Oct (JS) to 18 Nov (EH), one was at L. Water F. George, GA, 17 Nov (BZ), and 1–2 were at West Point L. Dam, GA, 9 Nov (WC, GB et al.). Georgia had another first, a long-overdue **Black-headed Gull** at Andrews I. 11 Nov (GK, MC et al.) to 22 Nov (MB). Seen by many observers, the bird was photographed and should be added to the state list. Black-legged Kittiwakes made news in Georgia, with imm. at West Point L. Dam 7 Nov (WC) to 10 Nov (BZ et al.) and at Jekyll I. 18–19 Nov (EH, RT). Also surprising was an ad. kittiwake seen just offshore of Folly Beach, SC, on the early date of 23 Sep (RC, CE). Interesting tern reports included an impressive count of 7 Roseates at C. H. 6 Sep (BP), 84 Sooties off Savannah, GA, 27 Aug (GB et al.), and the

region's 3rd **White-winged Tern**, seen at S.S.S. 15 Nov (SC). If photos and the description of the bird are accepted by the SCBRC, it would be that state's first. There is now one sighting from each of the three states!

Doves Through Thrushes

White-winged Doves were found multiple times, with four reports from North Carolina and two from South Carolina. Well n. of the usual range, 2 Common Ground-Doves were a surprise on Church I., *Currituck*, NC, 6 Nov 9 (HWh). Black-billed Cuckoos were reported three times, somewhat less than usual. Northern Saw-whet Owls were netted in only two places, one at York, SC, 30 Nov (BHi), and near Halifax, NC, 31 Oct and 1 Nov (FE). Hummingbirds continue to be found in the region in increasing numbers. Georgia had an ad. male Black-chinned at Savannah 5 Oct+ (SC), its 3rd **Anna's Hummingbird** in Snellville from Oct+ (*fide* TM), too many Rufous to mention, and its 3rd **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** in Acworth, banded 28 Nov (KT). South Carolina had one Black-chinned in Columbia 17 Oct–mid-Nov (JG) and several Rufous. North Carolina produced several Rufous but the real prize was the **Green-breasted Mango** at a feeder near Concord 12 Nov+ (LTu, Sca, m. obs.). The bird was banded and photographed 19 Nov, and should be placed on the state list. This was the first record of the species in the U.S. away from Texas.

Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported five times from Georgia and three times from North Carolina. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reports totaled 4 in GA, 2 in SC, and one in NC. The only other *Empidonax* flycatchers mentioned were about 3 each of Willow and Least from Georgia and North Carolina. A **Vermilion Flycatcher** near Goldsboro, NC, 20 Nov–2 Dec (MS, SM, m. obs.) provided that state's 3rd record. One was also in the Okefenokee Swamp, GA, 27 Nov (*fide* LT), in an area where most of that state's reports have been recorded. Western Kingbird reports were still down, with only a couple of reports from each state. The nesting Scissor-tailed Flycatchers from the summer season near Monroe, NC, were last seen 11 Aug (AO), and the only other one reported (an imm.) was at Jekyll I., GA, 3 Nov (LT et al.). South Carolina's 2nd **Bell's Vireo** report involved an individual seen well on Edisto I. 1 Oct (SG). The first was a specimen from Mt. Pleasant in 1985 (WP). The best Warbling Vireo reports included singles at Roanoke I., NC, 28 Sep (JL), Laurinburg, NC, 15 Sep (BG), and S.S.S. 25 Oct (SC). Philadelphia Vireos once again were too numerous to mention, but the best one-day

counts included 3 at Cochran Shoals, GA, 16 Sep (BZ, EH) and 3 at Roanoke I., NC, 20 Sep (JL). The swallow migration seemed normal throughout the region, with the most unusual number reported being 570 Northern Rough-wingeds at the Silver Bluff Sanctuary, SC, 25 Sep (*fide* AW). Red-breasted Nuthatches were few and far between this fall, indicating a poor winter for that species in the Region. There were several thrush reports of interest this fall. Impressive predawn counts included 790 Swainson's and 61 Gray-cheeked at Kennesaw Mt., GA, 4 Oct (BZ et al.). A **Bicknell's Thrush** was banded in Cumming, GA, 30 Sep (BE), providing a rare positive identification in the Region. Sight reports are tenuous under normal field conditions.

Warblers Through Finches

Several noteworthy warbler reports included the rarely observed Lawrence's hybrid at L. Crabtree Park, *Wake*, NC, 30 Sep (JC), at least 7 sightings of Nashvilles on the North Carolina Outer Banks during the fall (JL), a locally rare Prothonotary on Kennesaw Mt., GA, 5 Sep (GB et al.), 2 late Worm-eatings in Greenville, NC, 17 Oct (JD), and 2 late Swainson's in Aynor, SC, 16 Sep (ST). The best was the male **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Roanoke I., NC, 7 Oct (KF), providing about the 4th report for that state. Connecticut Warblers were found three times, all in North Carolina, with singles at Hickory 19 Sep (D&LM), Duke Forest 25 Sep (RE), and Durham 19 Oct (BY). Mourning Warblers put on a good showing, with singles at Wassaw I., GA, 16 Sep (SC), Kennesaw Mt., GA, 22 Sep (TE et al.), Macon, GA, 23 Sep (TI et al.), Southern Pines, NC, 23 Sep (SHa), and one banded at Fernbank Forest, Atlanta, GA, 9 Oct (GS). Wilson's Warblers also staged an impressive migration through the region this fall. Georgia had many more reports than usual; the best one-day total came from the North Carolina Outer Banks, where Lewis had 3 on 16 Sep.

Always noteworthy, a Regionally-rare **Black-headed Grosbeak** was near Cairo, *Grady*, GA, 26 Nov (EH). Dickcissel reports included one early at Wilmington, NC, 23 Aug (SCo) and 2 netted on James I., SC, 8 Oct (WP). Fewer reports of Clay-colored Sparrow were received this fall than the last few years. The best total was 3 at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA, 14 Oct (BZ et al.). One found at Winston-Salem, NC, was early 26 Aug (FD). Rare migrants inland, a Lark Sparrow was found in *Saluda*, SC, 14 Oct (SP). The best Henslow's Sparrow total reported was 4 at Paulk's Pasture, *Glynn*, GA, 12 Nov (*fide* TM). Le Conte's Sparrows were found numerous times this fall, continuing the trend of the past several years. The highest count was 10 at

S.S.S. 15 Nov (SC). Another sparrow which was again reported frequently was Lincoln's. This species was found in all three states; the best one-day total being 3 at Cochran Shoals, GA, 14 Oct (*fide* JH). Three Lapland Longspurs were a good find at Jordan L., NC, 29 Oct (RD). Snow Bunting reports included singles at Jordan L., NC, 29 Oct (RD) and at C. H. 8 Nov (JA). Always noteworthy in the Region, Yellow-headed Blackbird reports included one at Savannah N.W.R., SC, 1 Nov (S&PSu), one in *Edgecombe*, NC, 19 Nov (RD), and 2 at L. Seminole, GA, 25 Nov (EB). Georgia had the only Shiny Cowbirds, with 2 at St. Simons I. 13–17 Aug (LT, TE et al.). Finally, winter finches were practically non-existent, but interesting were an early Purple Finch at Simpsonville, SC, 10 Sep (PW), a Pine Siskin at H.B.S.P. 22 Nov (KB), and 2 lost Evening Grosbeaks at Winston-Salem, NC, 3–4 Nov (*fide* RS).

Corrigendum

The murrelet at Catawba R., *Chester*, SC (*N. Am. Birds* 54:168) was apparently seen well enough by B. Maxwell and D. Forsythe to be identified as a Long-billed. This record, then, represented the 2nd of this Asian species for South Carolina.

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Florida



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For the second consecutive year a hurricane-induced fallout brought great numbers of birds to the Peninsula. *Gordon* moved north through the eastern Gulf of Mexico before coming ashore around Cedar Key, Florida, just before midnight 17 September. Fallouts were noted 16–18 September, including unprecedented counts of wood-warblers. Despite the hurricane season, Florida's water shortage continued; summer rains mentioned in the spring report were short-lived and ineffective at rejuvenating wetlands or aquifers. By early winter central Florida was the only area in the nation designated by NOAA to have an "exceptional" drought—one predicted to occur no more than twice a century. Several mega-rarities were reported this fall, most notably Florida's first Heermann's Gull. As noted recently in other regions, large numbers of observations posted without details to the Internet threaten to overwhelm and compro-

mise formally prepared reports published in this and other journals. Editors for *North American Birds* and *Florida Field Naturalist* are working on solutions to this problem.

Loons Through Waterfowl

A Common Loon flew over Devil's Garden, *Hendry*, 13 Nov (VM et al.). Four Eared Grebes were at L. Apopka, *Orange*, 13 Sep (HR), 2 were at *Polk* mines 15 Sep (PT, CG), and 2 others were at Springhill Rd. W.T.P., *Leon*, 28 Sep–6 Oct (GM, TC et al.). A pelagic trip off Port Canaveral 8 Nov found 10 Cory's Shearwaters and a Brown Booby (BP et al.); another booby was resting on St. Marks R., *Wakulla*, 24 Sep (BHe, DW). Largest counts of American White Pelicans were 608 at Newnans L., *Alachua*, 25 Nov (LD) and 356 at L. Hollingsworth, *Polk*, 27 Nov (TP). Brown Pelicans at less regular inland sites were singles at Newnans L. 19 Aug (JHi et al.) and Paynes Prairie State Preserve, *Alachua*, 24 Aug (PLf), 3 at L. Willis, *Orange*, 29 Oct (TP), and 4 at L. Istokpoga, *Highlands*, 19 Nov (MMc). A Great Cormorant, irregular in the Region, was at Titusville 25 Nov+ (CRa, KR et al.). Anhingas are rare in the Keys, so flocks of 27 and 11 over

Curry Hammock S.P. 27 Oct and 5 Nov, respectively, were notable (DLo et al.). *Gordon* pushed 13 Magnificent Frigatebirds to Bald Pt. 17 Sep (JDo) and 14 inland to Winter Haven 17 Sep (PF, CG et al.).

Extralimital Great White Herons were in *Franklin* 16 Aug (JDo) and 18 Sep (EL), and at St. Augustine 18–21 Aug (DRe). Huge numbers of wading birds were tallied at Brown's Farm Rd., nw. *Palm Beach*, including 3000 Great Egrets, 915 Snowy Egrets, and 418 Roseate Spoonbills 16 Sep (JaH, CW; hurricane-related?) and 800 Wood Storks 27 Aug (DSi, BP, KR). Exotics were a "pink" ibis at Port Canaveral 18 Nov (F&RC) and 2 Sacred Ibises in *Palm Beach* 13 Aug (PM, vt.), the latter representing the first published report for Florida. In addition to the flock at Snake Bight, flamingos were reported from four sites. Birds at Cedar Key 25 Sep–3 Oct (DHe) and Pine I. Sound, *Lee*, 26 Sep (JG, DM) were too distant to be identified specifically. The other reports, of 2 over Curry Hammock S.P. 18 Sep (*fide* CBo) and one at Boca Chica Key 16 Oct (DLo, CBo) were identified as Greater Flamingos. Given their timing and the track of *Gordon*, it seems likely that all four reports represented natural vagrants displaced by the hurricane.

Fledging Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were found at Gainesville 26 Aug (BR), *Hamilton* phosphate mines 3 Oct (JK), and *Polk* mines 28 Oct (RP, ASc et al.). Fulvous Whistling-Ducks along the coast of *Brevard* and *Volusia* were presumably from the Bahamas or farther s.; flocks of 35 and 40 were over Port Canaveral 11 Nov (BE, DG, WB et al.) and 30 flew past Canaveral N.S. 26 Nov (JP). Three Greater White-fronted Geese, casual in the Peninsula, were at Viera, *Brevard*, 15–19 Nov (WG et al.). Three ad. and one juv. Ruddy Shelducks along the Kissimmee R. 14–15 Oct (LAL et al.) furnished the state's first breeding report. Rare waterfowl were 2 Wood Ducks and 30 Gadwalls at Curry Hammock S.P. 4 & 10 Nov, respectively (DLo et al.), an American Black Duck at L. Apopka 1 Nov+ (HR), and a Long-tailed Duck at Springhill Rd. W.T.P. 17 Nov+ (DHa et al.). Over 1000 Blue-winged Teal streamed by St. Petersburg Beach 17 Sep (LS). Two White-winged Scoters at Playalinda Beach, *Brevard*, 18 Sep (JDr) furnished Florida's earliest fall date by three weeks.

Raptors Through Gulls

Out-of-range White-tailed Kites were at Weekiwachee Preserve, *Hernando*, 26 Oct (A&BH) and St. Marks N.W.R. 11 Nov (TC). Extralimital Snail Kites were at Ten Thousand I.

SA For the second year staff of Hawkwatch International (HWI) conducted daily vulture and raptor counts at Curry Hammock S.P. 15 Sep–13 Nov (Table 1). These surveys showed that the Florida Keys are a major route for thousands of raptors, primarily *Accipiter* and falcons, and confirm similar findings from watches conducted nearby at Boot Key in previous years. Peregrine Falcon numbers totaled 1745 individuals, with a “net” count of 357 individuals 9 Oct.

N.W.R., Collier, 16 Aug (TD) and L. Apopka 20 Aug (HR). A male Northern Harrier in Pasco 24 Aug (BP) was early. A flock of 39 Broad-winged Hawks (mostly imm.) at Sanibel I. 14–15 Oct (CE, WW et al.) was unusual. At least six Short-tailed Hawks were observed (v.o.), and single Krider’s Hawks were reported in Sarasota 23 Nov (KA) and at L. Jackson 26 Nov (HH). An ad. Golden Eagle over Hamilton 16 Sep (JK) established Florida’s earliest report, but probably was unrelated to Gordon. Meanwhile, a Merlin at Brown’s Farm Rd. 9 Aug (FF) missed tying the state’s earliest by one day. A Black Rail found injured in a yard in heavily urbanized Pinellas 17 Nov will live out its days at a rehabilitation center (fide JF). All 14 Purple Gallinules at L. Apopka 6 Aug had departed by 1 Oct (HR), but 4 others apparently were wintering at Wakulla Springs S.P. 25 Nov (GM). An unbanded Gray Crowned-Crane of unknown provenance was spending its second winter in *Alachua* (B&SW, RR).

Despite the lack of flooded fields at L. Apopka for the second fall, Robinson managed to find several notable shorebirds, including 77 Black-bellied Plovers 12 Nov, 26 American Avocets 1 Nov, 2 Baird’s Sandpipers 6 Aug, one Red Knot 22 Oct, one White-rumped Sandpiper 10 Sep, ≤9 Dunlins 12 Oct+, 123 Stilt Sandpipers 18 Oct, single Buff-breasted Sandpipers 30 Aug and 24 Sep, and ≤465 Long-billed Dowitchers 1 Oct+. American Golden-Plover reports included 3 at Viera 8–11 Sep (DSi) and 4 at Jacksonville 9 Sep (RCl). Like last year, a Snowy Plover was wintering at Jacksonville, beginning 18 Oct (PLe et al.), while 52 Wilson’s Plovers at Ft. Myers Beach 25 Nov (CE) was an impressive count. Concentrations of the endangered Piping Plover were 30 at Ft. Myers Beach 25 Nov (CE), 48 at Big Marco Pass, Collier, 25 Aug (TB), and 20 at Talbot I. S.P., Duval, 20 Nov (PLe).

An American Oystercatcher at Newnans L. 18 Sep (AKr, RR et al.) provided only the 3rd inland report for Florida. High counts of Upland Sandpipers were 24 at Homestead 13

Aug (CM, LM et al.) and 40 at Brown’s Farm Rd. 20 Aug (CE, WW). Presumably the same Hudsonian Godwit was seen there 27 Aug (KR et al., vt. BP) and 23 Sep (BHo, JoH), with another at Newnans L. 16 Sep (JHi, JuB). Only the 5th reported in Florida, a **Bar-tailed Godwit** was photographed at Snake Bight, Everglades N.P. 12 Nov (DLA). A Ruddy Turnstone banded by Below at Big Marco Pass 10 years ago was found there 16 Aug. Fifty-two White-rumped Sandpipers at Jacksonville 9 Sep (RCl) was a fine count. Inland shorebirds were ≤50 Dunlins at Newnans L. 5 Nov+ (LD, AKe et al.), 2 Red Knots at Brown’s Farm Rd. 30 Sep (JaH, CW, BHo et al.), and a Sanderling at L. Hollingsworth 10 Oct (KR). Buff-breasted Sandpipers are usually seen in the Region in small numbers, so 18 at Jacksonville 9 Sep (RCl) were notable. At Brown’s Farm Rd., a Ruff was reported three times between 19 Aug and 16 Sep. On 27 Aug, a female with bright orange legs was seen (KR, BP, DSi et al.), but as details were not provided for the other observations, more than one individual may have been present. American Woodcocks were surprises at L. Placid, Highlands, 6 Aug (FL) and Brooker Cr. Preserve, Pinellas, 16 Sep (DG, EH).

Gordon pushed jaegers inshore, where 300 individuals—mostly Pomarine—were at San

Carlos Bay, Lee, 17 Sep (VM, CE et al.), and a juv. thought to be a Long-tailed Jaeger was found at Charlotte Harbor 18 Sep (JeB). “Routine” jaegers off the Atlantic coast were 2 Parasitics at Sebastian Inlet 23 Oct (DSi), 12 Pomarines and 2 Parasitics on a pelagic trip off

Table 1. Results of daily vulture and raptor counts at Curry Hammock S.P. 15 Sep–13 Nov 2000.

Species	Gross	Net	High
Turkey Vulture	20,144	3720	3815
Black Vulture	3	1	2
Osprey	1202	984	171
Bald Eagle	20	14	3
Mississippi Kite	13	13	5
Snail Kite	4	4	1
Northern Harrier	562	492	61
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5626	3468	760
Cooper’s Hawk	1038	640	114
Red-shouldered Hawk	60	10	8
Broad-winged Hawk	4230	1738	399
Swainson’s Hawk	300	-8	103
Short-tailed Hawk	40	14	4
American Kestrel	3288	2770	651
Merlin	637	407	56
Peregrine Falcon	2043	1745	357
Totals	39,349	16,127	

Certain raptors are reluctant to cross large water bodies, so many birds moving through the Keys turn around and head northeast after passing the hawk-watch. To account for this behavior, two totals are listed for each species. “Gross” reflects all birds recorded, whereas “net” is the gross minus those individuals moving back northeast. This system is imperfect (note the negative net for Swainson’s Hawk!) but necessary where migrants head in opposite directions. The “high” column represents the highest daily net count. Data were provided by Hawkwatch International (DLo et al.).

SA Glen Wilson, a deputy at Ft. De Soto County Park, noticed an all-dark gull on the beach 24 Oct. He photographed it and Lyn Atherton et al. identified it as a **Heermann’s Gull**. The gull was refound 29 Oct and remained through the fall. By Dec it had acquired the red basal two-thirds to the bill and other characteristics of 2nd-winter plumage (EK). Depending upon how previous occurrences are counted, this bird furnished the 3rd, 4th, or 5th report e. of the Mississippi R. (see Bain 2000, *N. Am. Birds* 54:48), and a Florida first. For weeks birders internationally “e-bated” whether the Florida individual was the same Heermann’s that spent 11 months at Toronto, Ontario, Nov 1999–Sep 2000. This unlikely scenario was dispelled when photographs of both birds were compared on Atherton’s website and plumage differences were noted.

Port Canaveral 8 Nov (WB et al.), and 44, most or all Pomarine, at Canaveral N.S. 25 Nov (JP).

Simpson found juv. Franklin's Gulls at Port Canaveral 21 Oct and Sebastian Inlet 23 Oct, and juv. Sabine's Gulls off Playalinda Beach 22 Oct and on a pelagic trip out of Port Canaveral 8 Nov. The latter Sabine's enthralled dozens of birders as it fed on shrimp heads thrown to it (BP, ph., vt.). Other juv. Franklin's Gulls were at L. Apopka 22 Oct (HR), Honeymoon I. S.R.A. 7 Nov (WY), Newnans L. 19 Nov (RR, AKe), and Alligator Pt. 25 Nov (BA, LA). Another Franklin's was spending its second winter at Redington Beach, *Pinellas*, (*vide* RS). *Gordon* pushed large numbers of terns to ne. *Duval* 16 Sep, including 500+ Royals, 140 Sandwiches, 395 Commons (and 3100 there two days later), 291 Forster's, a Bridled, and 406 Blacks (RCL). Elsewhere the hurricane brought 10 Bridled and 3 Sooty Terns and 8 Brown Noddies to San Carlos Bay 17 Sep (VM, CE et al.), and 2 Sandwich Terns to Newnans L. 18 Sep (JHi, RR et al.). Other tern reports were of 7 Royals and 249 Sandwiches at *Polk* mines 18 Aug (PF) and 750 Caspians there 19 Nov (PT, CG), 3000 Commons at Honeymoon I. 6–8 Oct (EK et al.), and a Least there 7 Nov (WY).

Doves Through Thrushes

White-winged Doves are becoming regular throughout the Peninsula, with 18 at L. Apopka 19 Sep (HR), 4 at South Venice, *Sarasota*, 14 Oct (CS), and one at Talbot I. 16 Nov (*vide* RCL). Single Black-billed Cuckoos were reported at L. Apopka 21 Sep (HR) and Ft. De Soto 12 Oct (LA et al.), and a Groove-billed Ani was photographed at St. Marks N.W.R. 23–27 Nov (DHa, TC et al.). A “phenomenal movement” of 1000 Common Nighthawks was noted at Sanibel I. 16 Sep as *Gordon* passed by (CE, VM et al.); one at Alligator Pt. 12 Nov (JDo) was late. A Lesser Nighthawk, apparently a scarce, regular winter resident in the s. Peninsula, was found at Cape Sable 23 Nov (CJG). Early-arriving Whip-poor-wills were in *Wakulla* 17 Aug (JE) and at Gainesville 22 Aug (JHi, CRe). Single late Chimney Swifts were identified 10 Nov at St. Joseph S. P., *Gulf*, and in *Franklin* (JDo, JM, BL).

Western hummingbird treats were a Buff-bellied at Cedar Key 23–24 Oct (DHe), a Black-chinned at Bald Pt. 2 Nov (JDo), and Rufous at Tallahassee 25 Nov (*vide* LT) and 26 Nov (F. Rutkovsky). *Selasphorus* were reported from Bald Pt. 12 Aug (JDo), Gainesville 26 Aug–late Sep (JuB), Cape Coral, *Lee*, (2 birds) 26–30 Sep (CE, ASa), Jacksonville 7 Oct (JCo), Dry Tortugas N.P. 16 Oct (CBo, DLo), and Lakes Park, Ft. Myers, 25 Oct–5 Nov (JeB, ASa et al.).

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in *Brevard* 18 Sep (DSt) was early, whereas Hairy Woodpeckers were rarities at L. Apopka 12 & 25 Oct (HR) and Highlands Hammock S.P. 14 Oct (B&LC et al.).

Empidonax flycatchers were reported in good numbers and most were identified specifically from call notes. Eight Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, all singles, were noted between 7 & 20 Sep (v.o.). A Willow Flycatcher was heard at Bald Pt. 23 Sep (JDo), and 10 Least Flycatchers were found, beginning 3 Sep (v.o.). L. Apopka hosted 257 Eastern Phoebes 5 Nov (HR). Vermilion Flycatchers graced St. George I. S.P. 11 Oct (JCa), Ochlockonee R. S.P., *Wakulla*, 16 Oct (BL), Micanopy, *Alachua*, 31 Oct+ (PBU), Goodwyn W.M.A., *Brevard*, 31 Oct+ (DSi), and L. Jackson 24–26 Nov (JCa, D&SJ). Ash-throated Flycatchers, apparently regular in the Region in fall and winter, were found at St. Sebastian R. Buffer Preserve, *Indian River*, 31 Oct (DSi) and L. Jackson 25–26 Nov (JDo, JM, GM et al.). A Brown-crested Flycatcher was detected at Bald Pt. 18 Oct (JM, JDo). Florida's 2nd and 3rd **Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers** made appearances at A. D. Barnes Park, *Miami-Dade*, 14–15 Sep (RD et al.) and Ft. De Soto 28 Sep (MG et al.); both reportedly were photographed. A Tropical/Couch's Kingbird on the *Hillsborough/Pasco* line 21 Oct could not be refound (DB). Western Kingbirds were reported widely (v.o.), the largest count being of 9 in *Okeechobee* 13 Nov (VM et al.). A count of 50+ Gray Kingbirds at Bayport, *Hernando*, 13 Aug (CBL) was mind-boggling. Other Grays were inland at L. Apopka (2 birds) 16 Aug (HR), Saddle Cr. C.P., *Polk*, 18 Aug (PF), *Duette* Park, *Manatee*, 9 Sep (BP, DG, EH), *Odessa*, *Paseo*, 22 Oct (Kt, ph.) and *Viera* 5 Nov (CP).

About 30 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported between Bald Pt. and Key West (v.o.) An adult **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, the Region's 4th this year (!) was a three-day wonder at *Viera* 13–15 Aug (DSi et al., ph. CRA). Bell's Vireos, always notable, were at Spanish R. Park 18–27 Sep (BHo, JoH et al.), *Birch* S.P., *Broward*, 30 Sep (WG et al.), and St. George I. S.P. 26 Sep (JCa). A Blue-headed Vireo reported at O'Leno S.P., *Columbia*, 6 Aug (PBU) was record-early by over a month. A Warbling Vireo was at Cedar Key 23 Oct (DHe) and 8 Philadelphia Vireos were reported between 24 Sep and 10 Nov (v.o.). *Gordon* dropped 100 Red-eyed Vireos to Ft. De Soto 16 Sep (LA et al.) and 35 to Ft. Pierce S.R.A., *St. Lucie*, 18 Sep (JaB). Seasonal high counts of swallows were 300 Trees at Brown's Farm Rd. 6 Aug (DSi), 23 Banks at L. Apopka 21 Sep, and 701 Barns there 13 Aug (both HR). Ft. De Soto's first

Carolina Chickadee remained from the spring (LA et al.).

At L. Apopka, Robinson counted 674 House Wrens (astounding!) and 126 Marsh Wrens 5 Nov, and 108 Sedge Wrens 26 Nov; all were record or near-record Florida counts. Golden-crowned Kinglets were “abundant” in parts of the e. Panhandle (GM), and birds reached Honeymoon I. 4 Nov (WY) and Weekiwachee Preserve 17 Nov+ (A&BH). Early Ruby-crowned Kinglets were observed at Ft. George I. 16 Sep (RCL) and in n. *Brevard* 18 Sep (DSt). At L. Apopka, the count of 96 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers 5 Oct (HR) was nearly unheard of for fall. A Veery at Bald Pt. 29 Aug (JDo) was early, a Gray-checked Thrush at Gainesville 17–18 Nov (MMA) was late, and a **Bicknell's Thrush**—not on the official state list—was observed in direct comparison with other *Catharus* at Jacksonville 6 Oct (JCo). Three Sprague's Pipits were noted in *Jefferson* 11 Nov (RA).

Warblers Through Finches

Twenty-nine Blue-winged Warblers were reported 14 Aug–11 Oct (including 14 in *Alachua* 16 Sep!) and 12 Golden-winged were noted 4 Sep–8 Oct (v.o.). Brewster's Warblers were good finds at Bonner Park 16 Sep (KN) and Paynes Prairie 27 Sep (JS). Large counts of Tennessee Warblers were 50 at Ft. De Soto (LA) and 75 at Boyd Hill Nature Park, *Pinellas*, (ASm, RS), both 16 Sep. An amazing 30 Nashville Warblers were reported Regionwide, beginning 31 Aug, including 8 at Ft. De Soto 16 Sep (LS) that probably represents the all-time Florida high count. At L. Apopka, Robinson counted 55 Yellow Warblers 13 Aug, and 64 there 16 Aug. Meanwhile, the 91 that flew by Gulf Breeze (Central Southern Region) in about an hour 13 Aug (B&LD) established Florida's all-time high.

Large numbers of Chestnut-sided Warblers courtesy of *Gordon* were 12 at Ft. De Soto (LS) and 50 at Boyd Hill (ASm, RS), both 16 Sep. Similarly, there were 25 Black-throated Blue Warblers at Turkey Cr., *Brevard*, 17 Sep (B&SH), 27 Blackburnian Warblers at John Chestnut C.P., *Pinellas*, 16 Sep (DG, EH) and 100+ Blackburnians at Sanibel Lighthouse 16–17 Sep (CE, VM), the last total representing another record for Florida. Possibly related to the hurricane were 29 Prairie Warblers at L. Apopka 21 Sep (HR). Good counts of Blackpoll Warblers were 9 at Birch 30 Sep (WG et al.), 9 at Turkey Cr. (PF et al.), and 17 at Merritt I. N.W.R. 30 Sep (PF et al.). Cerulean Warblers had never before been so visible in the Region. An estimate of “dozens” at Dunedin Hammock Park 16 Sep (BAC, MP et

SA The Region experienced an unprecedented invasion of Wilson's Warblers this fall. At least 87 individuals were reported, beginning 7 Sep (v.o.). There were five reports from the Keys, seven each in *Alachua*, *Broward*, and *Pinellas*, and 20+ locations in the e. Panhandle. Each of five birders in Jacksonville had a Wilson's in their yard this fall (PP). Even more surprising were reports of multiple individuals, such as 9 at Boca Raton, *Palm Beach*, 22 Oct, 14 there 29 Oct, and 8 at Wellington, *Palm Beach*, 19 Nov (all BHo). Some observers wondered if birds from the w. U.S. could have been responsible for the invasion. The invasion of Wilson's Warblers into the Region continued into the winter months.

al.) is unprecedented. At least 45 other Ceruleans were reported 5 Aug–22 Sep (v.o.), including 6 at Sawgrass L. C.P., *Pinellas*, 13 Aug and 3 there 18 Aug (MW), 3 at Turkey Cr. 18–19 Sep (B&SH), and 3 at Spanish R. Park 18 Sep (BHo et al.).

A good count of American Redstarts was 27 at L. Apopka 21 Sep (HR). Ten Prothonotary Warblers were tallied at Saddle Cr. 3 Sep (PF) and 12 Worm-eating Warblers were at Bonner Park 16 Sep (KN). Nine reports of Swainson's Warbler were received, all singles, 13 Aug–27 Sep (v.o.). Thirty-three Ovenbirds were at Saddle Cr. 22 Sep (PF), with 22 at San Felasco, *Alachua* (JHi) and 15 at L. Apopka, both on 24 Sep (HR). Also at L. Apopka were 38 Northern Waterthrushes 21 Sep and 34 Louisianas there 16 Aug (HR), the latter furnishing Florida's all-time high. Regionwide, 33 Kentucky Warblers were reported, including one at O'Leno S.P., *Columbia*, 6 Aug (PBU) and 15 at Ft. De Soto 16 Sep (LAt et al.). A Mourning Warbler, rare in the Region, was at Spanish R. Park 13 Oct (BHo), and a **MacGillivray's Warbler** surprised Simpson at Key West 12 Oct. There were 110 Common Yellowthroats at L. Apopka 12 Nov (HR) and 25 Hooded Warblers at Ft. De Soto 16 Sep (LAt et al.).

Twelve Canada Warblers, all singles, were reported (v.o.); the earliest was at Bonner Park 15 Aug (JF) and the latest at Bald Pt. 9 Oct (JDo). Yellow-breasted Chats were at L. Apopka 2 Aug–3 Sep (HR), Matheson Hammock C.P., *Miami-Dade*, 2 Sep (MC et al.), Birch 15–17 Sep (WG, RM), St. George I. S.P. 18–26 Sep (JCa), and Everglades N.P. 28 Sep (JoB). Six Western Tanagers were reported, with singles at Matheson Hammock 2 Sep

(MC et al.), Miami Shores 5 Oct (DW, MEA), Jacksonville 7 Oct (JCo), Honeymoon I. 14 Oct (EK et al.), Walsingham Park, *Pinellas*, 19 Oct (LAt et al.), and Bonner Park 19–20 Oct (JF).

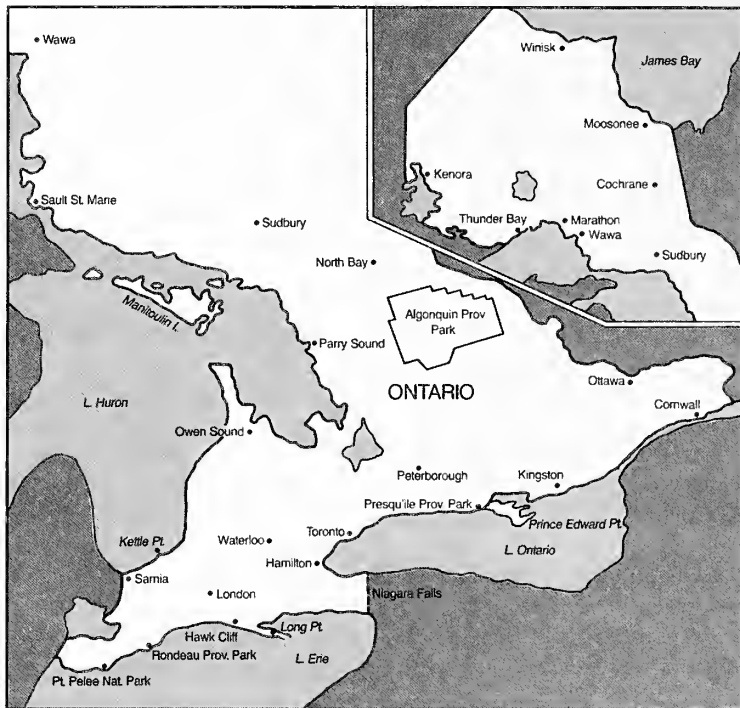
Clay-colored Sparrows were reported in above-average numbers, with 20 individuals beginning 7 Sep (v.o.). Lark Sparrows also were found in good numbers, with 8 reported Regionwide beginning 15 Sep (v.o.). As in past years, L. Apopka furnished the high count of Savannah Sparrows, with 257 on 29 Oct (HR). Single Le Conte's Sparrows were discovered at Ocklawaha, *Marion*, 23 Oct (ES), St. Marks N.W.R. 28 Oct (DHia), Bald Pt. 30 Oct (TC), and Hague Dairy, *Alachua*, 12 Nov (MMA). Based on banding data from one study, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows represented 96% of sharp-taileds occurring along the Gulf Coast. Nonetheless, singles of both species were reported at Tigertail Beach 11 Nov (PBi, JR, JoB et al.). Amazingly, neither species had been reported before in *Collier*. Even more surprising was the Seaside Sparrow at Marco I. 18 Nov (JoB, PBi et al.) that provided *Collier* with another first (apart from the Cape Sable subspecies). Another Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was inland at L. Apopka 5 Nov (HR), and Ft. De Soto's first Seaside Sparrow, thought to be of the Scott's subspecies resident 80 km to the n., was found 25 Nov+ (ASm, RS, DG, EH et al.). Other sparrows at L. Apopka were 9 Songs and 3 Lincoln's 15 Nov, and 254 Swamps 12 Nov (HR). Other Lincoln's were singles at Weekiwachee Preserve 20 Oct (A&BH) and Spanish R. Park 21 Oct (BHo, JoH), and 6 at various *Alachua* sites beginning 27 Oct (MMA et al.). As usual, White-crowned Sparrows were widespread; most were singles or duos, but 15 were at Talbot I. 26 Nov+ (RCl).

Lapland Longspurs were at Ft. De Soto (DRo, LAt et al.) and Taylor Slough, Everglades N.P. (DC), both 14 Nov. L. Apopka provided good counts of 49 Indigo Buntings 9 Oct and 5 Painted Buntings 5 Oct (HR). Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from four locales (v.o.), and a male Shiny Cowbird continued at L. Apopka (HR). A juv. male Bronzed Cowbird at Bald Pt. 21 Aug (JDo et al.) presumably dispersed from Louisiana or points w. Orchard Orioles, which quietly disappear in late summer, were detected at Ft. De Soto (2 birds) 13 Aug (BA, LAt), Everglades N.P. 19 Aug (DC), Lutz 3 Sep (DB), Birch 5 Sep (WG et al.), and A.D. Barnes Park 15 Sep (LM, DSi, JoB et al.). Single House Finches were notable at Melbourne 1 Aug (NS) and Alligator Pt. 22 Sep (JDo). Lastly, two Java Sparrows built a nest in a rain gutter at Cocoa Beach 1 Nov+ (CC).

Observers cited: Bruce Ackerman (BAC), Howard Adams, Mary Ellen Ahearn, Larry Albright (LAL), Ken Allen, Roger Atchison, Brooks Atherton (BAT), Lyn Atherton (LAt), Ted Below, Brad Bergstrom, Wes Biggs, Paul Bithorn (PBi), Clay Black (CBl), Paul Blair (PBl), Chris Borg (CBo), Jeff Bouton (JeB), David Bowman, John Boyd (JoB), Jane Brooks (JaB), Judy Bryan (JuB), Patricia Burns (PBU), Jim Cavanagh (JCa), Craig Chamberlin, Ron Christen (RCh), Forrest & Ruth Clark, Roger Clark (RCl), Julie Cocke (JCo), Buck & Linda Cooper, Mort Cooper, Dick Cunningham, Tom Curtis, Lloyd Davis, Robin Diaz, Terry Doyle, Jack Dozier (JDo), Judy Dryja (JDr), Bob & Lucy Duncan, John Epler, Charlie Ewell, Paul Fellers, Judy Fisher, Frank Frazier, Murray Gardler, Chuck Geanangel, Wally George, Dave Goodwin, Jim Gray, C.J. Grimes, Erik Haney, Al & Bev Hansen, David Harder (DH), Bob Henderson (BHe), Dale Henderson (DHe), Bill & Shirley Hills, John Hintermister (JHi), Jackie Holstein (JaH), Brian Hope (BHo), Joan Hope (JoH), Howard Horne, Dean & Sally Jue, Clay Kelsey, Adam Kent (AKe), Andy Kratter (AKr), Jerry Krummrich, Ed Kwater, David LaPuma (DL), Pat Leary (PL), Paul Lefebvre (PLf), Fred Lohrer, Eric Lovstrand, Derek Lovitch (DLo), Bill Lowrie, Russ MacGregor, Darryl Mahan, Mike Manetz (MMA), Christine Manfredi, Larry Manfredi, Vince McGrath, Mike McMillian (MMc), Gail Menk, Peter Merritt, John Murphy, Kris Nelson, Tom Palmer, Rich Paul, Mauri Peterson, Cheri Pierce, Peggy Powell, Bill Pranty, John Puschock, Cindy Rademaker (CRa), Kurt Rademaker, Diane Reed (DR), Cathy Reno (CR), Bryant Roberts, Harry Robinson, David Roemer (DRo), Jill Rosenfield, Rex Rowan, Arlyne Salcedo (ASa), Charles Sample, Earl Scales, Ann Schnapf (ASc), Nedra Sekera, David Simpson (DSi), John Skemp, Austin Smith (ASm), Ron Smith, Lee Snyder, Doug Stuckey (DSt), Larry Thompson, Pete Timmer, Chuck Weber, Brian & Sue Welkner, Donna Wells, Margie Wilkinson, Walt Winton, David Wright, and Wilf Yusek.



Ontario



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This fall was another long, relatively uneventful, and mild season, sometimes cool and wet in the north, but generally warm and dry in the south. Many southbound migrants were a week or two behind their normal schedules and several record-late dates were reported. However, hawk migration was slightly earlier than usual, if anything; hawks and eagles moved through Ontario in excellent numbers. Another effect of the warm weather was that bountiful cone crops in areas such as Algonquin Provincial Park flourished early and seeds dispersed, causing most finches to abandon southern areas of the province by mid-season. There were few major rarities, but a welcome incursion of northern owls was under way across the province by late September, with unprecedented numbers of Boreal Owls closely followed by a widespread influx of Northern Hawk Owls. Winter arrived suddenly in the third week of November, with markedly lower temperatures and heavy snowfall in some areas, hastening the departure of any lingering migrants.

Abbreviations: KFN (Kingston Field Naturalists); L.P.B.O. (Long Point Bird Observatory); ROM (Royal Ontario Museum); TBFN (Thunder Bay Field Naturalists); T.B.O. (Toronto Bird Observatory); T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape Bird Observatory). Place names in *italics* refer to counties, districts, and regional municipalities.

Loons Through Vultures

There were 150 Red-throated Loons at Kettle Pt., L. Huron, 11 Nov (AHR), and a Pacific Loon spent one day at Neebing Marsh, Thunder Bay, 4 Nov (NGE). The 317 Horned Grebes tallied 22 Oct were a high count for Pt. Pelee N.P. (AW). Red-necked Grebe numbers peaked at 444 off W. Bay, Manitoulin I., 19 Oct (CB). Eared Grebes on L. Ontario included singles off Burlington 19 Aug (KML), Darlington P.P. 27 Aug (THo), Pt. Pelee 4 Oct (AW, KML), Wicklow 16 Oct (CGo), La Salle Marina 18–19 Oct (RZD), and Stoney Creek 21 Oct (GE). The Western Grebe on Rainy L. 23 Aug (AH) provided the first-ever fall record for *Rainy River*.

A juv. Northern Gannet, first seen 21 Oct off Stoney Creek (LF), was subsequently reported along the L. Ontario shoreline between Fifty Pt. and Bronte until 20 Nov (m.ob.); 2 juv. gannets were off Stoney Creek 23 Oct (BW). The 40

American White Pelicans at Black Bay, L. Superior, 16 Aug (LE) suggest that nesting evidence for the Great Lakes is imminent. In the Sault Ste. Marie area there were 2 white pelicans the first two weeks of Oct, one feeding on dead salmon at the St. Mary's R. rapids; the second bird appeared sickly and was captured for rehabilitation (*vide* BKn). On L. Ontario, Double-crested Cormorants continue to increase exponentially, prompting discussions on population control at several locations, including Presqu'ile P.P. The **Anhinga** at Delaware, *Middlesex*, continued to delight many observers until 16 Sep (*vide* PR).

A late Least Bittern was at Dundas Marsh, Hamilton, 30 Sep (RZD). At least 69 Great Egrets were reported in the s., with record-high counts of 38 at Pt. Pelee 12 Aug (AW) and 16 at Dundas Marsh 30 Sep (RZD). Rondeau P.P. had a Little Blue Heron 26 Aug–19 Sep (BMA). Single Cattle Egrets were at Hahn Marsh, Long Point, 18 Oct (S.Wilcox), the Blenheim S.T.P. 27 Oct+ (JKe, m.ob.), and Rondeau 28 Oct–1 Nov (SC, JTB); 7 were seen at Red Rock e. of Thunder Bay 2 Nov (JWi, GW, KJ) and 3 at Ottawa 5 Nov (MC). Unusual for Sault Ste. Marie were the Green Heron 3 Sep and 10 Black-crowned Night-Herons on St. Mary's R. during Sep (*vide* BKn). A Glossy Ibis was at the Alfred S.T.P. 17–18 Sep (JB) and a dark *Plegadis* ibis was at Leamington marina 30 Oct (BMo, LK). Single **Black Vultures** flew over Hamilton 24 Aug (RW) and Fisher's Glen 9 Oct (HMA). Turkey Vultures again set records in migration, with new high one-day counts of 960 at High Park, Toronto, and 980 at Cranberry Marsh, *Durham*, both 3 Oct (*vide* RBHS); the season total at Holiday Beach was 18,326 (*vide* AC).

Geese Through Raptors

Greater White-fronted Geese were scarce, with one at Whitby 7 Oct (JHe) and 2 at nearby Brooklin 10 Oct (GCa). **Ross's Geese**, however, showed evidence of their increasing population, with 2 ad. near Thunder Bay 18–21 Sep, both eventually shot by a hunter (*vide* NGE), one in Huntsville 24 Sep–2 Oct (MP, CJ, m.ob.), 4 w. of Thunder Bay 7 Oct (RCh), and an imm. in Ottawa 9 Oct (MT, BB, CL). There was a good Brant flight, with 150 s. over Cobourg harbor 15 Oct (MJCB), 198 at Kettle Pt. the same day (AHR), 120 at Toronto 16 Oct (PSS), and 110 over Ajax 17 Oct (JF); the 7 Brant at Leamington 17–25 Oct were rare for the Pelee area (GB et al.). The 2 Trumpeter Swans w. of Ft. Frances 11 Sep and 3 Oct (DHE, KM) were likely from the Minnesota re-introduction program.

A male Eurasian Wigeon remained on Wolfe I., L. Ontario, 28 Sep–27 Oct (RSa, ES et al.). A

rare breeder in the province, a female Canvasback with 2 large young was on a nest on the Leslie St. Spit, Toronto, 3 Aug (RBHS). Waterfowl numbers at the e. end of L. Ontario were considered weaker than in the last few years, even though peak counts in the Kingston area included 5130 Ring-necked Ducks 7 Nov, 65,000 Greater Scaup 5 Nov, and 32,000 Lesser Scaup 5 Nov (KFN, *vide* RDW). South of their usual breeding range were 3 broods of Lesser Scaup at the Wawa S.T.P. 21–22 Aug (NGE). King Eiders appeared early and in good numbers, with a female at Hamilton 1 Aug–9 Sep (KML, m.ob.), an imm. male at Pt. Pelee 9 Nov (KML), a female providing a regional first at Bannister L., *Waterloo*, 12 Nov (JGu, WW), 2 females near the Toronto Is. 13 Nov (BY), 6 off Van Wagner's Beach, Hamilton, 16 Nov (DM), an imm. male at Cobourg 16–30 Nov+ (MJC, m.ob.), and another imm. at Kettle Pt. 22–25 Nov (AHR, m.ob.). Hamilton had a female **Common Eider** 18 Nov (KML). A female Harlequin Duck visited Presqu'île P.P. 1 Oct (BCa); 2 imm. males were in Cobourg harbor 26 Oct (MG) and then in nearby Port Hope 27–28 Oct (LH, MJC), 2 females were in Toronto 5 Nov (AA), and a female was seen by many above Niagara Falls 23–26 Nov. The flock of 270 male Black Scoters at Shirley's Bay 15 Oct was unusual for the Ottawa area (BB et al.). Vast numbers of Long-tailed Ducks, totaling 66,000 birds, were off the Leslie St. Spit 5 Nov (GCo et al.). On the Ottawa R., a male Barrow's Goldeneye frequented the Remic Rapids 4–30 Nov (BL, m.ob.), but a female at Des Chênes Rapids was seen 4 Nov only (BL). A male Ruddy Duck at Emo 4 Aug was the first for *Rainy River* in several years (DHE, KM).

The 73 Bald Eagles at the Atikokan dump in mid-Nov furnished the highest ever count for this location (DHE). Seacliff tallied an unusually high 83 Red-shouldered Hawks 29 Oct (FJU). Broad-winged Hawk migration was excellent at several sites, with a record one-day 10,399 at High Park, Toronto, 15 Sep (*vide* RBHS) and a record season total 103,796 at Hawk Cliff on L. Erie (*vide* SRe); however, Broad-wingeds seemingly then took a more northerly route rather than following the L. Erie shoreline, as Holiday Beach saw relatively few while record numbers appeared on the n. shore of L. Michigan (*vide* AC). In Algonquin P.P., record-late Broad-winged Hawks were singles seen 2 and 6 Oct (MR). Fall **Swainson's Hawks** continue their increase, with one at L.P.B.O. 13 Sep (MSc, TM et al.), a juv. at High Park 16 Sep (DP), an ad. at Richmond Hill 21 Sep (NM), and an ad. dark morph at Wheatley 24 Sep (GTH). The 527 Red-tailed Hawks tallied at Seacliff 29 Oct (FJU) represented a record high count for the site.

There was a strong movement of Golden Eagles, with at least 44 seen at the L. Ontario hawk-watches, a season total of 97 at Hawk Cliff (*vide* SRe), and a record one-day count of 35 at Holiday Beach 21 Oct, with a season total there of 103 (*vide* AC).

Rails Through Shorebirds

A cooperative Yellow Rail at Isaac L., Warton, was enjoyed by several observers 9 Oct (JWJ et al.). An injured imm. **Purple Gallinule** picked up from a Toronto street 22 Sep (BCu) and released in nearby Grenadier Pond the same day was not seen thereafter. Erieau had a peak 7500 American Coots 19 Nov (JTB et al.). Sandhill Cranes continue to explore new territory in s. Ontario: a group of 30 e. of Ottawa still present 11 Nov suggested probable breeding in nearby Mer Bleue Bog (BSc, CL, BB, MT), and 22 at Crane Lake w. of Lindsay 13 Nov (JKG, *vide* DSa) were in an inaccessible area long suspected of harboring a few breeding pairs.

Unusually late lingering shorebirds included an American Golden-Plover in Hamilton Harbor 26–29 Nov (DL, JO, RSt) and an American Avocet on Mission I., Thunder Bay, 5–18 Nov (NGE, m.ob.); in the s., an avocet was at Kettle Pt. 1 Aug (AHR), 4 were at Rondeau 27 Aug (BMa), and one was at L.P.B.O. 11 Sep (MVB). Only one Willet was reported, at Presqu'île P.P. 13–15 Sep (m.ob.). Good counts of Hudsonian Godwit included 13 at Ottawa Beach 2 Sep (TB) and 11 flying by Van Wagner's Beach 15 Oct (BSm, JC, JWa). A Marbled Godwit was at the Chippewa Landfill, Thunder Bay, 23 Aug (GW). A Sanderling at Rondeau 4 Sep (BMa) had been banded in Delaware Bay in spring 1998. Western Sandpiper migration bypassed Ontario this year, with only three reports of single birds: at Kettle Point 7 Aug (THa), L.P.B.O. 17–18 Aug (MVB, AME), and Leslie St. Spit, Toronto, 20 Aug (VH, HD). A late juv. Least Sandpiper was at Muddy Creek, Pt. Pelee, 24 Nov+ (AW et al.); also late was a White-rumped Sandpiper at Presqu'île P.P. 30 Nov (DSh). At Atikokan, 2 Buff-breasted Sandpipers 4 Sep (DHE) were the first since 1996; among at least 21 Buff-breasted in the s. were 4 near Alliston 4 Sep (GCo) and 5 at the Townsend S.T.P. 16 Sep (DGr). The young male **Ruff** at Cranberry Marsh, Whitby, from late July was last seen 8 Aug (m.ob.). A Red Phalarope at Embrun S.T.P. 3 Sep swam with a Red-necked Phalarope (BB, BL, CL); single Red Phalaropes were also on Amherst I. 8 Oct (RDW), the Ottawa River 4 Nov (BDL), and Van Wagner's Beach 6 Nov (BW).

Jaegers Through Terns

An imm. Pomarine Jaeger struggling in the surf

at Pinery P.P. 3 Aug (AHR) subsequently died and was found to have been suffering from botulism (*ROM); at nearby Pt. Edward another imm. Pomarine was flying with an imm. Parasitic Jaeger 11 Nov (BMa, m.ob.). As usual, Van Wagner's Beach at the w. end of L. Ontario recorded more Parasitics than any other location in the province, with at least 44 between 27 Aug and 22 Oct, together with 12 or more jaegers unidentified as to species (RZD et al.). Of great interest this fall, however, was the large number of Long-tailed Jaegers reported in the south, suggesting that birders' improving identification skills are more accurately estimating the relative abundance of the three jaeger species in passage on the Great Lakes, with Long-taileds almost certainly under-estimated until recently. The first Long-taileds of this fall appeared 27 Aug, with an imm. at Amherst I. (VPM, JBi), a dark-morph juv. at Van Wagner's Beach (RZD et al.), and two juv. inland from L. Ontario at Grimsby S.T.P. (KML). Van Wagner's Beach had another 28 Aug (RCu, GSI), a juv. 2 Sep (RZD et al.), and 3 ad. 22 Sep (BW); Pt. Pelee's 7th was a juv. at the Tip 19 Sep (AW), and a single bird was at Long Point's Tip 30 Sep (MJH).

After high winds, a Laughing Gull was briefly seen at the Tip of Long Point 17 Sep (KEW), but Franklin's Gulls avoided s. Ontario this fall, with no reports. Only the 2nd for North Bay, a Little Gull was on L. Nipissing 26 Oct (DTa et al.); at least 3 frequented the Niagara R. 5 Nov+ (WDA, BP), and ≤ 25 lingered on East L., *Prince Edward*, to 28 Nov (AB, KK). An ad. Black-headed Gull was at Van Wagner's Beach 22 Sep (BW). An ad. at the Leamington marina 12–13 Nov (IP et al.) provided one of few fall records for the Pt. Pelee area; another was at Niagara-on-the-Lake 26 Nov (IML). The celebrated **Heermann's Gull** on the Toronto waterfront was last seen 16 Sep (*vide* RBHS). An ad. California Gull returned to the Niagara R. 12 Nov+ (JI). Notable numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls included 3 in Ottawa and 3 in Toronto during Oct–Nov (m.ob.), 3 at Breslau, *Waterloo* 12 Nov (JGu, WW), and at least 8 above the Falls on the Niagara R. 25 Nov (m.ob.). Single juv. Sabine's Gulls were at Pt. Pelee 7 & 19 Sep (AW, HON) and 1 Oct (AW, SP), Van Wagner's Beach had 3 juv. 10 Sep (BSm, JC JWa), and there was one at Sarnia 8 Oct (BMa). At Niagara, 2 juv. Sabine's Gulls were easy to spot in the mist below the Falls and another juv. frequented the Whirlpool area 18 Nov+ (RTS, m.ob.). There were at least eight reports of single first-winter Black-legged Kittiwakes in the s., including 2 seen intermittently along the Niagara R. 5–29 Nov (WDA, BP, m.ob.). A late Common Tern was at Erieau

until 20 Nov (JTB, SC), and another was above the Falls at Niagara 23 Nov (LJ et al.). Record-high numbers of Caspian Terns in Toronto harbor peaked at 242 birds 24 Aug (JI). A late Black Tern 19–21 Oct (*fide* KEW) furnished only the 3rd Oct record for L.P.B.O.

Pigeons Through Thrashers

A Band-tailed Pigeon frequented a schoolyard feeder n. of Thunder Bay 6–16 Nov (JA, m.ob.), and a White-winged Dove was seen briefly in Scarborough 28 Aug (GCo, RCo). A late Yellow-billed Cuckoo was banded on Muggs I. 20 Oct (T.B.O.).

Single, pale *subarcticus* Great Horned Owls were reported from the Leslie St. Spit from 12 Nov+ (CSAM) and at Presqu'île P.P. 30 Nov (CGo, JGo). Snowy Owls appeared in many locations in late Oct and Nov, from Rainy River and Thunder Bay in the n. to Sarnia, Erieau, and Amherst I. Even forested Algonquin P.P. hosted one 4 Nov (CA), its 13th record; many of these owls were poorly nourished immatures. October also brought an unprecedented movement of Northern Hawk Owls, first noted with singles near Thunder Bay early in the month, accelerating with the discovery of 5 in clearcuts s. of Armstrong 21 Oct (TA, JHa, EH) accompanied by reports from *Cochrane* and *Temagami*. At least 9 individuals were found in the Sudbury area (*fide* JL), with the first at Cartier 16 Oct (CB); up to 6 could be seen in one day at Atikokan in Nov (*fide* DHE). The hawk owls continued to edge s. through Nov, with at least 17 reports from cen. and s. Ontario; many appeared to be in transit, but some stayed longer, notably one at Merrickville, s. of Ottawa (BCa, m.ob.). At least 15 Great Gray Owls were reported in *Rainy River* during Nov, very high numbers for the District (*fide* DHE), but unfortunately several were killed on the roads; at least 6 were in the s., the first at Killbear P.P., *Parry Sound* 26 Oct (CP). Boreal Owls staged an early invasion: 5 had been banded at T.C.B.O. by 19 Sep, with an unprecedented 16 banded by 10 Oct (*fide* NGE); in the s. one was found near Napanee 29 Sep (CGr), another was in Algonquin P.P. on the record-early date of 13 Oct (MSt), and one was in Frontenac P.P. 22 Oct (PJG). Northern Saw-whet Owls were also in good numbers, with 318 banded at T.C.B.O. by 10 Oct (*fide* NGE); one intrepid bird, banded at Pigeon L. near Peterborough on the evening of 21 Oct, was recaptured only 2-and-1/2 hours later 47 mi due s. at Port Britain (RF, EK).

Notable late migrants included a Common Nighthawk on Leslie St. Spit 14 Oct (CSAM, RTS), and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Algonquin P.P. 23 Oct (GTH). Unusually far s. for the time of year, a male Black-backed

Woodpecker was at Presqu'île P.P. 10 Sep (FH), and a female was seen there intermittently 7 Oct+ (FH, m.ob.); in the n. Thunder Cape saw good numbers of migrating Black-backed, perhaps moving s. because of the lack of forest burns in which to forage; last summer Ontario had its fewest forest fires since at least 1928, possibly the fewest ever (*fide* NGE).

An Alder Flycatcher was record-late by two weeks for Algonquin P.P. 20 Sep (MR). Algonquin also had its first-ever Say's Phoebe 22–25 Sep (DTo, AS, m.ob., ph.). A male **Vermilion Flycatcher**, only the 3rd for the province, was photographed at Holiday Beach 7 Nov (WK). Morven had a Western Kingbird 29–30 Sep (ST, AT). The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at McKellar I., Thunder Bay, 9–12 Nov (WZ) scavenged dead worms on a gravel roadway as snow started to fall. Late vireos at Pt. Pelee N.P. included a Blue-headed 17 Nov (FJU), a Philadelphia 8 Nov (KML, RLW), and a Red-eyed 9 Nov (RGP). The Common Raven harassing a Bald Eagle at Kettle Pt., L. Huron, 23 Sep was only the 3rd seen there in the past 30 years (AHR); there were at least 7 reports of single ravens migrating w. along the n. shore of L. Ontario 8 Oct–12 Nov (m.ob.). On 7 Oct, Pt. Pelee N.P. had record one-day estimates of 1200 Winter Wrens and 10,000 Golden-crowned Kinglets (FJU et al.). T.C.B.O. recorded 3 single Townsend's Solitaires this fall, but they seemed to be moving through without lingering, possibly due to the lack of Mountain Ash berries along the n. shore of L. Superior (*fide* NGE). Peak night flights of thrushes over Kingston were estimated to include 300 Gray-cheeked Thrushes 12–13 Sep and again 17–18 Sep (RDW), and 36,000 Swainson's thrushes 12–13 Sep (RDW). Rare and late for Algonquin P.P. was the Gray-cheeked Thrush heard before dawn 15 Oct (CM). A late Hermit Thrush was near Thunder Bay 18 Nov (JA). Single male Varied Thrushes were at a Parry Sound feeder 22–26 Nov (RCr, LC) and in Sault Ste. Marie 22–29 Nov (*fide* BKn). The 19 Northern Mockingbirds at Col. Sam Smith Park 23 Sep (GCo) were a record-high count for the Toronto area; another was n. to Manitoulin I. 23 Oct (CB), while a pair frequented shrubbery in downtown North Bay 20 Oct–10 Nov (DTa). The Sage Thrasher at Ft. Frances 30 Oct (RSi) was the 3rd for *Rainy River*.

Warblers Through Finches

Warbler migration was protracted, with good numbers of several species and several late lingerers. The 14 Orange-crowned Warblers on Mugg's I. 9 Oct set a new Toronto-area record for a single site (T.B.O.). A Yellow-throated Warbler visited feeders in Thunder Bay 28

Oct–25 Nov (JMK, m.ob.); another was videotaped at a Georgetown suet feeder 19–22 Nov (JKm, PK). Late Blackpoll Warblers were at Thunder Bay 4 Nov (TBFN) and Garden I., Kingston, 19 Nov (DVW). Hanlan's Pt., Toronto Is., produced 170 Bay-breasted Warblers, 100 American Redstarts, and 40 Wilson's Warblers 9 Sep (GCo et al.). The Prothonotary Warbler at Hillman Marsh 25 Sep (DJW) was record-late for the Pelee area. An injured Ovenbird frequented a London backyard feeder until the last week of Nov (EG). Kingston had a Yellow-breasted Chat 26 Sep (DC), only its 7th in fall.

There were few stray sparrows. Algonquin P.P. registered its now-annual Le Conte's Sparrow near L. Opeongo 22 Sep (MR). The passage of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows across the s. was light. Pt. Pelee N.P. held an estimated 5000 White-throated Sparrows 7 Oct (FJU). A Harris's Sparrow visited feeders in Echo Bay, *Algoma*, to 15 Oct; another or the same bird adopted a feeder in Elliot Lake 19 Nov+ (*fide* BKn). In mid-Nov another was at a feeder at Marks L. w. of Thunder Bay (*fide* NGE). There were 4000 Snow Buntings on Wolfe I. 11 Nov (KFN).

Northern Cardinals exploring the n. included an imm. male at Thunder Cape late Oct (T.C.B.O.), 5 at Terrace Bay late Oct (GSh), one at Ft. Frances 31 Oct (RSi), one at Atikokan 2 Nov (DHE), a male at Neys Park 3 Nov (LN), and a male at Thunder Cape 10 Nov (T.C.B.O.). A singing male Dickcissel was n. of Port Hope 9 Aug (DGe, m.ob.) and a female or imm. male provided the 2nd record for Algonquin P.P. 27 Sep (CJ); the Blenheim landfill hosted a Dickcissel 5 Nov (KJB, JTB) and an ad. male briefly visited a Cobourg feeder 28 Nov (MJCB). There were scattered reports of Brewer's Blackbirds in the s., one at Kettle Pt. 8 Oct (AHR) and a male at Prince Edward Pt. 29 Oct (JHE, RDW); 8 Brewer's frequented a feeder at Marathon mid-Nov (KW). The 18 Western Meadowlarks at Chippewa, Thunder Bay, 4 Nov were the most ever seen there (BA et al.); a late bird was seen and heard calling at Thunder Cape 16 Nov (JA).

A flock of 12 Pine Grosbeaks at Hahn Marsh 29 Oct (SW) furnished only the 2nd Oct record for L.P.B.O., all the more remarkable because of the few reports elsewhere. Purple Finches reached the s. in mid-Oct, with a peak of 250 in Kingston 5 Nov (KFN); Pt. Pelee N.P. had higher numbers than in recent years, with 50 there 8 Nov (KML, RLW). In late Aug a family group of House Finches, including 3 young, visited a feeder in Ft. William, *Thunder Bay* (BA). The cones of the heavy White Spruce crop in Algonquin P.P. opened during the mild fall weather. White-winged Crossbills, regular in

small numbers in Aug, were scarce by late Sep (*fide* RT). Pine Siskins were common in Algonquin P.P. in Oct but decreased markedly during Nov (*fide* RT), presumably moving s., as the peak at Prince Edward Pt. was 70 on 18 Nov (KFN).

Corrigenda

From the spring report, the Cave Swallow was at Pittock L. 18–19 April, not 18–19 May (J. Holdsworth).

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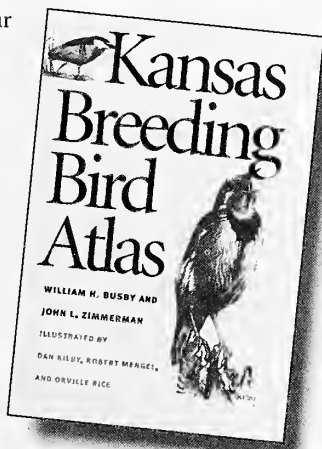
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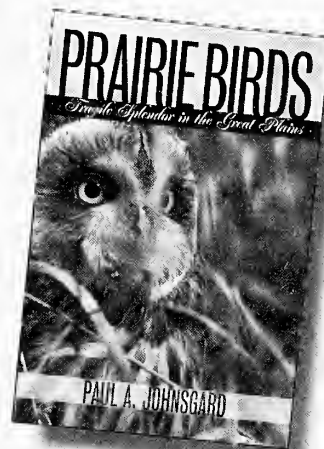
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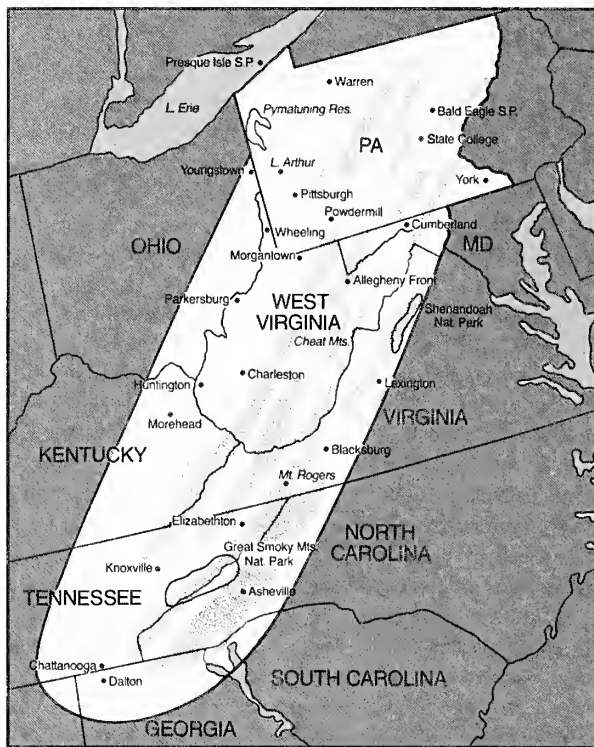
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Appalachia



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August was hot and rainy over most of the Appalachian region, but by mid-September conditions were somewhat cooler and drier than usual, especially in the south. There were no substantial fallouts of migrating passerines until mid-September, leaving observers with the impression that the migration was (despite sightings of some significant rarities) rather ordinary. Quantitative data from the region's two long-term banding stations, Powdermill Nature Reserve at Rector, Pennsylvania, and the Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant, West Virginia (90 mi. sse. of P.N.R.) also reflected the general lack of any substantial migrant fallouts. At Powdermill the 6148 birds banded this season was average compared with the past ten years (RCL, RM); at Allegheny Front the 3007 birds banded was 52% of the long-term average (GH). Despite their close geographical proximity, banding totals for the two stations pro-

vided a contrasting view of the migration of several species. Mild weather patterns in October and November also allowed many diving ducks and other waterfowl to pass over Appalachia without stopping, especially the diving ducks, scoters, and mergansers. Irruptive species, in general, were scarce, especially the northern finches.

Abbreviations: A.F.M.O. (Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant, WV); P.N.R. (Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, Westmoreland, PA); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA); T.R.M.O. (Three Rivers Migratory Observatory, Raleigh and Mercer, WV).

Loons Through Vultures

A systematic waterbird count at P.I.S.P. included a total 31 Red-throated Loons 22 Oct–26 Nov (JM), but apparently none was observed s. of L. Erie this season. A fallout of 301 Common Loons occurred at Booker T. Washington S.P., TN, 7 Nov (KC), and 66 were on Boone L. 18 Nov (ATy); a flight of 70 loons passed over Indiana, PA, 11 Nov (MH), and 70 were on Deep Cr. L., MD, 12 Nov (FP). An exceptional find was a **Yellow-billed Loon** at

Chickamauga L., TN, 6 Nov (†KC, LW, JH, JC); only one record of the species has been accepted by the Tennessee Bird Records Committee. Pied-billed Grebes peaked at 100 on Tamarack L., Meadville, PA, 23 Nov (IF), and the maximum Horned Grebe count was 201 at Booker T. Washington S.P. 6 Nov (KC, LW). Three Red-necked Grebes at P.I.S.P. 22 Oct–26 Nov (JM) were the only reports. Three Eared Grebes were on L. Oneida, Butler, PA, 10 Sep (ph. DD, DY) and up to 6 were present 10 Sep+ (WC, RK) at S. Holston L., TN, where the species has now been observed in seven consecutive years. An American White Pelican at Stuarts Draft, VA, 26 Nov established the first *Augusta* record of the species (ph. APL, et al.). A heavy flight of Double-crested Cormorants passed through the Region in early Oct: 160 were at Rockfish Gap, *Augusta*, VA, on the 7th (*vide* YL); in w. Pennsylvania, 1004 cormorants were counted 8 Oct in the Pymatuning L. region (RFL), 668 passed by the Brady's Bend hawkwatch along the Allegheny R. (MM), and 100 stopped on L. Arthur (DD).

In addition to several sightings of American Bittern in nw. Pennsylvania wetlands, where they breed, migrants were at Brady's Bend 8 Oct (MM), N. Branch, *Alleghany*, MD, 7 & 21 Oct (JBC), Hooper Lane, *Henderson*, NC, 15 Oct (WF, BO), and Shady Valley, TN, 30 Sep–24 Oct (HPL, BS). A Least Bittern was at P.I.S.P. 28 Aug (BG), 3 were near Shanghai, *Berkeley*, WV, 22 Sep (SM), and one was at Amnicola Marsh, *Hamilton*, TN, 1 Oct (KC). An obliging **Great White Heron**, first reported in Jul, remained near Brevard, NC, through Nov (NS). Great Egrets were more common and widespread than usual, with a high of 220+ at Rankin Bottoms, TN, 25 Aug (RK et al). A Snowy Egret was at Rankin Bottoms 17–19 Aug (RK); another was at Hendersonville, NC, 6–9 Sep (WF). Ten Cattle Egrets were listed at Rankin Bottoms 25 Aug (RK). On 15 Aug at least 26 Green Herons were attracted to an abundant minnow supply at the Oakland, MD, water-treatment plant (FP). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Bald Eagle S.P., PA, 14 Sep (CH), and an adult was at nearby Stormstown on the 15th (DBr). An imm. White Ibis was in *Washington*, TN, 20 Aug (*vide* RK); even more exceptional was one at Mifflintown, PA, Sep 20–24 (*vide* ATr). At Shenango Res., *Mercer*, PA, a *Plegadis* ibis, believed to be a Glossy, was found 23 Sep (SB, NT, m.ob.). There were two imm. **Wood Storks** in the Region, one in *Greene*, TN, 5 Sep (BS et al.), the other at P.I.S.P. 12 Oct–11 Nov (RSe, RN, DBo, m.ob.). Black Vultures continued to expand their range northward, with 22 listed at the Allegheny Front hawkwatch,

Bedford, PA, (TD), and one at McDonough W.A., Wood, WV, 27 Sep (*fide* JE). At Allegheny Front 1043 Turkey Vultures were listed (TD), while a roost along the New R. at the VA/WV line contained 365+ birds (JP).

Waterfowl

A Greater White-fronted Goose was a rare find at Swoope, VA, 24–26 Oct (YL). Small numbers of Snow Geese were widely reported, with high counts of 40 at P.I.S.P. 11 Nov (JM) and 16 at Soddy Mt., TN, 27 Nov (WH). A Ross's Goose appeared at North Park, Pittsburgh, 2 Nov+ (*fide* PH), and another was at Knoxville, TN, 1–8 Nov (DE). An early Brant was at P.I.S.P. 17 Oct (DH), 30 were there the 28th (JM), and 2 were at nearby Roderick W.R. 5 Nov (JTC); 21 were at Yellow Cr. S.P., PA, 28 Oct, in addition to singles 12 & 18 Nov (MH). The main flight of Tundra Swans crossed w. PA 4–24 Nov, with thousands on the 11th, including 1000 at Greenlick L., Fayette (*fide* DBy), 300 at Stone Mt. hawkwatch (GG), 200 at Franklin (JSt), and 241 in Allegheny (PH); 450 swans stopped at Prince Gillitzin S.P. 24 Nov. (JSa).

Wood Ducks were abundant in Pennsylvania: 350 were on Tamarack L., Meadville, 24–30 Sep (RFL), and an evening

roost count at Pymatuning listed 1106 entering the refuge 8 Sep (TM). High counts of Gadwall included 85 at Pymatuning 19 Nov (RFL) and 68 at Deep Cr. L., MD, 23 Nov (FP). Two early Northern Shovelers were at P.I.S.P. 24 Aug (DBo), and a peak count of 142 was made at Pymatuning 5 Nov (TM). Sixty Northern Pintails were on Tamarack L. 10 Oct, and 150 Green-winged Teal were there 9 Oct (RFL). An early Ring-necked Duck was at P.I.S.P. 27 Aug (JM), but fewer than normal were seen during migration, the high count being just 164 at Broadford, Garrett, MD, 23 Nov (FP). The P.I.S.P. waterbird count listed 17 Surf Scoters 29 Oct–26 Nov, and one was on the Allegheny R. at Verona 11 Nov (SK). Three early White-winged Scoters were at P.I.S.P. 16 Sep (RSr) and 11 were tallied on the waterbird count 21 Sep–26 Nov (JM). A Black Scoter was at Booker T. Washington S.P., TN, 5–7 Nov (KC), with 10 counted at P.I.S.P. 12–20 Nov (JM, MF). The Long-tailed Duck flight was especially poor; high counts s. of L. Erie were 3 at Franklin, PA, 25 Oct (JSt) and 4 at Boone L., TN, 21 Nov (HPL, BS). There were 1322 Hooded Mergansers at Pymatuning 16 Nov, but a lackluster Red-breasted Merganser flight peaked there yielded only 41 on 19 Nov (RFL). There were 500 Ruddy

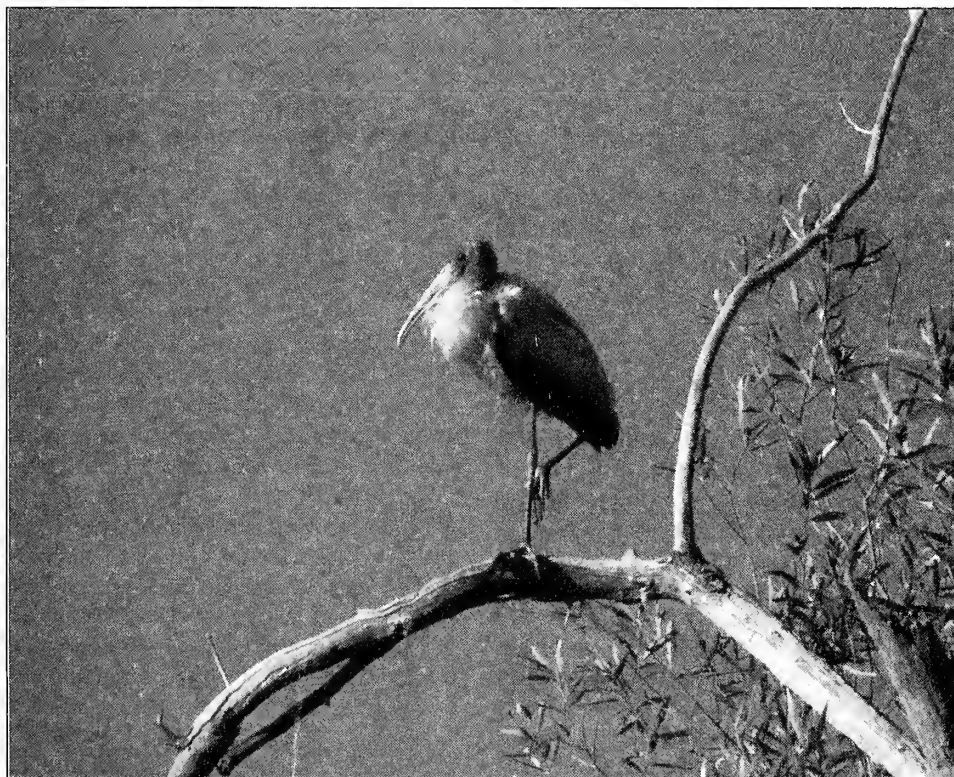
Ducks at Tamarack L. 23 Nov (RFL) and 200 at Somerset, PA, 22 Nov (TM).

Raptors Through Gulls

A heavy Osprey flight through w. Pennsylvania included 88 birds at the Allegheny Front hawkwatch (TD) and 104 at Stone Mt. (GG). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was in Sevier, TN, 6 Aug (JSt) and another was well-described from Girard, Erie, PA, 10 Sep (*fide* JM). Bald Eagle counts included a record 33 at Stone Mt. (GG) and 34 at Allegheny Front (TD). Northern Goshawks were widely reported in the n., including 9 at Stone Mt., 15 at Allegheny Front; in the s. one was in Carter, TN, 16 Sep (*fide* RK). Good Broad-winged Hawk counts included 1313 at A.F.M.O. 6–26 Sep (JG) and a record 1635 at Stone Mt. (GG); 5 late birds were at Booker T. Washington S.P., TN, 10 Oct (*fide* KC). A Rough-legged Hawk reached Polk, Venango, PA, 11 Oct (JSt); they were widespread in the north by month's end; in the s. one was spotted at Soddy Mt. 15 Nov (WH). An early Golden Eagle was at Allegheny Front 6 Sep, and a record 128 passed that station by season's end (TD); 8 were at Hanging Rock, Monroe, WV, 15 Nov (JPh), and 2 were at Soddy Mt. 7 Oct (WH). A gray **Gyrfalcon** seen by six observers as it made several passes at an owl decoy at Hanging Rock 22 Sep (†JPh) would be a first for West Virginia, if accepted.

An imm. King Rail was seen openly wandering about the bird-banding net lanes at P.N.R. on several occasions 10–13 Sep (RCL, RM). Both Soras and Virginia Rails were widely reported from within the Region. The high count for Common Moorhen was 26 at Hartstown Marsh, Crawford, PA, 9 Sep (MB); a pair with 3 young 11 Aug in s. Lawrence represented the southernmost breeding confirmation in w. Pennsylvania (BD). On 20 Nov, 1155 Sandhill Cranes were estimated at Hiwassee W.R., TN (WA). A female **Whooping Crane** that stopped in Greene, TN, 24–27 Nov (DM, RK) surprised birders and researchers alike. One of a pair from the introduced Florida population, she and her mate had wandered on their own to Michigan for the summer and started back toward Florida together in late Nov. Radio-tracking showed that the pair became separated near Lake Erie, but the female successfully made her way back to Florida after her unprecedented stopover in the Appalachian region.

There were some good fallouts of shorebirds locally, including 17 species that came down during a rainstorm 6 Aug at Big Beaver wetlands, Beaver, PA (BD, JF). Among many reports of Black-bellied Plovers was a high count of 17 at Hooper Lane, NC, 31 Aug (WF,



This immature (note the pale bill and feathered head) Wood Stork at Presque Isle State Park, Erie, 1 October–11 November 2000 established the first record for northwestern Pennsylvania. Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.

BO). American Golden-Plovers totaled 12 at P.I.S.P. 12 Sep–10 Oct (JM), one was at Pymatuning 22 Sep (RFL), 3 were at Mt. Lake, MD, 3–5 Oct (FP), one was at Rankin Bottoms, TN, 23–26 Aug (*vide* RK), and 6 were at Hooper Lane 17 Sep (WF, BO). On 1 Sep some 500 Killdeer were counted flying over St. Paul, Somerset, high in the Pennsylvania mountains (TM). Single American Avocets were at P.I.S.P. 24 Aug (*vide* JM) and Yellow Cr. S.P., PA, 21 Sep (*vide* PH); in Tennessee, 8 were on S. Holston L. 10 Aug (HPL) and 3 were at Brainerd Levee 6 Nov (BW). Two Willets were at Rankin Bottoms, 19–28 Aug (RK). A Hudsonian Godwit was a rare find at P.I.S.P. 21 Sep–1 Oct (ph. JM, CG), as was a Red Knot there 4 Sep (JM). Up to 5 Stilt Sandpipers frequented Rankin Bottoms 25–31 Aug (RK), 2 were in Beaver, PA, 6 Aug (BD), and one was at N. Branch, MD, 16 Sep (JBC). Ten Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Hooper Lane 28 Aug (WF, BO), one was in Transylvania, NC, 21 Sep (BM), ≤11 were at Rankin Bottoms, TN, 25–31 Aug (RK), and one was at Youghiougheny Res., MD, 5 Sep (JBC). Three Wilson's Phalaropes were at Shade Mt., Juniata, PA, 12 Sep (*vide* ATr), and one was at Pymatuning 16 Sep (RFL). A Red Phalarope stopped at Brevard, NC, 10 Nov (ph. BM. NS, WF), providing the second Transylvania record. The only Laughing Gull was at L. Arthur, PA, 1–4 Oct (MH, LW). Two Little Gulls were at P.I.S.P. 22 Oct, with a single there 18 Nov (JM). A Black-headed Gull was at P.I.S.P. 17 Oct (DH); another was on the Ohio R. at McKees Rocks 30–31 Oct (SK). At Pymatuning 780 Bonaparte's Gulls and 2300 Ring-billed Gulls were listed 19 Oct (RFL).

Doves Through Thrushes

Well-established in Chattanooga, Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to expand their range in se. Tennessee; the first record for *Rhea* occurred 8 Oct (DT). Single **Common Ground-Doves** at Middle Run, Clarion, PA, 30 Aug (JF) and Mifflintown 6 Sep (Atr) were well n. of their normal range. One or 2 Snowy Owls frequented P.I.S.P. 31 Oct+ (JM); one was in Pittsburgh 14–16 Nov (PH). The only record for Long-eared Owl came from P.I.S.P. 5–6 Nov (DD). Five Short-eared Owls were at Volant, Lawrence, PA, during Nov (*vide* PH), singles were at Barkyville, Venango, PA, 23 Nov (Jst) and P.I.S.P. 25 Nov (Jst, KG). Seventy-five Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded at Shaver's Cr. Environmental Center, Huntingdon, PA, 1 Oct–15 Nov (*vide* GG), and 4 were banded at A.F.M.O. 21 Aug–28 Oct (GH). Two late Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at Chattanooga 24 Oct (CW).

Increasingly, Appalachian birders are faced with challenging late-fall hummingbird identifications. A probable imm. **Calliope Hummingbird** was at a feeder in Transylvania, NC, 26 Oct–21 Nov (†ph. NS, v.o.). Two Rufous Hummingbirds were banded in Knoxville (*vide* RK). A *Selasphorus* was at Signal Mt., TN, 16–26 Oct (*vide* KC), one was at Connehee Falls, NC, in mid-Oct (NS), and one was at Greensburg, PA, late Oct+ (*vide* LC).

Scarce in recent years in Pennsylvania, Olive-sided Flycatchers were at Franklin 26 Aug (Jst), P.I.S.P. 28 Aug (RSr), Pittsburgh 4 Sep (MF), and Jacksonville, Indiana, 8 Sep (MH); in the s. one was at Jackson Park, NC, 3 Sep (WF, BO). Banding totals for *Empidonax* flycatchers at P.N.R. were a mixed bag; an average 50 Yellow-bellieds and 16 Acadians were banded, 35 Traill's was well above average, and 42 Least's was well below average for the past four decades (RCL, RM). A Western Kingbird at Penns Valley, Centre, PA, 7–9 Oct (GG, v.o.) was the season's only report. Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Charleston, Bradley, TN, 2 Aug (JW) and Brainerd Levee 7 Oct (RK). The first report of Northern Shrike was from P.I.S.P. 2 Nov (KG), and there were scattered records as far s. as Whipple Dam S.P., Huntingdon, PA (GG), by mid-month. Several observers mentioned a poor Blue Jay flight along the mountain ridges; at A.F.M.O. only 229 were counted (over 18,700 were recorded there in 1999; GH). A pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches was close to their nest site in Red R. Gorge, Wolfe, KY, 25 Aug (FR); an early migrant appeared at Bushy Run S.P., PA, by 2 Aug (MM), but numbers otherwise were generally low. A small population of Brown-headed Nuthatches persisted in the Kingston/Oakridge area of ne. Tennessee (RK). Sedge Wren sightings included 1–2 at Shady Valley, TN, 16 Sep–25 Oct (HPL, RK) and ≤10 at Brainerd Levee 18 Sep–26 Oct (KC). Several observers considered Ruby-crowned Kinglet numbers low; the 65 banded at A.F.M.O. was 44% below average (GH), but 164 was an average total at P.N.R. (RCL, RM). The 39 Gray-cheeked Thrushes banded at P.N.R., equal to the long-term average, was nonetheless the best fall total there since 1991 (RCL, RM), but only 6 were netted at A.F.M.O., 52% below average (GH). Single Bicknell's Thrushes were banded at T.R.M.O. 2 & 4 Oct (RC). The Swainson's Thrush flight was good at P.N.R., with 289 banded 4 Aug–14 Oct (RCL, RM), 40% above the 40-year average and 160% above the average of the most recent ten years. In contrast, 211 at A.F.M.O. represented a decline of 22% over the average of the past ten years (GH). At P.N.R. a record

60 Wood Thrushes were banded, 167% above the long-term average and the highest total since 1983 (RCL, RM).

Warblers Through Finches

Four Golden-winged Warblers were at Jackson Park, NC, 8 Sep (WF); a late bird was at Austin Springs, Augusta, VA, 16 Sep (YL) and 2 were at Booker T. Washington S.P., TN, 18 Sep (KC). A Brewster's Warbler was banded at P.N.R. 15 Sep (RCL, RM) and a Lawrence's Warbler was in Augusta, VA, 28 Aug (*vide* YL). A total of 382 Tennessee Warblers was banded at T.R.M.O. 31 Aug–14 Oct (RC), but just 38 were banded at P.N.R. and 190 at A.F.M.O., both well below average. A late Tennessee was at McDonough W.A., Wood, WV, 27 Oct (*vide* JE). Other late warblers included a Yellow at T.R.M.O. 1 Oct (RC), a Chestnut-sided at P.N.R. 27 Oct (RCL), and a Magnolia in Hamilton, TN, 26 Oct. (JC). Fall banding totals at P.N.R. for Northern Parula (9), Magnolia Warbler (383), and Black-throated Green Warbler (121) were the highest there in 40 years (RCL, RM). With just 50 banded at A.F.M.O., Cape May Warblers were 79% below the ten-year average, and 162 Blackpoll Warblers were down 76% (GH); both species were banded in below-average numbers at P.N.R. as well (RCL, RM).

A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Hooper Lane, NC, Oct 13–16 (WF, BO), and another was at Polk, PA, 17 Oct (DH). Late Henslow's Sparrows include one at Brainerd Levee, TN, 7 Oct (DT), one at Shady Valley, TN, 29 Oct (HPL), and one banded at P.N.R. 28 Oct (RCL, RM). Unprecedented numbers of Le Conte's Sparrows were in e. Tennessee, with at least 5 birds scattered over four counties in late Oct and early Nov (*vide* RK); in Pennsylvania one was at Polk 15–18 Oct (Jst, KG). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was banded at P.N.R. 30 Sep (ph. RCL, RM), one was at Polk, 24–26 Oct (Jst), one was at Shady Valley, TN, 15–27 Oct (HPL, BS), and 3–4 were in Sevier, TN, 15 Oct–5 Nov (DT). Dark-eyed Juncos were comparatively late and scarce as migrants through P.N.R. (RCL, RM), but the 325 banded at A.F.M.O., including both residents and migrants, was 40% above average (GH). An Oregon Junco was at Saybrook, Warren, PA, 30–31 Nov (CNe). A Snow Bunting reached Anderson, TN by 1 Nov (CNi); another was at Black Balsam Knob, Haywood, NC, 4 Nov (ph. ES, TH). A late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Signal Mt., TN, 1 Nov (*vide* KC). Two Blue Grosbeaks visiting a feeder in Harborecreek, PA, 11 Aug were well n. of their usual range, and 2 at N. Branch, Garrett, MD, established a new county record (JBC). The 110 Indigo Buntings in millet fields at Berlin, PA, 25 Sep represented

a high count for that area (JPa). The Dickcissel that frequented a feeder in Brevard, 21 Nov+ (BM) represented a first record for *Transylvania*, NC. A flock of Baltimore Orioles at Jackson Park, NC, 6 Sep contained a remarkable 40+ birds (WB, BO, RSv); a late oriole was at a feeder near Franklin, PA, 18–20 Nov (JSt, KG). Single Brewer's Blackbirds were rare finds at Moraine S.P. 22 Oct (PH) and Indiana, PA, 16 Nov (SG). Northern finches were scarce: small flocks of Red Crossbills were seen at A.F.M.O. in Sep (GH), but none was reported from elsewhere in the region. Pine Siskins were widely reported as far s. as Tennessee, but numbers were generally low, with a maximum of 30 near Polk, PA, 21 Oct (JSt). Evening Grosbeaks remained unreported at season's end.

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Western Great Lakes



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Weather and migration were unremarkable until late September, when multiple jaegers, flocks of Sabine's Gulls, and an Arctic Tern were found at Wisconsin Point on Lake Superior. Except in Michigan, the lack of sig-

nificant fronts produced poor hawk migration. A major weather system in early October produced a week of below-normal temperatures in Minnesota and Wisconsin, but waterbirds, shorebirds, warblers, and sparrows still lingered in all three states.

Later in October, several days of strong southwesterly flow apparently propelled an incredible array of vagrants to the region. Hummingbirds and flycatchers caught the

"Sonoran Express" to Wisconsin. During the last 10 days of October, the Badger State recorded Broad-billed Hummingbird, multiple *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, and Fork-tailed and Ash-throated Flycatchers! The *coup de grace* was delivered on Thanksgiving weekend when a Rufous-crowned Sparrow inexplicably appeared at a feeder. Including Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, as many as four species were added to the Wisconsin list!

At about the same time as Wisconsin's first, Minnesota had its second Ash-throated Flycatcher. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Black-headed Gull, and Painted Bunting were also outstanding in Minnesota. Michigan had several exceptional rarities, headlined by the first Manx Shearwater for the Region; third state records of Swallow-tailed Kite and Common Ground-Dove also galvanized observers.

Abbreviations: C.C. (Concordia College, Ozauxee, WI); Horicon (Horicon N.W.R., Dodge, WI); H.R.N.R. (Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, Duluth, MN); M.C.G.I. (Milwaukee Coast Guard Impoundment, WI); Shiawassee (Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw, MI); S.M.R.R. (Southeast Michigan Raptor Research, including Lake Erie Metropark and Pte. Mouillee HQ, Wayne, MI); Wisc. Pt. (Wisconsin Point, Douglas, WI); W.P.B.O. (Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa, MI).

Loons Through Vultures

Minnesota's only Red-throated Loon was a juvenile in *St. Louis* 10–13 Oct (KE). Wisconsin had reports from four counties, including a trio at Wisc. Pt. 24 Oct (JW). W.P.B.O. tallied 326 for the season (peak 27 on 22 Sep). Record numbers of Pacific Loons were in Minnesota (10) and Wisconsin (9). Most were on the Great Lakes as expected, but Minnesota had "inland" reports in *Cass* 30 Sep (PS), *Aitkin* 29 Oct (WN), and a first for *Beltrami* 5–6 Nov (DJ). Wisconsin previously had only two inland records, so singles in *Dane* 13 Oct (AS), *Shawano* 23 Oct (DT), and *Portage* 10 Nov (KH, MB) were noteworthy. Still casual in Michigan, Pacifics at W.P.B.O. 30 Sep (AMB, JMc) and *Houghton* 17–18 Nov (ph. JY, m.ob.) bracketed an Arctic/Pacific at W.P.B.O. 7 Oct (RG et al.). The previous Minnesota high count for Common Loon (1688) was shattered by 2511 at Mille Lacs L. 18 Oct (AH, RJ, PS); W.P.B.O. had 3103 for the season.

Uncommon in Wisconsin, Red-necked Grebes were in three counties, yet 16,253 passed W.P.B.O. (peaking 15 Aug at 2041). Eared Grebes strayed to *Dane*, WI, 24–27 Aug (AS, KBu) and three Michigan locations. A Western Grebe was out of range in *Lake*, MN, 26 Nov+ (JL et al.); Wisconsin had 2 in *Ozaukee* 14 Oct (DT) and singles in *Manitowoc* 3–4 Nov (NC, BH) and *Washington* 25–26 Nov (BD), and Michigan had singles at Duck L., *Grand Traverse*, 1

Aug–5 Sep (RB, KW, AMB, ph. JG., m.ob.) and New Buffalo, *Berrien*, 30 Oct (KM). Minnesota reported the only Clark's, lingering from summer until 15 Aug in *Lyon* (RS) and 19 Aug in *Big Stone* (KB, SC, CM), plus one newly discovered at Agassiz N.W.R., *Marshall*, 12 Sep (RJ).

Snowy Egrets graced Minnesota (2), Wisconsin (2), and Michigan (7). The region's only Little Blue Heron was in *Macomb*, MI, 7–8 Aug (AJR). Summer's Tricolored Heron lingered at Nayanquing Pt., *Bay*, MI, through 18 Sep. Cattle Egrets were in four Minnesota and Wisconsin counties and two Michigan counties; the latest were in *Rice*, MN, 4 Nov (m.ob.), and *Houghton*, MI, 11 Nov (JY). *Plegadis* ibis were reported from all three states. In Minnesota, an adult White-faced near Montrose, *Wright*, 19–21 Aug (D&BM, AH, PS), was followed by unidentified ibis in *Anoka* 29–30 Oct (JA, AH) and *Grant* 10 Nov (DG). A well-documented White-faced at Horicon 22 Oct–8 Nov provided Wisconsin's first fall record and 8th overall (TS, DB, m.ob.). For Michigan, *Plegadis* were in *Manistee* 18 Oct (BA), *Washtenaw* 16–24 Oct (m.ob.), and *Wayne* 28 Oct (CFo, MC, JSc). S.M.R.R. counted a seasonal record 33,183 Turkey Vultures.

Waterfowl Through Rails

A **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** on Prescott L., *Grant*, 6 Aug (SM) provided Minnesota's 6th record. Ross's Geese remain regionally rare in fall and casual in Michigan; singles were in *Otter Tail*, MN, 14 Oct (RJ), *Barron*, WI, 4 Oct (JP), and *Washtenaw*, MI, 21 Nov (m.ob.). Wisconsin also had 5 at Green Bay 26 Oct (T&IB). Eight Brant were at New Buffalo, *Berrien*, MI, 30 Oct (KM).

An imm. male King Eider on Good Harbor Bay, *Cook*, 14–16 Oct (JL et al.) provided the 14th Minnesota record and fit the recent pattern of Oct–Nov occurrences along the North Shore of L. Superior. An eider sp. was at W.P.B.O. 29 Oct (AMB, RG et al.). Harlequin Ducks (5–7) appeared in each state. Wisconsin had only one report of Surf Scoter on L. Michigan. Except for 3325 White-winged at W.P.B.O. for the season, all three scoters were scarce on L. Superior. Long-tailed Ducks included 2000+ in *Manitowoc*, WI, 28 Nov (JR) and 13,803 for the season at W.P.B.O. (peak 1674 on 22 Oct). A male **Barrow's Goldeneye** returned in early Nov to overwinter for the 7th consecutive year at Virmond Park, *Ozaukee*, WI (m.ob.). L. Maria in *Green Lake*, WI, traditionally hosts large numbers of Ruddy Ducks in the fall, but 27,000 staging 31 Oct (TS) was exceptional.

Late Ospreys were in *Washtenaw*, MI, 8 Nov (AZ), *Dane*, WI, 11 Nov (PA), and *Carver*, MN, 18 Nov (R&TD). Michigan's 3rd **Swallow-tailed Kite** in 100 years was near Empire, *Leenalau*, 22–24 Aug (BA, ph. BMu, KW et al.) and briefly in *Benzie* 23 Aug. Previous records are 1924 and 1992; specimens from the 1800s are no longer extant. An adult Mississippi Kite photographed at H.R.N.R. 11 Sep (FN et al.) was the 5th for that location. Sharp-shinned Hawks totaled only 9265 at S.M.R.R., while 15,063 was the lowest at H.R.N.R. since 1990. Seasonal totals for most raptors were down at H.R.N.R. and C.C. At S.M.R.R., 1098 Red-shouldered Hawks was a seasonal record, but 110,195 Broad-winged Hawks was low. Unusual for Michigan's Upper Peninsula were 30,000 Broad-winged at Manistique, *Schoolcraft*, 14–15 Sep (RBA). Wisconsin had 2 Swainson's Hawks, at C.C. 28 Aug (SCu) and 17 Nov (BC), while Michigan had 12 between 5 Sep and 21 Oct at S.M.R.R. Minnesota had Harlan's Hawks in *Otter Tail* 4 Oct (SM, DM) and *Sherburne* 11 Nov (TT); Wisconsin had singles at C.C. 17 & 20 Nov (BC). Other than 116 at H.R.N.R., Golden Eagles were scarce in Minnesota (7) and Wisconsin (2), but 252 (peak 53 on 21 Oct) was record-high at S.M.R.R. An ad. gray Gyrfalcon near Silver Bay, *Lake*, MN, 6 Nov (CM et al.) was followed by another (or the same) at H.R.N.R. 16 Nov (FN). A gray imm. stayed in *Muskegon*, MI, 26 Oct–27 Nov (DS et al., ph. m.ob.).

For the second consecutive fall Bolduan found a migrant Yellow Rail in sw. Minnesota, this year in *Jackson* 28 Sep (BB). Virginia Rails were late in *Dane*, WI, 23 Nov (PA), and *Hillsdale*, MI, 26 Nov (JRe). Increasingly rare in Minnesota, single Common Moorhens were in *Meeke* 26 Aug–3 Sep (DF) and *Blue Earth* 4–23 Sep (DA, BE et al.).

Shorebirds Through Terns

Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 140 in *Alpena*, MI, 20 Oct (KFS), and 148 American Golden-Plovers were in *Polk*, MN, 1 Oct (PS). Wisconsin and Michigan had the only Piping Plovers, one at Nine Springs W.T.P., Madison, 2 Sep (CS) and 2 at Ludington, *Mason*, 19 Aug (BA), respectively. Black-necked Stilts nested at Horicon in 1999, but none were there subsequently until 2 provided the 12th state record 2–3 Sep (DT). American Avocets were late in *Wabasha*, MN, 11 Nov (BF et al.), M.C.G.I. 11–17 Nov (KJ, ph. JI et al.), and *Baraga*, MI, 9 Nov (TA). Michigan had 23+ for the season. Each state had 2–3 Whimbrels. Less common in fall, Hudsonian Godwits transited Minnesota (5), Wisconsin (2), and Michigan (8).

SA On 19 August 2000, 12-year-old Kelly Downing discovered a **Manx Shearwater** in her family's front yard in Armada Township, *Macomb*, MI. The bird was brought to the Detroit Zoo for possible rehabilitation, but died on 24 August. The specimen was deposited in the collection of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology, where JHi reported it as a male. Even more interesting, the bird was banded (no. ER 33263 by Kerry Leonard). Internet research by the Downing family revealed that it had been banded as a chick by Copeland Bird Observatory on an island near Belfast, Northern Ireland, 7 September 1991! Records from Copeland indicated no sightings since. Not only does this bird represent a first state and regional record, it may be the only inland occurrence of this species in North America. It does not appear that any notable weather system contributed to this bird's presence in Michigan.—A. Chartier.

Red Knots avoided Minnesota, but Wisconsin had 12 in eight different locations, including late in *Milwaukee* 29 Oct (TW). Michigan's peak was 21 in *Monroe* 4 Sep (AMB). Minnesota's record high 1017 Semipalmated Sandpipers in *Big Stone* 4 Aug (KB) presumably did not overlap with 986 at Big Stone N.W.R. 3 Aug (BO). Accidental in Minnesota (one acceptable record in 10 years!) but apparently more likely elsewhere in our region, single Western Sandpipers were in *Manitowoc*, WI, 7 Oct (DT); *Monroe*, MI, 1 & 4 Sep (AMB, KT); and *Mason*, MI, 16 & 25 Sep (JRa, TVB). Record-high were 1164 Pectoral Sandpipers in *Big Stone*, MN, 15 Aug (KB). A juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at Green Bay 24 Oct (DT) would be Wisconsin's first if accepted. Scarce compared to last fall, Purple Sandpipers were at Sheboygan, WI, 29–30 Oct (TW), and *Muskegon*, MI, 17 Nov (FD). Stilt Sandpipers peaked at 285 in *Lac Qui Parle*, MN, 1 Sep (KB), while one at Horicon 8 Nov (DT) was late. Nearly 300 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were scattered across 16 Minnesota counties; numbers were also up in Wisconsin (26 in eight locations). Michigan peaks were 21 in *Monroe*, 1 Sep (AMB) and 18 in *Baraga* 10 Sep (JMM). Reversing the normal sequence of migration, a Short-billed Dowitcher was record-late at Horicon 1 Nov (DT) but Long-billed were early in *Big Stone*, MN, 8 Aug (SC), and *Eau Claire*, WI, 9–10 Aug (JP). A Red Phalarope seen on both sides of the Superior Entry at Wisc. Pt. provided records for Wisconsin and Minnesota 14 Oct (JHo, CJ).

Jaeger reports were up in all three states. A juv. Pomarine in Duluth 23 Sep (KE, PS) was the 13th for Minnesota. Another was at Wisc. Pt. 8 Oct (SP, CW). Minnesota had 9 more jaegers, about half Parasitic and the rest unidentified. At least 7 Parasitics were at Wisc. Pt. 21–23 Sep (v.ob.). W.P.B.O. carefully identified 20 of 54 jaegers as Parasitics; elsewhere in Michigan were 3 more Parasitics and 4 jaeger species. Best of all was the **Long-tailed Jaeger** at New Buffalo, *Berrien*, MI, 17 Nov (KM, AMB).

Franklin's Gulls peaked at 19,300 on L. Osakis in *Todd* and *Douglas*, MN, 15 Sep (KB). They turned up in five Wisconsin locations, including 4 at Green Bay 20 Oct (JR). Michigan had 2 in *Berrien* 22 Oct (KM). Juv. Little Gulls were at Duluth 21 Aug (PS) and French L., *Hennepin*, 30 Aug–2 Sep (SC, m.ob.), both Minnesota. Michigan had one at Tiscornia Beach, *Berrien*, 26 Aug (KM) and at least 4 more on L. Michigan in Nov. An adult **Black-headed Gull** at the n. end of Spirit L. in *Jackson*, MN, 8 Oct (ph. AH, PS) was the location where 1–2 adults were seen last year.

SA An unprecedented flight of Sabine's Gulls was noted on L. Superior from Wisc. Pt. 21–24 Sep during a Wisconsin Society for Ornithology weekend outing (TS, DT, CW et al.). Astounding for the Great Lakes Basin was the flock of 19 on 21 Sep. Observers were further amazed 23 Sep when 11 and 18 were seen simultaneously. All but 3 of these 29 Sabine's streamed past the Superior Entry into Minnesota waters (PS), and all but 3 or 4 were juveniles. While it is clear that at least 29 birds were present at one time, the total was probably higher. The last straggler was a juvenile 24 Sep (PS). The previous high counts for Minnesota (3) and Wisconsin (4) were paltry in comparison. Two juveniles in *Wilkin*, MN, 9–15 Oct (PS et al.), one in *Milwaukee*, WI, 5 Nov (SL), and 4 at W.P.B.O. between 7 & 15 Oct brought the regional total to at least three dozen for the season.

For the second consecutive year, a **Mew Gull** was found in *Milwaukee*, WI, this time an adult *brachyrhynchus* 11 Nov+ (ph. JI & SL). A second-winter California Gull at Bradford Beach, *Milwaukee*, 5 Nov (SL) would provide the 5th Wisconsin record, if accepted. In Minnesota, adult Thayer's Gulls were record-early at L. Calhoun, *Hennepin*, 23 Sep (PB) and Duluth 24 Sep (PS). Thayer's were in seven e. Wisconsin locations, while Michigan



The equal of the Middlewestern Prairie's Red-cockaded Woodpecker (see the Pictorial Highlights) for bizarre record of fall 2000, this Manx Shearwater was found alive at Armada Township, *Macomb*, Michigan, 19 August 2000. Rehabilitation failed; the specimen, an adult male, is now at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. Remarkably, the bird had been banded as a chick near Belfast, Northern Ireland, in September 1991. Photograph by Dean Downing.

had 2 in *Muskegon* 25 Nov (PC). A juv. Iceland Gull in *Cook* 27 Nov (PS) was the only reported in Minnesota all year, but Michigan had 3 in Nov. The usual adult Lesser Black-backed Gull for the Twin Cities appeared at L. Calhoun, *Hennepin*, MN, 15 Oct+ (PB et al.). Up to 3 were in Milwaukee, and one was in Madison, presumably returning, beginning 1 Oct (v.o.). Michigan reported at least 24 in eight counties. Great Black-backed Gull remains rare in Minnesota, but immatures at Black Dog L., *Dakota*, 24 Nov+ (D&BS) and Duluth 26 Nov (PS) were at locations where most frequently found in past years. Wisconsin had reports from Green Bay (JR) plus three other locations, including 4 in *Manitowoc* 21 Nov (DT).

Minnesota had possibly the same imm. Black-legged Kittiwake at Grand Marais, *Cook*, 21 Oct (DBz et al.) and Two Harbors, *Lake*, 30 Oct–2 Nov (PS, AH et al.); Michigan had an amazing 22 in four counties, including 11 for the season at W.P.B.O. and 6 at New Buffalo, *Berrien*, 22 Nov (KM, AMB, PC). An ad. **Arctic Tern** was documented on both sides of the Minnesota/Wisconsin state line at Wisc. Pt. 21 & 23 Sep (TS, CW et al.). It provided a first fall record for Minnesota and the latest-ever for Wisconsin.

Doves Through Woodpeckers

Among several purported **Eurasian Collared-Doves** in Minnesota only one was substantiated, at Odessa, *Big Stone*, 30 Sep–9 Oct (KE et al.). Providing only the 3rd Michigan record was a **Common Ground-Dove** near Vermilion, *Chippewa*, 30 Sep–3 Oct (RG, ph. AMB & JMc, m.ob.). Exceptionally late was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Milwaukee, WI, 28 Oct (AS). Rare throughout the region, a Barn Owl was at M.C.G.I. 4 Nov (BM, NC et al.). By the end of Nov, it became clear that a major influx of "northern" owls was underway, with 32 Snowy, 75 Great Gray, 34 Northern Hawk, and 34 Boreal Owls in Minnesota alone. Michigan had 4 hawk owls in *Chippewa* and one in *Manistee* 27 Nov+ (BA, m.ob.). An injured Boreal Owl in Superior, *Douglas*, 7 Oct (LE) provided Wisconsin's first October record. W.P.B.O. banded an incredible 176 Boreals between 25 Sep and 31 Oct, including 10 on the former date and 19 on 9 Oct. Common Nighthawk peaks remain low in the region, though Nicoletti counted 3120 in just 45 minutes at Lakewood, *St. Louis*, MN, 22 Aug. One was late in Dearborn, *Wayne*, MI, 16 Oct (JAC). Providing the first Michigan record since 1980–1981, an extremely late **Chuck-will's-widow** was found dead at W.P.B.O. 18 Oct (ph. RG).

Hummingbirds made news in Wisconsin, headlined by the state's first **Broad-billed Hummingbird**, a stunning male at the Frerik's feeder in Waupun 22–31 Oct (m.ob., ph. JB). No fewer than four *Selasphorus* were in Wisconsin. A subadult male Rufous was at Neenah, *Winnebago*, 26 Oct–4 Nov (ph. DKu, m.ob.), while *Selasphorus* species were in Saukville, *Ozaukee*, 13 Sept–28 Oct. (ph. TU, m.ob.), elsewhere in *Ozaukee* 8 Nov (ph. JI), and *Milwaukee* 17 Nov (SD). Michigan had the region's only other rare hummer, a Rufous in Bridgman, *Berrien*, 26 Oct–20 Nov (KM). A recent burn in *Douglas*, WI, created excellent woodpecker habitat; one Three-toed was adequately documented (MZ) and up to 6 Black-backed were also seen (AS, DB).

Flycatchers Through Waxwings

Late Oct and early Nov were outstanding for vagrant flycatchers in the region. Wisconsin's 3rd **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was at Patrick Marsh, *Dane*, 27–30 Oct (m.ob, ph. JB). Next came Wisconsin's first **Ash-throated**

Flycatcher, in *Kewaunee* 30 Oct–2 Nov (JR et al., ph. JB). Last but not least was Minnesota's 2nd **Ash-throated**, at Two Harbors, *Lake*, 3–5 Nov (MH et al., ph. PS), exactly 10 years to the day after that state's first (*Am. Birds* 45:107).

Loggerhead Shrikes were in four Minnesota counties, most notably late and unexpected in *Cook* 29 Oct (KE), but even later in *Dakota* 13 Nov (D&BS). Always rare in Wisconsin, reports came from traditional nesting areas in *Oconto* (J&KS) and *Door* (R&CL). One near Standish, *Arenac*, MI, 10 Sep (SS) is under review. For the first time in many years, a Tufted Titmouse strayed to Duluth, MN, 25 Sep (DK). Five Carolina Wrens in Minnesota reflected mild winters, but 2 seemed low for Wisconsin. Continuing the recent pattern of fall vagrancy along the North Shore of L. Superior were 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in Duluth, but unexpected was Minnesota's latest ever in *Houston* 15 Nov (FL). W.P.B.O. had 7 in Oct.

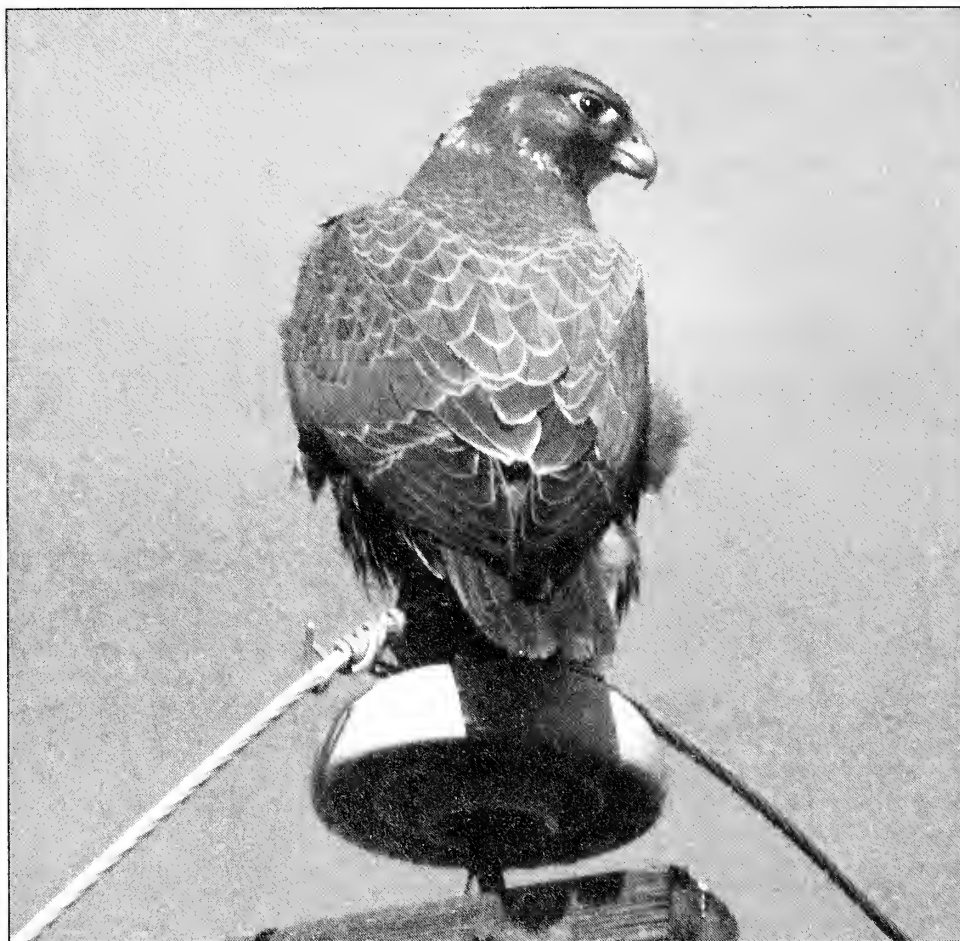
No fewer than 9 Townsend's Solitaires were in Minnesota, all ne. except in *Norman* 15 Oct

SA During a season of spectacular vagrants in Wisconsin, a **Rufous-crowned Sparrow** may have been the most incredible. A sedentary species with no pattern of vagrancy outside its range, one appeared at the Gross' feeder at Mukwonago, *Waukesha*, 25–26 Nov (vt. MG). It was identified by Idzikowski from the videotape, but unfortunately the bird disappeared before it could be seen by others. The consensus among those who viewed the tape (JI, TS, JH) was that the condition of its plumage did not suggest captive release. Documentation will be reviewed by the records committee, who will make the final determination as to origin. Regardless of their decision, this will likely be remembered as one of the most bizarre records in Wisconsin ornithological history.—J. Hansen.

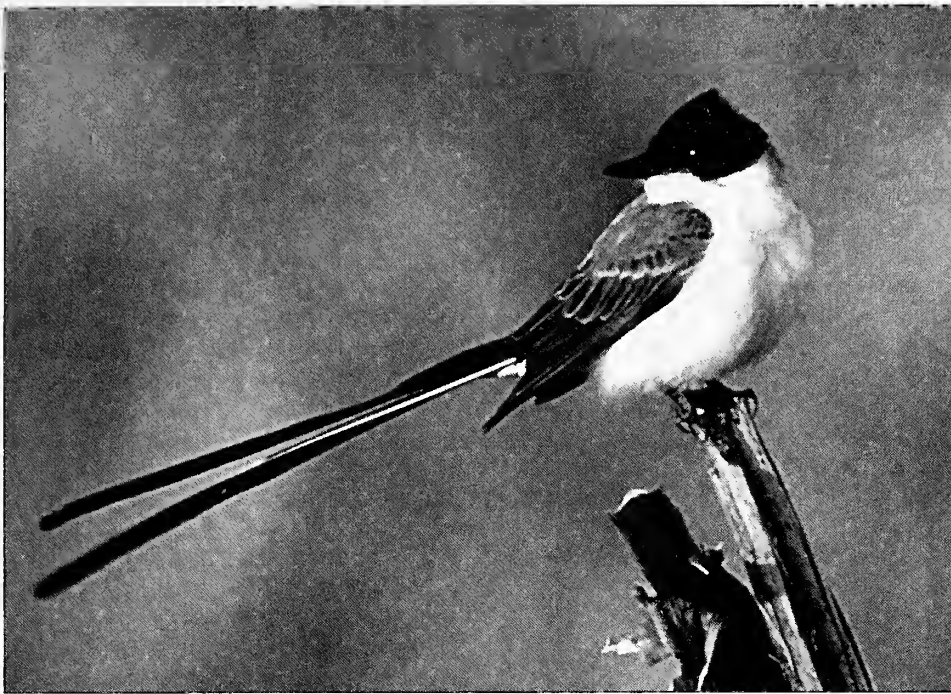
(MO, CN) and 2 in *Hennepin*. Two were at Wisconsin's traditional wintering area, Devil's Lake S.P., 4 Nov+ (*vide* JH), and singles were at W.P.B.O. 21 & 28 Oct (AMB, m.ob.). *Catharus* thrush migration was poor throughout the Region. Minnesota had 2 Varied Thrushes, including an early one in *Carver* 7 Oct (ST). Rare for Michigan were singles at Pentwater, *Oceana*, 17 Oct (DW) and Grand Haven Township, *Ottawa*, 16–17 Nov (LD, ph. CF). American Pipits peaked at 600+ along 2.5 mi of roadside in *Murray*, MN, 1 Nov (ND). Bohemian Waxwings were scarce, though one was early at W.P.B.O. 25 Sep.

Warblers Through Finches

Lingering warblers were too numerous to mention. A Northern Parula was record-late for n. Minnesota in *Lake* 4 Nov (KE). Also late were Cape May Warblers in *Portage*, WI, 2 Nov (MB), and *Iosco*, MI, 26 Oct (JZ). Michigan had single Prairie Warblers in *Wayne* 13 Sep (WP) and *Keweenaw* 19 & 21 Sep (LCB). Not previously relocated, June's Yellow-throated Warbler was at William O'Brien S.P., *Washington*, MN, 2 Aug (AH, RJ). Almost record-late was the Bay-breasted Warbler in *Hennepin*, MN, 29 Oct (TT). A Common Yellowthroat lingering in *Rice*, MN, 17 Nov (TB) presumably survived, but one was picked up dead in Duluth 22 Nov (*vide* KE). In spite of being found along the North Shore of L. Superior for three consecutive Octobers, 1997–1999, Minnesota's only Summer Tanager came to a feeder in Faribault, *Rice*, 15–25 Nov (TB). One in *Marquette*, WI, through 9 Aug (JM) had been present all summer.



This gray immature Gyrfalcon at Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon, Michigan, proved more cooperative than most other birds of this near-mythic species. It remained 26 October–27 November 2000, allowing numerous individuals to observe it. The image was captured on 10 November. *Photograph by James Ponshair.*



Wisconsin's 3rd Fork-tailed Flycatcher was at Dane City 27–30 October 2000; it was photographed 28 October. Photograph by Jack Bartholmai.

Exceptional numbers of migrating Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were detected in Minnesota (23+ in six counties) and Wisconsin (max. 9 at M.C.G.I.). Unexpected in ne. Minnesota, multiple Oct reports of Smith's Longspurs in *Cook, Lake, and St. Louis* (v.o.) were newsworthy. The male **Painted Bunting** present since early May in *Hennepin*, MN, was last seen 9 Aug (MAN).

Bardon's near-record 179 Bobolinks in *Wilkin*, MN, 15 Sep, almost equaled 200 at Shiawassee 13 Sep (BG, CSz). In Minnesota, no fewer than 4 orioles, presumably all Baltimore, lingered into late Nov at feeders; Bullock's was ruled out by Janssen for one in *Todd* 4–22 Nov. Another Baltimore was extremely late in *Berrien*, MI, 28 Nov+ (ph. JTW, KM). Apart from Pine Siskins, winter finches were very scarce. An **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** continued in *Clay*, MN, through at least 1 Sep (*vide* AH).

Non-natives

Though not "countable" in any sense, a pair of Whooping Cranes wandered to *Sanilac*, Michigan, from the reintroduction program in Florida. They arrived in late May and left in mid-Nov, heading southeast through Ontario and Ohio. Details were published in "Michigan's Whooping Cranes" by George Archibald (2000, *The ICF Bugle* 25(4):3).—A. Chartier.

Corrigenda/Addenda

Michigan, 1997: Add Western Grebe in *Marquette* 14–16 Nov (LT et al.); 3 eider species at W.P.B.O. 26 Oct; Mississippi Kite at S.M.R.R. 5 Sep; Gyrfalcon at S.M.R.R. 9 Nov; ad. California Gull at New Buffalo, *Berrien*, 27 Nov

(RTC); and Townsend's Solitaire at W.P.B.O. 7 Nov (KB, GB). Delete the Tricolored Heron (possible hybrid), King Eider, Gyrfalcon at Thorn L., and Black-legged Kittiwake at Metrobeach. Carl Freeman (not LR) photographed the Rufous Hummingbird. Observers for Say's Phoebe should be AMB, JBy, KB.

Michigan, fall 1998: Add Pomarine Jaeger at W.P.B.O. 7 Sep (KT, LDo), and female Western Tanager at Fayette, *Delta*, 23 Nov–6 Dec (ph. B. Collins). Delete Ruff at P.M., California Gull in *Charlevoix*, and Townsend's Solitaire at W.P.B.O.. Change Brambling record from Michigan to Minnesota. In *Changing Seasons* (*N. Am. Birds* 53:12–19) add an additional 1000+ Franklin's Gulls in at least 20 Michigan counties to Figure 3.

Fall 1999: For Minnesota, delete Red-throated Loon in *Rice*, Glaucous-winged Gull in Grand Marais, and undocumented Band-tailed Pigeon at H.R.N.R. Observer for Long-tailed Ducks at Presque Isle Lighthouse, MI, should be WG.

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Based on enticing reports from the western Great Plains, the Region's birders entered the fall anticipating an invasion of western strays. Although a fine array of species from the West appeared (e.g., Inca Dove, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Western Tanager), the invasion failed to materialize. Indeed the season's most astonishing bird, a Red-cockaded Woodpecker, was not from the West. Regarding more mundane aspects of the fall, several contributors noted that the migration, especially that of waterfowl, was later than normal, and many suggested that it was a poor season for passerines. Despite these distraction the Region's birders found ample grist for an interesting season.

Abbreviations: Carlyle L. (Carlyle Lake in Clinton, *Fayette/Bond*, IL); H.B.S.P. (Headlands Beach S.P., OH); Hitchcock (Hitchcock W.M.A. hawkwatch, IA); L. Chautauqua (Lake Chautauqua N.W.R., IL), O.N.W.R. (Ottawa N.W.R., OH); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO), S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO).

Loons Through Storks

Red-throated Loons were reported in all six states; the largest numbers came from the Great Lakes, where 40 were on L. Michigan and 9 on L. Erie. In contrast, virtually all Pacific Loons occurred inland, with 3 in Missouri, 2 in Iowa, and one in Kentucky. The only sizeable Common Loon counts also came from the Great Lakes, where a raft of 800 appeared off Beverly Shores, IN, 19 Nov (BGr) and 739 were off Lakeshore Metropark, OH, 22 Nov (JPg). Typical Red-necked Grebe numbers were logged in the Region, with 4 in Indiana, 3 in Ohio, 2 in Illinois, and one in Kentucky. The only Western Grebe e. of the Mississippi R. was at Clinton L., IL, 18 Nov (LA, KR, RTC). Peak American White Pelican tallies remained astronomical: 3500 at Saylorville Res., IA, 3 Sep (BEn), 3000 at Horseshoe L., MO, 27 Sep (LL), 2600 at Coralville Res., IA, 16 Aug (SJD, ABs), and 2500 at L. Chautauqua 16 Sep (RTC, m.ob.). Remarkably, all six states had Double-crested Cormorant counts exceeding 1000. The highest tallies included 10,000 at Carlyle L. 8 Nov (DKa) and 5000 on L. Barkley, KY, 25 Oct (BPB). A female *Anhinga* in Henderson, KY, 17-19 Aug (BPB, JEm, ph.), provided that state's first record in more than 30 years.

American Bitterns were widespread, with multiple sightings from all states. Impressive Great Egret accumulations included 900+ at Horseshoe L., IL, 9 Aug (WR), 750-800 in

Henry, MO, 2 Aug (MBR), and 650-700 in Gibson power plant, IN, 27 Aug (JHv, CWO). Little Blue Herons were not numerous in w. Kentucky (BPB), and numbers were seriously depressed, for the 2nd consecutive year, in w. Missouri (MBR). In contrast, post-breeding Little Blues accumulated in Jersey, IL, where 700 were counted 6 Aug (KAM), providing the Region's best fall tally in more than a decade. Tricolored Herons made a good showing, with singles at Carlyle L. 7 Jul (†DKa) and Pere Marquette S.P., IL, 4-7 Aug (SBl, †DKa, †RTC, m.ob.). The only sizeable Cattle Egret concentration occurred at a roost at L. Barkley, KY, where numbers peaked at 9700 on 6 Sep (DR). The Region was graced by some four dozen *Plegadis ibis*. State tallies included 30 in Missouri, 13 in Ohio, 5 in Illinois, and 4 in Iowa. The peak count was an impressive 20 *Plegadis* at S.C.R. 28 Oct (M&KF). Within this throng single Glossy Ibis were documented at Horseshoe L., IL, 3-8 Aug (KL, †DKa, KAM, HDB, m.ob), Stump L., IL, 5-7 Aug (†DKa), and Hamilton, OH, 6-10 Sep (FR, †NK, †JLe). The only White-faced Ibis identified were singles at Horseshoe L., IL, 17-26 Aug (†DKa, KAM, FB), Eagle Bluffs W.M.A., MO, 27-30 Aug (JLt, LK), and a late bird at Horseshoe L., MO, 4 Nov (LL). Missouri's Roseate Spoonbill, noted in the summer report, remained at Swan Lake N.W.R. until 18 Sep (SK). A remarkable 5 Wood Storks flying over the Ohio R. from Joppa, IL, 20 Sep (†FB) provided records for both Illinois and Kentucky.

Waterfowl Through Cranes

An impressive Greater White-fronted Goose tally of 800 was logged at L. Chautauqua 21 Oct (KR, LA). The ever-increasing Ross's Goose was reported in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri; the peak count was 12 at S.C.R. 21 Nov (DAE et al.) and the easternmost bird was at Summit L., IN, 25 Nov-2 Dec (†DG, SP). A refreshing experience for the Region was a significant influx of Brant along the L. Erie lake-front in eastern Ohio. Some 120 birds were reported, with peaks of 68 in *Ashtabula* 11 Nov (JMi), 24 at Conneaut Harbor 28 Oct (JPg), and 11 at Eastlake 14 Nov (HP). Dabbling numbers were typical, except for unusually high Mallard tallies at L. Chautauqua, where 120,465 were counted 30 Nov (R&SB); 35,000 were at Saylorville Res., IA, 18 Nov (BEn). Similarly, the bay-duck flight contained little out of the ordinary; the most impressive single tally consisted

SA Perhaps the Region's most vivid example of western species moving eastward was provided by Swainson's Hawks. At the Hitchcock W.M.A. hawkwatch in Iowa, an unprecedented 1451 Swainson's, including a phenomenal high daily total of 1114 on 1 Oct, was logged for the season (MO). In contrast the previous high count for the Region was only 300 (Kent and Dinsmore 1996, *Birds in Iowa*) and Palmer's (1988) *Handbook of North American Birds* listed only one count exceeding 1000 birds n. of Texas. The 1 Oct tally was thus truly exceptional.

of 10,000 Canvasbacks on Pool 19 of the Mississippi R. in Lee, IA, 30 Nov (JLF). Scoter numbers were down on the Great Lakes, but inland reports were similar to past years, with small numbers scattered across most states. Long-tailed Duck numbers were typical, with 1–18 reported in every state except Missouri. Typically, Harlequin Ducks were restricted to the Great Lakes, where 5 were reported on L. Michigan and 3 on L. Erie. Noteworthy among them was an ad. male, a plumage rarely seen in the Region, at Illinois Beach S.P., IL, 17 Nov (AFS). Notable Ruddy Duck tallies included 5000 at Spirit L., IA, 4 Nov (LAS) and 3100 at Mogadore Res., OH, 29 Oct (LRo).

Buttressed by a peak of 36 at Hitchcock 24 Sep (MO), Osprey numbers were up across the Region. It was also a fine autumn for Mississippi Kites, with reports from every state except Ohio. Maxima included 14 at Hitchcock 24 Sep (MO), 7 at the traditional Lincoln S.P. nesting area, IN, 27 Aug (JHv, CWO), and 6 in Henry, MO, 27 Aug (MBR, CH). The Hitchcock Hawkwatch produced a number of daily "bests" for the Region, including 114 Bald Eagles 19 Nov, 126 Sharp-shinned Hawks 21 Oct, and 39 Cooper's Hawks 24 Sep (MO). Northern Goshawks were more plentiful than normal, with 30 reported across the four n. states; the majority appeared in Iowa, where 18 were identified. The best Broad-winged Hawk flights occurred in w. Ohio, where observers in suburban Toledo counted 2300 on 24 Sep (TKp) and 1260 on 18 Sep (MA).

Excellent fall Red-tailed Hawk movements were recorded at Illinois Beach S.P., where 282 were recorded 3 Nov (PS), and at Hitchcock, where 240 were logged 4 Nov (MO). Rough-legged Hawks were scarce, peaking at 12 migrating along the Indiana lakefront 22 Oct (BGr). In contrast, Golden Eagles were plentiful, with reports from all six states, including 3 in Ohio, where this species is casual. The 73

Merlins counted in the Region is typical of recent falls.

Gray Partridge reports were less than encouraging. This introduced species, which vanished from Indiana more than two decades ago, was described as rapidly disappearing in Illinois (RTC) and there were only two reports from Iowa. Between 3 Oct and 3 Nov, no fewer than 6 Yellow Rails were found during mowing or discing operations at Prairie Ridge W.M.A., IL (SSi). Reports elsewhere of this retiring species included 2 at Swan Lake N.W.R., MO, 7 Oct (SK et al.) and singles at Sauerheber Slough W.M.A., KY, 14 & 21 Oct (KOS) and in Franklin, IL, 18 Oct (†LSt). The only King Rail was also at Sauerheber Slough W.M.A. 21 Oct (KOS). Exceptional autumn Sora counts included a record 140 birds at Swan Lake N.W.R. 7 Sep (SK), plus a dozen at both Sauerheber Slough W.M.A. 14 Oct (KOS) and Carlyle L. 1 Oct (KAM, FB, DKa). The Common Moorhen count was distressingly low, with only 2 birds reported, both in Illinois. The Sandhill Crane population continues to prosper. Widespread reports included 13,000+ at the Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A., IN, staging area 4 Nov (AWB, m.ob.), 7400 migrants passing s. in Lake and Cook, IL, 20 Nov (RB, CWi, CF, m.ob.) and 100 migrating through Champaign, OH, 21 Nov (T. Shively).

Shorebirds

At O.N.W.R Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 78 on 1 Oct (EPi). The largest accumulation of American Golden-Plovers was only 36, which is among the lowest fall maxima ever for the Region. It was a good fall for Piping Plovers, with 1–6 migrants reported in the four westernmost states. Black-necked Stilts were reported only in Kentucky, where 4 were found in Fulton 12 Aug (HC et al.); 2 were still present 21 Aug (RD). American Avocets appeared in all six states, with peak counts of 48 at Maryville, MO, 14 Oct (DAE), 24 in St. Joseph, MO, 20 Oct (LL), 16 at L. Chautauqua 19–27 Oct (LH, R&SB), and 15 at Saylorville Res., IA, 1 Oct (JJD, BEn). Upland Sandpipers were frightfully scarce e. of the Mississippi R., with reports of only 2 birds from Illinois and Indiana. Fortunately the Regional count was augmented by a hefty 43 at Rosecrans Airport, MO, 3 Sep (MBR). The Whimbrel/godwit flight was uneventful except for a single Hudsonian Godwit in sw. Ohio, where this species is unusual, at Miami-Whitewater Wetland 5 Sep (SR). Inland Ruddy Turnstones were more prevalent than normal, with 8 in Illinois, 5 in Iowa, 3 in Indiana, and 3 in Kentucky. Red Knots were scarce on the Great Lakes but surprisingly numerous at inland sites, where reports included a juv. at Saylorville Res., IA, 20 Aug (†SJD, †JJD et al.), one at Carlyle L.

9–10 Sep (DKa, RTC), and 2 apparently different and late birds at Kentucky L., KY, the first 4–6 Nov and the second 19–24 Nov (HC, et al.). The latter bird provided a new late departure date for the state. Excellent autumn Sanderling counts for Kentucky were recorded on the Mississippi R. in Carlisle, with 56 on 19 Sep (DR) and 45 on 23 Sep (BPB, HC, DR).

Noteworthy reports among the smaller sandpipers included a late Least in Lincoln, MO, 2 Dec (SSc), 14 White-rumped at Hoover Res., OH, 8 Sep (VF), a tardy Baird's that lingered at Red Rock Res., IA, until 27 Nov (ABs), and a high count of 880+ Dunlin at O.N.W.R. 8 Nov (VF). The "best" shorebird of the season was a juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** at L. Chautauqua 23 Sep–1 Oct (KR, †RTC, †HDB, MRe, m.ob.) that provided the Region's first record in six years. Only one Purple Sandpiper was reported this fall, at H.B.S.P. 28 Nov (RNn). Stilt Sandpipers were unusually plentiful, with reports from all six states and peak tallies exceeding 100 birds in Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. Eight Stilts lingered at Zirbel Slough, IA, until 31 Oct (RG) to establish a new late date for that state. Buff-breasted Sandpipers were numerous, with multiple reports from every state; the peak tally consisted of 100+ at the Clay, MO, airport 30 Aug (K. Driggers). Three other Missouri counts exceeded 50 birds. A fine Long-billed Dowitcher count was recorded at Carlyle L. 21 Oct when 450 were tallied (KR, LA). The most interesting aspect of the phalarope flight was the appearance of six inland Red Phalaropes. These birds, which were rather early, included a juv. at the Brown Power Plant, KY, 7–10 Sep (BK, FL), a juv. in Warren, KY, 17 Sep (DR et al.), singles at L. Chautauqua 30 Sep (RTC) and 19 Nov (KR), one at a Bowling Green, OH, golf course pond 2–4 Oct (PC), and a juv. at Summit L., IN, 7 Oct (†SP, ph.).

Jaegers Through Terns

An exceptional number of Long-tailed Jaegers provided the most unusual aspect of this year's jaeger flight. Records included an accommodating juvenile at L. Chautauqua 10–24 Sep (CO, KR, LA, DOe, ph, m.ob.), an ad. at Miller Beach, IN, 15 Sep (JMc, †KJB, P&JK, EPo), a juv. at H.B.S.P. 15 Sep (†HP, RHn, †LRo), and a juv. at Miller Beach, IN, 7 Oct (†JKC, †KJB, SBg, RHu, KM, et al.). Also of interest were inland Parasitic Jaeger reports that included a juv. at L. Chautauqua 13 Sep–4 Oct (CO, KR, LA, †HDB, DOe, ph. m.ob.), and a dark-morph bird at Carlyle L. 5–6 Nov (†DKa, KM, FB, CA). An additional 28 jaegers were unidentified, including a juv. on the Mississippi R. at Keoduk, IA, 21–22 Nov (JR, †JLF et al.).

It was a good fall for gulls. In addition to a nice mix of the smaller species a mid-Nov influx of large gulls produced fine counts of these species. Little Gulls were more widespread than in recent years. Reports included a juv. at R.E.D.A. 29 Sep–14 Oct (DBe, †WR, m.ob.), an ad. at Salamonie Res., IN, 29 Oct (JMc, †Haw, et al.), and a first-winter bird at Michigan City Harbor, IN, 23 Nov (BGr, KJB). Winter adult Black-headed Gulls were documented at the traditional Iowa Spirit L. site 7–11 Nov (†LAS, †PS, P&RA, ET) and at the Gibson power plant 8 Nov (†CWo). The latter provided Indiana's 6th record. The Region's only Mew Gull consisted of a well-described ad. at Red Rock Res., IA, 31 Oct–14 Nov (†MCD, †ABe, †JLE, †et al.). Ad. California Gulls were documented in Kane, IL, 28 Oct (JSi), at Michigan City Harbor, IN, 7 & 11 Nov (BGr, †JKC, †KJB, JMc, m.ob.), and in Auglaize, OH, 12 Nov (†DD). Thayer's Gulls arrived early and in substantial numbers. The vanguard, an overzealous juv. that appeared at Red Rock Res. 16 Oct (ABe), was followed by 18 additional birds, 8 in Iowa. Four Iceland Gulls, a species that rarely arrives by Nov, were also reported. A late Nov insurgence of Lesser Black-backed Gulls produced 6 in LaPorte, IN, 25 Nov (JKC, SBg, SDo et al.) and 3 at Grayslake, IL, 27 Nov (RP). Glaucous Gulls were plentiful, with 1–6 reported in each of the four n. states. It was a better-than-average autumn for Black-legged Kittiwakes, with 13 on L. Michigan, 6 on L. Erie, and inland birds at L. Jacomo, MO, 18–19 Oct (MB, RM) and L. Barkely, KY, 25 Nov (BPB et al.). Some 16 Sabine's Gulls were distributed across all six states. The most unusual was a juv. at Kentucky L., KY, 30 Sep–1 Oct (BPB et al.) and ≤5 birds at R.E.D.A. 24 Sep–14 Oct (†WR, JLu).

Good numbers of Caspian Terns appeared across the Region, with peak counts of 196 at Saylorville Res., IA, 10 Sep (BE) and 172, a state record tally, at L. Barkely, KY, 1 Sep (†BPB). The only large Common Tern movements occurred on the Great Lakes, where 3200 were counted on the Indiana lakefront 27 Sep (JKC) and 2500 at Sheldon Marsh S.P., OH, 9 Sep (PW et al.). Black Tern numbers were not impressive; peak counts ranged between 16 and 112 in each of the six states.

Doves Through Woodpeckers

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to establish new sites across the Region. Noteworthy new concentrations included 16 in Marshfield, MO, 13 Aug, where birds had apparently been present for about a year (CB), 11 at Carlyle L. 29 Oct–26 Nov (†DKa, †m.ob.), and 6 discovered at Lebanon, IN, 23 Sep (†RHg) providing Indiana's second known colony. One of the sea-

SA Without question the most astonishing report of the year was a **Red-cockaded Woodpecker** discovered at Illinois Beach S.P. 19 Aug (†AS, †RE, JMi, ph., m.ob.). Scores of delighted Midwestern birders trekked to the lakefront park to see this endangered woodpecker, which remained through the end of the season. Illinois Beach S.P., located between Chicago and the Wisconsin border, is more than 400 miles outside the normal range of this sedentary species.

son's most significant reports involved an **Inca Dove** killed during a dove shoot in ne. Carlisle, KY, 1 Oct (SW ph.*), a first state record and only the 2nd record for the Region. Two Yellow-billed Cuckoo records of note included an impressive 12 counted in Monroe, IN, 22 Aug (CWo) and a tardy individual lingering in Cuyahoga, OH, until 12 Nov (SZ). For the first time since 1996 good numbers of Snowy Owls invaded the Region, with 19 individuals reported in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Though not as impressive as last year's invasion, Northern Saw-whet Owls staged an above-average flight, with 12 reported in the four n. states. Peak Common Nighthawk counts included 830 at L. Monroe, IN, 13 Sep (JVR, DL), 600+ in Schaumburg, IL, 15 Sep (AA), and 500+ Indiana Creek W.M.A., OH, 1 Sep (RK).

Nonchalant Ruby-throated Humming-birds tarried in the Region, one lingering in W. Des Moines, IA, until 11 Nov (P&RA). Rufous Hummingbirds are becoming quite regular; 10 were identified this fall, 6 confirmed by capture in Kentucky.

Flycatchers Through Waxwings

Kentucky's first **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was documented at Bowling Green 15 Oct (†JEm, †LMc, DEL). A Western Kingbird in Cuyahoga, OH, 8 Sep (†JMz) was a rare find for the e. portion of the Region. The only Scissor-tailed Flycatchers e. of the Mississippi R. were in Illinois, one in Sangamon 6 Aug (†HDB) and one (possibly 2) seen four times at Carlyle L. 19 Aug–9 Oct (†DKa, KAM, FB, †RTC et al.). It was a good fall for Northern Shrikes, with some 31 birds scattered across every state except Kentucky. Noteworthy vireo reports included high counts of 42 White-eyes and 23 Yellow-throateds at L. Monroe, IN, 13 Sep (CWo) and a late Blue-headed at the Univ. of Iowa 25 Nov (†MCD). Three ad. Fish Crows nw. of Clinton, Henry, MO, 27 Aug, represent a range expansion (MBR). Large swallow accumulations included 1200 Purple Martins in Union, IL, 29 Jul (KAM, DKa, FB), 100,000 Tree Swallows at Carlyle L. 8

Oct (DKa), and 1200–1500 Cliff Swallows in Pickaway, OH, 7 Sep (JMm).

This was not a Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion year; most states reported only small numbers. The real excitement among *Sittidae* occurred in Iowa, where a calling **Pygmy Nuthatch** was found in an Algona cemetery 30 Oct (†MCK), providing that state's 2nd record. The only Bewick's Wren was in Franklin, IL, 25 Sep (LSt); the species is now almost entirely gone from Illinois (*fide* RTC). Laggard Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were recorded at Lorain, OH, 22 Oct (SZ et al.) and in Brown, IN, 16 Oct (CWo). Quite unusual was a count of 300 migrant Eastern Bluebirds at a Marshall, IA, hawkwatch 22 Oct (BPr). Noteworthy *Catharus* thrush reports included a late Gray-cheeked in Algona, IA, 15 Oct (MCK) and a nocturnal flight tally of 350 Swainson's near Bloomington, IN, 13 Sep (CWo). A Wood Thrush at Urbana, IL, 4 Nov (RTC) was late. American Pipits were reported in normal numbers, the peak count being 300 at L. Lemon, IN, 22 Oct (JHv et al.). Between 21 Sep and 28 Oct, Sprague's Pipits were reported at several w. Missouri locations, where the peak tally was 10 near Montrose W.M.A. 7 Oct (CH). The discovery of a single Bohemian Waxwing in a Cedar Waxwing flock at Dickinson, IA, 1 Nov (†LAS) was surprising for this early date.

Warblers Through Finches

Although locally high tallies were reported, most assessments relegated the warbler flight to below-average. Among the better counts were 46 Nashvilles at Gordon Park, OH, 16 Sep (SZ), 38 Chestnut-sideds in Monroe, IN, 13 Sep (CWo), and 750+ Yellow-rumpeds in Des Plaines, IL, 3 Oct (AA). Noteworthy late warbler reports included a Cape May found dead in McHenry, IL, 8 Dec (DF), a Yellow-throated in Jefferson, KY, 21 Oct (BY), a Kentucky at Carlyle L. 23 Sep (CAb, m.ob.), and a Yellow-breasted Chat in Mason City, IA, 2 Oct (CJF). Most unexpected was a male **Western Tanager** 11 Sep in Brown (†CWo, JHv, SHv), providing Indiana's 3rd (and first fall) record.

The sparrow flight, highlighted by a spectacular mid-Oct fallout along the shores of s. L. Michigan, was the season's passerine highlight. On 15 Oct the lakefront in Chicago and nw. Indiana was awash with hordes of sparrows. The diversity of this event was impressive, as daily counts of 15 to 16 sparrow species (excluding towhee) were reported. Elsewhere, noteworthy sparrow reports included a late Lark Sparrow at in Lyon, KY, 20 Oct (DR). It was a superb fall for Le Conte's Sparrows with multiple reports for all six states. Although the peak count consisted of 31

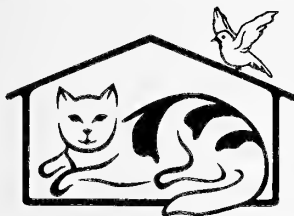
on the 29 Oct census in *Callaway*, MO, (BJ), excellent tallies were recorded farther e., where several record-high daily counts were logged. The easternmost reports included one in *Holmes*, OH, 12–21 Oct (†ES, et al.) and another in Mentor 28 Oct (†LRO). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were also unusually plentiful, with reports from all six states. Other noteworthy sparrow counts included 180+ Savannah Sparrows in *Franklin*, IL, 1 & 3 Nov (LSt), and 152 Song Sparrows at Gordon Park, OH, 4 Oct (SZ). Smith's Longspur reports were up this fall, with 2 near Montrose W.M.A., MO, 7 Oct (CH), 5 in *Kossuth*, IA, 18 Oct (MCK), and 7 in *Dickinson*, IA, 4 Nov (LAS). A drab female Dickcissel lingered at nw. Indiana's Migrant Trap until 21 Oct (EH, JKC, SDo et al.). An extremely tardy Bobolink was at Clarence Cannon N.W.R., MO, 28 Oct (WR), providing a new late record for the state. Noteworthy was a Yellow-headed Blackbird in *Adams*, OH, 3 Nov (PW).

Winter finches reports were remarkably sparse, consisting of typical Purple Finch numbers, a modicum of Red Crossbills in Illinois and Iowa, small to moderate numbers of Pine Siskins, and a single Evening Grosbeak.

Contributors cited (subregional editors

in boldface): The following 123 individuals are cited in this report. An additional 100 observers contributed information to the various state lists, but could not be personally acknowledged. Cindy Alberico (CAB), Pam & Reid Allen (P&RA), Alan Anderson, Matt Anderson, Connie Alwood (CAI), Louise Augustine, Susan Bagby (SBg), Steve Bailey (SBI), David Becher (DBe), Mike Beck, Frank Bennett, Rich Biss, H. David Bohlen, Richard & Sigurd Bjorklund (R & SB), Aaron Brees (ABs), Kenneth J. Brock, **Alan W. Bruner (Indiana)**, Charles Burwick, John K. Cassidy, Paul Chad, Hap Chambers, **Robert T. Chapel (Illinois)**, Roseanna Denton, James J. Dinsmore, Stephen J. Dinsmore, David Dister, Michael C. Dooley, Steve Doud (SDo), David A. Easterla, **Bill Eddleman (BEd) (Missouri)**, Diane Elmore (DEl), Jackie Elmore (JEm), Bery Engebretsen (BEn), Matt & Katy Fain (M&KF), Vic Fazio, Carolyn Fields, Carolyn J. Fischer, Darlene Fiske, **James L. Fuller (Iowa)**, Rita Goranson, Don Gorney, Brendan Grube (BGr), Ray Hannikman (RHn), **Rob Harlan (RHa) (Ohio)**, Jim Haw (Haw), Roger Hedge (RHg), Jim Hengeveld (JHv), Susan Hengeveld (SHv), Chris Hobbs, Larry Hood, Robert Hughes (JHu), Brad Jacobs, Dan Kassebaum (DKa),

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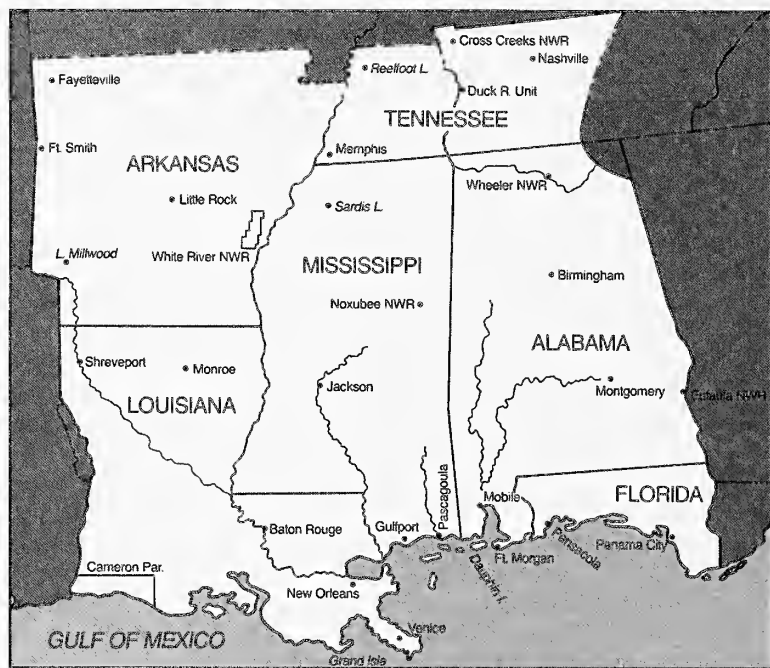
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Central Southern



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It was the best of times, it was . . . well . . . the best of times! Autumn 2000 was packed with fine birding in our Region, combining excellent numbers of regular migrants and a stellar collection of rarities. At least eight potential first, second, or third state records thrilled observers. Though most families were well-represented this fall, diversity of flycatchers was particularly impressive, with 18 species recorded just in the southern tier of states. From birders in the field to banding stations to offshore researchers, we enjoyed a season of plenty.

This was in the face of marked drought through most of the period, at levels not previously experienced by many localities. Birder-friendly frontal systems along the coast occurred 15 and 25–27 September and 6–7 October. Our area was not significantly affected by tropical storms this year.

Though the Migration over the Gulf Project continued at many offshore platforms, I received data only from an observer stationed off the Alabama coast. Reports of significant rarities not accompanied by convincing

documentation have been excluded, excepting processed specimens.

On a personal note, after 11 years of writing this report it is time to pass the baton. I deeply appreciate the many observers and subregional editors who devoted time to record submission. Thank you for your insights, and for your patience with my nagging requests for rarity documentation. Those involved made this fascinating job so much easier by their efforts.

Abbreviations: b. (banded); F.W.B.S.F. (Fort Walton Beach spray field, *Okaloosa*, FL); M.L. (Millwood Lake, sw. AR); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., e.-cen. MS); MP 252 (platform 60 mi s. of Ft. Morgan Peninsula, *Baldwin*, AL); T.E.C. (The Earth Complex, a.k.a. Ensley Bottoms, *Shelby*, TN); W.P. (Western Panhandle [*Escambia*, *Santa Rosa*, and *Okaloosa*], FL); W.T.F. (Woerner Turf Farm, *Lowndes*, AL). States are often identified only with the initial use of a place name.

Loons Through Storks

Rare Red-throated Loons were spotted four times 4–26 Nov in *Henry*, TN (JRW, m.ob.). Even more unusual, though increasing in the e. portion of the Region, is Pacific Loon. Three sightings of at least 2 birds occurred at Pace Pt.,

Henry, TN, 4–18 Nov (JRW), and 2 were noted 25 Nov at Guntersville, *Marshall*, AL (SWM). An exceptional number of Horned Grebes was recorded 26 Nov, when 850+ were at Pace Pt. (JRW). Eared Grebes in unusual locales included *Webster*, MS, 12 Sep (TLS), 2 birds 14 Sep+ at F.W.B.S.F. (RAD, m.ob.), 7 Nov in *DeKalb*, TN (SJS), 23 Nov in *Shelby*, TN (JRW, ph.), and 25 Nov at Pace Pt. (JRW).

Cory's Shearwaters were recorded in amazing numbers this autumn at MP 252 (BMM, some ph., @). The most conservative count was 289 birds, but actual numbers may have exceeded 440 individuals, despite reports from only one of the two observers! These were recorded on 17 days 13 Sep–25 Oct, with peak tallies 16 Oct of 68+ and 20 Oct of 65+. Alabama previously had only 15 accepted Cory's records. One rare Greater Shearwater was spotted 20 Oct at MP 252 (BMM, ph.). **Audubon's Shearwaters**, documented seven times previously in Alabama, were noted 14 Sep (2 birds) and 16 Oct at MP 252 (BMM, @). Masked Booby is rare but regular offshore; singles were at MP 252 on 24–26 Sep and 11 Oct (BMM). More unusual was an adult Masked 8 Sep along the *Santa Rosa* shore (LRD, RAD), only the 2nd W.P. sighting for September.

Good inland counts of American White Pelicans included 2100 in *Bossier*, LA, 7 Oct (CL, JT), 800 in *Lake*, TN, 26 Oct (WGC, KL), and 1500 birds 16–17 Nov at Baton Rouge (JPK). Two of these white giants were unexpected 19 Nov in *Elmore*, AL (PJ, LFG). Only casual inland in Alabama, ≤4 Brown Pelicans were at W.F. George Dam, *Henry*, 1 Jul–24 Nov (JW et al.); an individual 10–11 Nov at M.L. (CM et al., ph.) was unexpected. Two **Neotropic Cormorants** were in *Lafayette* 8 Aug (MD), furnishing a 9th Arkansas record. An estimate of 5000+ Double-crested Cormorants 10 Oct at Reelfoot L., *Lake*, TN (KL), was significant for a non-coastal locale. Of several Anhinga reports, most notable were ≤4 birds 9 Aug–14 Oct at Noxubee (TLS, m.ob.), one 3 Sep in *DeKalb*, AL (GW), and another 30 Sep in *Rutherford*, TN (JSD). Estimates of 1000 Great Egrets and 2500 Snowy Egrets 5 Aug in *Vermilion*, LA (JPK et al.) were impressive. Small numbers of Tricolored Herons usually occur inland each fall; five reports were submitted of 7 birds 4 Aug–14 Sep in e. Arkansas (KN, LN, JC), Noxubee (TLS), and T.E.C. (JRW). Huge numbers of Cattle Egrets were in *Caddo*, LA, with 30,000 estimated 11 Sep (CL); a late bird was in *White*, AR, 24 Nov (KN, LN).

Noteworthy reports of Glossy Ibis included at least one in *Hancock*, MS, 22–29 Oct (J&DB, @) and 2 birds 26–27 Aug in *White*, AR (KN,

SA

"A narrow Fellow in the Grass..."
— Emily Dickinson

Eastern Arkansas gave southern Louisiana stiff competition this season in the now-annual "Rice Field Rail Rally." Several dedicated field stompers (JRW, KN, LN, MR, KC et al.) kept pace with the combines this October in *Crittenden*, producing amazing numbers of small rallids. Yellow Rail was the most-sought prize for many; at least 5 of these reclusive beasts were flushed 7–16 Oct. Also ranking high on want lists, and with only a few Arkansas records, 11 **Black Rails** scurried in front of the marching machines during this period. Virginia Rails were found in abundance, tabulated at 114 in several trips. Astonishing numbers of Soras were flushed, with a two-week tally beginning 7 Oct of nearly 1700; more than 520 Soras were noted 10 Oct, over 200 in a single field! The secret, according to the "OI' Coot" (JRW): "The wetter the wheels on the combine the more rails you will see."

LN). A concentration of 2500 White-faced Ibis, 160 Roseate Spoonbills, and 1155 Wood Storks 5 Aug in *Vermilion* (JPK, KF) must have been jaw-dropping. I received four reports of 7 White-faced Ibis, rare outside Louisiana, 26 Aug–22 Oct in *White* (KN, LN), *Ashley* (JC), and *Clark* (DH, GG), AR; one at Noxubee 19 Sep (TLS, @) furnished only the 2nd local record. An unidentified *Plegadis* ibis was rare 2 Sep in *Limestone*, AL (JMH, BH). Only the 17th for Alabama, a Roseate Spoonbill was a surprise 9 Aug+ in *Montgomery* (CTS, m.ob., @). An increase in dispersing Wood Storks was noted in w. Tennessee, where the species is rare; high counts there were 108 at T.E.C. 6 Aug (JRW) and 125+ birds at various locations along the Mississippi R. 3 Sep (JRW). A gathering of 250 storks was notable 18 Aug in *Ashley*, AR (JC). Nine birds were rare for Alabama's Mountain Region 18 Aug (W&LB).

Waterfowl Through Cranes

More than 400 Greater White-fronted Geese were unusually abundant 6 Nov in *Clark*, AR (DnH, DH); ≤3 were rare 17–29 Nov at F.W.B.S.F. (DMW, RAD, LRD et al.). Noteworthy reports of the increasing Ross's Goose included singles 26 Nov in *Henry*, TN (JRW, MCT) and at Noxubee (JB, TLS, MHS).

One rare Tundra Swan was reported this fall, an ad. in *Cleburne*, AR, 22–25 Nov (KN, LN, MD). A tally of 164 Redheads 24 Nov in *Henry* (GRB, EH) established a new maximum for Alabama's Inland Coastal Plain. Rare inland scoter sightings included a White-winged 5 Nov in *Washington*, AR (MM), a Surf and a White-winged 12 Nov in *Prairie*, AR (KN, LN, ph.), a Surf and a Black 16–18 Nov in *Oktibbeha*, MS (TLS, MHS), and 3 White-wingeds 25 Nov on L. Pontchartrain, LA (BMM). Locally unprecedented was a Long-tailed Duck 18–24 Nov in *Putnam*, TN (SJS et al.). A high count of 9416 Ruddy Ducks was recorded 12 Nov in *Caddo* (CL, TD, LR).

Late Ospreys were noted 23 Nov in *Oktibbeha* (TLS, MHS) and 25 Nov in *Pulaski*, AR (RHD). Surveying 4 Aug along the Pearl R. between Mississippi and Louisiana resulted in an excellent tally of 145 Swallow-tailed Kites (JOC, PS). Scarce in se. Louisiana, White-tailed Kites were in *Plaquemines* (DPM, BMM, RDP) and New Orleans (JOC, TDC) 26 Nov. The Northern Harrier 9 Aug in *Lauderdale* (PDK) set a new arrival date for Alabama's Tennessee Valley. A rare dark-morph Rough-legged Hawk was spotted 21 Nov in *Lake*, TN (JRW). Two scarce Golden Eagles returned to Pace Pt. 4 Nov (JRW, m.ob.), and another appeared 9 Nov in *Bossier*, LA (PMD). Ahead of schedule, a Merlin was in *Lake*, TN, 20 Aug (KL).

The 12th for the W.P., a Black Rail was seen 27 Oct at F.W.B.S.F. (RAD, EC). A rare King Rail was found in *Ashley*, AR, 28 Sep (JC), and 2 were unusual 30 Sep in *Jefferson*, AL (SSH, DPG). Combine-riding in *Red River* rice fields 27 Sep produced 18 Virginia Rails and 202 Soras (CL, BL), the latter a maximum for n. Louisiana. Startling for Alabama's Mountain Region, and unprecedented in the state, a **Limpkin** was a crowd-pleaser in *Cullman* 30 Sep–23 Nov (GV, MV, m.ob., LN, SWM, ph., @). Six Sandhill Cranes were rare for the W.P. 21 Nov in *Santa Rosa* (EL).

Shorebirds

Furnishing a local maximum, 6 Black-bellied Plovers were noted at W.T.F. 10 Sep (LFG et al.). A fall high count on Alabama's Gulf Coast, 12 American Golden-Plovers were in *Baldwin* 9 Sep (PB, m.ob.). Scarce inland Piping Plovers included 5 in e. Arkansas (KN, LN) and w. Tennessee (JRW, WGC et al.) 1 Aug–9 Sep. An American Oystercatcher was locally rare 26 Oct at Venice, *Plaquemines*, LA (CGB, MHSa). A handful of rare far-inland American Avocet sightings occurred 16 Sep+ in four states. Rare inland in Alabama, a Willet was at W.T.F. 4–10 Sep (LFG et al.). Seventeen Upland Sandpipers at W.T.F. set a non-coastal fall maximum for

Alabama 4 Aug (TAP); the congregation of 49 Uplands 12 Aug in *White*, AR (KN, LN) was notable. Only occasional away from the gulf, a Whimbrel was in *Shelby*, TN, 6 Aug (JRW). The Long-billed Curlew is casual in n. Mississippi, so one in *Tate* 26–28 Oct (QB&CG) was a surprise. Inland Marbled Godwits are found only occasionally. One appeared in *Prairie*, AR, 5 Aug (KN, LN, ph.), up to 3 were in *White*, AR, 6–23 Aug (KN, LN, ph.), and another Marbled was in *Tallahatchie*, MS, 13 Aug (GCK).

Unusual inland, 7 Ruddy Turnstones were discovered 3 Aug+ at five sites in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Alabama. Even more noteworthy away from the coast is the Red Knot; 13 on 27 Aug were surprising in *Lake*, TN (JRW, SWM), and another was photographed 9 Sep in *Prairie*, AR (KN, LN). A flock of 20 Sanderlings was notable far inland 16 Sep in *Lafayette*, MS (WMD). Fall records of White-rumped Sandpiper, mainly an Atlantic migrant, are unusual. I received reports of six sightings of 16 individuals 5 Aug–7 Oct from T.E.C. (JRW), *Prairie*, AR (KN, LN et al.), F.W.B.S.F. (PCT, BT et al.), and *Baldwin* (PCT, m.ob.); peak count was of 7 White-rumped 10 Sep at W.T.F. (LFG et al.). Of several Baird's Sandpiper reports, most significant was one in *Lauderdale* 11–12 Nov (PDK, TMH), furnishing a new inland Alabama departure date. A gathering of 200 Stilt Sandpipers 19 Aug in *Ashley*, AR (JC) was noteworthy.

Excellent numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were recorded again this autumn. Eighty were in *White*, AR, 12 Aug (KN, LN), 172 were counted 9 Sep in *Baldwin* (PB, m.ob.), and 56 were in *Dyer*, TN, 10 Sep (WGC). Ten Buff-breasteds in *Lauderdale* 2 Sep (GNP, MA) established a new high count for Alabama's Tennessee Valley, and 30+ birds 10 Sep at W.T.F. (LFG et al.) set a maximum for inland Alabama. Always a thrill, a **Ruff** appeared briefly at W.T.F. 6 Aug (LFG, @), furnishing a 5th Alabama record. Early Common Snipe were in *White*, AR, 16 Aug (KN, LN), *Benton*, AR, 18 Aug (MM), and *Caddo* 27 Aug (JT, JnT). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were locally rare at Noxubee 5 Sep (TLS); good counts were of 90 birds 5 Aug in *Cameron*, LA (JPK, KF) and 14 Wilson's 12 Sep in *Lonoke*, AR (LY, SM). Rare but regular in the Mississippi Valley, Red-necked Phalaropes were found 5 Aug at T.E.C. (JRW), 10–21 Sep in *Ashley*, AR (JC), and 16 Sep in *Lonoke*, AR (KN, LN). Far more scarce, particularly on land, is the Red Phalarope. One of these stocky spinners was discovered 19 Aug at T.E.C. (JRW, ph.); another was the 21st for Alabama 29 Oct at Guntersville (SWM).

Jaegers Through Hummingbirds

Expected offshore in small numbers, 4–5 Pomarine Jaegers were at MP 252 on 3 Sep and 15–20 Oct (BMM). Rare Parasitic Jaegers were in the mouth of Mobile Bay, AL, 26 Sep (GDJ, DGJ), and 16 Oct at MP 252 (BMM). Tennessee's 3rd **Long-tailed Jaeger** appeared 27 Aug at Island No. 13, *Lake* (JRW, SWM, @). Two Long-taileds provided Mississippi with an exciting first record 9–10 Sep at Enid L., *Yalobusha* (GCK, SK, m.ob., ph. GCK, JRW, @). An early Franklin's Gull was at Cross L., *Caddo* 23 Sep (CL); a count of 209 birds at that site 5 Nov (CL) was notable. The Franklin's at F.W.B.S.F. 22–29 Nov (DMW et al.) was rare so far east. Rare but regular inland, 4 Laughing Gulls were at three Arkansas sites 10 Sep+ (KN, LN, LY, SM). A rare California Gull was in *Cameron* 20–27 Oct (DLD, SWC, * Louisiana State University).

Expected now in much of the Region, rare Lesser Black-backed Gulls were noted 20–21 Oct in *Lafayette*, MS (WMD, GCK, @) and 12 Nov+ at Pace Pt. (JRW). In *Cameron*, where the species is more frequent, a peak of 8 birds was noted 20 Oct (DLD, SWC). Scarce Great Black-backed Gulls were at several locations this autumn. One was in *Lafourche*, LA, as early as 30 Sep (PAW, BMM, CS, @), another was in *Harrison*, MS, 4–9 Nov (J&DB, TG, ph., @), and an adult was at Pace Pt. 25 Nov (MAG). When searching for the elusive Sabine's Gull in our Region, M.L. is the place to try; single individuals appeared there again 16 & 27 Sep (CM). Alabama's 4th **Sabine's Gull** was on Dauphin I., *Mobile*, 28 Oct (RRR, @). With no prior inland Louisiana records, a Black-legged Kittiwake was a thrill 5 & 11 Nov at Cross L. (CL, ph., @).

Uncommon offshore, Bridled Terns were noted 27 Aug and 13 Sep at MP 252 (BMM); more unusual was a Sooty Tern at the platform 13 Sep (BMM). Casual in Arkansas, a **White-winged Dove** was spotted 19 Aug in *Desha* (KN, LN); 12 were notable at Ft. Morgan, *Baldwin*, 30 Oct (BS). The Common Ground-Dove 24 Nov in *Carroll*, TN (MCT) was rare so far north. An early Burrowing Owl, the 17th for Alabama, was in *Baldwin* 5 Aug (DM, @); another was unexpected inland in *Washington*, MS, 18 Nov (CSm, GCK, SK, @). Two late Common Nighthawks were calling 28 Nov in *Lincoln*, LA (TDo). More than 2000 Chimney Swifts 12 Oct in *Caddo* (CL, PD) must have been impressive.

Casual in Arkansas and the Region, a **Green Violet-ear** graced *Benton* 21–22 Aug (J&FB, J&SS, JS, ph. TJ, @). An early Buff-bellied Hummingbird returned 12 Sep to Cantonment, *Escambia*, FL (BK, FB) for the

6th year; another was unusual in *LaSalle*, LA, 15 Sep (L&BW, ph.). Rare Calliope Hummingbirds returned to *Iberville*, LA, 26 Oct+ (DLD, SWC, JVR, ph. MAS). A **Calliope Hummingbird** was far to the ne. in *Putnam* late Oct–28 Nov (CAS, B&HB, b., ph., @), representing the 2nd occurrence for Tennessee. Alabama's 9th and 10th Calliopes appeared in *Jefferson* 19 Nov+ (RRS, MBS, SA, m.ob., b., ph., @) and in Montgomery 21 Nov (FB, DS, b., ph., @). An ad. **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** 29 Nov in Mobile (FB, RRS, MBS, DB, b., ph., @) established the 5th record for Alabama. Of several Rufous Hummingbird reports, most unusual were singles in *Butler*, AL, as early as 2 Aug (FB, CK, BB), and another 15 Nov in *Rutherford*, TN (CAS, b.). An Allen's Hummingbird, the 15th for Alabama, was in *Dale* 16 Nov (FB, GS, b., ph., @).

Tyrant Flycatchers Through Pipits

Three rare-but-regular Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted in Alabama 18 Sep–5 Oct (DJS, PN, BS, CTS). Late Yellow-bellied Flycatchers included singles 14 Oct in *Forrest*, MS (SW), 17 Oct in Nashville (JKS), and 29 Oct in *Cameron* (CL, JoB, DPM, RDP, m.ob.). Notably late was a calling Acadian Flycatcher through 7 Nov in *Iberville* (JVR). Rarely identified, vocalizing Alder and Willow Flycatchers were in *Caddo* 20 Aug and 12 Aug, respectively (both CL). First for Alabama's Inland Coastal Plain, and only the 12th identified by voice in the state, a Willow was in Montgomery 12 Sep (LFG, @). Alabama's 3rd **Say's Phoebe** was a surprise at Ft. Morgan 15 Oct (MAA, TAB, @). Rare and irregular in Alabama, a Vermilion Flycatcher was enjoyed 14 Oct+ near Mobile (KN, m.ob., ph.); more often seen at F.W.B.S.F., 3 Vermilions were noted 10 Oct–29 Nov (RAD, BBU, DMW, m.ob.). Ash-throated Flycatchers were rare finds 11 Sep (LF) and 27 Oct–25 Nov (EC, RAD, PCT, BT) at F.W.B.S.F., 28 Oct at Ft. Morgan (BS, DRC), and 29 Oct at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa*, FL (RAD).

For at least a 2nd Alabama occurrence, a **Brown-crested Flycatcher** brought many smiles 13 Oct at Dauphin I. (GDJ, DGJ, LRD, RAD, m.ob., v.t. GDJ, ph. JRW, @). Another Brown-crested was a rare find 7 Nov at Venice (JH, ph., @). The **Great Kiskadee** present since 1999 at Venice was noted again 3 Sep (DLD, SWC) and 7 Nov (JH, ph.). A **Cassin's Kingbird** was a shocker 17 Oct at F.W.B.S.F. (LF, DMW, LRD, m.ob., @), furnishing a 2nd W.P. and 3rd Florida record. The Gray Kingbird 18 Oct in *Santa Rosa*, FL (M&RR) was late. Rare so far east, a pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers with 4 fledged young was in

Franklin, TN, 6–7 Aug (JBR, JLI). Aggregations totaling 167 Scissor-taileds set a new Louisiana high count in *Caddo* and *Bossier* 7 Oct (CL).

Single **Bell's Vireos** 15 Sep at Gulf Breeze (RAD) and 16 Sep at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia* (LRD, RAD) provided the 7th and 8th W.P. records; another 12 Aug in *Iberville* (JVR) was rare and early. Warbling Vireos are rare in Alabama; singles were noted 2 Sep in Birmingham (SWM), 17 Sep in *Shelby* (GDJ, DGJ), 27 Sep at Ft. Morgan (GDJ, DGJ), and 12 Oct in *Lowndes* (LFG). Late Philadelphia Vireos included 3 in *Limestone*, AL, 22 Oct (DRC, RC), one in *Washington*, AR, 2 Nov (MM), and 2 in *Cameron* 9 Nov (JH, JFH). Two Winter Wrens 16 Sep in *Conway*, AR (D&SP) were ahead of the pack, as was a Sedge Wren the same day in *Oktibbeha* (L&EC). A push of 37 Golden-crowned Kinglets was noted 2 Nov in *Washington*, AR (MM). Two Ruby-crowned Kinglets in *Cameron* 16 Sep (SWC) were early. A straggling Gray-cheeked Thrush was spotted in *Putnam* 5 Nov (SF, IC). Rarely detected, a Sprague's Pipit was in *Tunica*, MS, 23 Nov (JRW).

Wood-Warblers Through Finches

Setting a local arrival date, a Golden-winged Warbler was in *Madison*, AL, 13 Aug (DRC, RC); one in *Cameron* 29 Oct (DLD, SWC) was tardy. Always exciting, the recessive-hybrid Lawrence's Warbler was observed 8 Sep at Nashville (EO). Many reports arrived of lingering Tennessee Warblers. In *Plaquemines* 47 birds were surprising 7 Nov (JH); 2 Tennessees were in *Okaloosa*, FL, 21 Nov (KM), 2 were spotted in New Orleans 22 Nov (GO), and one set a late date for Alabama's Tennessee Valley 28 Nov in *Lauderdale* (TMH). Early Orange-crowned Warblers, providing new local arrival dates, were in *Colbert*, AL, 12 Sep (DJS) and *Putnam* 16 Sep (BHS). Excellent numbers of Nashville Warblers were recorded; in *Caddo* 22 birds were extraordinary 30 Sep (CL, JT). A lingering Northern Parula was in *Washington*, AR, 11 Nov (MM). The Chestnut-sided Warbler 2 Aug in *Gibson*, TN (MAG) was exceptionally early and another 24 Aug in *Iberville* (DLD) was also ahead of schedule; a late bird was in *Oktibbeha* 2 Nov (TLS). Early Magnolia Warblers included individuals 2 Aug in *Gibson*, TN (MAG) and 13 Aug in New Orleans (JOC, CR).

An eastern migrant, particularly in fall, Cape May Warbler is rare in most areas; a male was discovered at the Region's nw. corner in *Washington*, AR, 23 Sep (DHJ, JH, MM). Of several reports of Black-throated Blue Warbler, a more-expected eastern transient,

most notable were males 1 Oct in *Caddo* (CL, C&SM), 12–15 Oct in *Craighead*, AR (SK, m.ob.), and as late as 7 Nov in *Plaquemines* (JH). An **Audubon's Warbler** furnished the 2nd W.P. record 18 Oct at F.W.B.S.F. (RAD). Two Yellow-throated Warblers in *Limestone*, AL, 22 Oct (DRC, RC) were tardy, as were Prairie Warblers 18 Nov in *Putnam* (BHS, SJS) and 26 Nov at Venice (DPM). Occasional this far w. in autumn, a Blackpoll Warbler was unexpected 27 Sep at MP 252 (BMM). Locally late was a Swainson's Warbler 2 Sep in *Madison*, AL (DRC, RC). The Ovenbird 15 Aug at Noxubee (TLS) was early. Of several reports of the skulking Mourning Warbler, most noteworthy was one in Nashville 11 Aug (TJW), providing a new arrival date for Tennessee.

Unprecedented numbers of Wilson's Warblers flooded the s. part of the Region beginning 6 Sep. Eight birds at Dauphin I. and Ft. Morgan 27 Sep (GDJ, DGJ) set a new Alabama maximum; H.B.S.G. banded 37 at Ft. Morgan in just two weeks of Oct. To the w. in Louisiana, Muth reported over 65 this fall, with a peak of 30 in *Plaquemines* 26 Nov (DPM, BMM, RDP). Sixty Canada Warblers and 85 Yellow-breasted Chats were surprisingly numerous 4 Sep in *Cameron* (CW). Tardy Summer Tanagers were in *Washington*, AR, 2 Nov (MM), *Caddo* 12 Nov (JT), and *Lafayette*, LA, 30 Nov (BF). A rare Western Tanager was discovered 21 Nov in Baton Rouge (CF, JL, @).

Four reports of 5 rare Spotted Towhees came from *Washington*, AR, 14 Oct–11 Nov (MM et al.). Excellent numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows were recorded in several states beginning 16 Sep. An exciting first for Florida, a **Brewer's Sparrow** was studied carefully 22 Oct at Gulf Breeze (RAD, LRD, @). A whopping 52 Le Conte's Sparrows 26 Nov in New Orleans (JOC, TDC) made a great day. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows are rare inland. One was in *Washington*, AR, 21 Oct (MM), another provided Alabama's 7th non-coastal record 22 Oct–5 Nov at W.T.F. (PJ, m.ob.), and one was discovered 28 Oct in *Cleburne*, AR (RHD et al.); surprising were 8 in *White*, AR, 5 Nov (KN, LN). Good numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows were noted, with impressive peaks of 30+ birds 9 Oct at Baton Rouge (CJW) and 26 in *Benton*, AR, 15 Oct (MM). The Swamp Sparrow 16 Sep in *Okaloosa* (PaB) was the first for the W.P. in Sep. Casual in Mississippi, a **Harris's Sparrow** was in *Attala* 27–29 Nov (FH, JSa, TLS, @). Alabama's 12th Harris's was a treat 26 Nov+ in *Lauderdale* (GNP, MA, PDK, m.ob., ph. SWM, @). An early White-crowned

Sparrow was in *Oktibbeha* 7 Oct (TLS, MHS). A Lapland Longspur in *Cameron* 30 Oct (TDO, MH) was early; 40 were unusual at W.T.F. 25 Nov (FB, PB).

Black-headed Grosbeak is occasional in Alabama, so one in *Dale* 23 Sep (K&MG) was a surprise; another in Gulf Breeze 20–25 Nov (C&BK, RAD, LRD, v.t. BA) was rare. Casual in Louisiana, a **Lazuli Bunting** was described from *Plaquemines* 3 Nov (DPM et al., vt., @). An estimate of 1000+ Indigo Buntings was notable 9 Oct in Baton Rouge (CW). Behind schedule, a Painted Bunting was in Gulf Breeze 30 Nov (RAD). Rare Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared 26 Aug at MP 252 (BMM), an early Alabama record, and 20 Oct in *Cameron* (SWC, DLD). An early Brewer's Blackbird was at F.W.B.S.F. 16 Sep (DMW). Of uncertain status in Florida, 2 imm. male **Bullock's Orioles** were at a feeder in Gulf Breeze 22–30 Nov (C&BK, RAD, LRD, vt., @). The Pine Siskin 21 Sep in *Washington*, AR (MM) was ahead of the game, as was an American Goldfinch 13 Aug in *Iberville* (JVR).

Cited observers (subregional editors in boldface):

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August and September were generally warm and dry in Alberta, but wetter to the east, whereas October was sunny and windy. Huge amounts of precipitation around the start of November in southern Saskatchewan and Manitoba resulted in high water levels and worries about spring flooding. Freeze-up occurred in the first half of November, earlier than in recent years. The latter part of the period in particular provided some exceptional rarities and lingerers. Unfortunately, many worthwhile sightings could not be included.

Abbreviations: L.M.L. (Last Mountain Lake area, SK); Mt. Lorette (Mount Lorette hawkwatch, AB); MWRO (Manitoba Wildlife Rehabilitation Organization); O.H.M. (Oak Hammock Marsh W.M.A., MB); R.L. (Reed Lake, SK); S.R.V. (Sheep River Valley hawkwatch, AB); W.L. (Whitewater Lake, MB).

Loons Through Falcons

Thirty Red-throated Loons migrated n. toward Hudson Bay at Dymond L., MB, 20 Oct (DF). A pair of Common Loons with a juv. at Round L.

6 Aug provided the first breeding record in the Qu'Appelle Valley, SK (BMe). A Yellow-billed Loon lingered in Calgary 29 Oct–7 Nov (RSs, m.ob.). Great Egrets were widespread in s. Manitoba, with exceptional counts at W.L. of 36+ on 29 Aug (PJ, ET), 34 on 14 Sep (LV), and 48 on 24 Sep (DCI et al.); lone birds were near Innisfail, AB, until 4 Aug (RT et al.) and at Outram, SK, 21 Aug (G&SWa). Wandering Cattle Egrets were at W.L. 7 Aug (AW, RDM) and 30–31 Aug (PJ, ET); Taber, AB, 30 Aug (LBe); and Stony Mtn., MB, 19–21 Oct (AE, LV). A Green Heron at Midale, SK, 30 Sep was a trip highlight (TK). White-faced Ibises peaked at a record-high 9 at W.L. 28 Aug (AW); 4 remained 30 Sep (TK). More expected were 23 at Okotoks, AB, 7 Aug (RB). Two Turkey Vultures at L. Athabasca in n. Saskatchewan early Aug were far n. of their known breeding range (RWr).

Rare anywhere in the region were 6 Brant at Beaverhill L., AB, 24 Sep (BH); a Black Brant was shot near Biggar, SK, 12 Oct (MN) and 12 were studied at close range at L.M.L. 26 Oct (L&GBr). A Trumpeter Swan at Beausejour, MB, 22 Oct was a good find (PT, RZ, RKo), whereas Frank L., AB, hosted 400 on 29 Oct (MM, BW). Rarely reported in fall, and exceptionally late, was a Cinnamon Teal in Edmonton, AB, 5 Nov (BP). Boosting our knowledge of fall migration at Churchill, MB, were reports of ≤10 King Eiders and 6 Harlequin Ducks 9 Oct (DCo), plus another 2

Harlequins 27 Oct (BCh). Ruddy Duck concentrations of 1000+ at Buck L. 12 Aug (FL) and 600+ at L.M.L. 26 Sep were noteworthy (BL).

A record-high 646 Bald Eagles were counted through the period at Mt. Lorette (PSh et al.). Peak Sharp-shinned Hawk tallies at Whyteford, near the sw. corner of L. Winnipeg, MB, were 133 on 7 Sep and 139 on 10 Sep (MQ). From Aug to Nov, 310 Northern Goshawks, mainly adults, passed S.R.V. (WS et al.); a more dispersed movement in s. Manitoba included 6 received at MWRO after window collisions (*vide* LT). An astounding 550 Swainson's Hawks were feeding in a 6-square km area s. of Taber 23 Sep (LBe). The highest-ever fall count of Golden Eagles at Mt. Lorette totaled 4753 birds, (PSh et al.); an amazing 1071 passed the south end of the Livingstone Range, AB, just on one day, 8 Oct (D&TD). A gray Gyrfalcon seen several times in early Aug at L. Athabasca was noteworthy (RWr).

Cranes Through Woodpeckers

An SNS group found 15 Whooping Cranes in the Radisson-Marcelin, SK, area 7 Oct. Shorebird highlights included a late Killdeer at the Gardiner Dam, SK, 12 Nov (SNS); 100+ American Avocets at W.L. 12 Oct (RKo), plus 7 stragglers at R.L. 2 Nov (WH); 900 Least Sandpipers at W.L. 28 Aug (AW); 600 Baird's Sandpipers at Chaplin L., SK, 4 Oct (TK). Single Purple Sandpipers were noted at Churchill 10 Oct (DC) and nearby Dymond L. 19–20 Oct (DF). A juv. **Ruff**, an accidental species here, was found near Calgary 26 Aug (MH, RSs). Rounding out the W.L. highlights were 100+ Stilt Sandpipers 12 Oct—a large number so late—and 5000+ Long-billed Dowitchers 11 Oct (RKo). A **Red Phalarope** at L.M.L. 16 Oct was Saskatchewan's 8th (BL); others were at Tyrrell L., AB, 3 Sep (LBe) and Calgary 24–25 Sep (RB, m.ob.).

The only inland jaegers were a Parasitic at Lesser Slave L., AB, 7 Sep (*vide* SG), a probable Parasitic at L.M.L. 24 Sep (CE), and a possible Long-tailed near Morris, MB, 26 Sep (JG). An imm. Little Gull at Delta, MB, 6 Aug (PV, CD) was followed by an ad. 31 Aug and 9 Sep (PV, CCt et al.). California Gulls, rarely reported in fall, were at Pelican L., MB, 11 Oct (RKo), Wascana L., SK, 31 Oct (RKR), and R.L. 16 Oct and 2 Nov (WH). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was in Calgary 21 Oct (TK). Potentially Alberta's 1st confirmed **Slaty-backed Gull** was a 3rd-year bird at Calgary 29 Sep–4 Oct (FG, RSs, m.ob., ph.); Saskatchewan's 4th Slaty-backed was a well-studied first-fall bird at L.M.L. 4–15 Nov (Regina Nat. Hist. group et al.). Saskatchewan's 5th **Glaucous-winged**

Gull was also at L.M.L., 30 Oct–1 Nov (CB, BL, DG); another was in Edmonton 4 Nov (TT). Four Sabine's Gulls were in the Calgary area 4–14 Sep (TK, BR, ASI). Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to make news in Saskatchewan, the latest being at Moose Jaw 25 Oct (AF).

Since late October at least 22 Snowy Owls, mostly starving immatures, were turned in to MWRO (*vide* LT), whereas only one of 11 banded near Saskatoon was emaciated (MS). Several Northern Hawk Owls ventured well outside the boreal forest, including 2 banded near Saskatoon 22 Sep (LO, MS), one seen at Delta 21 Sep (HdH, PV, CD), and another in Calgary 22 Oct (DM). Great Gray Owls were also prominent, with 18 at Buffalo Point, MB, 29 Sep (VR), 7 banded in Saskatchewan (MS, BD), and numerous other sightings. Peak counts of Short-eared Owls were 12 between Torquay and Oungre, SK, 10 Nov (*vide* BL) and 10 at O.H.M. 16 Nov (RKO, RJ). The first concerted effort to band Northern Saw-whet Owls at Delta, MB, yielded 237 captures on 32 nights between 11 Sep and 24 Oct (PV et al.). The highest count of Common Nighthawk was 224 between Manigotagan and Stead, MB, 24 Aug (DF). Two Chimney Swifts at Estevan, SK, were rare migrants (GWA). Manitoba's first Rufous Hummingbird in over a decade was at Benito 27 Sep (ASa, ph.). Manitoba Red-bellied Woodpecker reports came from Delta, Stonewall, and Winnipeg (m.ob.), and 4 "Red-shafted" Northern Flickers were noted in Saskatchewan (BL, R&GWA).

Passerines

A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was an accidental at Calgary 29 Aug (JC, YA). Unusually late were a Loggerhead Shrike near Camp Morton, MB, 14 Oct (BMA) and a Blue-headed Vireo at St. Adolphe, MB, 29 Oct (ACo). A well-described **Pinyon Jay**, the first reported in Manitoba, visited two St. Adolphe feeders 25 Oct (LL, DP, RH). Breeding of the Common Raven in the Qu'Appelle Valley was confirmed by a dependent juv. at Round L. 6 Aug (BMe). A Black-capped Chickadee was an accidental at Dymond L. 25 Oct (DF), as were Manitoba's 12th Carolina Wren at Headingley 15 and 29 Oct (BS) and an Eastern Bluebird at Riley, AB, 10 Sep (JM). Extremely late were a Gray-cheeked Thrush in Winnipeg 1 Nov (AW, CA) and an American Pipit at Pine Coulee, AB, 11 Nov (TK).

A Tennessee Warbler at Winnipeg 29 Oct was very late (RC). Rare warblers in Alberta included a Northern Parula banded at Calgary 8 Sep (RDi, ph.) and another found dead at Morinville 28 Oct (*vide* JH, ph.); and 2 Black-throated Blue Warblers at Medicine Hat 24 Sep


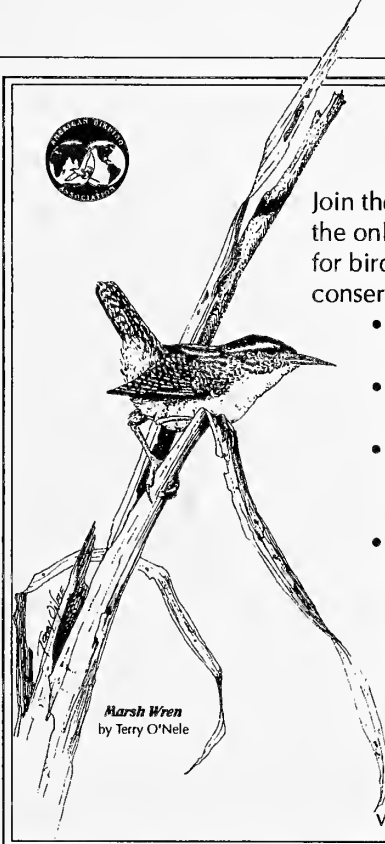
(BV), plus one at Calgary 15 Oct (CS). Audubon's Warblers were e. of their range, both on 24 Sep, at Weyburn—a window-kill (MB, CB)—and Regina (FL). Alberta's 2nd **Hooded Warbler** was a long-lingering, well-photographed female at Banff N.P. 3 Sep–9 Oct (ACH, HM, m.ob.); Manitoba's 11th and latest-ever was in Winnipeg 10 Nov (RKO). Summer Tanagers, almost annual in Manitoba now, were at St. Adolphe 3 Oct (RDC et al.) and Grand Beach 4 Nov (MNS party). Late Manitoba sparrows included a Vesper at River Hills 10–11 Nov (PT, RZ), a Savannah near Niverville 13 Nov (ACo), and a White-throated at Dymond L. 18 Oct (DF), whereas a Harris's Sparrow at Delta 2 Aug was exceptionally early (HdH, PV). Also lingering were a Clay-colored Sparrow at Calgary 5–20 Nov (AS), a McCown's Longspur near Val Marie, SK, 2 Oct (WH), and a Smith's Longspur near Patricia Beach, MB, 24 Oct (GH, RSh), whereas Snow Buntings at Patricia and Victoria Beaches 12 Sep (GH, RSh, CCs) and Camrose, AB, 10 Sep (BP) were a month ahead of schedule.

Addendum

The first documented breeding of Arctic Tern in Alberta was confirmed when three nests with eggs were found at L. Athabasca 19 June (BCa, RT).

Observers (subregional compilers in boldface): C. Artuso, Y. Attia, M. Bailey, R. Barclay, L. Bennett (LBe), C. Bjorklund, L.&G. Brotzel (L&GBr), B. Carroll (BCa), B. Chartier (BCh), A. Chen (ACh), R. Clarke, D. Clayton (DCI), J. Collyer, D. Couchman (DCo), A. Courcelles (ACo), C. Curtis (CCs), C. Cuthbert (CCt), B. Dalziel, R. De Cruyenaere (RDC), R. De Mey (RDM), H. den Haan, C. De Ruyck, R. Dickson (RDi), D.&T. Dolman, C. Ellington, A. Ens, D. Fast, A. Fox, K. Gardner, D. Gilroy, S. Gosche, F. Grenon, G. Grief, J. Grief, R. Hancox, W. Harris, **M. Harrison**, G. Holland, P. Horch, B. Hornby, J. Hudon, R. John, P. Jones, I.&K. Kingdon, R. Koes (RKO), T. Korolyk, R. Kreba (RKR), F. Lahrman, L. Layman, **B. Luterbach**, B. Maciejko (BMA), J. Manchuk, Manitoba Naturalists Society (MNS), D. McKibbin, B. Metzler (BMe), H. Moss, M. Mulligan, M. Newton, L. Oliphant, B. Parsons, E. Peterson, D. Pohl, C. Pollock, M. Quigly, V. Reimer, B. Ritchie, P. Sargent (PSa), Saskatoon Nature Society (SNS), A. Satz (ASa), P. Sherrington (PSh), B. Shettler, A. Slater (ASL), W. Smith, R. Staniforth (RSh), C. Stevens, M. Stoffel, R. Storms (RSs), P. Taylor, R. Thomas, T. Thormin, E. Thornton, L. Tretiak, L. Veelma, B. Verner, D. Vetter, P. Viola, B. Walker, A. Walleyn, G.&S. Wapple (G&SWa), R. Wapple (RWA), S. Wilson (SWi), R. Wright (RWr), R. Zach.



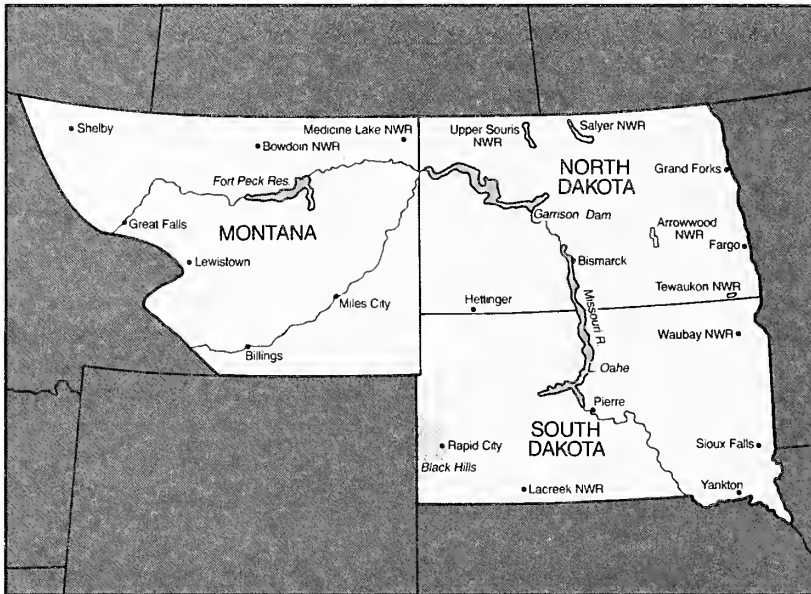
Marsh Wren
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Northern Great Plains



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The first three months of the season were mild and dry over most of the Region. The huge Jasper fire burned thousands of acres in the southern Black Hills of South Dakota in late August. November brought record precipitation and snows in many areas, particularly in northwestern North Dakota and northeastern Montana. An early November blizzard grounded many Lesser Scaup in the Westby, Montana area, and some people were without power for three weeks in northeastern Montana. Many waterfowl flew over the region in early November. With the early mild weather, passerine migration was unspectacular, and warbler numbers were low in many areas. Hawk numbers were notable according to most observers. It was a good season for rarities in South Dakota.

Loons Through Falcons

A **Red-throated Loon** 28 Oct at Angostura Res., *Fall River*, provided the 5th record for South Dakota (†TJ). The only Pacific Loon report came from Eureka Res., MT, the last week of Oct (JN). A good peak of 1500 Western Grebes was noted 14 Oct at

Angostura Res., SD (TJ). A Green Heron was nw. of its usual North Dakota haunts at Sawyer, *Ward*, 16 Sep (REM). Doubling the previous high for the state, 50+ White-faced Ibis were in *Kidder*, ND, in Sep (HD).

Greater White-fronted Geese peaked at 26,000 on Medicine L. N.W.R., MT, 1 Nov (LK, DN). Casual in North Dakota, a Trumpeter Swan was documented 29 Oct at McKenzie Slough, *Burleigh* (CDE, JPL, HCT). A **Eurasian Wigeon** shot 31 Oct in *Brown* furnished the 3rd record for South Dakota (†fide DAT). Casual at Medicine L., an American Black Duck was banded 2 Aug (LK); 10 were reported from seven North Dakota counties.

Late fall Cooper's Hawk reports continue to increase in North Dakota and Montana, and Northern Goshawks staged a good movement in Oct/Nov. Swainson's Hawks peaked at 800–1000 over *Hutchinson*, SD, 30 Sep (SK) and 300 were in *Day*, SD, 1 Oct (DRS). A late Ferruginous Hawk was still present at the end of the period sw. of Malta, MT (JG). A first for South Dakota, and raising some debate about origins, an unbanded **Crested Caracara** was seen by many at LaCreek N.W.R. 20 Nov+ (†MA). Eleven Merlins were seen in the course of a 13-day survey of e. Montana in Aug (JC). A strong movement of Gyrfalcons was noted, with 13 reports, most in Nov.

Grouse Through Doves

Numbers of gallinaceous birds were up this fall, with Gray Partridge seemingly on the way to recovery, and Ring-necked Pheasant and Sharp-tailed Grouse reported as abundant in many w. areas of the region. Two Sage Grouse were east of their usual range in *Hettinger*, ND, 2 Aug (LI). A Whooping Crane was early 30 Aug in *Mountrail*, ND (BM).

The latest for the state by 12 days, a Willet was in *Stutsman*, ND, 28 Oct. (CDE, HCT). Casual in South Dakota, a Red Knot was documented in *Hughes* 10–15 Sep (†KM, RDO, DB). Second latest on record for North Dakota, a Dunlin was in *Grand Forks* 14 Nov (EEF). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper 13 Sep at Bowdoin N.W.R. provided the 9th record for Montana (†DP). North Dakota's latest ever was noted in *Grand Forks* 29 Oct (EEF). If accepted, a **Ruff** 7 Sep in *Hughes* would furnish the 3rd South Dakota record (†RDO). A Red Phalarope 4 Oct in *Adams* provided the 13th record for North Dakota (†DAG, CG).

An adult **Mew Gull** at Garrison Dam, ND, 3–4 Nov furnished the 7th record for the state and 5th at the dam (†REM). A Thayer's Gull was early in *Stanley*, SD, 1 Oct (TJ, JSP, RFS), and a new high of 15 was tallied at Garrison Dam, ND, 10 Nov (DNS). Accidental away from the Missouri R. system in the Dakotas, a Black-legged Kittiwake was in *Fall River*, SD, 14–22 Oct (†TJ).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued at Dickinson, ND, through the period, and the state's 9th was recorded at Mayville, with adults feeding begging young for the first state breeding confirmation (†KE, RMK). North Dakota's first **White-winged Dove** was photographed and seen by many at Bismarck 30 Sep–7 Oct (†CDE ph.).

Owls Through Thrushes

Thirty-six Burrowing Owls at Watford City, ND, 19–20 Aug was an -encouraging number for this declining species (REM); a late individual was sw. of Malta, MT, 26 Oct (JG). Fairly regular in South Dakota, three Rufous Hummingbirds were in *Custer* and *Edwards*. 6–27 Aug (KH, MZ). A *Selasphorus* hummingbird was videotaped in *Trails*, ND, 16–18 Sep (†SW). There is one previous Rufous record for the state. Lewis's Woodpeckers were unusually numerous at the n. edge of the Black Hills. Thirty-five were tallied 14 Oct on a trip in *Meade*, *Lawrence*, and *Butte*, SD (NHBC).

Pending review, a **Hammond's Flycatcher** documented 11 Sep in *Pennington* would furnish a first record for South Dakota (†TJ). Casual in South Dakota, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in *Stanley* 14 Oct provided about the 10th record for the state (†DB). Another casual South Dakota species, a **White-eyed Vireo** was documented 21 Oct in *Hughes* (†RFS, JSP). Pinyon Jays at the n. edge of their range included one in s. *Valley*, MT, 21 Aug (JC), and 16 in *Harding*, SD, 30 Sep (REP). Accidental in South Dakota in recent decades, a Common Raven was noted in *Meade* 11 Nov (†JT, MJ).

A rare resident in the Black Hills, Pygmy Nuthatches were noted 11 Aug in *Custer* (SS), and 24–30 Nov in *Pennington*, SD (TBW). Casual in South Dakota and quite far w., a Carolina Wren was documented in *Custer* 22–23 Aug (†DS). Unusual in w. South Dakota, two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were in Roby Canyon, *Custer*, 22 Aug (DS). The thrush migration in North Dakota and e. Montana was notably unspectacular this fall. A Wood Thrush was late in *Grand Forks*, ND, 24 Oct (DOL).

Warblers Through Tanagers

Late in South Dakota, a Tennessee Warbler was banded 28 Oct in *Brown* (DAT). Also late were Orange-crowned Warblers in *Fargo*, ND, 31 Oct (DPW), and an individual banded the same day in *Brown*, SD (DAT). At least 10 Virginia's Warblers were still in *Custer*, SD, 22 Aug (DS). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was far to the w. in *Pennington*, SD, 15 Sep (JLB). It was a stellar fall for **Townsend's Warblers**, with North Dakota's 6th documented in *Adams* 16 Sep (†CDE, HCT, DAG, CG). In South Dakota the species was documented in *Custer* 22 Aug (†DS), and in *Pennington* 29 Aug (†TBW). These sightings were the 2nd and 3rd for the state.

A Summer Tanager photographed in *Brown*, SD, 18 Nov provided the 3rd fall record for the state and the latest (ph. DAT). The 11th record for Montana, a male Scarlet Tanager was at Bowdoin N.W.R. 10 Aug (†MH). Casual in North Dakota, a Western Tanager was in *Adams* 10 Sep (DAG, CG).

Sparrows Through Finches

Late individuals of numerous sparrow species were noted. Second latest for North Dakota, a Clay-colored Sparrow was in *Bismarck* 29 Oct (CDE). Also late on 29 Oct at *Bismarck* was a Field Sparrow (JPL). Tardy Savannah Sparrows 18 Nov were at *Fargo*, ND (DPW), and in *Brookings*, SD (KIE). Seldom reported in Oct in North Dakota, a Grasshopper

Sparrow was in *Burleigh* 1 Oct (DNS). A Sooty Fox Sparrow was documented in *Grand Forks*, ND, 23 Sep (†EEF). There is one previous record for this form. A lingering Swamp Sparrow was at *Fargo*, ND, 23 Nov (DPW). A White-winged Junco was far e. in *Charles Mix*, SD, 4 Nov (†DS, ETL). The second earliest for North Dakota, two Smith's Longspurs were in *Ward* 16 Sep (REM).

A peak of 15,000 Brewer's Blackbirds was estimated in *Burleigh*, ND, 1 Oct (DNS). A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was a little e. of normal haunts in *Stark*, ND, 7 Nov (JPL); five more reports came from Black Hills, SD, counties. A few scattered Red Crossbill sightings came from the Dakotas, and one White-winged Crossbill report was received from North Dakota. Common Redpolls were almost non-existent. A rare breeder in the Black Hills, Evening Grosbeaks were feeding young in *Pennington*, SD, 5 Aug (TBW).

Corrigendum

Delete the Northern Wheatear reported for *Sweetgrass*, MT (*N. Am. Birds* 54:68).

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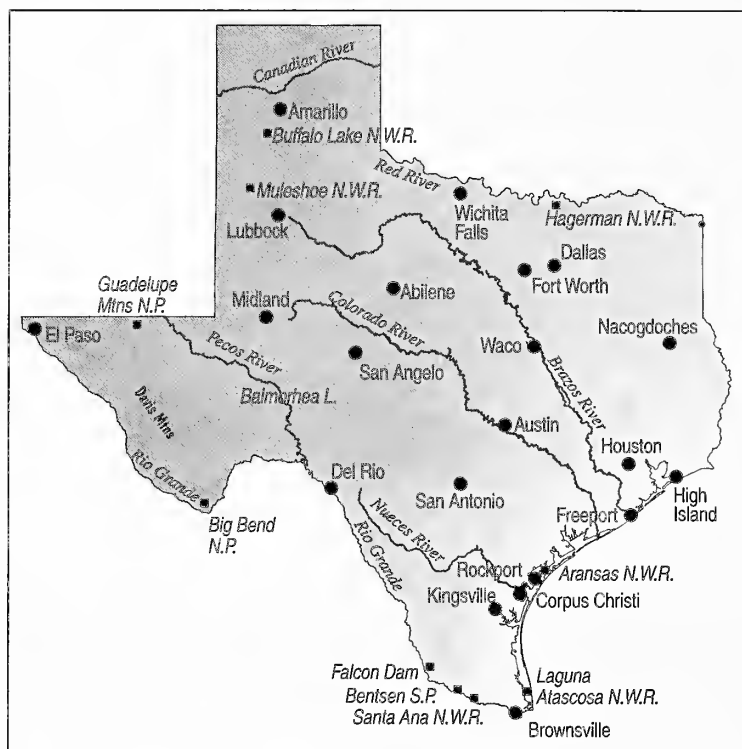


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Texas



Chuck Sexton

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Simply put, it was the rare observer who *did* not think this was the most amazing fall season they had ever seen. As Willie Sekula put it, this year will set the benchmark against which all future fall seasons will be measured. The brutal heat and drought of the summer stretched into September; a drought-attributed early migration was much in evidence. Finally, a sustained rainy pattern set up over the lower three-fourths of the state, which broke the drought and resulted in THE October fall-out: a strong early cold front pushed through on 5–7 October and was overridden by Pacific and Gulf moisture, especially from the remnants of Hurricane *Keith*. Temperatures were 15–30° F colder than normal for the next several days, cold enough in the Trans-Pecos to result in a serious ice storm 8–9 October. Many reporters talked in terms normally reserved for the spring migration on the coast: birds were “dripping out of the trees.” Numbers of the most abundant

migrants such as Indigo Bunting and Nashville Warbler were “uncountable.” Although creating a tremendous opportunity for birders, it was harsh on some species, especially swallows.

Even before the drought broke and the migrants fell from the sky, we were seeing hints of a major montane invasion. A long-anticipated push of Pinyon Jays was a welcome event in west Texas, but several other species were also on the move. Lewis’s Woodpeckers, in particular, were at their perambulatory best. Most curious were some of the less-likely travelers, such as Juniper Titmice and Cassin’s Finches. By the end of the season we had compiled some seriously weird sightings of these invaders.

The TexBirds Internet list saw nearly 2000 messages posted during the four-month period. The present report is compiled from the sightings of nearly 500 observers who encountered, *en toto*, at least that number of species. We continued to receive intriguing reports from “oil-rig sitters” off *Kenedy* and *Calhoun* as part of Louisiana State University’s Migration Over the Gulf project. From more routine localities, in a prime season such as

this one, we must pass over many records that are “somewhat late” or “a bit early” or only locally rare. Reports of each of the Texas sub-regional editors are good sources for all such records; readers might consider contacting them for more details on a given area.

My long-time colleague and friend Greg Lasley is going to be focusing on some other projects; he has been at the helm of this Texas column for 17+ years, and is credited with almost single-handedly rebuilding the Texas Bird Records Committee into the rock-solid organization it is today. His influence on Texas birding and bird records keeping is immeasurable. It is with great affection that I acknowledge his contributions to our long-term writing partnership in this forum. He will undoubtedly continue to be a force of innovation and a voice for rigorous documentation...and now he may even get to go birding more!

Abbreviations: G.M.N.P. (Guadalupe Mts. N.P.); HMANA (Hawk Migration Association of North America); L.R.G.V. (Lower Rio Grande Valley); S.S.W.T.P. (Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant); TBRC (Texas Bird Records Committee); TPWD (Texas Parks & Wildlife Department); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast). The following are shortened names for the respective county, state, or national parks and wildlife refuges, etc.: Anzalduas, Balcones Canyonlands, Big Bend, Brazoria, Buffalo Lake, Choke Canyon, Hagerman, Hueco Tanks, Inks Lake, Packery Channel, Richland Creek, Sabal Palm, San Bernard, Santa Ana, Taylor Lakes, Village Creek.

Loons Through Vultures

November 10 marked the arrival of two Red-throated Loons, one at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant* (MWh, Bst) and another at McNary Res., *Hudspeth*, that remained until 19 Nov and provided a first *Hudspeth* record (BZ et al.). Another w. Texas Red-throated was at Imperial Res., *Pecos*, 23–30 Nov (NBI, m.ob.). A Pacific Loon was at the latter location on the same dates; another on Tradinghouse Res., *McLennan*, 15 Nov was joined by a 2nd 20 Nov (JMu). A first Clark’s Grebe for the South Plains was at Lubbock 19 Nov (AF, RKO, BRa).

On 18 Oct, Wormington reported the season’s only Brown Booby from his *Kenedy* oil rig. A Least Bittern was notable at Balmorhea S.P., *Reeves* (DO, A&HR). Single Reddish Egrets were in deep e. Texas in *Rusk* 15 Sep (DWe) and in w. Texas at L. Balmorhea 15–28 Oct and Imperial Res. 10–25 Nov (MAd et al.). In *El Paso*, where the species is casual, a

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Ft. Bliss 20 Sep (BZ). A Glossy Ibis at L. Tawakoni 12 Oct provided a *Rains* first (ph. MWh). E. Texas was widely invaded by Wood Storks (m.ob.); an impressive 500 were at Cooper L. 15 Aug (MWh), and 300+ were at a drying lake in *Bastrop* 31 Aug (BrF). The Hazel Bazemore Hawkwatch tallied 36,688 Turkey Vultures, more than triple the total of any previous year (JSi, HMANA).

Waterfowl Through Raptors

A great find were 3 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in *Hockley* 4 Aug (LeS), only the 2nd recorded in the Panhandle. Almost as rare were 8 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at L. Balmorhea 26 Aug (MAd), providing a 4th Trans-Pecos record. On 28 Nov at L. Rita Blanca, *Hartley*, Mike Austin picked out a single Brant from a mass of over 300,000 geese. Two Tundra Swans were at Midland 8 Nov (D&JMer) and 2 more (or the same) were a couple of counties to the n. in *Lynn* 18 Nov. Among the rarer duck reports were single Greater Scaup near *Alpine*, *Brewster*, 24 Nov (SWe) and in *Hockley* 5 Nov, single White-winged Scoters in *Briscoe* 20–21 Oct (DZ et al.) and in *Hockley* 5–6 Nov (m.ob.), and a Common Merganser at *Inks L.*, *Burnet*, 28 Nov (DaB). At least 6 Surf Scoters were reported from 29 Oct–25 Nov in the Trans-Pecos, where the species is casual. *Delta* got its first Surf Scoter 18–19 Nov (ph. MWh, MR). Four Long-tailed Ducks were reported in n. Texas: 2 at *Longview*, *Harrison* 13 Nov. (GLu), one at S.S.W.T.P., *Dallas*, 21 Nov (BG et al.), and one at L. Tawakoni, *Rains*, 29 Nov (MWh).

The Smith Point Hawkwatch racked up record numbers, with a seasonal total of just under 40,000 raptors, including 46 Swallow-tailed Kites Aug–mid-Sep, a fine flight of 2501 Mississippi Kites 31 Aug, and a peak Broad-winged Hawk movement of 18,000+ on 16 Sep (DBe et al.). Hazel Bazemore had modest results by their standards, with a season total 407,282 hawks, including 4567 Mississippi Kites, 396,763 Broad-winged Hawks, and 2084 Swainson's Hawks. Peak movements of Broad-wingeds were 16–19 Sep (111,500 on the latter date) and 27 Sep–1 Oct (over 10,000 each day; JSi, PBe et al., HMANA).

A Swallow-tailed Kite provided a first for *El Paso* 31 Jul–10 Aug (B&WF et al.). *Limestone* had its 2nd Swallow-tailed 30 Aug–2 Sep near *Mexia* (DSc, JMac). The first modern fall reports of White-tailed Kite in ne. Texas involved singles in *Delta* 19 Aug (MWh) and *Harrison* 30 Sep (ERy). An imm. Northern Goshawk was seen (and described) briefly in *Hockley* 26 Nov (Rko, † to TBRC). A Harris's

Hawk was well to the n. of its expected range at *Richland Cr.*, *Freestone*, 15 Oct (PeB), a first county record. Swainson's Hawks moved s. in pulses during brief respites in the heavy rains of early Oct. Sizable flights were on 6 Oct, 2500 in *McLennan*; 7 Oct, 1600 in *Williamson*; 8 Oct, 1600 in *McLennan* and *Coryell*, 650 at *Balcones Canyonlands*, *Burnet*; and 12 Oct, 1584 at *Hazel Bazemore*, *Nueces*. A big surprise was a migrant Zone-tailed Hawk at L. Tawakoni 21 Sep († MWh), perhaps one of the northernmost for Texas.

Rails Through Terns

A Black Rail turned up in *Lubbock* 8 Oct (AF, ER); this is an extremely rare (and hard to detect) migrant through Texas. I bet that the single Whooping Crane that stopped briefly in *Terry* on the South Plains 4 Nov (VG) was the same bird found among Sandhills at *Imperial Res.*, *Pecos*, 25 Nov (C&CH). A survey through the w. Panhandle turned up 39 Mountain Plovers in *Deaf Smith* 3 Aug (LSg); the wintering flock near *Granger L.*, *Williamson*, was first detected 4 Oct (BrF) and peaked at 72 on 4 Nov (TF); 4 more were in *San Patricio* 8 Oct (TCa). A Northern Jacana was on the Mexican bank of the Rio Grande s. of *Mission*, *Hidalgo*, 21–22 Oct (MKI, JKl, BSa). There were four notable Red Knot reports: 2 in *Lubbock* 22–24 Aug (Rko, JB); one on *Sam Rayburn Res.*, *Angelina*, 8 Sep (first in 20 yr; DW, RT); another at *L. Balmorhea* 18 Sep (MAd); and one at *Taylor Lakes*, *Donley*, 22 Sep (KS). Four Buff-breasted Sandpipers in *Midland* 16 Sep were a rare find (FR). At least 18 Red-necked Phalaropes were reported, a good showing. The rarer Red Phalarope was at *Hagerman* 13 Oct (*vide* WM).

Five records constituted a veritable flood of Long-tailed Jaegers: 2 at Ft. Bliss 31 Aug–1 Sep (BJ, BZ et al.) provided a county first; another was at L. Tawakoni, *Van Zandt*, 11 Sep (†MWh) and singles flew past the oil rigs 25 Sep and 2 Oct off *Calhoun* (BG) and 3 Nov off *Kenedy* (AW). The phrases "Laughing Gull" and "Panther Junction (Big Bend)" are ones I did not expect to use in the same sentence; yet 3 of these gulls were there 31 Oct (BiB). A Little Gull was detected at L. Tawakoni 4 Nov (MWh). Another Little Gull and a Mew Gull were marvelous finds at *Imperial Res.*, *Pecos*, 19 Nov (MAd, BG), the former a first for the Trans-Pecos, the latter about the 3rd. *Cooper Lake's* Black-headed Gull returned for its 6th winter (18 & 26 Nov; MWh, PeB) and the Finnish-banded Black-headed returned 30 Nov to *Village Creek* for its 4th winter (ph. MR). Four California Gulls were detected in the Trans-Pecos 28 Oct–30 Nov; 3 more were

at *Galveston* in Nov (m.ob.). Single Thayer's Gulls were at *Cooper L.* 7 Oct (MWh) and *Galveston* 17 Nov–13 Dec (J & BRi, MR; vt. to TBRC). Adding to the list of rare larids in w. Texas was an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake at *Imperial Res.* 9 Nov (ErC). How about at least 46 Sabine's Gulls scattered across the state at 15 or more locations 18 Sep–12 Nov? This total clearly exceeded any previous annual total; up to 20 Sabine's on *Red Bluff Res.* 14 Oct was the largest concentration (ErC). A rare Caspian Tern was at *Lubbock* 21 Oct. (AF) preceded by an equally rare Common Tern there 8–9 Aug (Rko, PK).

Doves Through Woodpeckers

Lamb in the Panhandle, and *Bell* in cen. Texas had first records of Eurasian Collared-Doves ... ho-hum. A probable White-tipped Dove was more exciting in *Austin* 5 Sep (RF). A **Mangrove Cuckoo** appeared 20 Aug in the same *Corpus Christi* yard where one was present in May 2000 (RBe). For anyone who has watched anis in flight, it is amazing that they even migrate; imagine *Gibbon's* surprise when a Groove-billed landed for a few minutes on his oil rig off *Calhoun* 19 Sep! Flammulated Owls took it on the chin in the ice storm of early Oct in w. Texas: 11 were found dead in *Brewster*, *Culbertson*, *Jeff Davis*, and *Presidio* 8–11 Oct. Flammulateds were clearly on the move. One was seen repeatedly in *Lubbock* 27 Sep–8 Nov (m.ob.) and 2 were in *Bailey* 14 Oct (AF, MCA); an injured bird was in *Wharton* 5 Nov (*vide* RWe), and fresh remains of an apparent Flammulated were detected 20 Oct on the oil rig off *Kenedy* (RWR, AW). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was observed daily in n. *Lamb* 14–17 Oct (CDL, † to TBRC), only the 2nd for the Panhandle. Not faring as well were 2 dead saw-whets recovered in a residential yard in *Amarillo*, *Potter*, 30 Oct and 4 Nov (E&AC, *TCWC; 3rd and 4th Panhandle records). Yet another was found moribund in ne. *El Paso* 24 Oct, rehabilitated, and released in early Nov (*vide* JPa). A Long-eared Owl at *Balcones Canyonlands* 9 Nov provided a first refuge record and a rare *Austin* sighting (BRe). A Lesser Nighthawk 9 Nov at *Quintana* furnished one of few U.T.C. fall records (RWe). A road-killed Whip-poor-will was found in the Panhandle in *Childress* 5 Nov (AF, MCA), an exceptionally late occurrence.

Three possible Vaux's Swifts were reported to the TBRC: 2 were at Ft. Bliss 30 Sep and one was still there the next day (RR, JPa); another was at Ft. *Hancock*, *Hudspeth*, 29 Oct (MA). Ohl kept tabs on a Broad-billed Hummingbird that lingered in *Alpine* 10–24 Sep. A Green Violet-ear was in *Corpus Christi* 21 Aug–3 Sep

(ph. RBe, †MCo). A Blue-throated, always a rarity in the L.R.G.V., was at Santa Ana 22–23 Oct (MKI, BBa, R&NBo). Balmorhea S.P. had its first Lucifer Hummingbird 6 Aug–4 Sep (TJ et al.); others were in the Davis Mts. until 20 Oct. There was a small “invasion” of Calliope Hummingbirds. Several were seen in the Panhandle and High Plains where they have become annual, but singles provided new county records in e. Texas in *Nacogdoches* 6–16 Oct (CEI) and *Hunt* 25 Oct (ph. MWh). On the U.T.C., a Calliope was at a Sugarland feeder 28 Sep– 4 Oct (MkS, NBI). An imm. male was reported at Del Rio 20 Oct (SSo) and another was at Wimberley, *Hays*, 22 Nov (TMA). In their regular range, Calliopes lingered to the end of Nov at El Paso (BZ).

The Lewis’s Woodpecker invasion began with a one-day wonder 16 Sep at G.M.N.P. (SWe, JWo et al.). The same or another returned there in mid-Oct, and then the flood was on. At least 16 were reported at 14 localities from El Paso to Ft. Stockton in Nov. One showed up in Midland 23 Nov (FR) and another sketched in *Dallas* was only about the 5th record for that region (KN). Most energetic were single Lewis’s that made it all the way to Choke Canyon, *McMullen*, 27 Nov–mid-Dec (BD et al.), and another discovered at Chaparral, *Dimmit* 7 Nov and re-sighted on their CBC 15 Dec (CRu et al.). The latter, by a few miles, is probably the world’s southernmost record of the species! A Red-naped Sapsucker at Packery Channel 23 Nov provided a first Padre I. record (MCo). Williamson’s Sapsuckers staged their own irruption into the lowlands of w. Texas, with many reports in *El Paso*, *Culberson*, and *Jeff Davis*. A Downy Woodpecker was at El Paso, where the species is casual, 24 Nov (RR).

Flycatchers Through Nutcrackers

Western Wood-Pewees were seen and heard on w. Galveston I. 27–29 Sep (JSt) and at nearby Quintana, *Brazoria*, 6–7 Oct (MA, C&OB, TCo), providing only the 3rd and 4th U.T.C. records. Shackelford found late Eastern Wood-Pewees at Village Creek, *Hardin*, 25 Nov and at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson*, the next day. The nesting pair of **Buff-breasted Flycatchers** in the Davis Mts. Preserve were around until 20 Aug (KB et al.). Most impressive was a late Hammond’s 11 Nov at Hueco Tanks, *El Paso* (BG, AW), and probable Dusky Flycatchers in s. Texas at Anzalduas, *Hidalgo*, 14 Sep (†JA) and at San Ygnacio, *Zapata*, 10 Oct (AW). A Gray Flycatcher was in Waco, *McLennan*, 2–3 Sep (first county record; CHal), another was in *Karnes* 11 Oct (DM). Out-of-range Black Phoebe included singles in *Bailey* 5 Aug (AF,

RKo), *Donley* 4–9 Sep (ph. BPi), *Calhoun* 17 Oct (BrF), and *Cameron* 23 Sep (BBeh). Say’s Phoebe moved as far as *Jefferson* (17 Sep, JWh), *Chambers* (30 Oct, BG), and *Harrison* (22 Oct, ERy, GLu et al.). A pair of Vermilion Flycatchers at Richland Cr. 28 Nov probably represent a first *Freestone* record (PeB). Wauer encountered 3 Dusky-capped Flycatchers at Boot Spring in the Chisos Mts. 6 Sep. Two Great Kiskadees at Imperial Res. 23–30 Nov were new for *Pecos* (NBI, m.ob.). Perhaps the season’s stellar find was the state’s 2nd **Piratic Flycatcher**, photographed in eye-popping detail on the *Kenedy* oil rig 21–22 Oct (RWR, AW). Tropical Kingbirds may have passed a milestone in *Cameron*, where McKinney estimates they now outnumber Couch’s; a family group of Tropicals was conspicuous at Big Bend’s Cottonwood Campground in early Aug (m.ob.). Unaccountable were 3 Couch’s in Lubbock 7–23 Sep (m.ob.). Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Ft. Bliss, where the species is casual, 4 Aug and 2 Sep. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was well-photographed on the *Kenedy* oil rig 1 Nov (AW).

A White-eyed Vireo in Davis Mts. S.P. 21–22 Oct provided a new county record (KB). Identification of Plumbeous and Cassin’s Vireos seems to be “in vogue” right now, and there is much skepticism about these reports at the same time. Are we being too quick to identify these species? For example, Cassin’s Vireo reports outnumbered Plumbeous 5:2 in cen. and e. Texas, which seems far-fetched. Single

Plumbeous were studied at length in San Antonio 22 Sep–4 Oct (KBa) and in e. *Travis* 14–16 Sep (BrF), and a bird in Nacogdoches in late Oct was reported conservatively as “Plumbeous or Cassin’s” (JFa, DW). A Hutton’s Vireo in Midland 9 Oct was out of place (FR, RMS), and a Warbling Vireo at Quintana 15–24 Nov was exceedingly delayed (ph. C&OB). Nice Philadelphia Vireo records came from Midland 9 Sep (D&JMer), 5 birds in Lubbock 4 Oct (KD), and one in Canutillo, *El Paso*, 10 Oct (BZ, JPa et al.). Steller’s Jays and Western Scrub-Jays moved into the lowlands of w. Texas after mid-Oct, with few Steller’s and many scrub-jays also in the Panhandle; new county records included a Steller’s in *Hansford* 12 Nov (MT) and a scrub-jay in *Hemphill* (BRo). A widespread invasion of Pinyon Jays in the Trans-Pecos started in the Davis Mts. 27 Sep. In the w. Panhandle there was a flock of 10 in *Castro/Lamb* on that first invasion date (CDL), but no reports thereafter. However, 3 in Midland 24 Sep, joined by 30 two weeks later, remained through the season. As hoped for, a few Clark’s Nutcrackers came with the Pinyon Jays, but most were single-day occurrences. The earliest preceded the jays to the Davis Mts. 25 Aug (SSo, DL, EF) and was seen there again 1 Oct (BrF et al.). One in Canutillo 9–16 Oct was the only other one to linger (JZ et al.). Others were in *El Paso*, near Alpine, and at Pine Springs and Dog Canyon of G.M.N.P. in late October and November. Truly the most bizarre sighting of the season



This Long-tailed Jaeger in fresh juvenal plumage at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso*, 31 August–1 September (photographed on the first date), was one of a remarkable five in Texas during fall 2000. Photograph by Barry R. Zimmer.

was a Clark's Nutcracker which passed by the hawkwatchers at Smith Point, *Chambers*, 14 Oct (ZS, JSt et al.).

Swallows Through Phainopepla

Two reports of Violet-green Swallow at Waco 6 Sep and 11 Oct (JMu) represented the first *McLennan* records. Cave Swallows were as far n. as Cooper L., *Delta*, 20 Aug (MWh) and 4 in *Angelina* 25 Sep were the first for the entire Pineywoods (NBi). Cold wet weather 6–7 Oct made for a spectacular flight of Barn Swallows in cen. and s. Texas, but it was also catastrophic for the species. Over 100,000 were reported at Waco 7 Oct (JMu, FBu), but weakened birds were seen everywhere in the region and by 10 Oct "piles" of the dead and dying were found along roadsides in *Cameron* (JA).

Mountain Chickadees were a widespread invader in the Trans-Pecos and a surprise addition to a few woodlots in the Panhandle. Juniper Titmice were among the most unexpected of the montane visitors: 5 were at 3 *El Paso* locations 21 Oct–18 Nov (m.ob.), and *Jeff Davis* got its first records at Ft. Davis 27 Oct+ (KB et al.) and at two locations higher in the Davis Mts. 16–30 Nov (MO, M&MEa). Red-breasted Nuthatches invaded the w. third of Texas after mid-Sep. There were 2 early ones eastward in *Bastrop* 26 Aug (BrF) and *Harris* 4 Sep (JKe), but no widespread influx followed. A single Pygmy Nuthatch at Canutillo 11–16 Nov. hinted at a small movement (JZ, MSc). A Winter Wren was extremely early in Amarillo 30 Aug. A thick movement of Golden-crowned Kinglets pushed well into the state after mid-Oct. A single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the *Kenedy* oil rig 19 Oct represented the first in three seasons of observation, suggesting how rare the species is offshore (AW). Mountain Bluebirds were scattered but not abundant; by mid-Nov they had made it to the I-35 corridor in *Grayson*, *Tarrant*, *McLennan*, and *Williamson*. In e. Texas a single female was at Huntsville 12 Nov, a *Walker* first (Bmu); another first, 54 were in *Bee* 26–30 Nov (BBau, JJ). Townsend's Solitaires made a much more conspicuous appearance. They were "unusually plentiful" on the South Plains. Single solitaires made it to *Bell* in cen. Texas 6 Oct (M&JV), *Bastrop* 23 Nov (BrF), *Webb* on the Rio Grande 4 Nov (JA), and amazingly all the way to S. Padre I., *Cameron*, in late Nov (*vide* BMC). Gray-cheeked Thrushes were in Lubbock on three dates (m.ob.) and another was in the Chisos Mts. 9 Sep (RWa). Also rare were Wood Thrushes at Lubbock 7 Oct (AF, MCa) and at Amarillo 19–26 Oct (BPi, m.ob.). A **Rufous-backed Robin** was at w. El Paso 30 Oct (*vide* JPa), a 2nd county record. A Varied

Thrush was banded 4 Nov at Davis Mts. S.P. and another was seen there 30 Nov (MHa, KB et al.). The **Blue Mockingbird** present since May 1999 continued its stay at Weslaco, *Hidalgo*, but was seen only periodically. A single Sprague's Pipit at Ft. Hancock 24 Nov provided a 2nd *Hudspeth* record (BZ, JPa). A Phainopepla was spotted briefly on a ranch in *Hidalgo* 14 Oct (RJR); the species is accidental in deepest s. Texas.

Warblers Through Finches

No fewer than 44 warbler species were reported this season; in the South Plains and Panhandle, where diversity is usually low, at least 22 species were listed. Townsend's and Mourning Warblers were particularly abundant in their regular ranges. An array of species were still lingering on the U.T.C. well into November. Two **Olive Warblers**, the 5th and 6th for Texas, were in the Trans-Pecos: one at the Davis Mts. Preserve 6 Oct (BrF, GL, PH, † to TBRC) and another at Hueco Tanks 11–18 Nov (AW, BG et al., ph. BZ). Blue-winged Warblers were notable at Lubbock 18 Sep, Amarillo 14 Nov, and San Bernard, *Brazoria*, 25 Nov into Dec. A first-fall Golden-winged for *El Paso* was encountered 24 Sep at Ft. Bliss. A Virginia's in *Gray* 26 Aug was a new county record (RSc et al.), and a stray was at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 4 Sep (†DV). There were a remarkable 3 Black-throated Blues in the Panhandle, 4 more in Midland (m.ob.), and a lingering bird 13–27 Oct at El Paso. A Hermit Warbler was out of range in Midland 10 Sep, and a Blackburnian in *Williamson* 28 Aug was unexpected. *Culbertson* got its first Pine Warbler, 28 Oct n. of Van Horn (MA). Ten Prothonotaries in the Trans-Pecos and Panhandle were notable. A Worm-eating was a rarity in San Antonio 15 Sep, and another was accidental in G.M.N.P. 14 Oct. Single Louisiana Waterthrushes were in *Pecos*, *Jeff Davis*, and *Brewster*, where the species is casual. Notable Hooded Warblers were in Amarillo 27 Aug, Lubbock 4 & 16 Oct, and Wichita Falls 12 Oct., and a Canada was at Buffalo L. 7 Oct. Perhaps the rarest "regular" migrant in w. Texas, single Red-faced Warblers were at the Davis Mts. Preserve 6 Aug (first county record; MAd, KB) and in the Chisos Mts. 14 Aug (M & GBr).

Finding both Scarlet and Western Tanagers in *Burnet* on the same date, 14 Oct, was certainly unexpected (DY); an early Scarlet was at Sabine Woods 26 Aug (JWh), as was an Eastern Towhee in *Angelina* the same day (LD). A Bachman's Sparrow at the TX-147 bridge over L. Sam Rayburn 22 Sep was an unexpected migrant (DW, JFa). Cassin's Sparrows strayed far eastward: one was in *Delta* 25 Aug (MWh,

BSt), another provided a first record at L. Tawakoni 16 Sep (MWh), and one at that TX-147 bridge over L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine*, 21 Oct provided a first county record (DW). A heavy movement of Clay-colored was reflected in records in the Pineywoods; a first *Angelina* sighting was made 18 Oct (DW, JFa). A Brewer's Sparrow in College Station 9–13 Oct provided a first for *Brazos* (EIR, CHam, MMn, et al.). The e. end of that now-famous bridge over L. Sam Rayburn harbored the first Brewer's for *San Augustine* and the entire Pineywoods region 21 Oct (†DW, CDF, JFa et al.); another in *Nueces* 25 Nov constituted a rare Coastal Bend report (WS). A Lark Bunting made it to *Fort Bend* 5 Nov (CRi et al.), but there did not seem to be a general influx. Details were submitted on 4 Baird's Sparrows found in w. Texas from Lubbock to the Davis Mts. Up to 4 Sharp-taileds at L. Takakoni, *Rains*, 9–20 Oct and another at L. Grapevine, *Denton*, 14–15 Oct provided first county records (m.ob.); 1–2 were at the *San Augustine* end of the TX-147 bridge 18–29 October (DW et al, ph. JFa) and yet 2 more were inland at Longview, *Gregg*, as late as 5–11 Nov (GLu, TOS). A Harris's Sparrow at S. Padre I., *Cameron*, 10–14 Nov represented an unprecedented barrier-island record (BMc). A single imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow was at G.M.N.P. 4 Nov (†PR, JG). Gray-headed Juncos were surprising finds in *Morris* 15 Oct (DBro) and *Dallas* 20 Oct (W & DMc), but shocking were **White-winged Juncos** in G.M.N.P. 20 Nov (MO) and at El Paso 30 Nov (ph. BZ; 3rd and 4th Texas records).

A Black-headed Grosbeak at a bird bath offered a first *Angelina* record 2 Sep (NBi). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Blue Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings positively flooded e. Texas. Three Dickcissels were detected in *Jeff Davis*, where the species is irregular. There was an excess of Bobolinks for a fall season: one in *Bailey* in the South Plains 5 Aug was followed by a flock of 20–25 in *Calhoun* 13 Aug, 6 more in Austin 19 Aug, 5 at Port Aransas, *Nueces*, 12–13 Sep, and one at S.S.W.T.P. 10 Oct. The westernmost Rusty Blackbirds were at *Briscoe* 18 Nov (EK et al.) and Hueco Tanks 25 Nov (ByS). A Common Grackle was an accidental find in Rio Grande Village 18 Nov (BG et al.). A male Scott's Oriole was reported from Galveston I. 18–21 Oct (JSt); documentation has been requested. A female **Pine Grosbeak** was photographed on the Upper Tejas Trail of G.M.N.P., *Culbertson*, 24 Nov for only the 5th Texas record (ErC, ph., † to TBRC). A conspicuous influx of Cassin's Finches, Red Crossbills, and Evening Grosbeaks was detected in far w.

Texas, and a few of each spilled into the Panhandle. Again in the unexpected category were 2 Cassin's Finches on S. Padre I., *Cameron*, 11-18 Nov (BK, WC, ph. BMC). Eighteen crossbills moved as far as *Mason* by 30 Nov (DFu, BoF), and a single Evening Grosbeak was in Abilene 11-12 Oct (LBl).

Corrigenda

In *N. Am. Birds* 54(1) we reported El Paso's latest ever American Golden-Plover 7 Nov 1999 (JSp); the species was a Marbled Godwit. In that same column, delete the jaeger at Imperial Res. 26 Nov; that should read as a Parasitic Jaeger at L. Balmorhea on the CBC 17 Dec 1999 (RR). We received a belated but significant report of a Henslow's Sparrow in *Oldham* 6 May 2000 (EK, RSc, BPI).

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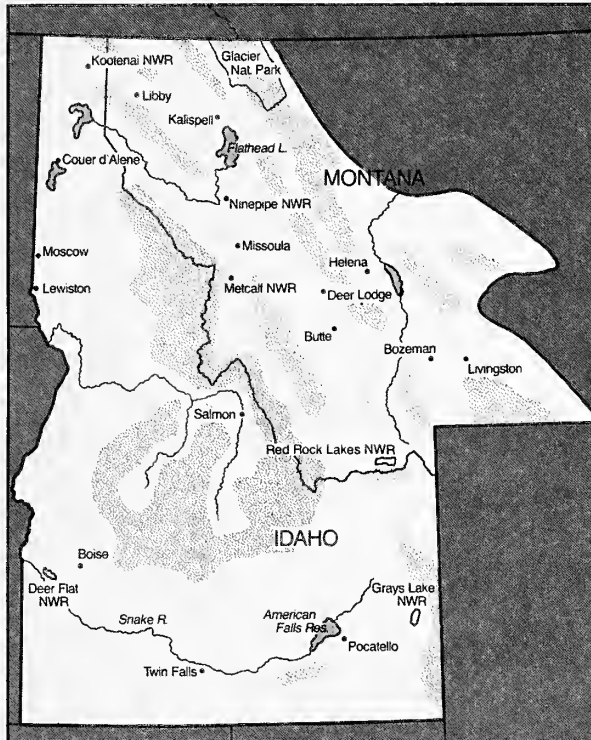
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Idaho-Western Montana



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Autumn 2000 was a season of weather extremes. August was unusually hot and dry, with smoke-filled skies from wildfires. September's rainfall brought relief to the parched Region, followed by unusually high rainfall in October. Unlike the past three mild Novembers, this one was colder than usual, and early snowfalls created expectations of a more "normal" winter.

Major trends were absent, although some observers noted early arrivals of migrants and wintering birds. Early fall saw unusually large numbers of waders, waterfowl, and shorebirds attracted to drying reservoirs with expanding mudflats and shallow water. Oddly enough, despite the unusually cold November, many migrants lingered. Perhaps what best defined

the season was the excellent number of rarities reported, as evidenced by an amazing 15 reports that warranted boldface type.

Abbreviations: A.F.R. (American Falls Res., by American Falls, ID); Camas (Camas N.W.R., *Jefferson*, ID); D.F. (Deer Flat N.W.R., *Canyon*, ID); I.B.O. (Idaho Bird Observatory at Lucky Peak, near Boise, ID); Latilong (area encompassed by one degree latitude and one degree longitude, used in mapping bird distribution in both ID and MT); L.M. (Lee Metcalf N.W.R., *Ravalli*, MT).

Loons Through Ducks

Like last fall, the Region's only Red-throated Loon was at Coeur d'Alene L., *Kootenai*, ID, 7 Oct (JD). Just 7 Pacific Loons were reported in Idaho, the lowest total in years. The best *Gavia* reported was a Yellow-billed Loon in *Fremont*, ID, 1-10 Nov (CW). A tally of 93 Pied-billed Grebes at L.M. 2 Oct (WT) was exceptional.

Also impressive were 300 American White Pelicans at D.F. 25 Aug (DL) and 388 at Cascade Res., *Valley*, ID, 3 Sep (JG). Extralimital waders included a Great Egret at Smith L., *Flathead*, MT, 10-21 Aug (DC), 1-4 Cattle Egrets near D.F. 14 Oct-3 Nov (JG), a Cattle Egret in Boise, ID, 28 Nov (MC, FK), and a Green Heron in *Owyhee*, ID, 21-23 Oct (RLR, DT). An amazing concentration of 20,000 White-faced Ibises staged at A.F.R. 1-27 Aug (MCr).

Greater White-fronted Geese seldom visit w. Montana, so 5 in Helena 24 Sep (JS), 1-7 in Missoula 1 & 8 Oct (CP, SF), and ≤34 at L.M. 7-8 Oct (WT) were noteworthy. Two **Black Brants** in *Owyhee* 24 Sep-13 Oct (LG, m.ob.) provided Idaho's 9th record and a first for Latilong 24. An **American Black Duck** at Mann L., *Nez Perce*, ID, 19-30 Nov (JL) was Idaho's 6th. The only reported Eurasian Wigeons were Idaho singles in Lewiston 15 Oct (JL) and Boise 17-30 Nov (DT). Concentrations of >300 Canvasbacks at Mann L., ID, 11 Oct (BJ) and >10,000 Redheads at Ennis L., *Madison*, MT, 3 Nov (JP) were impressive. Both rare and late was a Harlequin Duck in Lewiston, ID, 23 Nov (JL). Other rare sea ducks reported were 1-3 Long-tailed Ducks at L.M. 26-27 Oct & 9 Nov (WT), a Surf Scoter at Mann L., ID, 4 Oct (BJ), and 2 White-winged Scoters in *Bonner*, ID, 25 Oct (PC). Two **Black Scoters** near Missoula 28 Oct (CP, et al.) furnished Montana's 7th record. The Common Teal at L.M. 1-10 Nov (WT) was likely the same one present in Mar and Apr.

Raptors Through Terns

Exceptionally late were an Osprey in Boise, ID, 30 Nov (DT) and a Swainson's Hawk in *Broadwater*, MT, 24 Oct (EA). A fall survey at Coeur d'Alene L., ID, reported the highest Bald Eagle counts in 20+ years (CC). A **Red-shouldered Hawk** in *Valley* 1 Sep (CS) and 1-2 at A.F.R. 6 Sep-3 Oct (MCr, m.ob.) provided Idaho's 9th and 10th records. Numbers of Broad-winged Hawks in Idaho were up slightly from last year, with a total of 17 at I.B.O. 30 Aug-26 Sep, and singles at Boise 28-31 Aug and 1 Oct (MW, DT) and in *Bingham* 16 Sep (DB).

The season's tally of 29 American Golden-Plovers was an unusually good showing. Record shorebird counts at or near A.F.R. included >1000 American Avocets 8-10 Sep, >800 Lesser Yellowlegs 28 Aug, 48 Sanderlings 15 Sep, >500 Long-billed Dowitchers 8 Sep, and >3000 Red-necked Phalaropes 11-15 Sep (MCr). Shorebird rarities at A.F.R. included a Snowy Plover 3-9 Sep (DB, m.ob.), 1-3 Whimbrels 13 Aug and 3 Sep (DB, †DTa), 1-2

Stilt Sandpipers 26 Aug–11 Sep 9 (m.ob.), and Idaho's 2nd **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** 25–27 Aug (MCR, m.ob.). Unusual shorebirds near Missoula, MT, included a Marbled Godwit 11 Aug, a Ruddy Turnstone 19 Aug, 2 Sanderlings 27 Aug and 3 Sep, 1–3 Dunlins 24 Sep and 29 Oct, and 2 Stilt Sandpipers 20 & 31 Aug (CP, TT, BW). The highlight of the season was a **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** in *Canyon* 29 Sep–2 Oct (ph.DL, RLR, †DT, m.ob.), a first for Idaho and the Region. Late were American Avocets in *Owyhee*, ID, 21 Oct (JG) and at A.F.R. 22 Oct (DB), and 2 Greater Yellowlegs at D.F. 23 Nov (JG). Always rare, Short-billed Dowitchers were noted in *Gooding*, ID, 22 Aug (KF), *Ada*, ID, 2 Sep (JC), and at A.F.R. 6 & 17 Sep (DB, MCR).

It was a good season for rare *Laridae*. **Pomarine Jaegers** at Sandpoint, *Bonner*, ID, 11 Sep (†EC), and Polson, MT, 15–16 Nov (DC, CP) provided 6th records for both states. Even more surprising were **Long-tailed Jaegers** at D.F. 1–9 Sep (JG, ph. DL, m.ob.) and Priest L., *Bonner* 1 Sep (RB), representing Idaho's 3rd and 4th records. A tally of the Region's rare-but-annual gulls included 4 Mews, 3 Thayer's, 3 Glaucous-wingeds, and one Glaucous. Idaho reported a total of 13 Sabine's Gulls 3 Sep–7 Oct, likely a record high. Usually less than annual, Arctic Terns also made a fair showing with one in *Jefferson*, ID, 22 Sep (MCR, GR) and 1–2 at A.F.R. 24–27 Sep (DB, D&EF).

Cuckoos Through Mockingbirds

Especially interesting was a wayward Yellow-billed Cuckoo in *Boise* 3 Aug (MJ); there is no confirmed breeding for this species in sw. Idaho. Two Black Swifts in Boise, ID, 5 Sep (MC, FK) were also unusual, and another in *Elmore*, ID, 13 Oct (MJ, DT) was both rare and record-late. Interesting was a Barred Owl that returned for the 2nd consecutive fall to Boise, ID, 31 Oct+ (MC, FK). Owl captures at I.B.O. included 7 Flammulateds, 2 Boreals, and 140 Northern Saw-whets 25 Aug–27 Oct (SH), down from last year's record numbers. Anna's Hummingbirds visited *Valley*, ID, 5 Aug (CS) and Florence, MT, 5–28 Oct (MD). Unusually late was a Dusky Flycatcher in *Twin Falls*, ID, 5 Nov (KF). Extralimitals captured at I.B.O. included 2 Gray Flycatchers 8 Aug and 7 Sep, and 3 **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** 4 & 25 Aug (JC). Ash-throated Flycatchers also wandered out of range to *Ada* 5 Aug (DH), *Owyhee* 26 Sep (RLR), and *Jefferson* 3 Oct (GR).

Exceptional were single **Blue-headed Vireos** at I.B.O. 23 Sep (JC) and in Boise, ID, 24 Sep (MC, FK). Other notable vireos

included a late Cassin's in Boise, ID, 20 Oct (DT) and a few wayward Plumbeous at D.F. 17 Sep (JA) and Boise 23–24 Sep (DT). Several scattered reports of Blue Jays came from Montana, but Idaho's total of 7 was the lowest in five years. Even more interesting were 2 apparent Blue x Steller's Jays in Coeur d'Alene, ID, 8 Oct+ (BG, †SS). Flocks of Pinyon Jays that wandered to *Missoula* and *Ravalli*, MT, 23 Sep–30 Nov (WL, JW) were unusual though not unprecedented. Other notable strays included a White-breasted Nuthatch at A.F.R. 20 Sep (MCR, MJ), and both a Chestnut-backed Chickadee 25 Sep (JC) and a Bushtit 6 Aug (JC) at I.B.O. Montana enjoyed its first confirmed **Bewick's Wren** in Missoula 26–29 Oct (CP, m.ob.). Northern Mockingbirds made a good showing, with 1–3 in *Bingham*, ID, 1 Aug–5 Sep (DB), one at A.F.R. 8 Sep (MCR, DT), and one near Missoula, MT, 29 Oct (CP, TT).

Warblers Through Orioles

Rare "eastern" warblers were fewer than in the past two years but included several exceptional finds. Tennessee Warblers were noted at I.B.O. 1 Aug (JC), Camas 16 Sep (MCR, GR), and A.F.R. 24 Sep (DB). Two Yellow Warblers in *Elmore*, ID, 13 Oct (MJ, DT) were about three weeks late. A dead **Cape May Warbler** found in Missoula, MT, 14 Oct (MA) represented w. Montana's first record and the Region's 2nd. A **Bay-breasted Warbler** in *Elmore* 20 Oct (JA, †JG) provided Idaho's 3rd record. Idaho's 9th and 10th **Blackpoll Warblers** were at Camas 16 Sep (MCR, GR) and in Boise 23 Sep (MC, FK). Rare but now expected were Black-and-white Warblers in Boise, ID, 9 Sep (MC, FK), I.B.O. 12 Sep (JC), and Bozeman, MT, 15 Oct (JP), and an Ovenbird in Boise 12 Sep (MC, FK).

Rare grosbeaks included single Rose-breasted in *Valley*, ID, 6 & 12 Aug (CS) and *Madison*, MT, 23 Aug (MB), and a Blue in *Twin Falls*, ID, 3 Aug (KF). Montana's news-worthy sparrows included an unusually late Chipping near Bozeman 7 Nov (JCn) and a rare Swamp at L.M. 14 Oct (DG). Reports of unusual *Zonotrichia* sparrows were few; Idaho's totals of 7 White-throateds, 3 Golden-crowned, and one Harris's were the lowest in years. It was a good year for Snow Buntings, with an impressive flock of 500 in Polson, MT, 15 Nov (DC). It was also a banner year for Rusty Blackbirds, with 6 in *Bonner*, ID, 9 Sep (EC), a flock of 40 near Bozeman, MT, 13 Oct (EA), 4 at L.M. 13 Oct (WT), and 3 in Polson, MT, 16–21 Nov (CP, WT). A pair of Great-tailed Grackles with nestlings at A.F.R. 5 Aug (MCR) confirmed breeding in Latilong 27,

and 4 adults with a juvenile at D.F. 12 Aug (JG) also indicated local nesting. Common Grackles were down from last year's record numbers; the only one reported was in Caldwell, ID, 18 Sep (JG). The **Hooded Oriole** in Meridian, ID, stayed to 1 Aug (RG).

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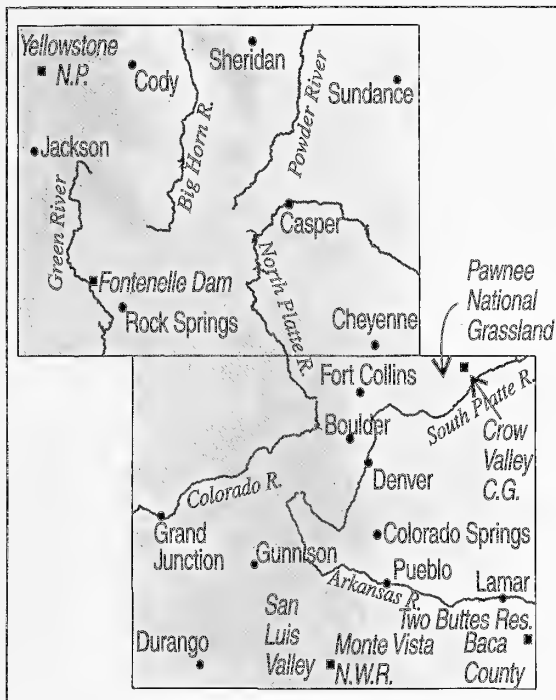


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Mountain West



Larimer, 3 Nov (SJD), and an ad. male Black at Pueblo Res. 4–6 Nov (BKP, MJ, m.ob.).

Shorebirds Through Hummingbirds

Two American Golden-Plovers were at Soda L. in Casper, WY, 30 Oct (CEM, et al.). Single Ruddy Turnstones were at Barr L., *Adams*, CO, 1 Sep (TL), at Standley L., *Jefferson*, CO, 20 Sep (LS), at Chatfield Res., CO, 21 Oct (AS), and at Rocky Ford, *Otero*, CO 24 Oct (SO). Colorado Red Knots included one at Adobe Creek Res., *Bent/Kiowa*, 15 Aug (SO, DN), 2 at Rocky Ford, 3–12 Sep (MJ, m.ob.), one at John Martin Res., *Bent*, 4–11 Sep (MJ, VJ, m.ob.), and 2 at Jackson Res., *Morgan*, 8–9 Sep (JK, DSc, m.ob.) and one there 20–23 Sep (JV, BR, TL, DF). A bright juv. **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, Colorado's 2nd, was at John Martin Res. 3–7 Oct (VAT, m.ob.). Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports included one at Soda L. in Casper, WY, 30–31 Aug (CEM, m.ob.), 2 at Jackson Res., CO, 12–17 Sep (DF, m.ob.), 3 in *Kiowa*, CO, 14–15 Sep (DN), and 2 near Hasty, *Bent*, CO, 17 Sep (MJ et al.). Short-billed Dowitcher reports included 1–4 at L. Henry, *Crowley*, CO 11–23 Sep (BKP, MJ), and 1–4 at Jackson Res., CO, 1–12 Oct (TL, LS, JV, DF, m.ob.). Colorado's 6th **American Woodcock** was at Two Buttes Res., *Baca*, CO, 15–16 Sep (VZ, SS). Single Red Phalaropes were at Baseline Res., *Boulder*, CO, 24 Sep (BK) and at Jackson Res. CO 3–4 Oct (DF, LS).

In e. Colorado, 6 Pomarine Jaegers were reported from five locations 30 Sep–7 Nov and 8 Parasitics were reported from seven sites 25 Sep–5 Nov. Colorado's 6th **Long-tailed Jaeger**, an intermediate-morph juv., was at Jackson Res. 2–5 Sep (JRo, DSc, m.ob.). An additional 3 unidentified jaegers were reported from e. Colorado. An imm. Laughing Gull was at Pueblo Res. 7 Oct (PH, BKP, SMO). A juv. Little Gull was found at Big Johnson Res. 24–27 Sep (JW, BG, m.ob.). An ad. **Black-headed Gull** at Barr L. 9 Oct (DF, TL) provided the 4th Colorado record. A first-basic Mew Gull was at Pueblo Res. 11–16 Nov (MJ, BKP). Nine Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed in e. Colorado 2 Oct–5 Nov. Great Black-backed Gulls included an ad. at Cherry Creek Res., CO, 11 Sep+ (BB), a 3rd-year at L. Henry, CO, 12 Sep (VAT), and an "imm." at Loveland, *Larimer*, CO, 4–5 Nov (NK). Two Sabine's Gulls were at Gray Reef Res., *Natrona*, WY, 2 Nov (CEM, BSo, et al.) and a state-record 75 Sabine's Gulls were in Colorado 7 Sep–23 Oct. An ad. Black-legged Kittiwake was at Chatfield Res., CO, 25–28 Oct (JBH, m.ob.). Rare in Colorado, **Arctic Terns** included an ad. at Big Johnson Res. 23 Sep (JW); an ad. at Pueblo Res. 29 Sep (BKP); a juv. at Union Res., *Weld*,

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This was the fall to see mountain species on the plains of e. Colorado. Sightings included Red-naped and Williamson's Sapsuckers; Steller's, Western Scrub-, and Pinyon Jays; Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cassin's Finch, Red Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak. Additionally, larger than normal numbers of western migrants such as Townsend's Warblers and Cassin's Vireos were noted in e. Colorado. One theory for this influx is that extremely dry conditions in the western sections of the region and large areas of forest fires may have moved birds east of normal.

Loons Through Waterfowl

A **Red-throated Loon** at L. Desmet, *Johnson*, 29 Oct (BSo) represented one of few records for Wyoming. One to 2 Red-throateds stayed at Pueblo Res., CO, 3 Nov+ (BKP, m.ob.) and another was at Boyd L., *Larimer*, CO, 5 Nov (NK). A Pacific Loon appeared at Healy Res., *Johnson*, WY, 18 Oct (CEM, BSo). Single Red-necked Grebes were at Pueblo Res., CO, 5 Oct–23 Nov (BKP, m.ob.), Cherry Creek Res., CO, 5 Oct (BB), and Big Johnson Res., *El Paso*, CO, 14 Oct–11 Nov (DE, JLD, MAP, m.ob.). Pueblo's first Neotropical Cormorant was an ad. at Pueblo Res., CO, 6–7 Aug (VAT, JT, BKP); an imm. was at Nee So Pah Res., *Kiowa*, CO, 6 Aug (MJ, BKP). A late Great Egret was at Healy Res., WY, 24–29 Oct (CEM, BSo, et al.). Colorado's 5th **Reddish Egret** was at L. Cheraw, *Otero*, 3–17 Sep (MJ, m.ob.). Two Trumpeter Swans were at L. Maria, *Huerfano*, CO, 28 Nov+ (VAT). Probably due to the lack of weather fronts this fall, scoters were reported in fewer numbers in Colorado this year; reports included 4 Surf Scoters and 2 White-winged Scoters, an imm. Black Scoter in

5–11 Oct (JPr, TL, LS, MJ, m.ob.); and 1–2 juv. at Chatfield Res. 7–10 Oct (JK, JBH, m.ob.). A juv. Least Tern was at Pueblo Res. 8 Sep (BKP).

Eurasian Collared-Doves continued to be seen in additional locations in Colorado; 2 were at Monte Vista, *Rio Grande*, 15 Aug (JRa, LR) and up to 3 were in Ovid, *Sedgwick*, 19 Aug–10 Sep (JK, NE, SSt, m.ob.). Inca Doves now appear be residents of Rocky Ford, CO; up to 6 were there all season (SO, m.ob.). Another Inca was in Golden, *Jefferson*, 24 Sep (BSp). Two Boreal Owls were found in the upper Rio Grande Basin in the San Luis Valley, CO, 5 Sep (JRa). Five **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**, including 2 ad. males, were at feeders n. of Lamar, CO, 10–16 Sep (MJ, BKP, SO, LP, m.ob.), representing the 4th Colorado record. If more feeders were observed in e. Colorado towns, it is possible that this and other species may more common than records indicate. Also at the same feeder were an imm. male Calliope Hummingbird 16 Sep (SS) and a Broad-tailed Hummingbird 24 Aug (LPa, EP, IP).

Woodpeckers Through Vireos

Single Williamson's Sapsuckers, an irregular rarity on the e. plains of Colorado, were at Pueblo 5 Sep (VAT), Greeley, *Weld*, 23 Sep (NEk), Ft. Collins 7–8 Oct (DAL), s. of Pueblo 16 Oct (BBH, BH), near Lamar 18 Oct (DN, LPa), and at Pueblo 30 Nov (BKP, DSi, SC). Fourteen Red-naped Sapsuckers were on the e. plains of Colorado 11 Sep–8 Oct (v.o.).

Single calling Eastern Wood-Pewees were in Lamar, CO, 31 Aug and 24 Sep (BKP). The nesting Vermilion Flycatchers stayed at Higbee Cemetery, *Otero*, CO, to 1 Oct (SMo); another Vermilion was at Rocky Ford S.W.A., *Otero*, CO, 10 Sep (BKP, MJ, SO). At Chatfield Res., an imm. White-eyed Vireo 20–28 Oct (JBH, KS, m.ob.) and a Yellow-throated Vireo 9 Sep (JK) were observed. A Cassin's Vireo was in *Natrona*, WY, 20–22 Aug (CEM). At least 8 Blue-headed Vireos were found in e. Colorado 22 Aug–26 Oct (v.o.). An unexpected 6 Philadelphia Vireos were reported this fall in Colorado: singles at Rocky Ford S.W.A. 10 Sep (BKP), in Lamar 17 Sep (DAL, BKP, RO, m.ob.), near Lamar 24 Sep (BKP, MJ), at Rocky Ford 1 Oct (BKP, MJ), at Ft. Collins 6–7 Oct (DAL, m.ob.), and near Ft. Lyon 8 Oct (VZ, MJ, BKP).

Jays Through Goldfinches

Four Pinyon Jays wandered into Lamar 17 Sep (BKP, RO). For the first time since the winter of 1972–1973, Clark's Nutcrackers were on the e. plains of Colorado. Sightings included one at Neenoshe Res., Kiowa, 14 Sep (DN, EP, IP)

and one w. of Crowley 22 Oct (MJ, BKP, VAT). Mountain Chickadees were found in high numbers throughout e. Colorado. Pygmy Nuthatches rarely make it to the plains for lack of pine trees, so one in Rocky Ford, CO, 22 Oct (BKP) was probably a county first. A Sedge Wren was singing at Lamar 16 Sep (SS). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was near Ft. Lyon, CO, 11 Sep (BKP). An early Varied Thrush was at Storey, *Sheridan*, WY, 17 Aug (BSO).

A male Blue-winged Warbler was discovered near Lamar 11–13 Sep (BBH, SC, LP). A late Tennessee Warbler at Ouray, CO, 7 Nov (DF, TL, et al.) was unusual for the western slope. A Nashville Warbler was in *Natrona*, WY, 28 Aug (CEM). Northern Parula reports included one at Crow Valley Campground, CO, 30 Aug (N. Erickson), one at Pueblo, CO, 5 Oct (BKP), and 1–2 at Chatfield Res., CO, 23–27 Oct (DSc, BB, KS, LM, m.ob.). Six Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported from e. Colorado 9 Sep–15 Oct. Single Cape May Warblers were at Chatfield Res. 22–25 Oct (AS, m.ob.) and in Boulder in Nov (BK, m.ob.). A female Black-throated Blue graced *Natrona* 8 Sep (CEM), and a male appeared in Montrose 5 Oct (MA). E. Colorado had 12 Black-throated Green Warblers 19 Aug–25 Oct and 5 Blackburnian Warblers 1 Sep–18 Oct. A male **Prairie Warbler** was found in *Natrona* 5 Sep (CEM), representing one of the few records for Wyoming; in Colorado, a male was at Cherry Creek Res. 5 Oct (LK). A Bay-breasted Warbler was at Boulder, CO, 15 Oct (JPr) and another was at Chatfield Res. 22–25 Oct (JK, AS). A Black-and-white Warbler was seen in *Natrona* 18 Aug (CEM). Prothonotary Warblers made a good showing in e. Colorado, with one at L. Henry, 11 Sep (BKP, GR); one at Barr L., 16 Sep–1 Oct (AP, TL, m.ob.); one near Ft. Lyon, 7–8 Oct (I. Sanders, m.ob.); and another in Colorado Springs, 9 Oct (AV). An imm. Mourning Warbler was at Colorado City, CO, 25 Aug (DSi), and a female Hooded Warbler was reported in Wheat Ridge, CO, 18 Sep (BSp).

Single Summer Tanagers were found at Colorado City 12 Aug (DSi) and in *Pueblo*, CO, 24–29 Aug (BKP, m.ob.) & 18–25 Sep (BKP, RK, m.ob.). A female Scarlet Tanager was in *Pueblo* 13 Aug (MJ, BKP). A male Eastern Towhee was near Lamar 25 Sep (BKP) and another was at Colorado City 6–16 Nov (DSi). Eight Field Sparrows were recorded in e. Colorado 20 Sep–8 Oct. A **Baird's Sparrow** was found at Big Johnson Res. 26 Sep–1 Oct (MJ, m.ob.). Single Red Fox Sparrows were at Boulder, CO, 22–23 Oct (JPr) and Ouray, CO, 6–8 Nov (TL, RL, DF). A Swamp Sparrow was at Ouray, 8 Nov (DF, TL, RL). An imm.

Golden-crowned Sparrow was at Barr L. 9–22 Oct (DF, TL, m.ob.). A male Snow Bunting was at Ft. Carson, *El Paso*, CO, 6 Nov+ (BM, m.ob.). A late Black-headed Grosbeak was found at Ouray 6–7 Nov (TL et al.). A Red Crossbill was at Lamar 17 Sep (BKP, DAL, RO). A Common Redpoll was at Ft. Collins, CO, 8 Oct (DAL). An Evening Grosbeak was at Ovid, CO, 19 Sep (NE, JK, SSt) and 4 were at Lamar 29 Sep (DAL).

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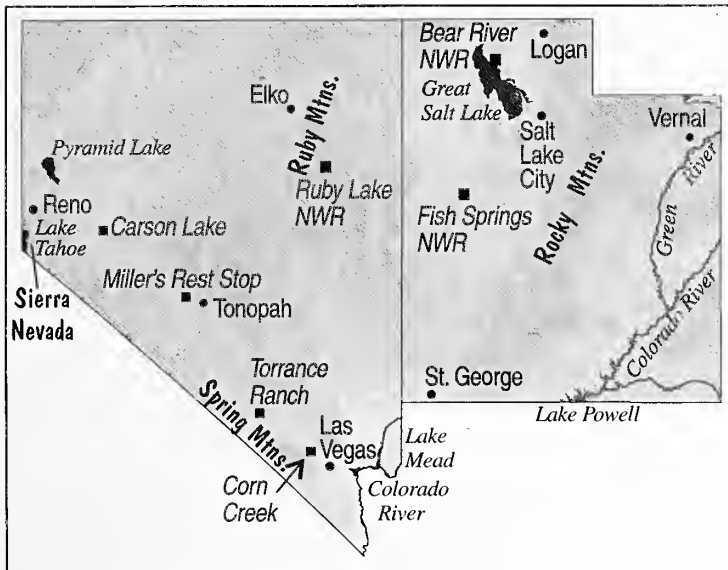
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The highlights of the season were an exceptional showing by seabirds at Pyramid Lake, a heavy irruption of montane species (especially Pinyon Jays and Lewis's Woodpeckers) into the desert, and a goodly presence of eastern vagrants at the desert oases. The Pyramid Lake seabirds were preceded by a week of unsettled weather with a strong westerly flow from the Pacific Ocean, and the incursion of montane species was thought to be connected to a regional cone-crop failure. The vagrants at the desert oases, however, could not be attributed to any large-scale biological or meteorological phenomena.

Abbreviations: A.I.C. (Antelope Island Causeway, Davis, UT); C.C. (Corn Creek, Clark, NV); Bear River (Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT); F.B.W.M.A. (Farmington Bay W.M.A., Davis, UT); E.S.N.W.R. (Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab, UT);

H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark, NV); I.S. (Indian Springs, Clark, NV); J.R.P. (Jordan River Parkway, Salt Lake, UT); L.V. (Las Vegas, Clark, NV); L.V.M. (Lemmon Valley Marsh, Washoe, NV); M.R.S. (Miller's Rest Stop, Esmeralda, NV); O.P. (Oxbow Park, Washoe, NV); P.L. (Pyramid Lake, Washoe, NV); P.N.W.R. (Pahranagat N.W.R., Lincoln, NV); S.F.R. (South Fork Reservoir, Elko, NV); S.L. (Soda Lake, Churchill, NV); T.R. (Torrance Ranch, Nye, NV); W.L. (Walker Lake, Mineral, NV). Records marked with @ are subject to review by the Nevada Bird Records Committee (NBRC) or Utah Bird Records Committee (UBRC).

Loons Through Falcons

Pacific Loons were reported from Nevada at P.L. 23 Sep–16 Nov (v.o.) and W.L. 13 Oct (TF); Utah records were of 2 at Hyrum Res., Cache, 14 Oct–11 Nov (v.o.) and one at Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, 4 Nov (MS). One or two Red-necked Grebes were at P.L. 13 Sep–5 Nov (v.o.). A disoriented **Brown Pelican** at L.V. 5 Aug was released at H.B.V.P., where it was found dead 7 Aug (@CN, *Barrick Museum of Natural History *vide* CT). **Little Blue Herons** (@) included an ad. at F.B.W.M.A. 27 Aug (JBe, KB) and an imm. along the Bear R. near Randolph, Richan, UT, 18 Sep (PU).

Greater White-fronted Geese were at eight Nevada and two Utah locations, with a first date

of 28 Aug at Goose L., Churchill, NV (BH) and a high count of 53 at Washington, Washington, UT, 9 Sep (RF et al.). The top Snow Goose count was 300+ at W.L. 25 Nov (JW). The only Ross's Geese were 3 near Tonopah, Nye, NV, 15 Nov (JB) and one at Rancho San Rafael Park, Washoe, NV, 26 Nov (NH et al.). The Tundra Swan maximum was 1200 at L.V.M. 16 Nov (TF, BG). A Trumpeter Swan at Decker L., Salt Lake, UT, 11 Nov (JH) was at an unexpected locale. Wood Ducks were reported from 7 Nevada locations, but the only Utah report was of 3 birds at the Bureau of Reclamation Mitigation Area, Wasatch, UT, 13 Aug (MiS, MaS). The only Blue-winged Teal reports came from L.V.M. 14–20 Aug (v.o.) and S.F.R. 27 Aug (MP, LP). A Eurasian Wigeon was a good find at Provo, Utah, UT, 23 Nov (@JTU, RT). Early were 2 Greater Scaup at L.V.M. 16 Sep (TF); the maximum of several reports from P.L. 5–30 Nov (v.o.) was 28 birds 16 Nov (JW). A Lesser Scaup at H.B.V.P. 25 Aug (CT) was early. Surf Scoter reports included one at P.L. 24–27 Sep and 5 at this location 5 Nov (TF et al.); 3 at W.L. 16 Oct (LN); one at Quail Creek Res., Washington, UT, 24 Oct (RF, KW); and one at H.B.V.P. 27–28 Oct (CN et al.). A flock of 4 White-winged Scoters at Duff's Pond, Churchill, 16 Nov (AC) provided the only Nevada report, but Utah records came from F.B.W.M.A. 3–5 Nov (v.o.), A.I.C. 6 Nov (LS), and Hyrum Res., Cache, 8 Nov (KE). P.L. hosted a **Black Scoter** 16–24 Nov (@JW et al., ph. MM). The only Nevada Long-tailed Duck was at H.B.V.P. 10 Nov (RS), but the species was reported from 3 Utah locations 8–22 Nov (v.o.). A summering Bufflehead lingered at H.B.V.P. into Aug (RS). Multiple Barrow's Goldeneyes gathered at Logan Canyon, Cache, UT, 8 Nov (KE, JR) and singles were at P.L. 22–30 Nov (JW et al.) and Virginia L., Washoe, NV, 20–23 Nov (JD, HJ). The Hooded Merganser is common in w. Nevada but unusual in Utah, where the only reports came from Logan, Cache, 8–25 Nov (v.o.) and J.R.P. 13 Nov (JH). Red-breasted Mergansers were noted at 3 Nevada locations 2 Sep–24 Nov, with a top count of 7 at P.L. 23 Sep (GS et al.).

Red-shouldered Hawks continued their apparent increase in Nevada, with reports from at least 14 locations; the only Utah report came from Grafton, Washington, 18 Oct (KC, BSh). Broad-winged Hawks (@) at C.C. 10 Oct (MSs) and 3 Nov (RS) were far from their usual Nevada migratory corridor in the Goshute Mts., Elko, where small numbers occur annually (DB); the only Utah sighting was from Fish L. Hightop Plateau, Sevier, 6 Sep (TS). A **Zone-tailed Hawk** continued at P.N.W.R. until 3 Aug (@MM, EG), and one was at Pine Park, Washington, UT, 16 Aug (@TS).

Plovers Through Terns

The shorebird passage was good in Utah but unspectacular in Nevada. Highlights included single American Golden-Plovers at Provo Airport dike, *Utah*, UT, 10 Sep (DGr et al.) and Hurricane, *Washington*, UT, 4 Nov (RF, KW); a late Solitary Sandpiper at Key Pitman W.M.A., *Lincoln*, NV, 2 Oct (MSs, JP); a **Hudsonian Godwit** at Bear River 28 Aug (@CNe, TN); Ruddy Turnstones (@) at L.V.M. 20 Aug (TF, KM) and Antelope Island S.P., *Davis*, UT, 19–28 Aug (v.o.); 2 Red Knots at Bear River 28 Aug (CNe, TN); the only Utah Sanderling at A.I.C. 15 Sep (KE et al.) and Nevada records from 3 locales 16–25 Sep, led by 35 at P.L. 25 Sep (v.o.); Semipalmated Sandpipers at L.V.M. 8 Aug (TF, TL) and S.L. 31 Aug (TF); Stilt Sandpipers at H.B.V.P. 25 Aug (RS) and 3 Oct (MSs, JP) and at F.B.W.M.A. 3 Sep (DGr, DS), plus 12 at Provo Airport dike 25 Sep (DSH); a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, Utah's 4th if accepted, at Pruess L., *Millard*, UT, 3 Sep (@fide CT); 2 Short-billed Dowitchers at H.B.V.P. 3 Oct (MSs, JP), and single birds at Bear River 7 Aug (JHu, MS), S.L. 22 Aug (MM), and F.B.W.M.A. 23 Sep (DWh); and single **Red Phalaropes** (@) at Hurricane Sewage Lagoons, *Washington*, UT, 7 Sep (RF; somewhat early) and P.L. 25 Sep (TF, BHa).

A light-morph ad. **Pomarine Jaeger** at Little Lyman L., *Summit*, UT, 26 Aug (@ph. KF) was a real surprise. A moribund Parasitic Jaeger (@) was found near S.L. 29 Aug (BH), at least 3

were at P.L. 10–15 Sep (ph. JT, v.o.), and a late individual was at F.B.W.M.A. 28 Oct (v.o.). At least 4 **Long-tailed Jaegers** (@) were at P.L. 9–25 Sep (ph. MM, v.o.). An undetermined number of unidentified jaegers at P.L. 6–25 Sep (v.o.) may have represented a few additional individuals.

The only Franklin's Gulls in Nevada were singles at S.L. 22 Aug (MM), S.F.R. 27 Aug (MP, LP) and near T.R. 23 Oct (MSs, JD). Bonaparte's Gulls appeared in small numbers at five Nevada locations 15 Oct–4 Nov (v.o.); large numbers were at Bear River until 20 Nov (DP). Deer Creek Res., *Wasatch*, UT, hosted 2 Mew Gulls 6 Oct (@JBe et al.). The first of a scattering of Nevada Herring Gull reports came from P.L. 9 Sep (MM, TF). Thayer's Gulls reports came from A.I.C. 18 Nov (TS) and West Bountiful Landfill, *Davis*, UT, 19 Nov (MS, SSt). A 2nd-winter **Western Gull** was at P.L. 19–20 Nov (@ph. MM et al.). Single Glaucous-winged Gulls were at P.L. 18 Nov (JW) and Reno, *Washoe*, NV, 26 Nov (TF). A Glaucous-winged x Western Gull was at W.L. 13 Oct (TF) and at least 3 were at P.L. 5–23 Nov (v.o.). Sabine's Gulls (@) made an excellent showing: singles were at H.B.V.P. 22 Aug–8 Oct (v.o.), Panguitch L., *Garfield*, UT, 16–28 Sep (RD), and Humboldt Sink, *Pershing*, NV, 20 Sep (LN); 2 were at Deer Creek Res. 6–7 Oct (v.o.); 3 were at P.N.W.R. 2 Oct (MSs, JP); and many passed through P.L. 13–25 Sep (see S.A.).

A strong Common Tern flight was noted in Nevada 31 Aug–8 Oct, with a high of 22 birds at P.L. 23 Sep (TF et al.); small flocks were at 3 Utah locations 27 Aug–5 Oct (v.o.). An ad. and a juv. **Arctic Tern** (@) were at P.L. 23 Sep (ph. GS et al.); the ad. remained through 24 Sep (DS, BSe).

Pigeons Through Flycatchers

Imm. Band-tailed Pigeons at I.S. 23 Sep (MPa) and H.B.V.P. 8 Oct (TF et al.) were at unusual lowland locations. Northerly White-winged Doves were at 3 *Churchill*, NV, locations 3 Sep–30 Nov (v.o.). Migrant owls included a Flammulated in urban Reno 23 Sep (ME) and single Northern Saw-whets at four lowland locations in Nevada 26 Sep–29 Nov (v.o.). A Common Nighthawk at Reno, *Washoe*, NV 27 Oct (MV et al.) was late. Black Swifts in Utah included 3 at Brighton, *Salt Lake*, 6 Aug (JBe, KB) and 8 at Naturalist Basin, *Duchesne*, 12 Aug (MiS, MaS). A Vaux's Swift was at Quail Creek Res., *Washington*, UT, 19 Aug (@RF). Somewhat northerly were Anna's Hummingbirds at O.P. 16 Aug–2 Sep (MSs, TF) and Tonopah 27 Sep (PS); meanwhile, several birds remained at L.V. area feeders into December (v.o.).

Lewis's Woodpeckers were reported from 14 lowland locations in Nevada and four in Utah 3 Sep–18 Nov, with the bulk of records late Sep–early Oct; high counts were ≤ 20 at Circle-L Ranch, *Esmeralda*, NV, 1 Oct (MSs et al.) and

SA Pyramid Lake is a great place to look for rarities in the fall, but this year stood out as especially exciting. The annual fall waterbird survey, held 25 Sep, yielded 2 Red-necked Grebes, a male Surf Scoter, a Red Phalarope, a Long-tailed Jaeger and an unidentified jaeger, a mind-bending 11 Sabine's Gulls, and uncommon species such as Red-breasted Merganser, Sanderling, and Common Tern. Other notables on the lake this fall included additional Long-tailed Jaegers, multiple Parasitic Jaegers, a pair of Arctic Terns, a Black Scoter, and a Western Gull. We even had a "Patagonia Picnic Table Effect" (no mean feat in Nevada, with its comparative dearth of birders), with observers combing the adjacent woodlands and turning up locally uncommon species such as multiple Red-shouldered Hawks, a Northern Saw-whet Owl, 2 Black Phoebe's, 2 Swainson's Thrushes, a Varied Thrush, a Northern Parula, a Chestnut-sided Warbler, a Black-and-white Warbler, and 2 American Redstarts.



Pyramid Lake, *Washoe*, Nevada, hosted an "invasion" of jaegers during September 2000, with at least 4 Long-taileds, 3 Parasitics, and an undetermined number of unidentified birds. This adult Long-tailed Jaeger was photographed there 9 September 2000. Photograph by Martin Meyers.

10+ at Mormon Ranch, *Clark*, NV, 7 Oct (JKa et al.). A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was at M.R.S. 13 Oct (@JB); there are fewer than 10 Nevada records but it is potentially overlooked as a fall vagrant. A Red-breasted Sapsucker at Minersville Res., *Beaver*, UT, 27 Sep (@MW) was well out of range; the species breeds in w. Nevada, but birds at Timber L., *Churchill*, 20 Sep (DW, DA), Circle-L Ranch 30 Sep (TF et al.), and Bodyfelt Ranch, *Nye*, 1 Oct (TF et al.) were somewhat easterly. A pure Yellow-shafted Flicker was reported from Pleasant Grove, *Utah*, UT, 13 Nov (TW); Nevada got its usual share of hybrid flickers, but none was thought to be pure Yellow-shafted.

A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at T.R. 14 Oct (@TF, ph. MPa), if accepted, would represent the first documented record for Nevada. **Least Flycatchers** (@) at Tonopah 3–5 Sept (JB) and at M.R.S. 17 Sep (JB) and 13–16 Oct (JB, TF) will present NBRC with the usual challenges associated with identification of *Empidonax* flycatchers; Utah records came from the Bureau of Reclamation Mitigation Area 5–7 Aug (v.o.) and Lytle Ranch Preserve, *Washington*, 24 Sep (RD). In Nevada a heavy passage of Western Flycatchers was noted through the valleys and in the mountains 10 Aug–18 Oct (v.o.); banding data indicated that most were Pacific-slope Flycatchers (DW, DA). Northward post-breeding dispersal by Black Phoebes was evidenced by reports from six n. Nevada locations 18 Aug–18 Oct (v.o.). An **Eastern Phoebe** was at C.C. 3 Nov (@RS). A pair of Brown-crested Flycatchers at P.N.W.R. 3 Aug (MM, EG) provided the only report. Cassin's Kingbirds were at C.C. 16 Aug (RS), H.B.V.P. 25 Aug–3 Oct (v.o.), and T.R. 26 Aug–3 Sep (MSs et al.). Eastern Kingbird is rare in Nevada away from *Elko*, so a migrant at H.B.V.P. 31 Aug (*vide* RS) was noteworthy.

Vireos Through Warblers

Cassin's Vireo is reported annually in Utah, but reports from six locations 27 Aug–15 Oct (v.o.) were more than usual. Away from their usual haunts in the mountains of Nevada, Steller's Jays were at the desert locales of Ash Meadows N.W.R., *Nye*, 14 Oct (MPa) and C.C. 21 Oct–9 Nov (v.o.); the species also descended to several valley locations in Utah (v.o.). Good numbers of Pinyon Jays were widely noted in the lowland deserts of Nevada 12 Aug–21 Oct (v.o.), and a strong movement was noted through Salt Lake City, *Salt Lake*, UT, 6–11 Sep (v.o.). Clark's Nutcrackers were reported from the desert oases of C.C. 8 Sep (RS) and T.R. 14 Sep (KV). A small flock of Purple Martins was at Provo R. Parkway, *Utah*, UT, 12–27 Aug (v.o.), and a few Tree Swallows remained at H.B.V.P. through the reporting period (RS).

The status of Black-capped Chickadee in e. Nevada is unclear, so a report from Great Basin N.P., *White Pine*, 14 Sep (CPE) was interesting. At least 3 Winter Wrens, including juvs., at Chimney Beach, *Washoe*, NV, 3 Aug (TF, TL) implied breeding; the species is still unconfirmed as a breeder in Nevada. Elsewhere, migrants at five Nevada locations 19 Sep–24 Nov (v.o.) included an individual of the eastern *hiemalis* subspecies complex at C.C. 9 Nov (MSj); Utah records came from three locations 29 Oct–23 Nov (v.o.). Singles and small flocks of Golden-crowned Kinglets, an uncommon valley migrant through Nevada, were noted from 8 lowland locations 23 Sep–28 Nov (v.o.). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher lingered at J.R.P. until 26 Nov (BC, TC).

Swainson's Thrushes were noted at Numana, *Washoe*, NV, 9–15 Sep (v.o.) and at Timber L. 21 Sep (DW, DA). Varied Thrushes were reported from an impressive nine Nevada and three Utah locations 5 Oct–25 Nov (v.o.). A Gray Catbird was at S.E.R. 27 Aug (MP, LP). Single Brown Thrashers were at T.R. until 22 Sep (@KV et al.) and at P.N.W.R. 7 Oct (SG). Bohemian Waxwings were at Provo 16 Nov (CP) and J.R.P. 28 Nov (TS). A Phainopepla at F.S.N.W.R. 16 Sep (v.o.) was well to the n. of its usual Utah range.

The fall warbler flight was impressive in both states, and featured the following highlights: a Tennessee Warbler at Idlewild Park, *Washoe*, NV, 12 Sep (@TF); Nashville Warblers at three Utah locations 27 Aug–21 Sep (v.o.); Northern Parulas banded at Numana, *Washoe*, NV, 24 Aug (DW, DA) and seen at M.R.S. 29 Sep (JB); Chestnut-sided Warblers at M.R.S. 6 Sep (@JB) and P.L. 22 Oct (GS); a Magnolia Warbler at St. George, *Washington*, UT, 11 Oct (@RF); Black-throated Blue Warblers at M.R.S. 19–20 Oct (@JB et al.) and F.S.N.W.R. 25 Oct (@TS); Townsend's Warblers at 13 Utah locations 6 Aug–19 Nov (v.o.); a brief but strong pulse of migrant Hermit Warblers through the Carson Range, *Washoe*, NV, 2–16 Aug (v.o.), plus an easterly individual at Pine Park, *Washington*, UT, 12 Aug (JK, SS); a **Black-throated Green Warbler** at Tonopah 18 Oct (@JB); a *palmarum* Palm Warbler at Las Vegas Wash, *Clark*, 14 Nov (@CT et al.); Black-and-white Warblers at two Nevada and four Utah locations 1 Sep–23 Nov (v.o.); American Redstarts at five Nevada and two Utah locations 29 Aug–2 Oct (v.o.); a mini-invasion of **Prothonotary Warblers** (@), with Nevada reports from Ruby Lake N.W.R., *Elko*, 14 Sep (KV), I.S. 23 Sep (MPa, BrS), C.C. 24 Sep (JHe, DPo), M.R.S. 30 Sep–1 Oct (JB et al.), and Spanish Springs, *Washoe*, 15 Oct (*vide* GS), and Utah reports from Provo R. Parkway 17–19 Sep (v.o.) and Lytle Ranch Preserve 24 Sep (ph. RD);

an Ovenbird at H.B.V.P. 17 Aug (CR *vide* CN); Northern Waterthrushes at M.R.S. 8 Aug (JB) and C.C. 7–30 Sep (MSj et al.); a **Connecticut Warbler** (@)—a forthcoming challenge for the UBRC—at J.R.P. from the early date of 30 Aug (JH) to 17 Sep (DGr); and a **Canada Warbler** banded at T.R. 22 Sep (@KV).

Tanagers Through Finches

A Summer Tanager at Dyer, *Esmeralda*, NV, 21 Oct (MSs, JD) was tardy, as was a northerly individual at F.S.N.W.R. 25 Oct (TS). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at I.S. 10 Oct (@MSs) and at least 2 were intermittently present at M.R.S. 27 Aug–27 Oct (JB); the status of this species in Nevada is uncertain and observers are urged to provide detailed documentation for all sightings. A single-observer sight record of a **Field Sparrow** at M.R.S. 27 Oct (@JB) was intriguing. A Lark Bunting was reported from Tonopah 17 Sep (@JB). A Grasshopper Sparrow at LaVerkin, *Washington*, UT, 25 Sep (RF) was unusual for s. Utah. Nevada's 2nd **Le Conte's Sparrow**, at M.R.S. 1 Oct (@ph. JP et al.), was a definite highlight. A Red Fox Sparrow was at C.C. 18 Oct (MSj). Swamp Sparrows at M.R.S. 12–19 Oct (@JB) seemed to involve 2 different birds; another was at C.C. 9 Nov (MSj). A **White-crowned Sparrow** of the northwestern *pugetensis* subspecies at I.S. 23 Oct (ph. MSs, JD) was a surprise. Easterly Golden-crowned Sparrows were noted at four Nevada desert locations 1 Oct–24 Nov (v.o.). Reports of Pink-sided Juncos came from six Nevada locations 20 Oct–30 Nov (v.o.). Two **McCown's Longspurs** were at Ponderosa Dairy, *Nye*, NV, 23 Oct (@MSs, JD). In Nevada, a Lapland Longspur was noted at M.R.S. 19–21 Oct (ph. GS et al.) and 2 were at Washoe L., *Washoe*, 29 Oct (TF et al.); Utah reports included singles at F.B.W.M.A. 11–18 Nov (v.o.) and near Cedar City, *Iron*, 19 Nov (SS), and 2 at Washington 29 Nov (KW). Snow Buntings were reported from three Utah locations 3–18 Nov (v.o.).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Tonopah 27 Sep (@SS). Single Indigo Buntings near Great Basin N.P. 26 Aug (JWo, MR) and at Antelope Island S.P. 26 Aug (KL), were at unexpected locales; one lingering at T.R. until 20 Sep (KV) was at a more usual location. An imm. **Painted Bunting** at Pack Creek Ranch, *San Juan*, UT, 7 Sep (@ph. MK) would furnish a state first, if accepted. A Dickcissel was reported from M.R.S. 21 Sep (@JB) and an imm. male found dead at Paradise, *Cache*, UT, 5 Nov (AM) provided a county first. A Bobolink on the Carson R. Diversion Dam, *Churchill*, NV, 1 Sep (LN) was extralimital. Two Great-tailed Grackles at Riverview Park, *Washoe*, NV, 17 Oct (NB) were somewhat out of range. A northerly Hooded

Oriole remained at Fallon, *Churchill*, NV, until 5 Aug (*fide* BH), and a tardy individual remained at L.V. through the reporting period (BS). Reports of **Baltimore Orioles** at T.R. 16 Aug (@KV) and Tonopah 4 Sep were supported by few details. A Scott's Oriole at S.F.R. 27 Aug (MP, LP) was northerly.

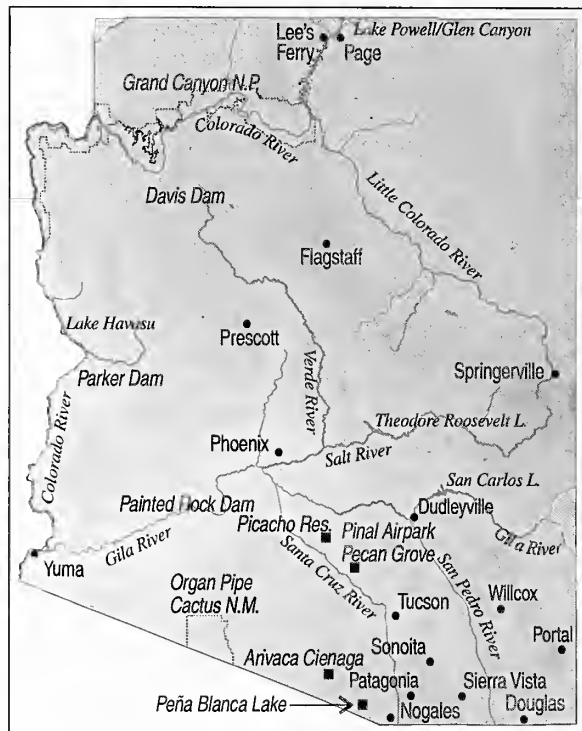
In Utah both Gray-crowned and Black Rosy-Finches were in large numbers at six locations 9 Oct–12 Nov (v.o.); in Nevada the meager maxima were 9 Gray-crowns at Tonopah 22 Nov (JB) and 3 Blacks at Tonopah 22–25 Nov (JB et al.). Pine Grosbeaks along Ophir Creek Trail, *Washoe*, NV, 2–16 Aug peaked at 40 birds (v.o.). A female **Purple Finch** was in the Goshute Mts. 19 Sep (@DB, JL). A flock of 30 Red Crossbills descended to the desert oasis of C.C. 6 Oct (RS), 20 were at Salt Lake City 27 Nov (v.o.), and an undetermined number were at Provo 7–30 Nov (v.o.). A White-winged Crossbill was a nice find at Salt Lake City 14 Nov (DO), and a black-backed Lesser Goldfinch was at C.C. 11 Aug (RS). Small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks were noted at five desert locations in Nevada 9 Oct–9 Nov (v.o.).

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The most dramatic aspect of this fall was, by far, the invasion of Rocky Mountain species into southern Arizona. It was geographically widespread and covered numerous species from a wide array of families, including woodpeckers, corvids, parids, thrushes, and finches. The sheer number of reports was too many to list, so we summarized the invasion in broad terms in a separate section. Apart from the invasion, numerous species lingered later than usual into the fall. Another highlight of the fall was the sudden invasion of Eurasian Collared-Dove reports—we went from no state records to numerous records from all corners of the state in a single season! Time will tell if this was a true expansion into the Southwest.

Abbreviations: ABC (Arizona Bird Committee), B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum); B.A.N.W.R. (Buenos Aires N.W.R.); G.R.P.A. (Granite Reef Picnic Area); H.R.P. (Hassayampa River Preserve); Li.C.R. (Little Colorado River); L.C.R.V. (Lower Colorado River Valley); N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation); R.R.S.T.P. (Roger Road S.T.P., Tucson); S.P.R. (San Pedro River); S.T.P. (Sewage Treatment Plant); T.T.L. (Tempe Town Lake); W.W.D. (White Water Draw)

The Montane Invasion

This fall brought one of the most impressive widespread invasions of montane birds to s. Arizona on record. Several Piciformes were prominent at lower-than-normal elevations this season; Lewis's Woodpeckers were widely reported from late Sep+. Acorn Woodpeckers were found away from preferred oak habitat in Sierra Vista, Phoenix and Tucson, and Williamson's Sapsuckers were at a number of unusual locations, including Ramsey Canyon, Portal, Kino Springs, Pena Blanca L., Phoenix, and Tucson. By early Sep, Steller's Jays and Western Scrub-Jays were being reported from a variety of lower elevations, and by early Oct,

numbers were present well away from mountain areas, such as along the Santa Cruz R. and in city parks in Phoenix and Tucson. Pinyon Jays were also on the move, at least early in the fall, with several reports by early Oct but none after 16 Oct. An indication of what was to come was a Clark's Nutcracker at B.A.N.W.R. 30 Aug (GM et al.); this species staged a mini-invasion into the Chiricahua Mts. An American Crow in Phoenix 7 Oct (CBa) provided one of the few *Maricopa* reports. Mountain Chickadees, Bridled Titmice, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets were all found at a variety of s. Arizona locations in greater-than-usual numbers. More unusual was a Juniper Titmouse found at the base of Ramsey Canyon 15 Oct (M. Pretti), as well as lowland reports of Pygmy Nuthatches, with one in a Scottsdale yard 19 Sep (J. Bartley) and 2 more at H.R.P. 12 Oct (A. Van Auken). Thrushes were certainly on the move, with high numbers of Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaires, and American Robins in the lowlands. Spotted Towhees were also much more numerous than usual around the state. Cassin's Finches, Red Crossbills, and Pine Siskins were also widespread in the lowlands, and a single Evening Grosbeak at Cook's L., S.P.R., 14 Oct (TC) was likely another member of the montane invasion.

Loons Through Raptors

An early Common Loon at T.T.L. 26 Jul–4 Aug (DC) provided only the second July record for *Maricopa*. The Least Grebe present all summer at Tucson's Sweetwater Wetlands continued through at least 21 Nov (GM, m.ob.). Western Grebes put in an above-average showing this fall, with no fewer than 85 individuals reported from the s. half of the state. Conversely, 6 Clark's Grebes reported from the s. was about average. American White Pelicans were found away from their normal w. *Maricopa* haunts: 12 were at G.R.P.A. 8 Oct (HF) and another 10 were along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 26 Nov (KS, LN). Exceptional was a Brown Pelican at the bottom of the Grand Canyon 4 Aug (ph. N. Brown); 2 more were at T.T.L. 16 Aug (DC) and another was found on an e. *Maricopa* pond 26 Nov (JT).

Neotropic Cormorants provided a dramatic example of their expansion into cen. Arizona when 18 were found along the Salt R. w. of Phoenix 8 Oct (TC). Single Double-crested Cormorants, a sparse migrant in the n., were at Glen Canyon 16 Aug, Cow Springs 9–13 Oct, and Pasture Canyon 31 Oct (CL). Always of interest when in the southeast, an American Bittern was at Kino Springs 31 Oct (SJ). A Least

Bittern at B.T.A. 25 Aug (CT) provided the first record for that location, and another along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 11 Nov (TC) was late. Casual visitors from coastal Sonora, Mexico, imm. Tricolored Herons were reported near T.T.L. 24 Sep (DC), at the new Gilbert Wildlife Area 21–30 Oct (CD, ph. MMS), and at Patagonia L. 28 Sep–19 Oct (JBo, RH, et al). It was an above-average year for Cattle Egrets in the southeast, with at least 67 individuals reported late Sep–mid-Nov (m.ob.). Another casual visitor from s. of the border, a single Roseate Spoonbill was found w. of Phoenix along the Salt R. 10–12 Aug (MB) and 2 were reported a bit farther w. along the Salt R. 8 Sep (ph. BG), with one still present 18 Sep (BG).

Greater White-fronted Geese were reported from various lowland locations beginning in early Sep, with a maximum of 15 at Gilbert 17 Sep (RHu). White geese were also widely reported: the highest count of Snow Geese was 12 at Apache Station 11 Nov (JH), while Ross's Geese numbered 4 at G.R.P.A. 29 Oct (PM), 2 at Page S.T.P. 26 Nov (CL), and singles at Nogales 14–22 Nov (JZ, MMS) and Avra Valley S.T.P. 25–30 Nov (JH, MMS). Exciting was the discovery of Gadwall nesting at Nogales 14 Aug (MMS). A couple of interesting ducks reported as Eurasian x American Wigeon hybrids were at Page S.T.P. 12 Oct (CG) and at Willcox 18 Nov (MMS). Eurasian Wigeons were at Gilbert 11 Nov (R. Edwards) and Scottsdale 19 Nov (BJ). Another interesting duck was the leucistic Cinnamon Teal at Gilbert 15 Oct (RMJ). The only Greater Scaup report we received was of one at Lee's Ferry 26 Nov (CL, TC, MMS). A very early Common Goldeneye was at Glen Canyon Dam 16 Aug (CL). Rare in Sonora, Mexico, a single Hooded Merganser was found s. of Naco 25 Nov (BO, DN). Red-breasted Mergansers are always of interest away from the Colorado R.; this year individual females were at Tucson 27–28 Oct (MMS) and 22 Nov (D. West) and at Lee's Ferry 26 Nov (CL, TC, MMS).

Two to three late Mississippi Kites were found at St. David 4 Sep (PW). An early Bald Eagle was at Patagonia L. 28 Sep (RH, JBo). A Northern Goshawk provided only the 2nd local record at B.T.A. 11 Nov (CT). Red-shouldered Hawk reports have certainly become more numerous in recent years; this season's were from Page 18 Sep (CL), Pasture Canyon 3–9 Oct (CL), Prescott 1 Nov (*vide* SG); one of the birds that nested at H.R.P. this summer remained throughout the period (m.ob.). Observers should keep in mind that Red-shouldered Hawk is an ABC review species and all relevant information should be forwarded to the committee. A late Zone-tailed Hawk was at



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Laveen, *Maricopa* 11 Nov (TC). It was a good year for Rough-legged Hawks; they were widely reported throughout the region mid-Oct+.

Rails Through Woodpeckers

With fewer than 10 records for the n., a Common Moorhen at Wahweap 5–7 Aug (CG) was interesting. This year was not what we would term great for shorebirds, but there were highlights. The only Black-bellied Plover report was of one at Willcox 13 Oct (RH, MMS), and the only American Golden-Plover was at El Mirage Pond w. of Phoenix 28–31 Oct (BG, MB). Two Sanderlings were at the Page S.T.P. 21–22 Sep (CL, CG, JS), and one was at Gilbert 27 Nov (JBU). It was an unusually poor year for Stilt Sandpipers; the only report was of one at Gilbert 27 Nov (SG, EB). Red Phalaropes were at the Avra Valley S.T.P. 4–8 Oct (ph. MMS) and at the Green Valley S.T.P. 12 Oct (SJ). Herring Gulls are always interesting; one was at Bill Williams Delta 28 Oct (CB, SS). Once again Sabine's Gulls were widely reported; we received six reports of 7 individuals statewide. A **Black Skimmer** on a Gilbert pond 14–15 Oct (JT, vt. RMJ, ph. MMS) was exciting; there are fewer than 10 records for the state.

Within a single year, **Eurasian Collared-Dove** went from being non-existent in Arizona to being widely reported; fall reports were of individuals at P.A.P. 25 Sep (†CDB), along the upper San Pedro R. 13 Oct+ (CA), at Phoenix 28 Oct (*fide* JW), 2 at Willcox 24 Sep+ (ph. †MMS), and 10 at Fredonia 26 Nov (CL, †TC, †MMS). Ruddy Ground-Doves were also widely reported; of most interest was a female in Prescott Valley 19 Oct (CT, ML). Rare in Arizona, a Groove-billed Ani was w. of Phoenix along the Salt R. 11–23 Nov (TC, MB, JZ). The Berylline Hummingbird noted this summer in Ramsey Canyon was still sitting on a nest 19 Aug (†MMS et al.). Green Kingfishers were at Kino Springs 18–20 Aug (DS, CDB), along the Santa Cruz R. 13 Sep (JL), and at Nogales 21 Oct (JS).

A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at B.T.A. 29 Oct (vt. RMJ). Four interesting sapsuckers thought to be hybrid Red-naped x Red-breasted were reported from the southeast. Rare in the state, Yellow-shafted Flickers were noted at Page 14 Oct (CM) and Colorado City 27 Nov (TC et al.).

Flycatchers Through Mimids

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at G.R.P.A. 2 Oct (R. Avery) provided the latest fall record for *Maricopa*. A Hammond's Flycatcher at Page 3 Nov (CL) provided the latest n. Arizona record. Similarly, a Dusky Flycatcher in Pasture Canyon 20 Oct (CL) was one of the latest reports from N.I.R. A Pacific-slope Flycatcher was reported

from St. David 25 Nov (RT); this species is casual anywhere in s. Arizona during the winter. An Eastern Phoebe was at Cameron 20 Oct–8 Nov (CL), providing only a 2nd N.I.R. report. Additional reports included one at Page 22 Oct (CG) and one at R.R.S.T.P. 1–27 Oct (WR et al.). Late Dusky-capped Flycatchers were at Portal 7 Oct (MMS) and Tubac 24 Oct (LL). A late Thick-billed Kingbird was along Sonoita Cr. near Patagonia 25 Sep (MMS, S. Kornfeld), whereas one along the S.P.R. near Charleston 2 Oct (S. Anderson) was well away from known breeding areas in s. Arizona. Still considered casual in the state, single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were s. of Tolleson 16 Sep–12 Oct (TC) and at B.A.N.W.R. 28–29 Oct (R. Kloss, R. Grohman).

By late Nov it was shaping up to be a good year in n. Arizona for Northern Shrike; one was on Black Mesa 5 Nov (CL), one was at Fredonia 26 Nov (CL, TC, MMS), and a third was along the Echo Cliffs s. of Page 27 Nov (CL, TC, MMS). The White-eyed Vireo found in Florida Canyon during the summer season (W. Leitner) was still present 13 Aug (MMS). Another was reported from B.T.A. 24 Aug (CT); there are fewer than 15 state records. A very late Bell's Vireo was at H.R.P. 26 Nov (J. Bartley). The Yellow-throated Vireo in Harshaw Canyon during the summer was still reported 6 Sep (J. Saba), while the Yellow-green Vireo found during the summer at the same location was last reported 20 Sep (m.ob.).

Greater-than-normal numbers of Tree, Violet-green, and Barn Swallows were lingering or passing through s. Arizona into late Nov. A late Bank Swallow was at Green Valley 13 Oct (MMS). Two **Black-capped Chickadees** were along Short Creek in Colorado City 27 Nov (ph. TC, CL, †MMS); this location is the same one where 6 were found in Nov 1997, suggesting a possible breeding population nearby.

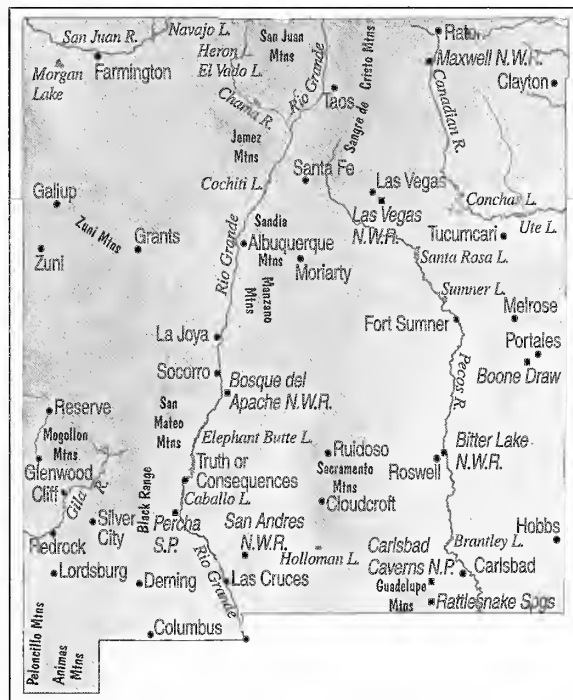
The Carolina Wren found at Cook's L., S.P.R., in 1999 was still present 14 Oct (TC et al.). The Black-capped Gnatcatcher found in Chino Canyon during July was still present 21 Sep (TC, J. Renninger). A **Wood Thrush** in a Scottsdale yard 27 Oct (M. Vanderwater; ph. RD) provided only a 2nd *Maricopa* record. The only Rufous-backed Robin found this fall was at H.R.P. 19 Nov+. A single Varied Thrush, casual in the state, was at Cameron 13 Oct (CL), providing only a 4th N.I.R. report; 2 were at H.R.P. 19 Nov (M. Baker). An **Aztec Thrush** was at Madera Canyon 10–18 Aug (ph. DS, m.ob), providing the first report in Arizona since the 1996 invasion. Always a nice find away from breeding areas in the ne. portion of the state, a Gray Catbird was at Phantom Ranch, Grand Canyon, 24 Oct (†B. Pranter).

Warblers Through Longspurs

Two Tennessee Warblers were found this fall, one at Sunrise Lodge 9 Sep (J. Jones) and another along the Gila R. w. of Phoenix 11 Nov (TC, M. Baker). No fewer than 6 Northern Parulas were found statewide. A Chestnut-sided Warbler was in Madera Canyon 18 Oct (D. Flower) and 2 were at the Phoenix Zoo 15 Nov (RMJ); this species has become a rare but regular late fall and early winter visitor. Still a casual visitor, mostly in fall, a Magnolia Warbler was in Scottsdale 24–25 Oct (ph. TC, †MMS). The only Black-throated Blue Warbler of the fall was at Cameron 20 Oct (CL). Still an excellent find in the state, a Yellow-throated Warbler was at G.R.P.A. 25 Sep (JoB, ph. RMJ); there are ±20 previous Arizona records. An extremely early Pine Warbler at the Phoenix Zoo 1 Oct (ph. †RMJ, JJ) provided only the 8th Arizona record. A Palm Warbler, casual in Arizona, was at Gilbert 27 Nov (JoB). It was an above-average year for Blackpoll Warbler, with 2 birds found this fall, one at Page 8–11 Sep (CL) and another at the Phoenix Zoo 27 Sep–4 Oct (vt. †RMJ). An average number of 4 Black-and-white Warblers were found this fall, but only one American Redstart was reported. It was certainly an above-average year for Prothonotary Warbler across Arizona, with one at Springerville 8 Sep (DC), one along Sonoita Creek near Patagonia 9–10 Sep (J. Krychek, D. Smith), up to 2 at R.R.S.T.P. 19 Sep+ (TC et al., ph. MMS), and another at the Phoenix Zoo 27–28 Sep (DC, RMJ, ph. MMS). Louisiana Waterthrush records in Arizona generally fall into two distinct patterns: late summer migrants and late fall or winter visitors; this fall one was at Kingfisher Pond, S.P.R., 2 Aug (C.&D. Beardmore), one was at Seven Springs 12 Oct (P. Norton), and a third was at Kingfisher Pond 10–26 Nov (J. Hirth et al.). A majority of the state's Hooded Warbler records come from spring and summer, so a male at Oak Creek Canyon 27 Sep (†B. Pranter) was significant. The **Rufous-capped Warbler** that wintered last year at French Joe Canyon was still present 16 Oct (TC, MMS). Another at Sawmill Spring, Carr Canyon, 23 Sep (R. Hoyer et al.) provided the ±12th record for Arizona.

A Hepatic Tanager at B.T.A. 20 Sep (BW, JW) was both late and away from known breeding areas. Grasshopper Sparrows are rarely seen in Arizona away from the grasslands in the south; therefore, individuals at the Gilbert S.T.P. 9 Sep (TC), Pasture Canyon near Tuba City 3–20 Oct (CL), and Powers Butte W.A. 21 Oct (M. Baker) were of note. Of the 3 Fox Sparrows we received reports for this fall, one was of a "red" type and the other 2 were of "slate-colored" types. A McCown's Longspur at Hank's Trading Post, N.I.R., 21 Oct (CL) furnished only

New Mexico



a 3rd record for n. Arizona. Extralimital reports of Chestnut-collared Longspurs included one in Pasture Canyon, N.I.R., 9 Oct (CL) and at least 6 at Western Sod Farm, Friendly Corners, 26 Sep (vt. GHR, DS).

Grosbeaks Through Finches

No fewer than 4 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found this fall, about average. A Varied Bunting was out of its normal range at B.T.A. 28–29 Sep (CT). Seven Painted Buntings, all in mid-Sep, were more than usual for a single fall. Five Dickcissels, all in mid-Sep, were about normal; this species has proven to be a rare but regular fall migrant, once observers learned its distinctive flight call. The only Bobolink of the fall was a single bird at Cook's L., S.P.R., 30 Sep (WR, GHR, MMS). A Hooded Oriole at the Phoenix Zoo 15 Nov (RMJ) was late, as was a Bullock's Oriole along the Salt R. in sw. Phoenix 11 Nov (TC, M. Baker). Lingering Scott's Orioles included one in Harshaw Canyon 14 Oct (B. Massey), one in Paradise 14 Oct (JB), and another in Madera Canyon 30 Nov (D. Flower).

A repeat from the winter of 1996–1997 was the discovery of at least 65 **Black Rosy-Finches** along the Echo Cliffs s. of Page 26 Nov+ (CL, ph. TC, ph. MMS); there were only a couple of previously documented records for the state.

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Autumn 2000 was generally mild and dry but interrupted at odd intervals with cold temperatures and locally heavy precipitation. Migration was deemed good for most species and especially for shorebirds, which took advantage of receding water levels at several locations, while conspicuous submontane movements were undertaken by several groups, including woodpeckers, corvids, parids, nuthatches, and finches.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte Lake); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R.); N.R.T. (north Roosevelt County migrant trap near Melrose); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs, Eddy); R.G.N.C. (Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); Sevilleta (Sevilleta N.W.R.); Zuni (Zuni Indian Reservation).

Loons Through Falcons

Leading the loon news was a **Yellow-billed Loon** at Farmington L. 16–29 Nov (ph. TR); single Pacifics were at Farmington L. (TR), Cochiti L. (BV), L.V.N.W.R. (v.o.), E.B.L. (ph. JO), and L. Roberts (EL) 30 Oct–26 Nov. Western Grebes lingering in the n. were 4 at Farmington L. 29 Nov (TR) and one at L.V.N.W.R. 26 Nov (SF). A Neotropical Cormorant at L. Avalon 29 Oct (SW) provided the only Pecos Valley report; unusual was a Double-crested at Deming 13–20 Nov (LM). Bitterns continued scarce, with single Americans at Tucumcari 29 Nov (WW) and B.L.N.W.R. 3 & 10 Nov (GW), and a Least at Willow L, Eddy, 8 Oct (SW, RW) the only reports. First found in July, a **Reddish Egret** remained at B.L.N.W.R. to 19 Aug (GW, DE, BN); another appeared at E.B.L. 19 & 30 Aug (vt. JO; DE, BN, WW). An ad. **White Ibis** at La Joya 11–20 Aug (ph. JO; JEP, DE, BN) was the 6th for New Mexico this year. Seven Tundra Swans graced Maxwell 16–24 Nov (MW, DE, BN, ph. DC); another was near Tucumcari 29 Nov (WW). Wood Ducks in peripheral areas included one at Santa Rosa 29 Nov (WW) and 2 at Alto 11 Aug (fide AP). A male Eurasian

Wigeon was at R.G.N.C. 15–21 Oct (BV, WW, JEP). Scoters making news were single Surfs at Stubblefield L. 30 Oct (WW) and Holloman L. 18 Oct (GE) and single White-wingeds at L.V.N.W.R. 12 Nov (RG), E.B.L. 11 Nov (DE, BN), and Deming 20 Nov (LM). A Long-tailed Duck at Farmington L. 16 Nov (ph. TR) furnished the only report.

Migrating Ospreys were widespread after late Aug (v.o.), including one at Jal 11 Oct (CR), a high 4 at L. Roberts 7 Oct (LM), and a late one at Percha 29 Nov (GE). The El Paso **Swallow-tailed Kite** briefly violated New Mexico airspace 6 Aug (ph. JNP). White-tailed Kites quietly invaded the brushlands of s. New Mexico this year, and were noted on numerous occasions this season (RM, CP, SOW), including a pair building a nest 1 Sep which later contained an abandoned egg (ph. RM) and a high count of 11 individuals 11 Oct (RM); another was in the Mesilla Valley 20 Oct (MS, JZ, ph. BZ). Common Black-Hawks in unusual locales were singles in Guadalupe Canyon 12 Aug (JEP, JO) and Robinson Draw, Guadalupe Mts., 5 Sep (SW). Noteworthy was a family of 6 Harris's Hawks at the Main Post, White Sands Missile Range, *Doña Ana*, 29 Nov (ph. LV). Single imm. Broad-winged Hawks were at Bosque Redondo 17 Sep (JO, DE, BN) and N.R.T. 4 Oct (WW). On their way to Argentina, some 200 Swainson's Hawks passed over Clovis 5 Sep (GA) and another 300 passed 11 Sep (GA). Zone-tailed Hawks were seldom reported were singles in Potato Canyon, San Mateo Mts., 24 Sep (HS), and R.S. 4 Sep (SW, RW). The most exciting event of the season was the discovery of a mated, territorial pair of ad. **Applomado Falcons** in s. New Mexico 5 Oct (ph. RM), an occurrence unknown in the state for 50 years and one providing dramatic evidence of natural recolonization of historic range; the apparently resident pair remained through the season.

Ptarmigan Through Terns

Three White-tailed Ptarmigan were on Mt. Walter in the Wheeler Peak area 16 Sep (LA), where reports have increased recently. North was a Scaled Quail at El Rito, *Rio Arriba*, 13 Aug (CR). A covey of 12 Northern Bobwhites was at Eldorado 22 Sep (SOW), where the species does not occur naturally, suggesting an escaped pair nested successfully. Montezuma Quail continued much in evidence, including family groups at Hudson Spring, San Mateo Mts., 6 Aug (ph. JO) and in the San Luis Mts. 7 Oct (SOW, PM). A good season for Black-bellied Plovers found an early one at Sumner L. 27 Aug (JO) and one at Bosque 9 Sept (DE, BN) plus 1–3 at E.B.L. 14 Oct–12 Nov (CR, WW,

JEP, JO) and 1–6 at B.L.N.W.R. 8 Sep–24 Nov (GW). An **American Golden-Plover** was at E.B.L. 30 Sep–28 Oct (v.o., ph. JO). High counts for Snowy Plovers were 260 at B.L.N.W.R. 4 Aug (GW), 13 at Holloman L. 19 Aug (MS, JZ), and 5 at E.B.L. 4 Sep (JEP, JO), where there were also 10 Semipalmated Plovers 9 Sep (CR). Turf-farm counts of Mountain Plovers peaked with 57 at Moriarty 8 Aug (WW) and 39 at Los Lunas 6 Sep (KG). The only Upland Sandpipers w. of the plains were several on Otero Mesa in Aug (RM); highs in the e. were 7 at Fort Sumner 27 Aug (JO), 30 near Floyd 6 Sep (WW), and 7 in *Eddy* 15 Aug (WW). Noteworthy was a Marbled Godwit in the Uvas Valley, *Doña Ana*, 11 Aug (JO); high was 10 at B.L.N.W.R. 19 Aug (GW). Two **Ruddy Turnstones** were at Caballo Dam 19 Aug (LM). **Red Knots** made an unusually strong showing, with singles at E.B.L. 14 Oct (CR, DE) and B.L.N.W.R. 3–6 Sep (vt. JO; DE, BN, WW) and two at Holloman L. 8 Sep (GE). Sanderlings appeared at 9 sites from Zuni and Bluewater L. eastward; last were 12 at E.B.L. 17 Oct (WW). A Pectoral Sandpiper at San Luis Pass, *Hidalgo*, 25 Sep (NMC) furnished a local first; Pectorals were reported from eight additional counties, including a late one at Zuni 19 Nov (DC). A bright Dunlin at E.B.L. 5 Aug and 4 Sep (JEP, JO) may have summered locally; high for Dunlins was 5 at B.L.N.W.R. 24 Nov (GW). Twelve Stilt Sandpipers at Bosque 16 Sep (JEP) was high for the R.G.V.; even farther w., 10 were in the Uvas Valley 11 Aug (JO). Single, reasonably well-described **Short-billed Dowitchers** were at Zuni 26 Aug (DC), Bosque 9 Sep (DE, BN), E.B.L. 9 Sep (CR), Deming 7 Aug (LM), and Holloman L. 8 Sep (CR); a Long-billed at San Luis Pass 21 Sep (AMC, NMC) was a local first. Red-necked Phalarope "concentrations" included 16 at Zuni 10 Sep (ph. DC) and 15 at B.L.N.W.R. 15 Sep (GW). Single **Red Phalaropes** were at Ruby Ranch, *San Miguel*, 24 Sep (WW), Bosque 4 Sep (JEP, ph. JO), and E.B.L. 14 Oct (CR, DE).

Certainly surprising was the appearance of an ad. **Long-tailed Jaeger** at Maxwell 15–18 Aug (D. Dinkler, P. McConnell), where an adult had also been present in June. An ad. **Mew Gull** was at Conchas L. 29 Nov (WW); a probable Thayer's was at Percha 22 Oct (vt. JO). The **Western Gull** present at E.B.L. since June was relocated on various dates 1 Aug–26 Sep (ph. JO; JEP, WW). Yet another good showing for Sabine's Gulls were 1–4 juveniles at eight sites 9 Sep–14 Oct (v.o.), including singles w. to Abiquiu L. 15 Oct (SF) and Deming 22 Sep (LM). A remarkable 4 Caspian Terns were at Bosque 7 Sep (LM); one at E.B.L. 19 Aug (DE, BN, vt. JO) provided the only additional

report. Among the confusion of medium-sized terns at E.B.L.'s Monticello Point were 3 probable **Arctic Terns**, including an adult 26 Sep (WW) and 2 probable Arctics, both immatures, 30 Sep (DE, BN); a tern at Bosque 8 Oct initially believed to be an Arctic was determined from photos to be a Common (phs. WH, JO).

Doves Through Woodpeckers

Eurasian Collared-Doves remained in evidence from the R.G.V. east, including 2 adults and an apparent juvenile at Luis Lopez mid-Aug (ph. JO); elsewhere, 1–4 were at Albuquerque, Fort Sumner, Bosque Redondo, Melrose, Texico, Portales, Carlsbad, and Hobbs (v.o.). A Common Ground-Dove was at R.S. 6 Aug (DR, DE, BN, CR), 26 Aug (JO), and 3 Sep (JO). A probable **Ruddy Ground-Dove** was at Redrock 13 Aug (J&MH). Yellow-billed Cuckoos where rarely reported included singles in se. *Curry* 19 Aug (J. Loftin) and at B.L.N.W.R. 24 Aug (GW), 6 at Deming 15 Sep (LM), and 7 in the Animas Valley 8 Aug (AMC, NMC); 15 were at R.S. 3 Aug (SW), while late was one at Percha 22 Oct (JO).

Demonstrating the highly migratory nature of Flammulated Owls, 94 were banded in the Manzano Mts. 7 Sep–19 Oct (JD). Long-eared Owls found N.R.T. to their liking 20 Sep–4 Oct (v.o.), including 2 there 29 Sep (WH); one was at Columbus 19 Nov (LM). The only Short-eared Owls were singles at L.V.N.W.R. 30 Oct (WW) and Sevilleta 15 Oct (DH). A Boreal Owl found dead at Hyde S.P. 3 Nov (L. Trujillo) provided New Mexico's first specimen. Owl banders in the Manzano Mts. captured 19 Northern Saw-whets 20 Sep–27 Oct (JD); another was captured in salt-cedar at San Marcial 11 Sep (ph. HW). The Jemez Mts. Black Swift colony had 5 nests with young 24 Aug (HS); fledging was predicted for early Sep. Late were 3 *Chaetura* swifts at Carlsbad 10 Oct (SW). Making hummer news was a well-documented juv. male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** near San Antonio 13–14 Oct (JP, JEP, DE, CR, ph. JO), which provided the 5th credible New Mexico record. Other hummers of note were a female Broad-billed at Carlsbad in Nov (E. Pierce, SW), a Blue-throated at Silver City 3 Aug (EL), an early Anna's at Las Cruces 8 Aug (GE) and another at nearby Dripping Springs 1 Oct (SW, RW), and a female Costa's in the Animas Valley 21 Sep (AMC, NMC); near the Oklahoma line in *Union* were a Calliope 1 Aug (LF) and a Broad-tailed 26 Aug (LF). Lewis's Woodpeckers spread far s. of usual, including singles in P.O. Canyon, Peloncillo Mts., 16 Nov (RTS), the Animas Valley 21 Sep (AMC, NMC), *Luna* 19 Nov (LM), and Holloman L.

12 Nov (M. Proctor). The only Red-headed Woodpecker reported from the R.G.V. was at Luis Lopez 14 Aug (JO). Acorn Woodpeckers are scarce in the Guadalupe Mts., so noteworthy were singles in Big Canyon 10 Sep and Turkey Canyon 24 Sep (SW, RW). A male **Red-bellied Woodpecker** at Socorro 6 Nov and later (ph. PB; DE, BN) provided a R.G.V. first. Williamson's Sapsuckers were conspicuous in lowland areas, including singles at Sumner Dam and N.R.T. 30 Sep (JEP, JO), near Clovis 4 Oct (WW), and Waldrop Park, Chavez, 12 Oct (CR), 1–3 at Socorro 16 Sep–13 Nov (JEP, JO, PB), and 2 at Glenwood 7 Oct (BM). A Downy Woodpecker was e. to N.R.T. 7–8 Oct (JEP, JO). Single Yellow-shafted Flickers were in the Manzanito Mts. 15 Oct (HS) and at High Rolls 23 Sep (GE).

Flycatchers Through Nuthatches

East of expected was a vocal Greater Pewee in the Black Range, Grant, 10 Sep (DE). A vocal, very probable **Acadian Flycatcher** was at N.R.T. 29 Sep (WH). Least Flycatchers on their w. periphery were singles at Sumner L. 3 Sep (DE) and Fort Sumner 30 Sep (JEP, JO) and 2 at Bosque Redondo 16 Sep (CR). Based on measurements, 4 apparent **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** were banded at R.G.N.C. 17 & 23 Sep (N&SC, LG). Single Great Crested Flycatchers were at Bosque Redondo 17 & 20 Sep (DE, BN, WW) and Boone's Draw 6 Sep (WW). The **Great Kiskadee** discovered at R.S. in July remained into Dec (DR et al., phs. JO, J. Jackson), feeding on minnows during cold spells and firmly establishing New Mexico's 4th credible record. An Eastern Kingbird was feeding a juv. cowbird at Maxwell 13 Aug (DC); peripheral Easterns were singles at Bosque 13 Oct (PB) and Carrizozo 17 Sep (ph. JO). Impressive were 50 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at Willow L. 8 Oct (SW, RW); singles were w. to Fort Sumner 30 Sep (JBP, JO) and San Antonio 14 Oct (JO) while late was one at Six Mile Dam 25 Oct (SW).

White-eyed Vireos made news with singles at N.R.T. 16–17 Sep (CR, DE, BN, JO) and far w. to Skeleton Canyon 13 Aug (JEP, JO, AMC, NMC). Single Blue-headed Vireos were described from Moriarty 8 Oct (DE), N.R.T. 16–17 Sep (CR, DE, BN, JO) and 7 Oct (JEP, JO), near Clovis 4 Oct (WW), and Maljamar 2 Sep (ph. JO). Noteworthy for the R.G.V. was a Hutton's Vireo at Elephant Butte Dam 25 Nov (JO). Very rare in New Mexico, single **Philadelphia Vireos** were at Capilla Peak 27 Oct (JO), Percha 14 Oct (CR, DE), and Deming 30 Aug (LM). Single Red-eyed were at Fort Sumner, N.R.T., Albuquerque (banded; N&SC), Socorro, and Deming 9 Sep–16 Oct

(v.o.). Among the corvids staging submontane movements were Steller's Jays in the R.G.V., Pecos Valley, and at Deming, and Western Scrub-Jays e. to Curry and Roosevelt and s. to Las Cruces and Carlsbad. Flocks of Pinyon Jays were conspicuous far e. and s. of usual; highlights included 5 in the Peloncillo Mts. 27 Sep and 20 Oct (RTS), 8 in the Florida Mts 4 Sep (LM), 130 at Deming 14 Sep (LM), 5 at B.L.N.W.R. 12 Oct (GW), and 42 at R.S. 4 Sep (SW, RW), the latter last seen heading se. across the desert. A "river of ravens" comprised of some 3400 Chichihuans passed over Hobbs 11 Oct (CR). A period of cold and wet weather in early Oct likely was responsible for the demise of numerous swallows, especially Barns, in the R.G.V. (JO) and the Pecos Valley (GW), where many dead swallows were found in fields and at water-control structures. Three Cave Swallows at Carlsbad Caverns 11 Nov (SW) were the latest ever recorded there. Two Black-Capped Chickadees in the Sandia Mts. 15 Oct (NV) provided a local first. Both Mountain Chickadees and Juniper Titmice swarmed the e. and s. lowlands and the river valleys, as did Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches and, to a lesser extent, Brown Creepers. Single Pygmy Nuthatches wandered down to Cochiti Dam 12 Sep (WW), Albuquerque 23 Sep (DE, BN), and Luis Lopez 15–18 Aug (ph. JO).

Wrens Through Warblers

Rare in Roosevelt, a Cactus Wren was at N.R.T. 27 Aug (JO). Maintaining their recently-established presence in the R.G.V. were single **Carolina Wrens** at Socorro 16 Oct (PB) and Luis Lopez 27 Oct–30 Nov (ph. JO); at R.S., where present and singing throughout the season (v.o.), 2 juveniles were pursuing an ad. Carolina 15 Aug (WW). Single Winter Wrens passed through Union 27 Oct (LF), Glorieta 25 Oct (HS), Albuquerque 29 Sep (CR), Bosque 4 Nov (CR), and Percha 22 Oct (JO). Astounding for the eastern prairies was an American Dipper at a N.R.T. stock tank 14 Oct (JEP, ph. JO). Golden-crowned Kinglets were widespread in lowland areas, including small numbers e. to Union (LF), Curry (WW), Roosevelt (v.o.), and DeBaca (v.o.). Notably late was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Petroglyph N.M. 28 Nov (HS). Up to 20 Eastern Bluebirds were at Luis Lopez 4–26 Nov (JO); high for Easterns was 30 at R.S. 5 Nov (SW, RW). Townsend's Solitaire was another species that was unusually prevalent in submontane areas, including e. to the Texas line (v.o.). Single **Wood Thrushes** were at N.R.T. 29 Sep (ph. WH) and Ned Houk Park near Clovis 7 Oct (ph. JO). A male **Varied Thrush** near Cerrillos

7 Oct (S. McDowell) continued a recent surge in reports for that species. Late to be in the family way was a Northern Mockingbird nest with 2 nestlings at Carlsbad 17 Aug (SW). Single Brown Thrashers were at 8 sites from the R.G.V. east, including one at Fourth of July C.G., Manzano Mts., 14 Oct (J. Joseph). Single Bendire's Thrashers were in the R.G.V. at Socorro 10–30 Nov (PB) and Luis Lopez 4 Aug (JO). The rarely-visited summit of Mt. Withington, San Mateo Mts., hosted 20 American Pipits 16 Sep (HS). Migrant Sprague's Pipits passed through Sevilleta grasslands, where there were one 22 Sept, 35 during Oct, and 2 in Nov (DH) and singles were in Bosque grasslands 25 Oct and 28 Nov (DH). Phainopeplas again nested at Quarai, where 5 dependant fledglings were following adults 4 Aug (HS). Two Olive Warblers in Potato Canyon, San Mateo Mts., 24 Sep (HS) furnished a new locale.

The wood-warbler migration provided much of interest, including impressive movements of several common species, notably Yellow-rumpeds, Townsend's, and Wilson's. Leading the list of rarities were a male **Golden-winged Warbler** at Fort Sumner 20 Sep (WW), a **Blackpoll Warbler** at San Marcial 15 Sep (banded, ph. HW), a **Louisiana Waterthrush** at R.S. 26 Aug (ph. JO), a **Kentucky Warbler** at N.R.T. 17 Sep (NV), and a female **Canada Warbler** at Mesilla 30 Sep (SW). In the rare-but-regular category were a Northern Parula at N.R.T. 7 Oct (JEP, JO), single Black-throated Blues at Moriarty 6–13 Oct (v.o., ph. JO), Bosque Redondo 16 Sep (CR), Waldrop Park 12 Oct (CR), and Six Mile Dam 23 Sep (SW), single Black-throated Greens at Fort Sumner 17 Sep (DE, BN) and Clovis 4 Oct (WW) and 2 at N.R.T. 4 Oct (WW), single Black-and-whites at Zuni 16 Sep (DC), Moriarty 8 & 16 Sep (JEP, DE, BN), and Tatum 9 Sep (JO), single Prothonotaries at Navajo L. 2 Sep (TR), Socorro 9–15 Sep (v.o., ph. JO), Holloman L. 9 Sep (CR, HR), and R.S. 3 Sep (JO), and single Hoodeds near Tijeras 20 Aug (NV), Moriarty 1–7 Oct (DE, BN, JEP, ph. JO), and San Marcial 14 Aug (HW). Other wood-warblers of note included single early Nashville's in the Peloncillo Mts. 12–13 Aug (JEP, JO, AMC, NMC), 3 Lucy's at Mesilla 9 Sep (CR), single Black-throated Grays e. to N.R.T. 9 Sep (JEP, JO) and R.S. 6 Aug (DE, CR), 1–2 Hermits e. to the Sandia Mts. 22 Sep (RG) and the San Mateo Mts. 6 Aug (JO), and single American Redstarts at seven sites from the R.G.V. east (v.o.).

Tanagers Through Finches

Late Summer Tanagers were singles at N.R.T. 30 Sep (ph. JO) and 7 Oct (JEP), R.G.N.C. 17

Oct (WW), Socorro 4 Nov (CR), and Caballo Dam 12 Nov (DE, BN). A Clay-colored Sparrow was w. to near Antelope Wells 1 Oct (NMC). Earliest Field Sparrows were singles at N.R.T. 30 Sep (JO) and near Clovis 4 Oct (WW). A family of Grasshopper Sparrows was in the s. Animas Valley 1 Sep (SOW, PM, AMC, NMC), where 19 Grasshoppers were counted 8 Oct (SOW, PM). A Baird's Sparrow was in Otero Mesa grasslands 13 Aug (RM); another was in the Animas Valley 25 Nov (AMC, NMC, DE). Single Red Fox Sparrows were at Luis Lopez 13 Nov (JO) and B.L.N.W.R. 7–11 Nov (GW). Several White-winged Juncos were reported in n. and c. New Mexico, including singles at Farmington 1 Nov (ph. TR), Eldorado 7–8 Nov (SOW), and R.G.N.C. 5 Nov (LG). Yellow-eyed Juncos were scarce in their Animas Mts. stronghold, with only 2 there 20 Aug and 2 Nov (NMC); a Yellow-eyed that strayed to P.O. Canyon 25 Nov (RTS) provided only the 3rd record there in nearly 3 decades. Single Lapland Longspurs were detected at L.V.N.W.R. 24 Nov (JEP) and Moriarty 26 Nov (BV); early was a Chestnut-collared at E.B.L. 16 Sep (JEP, JO).

Single post-breeding Pyrrhuloxias pushed n. to Belen 30 Sep (C. Brandt) and Casa Colorado 25 Oct (CR). Single male Rose-

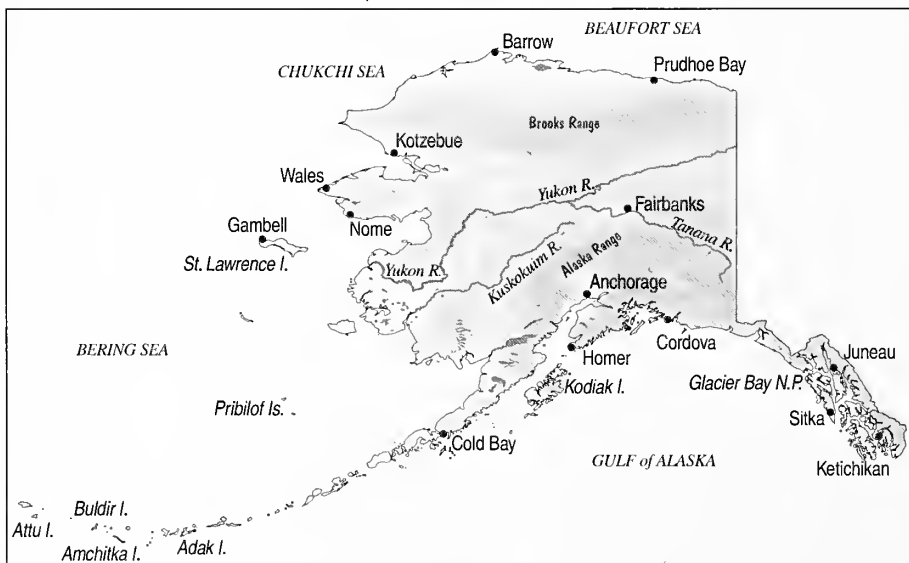
breasted Grosbeaks were at Zuni 16–19 Oct (ph. DC) and near Tijeras 8 Aug (M. Martin). Painted Buntings made an exceptional showing, with 1–7 at 11 locales in *Bernalillo, Socorro, Sierra, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Chaves, Eddy, and Lea* 6 Aug–19 Sep (v.o.). Dickcissels, typically rather scarce, were at 10 locales from the R.G.V. east; w. was one at Tyrone 14 Sep (EL). Three Bobolinks at Tatum 9 Sep (vt. JO) provided the lone report. An Orchard Oriole near Queen 4 Aug (SW) furnished a local first. A female-plumaged **Baltimore Oriole** was at Fort Sumner 30 Sep (JEP, JO). Among the few rosy-finch reports were 48 Brown-capped, 6 Blacks, and 6 Gray-crowned at Abiquiu Dam 18 Nov (SF) and 3 Gray-crowned at Eldorado 12 Nov (A&AL). Cassin's Finches inundated the foothills and lowlands, with numerous reports nearly statewide beginning in early Oct (m.ob.); as usual, a few were accused of being "Purple Finches" or "Redpolls." Red Crossbills invaded submontane areas by mid-Oct; notable were 9 at Conchas L. 29 Nov (WW), singles at B.L.N.W.R. 7 & 20 Nov (GW), 9 at Bosque 26 Nov (DE), 13 at Deming 20 Nov (LM), and 6 at Mesilla 4 Nov (MS, JZ). Pine Siskins had reached the middle R.G.V., s. deserts, and e. plains by mid-Sep. Notably late was a Lesser Goldfinch nest with nestlings in

the Animas Valley 2 Oct (AMC, NMC). Evening Grosbeaks joined other finches on the move, with moderate-sized flocks in the north Aug–Sep and in the west, the R.G.V., and the e. plains Oct–Nov; far afield were singles in *Union* 11 Oct (LF), near Clovis 7 Oct (JO), and e. of Carlsbad 5 Oct (*vide* SW).

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Alaska



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Autumn 2000 produced a cascade of classic west-to-east trending anticyclones that dominated weather patterns and local conditions for nearly the entire Region. Fast-moving, often intense storms tracked across the North Pacific–Bering Sea interface all season. Many of these systems were subtropical typhoon spin-offs, generated in the Northwest Pacific Basin (between 15° and 45° N latitudes) that, in September, traveled in a swath some 400–600 km south of the western Aleutians. Other more typical autumn storms entered the Bering Sea after having formed in the East Siberian Sea or over the Kolyma region of Northeast Asia. Northerly flows and rain dominated the Bering Sea outposts (Nome and Gambell), while constant precipitation, warmer conditions, and wind from all directions blanketed the central



Furnishing one of few records for St. Lawrence Island, Alaska, and fairly close to the Asian continent, was this juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Gambell 29 August 2000. Photograph by George Nixon.

and western Aleutians. These repetitive and fast-tracking systems often joined other storms in broad low-pressure troughs in the North Gulf, which apparently kept the southern half of the Mainland unseasonably mild and with little snow all season. At the end of the period, freeze-up was still occurring at various sections of the state, while snow depths were a fraction of the norm and low temperatures were across-the-board above long-term averages by double-digits. Coverage from the Bering Sea–Aleutian outposts was the best in many years, punctuated by numerous highlights from Northeast Asia and the Alaska Mainland. Elsewhere, late arrivals to wintering areas and very late departures of regular migrants were repeated themes from all areas. Attu Island saw its last formal bird tour, as Attour Inc. closed shop in early October after a five-week foray. In a grand farewell gesture, a Great-spotted Woodpecker flew by the closing-up crew as they made their way to the plane!

Abbreviations: ABO (Alaska Bird Observatory); North Gulf (North Gulf of Alaska); SE (Southeast Alaska); SC (Southcoastal Alaska); SW (Southwest Alaska); U.C.I. (Upper Cook Inlet); Y-K Delta (Yukon-Kuskokwim River Deltas); Referenced details (†), specimens (*), photographs (ph.), and videotape (v.t.) are on file at the University of Alaska Museum. *Italicized place names* denote especially unusual locations for the noted species.

Loons Through Rails

Despite excellent sea-watch coverage, no Arctic Loons were identified moving past Gambell. At least 5 in the Nome area between 25 Aug–2 Sep (WINGS) and a single in basic plumage at Attu 26 Sep–2 Oct (ATTOUR) were more significant; casual in the Aleutians, the latter appears to be the first in fall. Two Pied-billed Grebes in the Ketchikan area 16–29 Oct (SCH, AWP) furnished the season's only report. Noteworthy Red-necked Grebes included 3 around Gambell 10–14 Sep (WINGS) and 6 in Nome 2 Sep (WINGS), areas where uncommon to rare, and an unusual single-day count of 12 from Attu 28 Sep (ATTOUR). A few early November birds from Anchorage (DFD) and one from King Salmon 4 Nov (DR) were late even for mild conditions. After the past few year's increases, an imm. Short-tailed Albatross off Kodiak 9 Nov (DM) provided, disappointingly, the sole report. Pink-footed Shearwaters, annual in small numbers in the massive Gulf and North Pacific/Bering Sea shearwater flocks, were finally documented by photos of a single bird in the North Gulf 13 Aug (ph. DWS), and formally added to the Alaska list. Another was noted far-

ther e. in the Gulf off Cape Yakataga 23 Aug (†AD). This year's Bering Sea Short-tailed Shearwater peak reached an impressive ~700,000 per day, as estimated from Gambell's Northeast Pt. 5 Sep (WINGS). Dispersing Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels reached farther n. in the Bering Sea than typical, with one inshore at Nome 2–3 Sep and 3 off Gambell 6–7 Sep (WINGS). Although Fork-taileds commonly range into the s. Bering Sea in late summer, they are casual north of 60° N, apart from few anecdotal records historically referenced from "the Bering Strait" and "about St. Lawrence I." and a single contemporary Nome report. Another Fork-tailed wandered far up Lynn Canal, where there are few sightings, near Haines 22 Aug (AD). Casual so far into the Bering Sea, was a single Double-breasted Cormorant at St. Paul I. 15 Aug (ST PAUL). The post-breeding Great Blue Heron dispersal was rather typical, with a peak 8+ around Kodiak 15–16 Oct (RAM). Two at Seward 26 Nov (RLS, NS, TT) and a single farther n. near Palmer 27 Oct (*fide* RLS) were more unusual and at sites where a few occasionally winter.

Rarely noted at any season in the Aleutians, a Greater White-fronted Goose hung around Shemya 30 Sep–6 Oct (CS, MS). Record-early at the e. edge of its normal winter range was an Emperor Goose at Kodiak 27 Aug (RAM). Arriving birds were otherwise on time at other wintering sites in the Aleutians. Swans were widely dispersed and tardy, lingering well into freeze-up in SC and portions of SE. Near record-late for the central Bering Sea coast were single Tundras at Golovin 11–23 Nov+ (ph. EB) and near King Salmon 21 Nov (DR). An imm. Trumpeter hung on at Kodiak, where casual, 24 Nov (†RAM). More significant was an ad. Whooper Swan that kept company with the *Golovin* Tundra Swan 11–23 Nov+ (ph. * EB). There are only a handful of Bering Sea Whooper records away from the Aleutians, including at least two similar late autumn accounts from the Pribilofs and no fall reports from the Mainland. As expected in a mild and protracted season,

even the less hardy dabblers (American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler) were exceedingly late and present in good numbers away from immediate coastal sites (e.g., Anchorage area) well into Nov. Late groups of American Wigeon, including 2 in King Salmon 25 Nov (DR) and 300+ from the Juneau area to 27 Nov+ (SZ), exemplified this temperate fall. Other waterfowl highlights were remarkably few but included a group of 9 Canvasbacks at King Salmon 12 Oct (DR), where rare and not annual, notably late arriving Steller's Eiders at Kodiak winter sites 25 Nov (RAM), and an extralimital pair of Hooded Mergansers in Portage, U.C.I., 24 Aug (WINGS).

Raptor summaries also portrayed a very late season, revealed by 11 & 19 Nov reports of single Northern Harriers in Anchorage (TT, LJO, *fide* RLS), the latest ever in fall for U.C.I. A mid-sized *Accipiter* scattered Attu birders as it briefly reoriented over Casco Cove 27 Sep (ATTOUR). It disappeared before a definitive identification could be made. The only other *Accipiter* to appear at Attu was another odd-sized individual in fall 1983. Casual offshore and late for SE was an American Kestrel in Ketchikan 9 Nov (JFK). A single Merlin turned up at Attu 27–28 Sep (ATTOUR), the first in several years for the Aleutians, where sporadic and occurring mainly in fall/winter. A small rail flushed out of a sedge pond near Barbara Pt. astonished Attu birders 20–21 Sep. After carefully working the bird and getting five short-range flight views, collective impressions focused identification to an imm. **Baillon's Crake** (*Porzana pusilla*) (ATTOUR, JH, †BC, †PEL, †RLS, †TT et al.). Although imm. Baillon's resembles another Palearctic long-distance migrant rail, Little Crake (*P. parva*), this Attu bird showed the distinguishing field traits of nominate *pusilla*. The northern extent of nominate Baillon's breeding range is poorly described in the literature, but apparently extends to the Ussuri-Amur R. valleys at similar latitudes to Attu, and also includes Hokkaido. (Without a photo or specimen, Baillon's Crake will reside on the Alaska unsubstantiated list.)

Plovers Through Woodpeckers

Widespread Bering Sea/Aleutian Is. coverage this season produced a nice cross-section of Asian shorebirds. Elsewhere highlights focused on late reports. Palearctic notables included at least one juv. Common Ringed Plover at Attu 9–11 Sep (ATTOUR), a brief juv. Spotted Redshank on Attu's South Beach 26 Sep (ATTOUR), some of the season's highest ever Wood Sandpiper counts, with 11 from St. Paul I. 27+ Aug (ST PAUL) and a trip total of 7 from Attu 30 Aug–17 Sep (ATTOUR), a season peak count of 17 Gray-tailed Tattlers at Attu 30 Aug–28 Sep (ATTOUR), 2 and one Common Sandpipers (not annual in fall) each from Attu 4 Sep (ATTOUR) and St. Paul I. 5–8 Aug (ST PAUL), a casual-in-fall Terek Sandpiper at Shemya I. 25 Aug–8 Sep (CS, MS), and above-average stint counts, with 11 Red-neckeds 23–28 Aug and 2 Temminck's 25 Aug, both at St. Paul I. (ST PAUL). Immediately in the range of all previous reports was a juv. **Broad-billed Sandpiper** photographed at Shemya 8–9 Sep (CS, ph. MS), the Region's first since 1989. Buff-breasted Sandpipers and especially Long-billed Dowitchers made some of their best ever Bering Sea showings. Juv. Buff-breasted appeared at Gambell, where there are few records, 29 Aug (WINGS, ph. G. Nixon) and St. Paul I. 21 Aug (ST PAUL), and 2 more were at Attu 3–9 Sep (ATTOUR). Possibly related to this Bering Sea drift beyond their limited North Slope range, singles also wandered to the North Gulf, where casual in fall, at Homer 11 Sep (†BC) and near Juneau 20 Aug (CE, PS). Long-billed Dowitchers arrayed in a broad front across Bering Sea outposts, where more regular and widespread in fall, but in typically small numbers. Record peak counts from the w. Aleutians, where first found in 1978, included a flock of 11 at Shemya 16 Sep (CS, MS) and 8 at Attu 27 Sep (ATTOUR). Other impressive maximum counts were 150+ flocked at Nome's Safety Lagoon 25 Aug and ≤40 offshore at Gambell 29 Aug (WINGS). Late-season occurrences included a single Black-bellied Plover from Juneau 18 Oct (BA), one of few Nov U.C.I. Killdeer at Anchorage on the 10th (MRD) and, near record-late for the Region, a Greater Yellowlegs over Anchorage's Klatt Bog 26 Nov (SDS). Post-breeding dispersal carried 2 **American Avocets** well n. to the Susitna R. Delta w. of Anchorage 5 Aug (†DM), Alaska's 2nd report. The other was a May 1981 site record from Valdez.

Another South Polar Skua was described off Kodiak 6 Aug (ES, PL) in an area of the North Gulf where probably annual. Perhaps because of the mild and protracted fall, noteworthy gull prospects were few. An adult Ring-billed Gull reached Anchorage 14 Sep (RAM, DWS), where

casual. The fall's peak California Gull numbers were below-average in the Ketchikan area, at about 550 18 Aug (SCH), while 200 together near Juneau 13 Aug (GVV) may have been a local record. Extralimital Slaty-backed Gulls included an ad. near Juneau 2–3 Aug (GVV, ph. PS) and a late single away from the coast at Bethel 3 Oct+ (FB). Given lack of fall timing and geographic movements in the e. Bering Sea, Ivory Gull reports from areas around Kotzebue Sound and Nome were of interest. A group of 6 fed inshore near Cape Krusenstern 25–26 Oct (*vide* RU and RM) and one was at Nome 3 Nov (*vide* RM).

Mourning Doves were found only at Ketchikan, with 3 in the vicinity late Aug–18 Sep (MW, TG). Dispersing Northern Hawk Owls approached the Bering Sea coast, with one at Nome 2 Sep (WINGS) and 3–5 all season around King Salmon (DR, SS). Four Short-eareds around Nome to at least 15 Sep (WINGS) were tardy. Single **Fork-tailed Swifts** arrived in synchrony at Shemya I. 30 Sep–2 Oct (CS, MS) and farther w. to Attu 1 Oct (ATTOUR, †PEL). Of the approximately dozen Alaska records, there is nearly an even fall/spring split. **Great Spotted Woodpeckers** "invaded" the w. Aleutians, where 2 different individuals foraged along the Attu shoreline 10 Sep and 5 Oct (ATTOUR) and at least one sought out drift logs on Shemya I. ±70 km to the e. 20 Sep–9 Oct (CS, MS). There are only two prior Alaska records, both from Attu in spring, and several old October specimens from Commander I. Accidental in SE was a Black-backed Woodpecker in the subalpine woods at 1800' near Juneau 1 Oct (PS).

Flycatchers Through Finches

A slow season for flycatchers found a rare offshore Alder Flycatcher at Ketchikan 13 Sep (SCH), the only highlight. Late and unlikely swallows included an imm. Tree Swallow described from Shemya I. 30 Sep–1 Oct (CS, †MS), and for the 3rd year since 1996, *November* Cliff Swallows were in the Juneau area, with 3 on 5–8 Nov (PS, MWS). There are only two other w. Aleutian Tree Swallow reports, both from spring. An imm. Ruby-crowned Kinglet (apparently *R. c. calendula* by plumage) ventured into the Aleutians for the first time, reaching Attu's willow thickets 22 Sep (LJO, †RLS, †TT), while another found St. Paul I. the same day (ST PAUL) for the 4th report there in the past five autumns. There are few other Bering Sea records. Possibly record-late for the Interior was a Ruby-crowned in Fairbanks 25 Nov (ABO). The Region's 9th overall and the Aleutians' 3rd (all from fall) **Dusky Warbler** skulked briefly in the Attu umbel thickets 2 Sep

(ATTOUR, †PEL). Despite great prime-season coverage, the Bering Strait return passage of Bluethroats must have been earlier than usual, because the Gambell middens produced only 3 individuals late Aug–8 Sep (WINGS). Casual in the w. Aleutians, single Bluethroats were flushed out of Attu forbs 2 & 22 Sep (ATTOUR). Mild conditions may have permitted more than typical numbers of Townsend's Solitaires to wander and linger, with 4 in Anchorage 5 Nov (*vide* DFD), one rare offshore in SE at Ketchikan 1 Oct (SCH, AWP), and at least 3 and one in the Juneau area 20 Sep (PS) and 2 Nov (BA), respectively. A **Dusky Thrush** feeding on Mountain Ash berries in Attu's Massacre Valley 1 Oct (ATTOUR) furnished a 2nd island and 3rd Aleutian fall report; most of the Region's other records are from spring. A bright Olive-backed Pipit, documented in the Gambell middens 5–6 Sep (WINGS, vt. GHR), was a first in fall for the Bering Sea away from the Aleutians. Earliest of the few previous fall SC reports was an imm. Cedar Waxwing in Bird Cr. near Anchorage 11 Sep (†BC). There are now about three U.C.I. site records.

It was perhaps a record year for extreme late-date and Bering Sea Parulids. Gambell middens produced 3 warbler species, where any are casual, highlighted by 3 Orange-crowns, described as nominate *celata*, 8 Sep (WINGS, vt. GHR), a Yellow 3–5 Sep (WINGS, vt. GHR), and one and 2 Wilson's 1 & 8 Sep (WINGS). There are about two previous fall Yellow and 3 Wilson's Warbler records for St. Lawrence I. Another Orange-crowned appeared at St. Paul I. 23 Sep (ST PAUL), where only slightly more expected, at least after decent coverage there from the past decade. Offshore Yellow-rumped included (probably) 2 at St. Paul I. 22–23 Sep (ST PAUL), only the 3rd in the Aleutians, one at Shemya I. 30 Sep–1 Oct (CS, MS), while a female Wilson's Warbler described from Shemya 2 Oct (CS, †MS), is likely the first ever from the Aleutians w. of Unimak I. Late or otherwise notable warblers included one Orange-crowned in Juneau 5 Nov (PS), a Magnolia, casual in fall, described also in Juneau 2 Sep (†PS), an especially late (for the Bering Sea coast) Yellow-rumped at Kotzebue 27 Oct (†RM), a Townsend's in Juneau 5 Nov (PS), and another November Wilson's, in Anchorage on the 4th (TT). Three Western Tanagers were unusual offshore in Ketchikan 14 Sep (SCH), while late was one in Juneau 22 Sep (RR).

As with the warblers, the season's sparrow highlights focused on Bering Sea extralimital and scattered late departures. Gambell middens attracted an American Tree Sparrow 29 Aug–1 Sep, a Sooty Fox Sparrow 8–10 Sep, and single Golden-crowned Sparrows 29 Aug–5 Sep and 13

Yukon



Sep (WINGS, vt. GHR); all are casual offshore. Note that *unalaschcensis*, *sinuosa*, *insularis*, and *zaboria* Fox Sparrows have all been documented by specimen or photos from various Bering Sea islands. Equally unusual off the Mainland and casual in the Aleutians, was a Dark-eyed Junco 9 Oct (CS, MS) at Shemya. Notable late sparrow reports included a casual SC Chipping Sparrow at Seward 26 Nov (RLS, NS, TT), a single Savannah also at Seward 26 Nov (RLS, NS, TT), and 3 White-crowns in Kotzebue 31 Oct (RM). The jewel of this year's sparrow highlights had to be the fresh **Clay-colored Sparrow** that joined juncos at a Ketchikan feeder 7–14 Nov (JFK, AWP, ph. SCH), representing the latest of the two previous autumn records. Even with decent Bering Sea coverage, only a single Rustic Bunting could be found, at Attu 1 Oct (ATTOUR). Juneau birders elevated **Lazuli Bunting** to the Alaska list with excellent documentation of a female-type there 5–11 Oct (ph. PS et al.). Two prior sight records from spring are the Region's only other reports. Alaska's 3rd overall and first autumn **Bobolink** appeared at a Ketchikan feeder 10 Oct (ph. †JFK). Two overshoot reports from Hyder and Barrow are the only prior reports of this species, which breeds in se. British Columbia and occasionally wanders coastally to Vancouver I. Bramblings were unremarkable this season, with a below-average peak of only 11 from Attu 23 Sep (ATTOUR); 2 at Gambell 8–13 Sep (WINGS) were more noteworthy because they are not annual there. Gambell's premier find this season was a female **Common Rosefinch** in the middens 10 Sep (WINGS, vt. GHR), only the Region's 3rd in autumn. Casual in SC and comparatively early was an imm. male Purple Finch described from Soldotna 15 Sep (†BH). Most SC records are from coastal feeders later in the season.

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Yukoners endured a cool and wet early fall season that moderated toward the end of the season, with temperatures not dipping below minus 20°C in late November. As record high-water conditions prevailed throughout the season, prime shorebird and waterfowl locations, for example the Nisutlin River Delta, were washed-out, leaving Whitehorse birders to settle for the local sewage lagoons. Regular checks there turned up a remarkable 24 species of waterfowl and 25 species of shorebirds.

Abbreviations: BC (British Columbia).

Loons Through Waterfowl

Red-throated Loons moved through the Whitehorse area in moderate numbers, the high count being 8 at L. Laberge 20 Sep (HG). A

remarkable year for Yellow-billed Loons in s. Yukon continued, with ± 13 individuals 21 Sep–24 Nov in the Whitehorse area (BD, CE, HG, JJ, AR). A lone Snow Goose, rare in the area, was seen near Koidern Lodge, sw. Yukon, 9 Oct (HH). A storm from the s. grounded an amazing flock of 1500–2000 Tundra Swans on Marsh L. 2 Oct (DP, DS). A flock of 28 Gadwalls at the Whitehorse sewage lagoons 14 Oct established a record count for the Yukon (CE). A male Eurasian Wigeon at the Whitehorse lagoons 18 Sep provided the Yukon's first fall record (CE). Impressive numbers of waterfowl were observed at the Whitehorse sewage lagoons through the fall, with especially high counts of American Wigeon, with 2000 on 6 Sep (CE, HG), and Northern Shovelers, with 2500 on 6 Aug (CE, HG). A female Harlequin Duck was at Tagish at the late date of 24 Nov (JJ). A movement of Long-tailed Ducks was noted, with counts of 150 at Schwatka L. 13 Oct and 100 at the Whitehorse lagoons 14–18 Oct (CE). Ruddy Duck numbers at the Whitehorse lagoons peaked at 54 on 17 Aug, including a female with 3 small ducklings (CE), establishing the first confirmed breeding record for Whitehorse.

Raptors Through Gulls

Raptor migration was in full swing in Whitehorse 9 Sep, when a 15-min flight included one Osprey, 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks, and 20 Red-tailed Hawks (CE, HG). A migration watch at Schwatka L. in Whitehorse 29–30 Sep turned up good numbers, with a total of 20 Northern Harriers, 6 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 38 Red-tailed Hawks, 60 Rough-legged Hawks, 31 Golden Eagles, 7 American Kestrels, and 2 Short-eared Owls (JJ). The first southbound Rough-legged Hawks were 3 over Whitehorse 29 Sep (PS); a count of 12 migrants was made at Schwatka L. 1 Oct (JJ). Golden Eagle reports included 5 migrants over Schwatka L. 1 Oct; 8 migrants over the Whitehorse lagoons 3 Oct (JJ); a juv. eating an ad. swan at the Whitehorse lagoons 6 Oct (CE, HG); 9 migrants over the Whitehorse lagoons 15 Oct (JJ, AR); and 15 migrants over L. Laberge 17 Oct (JJ, AR). A Peregrine Falcon was a regular fixture at the Whitehorse lagoons through mid-Sep (CE, HG, PS, et al.).

Four White-tailed Ptarmigan at Montana Mt. 8 Oct provided this season's only report (JJ, AR). An unprecedented build-up of American Coots beginning in Aug at the Whitehorse lagoons peaked at 97 birds 19 Sep; 2 lingered until 18 Oct (CE), setting a new record late date for the Yukon (CE). At Nisutlin Delta, 15 American Coots were observed 23 Sep (HG). Regular checks of the Whitehorse sewage lagoons yielded sensational shorebird observations, with the following highlights: Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 18 juv. 18 Sep (CE), with 2 juv. 17 Oct being record-late (HG). Two juv. American Golden-Plovers 12 Oct were record-late (CE, PS, HG, JJ, AR). The Yukon's 2nd and Whitehorse's first documented **Black Turnstone**, a juv., was discovered 25 Aug (CE) and seen again 27 Aug (LC, BD, HG). Sanderlings peaked at 41 juv. 31 Aug (CE). Semipalmated Sandpipers peaked at 300 juv. 16 Aug (CE). The seasonal maximum Western Sandpipers was 9 juv. 18 Sep (CE). One hundred juv. Baird's Sandpipers 16 Aug (CE) provided a record high count. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (all juv.) put on their best showing, with singles 25 Aug (CE, PS), 3 Sep (CE), 18–19 Sep (CE, HG), 28 Sep (JJ), 2 on 8–12 Sep (CE), and a record-late bird 12–13 Oct (HG, JJ, AR, CE). A juv. Dunlin 4–11 Oct provided s. Yukon's first fall record (CE, HG, JJ, AR). Stilt Sandpipers peaked at 60 juveniles 27 Aug (CE). A juv. Long-billed Dowitcher 16 Oct was record-late (CE, HG). Fifty Common Snipe 3 Sep provided a high number (CE, PS). Red-necked Phalaropes peaked at 350 juv. 16 Aug (CE). S. Yukon's first

well-documented **Red Phalarope**, a juv., was seen 18 Sep (CE, HG), and 2 juv. molting to winter plumage were observed 11–12 Oct, with one lingering until 15 Oct (HG, CE, PS, JJ, AR). Migrant Upland Sandpipers were noted in Whitehorse, with one 23 Aug (PS, CE), one 24 Aug (HG), and 4 on 25 Aug (PS, CE).

A Parasitic Jaeger, rare in fall in the Region, was seen on Atlin L., BC, 12 Oct (MC). Quite thrilling was a southbound ad. Long-tailed Jaeger over Whitehorse 15 Aug, providing the area's first fall record (CE). A California Gull in Whitehorse 11 Aug provided the season's only report (CE). An ad. Herring Gull at L. Laberge 18 Nov (CE, PS) established a record late date for the territory. The first southbound ad. Thayer's Gull and Glaucous Gull, singles each, were noted in Whitehorse 23 Aug (CE). A wave of migrant Thayer's was observed in Whitehorse 17 Sep, with 200 (150 ad., 50 juv.) at the landfill (CE) and 40 ad. at the sewage lagoons (HG). A juv. Glaucous-winged Gull was in Whitehorse 26 Aug–6 Sep (CE) and an ad. was there 23–24 Sep (CE).

Doves Through Finches

Single Mourning Doves, rare in the Yukon, were noted at L. Laberge 21 Oct (CE, HG) and in downtown Whitehorse 24 Nov (CE). A Snowy Owl put in a rare appearance at the s. end of L. Laberge 2 Nov (JJ). A Northern Hawk Owl was near Shallow Bay 4 Nov (CE, PS) and again 25 Nov (JJ, AR); another was just s. of Whitehorse 28 Oct (JS). Single Great Gray Owls were at Finlayson L. the first week of Oct (GE, TF) and on the Yukon R. near Wolf Creek 15 Oct (JS). Short-eared Owls were noted in small numbers, with 2 on 12 Oct at the Whitehorse lagoons (CE, PS, BD, HG), one in Atlin, BC, late Oct–2 Nov (MC); one in Whitehorse 1–5 Nov (CE, PS, JH, JJ); and one at L. Laberge 2–6 Nov (JJ) and 17 Nov (CE). A Boreal Owl put in a brief appearance at Pineridge just s. of Whitehorse 29 Nov (HH).

Northern Shrikes were scarce this fall; an imm. was at Porter Creek, Whitehorse, 6 Oct (CE) and one bird was at Teslin 6 Nov (CA, DH). A count of migrant passerines above tree line in Whitehorse 8 Sep turned up a flock of 10 **Northern Wheatears** (the first report of its kind for the Whitehorse region), 14 American Pipits, and about 150 Lapland Longspurs (MG). Exceptionally late were a Swainson's Thrush at Long L. in Whitehorse 30 Sep (CE, PS), 2 at Porter Creek, Whitehorse 1 Oct (CE), and another along with a Hermit Thrush at L. Laberge 2 Oct (JJ). The Yukon's first **Dusky Thrush**, the 2nd photo-documented record in Canada, in Whitehorse 21–28 Nov (HG, CE,

PS, JJ, AR, m.ob.) caused a sensation for Yukon birders and capped off an exceptional fall. It was of the expected ne. Asian subspecies *T. n. eunomus*, and careful study aged it as first-winter. A stunning rarity was s. Yukon's first documented **Red-throated Pipit**, a juv., which touched down at the Whitehorse sewage lagoons 18 Sep just long enough to be photographed (CE). Single Townsend's Warblers were noted in Whitehorse 24 Aug (HH) and 1 Sep (CE). Impressive was a flock of 75 juv. Chipping Sparrows in Whitehorse 14–15 Aug (CE). A White-throated Sparrow was a rare find in Whitehorse 1 Oct (LC). An Evening Grosbeak in Whitehorse 23 Nov provided the season's only report (CE).

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Place names that are frequently mentioned, but very long, may be abbreviated in a form such as "C.B.B.T." or "W.P.B.O." Such local abbreviations will be explained in a key at the beginning of the particular regional report in which they are used. In most regions, place names given in italic type are counties. Standard abbreviations that are used throughout *North American Birds* are keyed on page 20.

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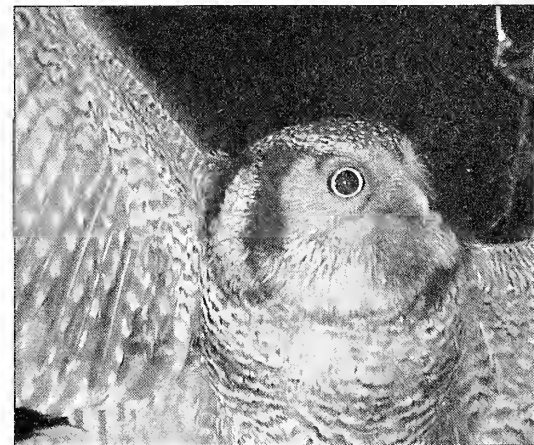
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Loons Through Raptors

Red-throated Loon movement past Boiler Bay, *Lincoln*, peaked at 1500 on 6 Nov (PP); one at John Day Dam 12 Nov was on the eastside, where rare (PaSu). Washington's 2nd **Arctic Loon** was at P.N.P. 4 Nov (†VN); the first was just this Jan–Feb. Pacific Loons usually do not appear on the eastside until Oct, so singles at Columbia Pt., *Benton*, 1 Aug (BW) and Alkalai L., *Grant*, 27 Aug (SM) were early. Single fly-by Yellow-billed Loons were reported from Boiler Bay 22 Sep, 12 Oct, and 14 Oct (PP, WH). More stationary birds included the summering bird at O.S. that remained until 1 Sep (m.ob.), one at Westport 3 Oct (BS), and an albino at Tacoma 16 Nov–Dec (J. TerLouw, †DP). A concentration of 49 Eared Grebes at Utsalady Bay, *Island*, 21 Nov was probably the largest ever in w. Washington (SM, SP). Seven Clark's Grebes in w. Washington and six in w. Oregon (away from breeding grounds) was well above average; most were from mid-Oct to mid-Nov. A **Short-tailed Albatross** ±32 nmi. w. of Yachats, *Lincoln*, 21 Oct furnished ~5th Oregon and 7th Regional record during the past 50 yr (†G. Gillson); most have been Nov–Jan. Black-footed Albatross counts were high early, including 283 off Westport 19 Aug (TRW) and 180 off Newport 2 Sep (GG), but were low later, with an average of 25/pelagic trip after 5 Sep (TRW, GG). Only three Laysan Albatross were found, all off Oregon during Oct (GG). Northern Fulmar counts peaked twice, first in early Aug, with



Washington state enjoyed an early and unprecedented minor incursion of Northern Hawk Owls, including this bird banded at Chelan Ridge, *Okanagon*, 13 October 2000. Were the more striking invasions of this species into Québec and New England related? *Photograph by Bud Anderson.*

into the region included Northern Hawk Owl and Mountain Chickadee. Several species on the upswing over the last decade continued that trend, most notably Red-shouldered Hawk and Western Scrub-Jay. Finally, the South Jetty of the Siuslaw River, near Florence, Oregon, produced its own Patagonia Rest Stop Effect. The parade of vagrants started in early Sep with Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Ruff, and Elegant Tern. Interest increased in mid-Sep, when a Curlew Sandpiper was found. Visitors over the following couple of weeks uncovered a load of treasures, not the least of which were Eurasian Dotterel, Tropical Kingbird, and Smith's Longspur.

Abbreviations: BRC (Bird Records Committee); F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Reservoir, *Lane*, OR); Malheur (Malheur N.W.R., *Harney*, OR); N.S.C.B. (N. Spit Coos Bay, *Coos*, OR); O.S. (Ocean Shores, *Grays Harbor*, WA); P.N.P. (Pt. No Pt., *Kitsap*, WA); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., *Clark*, WA); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, *Walla Walla*, WA); Y.R.D. (Yakima R. delta, *Benton*, WA). "Eastside" and "westside" refer to east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

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Fall is typically the best season for finding rarities in the Pacific Northwest. If fall were a baseball player here, it would be a home run hitter, and fall 2000 would be the Hank Aaron or Sammy Sosa of seasons. There were 39 records of 29 species, one hybrid, and one subspecies worthy of boldface type. And even though the climate was not as hot as the birds, even the relatively cold Nov seemed to have little effect on the Regional avifauna.

Rare seabirds were prominent, both from shore and offshore. For reasons unknown exceptionally high numbers of tubenoses were seen from shore in late fall. Another trend was the movement of eastside corvids into the westside, primarily noticeable in Oregon. Other montane or northern species irrupting



Oregon's first (and the region's 4th) Eurasian Dotterel was this juvenile near Florence, Lane, 24–26 September 2000. Photograph by E. Horvath.

1000+/trip off Westport through 19 Aug, and again in Oct when counts averaged 1800/trip (TRW, GG). Extraordinary numbers were observed from shore, with a peak of 1000 at Boiler Bay 8 Nov (PP). A stunning 10+ **Mottled Petrels** at O.S. 26 Nov provided only ~12th Regional record of live birds (†A. Knue, A. Grenon); most previous records have been from deep water, and all have been Nov–Apr. Ainley and Manolis (*W. Birds*, 1979) argued that Mottled Petrel sightings coincided with fulmar invasions. Aside from an extremely high tally of 3450 Pink-footed Shearwaters off Newport 2 Sep (GG), this species was in average numbers with ~135/trip (GG, TRW). Flesh-footed Shearwaters were scarce, with only ten reports after 22 Sep (TRW, GG). A few early Buller's Shearwaters raised expectations but numbers this fall proved dismal, with an average of 17/trip (TRW, GG). Washington had no count greater than 20! Sooty Shearwater tallies improved somewhat for the 2nd consecutive fall with an average of >1500/trip; peaks included 8260 off Westport 19 Aug (TRW) and 5600 of Newport 2 Sep (GG). Offshore counts of Short-tailed Shearwater were low, totaling just 18; thus, a tally of 500 from shore at Boiler Bay 15 Nov (PP) was unusual. A **Manx Shearwater** was seen from Boiler Bay 1 & 12 Sep (PP); despite being annual in Washington recently, there are only two previous Oregon records. A well-described **Black-vented Shearwater**, seen from Boiler Bay 28–30 Aug (†PP) would be, if accepted, Oregon's 2nd,

following one from Bandon, Coos, 22 Nov 1992. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel at Admiralty Inlet, Island, 21 Aug had wandered into the Puget Sound region, where rare (K. Li). Leach's Storm-Petrels are rare after Aug, so singles off Newport 21 Oct (GG) and at Boiler Bay 8 Nov (PP) were remarkable.

American White Pelicans, rare on the westside, included 2 at Blaine, *Whatcom*, throughout the period (D. Robinson), 6 at Agate L., *Jackson*, 16 Sep–30 Nov+ (DV, CD), and 2 at F.R.R. 11 Nov (PV). Brown Pelicans were present in good numbers on the coast again this year, but the only reports e. of Cape Flattery were from Swantown, *Island*, 10 Aug (W. Applegate), Ediz Hook, *Clallam*, 13 Aug (BB), and Kingston, *Kitsap*, 15 Sep (SA). Fall numbers of Great Egrets seemed up again this year, with top counts of 132 in Oregon at N.S.C.B. 2 Aug (DL, KC) and 71 in w. Washington at Post Office L., *Clark*, 12 Nov (RK). Up to 11 Cattle Egrets were near Burbank, *Walla Walla*, 15–18 Nov (MD, MLD), plus singles were at Summer L., *Lake*, 30 Aug (MSL), Coos Bay, *Coos*, 3 Nov (TR), and Green Valley, *Walla Walla*, 9 Nov (MD, MLD); fall dispersal to the Region seems to be declining, especially on the westside. A Green Heron, rare in e. WA, was at Y.R.D. 18 Sep (RF). A subadult **White Ibis** at Newport Res., *Lincoln*, 15–16 Nov provided the first Regional record (†WH); there are only two California records, the last in 1977 (Calif. BRC). The one-footed Emperor Goose

remained in Port Angeles, *Clallam*, throughout the fall (BN); it arrived as a 1st-year bird last winter. A Blue Goose, rare in Washington, was at FEALE, *Benton*, 28 Oct (L. Bowman). A **Whooper Swan** with 3 possible hybrid young at Summer L., *Lake*, 1–6 Nov (MSL, CM, MM) was likely the same bird that has appeared intermittently in the Klamath/Summer L. region since the winter of 1991/1992. Oregon's 3rd **Garganey** was a male at Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington*, 22 Oct (†HN, †F. Shipley); previous Oregon records were 20 Aug–20 Sep, but Washington has a winter record. A male Tufted Duck returned 9 Nov to Bingen, *Klickitat*, for the 6th consecutive winter (R. Gadow, SJ). A brood of Lesser Scaup at Stanwood, *Snohomish*, 9 Aug provided a new nesting location for this rare westside breeder (TA). Only 6 Surf and 4 White-winged Scoters were found on the eastside, well below recent averages of 25 and 17, respectively. Additionally, only 2 Long-tailed Ducks on the eastside, at John Day Dam 12 Nov (PaSu) and Prineville, *Crook*, 13–16 Nov (R. Halvorson), was well below the mean ~7/fall.

Red-shouldered Hawks continue to increase in the Region. Numbers were widely reported as up in w. Oregon, and an extraordinary 7 were in e. Oregon 27 Aug–18 Oct (FM, S. Kornfeld, SS). In Washington, an ad. was at Ridgefield 29 Aug–9 Nov (JE), and an imm. was there 29 Aug and 1–28 Nov (JE, WC, †H. Gilmore); an imm. at Spencer I., *Snohomish*, 1–30 Nov provided only the 4th record n. of the lower Columbia R. (vt. SM) and another at Conboy N.W.R., *Klickitat*, 16 Sep was only e. Washington's 2nd (†JE). Single Broad-winged Hawks were seen from hawkwatches at Chelan Ridge 12 & 14 Sep (fide B. Morse) and Bonney Butte 14 Sep (fide HN); Broad-wingeds have been found regularly at Cascade hawkwatches during Sep. More unusual were singles away from the Cascades at Calispell Peak, *Stevens*, 16 Sep (D. Mann) and at Upper Klamath L., *Klamath*, 23 Sep (N. Barrett). A Rough-legged Hawk at Walla Walla 7 Sep was ~3 weeks early (HO). Five Gyrfalcons this fall was about average, with singles near Sequim, *Clallam*, 1 Nov (TA), Keystone, *Adams*, 2–3 Nov (JA), O.S. 4 Nov (PtS), Vantage, *Kittitas*, 9 Nov (TA), and a most unusual white bird near Duvall, *King*, in late Nov (M. Postor fide BA). Eight Prairie Falcons in the w. Oregon lowlands 29 Aug+ was above average.

Plovers Through Auklets

A distinctly sub-par 27 American Golden-Plovers were reported, while the Pacific Golden-Plover tally was a meager 40, 19 of which were at O.S. 25 Sep (JB). A **Eurasian Dotterel** near Florence, Lane, 24–26 Sep pro-

vided a first Oregon and 4th Regional record (AC, LB, HH, ph. E. Horvath); most of the previous 9 contiguous United States records are from Sep. A Black-necked Stilt at Paterson Slough, *Benton*, 6 Oct was a month late (NL, BW, RF). American Avocets, rare on the westside, were at Gold Beach, *Curry*, 1 Sep (DM), Snohomish 25 Sep–2 Oct (GT), Portland 14 Oct (L. Weiland, P. Muller), and Tokeland, *Pacific*, 21 Sep–10 Nov (S. Gerstle). On the eastside, a congregation of 48,000 at Summer L. 12 Aug was among the largest ever in the Region (DT). Solitary Sandpipers had an average showing with 23 on the eastside and 8 on the westside, but one at Snohomish 2 Oct was among the latest ever for Washington (SP). An Upland Sandpiper at Cape Blanco, *Curry*, 16 Sep furnished the 12th westside record; most have occurred 18 Aug–19 Sep (ph. TJW). A fly-by **Bristle-thighed Curlew** at Boiler Bay 29 Sep awaits Oregon BRC review (†PP); there is only one acceptable fall record from North America s. of Alaska (Mlodinow et al. 1999, *W. Birds*). A Long-billed Curlew was at Blaine 19 Oct+ (TA) and 2 were near Tangent, *Linn*, 27 Nov (D. Irons, D. Fix); they are rare in the Puget Trough and Willamette Valley. Astoundingly, at least 7 Bar-tailed Godwits were found in the Region this fall. Four or more were at Tokeland, including this summer's ad. female, which remained to 26 Oct (m. ob.), juv. females 19 Aug–21 Oct (GT) and 21 Oct (DP), and a juv. male 26 Aug–3 Sep (PtS). In Oregon, Bar-taileds were at Coos Bay 4 Sep (†DL, TR), Gearhart, *Clatsop*, 20–22 Aug (†TT), and Idaho Flats, *Lincoln*, 9 Nov (PP). The only eastside Ruddy Turnstones were 2 at Gap Road Pond, *Benton*, 20 Aug (RF). Semipalmated Sandpiper numbers were average, including 26 from the eastside and 56 from the westside, with a maximum of 18 at Crockett L., *Island*, 11 Aug (SM, KA). A concentration of 150+ Baird's Sandpipers at Swanson Lakes, *Lincoln*, 26–29 Aug may well be a Regional record (JA, WH). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Othello, *Adams*, 7 Oct was only e. Washington's 10th (†SM, CB). Seven Sharp-taileds were found on the westside 1 Sep–28 Oct, above the recent average of ~5/fall. Most extraordinarily, a well-studied **nominate Rock Sandpiper** at O.S. 15 Nov+ (†TA, ph. RTS) provided an apparent first record s. of Alaska (Paulson 1993, *Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest*). Three **Curlew Sandpipers** were found this fall: an ad. near Long Beach, *Pacific*, 5–11 Aug (D. Taylor, ph. RS) and juvs. near Florence 17–18 Sep (BiS, R. Freeman) and Bandon 25 Sep–2 Oct (†DL); there were only + 15 prior Regional records. The Regional tally of 36 Stilt Sandpipers was about average, with a maximum of 9 at W.W.R.D. 23 Sep (MD, MLD) and late individ-

uals at Othello 7–9 Oct (SM, CB, BF) and near Toppenish, *Yakima*, 8 Oct (AS); there are only 2 previous eastside Oct records. Four Buff-breasted Sandpipers at O.S. 31 Aug provided Washington's best showing since 1995; at least one remained until 3 Sep (TA). In Oregon, 3 were at N.S.C.B. 24–30 Aug (TR), and singles were near Gearhart 22 Aug (TT) and Florence 1 Sep (BiS). Nine Ruffs this fall was well above the 3–4/fall average. Notable were singles on the eastside, where extremely rare, at Summer L. 13 Sep (MSL) and Sprague, *Lincoln*, 15–16 Sep (TL, JA), and a bird lingering late to 23 Oct at Fernhill Wetlands (K. Kaufman). Short-billed Dowitchers were unusually numerous in e. Washington, with a maximum of 5 at W.W.R.D. 26 Aug (MD, MLD). A Short-billed at O.S. 29 Nov was more than a month late (SM, DD). A count of 15,000 Wilson's Phalaropes at L. Abert, *Lake*, 10 Aug was exceptional, but 7500 Red-necked Phalaropes there that day was unprecedented for the eastside (RG). Three Wilson's at F.R.R. 19 Oct were a month late (D. Arendt). Red Phalaropes at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla*, 6 Aug (MD, MLD) and at Soap L., *Grant*, 5 Oct (vt. SP) provided rare eastside records. Offshore, a count of 360 off Newport 23 Sep (GG) far outstripped all Washington counts, which peaked at 27 (TRW).

Only 25 South Polar Skuas were reported, a poor total. Pomarine Jaegers are rare but increasingly reported from the Puget Sound region. This fall singles were at P.N.P. 9, 14, & 28 Sep (VN) and Thatcher Pass, *San Juan*, 13 Oct (†JB). Pomarine counts on the ocean were subpar, averaging 12/trip, but still above last fall's tallies. Twenty Parasitic Jaegers at P.N.P. 22 Oct represented an excellent count for Puget Sound (C. Wright). Inland, where rare, up to 3 Parasitics were at Klamath Falls, *Klamath*, 20 Sep–18 Oct (KS, FM), one was at Alvord Basin, *Harney*, 30 Aug (DE), one was at Sprague 15–20 Sep (TL, JA), and one was at F.R.R. 11 Sep (M. Nikas). Long-tailed Jaegers were formerly considered casual in Puget Sound, but they have been almost annual recently. This fall singles were near Port Townsend, *Jefferson*, 28 Aug (KA), P.N.P. 13–24 Sep (VN), and Kingston 14 Oct (DD, SM). Long-tailed counts on the ocean were exceedingly poor, totaling only 65 (TRW, GG). Franklin's Gulls continued their decade-long decline in the Puget Sound region, with only one reported, at P.N.P. 10 Oct (VN). Along the outer coast, where normally rare, six were seen 4 Aug–4 Nov. Three more were in e. Washington, where rare, 10 Aug–20 Sep (JA, NL, BW). A Little Gull was at Clatsop Spit, *Clatsop*, 23 Sep (MP), but for the first fall since 1993, none were found in Washington. A

Heermann's Gull was at Klamath Falls 30 Sep (KS, FM) and 2 were there 23 Oct (KS); there are only four previous e. Oregon records, all mid-Oct–early Nov. Twelve Mew Gulls at John Day Dam 19 Nov was extraordinary for the eastside (MD, MLD). A remarkable 12 Western Gulls were found on the eastside, with a maximum of 4 at Priest Rapids L., *Yakima*, 15 Oct (AS). A Glaucous Gull at Neah Bay, *Clallam*, 3 Sep was two months early (BB); surprisingly, only 3 others were found. During Sep, 5 Sabine's Gulls were in Puget Sound, and 3 were in interior w. Oregon, an above-average showing; on the eastside, where rare, an amazing 13 were seen 31 Aug–27 Sep. Offshore, Sabine's averaged 50/trip, better than most of the last decade; peak counts were 179 off Westport 2 Sep and 110 off Newport 7 Oct (TRW, GG). A Black-legged Kittiwake was at Priest Rapids L. 15 Oct (†AS, D. Granstand); there are fewer than 10 e. Washington records. Singles were also reported in Puget Sound, where rare, at P.N.P. 28 Sep, 7 Oct, and 4 Nov (VN). A **Red-legged Kittiwake** off Westport provided ~6th record for Washington on the unseasonable date of 12 Aug (ph. RTS, †BL).

Elegant Terns were not expected during this non-El Niño year, but one was at Boiler Bay 28 Aug and 25 Sep (†PP), 2 were there 3 Sep (D. Heyerly), 2 were near Florence 2 & 19 Sep (†D. DeWitt), and 2 were at Coos Bay, *Coos*, 8 Sep (TR). The gathering of Common Terns off P.N.P. peaked at 2000 on 27 Aug (VN). An Arctic Tern, extremely rare on the eastside, was at Priest Rapids, *Grant*, 10 Sep (BTw). Ten Forster's Terns were found in w. Oregon 20 Aug–16 Sep, with a maximum of 6 at L. Selmac, *Josephine*, 16 Sep (R. Cooper). A Xantus's Murrelet was encountered for the 6th consecutive fall, off Westport 26 Aug (BTw, †GR); a Xantus's/Craveri's Murrelet was 50 mi. w. of Pistol R., *Curry*, 17 Sep (JG, OS, GL). An Ancient Murrelet at O.S. 9 Aug was about two months early (RTS); another was there 20 Aug (ph. H. Vail). An extremely low total of 16 Cassin's Auklets were found off Washington during Aug, but large numbers appeared off both states during early Sep, as evidenced by peak shore-based counts of 2130 flying past Boiler Bay 7 Sep and 3500 there 15 Sep (PP). Single **Parakeet Auklets** were ~50 mi. off Seaside and off Cape Blanco 17 Sep (†JG, †OS, GL); almost all contiguous U.S. records occurred late Nov–late Apr.

Pigeons Through Swallows

Eastside Band-tailed Pigeons, rare during fall, were at Field's Spring Park, *Asotin*, 15 Oct (J. Lipar) and near Prineville 25 Nov (PVV). Oregon's 7th **White-winged Dove** was at Gold

Beach 6 Sep (ph. GG); there have been five Regional records during the last three years, but only ~11 overall. A small incursion of Snowy Owls occurred this fall, with at least 15 in w. Washington and 4 in w. Oregon. The first was at Blaine 7 Nov (TRW), and the southernmost was at Port Orford, *Curry*, 19 Nov (TJW). **Northern Hawk Owls** staged an invasion into Washington this fall, with singles at Chelan Ridge, *Okanogan*, 13 Oct (ph. BA), Snow Peak, *Ferry*, 14 Oct (†B. Forester), and near Colville, *Stevens*, 12–25 Nov (†KKn, †M. Breece); there are ~11 previous Washington records, mostly mid-Nov–Feb. Burrowing Owls, rare in w. Oregon and very rare in w. Washington, were near Penn Cove, *Island*, 24–25 Oct (B. Merrick), near Salem, *Marion*, 9 Oct+ (SD), and at Baskett Slough, *Polk*, 19 Nov+ (H. Hamann). A **Spotted x Barred Owl** was at Bellevue, *King*, 3 Nov, providing only the 3rd Washington record (ph. TA); Bellevue is within normal Barred Owl territory but is distinctly deficient in Spotted Owl habitat. A Barred at Malheur 6–9 Oct was well away from this species' normal Oregon range (AC, FM, N. Strycker); a Great Gray Owl at Newman L., *Spokane*, 14–21 Oct was away from this species' known Washington range (R. Dexter). More Boreal Owls were reported from the mountains this fall, likely due to increased observer effort: one was at S. Sister 17 Sep (TR), 8 were at Sunrise, *Pierce*, 27 Sep (PtS), 2 were at Clover Flats, *Yakima*, 1 Oct (AS), 2 were above Todd L., *Deschutes*, 13–14 Oct (PaSu), and 2 were near Tollgate, *Wallowa*, 3 Nov (MD). A Common Poorwill at Eugene, *Lane*, 6 Nov was out-of-range and two months late (AC). The Portland Vaux's Swift roost peaked at 30,000 on 23 Sep (J. Lawes). The season's Costa's Hummingbird was at Bend, *Deschutes*, 28 Aug (DT). A well-described female **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** at Asotin 25–27 Aug provided Washington's first record (†C. Vande Voorde); there were two other inadequately documented Aug reports for se. Washington, of birds perhaps driven nw. by extensive fires in Idaho. Lewis's Woodpeckers are rare in w. Washington, so one in Bellingham 17 Sep was noteworthy (TRW). Extremely rare for the outer coast was a Red-naped Sapsucker at Tokeland 24 Sep (PtS).

Least Flycatchers were at Washtucna, *Adams*, 28 Aug (SM) and Oroville, *Okanogan*, 12 Sep (TA); there are only ~6 previous fall Washington records. Another was in Oregon, where also rare, near Sisters, *Deschutes*, 5 Aug (JG). A Black Phoebe, rare in n. Oregon, returned to Milwaukie, *Clackamas*, 12 Nov (J. Fitch). Seven westside Oregon Say's Phoebes was above the 5/fall norm. An Ash-throated

SA Fifteen Tropical Kingbirds this fall set a new Regional record and brought the all-time Regional total to about 85. Half are from the past four years, leading us to wonder if the migratory north Mexican population is having exceptional breeding success. The first Tropical this year was about two weeks early near Florence 30 Sep (CG, AC), with the next report not being until 19 Oct, when three were found at Seaside, *Clatsop* (S. Warner). Three were also at O.S. 21–27 Oct (PtSu, †PWS, †RTS, †TA), where 2 remained through Nov (PWS). The only other Washington sighting was at Tokeland 10 Nov (†B. Shelmerdine). Many, but not all, of these birds were heard calling, confirming their identification as Tropical Kingbirds.

Flycatcher at Tokeland 23 Sep was on Washington's outer coast, where casual (PtS). Oregon's 3rd, and the Region's 6th, **Vermilion Flycatcher** was an ad. male at Irrigon, *Morrow*, 7 Nov (ph. M. Ross); previous records have been Oct–Mar.

A Western Kingbird at Eugene 26–27 Oct was likely the latest ever for the Region (†D. Farrar). Oregon's 13th **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was at Dallas, *Polk*, 26 Aug (ph. BTi); most previous records are from May and Nov.

Rare for the Oregon coast was a Loggerhead Shrike at the Sixes R. mouth, *Curry*, 19 Nov (TJW). Washington's 2nd **Blue-headed Vireo** was at Palouse Falls, *Franklin*, 28 Aug (†SM); the eight previous Regional records were 8 Sep–5 Oct. Gray Jays, rare in the Willamette Valley, were near Cottage Grove, *Lane*, 8–26 Aug (TM), Pedee, *Polk*, 15 Aug (TB), and Philomath, *Benton*, 26 Nov (S. Fitzpatrick); given the number of corvids on the move, these birds may not have come from the nearby Coast Range population. Thirty-plus Pinyon Jays near Waldo L., *Lane*, 24 Sep provided an extremely rare westside record (fide T. Mickel). Twenty-one Clark's Nutcrackers were found at widely scattered locations in w. Oregon, which is also highly unusual. Interestingly, most were during Aug, and none were found in w. Washington away from known breeding areas. Black-billed Magpies staged a minor invasion into the westside, with singles at Lynwood, *Snohomish*, 27 Oct (A. Cunha), Discovery Park, *King*, 28 Oct (R. Weiner), and Monmouth, *Polk*, 4 Nov (JL). Constituting an above-average fall, 12 Blue Jays were reported, mostly 10 Oct–10 Nov; the only

westside bird was at Joyce, *Clallam*, 30 Oct (BN). A Western Scrub-Jay at Monroe 14 Nov provided *Snohomish* with its 2nd record this year and 3rd overall (KA), while singles at Oak Bay 16 Sep (D. Watkins) and Sequim 20 Oct (J.&P. Fletcher) were at the n. end of the Olympic Pen., where rare. A flock of 5000+ Common Ravens near Baker 18 Aug was extraordinary, especially for early fall (DS). A concentration of 100+ Bank Swallows at Ridgefield 31 Aug was unprecedented for w. Washington (BTw, SM). An extraordinary 250,000 Barn Swallows were near Dayton, *Yamhill*, 17 Sep (FS).

Chickadees Through Finches

Nearly 50 Mountain Chickadees were reported mid-Sep+ in Oregon w. of the Cascades, where normally rare, with a maximum of 12 at Mt. Bolivar, *Coos*, 6 Oct (TR); surprisingly, none were reported in lowland w. Washington. Three Bewick's Wrens near Desert Aire, *Grant*, 8 Oct were at a new location (SM, CB), and one at Saltese Marsh 11 Nov was the farthest e. to date in *Spokane* (WH); both are likely a signs of continuing range expansion on the eastside. A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Hood Park, *Walla Walla*, 23 Sep was e. Washington's 2nd and only the 7th for the state (†MD, MLD); previous records are all Oct–Jan. In Oregon several were seen in late fall on the coast, where rare: Flores L., *Coos*, 14 Nov (TJW), Newport, *Lincoln*, 29 Oct (FS), Langlois, *Curry*, 14 Oct (TJW), and Cutler City, *Lincoln*, 25 Nov (GL, DB, J. Johnson). A Swainson's Thrush at Medina, *King*, 19 Nov was 18 days past Washington's previous late date (†HO). Northern Mockingbirds were at Columbia Pt. 7–9 Aug (BW) and Newport 7 Aug (E. Horvath); the Region averages ~6/year.

Oregon's 3rd **Blue-winged Warbler**, first found during July at Indian Ford Creek, *Deschutes*, remained until 29 Sep (T. Bickler). A **Tennessee Warbler** at Graysmarsh, *Clallam*, 1 Sep was about Washington's 10th (†SA); most previous records are late Aug–mid-Sep. A **Northern Parula** at Vantage 1 Sep was only the 2nd fall and 10th overall record for WA (†KA); 1–2 at Malheur 27 Aug–10 Sep (JG, DE, AC) and one at Hart Mt., *Lake*, 3 Sep (PaSu) added to ~50 previous OR records, most from May–Jun. A **Chestnut-sided Warbler** near College Place, *Walla Walla*, 19–22 Oct was Washington's 14th, but only the 2nd in fall (J. Goodhew, ph. MD). Palm Warblers are uncommon on the outer coast during fall and rare elsewhere on the westside. This fall they seemed more numerous than normal on the coast, and singles elsewhere were at Cattle Pt., *San Juan*, 19–21 Nov (J. Flynn, †S. Vernon) and

Ebey I., *Snohomish*, 11 Nov (SM, PB). A Blackpoll Warbler at Malheur 6 Oct (AC, FM) and another at Fields, *Harney*, 14 Oct (M) were in se. Oregon, where this species is now annual. An American Redstart in Seattle 21 Oct was more than a month late and was on the westside where rare at any time (D. Oliver). A male **Hooded Warbler** at Hart Mt. 13 Aug (ph. DT) was joined by a female shortly thereafter; both were seen until 9 Sep (ph. CM) and may have summered locally. Another female Hooded was at Malheur 6–7 Oct (†AC, FM) and a male was there 11 Oct (DE); there are only 6 previously accepted records! A **Summer Tanager** at Malheur 20–24 Sep was the ~9th for Oregon (D. Bradshaw, P. Dauble).

An American Tree Sparrow at O.S. 8 Oct provided heavily birded *Grays Harbor* with its first record (DP). In w. Oregon, where rare, this species was at F.R.R. 6 Nov–Dec (J. Bjorklund), near Central Pt., *Jackson*, 7 Nov (DV), and at Jackson Bottom, *Washington*, 22 Nov (HN). Clay-colored Sparrows appeared in good numbers again this fall with one at Cape Blanco 8 Oct (TJW), 3 there 27 Oct (TJW), one at Coos Bay 10 Nov (TR), and one at Ebey I. 11–12 Nov (PB, SM, DD); the last was only w. Washington's 13th. Two Vesper Sparrows at Tangent 30 Nov were two months late (PV), and 2 at O.S. 17 Aug were on Washington's outer coast, where rare (MD, MLD). Lark Sparrows, rare on the westside, were reported from Cape Blanco 30 Aug (TJW), Clatsop Spit 13 Sep (TT), and Salem 3 Nov (SD). A Lark Bunting at Seneca, *Grant*, 4 Sep provided Oregon with its ±22nd record (C.&M. O'Leary). A Grasshopper Sparrow at F.R.R. lingered to 28 Oct (L. McQueen). A Red Fox Sparrow was well documented from Marymoor Park, *King*, 11 Oct (†M. Hobbs), only the ~12th record from Washington, though eventually this form may prove regular. Another was submitted without documentation from Coburg, *Lane*, 19 Nov (R. Robb). Fourteen Swamp Sparrows and 7 Harris's Sparrow both represent typical fall totals. A **Smith's Longspur** near Florence 24 Sep provided a first Regional record (†AC, HH, LB); California's records are from Sep–Oct. Oregon's 8th **Chestnut-collared Longspur** was at Cape Blanco 21 Oct, almost a year to the day after OR's 7th was found at the same place (ph. TJW). Recently, Bobolinks have been almost annual during fall in w. Oregon, but one at Cape Blanco 7 Nov was a month late (TJW); one at Pistol R., 23 Aug was more typical (DM, K. Goldwater). Another at P.N.P. 15 Aug was in w. Washington, where very rare (VN). Three male **Tricolored Blackbirds** near

Vancouver L., *Clark*, 25–26 Nov were Washington's first away from the Columbia Basin, though there is a small colony in nearby Portland (vt. SM, WC). Yellow-headed Blackbirds, rare on the coast, were at N.S.C.B. 22 Sep (TR) and at Cape Blanco 25 Aug and 19 Oct (TJW). A Bullock's Oriole at Cape Blanco 20 Nov was more than two months late (TJW, DM) as was one at Joyce 6 Nov (BN). A Purple Finch in Richland, *Benton*, 29 Aug was more than a month early for e. Washington and unusually far east (SM, NL, BW). A small flock of the always unpredictable White-winged Crossbill were at Johnson Ridge, *Snohomish*, 22 Oct (KKn), and 4 were at Salmo Pass, *Pend Oreille*, 25 Sep (JA). Ninety Lesser Goldfinches near Maryhill, *Klickitat*, 24 Nov was unprecedented for Washington (DMa, SM); 835 American Goldfinches near Maryhill that day was also exceptional (DMa, SM).

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Kevin Aanerud, Jim Acton, Bud Anderson, Eric Anderson, Scott Atkinson, Tom Aversa, David Bailey, Phil Bartley, Casey Beachell, Luke Bloch, Bob Boekelheide, Trent Bray, Joe Buchanan, Wilson Cady, Kathy Castelein, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Colin Dillingham, Steve Dowlan, Dennis Duffy, **Joe Engler** (*Clark*), Duncan Evered, Darrell Faxon, Ruth Fischer, Bob Flores, Chuck Gates, Roy Gerig, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Jeff Harding, Warren Hall, Hendrik Herlyn, Wayne Hoffman, Stuart Johnston, Ken Knittle, Elizabeth Kroese, Bruce Labar (BLb), **Bill LaFramboise** (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, David Lauten, Paul Lehman, Terry Little, John Lundsten, Maitreya (M), David Mandell (DMa), Frank Mayer, Al McGie, **Tom Mickel** (*Lane*), Craig Miller, Marilyn Miller, Steven Mlodinow, Don Munson, **Harry Nehls** (OR), Vic Nelson, **Bob Norton** (Olympic Peninsula), Hal Opperman, Michael Patterson, Dennis Paulson, Phil Pickering, Steve Pink, Gene Revelas, Tim Rodenkirk, **Russell Rogers** (WA), Richard Rowlett (RRw), Floyd Schrock, Ryan T. Shaw (RTS), Steve Shunk, P.W. Smith (PWS), Dan Stephens, Judy Stevens, Patrick Sullivan (PTs), **Paul Sullivan** (PaS, E. OR), Bill Stotz (BiS), Bob Sundstrom, Todd Thornton, David Tracy, Bill Tice (BTi), Greg Toffic, Bill Tweit (BTw), Paula Vanderheul, Patti Van Vlack (PVV), Dennis Vroman, Terry J. Wahl, Terry R. Wahl, Wayne Weber, Bob Woodley.

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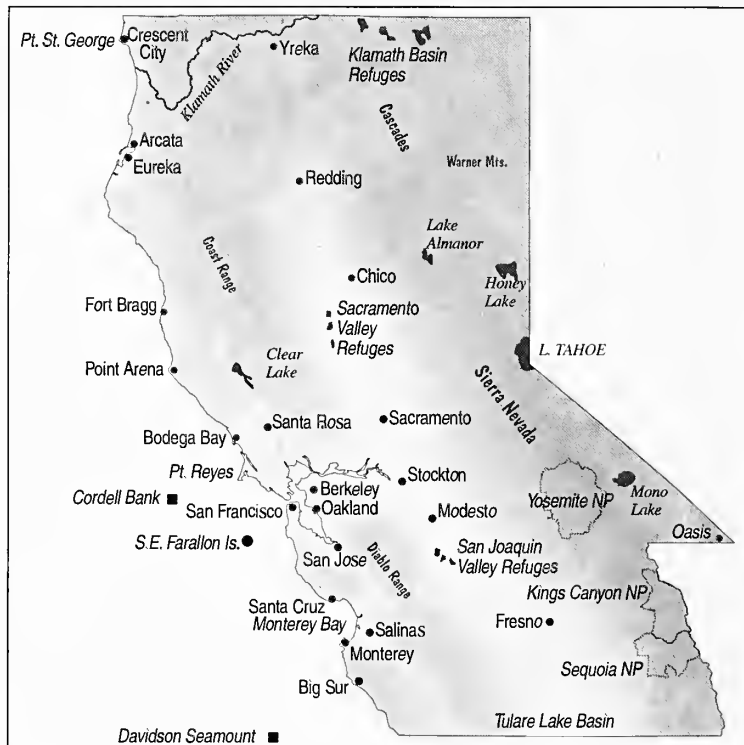
In each issue, about some of the photos submitted with the regional reports are selected to be printed in color, in a feature called "Pictorial Highlights." Generally these are very good photographs showing birds of exceptional interest—either very rare vagrants, or birds taking part in unusual invasions or migrations.

The best way to submit photos to *North American Birds* is to send them to the appropriate regional editor. To make things easier for these individuals (and for us), please label all photos clearly with the species, place, date, and your name. In particular, print your name legibly, as you would want it to appear in the photo credit. We also need to know the address to which photographs should be returned. All photos will be returned (to the regional editors or to the photographers), but it may take several months from the time they were submitted.

Either slides or prints can be reproduced in *North American Birds*, although given a choice we generally prefer slides. Photographs of either kind should be packaged so that they will not be bent or crushed in the mail. Prints should be labelled on the back, but not with ballpoint pen, which may damage the emulsion of the photograph. If felt tip pens are used for labelling, the prints should be separated with sheets of paper so that the ink from the back of one will not rub off on the face of another photo.



Middle Pacific Coast



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Organized boat trips off the *Mendocino* coast have been recently initiated. This fascinating but relatively unexplored oceanic region offers potential fertile grounds for seabirders, as exemplified by some real rarities on relatively few trips the past two years, including Shy Albatross, Dark-rumped Storm Petrel, and a possible Markham's Storm-Petrel. July and August, a period virtually lacking organized boat trips until a few years ago, continue to produce ultra-rare seabirds and it will be interesting to see what turns up with continued coverage.

Last fall we suggested that "summer productivity may have more to do with occurrence of vagrants than do weather patterns." If that is true, Summer 2000 must have been a horrible breeding season for birds of taiga and eastern broadleaf forests. More details are in the wood-warbler section, but it was the slowest autumn migration in decades for "eastern" vagrants. Total vagrant warbler numbers were 41% below our recent average. Do these figures suggest northeastern continental productivity was down about 40%? Or might it be that weather patterns are equally important in

determining the extent of vagrancy to the west coast after all? We do not know the answers, but perhaps the tedious task of compiling each and every fall Blackpoll or Palm Warbler over time could be productive. On the flip side, "southern" vagrants were in reasonably good numbers; Louisiana Waterthrush and Cassin's Sparrow appeared along with nine Painted Buntings. Could these two phenomena be related?

Space restrictions substantially limit the records that we can publish. However, we continue to develop a database of all records submitted which we will make available upon request.

Abbreviations: CBRC (California Bird Records Committee); C.V. (Central Valley); F.I. (Southeast Farallon I.); S.F. (San Francisco); R.S. (Regional Shoreline); S.R. (State Reserve); W.A. (Wildlife Area). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are normally not published. Observers wishing CBRC review should also send documentation to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P.O. Box 275, San Diego CA 91933.

Credit banded birds at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey*, to Big Sur Ornithology Lab, and on F.I. to Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

Loons Through Pelicans

A *Shy Albatross* 3 mi. off Cordell Bank, *Marin*, 10 Sep (ASH, LHg, ph. DLSh et al.) was basically in the same plumage as the 29 Jul bird off Cordell (*N. Am. Birds* 54:427), but was thought possibly a different individual by observers involved in both observations. Another *Shy Albatross* was 8 mi. wsw. of Bodega Head, *Marin*, 17 Sep (RS et al.). Careful examination of photos and descriptions may determine whether one or multiple birds were involved.

A *Dark-rumped Petrel* was about 8 mi. off Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino*, 19 Aug (†PP, TMcG, DLSh, ph. E. Preston). Interestingly, many occurrences of this now near-annual species are not in deep water but over relatively shallow escarpment and shelf slopes leading to deep water. Manx Shearwaters were in *Monterey Bay*, *Santa Cruz*, 9 Oct (†TMcG, AJ, DLSh) and 2 were off Cordell Bank, *Marin*, 17 Sep (RS et al.). *Ashy Storm-Petrel* numbers continue to

decline in the Region (DLSh); experts on this species believe that listing under the Endangered Species Act is warranted (D. G. Ainley pers. comm.). Unprecedented was a report of 2 Ashy Storm-Petrels at Lake Tahoe, *El Dorado*, 15 Sep (†SAG). Aside from an inland report from just e. of S.E. Bay, this record would represent the only truly inland one for this species. A bird identified as a **Markham's Storm-Petrel** was seen 29 mi. off Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino*, 19 Aug (†PP, TMcG, DLSh et al.); one observer is familiar with the species. If accepted by the appropriate committees, this bird would represent the first North American record for this species, although it has been reported 293 nmi. wsw. of San Nicolas I., California (P. Pyle, *W. Birds* 24:108–110), and has been expected.

A female Brown Booby was on F.I. 29 Aug, a male of the race *brewsteri* was there 22–28 Oct (PP), one was off Capitola, *Santa Cruz*, 12 Sep (†DLSu), and another was reported without details off *Monterey* 12 Aug (D. Lemon).

Hérons Through Shorebirds

A Snowy Egret at Indian Creek Res. 9 Sep was considered *Alpine's* first (MiF). White-faced Ibis barely made it to the coast, with one near Alviso, *Santa Clara* 7 Aug (B. Reiling, F. Van Slager), 2 at Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz*, 6–9 Oct (SRv, m.ob.) and one at Point Reyes, *Marin*, 23–26 Oct (RS). Four Snow Geese at Chico, *Butte*, 27 Aug (SAG) likely summered locally. A first-year male Eurasian Wigeon 9–28 Sep was F.I.'s 2nd (the first was in 1998). Green-winged Teal nested for the first time in *Contra Costa* at McNabney Marsh, where a female and young were seen 2 Aug (SAG). A Red-breasted Merganser on L. McSwain 19 Nov was *Mariposa's* first (†LLu, CLu).

A Northern Goshawk over Mt. Davidson 3 Nov was one of few for S.F. (†PSar). Four Broad-winged Hawks along the coast from *Sonoma* to *Monterey* 21 Sep–26 Nov were typical of recent fall seasons away from the *Marin* headlands. A Swainson's Hawk at Andrew Molera S.P., *Monterey*, 15 Sep (†IvS) was a first for the Big Sur coast. Rough-legged Hawks staged a significant incursion beginning 4 Oct, with ≤40 reported regionally (including 13 coastal and 19 e. of the Sierra).

A Sandhill Crane commuting between Año Nuevo, *San Mateo*, and Davenport, *Santa Cruz*, 22–23 Oct was rare along the outer coast (J. Gilroy, R. Guitierrez). A flock of 25+ over Huichica Cr., *Napa*, 27 Oct was a large number away from the C.V. (M. Rippey). An American Golden-Plover on Pt. Reyes 12 Nov was late (RS). An **Eurasian Dotterel** at F.I. 22 Aug (*fide* PP) was the state's 7th and first since 1992. A

well-described **Wood Sandpiper** near Mare Is., *Solano*, 22 Sep (†R. Muskat) would furnish a first state record if accepted by the CBRC, though single-observer sight records of this magnitude are (and should be) treated with great caution. A Wandering Tattler along s. fork of Trinity R., *Trinity*, 9 Sep (M. Wachs) was a rare inland migrant. A Hudsonian Godwit near Davis Cr., *Modoc*, 14 Oct (JTr, D. Bell) provided only our 2nd inland record. The 2nd F.I. Bar-tailed Godwit in as many years lingered 25 Aug–23 Sep (*fide* PP). It was a poor season for Semipalmated Sandpiper records, with only 18 reported, a remarkable 7 inland. Further testament to better inland coverage was the Region's first interior record of **Curlew Sandpiper**, an ad. at Tule Lake N.W.R., *Siskiyou*, 18 Aug (†RE, †K. Spencer). Single Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at Bodega Bay, *Sonoma*, 27 Aug–2 Sep (D. Ashford, T. Elliot, RAR) and Abbots Lagoon, *Marin*, 9 Sep (RS). The latter was present for many days, but the date span was not reported.

Skuas Through Alcids

Rare inland Long-tailed Jaegers were reported 26 Aug, *Placer* (JCS); 28 Aug, *Sutter* (JCS); 9 Sep, *Kings* (RH); and 2 Sep, *Mono* (†JLD, MJSanM). There were a number of inland Common Terns, including a first for *Alpine* 3 Sep (†JCS), and 28 (a high number for an inland location) 22 Sep at Eagle L., *Lassen* (TEa). A juv. Arctic Tern near Kettleman City 22 Sep (ph. SBT, Jse) represented a first for *Kings* of a species rarely recorded in the C.V. Likely the same individual was approximately 20 mi. away 26 Sep (†LkC, J. Withgott). A Heermann's Gull at L. Shastina 11 Oct was a first for *Siskiyou* (RE).

Northern alcids included a Long-billed Murrelet just off Bodega Head, *Sonoma*, 10 Sep (LHG, CCB, DLSh, ph. MSanM, ph. ASH), a probable Parakeet Auklet 42 nmi. w. of *Monterey* 27 Aug (TMcK, DLSh; identification tentative pending ph. review), and Horned Puffins in Monterey Bay 8 Sep (V. Ashby, DLSh) and off Bodega Head, *Sonoma*, 18–21 Aug (RSC, †RAR et al.).

Doves Through Flycatchers

Four White-winged Doves 17 Sep–6 Oct included one inland at Gonzales, *Monterey* (KVV). A Northern Pygmy-Owl 12 Nov at Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*, provided a rare record for the C.V. (AEn). A Lesser Nighthawk at Rock River Road 5 Aug was a first for *Tuolumne* (JSL); another at Black Butte Res., *Tehama*, 22 Sep was late (JCS). The discovery of two downy Common Poorwill chicks near Big Basin S.P. 2 Aug provided the first

breeding confirmation for *Santa Cruz* since the 1890s (DLSu).

Five coastal Chimney Swifts were reported 31 Aug–5 Oct, yet none was documented. Vagrant hummingbirds included a Black-chinned at Pt. Reyes 16 Sep (RS) and a Costa's 15–22 Aug in mainland S.F. (first for the city since 1978; †PSar, m.ob.). The only Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Anderson Marsh S.P. 10–11 Oct, a first for *Lake* (ad. male; †JRW, DvW). Wandering Williamson's Sapsuckers were at San Benito Mt., *San Benito* (ad. male; ADeM, DLSh) and Golden Gate Park 24–30 Nov (S.F.'s 2nd; SRv, SAG, m.ob.); another at North Star 30 Sep was rare in *Yuba* (BDW). A Hairy Woodpecker 1 Oct was the first for this generally sedentary species at Hayward R.S. (RJR). Out-of-place Pileated Woodpeckers were at n. spit Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt*, 12 Sep (KI) and Pt. Lobos S.R., *Monterey*, 26 Sep (†B.&J. Gomez).

Willow Flycatchers were scarce as usual on the coast, with 26 birds 23 Aug–23 Sep, but in high numbers at several inland locations 20 Aug–8 Oct, including 23 at Piper Slough, *Contra Costa*, 26 Aug (SAG) and 21 at Napa Ecological Reserve, *Napa*, 8 Sep (M. Bemer). High totals were also tallied in *Santa Clara* and interior *Mendocino*. Nine coastal or near-coastal Least Flycatchers (including 6 at F.I.) were identified 25 Aug–10 Oct (†DN, †PSar et al.). Eastern Phoebe were at Big Sur R. mouth 15 Nov (banded; JBo) and F. I. 17–20 Oct (PP). A Dusky-capped Flycatcher at S.F. 1–12 Nov was the only one this season (†KMCK, MEa, JM). Thirty Tropical Kingbirds, about the recent average, were all coastal or near-coastal, except for one at Clear Lake S.P. 6 Oct (*Lake's* first; †DvW). A Cassin's Kingbird at MacKerricher S.P. 16 Sep was a long-awaited first for *Mendocino* (†JRW, †DT, †GEC). Other kingbirds included a late Western at Pt. Reyes 14 Oct (CLu, LLu, RS) and an Eastern at Delta Pond, *Sonoma*, 13 Sep (RLeb).

Vireos Through Phainopepla

Vagrant vireos were scarce. Single Blue-headed were at Elkhorn Ranch, *Monterey*, 2 Oct (†RE, †R. Wolfe) and F.I. 6–7 Oct (†PP); two Yellow-throateds, both in *Monterey*, were at Carmel R. mouth 31 Aug–9 Sep (J. Barnum, †BHL, RC et al.) and Big Sur R. mouth 17 Sep (†CT); Philadelphia Vireos were at Stafford L., *Marin*, 4 Oct (RS) and F.I. 7 Oct (PP); single Yellow-green Vireos were at Orick, *Humboldt*, 28 Nov (†KI), Carmel R. mouth 14–17 Oct (JB, NMCM, †BHL et al.), and in *San Mateo* at Montara 5 Oct (†AJ) and San Gregorio 6 Oct (†RSTh). Two imm. Red-eyed Vireos were together at Pescadero, *San Mateo*, on the sum-

mery date of 12 Aug, with one bird still present 19 Aug (RSTh).

Two Western Scrub-Jays 8–30 Sep at the lofty elevation of 8400' at Bennett Juniper, *Tuolumne*, were the first in 12 years of birding records there (K. Brunges, M. Kelley et al.). A Pinyon Jay, rare w. of breeding areas, was videotaped at Potter Valley 24 Oct (*Mendocino's* first; J. Ward). Clark's Nutcrackers staged a minor invasion w. of normal areas: one 14 Oct at Davis, *Yolo*, provided a rare C.V. record (MP); 2 were on ridges at Andrew Molera S.P., *Monterey*, 22 Oct (†G. St. Clair); 2 were at Bald Mt., *Mendocino*, 4 Nov (CEV, GEC); 15 were on Mt. St. Helena, *Sonoma*, 5–22 Nov (BDP, A. Wight); and 14 were nearby at Ida Clayton Road, *Sonoma*, 11 Nov (RAR). At least 120 roosting Common Ravens at Montara, *San Mateo*, 8 Oct is indicative of their population explosion in recent years (PJM).

A few post-breeding Bank Swallows were detected, as usual, with one at Moccasin Powerhouse 5 Aug (*Tuolumne's* first; JSL), 3 on 11 Aug and one on 26 Aug at Piper Slough, *Contra Costa* (SAG), and 3 at Prosser Creek Res., *Nevada*, 14 Aug (BDW). A late-fall northbound movement of Cliff Swallows was noted once again, with a total of 84 at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, 21–22 Oct (PSar, RSTh).

The best landbird of the season was the Region's 2nd (California's 3rd) **Arctic Warbler**, a well-described bird along Stevens Creek, *Santa Clara*, 7 Sep (†MMR). Two early Ruby-crowned Kinglets were at Blue L., *Humboldt*, 30 Aug (BWdd, RHw). Single Gray Catbirds, always rare, were in a San Jose yard, *Santa Clara*, 24 Aug (†J.V. Moore) and at Princeton, *San Mateo*, 13 Sep (RSTh, †AME). A Brown Thrasher was banded at Coyote Creek 30 Sep (3rd for *Santa Clara*; RCol). Two Red-throated Pipits reached F.I. 5–9 Oct, and a Phainopepla there 3–4 Nov was unexpected (both *fide* PP).

Wood-warblers

It was the worst fall in recent years for vagrant "eastern" warblers. Some 32 species that do not breed in California in substantial numbers but have occurred in our Region over the last decade are considered "vagrants" (a few, like Northern Parula and American Redstart, also occasionally nest in tiny numbers). This fall only 334 individuals of 23 species appeared, less than half the numbers of last fall (757 birds of 25 species) and down 41% from a recent six-year average. If we assign the species to general regions, numbers of "southern" species (such as Northern Parula, Prothonotary or Hooded) were actually up 14%, and those of "southwest-

ern" origin (e.g., Virginia's, Lucy's) were about average. The dramatic drop was in eastern and northern boreal-forest species, cumulatively down 43% from average. Some of the dips were dramatic: Tennessee (only 11 birds, down 63%), Chestnut-sided (25, down 42%), Magnolia (14, down 38%), Black-throated Blue (7, down 55%), Blackburnian (8, down 24%), Prairie (10, down a third), Palm (73, down 58%), Blackpoll (72, down 16%), Black-and-white (20, down 45%), American Redstart (29, down 48%), Ovenbird (5, down 32%), and Northern Waterthrush (15, down 44%). The 73 Palm Warblers seem particularly odd, as this species as been increasing as a successful winterer, and some 883 were located in fall 1993. What causes these NASDAQ-like fluctuations year-to-year? Is it weather? Is it breeding-ground productivity? We do not yet know but there is potential for interesting research in these statistics. Bucking the downward trends were 3 coastal Black-throated Green and 9 coastal Canada Warblers, both above-average totals.

Among rarer warblers were 8 Virginia's, 3 Lucy's, and 6 Prothonotary Warblers. Remarkably, the only 2 Worm-eating Warblers were inland: 10 Sep O'Neil Forebay, *Merced* (†KVV) and 14 Oct Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento* (†K. Mize, †J. Schick). Other notable inland warblers were a Northern Parula and a Prothonotary on McKee Cr., *Mono*, 2 Sep (both †J. Bass), a Chestnut-sided 4 Sep and a Blackpoll 9 Sep at Lodi Lakes (2nd & 3rd records, respectively, for *San Joaquin*; both DGY), a Black-throated Blue 12–18 Nov along lower Rush Cr., *Mono* (†J.&D. Parker), a Palm 9 Oct at U.C. Davis, *Yolo* (†SCH), a Black-and-white 2 Oct along Pajaro R., *San Benito* (DLSu), and a Canada in Sacramento 12 Sep (C. Conard). F.I. hosted a **Louisiana Waterthrush** 7 Sep, only the 2nd for our Region (the other was 2–3 June 1991 on F.I.) plus one Connecticut (3 Sep) and 2 Mourning (11 & 27 Sep; all *fide* PP). Two Hooded Warblers were a female at Rodeo Gulch, *Santa Cruz*, 10–11 Sep (DLSu) and a male at Pt. Pinos, *Monterey*, 13–16 Oct (SBT, m.ob.). Despite rumors, there were no credible, documented reports of Cape May, Bay-breasted, or Pine Warblers.

Tanagers Through Sparrows

A male Summer Tanager 26 Aug–18 Sep at Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* (RFT, m.ob.) could have summered nearby, but the other 9 reported were coastal fall vagrants. Three Green-tailed Towhees reached the coast 7–10 Sep (one each in *Monterey*, *San Mateo*, and on F.I.). A Cassin's Sparrow on F.I. 10–12 Sep (*fide* PP) was the 11th there; there are only two mainland Regional records. Five American Tree Sparrows from

coastal *Humboldt* to *Santa Cruz* 6 Oct–29 Nov were more than usual, but a coastal total of 41 Clay-colored Sparrows were average 13 Sep–27 Oct; one inland at U.C. Davis 25 Oct (SCH) furnished a first for *Yolo*. Among a dozen coastal Brewer's Sparrows was a probable Timberline Sparrow banded on F.I. 25–26 Sep (PP); a nominate bird at Colusa Sacramento River S.P. 23 Sep (†BDW) was among the few records in *Colusa*. Vagrant Black-throated Sparrows were at Big Sur R. mouth 6 Sep (CHO), Pt. Reyes 7 Sep (RS), and F.I. 7 Sep (3 widespread birds in just two days!). The only Lark Buntings were 3 on F.I. 18 Sep–2 Nov (PP) and an imm. male at Crowley L., *Mono*, 11 Oct (KNN). Single Harris's Sparrows appeared at a Millbrae feeder, *San Mateo* (Joe Macho), at Bolinas, *Marin*, 31 Oct (KH), and on F.I. 7–8 Nov.

A McCown's Longspur reached Pt. Reyes 5 Oct (RS) and ≤3 each reappeared in fields along Browning Road, *Colusa* (TEa, †BED et al.) and Dunning Hills, *Yolo* (SCH et al.), where they wintered last year. Reports of Lapland (10 sites *Mendocino* to *Monterey*) and Chestnut-collared (four locales F.I. & *Monterey* to *Mono*) Longspurs were widespread. Three Snow Buntings arrived within days of each other: 10 Nov at Patricks Point S.P., *Humboldt* (KI), 13 Nov on F.I. (*fide* PP), and 15–20 Nov at Año Nuevo S.P., *San Mateo* (ph. G. Strachan).

Grosbeaks Through Finches

Ten coastal Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 31 Aug–28 Sep were expected, but a male 18 Aug at Ft. Bragg, *Mendocino* (DT) was early and could have summered; a young male at Wendel 25 Sep (TDM) was a surprise in little-visited *Lassen*. A male grosbeak at Pt. Reyes 7 Oct (RS) showed characters of a Rose-breasted x Black-headed intergrade. Ten coastal Blue Grosbeaks 6 Aug–7 Oct between F.I. and coastal *Monterey* were good numbers for another "southern" species, but only 7 coastal Indigo Buntings appeared, well down from a typical autumn.

The only two Dickcissels were in *Monterey*: Esalen 28 Sep (imm. male; IvS, SFB, JBo, †DR, SRv) and Carmel R. mouth 21 Oct (†DR). Twenty-one Bobolinks were along the coast 2 Sep–4 Nov but one at Honey Lake W.A. 22 Sep (TEa) was just the 3rd for *Lassen*. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at L. Merced, S.F., 9–10 Sep (B. Schram, R. Ferrick) and another 8 were scattered from *Santa Clara* to *Monterey*. A mystery bird photographed at a Pt. Sur feeder 16 Nov (ph. Lis Covello) proved to be a male **Common Grackle** (only the 2nd for *Monterey*); later review of additional shots revealed it was accompanied by a female! Another Common Grackle 19 Nov–early Dec (*fide* PP) provided the first F.I. record, and brings our Regional

total to about 10 (all the bronzy *versicolor* subspecies). The Great-tailed Grackle invasion abated, but females at L. Merced, S.F., 2–23 Oct (DPM, †MEa, m.ob.) and Maxwell, Colusa, 1 Oct (JCS) were local rarities. Vagrant orioles included 4 Orchards and 6 Baltimores, all along the outer coast or on F.I.

SA An astonishing 9 immature **Painted Buntings** occurred within a six-week span in early fall. Previously the Region had but 15 fall records (plus two in spring), only 6 from the mainland (9 more were F.I.). Of this autumn's abundance, 5 were netted and banded: 3 at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* (27 Aug, 6 Sep, 20 Sep; all ph. IvS), and singles were on F.I. 26 Sep (PP) and along Coyote Creek, *Santa Clara*, 30 Sep (†RCol). The first Big Sur R. mouth individual was rediscovered six days later (2 Sep) more than a mile from the banding site (†DR; shiny band on right leg), and additional green immatures were found 10 Sep at n. spit, Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* (TEa, JEH); 13 Sep at Pilarcitos Cr. mouth (1st *San Mateo* rec.; †RSTh); 4–6 Oct at Natural Bridge S.P., *Santa Cruz* (†J. Gilroy, S. Gerow); and 14 Oct in Big Sur "town", *Monterey* (†RF).

Prior California specimens have been attributed to the slightly larger western race, *P. c. pallidior*, but recent research (C. W. Thompson, *Condor* 93:209–235, 93:987–1000) showed that racial distinctions were minor and clinal and do not warrant subspecific status. However, this same research showed there were biological differences between eastern and western populations (populations whose ranges are different than the described subspecies). Western birds migrate two months before eastern birds to deserts of s. Arizona and nw. Mexico, and begin flight-feather molt there before continuing on to wintering locales from s. Texas to Central America. Among this fall's banded birds were individuals in juvenal and in supplemental plumage, identifying them as from western populations whatever the nomenclatural status. We have no good explanation as to why so many appeared (and given this species' habitat preference for unsurveyed weedy riparian edges it seems likely many more were around), but we note that numbers of "southern" vagrants were slightly up in an otherwise dismal fall for wayward passerines.

Finch flights were few, but a Cassin's Finch reached S.F. 22 Oct (KMCK, ASH) and 2 were at Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo*, 5 Nov (RSTh), while flocks of Pine Siskin in *Yolo/Sacramento/Colusa* in late Oct-early Nov (MP, BED, JCS et al.) were unexpected on the C.V. floor.

Exotics

An ad. Pink-backed Pelican, *Pelecanus rufescens*, in alternate plumage was on F.I. 22–24 Oct (†PP, †JTz). Obviously, the origin of this bird is of interest. Because of its African range and comparatively non-migratory habits, most feel it is unlikely to be a naturally occurring vagrant. However, its lack of a band, its desire to avoid human contact, and its ability to fly gracefully in high wind, plus an inability to trace its source to West Coast zoos (those holding this species deny losing any), spur interesting hypotheses (consider, for example, the routes which explain Western Reef-Heron in the New World).

Cited observers (county coordinators bold-faced): Stephen F. Bailey, Jim Booker, **William G. Bousman** (*Santa Clara*), **Penelope K. Bowen** (*Alpine & Calaveras*), June Buntin, Rita Carratello, George E. Chaniot, **Luke Cole** (*Kings*), Rita Colwell, Chris Corben, **Hugh Cotter** (*S.F. city*), Al DeMartini, **Bruce E. Deuel** (*n. C.V. counties*), Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark Eaton, Alan M. Eisner, **Ray Ekstrom** (*Siskiyou*), Andrew Engilis, Mike

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The fall period was warmer and drier than normal, with no storms from the north reaching us before seasons' end. Landbird migration was generally considered unspectacular, and vagrant eastern wood-warblers and other passerines appeared in below-average numbers. However, the late fall did produce California's first Nutting's Flycatcher. Of particular note was an incursion of corvids, including Pinyon Jays and interior forms of the Western Scrub-Jay, through the deserts and, in some cases, to the coast; significant movements of certain irruptive montane species, including Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins, and Cassin's Finches, also occurred.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); E.A.F.B. (Edwards Air Force Base, se. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P.,

Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park, extreme e. Kern); LACM (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); S.M.R.E. (Santa Maria River Estuary, Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo line); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve, near Weldon, Kern). Because virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC) review list is forwarded to the CBRC Secretary and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Camarillo.

Loons Through Frigatebirds

A juv. Red-throated Loon near Imperial 5–14 Nov (GMcC) was the 5th for Imperial. A Pacific Loon, rare inland, was at Haiwee Res. in the Owens Valley, Inyo, 14 Oct (JZa) and another was photographed near Imperial 8 Nov (KZK). A Laysan Albatross 42 mi. sw. of Pt. Arguello, Santa Barbara, 25 Nov (DMH) was in an area where small numbers probably occur regularly. Northern Fulmars pushed s. into s. California waters in Nov, as indicated by 500+ during a pelagic trip off Santa Barbara 25 Nov (DMH). A concentration of 2500 Pink-footed Shearwaters at Leo Carrillo State Beach, Los Angeles, 13 Aug (KLG) was amazing for so close to shore. Single

Flesh-footed Shearwaters off Marina del Rey, Los Angeles, 14 Oct (DMH), in the Santa Barbara Channel off Santa Barbara 28 Oct (GeH), and 35 mi. sw. of Pt. Conception, Santa Barbara, 25 Nov (DMC) were of note because few are reported in s. California waters. A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel, rare in s. California, was 14 mi. w. of San Miguel I. 25 Nov (DMH). A Black Storm-Petrel on s. San Diego Bay 15 Sep (JC) was unexpected.

A Red-billed Tropicbird near Cherry Bank off Ventura 31 Aug (DMH) and another 13 mi. nw. of San Clemente I. 23 Sep (KL) were in areas where small numbers regularly occur, but one 11 mi. off Newport Beach, Orange, 21 Sep (MC) and another 7 mi. off Oxnard 14 Oct (WW) were unusually close to shore. A Red-footed Booby was 160 mi. off San Diego 14 October (NC). The only frigatebird reported was a female 40 mi. w. of Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, 1 Sep (TM); the Great Frigatebird would appear to be as likely as the Magnificent at this location, particularly so in a year when no Magnificents reached the Salton Sea or the California coast.

Hérons Through Cranes

The only Tricolored Heron was one at the Tijuana R. mouth 24 Aug+ (RAP). A Reddish Egret at the Tijuana R. mouth, San Diego, 26 Aug+ (GMcC) was the same bird that has spent the past 18 winters in this area; an imm. at the San Diego R. mouth 8 Sep (JM) may have been the same bird seen at San Elijo Lagoon, San Diego, 11 Sep–1 Oct (DT). The Wood Stork found in Sorento Valley, San Diego, 8 Jul remained through 15 Sep (JZi). A Brant at C.L. 13–29 Nov (JSe) was the first to be found in this area in fall. A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was at S.E.S.S. 19 Aug (A&VH). A male Harlequin Duck north of Arroyo Laguna, San Luis Obispo, 12 Nov (DL) was the only one reported. A Surf Scoter at S.E.S.S. 25 Nov+ (MMP) was the only one found inland. A Black Scoter, a casual straggler inland, at S.E.S.S. 25 Nov+ (MMP) was joined by a second 30 Nov+ (KZK). A Long-tailed Duck at Salton City, Imperial, 15 Nov (RC) and another at S.E.S.S. 25 Nov (LS) were inland, where rare.

An ad. Northern Goshawk at Willow Creek in the Saline Valley, Inyo, 8 Nov (REM) was at an unexpected location. Up to two Harris's Hawks were still at Borrego Springs, San Diego, 17 Nov (PJ). Two Broad-winged Hawks were with migrating Turkey Vultures near Weldon, Kern, 10 Sep (TG), another was there 4 Oct (TG), and

single imm. were at G.H.P. 26 Sep (MSanM) and 1 Oct (TEW), and Nipton, *San Bernardino*, 18 Oct (MJSanM); single migrants were along the coast over San Juan Capistrano, *Orange*, 25 Sep (BED) and Pt. Loma, *San Diego*, 1 Oct (GMcC) and 11 October (JSa). A Zone-tailed Hawk returned to Santa Barbara/Goleta 26 Sep (MAH) for its 8th winter, another returned to Escondido, *San Diego*, 20 Oct (RH) for its 3rd winter, one was in Orange 8 Nov (AIL), and another was inland near Weldon 3 Sep (PM). The earliest Rough-legged Hawk of the fall was one at G.H.P. 8 Nov (KSG).

Four Sandhill Cranes near Brawley, *Imperial*, 15 Sep (GMcC) were early, and one at Cottonwood Marsh on Owens L., *Inyo*, 3–5 Oct (T&JH) was far from any area of regular occurrence.

Plovers Through Phalaropes

Migrant American Golden-Plovers included 2 at Arroyo Laguna 1 Oct (JSR), one there 12 Nov (DL), one at S.M.R.E. 7–8 Oct (GT), *Inyo's* first in Bishop 2–3 Oct (NH), and another near Calipatria, *Imperial*, 10 Sep (JLD). Up to 3 Pacific Golden-Plovers near Port Hueneme, *Ventura*, 18 Aug–28 Oct (DP, DD), 2 at Seal Beach, *Orange*, 28 Sep+ (JF), 1–2 at Bolsa Chica, *Orange*, 15 Sep+ (BED, AnL), and one at the Tijuana R. mouth 24 Aug+ (RAP) were at a known wintering site, but one near Keeler 14 Aug (JLD) was the first in *Inyo*. A Mountain Plover at Lancaster, *Los Angeles*, 17 Sep (KSG) was somewhat early, and up to 2 near Port Hueneme 18–28 Oct (JA, DD) were the only ones found along the coast.

A Solitary Sandpiper at F.C.R. 4 Nov (VW) was exceptionally late for a migrant, and one near Chino, *San Bernardino*, 17 Oct+ (JEP) was suspected to be wintering locally. A Wandering Tattler, a casual straggler to the interior, was at S.E.S.S. 11–15 Sep (GMcC). An ad. **Bar-tailed Godwit** at the San Diego R. mouth 4–5 Sep (JM) was the 4th to be found in s. California. Single Red Knots at Tinemaha Res. 27 Aug (CH), near Keeler 24 Sep (JLW), at E.A.F.B. 14 Aug (CMcG, SJM), and Lancaster 27 Aug (KSG, JEP) were inland and away from the Salton Sea. At least 20 juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers along the coast 1–26 Aug, and an additional 6 in the e. portion of the Region 11–25 Aug, along with late individuals in Irvine 10–16 Sep (BS) and E.A.F.B. 16 Sep (TEW), were less than expected in this narrow window. A somewhat late Pectoral Sandpiper was in Huntington Beach 21 Nov (JEP). A juv. Curlew Sandpiper in Huntington Beach, *Orange*, 21–24 Nov (JEP) was unusually late and only the 12th to be found in s. California. A Stilt Sandpiper near Port Hueneme 11–12 Sep (JT), another in

Irvine 10–16 Sep (WG), and 4 at San Elijo Lagoon, 30 Sep (EH) were along the coast, where rare; 1–2 at E.A.F.B. 23–26 Sep (RAH, MSanM) and one at C.L. 30 Sep (SSt) were inland and away from the Salton Sea. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper, a casual fall straggler to s. California, was inland at E.A.F.B. 16–19 Sep (JCW), one was on the coast near Port Hueneme 2–12 Sep (DD), and what may have been another was in the same area 25–29 Sep (SSo). Single Ruffs were along the coast at Morro Bay 7–9 Sep (TME), in Long Beach, *Los Angeles*, 7 Oct (DSC) and on s. San Diego Bay 13 Oct (MA), and inland near Keeler 12–17 Sep (T&JH), at E.A.F.B. 14–16 Sep (NBB), near Calipatria 1 Oct (MAP), and near Brawley 5 Nov+ (GMcC). A Red Phalarope in Compton, *Los Angeles*, 30 Aug (DSC), 1–2 at C.L. 23 Sep–11 Oct (SSt, DLaB), one in California City, *Kern*, 13–15 Oct (JEP), and one at Silver Lakes, *San Bernardino*, 6 Sep (BD) were inland.

Jaegers Through Alcids

An ad. Parasitic Jaeger at S.E.S.S. 13–17 Sep (BM) and a juv. there 25 Sep (GMcC), along with a jaeger believed to be a juv. Parasitic at C.L. 5 Sep (DLaB), were the only ones found inland. A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger was inland at Cottonwood Marsh on Owens L. 11 Sep (REM), another was at N.E.S.S. 10 Sep (MAP), and a 3rd was in Irvine 21 Sep (BED).

A Franklin's Gull at Refugio State Beach, *Santa Barbara*, 30 Sep (NL) was the only one reported along the coast; 3 at Cottonwood Marsh on Owens L. 14 Aug–22 Sep (JLW, REM), single birds around Lancaster 16 Sep (RW) and 15–17 Sep (JEP, KLG), near Barstow 10–11 Sep (JEP), and at least 30 around S.E.S.S. 17 Aug–5 Nov (GMcC) were inland, where more numerous. Five Heermann's Gulls scattered around the Salton Sea 11 Aug–8 Sep (AME, GMcC, CMcG) was more than expected. A Mew Gull at C.L. 25 Nov (SSt) was the 3rd in e. *Kern*, and one at S.E.S.S. 13 Oct (GMcC) was somewhat early. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at S.E.S.S. 30 Sep–13 Oct (GjH) was evidently a migrant. A juv. Western Gull near Keeler 14–23 Sep (JLD) was the first for *Inyo*. Ten Sabine's Gulls at various locations in the Owens Valley between 22 Sep and 18 Oct (T&JH, REM), ≤ 3 at C.L. 20 Sep–4 Oct (SSt), one at E.A.F.B. 23 Sep (RAH), 2 at Lancaster 20–24 Sep (KSG, JEP, DSC), two at Harper Dry L., *San Bernardino*, 28 Sep (BD), 2 juv. at Daggett, *San Bernardino*, 14 Oct (MAP), and single birds at S.E.S.S. 22–23 Sep (GMcC) and 14 Oct (KZK) were inland, and a juv. was photographed on shore near Port Hueneme 22 Sep (DD). A Black Skimmer at Mystic L., *Riverside*, 4 Aug (AME) was at an unexpected location.

Common Murres moved s. into s. California waters earlier and in larger numbers than usual, as indicated by 11 off La Jolla, *San Diego*, 10 Oct (PAG) and 15+ off *Ventura* 14 Oct (WW). Two Craveri's Murrelets near the nw. tip of Catalina I. 26 Aug (KLG), believed to be an ad. with a nearly grown chick, were the only reported.

Doves Through Woodpeckers

At least 18 White-winged Doves were seen along the coast 19 Aug–22 Oct, the northernmost in Cambria, *San Luis Obispo*, 24 Sep (JSR), and single birds near Onyx, *Kern*, 22–28 Aug (DLaB) and in Inyokern, *Kern*, 4–12 Nov (SSt) were unusually far n. for the interior. An Inca Dove in Ridgecrest, *Kern*, 3 Apr remained through 1 Oct (CL). A Common Ground-Dove near Bakersfield, *Kern*, 1 Sep (JCW, *LACM) was the first to be found in the San Joaquin Valley. A female Ruddy Ground-Dove at F.C.R. 22 Oct (JLD) was the only one this fall. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo hit a window at F.C.R. 2 Aug (VW), and the one found at G.H.P. 17 Jun remained through 26 Aug (JCW). A recently dead Flammulated Owl in Highland Park, *Los Angeles*, 5 Nov (DSC, *L.A.C.M.) provided one of the latest California records of this summer visitor. Two migrant Black Swifts were over Pt. Loma 4 Oct (REW). A roost for migrating Vaux's Swifts in downtown Los Angeles peaked at 10,000 on 28 Sep (KLG).

A movement of Lewis's Woodpeckers into s. California bought small numbers to scattered locations along the coast after 26 Sep, and larger numbers to high desert oases after 8 Sep, including a flock of 40 at Silverwood L., *San Bernardino*, 19 Nov (SJM). Single Acorn Woodpeckers at G.H.P. 26 Aug (JCW) and 23 Sep (RAH) were far from areas of normal occurrence. A juv. Williamson's Sapsucker was at G.H.P. 9–26 Sep (KSG) and a male at L. Perris, *Riverside*, 29 Oct (CMcG) were noteworthy. Five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found at desert oases after 18 Oct and 6 more were along the coast after 15 Oct.

Flycatchers Through Corvids

Late migrant Olive-sided Flycatchers were at G.H.P. 15 Oct (TEW) and San Nicolas I., *Ventura*, 21 Oct (RAH). Four Least Flycatchers were along the coast 29 Aug–6 Oct, with another inland at Deep Springs, *Inyo*, 15 Sep (JLD). Dusky Flycatchers, scarce and poorly understood in fall in the Region, were at California City, 26 Aug and 9–10 Sep (TEW), and on the coast (where possibly attempting to winter) at H.C.P. 11–23 Nov (JEP), Lake Forest, *Orange*, 18 Nov+ (JEP), and Pasadena, *Los Angeles*, 20 Nov+ (TEW). Six Eastern Phoebes, somewhat

above average, included single birds at G.H.P. 15–20 Oct (KSG), Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino*, 24 Oct (TZ), near Oceanside, *San Diego*, 19 Oct+ (PAG), Lake View Terrace, *Los Angeles*, 5 Nov+ (RB), returning to San Jacinto Wildlife Area, *Riverside*, 11 Nov+ (AEM), and Palos Verdes Peninsula, *Los Angeles*, 18–19 Nov (KL). The Brown-crested Flycatchers that nested in Borrego Springs, *San Diego*, were last seen 18 Sep (MBS).

SA Perseverance paid off at Mason Regional Park in Irvine, *Orange*, when a *Myiarchus* flycatcher, found 11 November and tentatively identified as a Dusky-capped, revealed itself in late December through vocalizations and a suite of plumage and structural characters to be California's first **Nutting's Flycatcher** (JEP, DRW, BED, LDT, m.ob.; ph., vt., voice recordings). Two previous records north of Mexico are both from Arizona. Clearly any winter *Myiarchus* in the Region demands close scrutiny. Ash-throated and Dusky-capped Flycatchers, both casual in winter (away from the southeastern deserts, where Ash-throated is regular in small numbers), have been considered the "default" species at that season.

Eight Tropical Kingbirds were along the coast 23 Sep–18 Nov, as expected. A Cassin's Kingbird at Tinemaha Res., *Inyo*, 28 Aug (T&JH) was one of the few ever recorded in the Owens Valley; another near Niland, *Imperial*, 5 Nov (GMcC) was also at an unusual locality. The Thick-billed Kingbird returned for its 9th winter at Pomona, *Los Angeles*, 29 Oct+ (MSanM). Four Eastern Kingbirds were found 8 Sep–4 Oct, 2 in the desert interior and 2 on the coast. Eight Western Kingbirds near Niland 24 Oct (GMcC) and one in Goleta 5 Nov (DMC) were late. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in the Tijuana River Valley, 8 Sep (DA).

Bell's Vireos remained on the breeding grounds as late as 16 Sep near Lake View Terrace (KLG) and 5 Oct at China Ranch, *Inyo* (ADeM); migrants, always scarce, were noted in Huntington Beach 12 Aug (BED) and near Pt. Hueneme, 9 Sep (WW). Five Philadelphia Vireos included single birds inland in the White Mts., *Inyo*, 8–9 Sep (REM), G. H. P. 20 Sep (KSG), and China Ranch 9 Oct (T&JH), and along the coast at Pt. Loma, 29 Sep (SSm) and Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo*, 15 Oct (BKS, TME). Four Red-eyed Vireos (3 coastal) were found 7–24 Sep (BB, KC, KSG, PAG), and a late bird was killed by a Sharp-shinned Hawk at

Westminster, *Orange*, 21 Oct (DRW). Yellow-green Vireos were near Pt. Mugu, *Ventura*, 7–8 Oct (DP), Oceano, *San Luis Obispo*, 8 Oct (DD), and near Pt. Hueneme 20–25 Oct (RAH).

SA One of the largest invasions of corvids in over 25 years took place this fall, with noteworthy numbers and widespread sightings of Pinyon Jays and Woodhouse's Western Scrub-Jays in particular. Pinyon Jays first appeared on the deserts of e. *Kern* 9 Sep (2 in Ridgecrest; SSt) and e. *San Bernardino* 10 Sep (50+ at Baker; JEP). Through the rest of Sep and into early Oct, individuals or flocks reached localities such as Blythe, *Riverside* (5 on 3 Oct; RH*i*) and F. C. R. (2 on 24 Sep; RH*u*). A flock of 25 at Mill Creek Summit 17 Sep (KLG) represented one of the few records for *Los Angeles*, and elsewhere on the coastal slope birds reached Grand Terrace, *San Bernardino*, 17 Sep (3; WKH) and *Riverside* 29 Sep (GM). Flocks were also found in the Lockwood Valley, *Ventura*, and Cuyama Valley, *Santa Barbara/San Luis Obispo*, where the species is rarely noted. Western Scrub-Jays of the interior subspecies *woodhouseii* or *suttoni* occurred well sw. of their normal range; most or all of the 15+ scrub-jays recorded on the deserts of e. *Kern* 13 Sep–1 Nov were likely of this group, as was one at Mojave Narrows, *San Bernardino*, 30 Sep (SJM). Clark's Nutcrackers well outside their breeding habitat; flocks up to 35 at Hunter Mtn., *Inyo*, 4–14 Sep (JLD), birds in the Garcia Range, *San Luis Obispo*, 2 Oct (BKS), many flocks moving through n. *Ventura* 26 Sep–21 Nov, and at 9 at Mojave Narrows 30 Sep (SJM) paralleled the movement of Pinyon Jays. Finally, an incursion of Steller's Jays (subspecies?) into the deserts of *Inyo* and ne. *Kern* occurred 14 Sep–25 Nov.

A Yellow-billed Magpie was at El Capitan State Beach, *Santa Barbara*, 14 Nov (MK); this species has been rare in recent years in its southernmost coastal range. Out-of-range American Crows were at F.C.R. 4 Nov (3; VW), El Centro, *Imperial*, 14 Nov (GMcC), and Stovepipe Wells, Death Valley, *Inyo*, in Oct/Nov (SBT).

Chickadees Through Pipits

Chestnut-backed Chickadees in Goleta 30 Aug (RFC) and 10–13 Oct (GBW) were s. of their normal range. Red-breasted Nuthatches were widespread after early Aug but numbers were generally low. White-breasted Nuthatches of

the interior *mexicana* group were at G.H.P. 27 Sep (KLG) and California City 24–25 Nov (TEW); one of undetermined subspecies was at S.E.S.S. 30 Sep–1 Oct (GMcC, ph. MAP), and a coastal *aculeata* was on Pt. Loma 4 Oct–4 Nov (REW). Up to 20 Pygmy Nuthatches reached the *Santa Barbara* coast 23 Aug–23 Nov, and one was in Sylmar, *Los Angeles*, 13 Oct (RB).

Winter Wrens were widespread, with the earliest found 26 Aug at Oceano (MDS). Golden-crowned Kinglets were felt to be rather common and widespread this fall, beginning in Sep. Western Bluebirds wandered widely on the deserts, reaching F.C.R. 4 Nov (VW) and several localities at S.E.S.S. after 18 Nov (GMcC). Larger-than-normal numbers of Mountain Bluebirds reached the coast, including 4 in Huntington Beach 3 Nov (KR), 100+ in San Pascual, *San Diego*, 18 Nov (SW), and 9 in Diamond Bar, *Los Angeles*, 21 Nov (MSanM). Enigmatic and scarce in the interior as a fall migrant, Swainson's Thrushes were recorded between 5 Sep (at F.C.R.; MJSanM) and 22 Oct (Long Beach; TEW); birds in El Centro 29 Sep (KZK) and at S.E.S.S. 30 Sep (GjH) furnished the first fall records for the Salton Sea.

Gray Catbirds were at Pt. Hueneme 11 Sep (RN) and California City 24 Sep (AH). A Brown Thrasher in the Saline Valley 10–20 Nov (REM) was the only one reported. The only Red-throated Pipit was in the Tijuana R. Valley 12–14 Oct (GMcC).

Wood-Warblers

Golden-winged Warblers were at S.F.K.R.P. 3 Aug (PH) and in Lompoc, *Santa Barbara*, 23 Nov+ (BKH). A Blue-winged Warbler was at Yucca Valley, *San Bernardino*, 23 Sep (WJM). Tennessee Warblers are declining as vagrants to California; only 9 (7 coastal, 2 on the n. deserts) were found this fall, 6 Sep–22 Oct. The only Virginia's Warbler outside the 25 Aug–5 Oct date span was one in Pacific Palisades, *Los Angeles*, 12 Nov (RB). Five Lucy's Warblers were on the *Santa Barbara/Ventura* coast 13 Sep–20 Oct. Four Northern Parulas on the deserts included one wintering 14 Nov+ at S.E.S.S. (GMcC); a fledged young from the summer's nesting at Gaviota, *Santa Barbara*, was seen 15 Aug (NS); and 6 others were on the coastal slope 1 Sep–2 Oct. A Chestnut-sided Warbler in Birchim Canyon, *Inyo*, 20 Aug (J&DP) was early; 5 others were on the deserts 13 Sep–18 Nov and 12 were along the coast 24 Sep–23 Nov. A Black-throated Blue Warbler in Palm Springs, *Riverside*, 23 Nov (NW) and 3 along the coast 3–29 Oct were fewer than normal. Only 14 Magnolia Warblers were reported, with 8 along the coast 21 Sep–22 Oct and 6 on the deserts 20

Sep–29 Oct. Exceptionally early in the lowlands were single Audubon's Warblers at Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara*, 12 Aug (JMC) and one the same day at Lompoc (GL). A Townsend's x Hermit Warbler in Westminster 18 Oct+ may have been the first such hybrid to winter in *Orange* (DRW). Black-throated Green Warblers were at Pt. Loma 1 Oct (GMcC) and Montaña de Oro, San Luis Obispo, 15 Oct (JSR); one in National City, San Diego, 27 Nov+ was back for its 5th winter (DWA). An average 8 Blackburnian Warblers included one inland at California City 24 Nov (TEW) and 7 on the coast 1–28 Oct. Two Pine Warblers wintering in Long Beach 9 Nov+ included a male returning from last winter (KSG, MSanM). A Prairie Warbler n. of Niland 22 Nov (HK, MMP) was the 2nd for *Imperial*; 4 others were along the coast 9 Sep–20 Oct. Well below average were 14 Palm Warblers along the coast 10 Sep–27 Nov; inland, singles were at California City 23–24 Sep (TEW), G.H.P. 18–20 Oct (KSG), and Niland 29 Oct (PAG). A Blackpoll Warbler was at Haiwee Res. 3 Oct (JW), and at least 4 were in e. *Kern* 12 Sep–8 Oct; ± 22 along the coast 16 Sep–13 Oct were fewer than average. Twenty-seven Black-and-white Warblers and ± 50 American Redstarts, a bit below average, included some that remained to the end of the period. Spruce-woods warblers have declined as vagrants to California, but more southerly species such as the Prothonotary Warbler have increased; 4 Prothonotaries were found on the n. deserts 15 Sep–30 Oct, and 7 more were along the coast 12 Sep–23 Oct. Of 5 Ovenbirds found 22 Sep–15 Oct, the only interior bird was one at Horsethief Spring, *San Bernardino*, 1 Oct (CTL). Twenty-nine Northern Waterthrushes were equally divided between the coast and deserts. *Santa Barbara's* first **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Lompoc 23 Nov+ (BKH) followed a bird at Yucca Valley, *San Bernardino*, 19–22 Sep (SK, MAP). A Kentucky Warbler at Rincon Creek 8–24 Sep was the first documented record for *Ventura* (DMC). Following *Kern's* first fall record of Connecticut Warbler in 1999, this year saw one at G.H.P. 7 Sep (KSG) and another in Inyokern 19–20 Sep (BS). The only Hooded Warbler reported was in Newport Beach, *Orange*, 28–30 Oct (COJ). Four Canada Warblers were along the coast 13 Sep–9 Oct. A Painted Redstart, casual in the lowlands of the Region, was on Pt. Loma 14 Oct (TP).

Tanagers Through Finches

Hepatic Tanagers, casual on the coast, were at Pt. Loma 26 Sep (PAG) and in Laguna Woods, *Orange*, 8 Oct–12 Nov (and possibly wintering; DRW). Some 20 Summer Tanagers were recorded widely in the Region, as expected.

Documented Scarlet Tanagers were at Pt. Loma 5 Oct (REW), Newport Beach 21 Oct (JEP), Irvine 22 Oct (BED), and Wilmington, *Los Angeles*, 26–29 Oct (KL).

A below-average 14 Clay-colored Sparrows were reported between 9 Sep and 12 Nov. A **Field Sparrow** at F.C.R. 5 Oct (ADeM) was only the 5th for the Region, all in fall and winter. American Tree Sparrows were in Bakersfield 25 Nov (JCW) and on San Clemente I. 19 Nov (DSC). Four Black-chinned Sparrows were found along the coast in *Los Angeles* and *Orange* 27 Aug–27 Sep. An early Lark Bunting was at Baker Meadow, *Inyo*, 30 Aug (REM); others were in Yucca Valley 23 Sep (WJM) and near Imperial, 17 Nov (BM). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Seal Beach, *Orange*, 15 Oct+ (2–3 birds; JF) and Morro Bay (TEM) were on winter territories. Other than 3 birds in *Inyo* 21 Oct–5 Dec, the only Harris's Sparrow was on the Edwards AFB in extreme s. *Kern* 2 Nov+ (EMcG). McCown's Longspurs were at Mystic Lake, *Riverside*, 29 Oct (MAP) and Palmdale, *Los Angeles*, 11 Nov (KLG); Chestnut-collared and Lapland Longspurs were in below-average numbers.

Seventeen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks 10 Sep–19 Nov were fewer than normal, as were the 16 Indigo Buntings found 25 Aug–1 Oct. Painted Bunting records are confused by the species' status in captivity. Immatures were in the interior at Big Pine, *Inyo*, 20–21 Aug (2 on latter date; T&JH), F.C.R. 27 Aug (MSanM, BED), Baker Meadow 30–31 Aug (SH), at G.H.P. 30 Sep–4 Oct (NF), and near Calipatria 6 Oct (GMcC), and along the coast in Wilmington 2 Sep (DMH), at Ragged Point, extreme n. *San Luis Obispo*, 2 Oct (BAB), and in Leucadia, *San Diego*, 22 Oct (KA); an ad. male was in Camarillo, *Ventura* (GS). The only Dickcissel reports were in Malibu, *Los Angeles*, 17 Sep (KLG), Huntington Beach 4–7 Oct (JEP) and Goleta 22 Nov (KB).

With only 12 reports this fall (2 Sep–8 Oct), many Bobolinks surely went unreported. A Rusty Blackbird was on the Palos Verdes Peninsula 28 Oct (KL). Three Bronzed Cowbirds near Calipatria 21 Nov (GMcC) provided the first late fall/winter record for the Salton Sea. Orchard Orioles were on Pt. Loma 9 & 29 Oct (REW). Fifteen Baltimore Orioles were along the coast starting 7 Sep, with a few remaining to winter; another was at G. H. P. 23 Sep (TEW).

A moderate invasion of Cassin's Finches brought flocks of up to 45 in *Santa Barbara* after 29 Sep and on the deserts s. to the Imperial Valley where 7 were found 2–14 Nov. Pine Siskins were relatively common and widespread, and Evening Grosbeaks were found at G.H.P. 12 Nov (TEW), *Santa Barbara* 5–7 Nov

(DM) and Pine Mountain, *Ventura*, 21 Nov (WW).

Exotics

A Red Pileated-Finch (*Coryphospingus cucullatus*) was at a Huntington Beach feeder 23 Aug (SG).

Cited observers (county coordinators in boldface):

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Baja California Peninsula



suggested that fall migration was somewhat delayed this year. For example, counts of Pacific-slope Flycatcher and Western Kingbird in northwestern BC were lower than expected in early September, but higher than expected in mid-October. Unlike most recent fall seasons, there were no first records for the peninsula, but rarity highlights included a Cerulean Warbler and three Painted Buntings.

Abbreviations: BC (the state of Baja California); BCS (the state of Baja California Sur); V.P. (Vizcaíno Pen.).

Loons Through Terns

A Common Loon at Cerro Prieto 1 Sep (SNGH et al.) had undoubtedly summered locally. Highlights of a 3 Sep boat trip w. of Islas Todos Santos included a Northern Fulmar and 2 Ashy Storm-Petrels (PP et al.). An impressive feeding flock of approximately 7500 Brandt's Cormorants was at Bahía Asunción 5 Sep (SNGH et al.). Seven Magnificent Frigatebirds at Punta Blanca 7 Sep (BRS) were on the s. Pacific coast of BC, where the species occurs as a rare post-breeding dispersant. Although the observer has seen the species at this approximate time and place almost annually since 1989, this count was the highest ever, surprising in a year when frigatebirds were almost absent in s. California.

Little Blue Herons are generally rare in BC, so an imm. at El Rosario 8 Sep (SNGH et al.) was of interest. A Reddish Egret at Estero Punta Banda 3 Sep (PP et al.) was on the mainland adjacent to the recently found nesting site on the Islas Todos Santos (*W. Birds* 31:184-189). A White-faced Ibis at Guerrero Negro 9 Oct (RAH, MAP) represented one of few Vizcaíno Desert records.

A female Mallard at Guerrero Negro 4-7 Sep (PP et al.) was apparently the first recorded in BCS since 1986. A female Ring-necked Duck on the Maneadero Plain 9 Sep (RAH et al.) was exceptionally early, but 4 Lesser Scaup at Guerrero Negro 4 Sep (PP, vt. RAH et al.) and a female Common Goldeneye at Cerro Prieto 1 Sep (SNGH et al.) are believed to have summered locally. The White-tailed Kite is locally distributed on the peninsula, especially in the mid-section; 3 were at Guerrero Negro 4 Sep (PP, vt. RAH et al.). An estimate of 2500 Marbled Godwits at Estero San José near Guerrero Negro 7 Oct (MAP, RAH) provides

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With this seasonal report we are pleased to commence coverage of the Baja California Peninsula. This expansion of *North American Birds'* reporting network is fortu-

itously timed, because several years of observations (through 31 Jul 2000) will be published in a collection of papers on the peninsula's birds that Erickson and Steve N. G. Howell submitted to the American Birding Association's monograph series. Upon the monograph's publication (expected in 2001), researchers will have access to a cohesive record of the Region's noteworthy bird records merging seamlessly with the current seasonal report. Given that many species found regularly in southern California have yet to establish solid patterns of occurrence south of the border, we request that observers err on the side of "over-documenting" sightings of species that may not warrant as much attention in California. Documentation of unusual sightings, along with all other submissions, will be permanently archived at the San Diego Natural History Museum and accessible to all responsible researchers.

Regional coverage was spotty, with no reports from south of Mulegé or for the month of November. Two forays to the middle of the peninsula in September and October

an idea of the size and productivity of this remarkable coastal estuary. Two juv. Red Knots at Cerro Prieto 1 Sep (RAH et al.) were somewhat unusual, occurring inland. A juv. Yellow-footed Gull at Estero San José 7 Oct (†MAP, vt. †RAH) provided BC's 2nd Pacific coast record, following an ad. there 3 Nov 1998. A Least Tern was unusual several miles offshore, w. of Is. Todos Santos 3 Sep (SNGH et al.). Five Black Terns were at Estero Punta Banda 12 Aug (ph. SGG).

Doves Through Pipits

A Spotted Dove at the Otay Mesa international border crossing 9 Sep (SNGH et al.) was unexpected, as this exotic species is nearly extirpated in adjacent *San Diego*, California (P. Unitt pers. comm.). Approximately 40 Inca Doves in the Mexicali Valley 1 Sep (vt. RAH et al.) provided a representative count of this recently established and localized columbid. The Ruddy Ground-Dove appears to be a vagrant and rare resident in the Cape District, with a male at Mulegé 7 Sep (†RAE) providing the northernmost record to date.

Two or three Western Screech-Owls at Punta Estrella, ±15 km s. of San Felipe, 1 Sep (SNGH et al.) were presumably resident *cardonensis* occupying large cardón cactus there, but one at Mexicali 4 Sep (MAP, BDS) was presumably *yumanensis*. Vaux's Swifts were found in greater abundance than in previous falls, with one in the Mexicali Valley 1 Sep (SNGH et al.) and 15 on the Pacific coast south to the San Quintín Plain 3 Sep–12 Oct. A Red-shafted Flicker at Santa Inés 7 Oct (MAP) was near the s. edge of the taxon's range.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in Mexicali 1 Sep (RAE et al.) provided apparently the first fall record for the Colorado Desert portion of the Region. The Least Flycatcher is proving to be a rare, regular fall migrant on the peninsula; single birds were at El Rosario 10 Oct (†MAP, RAH) and La Salina 12 Oct (†RAH). Pacific-slope Flycatchers staged a late push, with estimated counts of 20–25 in nw. BC 11–12 Oct (MAP, RAH); many were foraging in *Eucalyptus* trees infested with recently-established exotic psillid wasp "lerps," which have proven attractive to a variety of insectivores and frugivores. Tropical Kingbirds continue to turn up regularly after mid-Sep, with 2 at Bahía Tortugas 8 Oct (MAP, RAH) and singles on 12 Oct at El Descanso (ph. MAP, vt. RAH) and Rosarito (MAP, RAH). Approximately 50 Cassin's Kingbirds were in nw. BC 11 Oct, including at least 40 roosting in *Eucalyptus* on the Maneadero Plain, with 4 Western Kingbirds (MAP, RAH). Western

Kingbirds are generally rare after early Oct and away from nw. BC; noteworthy records included 2 at Bahía Tortugas 8 Oct, one 16 km n. of Vizcaíno 9 Oct, one at El Socorro 10 Oct, and 6 (including the 4 roosting birds) on the Maneadero Plain 11 Oct (all RAH, MAP).

Single singing Least Bell's Vireos (*V. b. pusillus*, listed as endangered in Mexico and the United States) at El Rosario 8 Sep, Cataviña 4–8 Sep, and Rancho San José de Castro, V.P., 5 Sep were at known nesting locations, but a singing bird at Arroyo Santo Dominguito, BC, 4 Sep was at a new locality (all RAE, RAH et al.). Plumbeous Vireos were at Cataviña 7 Oct (2; RAH, MAP) and on the Maneadero Plain 11 Oct (2; RAH, MAP), whereas Cassin's Vireo was unrecorded. Four American Crows at El Descanso 9 Sep (RAE et al.) were on the n. coast where they have been found regularly in recent years. Purple Martins were still present in the central peninsula 4–7 Sep, with 100+ seen at five locations from the V.P. to Mulegé (RAH et al.). Generally rare migrants, 5 Bank Swallows were on the coast from the San Quintín Plain northward 3–9 Sep (SNGH et al.). An imm Red-throated Pipit at Arroyo Santo Dominguito, BC, 7 Oct (vt. RAH, ph. †MAP) represented the Region's 8th record and was the season's only Asian migrant.

Wood-Warblers

This colorful group of birds consistently provides excitement with their wanderings across the continent; 26 species were recorded in fall 2000, many from breeding grounds in e. North America. Three Tennessee Warblers at Punta Banda 12 Oct (vt. RAH, MAP) represent the most ever found at one place in the Region. Noteworthy congeners included 2 Virginia's Warblers at Cataviña 8 Sep (SNGH et al.) and another at Arroyo Santo Dominguito, BC, 7 Oct (vt. RAH, MAP), and Lucy's Warblers on 11 Oct at La Bufadora (MAP, RAH) and Punta Banda (†RAH, MAP). A Northern Parula at Cataviña 10 Oct (†MAP, vt. RAH) was only the 7th ever found on the peninsula.

One of the most exciting finds of the season was an imm. male **Mangrove Warbler** (*Dendroica petechia castaneiceps*) at the city park in Guerrero Negro 9 Oct (†RAH, †MAP). Surprisingly, this distinctive mangrove endemic was recorded previously at the n. end of town 29 Jan 1995, ±140 km n. of the nearest mangroves at Estero La Bocana/Laguna San Ignacio. A Black-throated Blue Warbler at Santa Inés 7 Oct (MAP, vt. RAH) was more expected than the peninsula's 4th record of Black-throated Green Warbler, found on the San Quintín Plain 10 Oct (†RAH, †MAP).



Surprising in a year when so few were found on the Pacific Coast, this first-fall Red-throated Pipit at Arroyo Santo Dominguito, Baja California, 7 October 2000, furnished the 8th record for the Baja California peninsula and the 10th overall for Mexico. Photograph by Michael A. Patten.

Despite its w. range, the Hermit Warbler is as rare in fall migration in most of the Region as are many eastern species. Four were seen in nw. BC 8 Sep–12 Oct (RAH et al.) and a 5th was at Punta Eugenia 6 Sep (SNGH et al.). Although unrecorded on the peninsula prior to 1987, 15 Prairie Warblers were found since, through 1999; this year singles were at Bahía Asunción 5 Sep (SNGH, RAH) and 8 Oct (vt. RAH, MAP). The Palm Warbler (one at Rancho San José de Castro, V.P., 8 Oct; MAP, RAH) and Blackpoll Warbler (up to 3 at Punta Banda 11–12 Oct; RAH, MAP) are among the most numerous e. warblers in California. In contrast, the **Cerulean Warbler** is among the rarest; thus an imm. male at El Rosario 8 Sep (†RAE, †SNGH, vt. †RAH) was a surprise. One was collected in the Sierra San Pedro Mártir 2 Oct 1925; an unseasonal and undocumented sight record from San José del Cabo 17 Dec 1967 is considered dubious.

A single Black-and-white Warbler was found in early Sep (near Gavilán, BCS, 7 Sep; RAH et al.), but 6 were found from the V.P. northward 7–12 Oct (RAH, MAP). An absence of American Redstarts in early Sep was surprising, but 8 were on the wintering grounds in Guerrero Negro 7–9 Oct and 2 were at mid-peninsula oases 8–10 Oct (all RAH, MAP). With only seven previous peninsula records, 3 Prothonotary Warblers were more than expected, but it was an exceptional fall for the species in the West. A male was at El Rosario 8 Sep (RAE, vt. †RAH, SNGH) and up to 2 females were in Guerrero Negro 7–9 Oct (vt. RAH, †MAP). The arrival of Northern Waterthrushes was noted in early Sep; none were seen during daily birding 1–6 Sep, yet six were found in essentially the same areas from the V.P. northward 7–9 Sep (RAE et al.). A male Belding's Yellowthroat at El Mezquital, BCS, 9 Oct (RAH, MAP) was just downstream of a known breeding locale at San Joaquín. It appears likely that small numbers of this endangered endemic occur at oasis scattered along the Batequi Grande San Joaquín.

Tanagers Through Orioles

Four Summer Tanagers, all presumably the nominate e. subspecies, were found from the V.P. northward 7–12 Oct (all RAH, MAP). A Spotted Towhee at Cataviña 4 Sep (RAE, PP) was south of previous mainland records in the Region. The bird was well-marked with white above and may have been the "resident" BC subspecies (*P. m. umbraticola*) or one of the migratory subspecies of the interior American west (i.e., *curtatus*, *montanus*, or *arcticus*).

Clay-colored Sparrows winter n. to the

Sierra de San Francisco (e. of Vizcaíno) but are rare and somewhat irregular n. and w. of there; 4 were found from the V.P. northward 8–12 Oct (all RAH, MAP). The Lark Bunting appears to have declined in BC since Wilbur (1987, *Birds of Baja California*, Univ. California Press) described it as a "widespread and locally common winter visitor the length of the peninsula." The only ones reported were a male at Punta Prieta 4 Sep (PP et al.) and a female near Gavilán, BCS, 8 Oct (MAP, RAH). An ad. White-crowned Sparrow on the Maneadero Plain 9 Sep was early (RAH, SNGH), while a Gray-headed Junco (*J. h. caniceps*) on the lower Río Santo Tomás, BC, 11 Oct (MAP) appears to be only the 5th for the peninsula.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found at Rancho El Descanso, BC, 10 Oct and at Santa Teresita, BCS, 8 Oct (both RAH, MAP). Buntings (*Passerina*) made an impressive showing in early Sep, with an ad. male Varied Bunting at Rancho Santa Mónica 4–5 Sep (2nd record for the V.P.; Maria de Jesús Higuera, vt. RAH et al.), and imm. **Painted Buntings** at Punta Eugenia 6 Sep (SNGH,

†RAH, RAE), Rancho Santa Mónica 6–7 Sep (†SNGH, †RAE), and Santa Inés, BC, 8 Sep (†SNGH, †RAH, RAE). It was an exceptional year for the latter species in California as well. There are several records of apparent escapees, but only two previous unequivocal records for the peninsula: one at Cabo San Lucas 15 Nov 1966 and one at Rancho Santa Mónica 29 Sep 1999.

The Red-winged Blackbird has proved to be a very rare fall migrant in the Vizcaíno Desert, so an imm. female at Arroyo Santo Domniguito, BC, 4 Sep (RAH et al.) was of note. Early Oct was good for rare migrant orioles, with an Orchard Oriole at Santa Inés, BC, 7–10 Oct (vt. RAH, †MAP), and Baltimore Orioles at Punta Banda 11–12 Oct, Santa Inés 10 Oct (vt. RAH) and Rancho San José de Castro, V.P., 8 Oct (all MAP, RAH).

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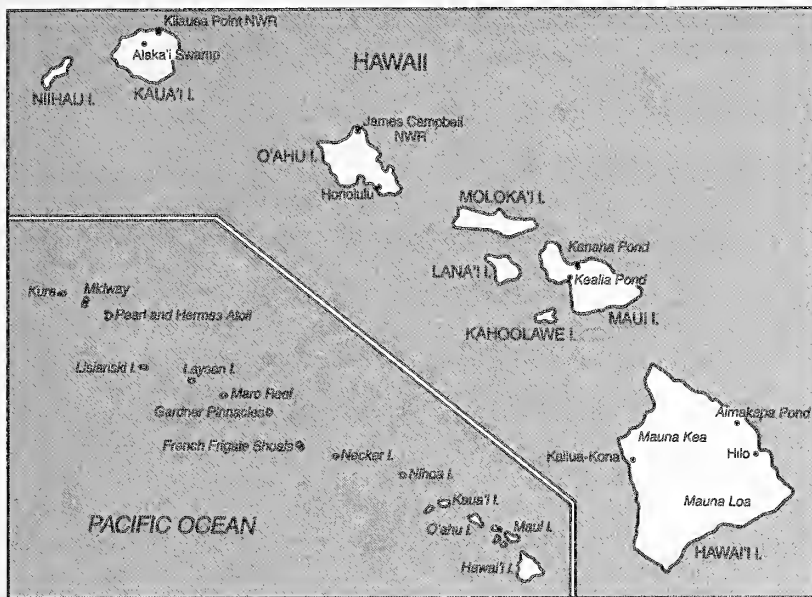
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Hawaiian Islands



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Torrential rains fell over Maui and the Big Island in late October and early November, boosting the year's rainfall totals above average for many sites on the east side of the Big Island. Despite a wetter than normal summer and fall, rainfall remained below normal for the year over most other areas of the main Hawaiian Islands. Many wetland areas were dry at the beginning of the season, but conditions improved later. One of the two ponds at Honouliuli was refilled in late August and several ponds at Kii were refilled in late September. The newly refilled ponds attracted a good variety of migrants. Heavy rains on Midway Atoll in late November flooded many areas and submerged over 100 Laysan Albatross nests. The sugar mill at Kekaha, K.i, closed on 17 November. Wastewater from the mill had been pumped into settling ponds that provided habitat for a variety of wetland birds. When the mill closed, the ponds dried.

Abbreviations: H. (Hawai'i I.); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kaua'i I.); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu I.); K. (Kaua'i I.); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I.); Kii (Ki'i Unit of Jas. Campbell N.W.R., O. I.); K.P. (Kilauea Point N.W.R., Kaua'i I.); M. (Maui I.); O. (O'ahu I.); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O'ahu I.).

Albatrosses Through Herons

Thousands of Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses returned to Midway Atoll by mid-Nov (KL). One Black-footed, a bird banded 6 May 1958, may be the oldest of its species ever documented (KL). Two Short-tailed Albatrosses, a yellow-banded female and a blue-banded male, returned to their usual spots on separate islands on Midway (KL).

A Kermadec Petrel at K.P.N.W.R. since spring was last seen 11 Sep (CM). A Leach's Storm-Petrel was seen well on a boat trip between Kaua'i and Lehua Rock 8 Sep (PD, CM, KP). Six Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were seen on the same trip (DK et al.). Band-rumped Storm-Petrels are seen regularly in Hawaiian waters and are presumed to nest in the islands, but their nesting grounds have never been discovered, despite renewed efforts to locate them this year (DK). A Tristram's Storm-Petrel was found on Midway 18 Oct (KL). Red-tailed Tropicbirds departed K.P. in early Oct, about three weeks earlier than usual (*vide* DP).

A Great Blue Heron was found on Lehua, a small rocky island near Ni'ihau 8 Sep (PD, DK, CM, KP); it was almost certainly the same bird seen there 19 Jun.

Ducks Through Rails

Numbers of migrant waterfowl were low. The largest flock of any one species was 98 Northern Shovelers at Kii 29 Nov (MSi). A pair of Garganey were at Kii 21 Oct–29 Nov (PD, DP et al.). Another was at Hanalei 19 Nov (CM). Numbers of bay ducks seemed especially low. The largest flock reported, at Kii 24 Nov, contained one Ring-necked Duck, one Greater Scaup, and 5 Lesser Scaup (PD). Two Canvasbacks, uncommon in Hawaii, were at Kealia mid-Oct+ (MN).

A Peregrine Falcon was reported in the Kilauea Point area, K., late Oct+ (CM, v.o.). Peregrines are rare but regular in Hawaii from fall through spring. A **Sora** in Kona 4–22 Sep (KU, vt. RD, in press) furnished the first documented record for Hawaii. A Sora was seen briefly 10 Feb 1992 at the Waipio Settling Ponds, O., but the sighting was never published (†PD). Prior to these reports, there had been no records of any rails in Hawaii since the endemic ones became extinct over 50 years ago.

Shorebirds Through Terns

SA An outbreak of avian botulism at Kealia, which may have begun during the summer, continued into mid-Nov. Over 100 birds are believed to have died. During the outbreak, the refuge was pumped as dry as possible. Large numbers of shorebirds visited the drying ponds but there was little habitat for ducks. High counts of shorebirds included 651 Hawaiian Stilts 16 Aug, 583 Pacific Golden-Plovers 15 Sep, and 121 Sanderlings 17 Nov (MN). By mid-Nov the outbreak had subsided and, thanks to heavy rainfall, water levels were rising again. As the water rose, the shorebirds dispersed and the numbers of ducks increased (MN, in press).

Two to three small plovers on Midway were reported as either Semipalmated or Common Ringed Plovers. Reports of these species, and the spotted and Solitary Sandpipers (see below) uncommon to rare in Hawaii and difficult to separate from each other, were accompanied by little or no documentation. A Solitary Sandpiper was reported at Opaepala Pond, H., 6 Oct. A Wandering Tattler at Waiakea Pond, H., 11 Nov (TP) was color-banded Jul 1999 in Alaska and had been previ-

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ously observed at Waiakea Pond Aug 1999–Jan 2000 (TP, v.o.). Spotted Sandpipers were reported at Kealia 1 Sep, Aimakapa Pond, H., 1 Sep, and Kealakehe W.T.P., H., 8 Sep.

By 18 Nov Bristle-thighed Curlews at Kii built to 26 (PD), the largest number recorded on O'ahu and maybe the highest number ever recorded in the main Hawaiian Islands. A Whimbrel of the North American subspecies was at Kii 3 Sep+ (PD); it was probably the same individual that has appeared at Kii each fall since 1997. The outstanding shorebird rarity was a **Black-tailed Godwit** at Kanaha Pond, M., 26 Oct–late Nov (MF, vt. RR, DP, m.ob., in press), providing the first record of this species in the Hawaiian Islands. Many observers got close looks at the bird before it moved to a less-accessible location at Kealia in late Nov (MN, LT).

A Red-necked Stint in breeding plumage was at the Kekaha Mill Ponds, K., 29 Aug–7 Sep (†DK, CM). A non-breeding-plumaged Red-necked was at Kealia 28 Oct+ (DP, et al.). A juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Waiawa 12 Oct (†PD). A juvenile Short-billed Dowitcher was at Honouliuli 24 Aug (†PD). Single Ruffs were reported on Midway late Oct+ (KL) and at Kualoa Park, O., 23 Sep (JV). These species are all rare in Hawaii. One or two Lesser Yellowlegs were on Kaua'i late Aug+ (DK, CM). One Least Sandpiper was on Midway late Oct–late Nov (KL, no details). One Wilson's Phalarope was at Hanalei 5–12 Sep (ph. CM). These three species had been considered regular migrants in the main Hawaiian Islands but seem to have become less regular since 1995.

Four **Black-headed Gulls** were seen on Midway in Nov. Two were later found dead and salvaged for the Bishop Museum (KL). There are 7 previous reports for Hawaii, but half have few supporting details. One first-winter Herring Gull of the *vega* subspecies was on Midway late Oct+ (KL). Only 2 gulls were reported from the main islands: Ring-billed Gulls at Kinikini Ditch, K., 27 Oct (JD) and at Hilo 21 Nov (DL).

A first-year Common Tern was seen well off Kalaeloa, O., 20 Oct (DP et al.). A Caspian Tern was seen at Kauai Lagoons, K., 26 Nov (CM). Both species are rare in Hawaii. A Blue-gray Noddy was reported flying past the 19th floor of a Honolulu office building 8 Aug (MO, few details). This species has not previously been recorded in the main Hawaiian Islands.

Doves Through Passerines

Mourning Doves were thought to be established only on the Big Island. Recently, they have been reported regularly along the s. coast

of Maui (FD, LT). In s. Kaua'i they have become a pest in cornfields and are being shot by wildlife services (TT). On 4 Aug, around 75 Rose-ringed Parakeets were seen near Central Union Church (MO, RPy), and dozens were found in Oahu Cemetery 18 & 20 Oct (PD, DP et al.). Both locations are in downtown Honolulu. Rose-ringed appear to be well established in the area.

No Hawaiian Crows were found on the McCandless Ranch, H., 1 Nov (DP et al.). A mated pair that had been frequenting the ranch have not been seen there for several months (*vide* DP).

Kaua'i 'Amakihi, 'Anianiau, 'Akeke' e, 'Apapane, 'Iwi, and 'Elepaio were seen well on a hike in the Kokee area, K., 23 Oct, but no Puaiohi or 'Akikiki, were found (DP et al.). There is concern that 'Akikiki numbers may be declining significantly (DP, GK). A sub-adult male Maui Parrotbill and 2–3 'Akohehohe were at Waikamoi Preserve, M., 27 Oct (DP et al.). Another Maui Parrotbill was seen at a different location in Waikamoi the same day (CG).

Lavender Waxbills appear to be increasing in numbers and expanding their range southward on the w. side of the Big Island. Over 30 were reported mid-Nov at Hawaiian Ocean View Estates, near the s. tip of the island (JL). A few Red-cheeked Cordonbleu and Black-rumped Waxbills, uncommon and local, were seen near Pu'uana'hulu, H., 31 Oct (DP et al.). Two African Silverbills, rarely reported on O'ahu, were seen at Ewa Beach 14 Aug (PD).

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many as they can take. Other birds taken include Glossy Ibis and Great Blue Heron. If Haiti is receiving U.S. federal assistance, could not the Haitian government be encouraged to adhere to international bird-protection laws?

Abbreviations: Be. (Bermuda)

Petrel Through Terns

The critically threatened population cannot afford losses even from another listed species. A Least Bittern was noted at Small Hope Bay, North Andros, Bahamas, 5 Nov (JD, TW). A single Roseate Spoonbill was noted at Gonaives Bay, Haiti, 22 Aug (JRC, IP). Greater Flamingos were estimated at 150 (JRC) at Trou Caiman, Haiti, 2 Sep, where numbers swelled to 400 by 14 Oct. At San Andros, N. Andros, JD and TW found 2 West Indian Whistling-Ducks. The arrival of 4 imm. Brant (*B. b. horta*) at Bermuda's St. George's dairy 31 Oct (LG) was considered a highlight of the season and provided only the 4th record since the mid-1960s (AD). White-cheeked Pintail numbered 45 at Trou Caiman 2 Sep (JRC). A drake Eurasian Wigeon (JM) was found at Nonsuch Island, Be., 14 Nov. A male Wood Duck was noted at Garden of Groves, Grand Bahama, 21 Nov (GW). A Merlin was seen at Trou Caiman, Haiti, 18 Nov (JRC).

Four Limpkins were found at San Andros 3 Nov (JD, TW). A single American Golden-

Plover was carefully noted at Trou Caiman 18 Nov (JRC), where it was compared with other shorebirds, including 100+ Black-bellied Plovers. Two Snowy Plovers were at Trou Caiman 2 Sep. A Piping Plover was noted at Castle Harbour, Be., 19 Aug. Four Whimbrels at Gonaives Bay 23 Nov were considered late migrants (JRC). On 30 Sep at Trou Caiman, JRC found 100+ Pectoral Sandpipers among a mixed flock of shorebirds. A White-rumped Sandpiper was noted (PD, EC, BH, TW) at San Salvador 12 Nov. Fifteen Stilt Sandpipers were at Trou Caiman 18 Nov (JRC). There were separate sightings of Ruff at St. Georges' dairy, Be., and Mid-Ocean golf course 16 Sep; the rarely recorded Baird's Sandpiper was at the airport the same day. Common Snipe numbered 26 on 21 Oct at one location on Be., as a result of flooding (AD). A first-winter Black-headed Gull was on the Dockyard jetty, Be., 22 Oct (AD). Also at Trou Caiman were 2 Gull-billed Terns (JRC); 5 Caspian Terns were there 14 Oct., as were 3 Least Terns 2 Sep (JRC). A Bridled Tern in Castle Rocks, Be., 4 Aug was the first record from there since 1978. A Black Tern was noted at Castle Harbour 18 Aug, while 3 Black Terns were at Gonaives Bay 22 Aug (JRC, IP).

Cuckoos Through Orioles

A Black-billed Cuckoo on Nonsuch Island, Be., 19 Aug was a good find. A single Hispaniolan Cuckoo was noted 20 Sep at Fermanthe, Haiti (JRC), as were an Antillean Mango and a Vervain Hummingbird (JRC). A Northern Flicker was a surprise on Vesey Street, Hamilton, Be. (AD). The flycatcher of the fall at Bermuda was an **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (MW) 21 Nov–mid-Dec, only the 3rd recorded there. Kingbirds have been scarce at Be., but all three species turned up at Mid-Ocean golf course: a Western 12 Oct (AD), an Eastern (DBW), and a Gray (DBW). A Northern Shrike appeared on the Bermuda CBC (AD) for one of the more remarkable finds in the Region. A Red-eyed Vireo was seen 11 Nov at San Salvador (PD, TW, EC); another was retrieved from a cat at Saba, Netherland Antilles (MMW). One Palm and 3 White-necked Crows were noted at Trou Caiman 30 Sep (JRC). Four Black-crowned Palm-Tanagers were noted at Fermanthe (JRC). An American Robin was heard at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama, 21 Nov (GW).

Among the 37 species of warblers that rained on Be. in the days and weeks following the 16 Sep. storm and cold front were Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided found easily in a variety of locations. Swainson's Warblers were reported from a number of locations at

Be., including Port Royal 4 Oct (AD), Hog Bay Park 25 Oct (AD), and Spittal Pond 2 Nov (AD). A tour on North Andros produced 20 species of warblers 1–5 Nov (ABA *vide* TW); including a Wilson's Warbler 1 Nov. Another Wilson's was at San Salvador 12 Nov (PD), much farther ese. in the Bahamas, and GF found another at Grand Bahama 23 Nov for the latest report in the area. A male American Redstart and a Black-and-white Warbler 20 Sep at Fermanthe were noted again 11 Nov (JRC), along with 6–8 Cape May Warblers and singles of Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat. On 7 Oct at Furcey, Haiti, JRC recorded Black-throated Blue and Yellow-throated Warblers. A Northern Waterthrush was noted 2 Sep in a small stand of mangroves at Trou Caiman, possibly an arrival that day.

A Clay-colored Sparrow was noted 8 Oct at Hog Bay Park, Be. (AD), and a Fox Sparrow was at Hog Bay Park 13 Nov (SF). The aforementioned 1–5 Nov tour found a Chipping, 4 Savannah and 4 Grasshopper Sparrows and 2 Indigo and 5 Painted Buntings (ABA). At

Bermuda 18 Sep were 300 Bobolinks feeding in pumpkin fields. Two ad. and one juv. Greater Antillean Orioles were noted at Fermanthe 20 Sep (JRC). Baltimore Orioles were noted at the extremes of the Bahamas, with one at N. Andros 1 Nov (ABA) and another at San Salvador 12 Nov (PD, EC, BH, & TW). Imagine finding 25 Baltimore Orioles, birds not ballplayers, on Bermuda in one day (18 Sep)!

Addenda/Corrigenda

Fall 1999 reports from GK include a Yellow-throated Vireo at Marshall's Pen, Jamaica, 8–9 Nov (GK, RPM, JP, FR); a Willow Flycatcher tape-recorded(!) at Windsor Caves 10 Nov (GK, FR); a Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Rocklands, Jamaica, 11 Nov (GK, FR). Also from GK came 2000 reports of a Chimney Swift s. of Matanzas, Cuba, 14 Apr and a Bananaquit (not native to Cuba) at Palpite, Matanzas, Cuba, 23 Jul, the 21st for the island. Five White-rumped Sandpipers were near Jaguey Grande, Matanzas, 24 Jul, and a Northern Rough-winged Swallow was near Palpite 21 Jul (earliest

autumn record). Dean found both Glossy and White Ibises on Cat Cay, Biminis, Bahamas, 30 Jul for the first records of both species for that group of islands (TW). The 28 Aug 1999 Little Egret (*N. Am. Birds* 54:109) should read "imm. white-morph Reddish Egret (CS *vide* TW)."

Contributors (sub-regional editors in bold):

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Central America



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In this, the first seasonal report from Central America, coverage is weighted toward Belize. However, thanks to the work of George Angehr, Oliver Komar, and James R. Zook, who graciously agreed to serve as country coordinators for Panama, El Salvador, and

Costa Rica respectively, records from these three countries lend a regional perspective that otherwise would not have been possible. I expect future reports will achieve a balance of coverage, as more people living in or visiting these and other Central American countries learn of this new vehicle for publicizing their noteworthy field observations. Lacking this broader perspective for the moment, it is difficult to discern Regional trends, especially weather-related phenomena that can so profoundly affect both the timing and pulse of migration and other seasonal movements from season to season. Nonetheless, even with limited data at hand, it is clear that this fall season was a remarkable one. In addition to several supposed "resident" species in out-of-the-way places, several earliest arrival and latest departure dates on record, and an unexpected subspecies of warbler, the autumn migration produced one new country record, at least two second country records, and several others nearly as rare. And three intrepid souls got a rare bird's-eye-view of life in the eye of a Category 4 hurricane!

Abbreviations: C.C.C.–U.S.F.S. (Caribbean Conservation Corp. and U.S. Forest Service Redwood Sciences Laboratory Tortuguero Banding Station, Costa Rica); C.T.W.S. (Crooked Tree Wildlife Sanctuary, Belize); P.G. (Punta Gorda, Belize). **Note:** Frank's, Nicholas, Lime, and Seal Cayes (pronounced "keys") are in the Sapodilla group in s. Belize.

Shearwaters Through Waterfowl

Two separate **Audubon's Shearwaters**, a dying bird found on the beach at Caye Caulker in late Jul (ph. EM) and a carcass found on a beach near Hopkins 2 Aug (ph. MM), represent the first and second records for Belize; details will be published elsewhere. A small nesting colony of Brown Pelicans with approximately 7 nestlings was discovered on E. Snake Caye in mid-Sep (JY, LJ). As this species normally nests in Belize only in spring, this colony was a full six months out of sync.

A Least Bittern at Tortuguero, Costa Rica, 25 Sep (WW) was at an unexpected Caribbean coastal locality. This species nests at Lago Caño Negro and Palo Verde and is seldom reported elsewhere. Two Black-crowned Night-Herons on Caye Caulker 21–22 Oct (J&DB) are the first for that locality and represent one of the few records for the Belize cayes. There were several reports of Glossy Ibis in Panama in Jun–Aug, including the first ever for well-studied Barro Colorado I. 24 Jul (GR). The 25 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks that appeared on Caye Caulker in the eye of Hurricane *Keith* (J&DB) were the first reported for any Belize caye.

Representing only the 3rd record for Panama were 33 **Fulvous Whistling-Ducks** at Las Macanas Marsh 14 Jul (vt. DM, K&RK, CR).

Raptors

Three Swallow-tailed Kites 15 Jul (JPD) and 2 on 9 Aug (OK) at Municipio de Perquin were the first fall migrants ever reported in El Salvador, while 3 on 14 Sep in P.G. (LJ) were the latest yet for Belize. Only last fall the **Mississippi Kite** was confirmed as occurring in Belize (two earlier reports were likely correct but lacked details). This year, a sub-adult 16 Sep and 8 juv. 3 Oct, both in P.G. (LJ), strongly suggest this species is a scarce but regular fall migrant. A Cooper's Hawk 22 Oct in P.G. (LJ) was the only one reported this fall in Belize; however, two sightings in the lowlands of Costa Rica and another at Fila Las Cruces just 10 km from the Panama border (all JRZ) was an impressive number for one fall season. A Swainson's Hawk at Campo Tres, Costa Rica, 28 Nov (JRZ) was either a late migrant or a wintering bird.

Sandpipers Through Kingfishers

An Upland Sandpiper on Frank's Caye 8 Oct (LJ) may represent only the 2nd fall record for Belize. Least Sandpipers at the Aguadulce salt ponds 14 Jul (DM, K&RK, CR) were the earliest ever reported in Panama; 4 Wilson's Phalaropes there 15 Aug (GA) were an added treat. One of the best birds of the season was surely the well-studied ad. **Gray-hooded Gull** in basic plumage that turned up at Costa del

Este, Panama City, 2 Aug (DM, RK, CR), only the 3rd for Panama and one of the few ever n. of South America. Also present were a Ring-billed Gull, a Franklin's Gull, and a probable imm. Gray Gull. A juv. Sooty Tern at sea off E. Snake Caye 15 Oct (LJ) was about 2 months later than expected. What is perhaps the only remaining breeding colony in Belize persists (barely!) on nearby M. Snake Caye, but all birds are usually gone by mid-Aug. Brown Noddies are rare on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica, so 2 moribund individuals at Tortuguero 22 Sep and 15 Oct, respectively, were a surprise.

A Ruddy Quail-Dove on Lime Caye 1 Nov (vt. LJ) represents only the 2nd offshore record for Belize. Previously only a winter visitor in El Salvador, a pair of Red-throated (Green) Parakeets at Municipio de Perquin 10 Aug (OK) was a surprise and represents the first rainy season record. Increasingly scarce in Costa Rica, 12 Great Green Macaws at Caño Harold, Tortuguero, 25 Sep (WW) are worth noting. Indicative of their continuing northward expansion in Costa Rica, 6 Blue-headed Parrots were seen at Isla Grande near Puerto Viejo 16 Oct (JRZ). A juv. Black-billed Cuckoo on Lime Caye 29 Sep (LJ) was the only one reported in Belize this fall. An ad. Smooth-billed Ani was well studied on Caye Caulker 3 Oct–8 Nov (J&DB) following Hurricane *Keith*. Chuck-will's-widows, once thought to be rare in Belize, are proving to be regular fall migrants on the small cayes, where they are much more conspicuous than on the

SA Without question the event that had the most profound effect on birds in the Region was Hurricane *Keith*. Upgraded from a tropical storm to a hurricane 30 September, *Keith* quickly became a Category 4 hurricane, with sustained winds of 135 mph. Unprecedented for a hurricane, it literally parked itself over Ambergris Caye and Caye Caulker for nearly three full days. Because the tropical storm-to-hurricane happened so quickly and unexpectedly, more than a thousand people were trapped on these, the two most heavily populated cays in Belize. On 2 October the eye drifted over Caye Caulker for a full six hours (noon to dusk), during which three dedicated birders were witness to a spectacle rarely seen in the avian world. To quote from Jim Beveridge:

We [J&DB] followed the shoreline around the southern point to the west side of the cay. The seas were still raging and mounds of sea grass were piled two to four feet thick as far away as a hundred yards from the shore. It was not immediately apparent, but soon we began to notice the birds. At first it was the larger species, including Great and Snowy Egrets, White Ibis, Little Blue Herons, and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. They were feeding among the sea grass and flotsam. Then a flock of approximately 15 ducks flew toward us. These I identified as Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, which I suspect, Keith brought in from Shipstern. A second flock of ducks appeared,

and both groups combined to form a larger flock of perhaps 25 birds, which then flew north. Soon, large numbers of swallows and Purple Martins began to gather, each flying singly as if feeding. More and more arrived until literally thousands were flying erratically in never ending circles, seemingly aware that there was no place to go. As dusk approached we were still in the eye of the storm, and the martins and swallows, now near total exhaustion, began to roost on the shattered trees and in all the available perches on the few empty houses around us. Now, it was easy to identify the majority as Cliff Swallows. As the swallows settled down, another group of birds took off. These were nighthawks. Nighthawks are found on the cayes, but seldom are they noticed. This evening, however, I counted 16 in flight at the same time!

And 120 mi. to the south in Punta Gorda things were quite different. There was hardly a breath of wind and little rain. LJ, who had been tracking diurnal migration past P.G. since early September, noticed a precipitous drop in diurnal migrants during and immediately following the hurricane. Notably affected were Eastern Kingbirds and swallows, with numbers of each dropping off dramatically during and immediately after the hurricane.

SA From 25 Oct to 1 Nov 1999, LJ observed several flocks of Hook-billed Kites (max. flock size 37) migrating south along the coast of s. Belize. While this phenomenon is not without precedent (it is an annual occurrence in coastal Veracruz), it was unexpected in Belize, where the Hook-billed Kite is thought to be non-migratory. Demonstrating that the 1999 phenomenon was no fluke, LJ again observed **Hook-billed Kites** migrating south past P.G. 21 Oct 2000. What began as a kettle of 10 birds soon grew to a remarkable **96** as this and other groups coalesced into one large flock that gradually moved s. down the coast until they were out of sight. Almost every conceivable color morph and age class of this highly polymorphic species was represented. Where are these birds coming from? Where are they going? In no part of its range is this species considered to be seasonal. Perhaps some (or most?), but not all, individuals migrate seasonally *entirely within* the confines of the species' geographic range in response to a fluctuating seasonal food source, in this case land snails.

heavily vegetated mainland. Eight were on the Sapodillas 16 Sep, 2 were on tiny Seal Caye 29 Sep, and 1 was on Frank's Caye 15 Oct (all LJ). An Oilbird in Soberania N.P. 19 Jul (AC) was only 11th for Panama. Although a regular fall migrant along the mainland coast, Chimney Swifts are not often seen on the cayes, so 30+ seen swirling in the eye of Hurricane *Keith* 2 Oct (EM) were unexpected, as were 15 flying high over Seal Caye 20 Oct (LJ).

A **Long-billed Starthroat**, only the 2nd ever recorded in Belize, was carefully studied as it hawked insects in the middle of the Southern Highway (!) at Big Falls 29 Jul (PB). An exceptionally early Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Finca Altamira 9 Sep (CH) represents the earliest record for El Salvador, and a Belted Kingfisher on Glovers Reef 2 Jul (MM) represents the earliest record for Belize.

Woodcreepers Through Catbirds

A Strong-billed Woodcreeper, rare in El Salvador, was seen at El Imposible N.P. 30 Sep (CH). A Yellow-bellied Elaenia at remote Seal Caye 9 Nov furnished only the 2nd record of this sedentary species on an offshore cayes in Belize. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 15 Aug at El Imposible N.P. (CH) was the 2nd earliest for

El Salvador, and an Acadian Flycatcher 9 Nov on Nicholas Caye (LJ) was the latest yet for Belize. A few Great Kiskadees, another species presumed to be sedentary, winter most years on Caye Caulker; however, one there 27 Jul was early (J&DB). Expect this species to be nesting on Caye Caulker within the next few years. A Piratic Flycatcher at Chilamate near La Selva, Costa Rica, 8 Oct (JRZ) was later than usual. Eastern Kingbirds migrate in great numbers every fall along the coast of Belize, with peak numbers typically occurring in late Sep and early Oct. This year, at height of their migration, Hurricane *Keith* struck. In mid- and late Sep, LJ and WRM routinely counted 1000–3500 passing P.G. in the first two hours after daylight; however, on the morning of 3 Oct, when kingbird numbers should have been at their peak, *none* were seen. The roadblock was surely *Keith*, which was just beginning to wind down 120 mi to the north. In the days following, kingbird numbers began to increase again, but never reached numbers expected for that time of year. Small groups of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers can occasionally be seen migrating with the Eastern Kingbirds, although well separated vertically, as this species migrates much closer to the ground. Although fewer than expected were seen this year, one 28 Sep in P.G. (LJ) was the earliest yet for Belize. The Rose-throated Becard is a rare winter visitor in se. Costa Rica, so a vocalizing pair at San Vito near the Panama border 28–30 Nov, and another female 2 km to the e. 30 Nov (JRZ), were of interest.

Two White-eyed Vireos at Tortuguero, one 30 Oct–4 Nov and another 10 Nov (both C.C.C.–U.S.F.S.), were the first reported in Costa Rica in about five years. A Red-eyed Vireo at Finca Altamira 9 Sep (CH) was only the 3rd record for El Salvador and the first in fall. Is this species being overlooked? Cliff Swallows reached their peak in P.G. 1 Oct, with 1,038 passing in one hour (LJ). Thus, it is not surprising that when *Keith* struck, one of the two most common species caught in the eye was Cliff Swallow. Thousands of Cliff Swallows and Purple Martins were seen swirling in the eye, near exhaustion, 2 Oct (see the S.A.). Among the Cliff Swallows were at least 3 **Cave Swallows** (EM), a rare species in Belize, with only 3–4 previous records. Two Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Finca Altamira 9 Sep were the earliest on record for El Salvador. Migrant Wood Thrushes reached their peak in Belize 20 Oct, with 110 counted on the Sapodillas (LJ). Ten days later Gray Catbirds reached their peak, with 135 on the Sapodillas (LJ). A Black Catbird in Belize City in early Nov (RB) was at an unexpected location.

Wood-warblers Through Blackbirds

A Blue-winged Warbler, rare in Costa Rica, was at Monteverde 20 Nov (JRZ). The subtly patterned Tennessee Warbler is one of the most common, yet least appreciated, warblers in Belize in fall. With one-day totals on the Sapodillas of 57 on 29 Sep and 60 on 30 Oct, it was exceeded only by the Common Yellowthroat with 110 on 18 Oct (all LJ). The best warbler of the fall had to be **Nashville Warbler**. With no more than 10 previous records for Belize, the occurrence of 3 on the Sapodillas in Oct (LJ) was unprecedented. Even more surprising was the fact that 2 of them (Nicholas Caye 8 Oct and Lime Caye 30 Oct) were apparently the western *ridgwayi* subspecies; the third (Lime Caye 15 Oct) was seen only briefly and the subspecies was not determined. Because none of the birds previously reported in Belize was identified to subspecies, it may well be that *ridgwayi*, not nominate *ruficapilla* from eastern North America as previously assumed, is the "expected" subspecies in Belize.

A Chestnut-sided Warbler on Laughing Bird Caye 5 Sep (PB) was the earliest yet recorded in Belize, and single Magnolia and Black-throated Green Warblers at Finca Altamira 9 Sep (CH) established the earliest records for those two species in El Salvador. Black-throated Blue Warblers at Tortuguero 30 Oct and 11 Nov (both C.C.C.–U.S.F.S.) were the first recorded in 3–4 years in Costa Rica. One at Chan Chich, Belize, 15 Nov (MBS) was unusual at an inland location. There were three separate reports of Yellow-throated Warblers in Costa Rica this fall, quite unexpected for this rare winter visitor. Yet another earliest record for El Salvador came with the sighting of a Black-and-white Warbler 26 Jul in Las Lajas forest (CH). A Swainson's Warbler on Lime Caye 18 Sep (LJ) represents the southernmost record for this species in Belize and, perhaps, in Central America. An excellent illustration that secretive species are not necessarily rare was the spectacle of 49 Ovenbirds on the sparsely vegetated Sapodillas 29 Sep (LJ)—with 30 on one small island! A Gray-crowned Yellowthroat on Caye Caulker 3 Oct (EM), the day after the passing of *Keith*, was the first of this non-migratory species to be reported on any offshore cayes. A Wilson's Warbler at El Imposible N.P. 18 Sep (CH) established yet another earliest record for El Salvador. The Canada Warbler is an uncommon but regular fall transient on the cayes (3 this fall), but one far inland along the Raspaculo River 24 Aug (MM) was unexpected.

A well-studied **Chipping Sparrow** on Half Moon Caye 15 Sep (PB, GC, LD) represented

only the 2nd occurrence in Belize away from its pine-woodland breeding grounds. The other record, ironically, was also from Half Moon Caye, in 1958. Although it is tempting to assume that these birds were strays from breeding populations on the mainland, the possibility that they were North American migrants far s. of their normal wintering grounds in n. Mexico and s. U.S. should not be dismissed. A **Lark Sparrow** at Payne's Creek 28 Oct (MMu) was only the 4th for Belize. A Savannah Sparrow on Frank's Caye 31 Oct (LJ) was the most recent of only a smattering of records for Belize. Likewise, a migrant Grasshopper Sparrow, also on Frank's Caye 9 Nov (vt., ph. LJ), is noteworthy as one of only a few documented records of non-resident Grasshopper Sparrows (*A. s. cracens*) in Belize. Lincoln's Sparrows, another rare species in Belize, were seen on two occasions, both on Seal Caye 20 & 30 Oct (vt., ph. LJ). Fall migrants usually do not stick around on small islands for 11 days and these birds appeared to differ slightly in plumage, so two different birds were presumably involved.

Dickcissels reached their peak in P.G. 15 Sep (LJ, WRM), with 700 counted during and just prior to a 90-minute diurnal migrant count. A rare find in both Costa Rica and mainland Belize, 10 Bobolinks near the entrance to La Selva 8 Oct (JRZ) and another in P.G. 3 Oct (LJ) were noteworthy. The 2nd report of **Crested Oropendola** in Costa Rica (the first was only eight months earlier) came 30 Nov, with 3 at Los Angeles de Jaba near San Vito (JRZ); details are being published elsewhere.

Cited observers (country coordinators in boldface): **George Angehr** (Panama), Philip Balderamos, Jim & Dorothy Beveridge, Rudi Burgos, Alberto Castillo, Glenn Crawford, Len Dieckman, Juan Pablo Dominguez, Bob Frey, Cullen Hanks, Karl and Rosabel Kaufmann, **Oliver Komar** (El Salvador), Ellen McRae, Martin Meadows, Darién Montañez Mario Muschamp (MMu), Wilfred Requena-Mutrie, Chris Rhodes, Ghislain Rompré, Mary Beth Stowe, William "Bud" Widdowson, Jackie Young, **James R. Zook** (Costa Rica).



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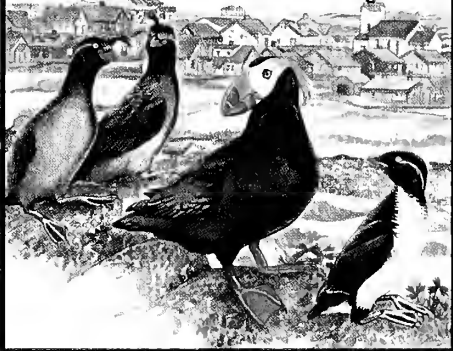
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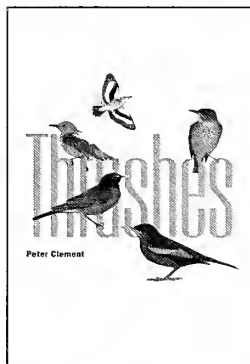
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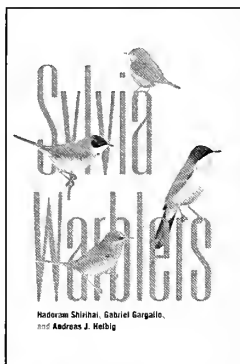
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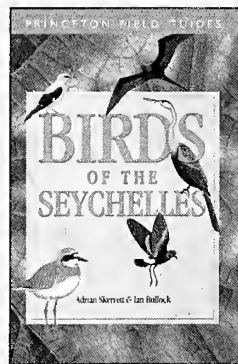
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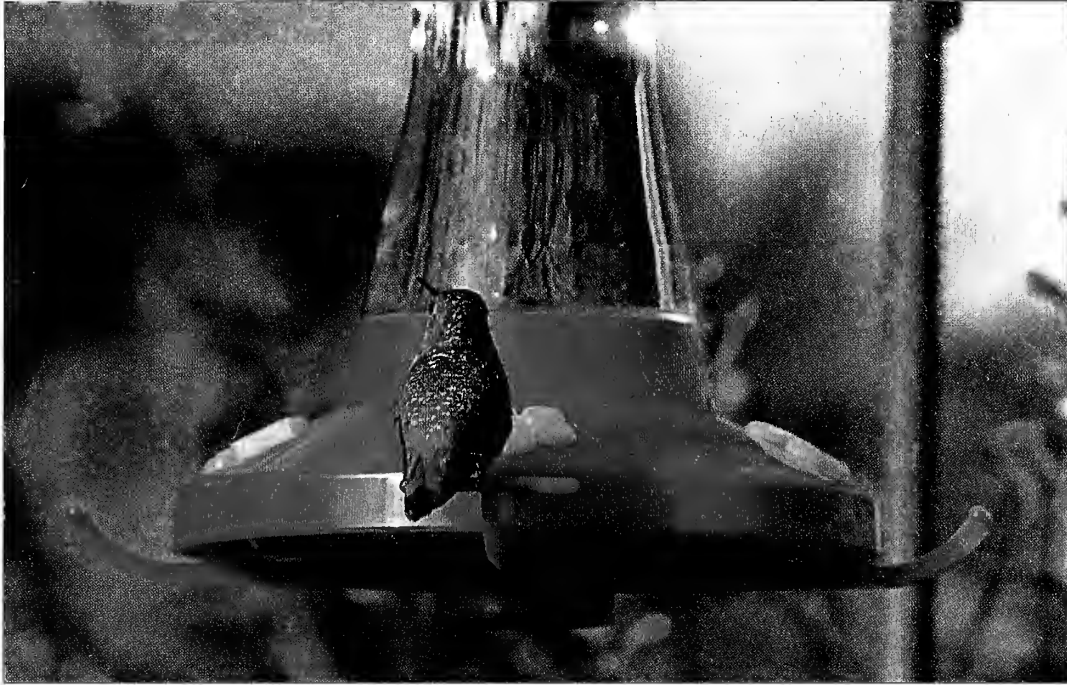
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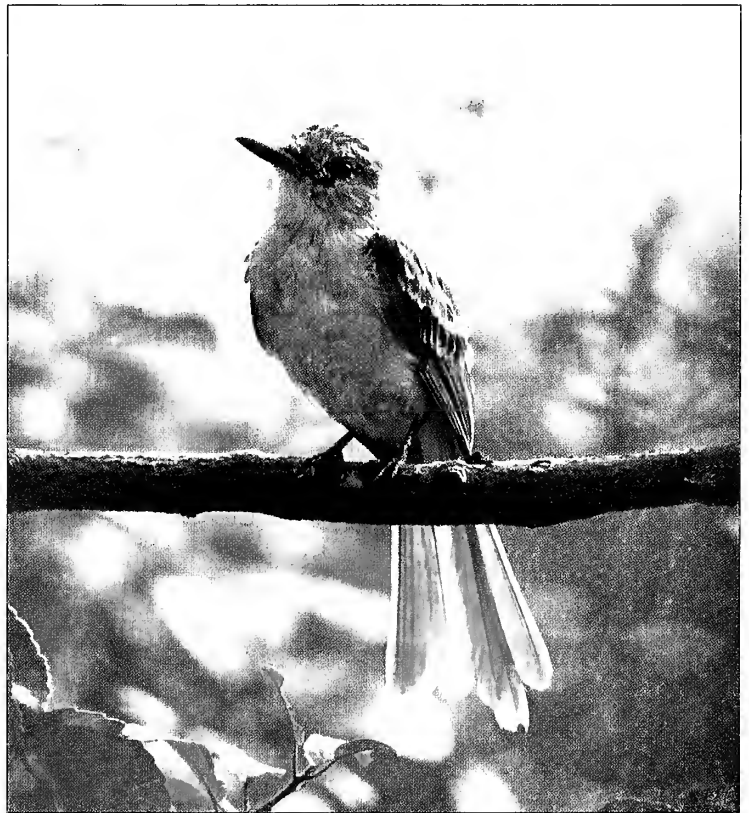
PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Seiaphorus hummingbird seem to be recorded with increasing frequency in eastern North America. Unless captured and examined in hand, most cannot be identified to species. Some individuals, however, do not pose such a challenge. This first-winter male Rufous Hummingbird at Nazareth, *Northampton*, Pennsylvania, 15 November 2000+ was such a bird. Note the extensive rufous feathering mottled into the central back. *Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.*



Increased coverage offshore waters of North Carolina's Gulf Stream have shown that the Herald Petrel is a rare but regular component of North America's avifauna. This light-morph bird was off Hatteras, North Carolina, 27 August 2000. *Photograph by George Armistead.*



This molting juvenile (note the mostly rufous rectrices) Ash-throated Flycatcher at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York, 5–12 September was one of five Ash-throateds recorded in the Hudson-Delaware region during fall 2000. This bird was unusually early—most regional records are from late fall (e.g. November). *Photograph by Michael Stubblefield.*



Nothing short of astounding, given the precipitous decline of the species, Illinois recorded its first Red-cockaded Woodpecker during fall 2000 when this bird appeared at Illinois Beach State Park, *Lake*, 19 August. The park, located along Lake Michigan shore midway between Chicago and Wisconsin, held the bird through the end of the period, allowing numerous observer to see a wayward individual of this endangered species. The image was captured 27 August 2000.

Photograph by Joe B. Milosevich.



Rarely noted in migration, this juvenile Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was banded at Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, Pennsylvania, 30 September 2000. *Photograph by Robert S. Mulvihill.*



On the heels of Pennsylvania's first Hammond's Flycatcher, a bird banded near Philadelphia in May 2000 (*N. Am. Birds* 54:226), was this bird voice-recorded and extensively studied, photographed, and videotaped at Bethlehem, *Northampton*, Pennsylvania, 18 November 2000+. Note the long primary projection, short, thin bill, gray head contrasting with the olive mantle, and dusky (not blackish) wings. This photograph was taken 28 November 2000.

Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.



Providing only the third record for Nebraska was this adult male Red-naped Sapsucker at Lake Ogallala, *Keith*, 2 November 2000. Although identification of birds in the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker complex can be difficult, this bird is a typical adult male Red naped, showing a red chin (hence, a male), lack of a black border to the red throat, distinct white "stripes" down the back, and red nape patch. *Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.*

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Certainly not loathe to wander far north of its usual range, with records from Minnesota and southeastern Canada, this male Broad-billed Hummingbird at Waupun, Wisconsin, 22–31 October 2000 nonetheless provided a first state record. The photo was taken 28 October. *Photograph by Jack Bartholmai.*



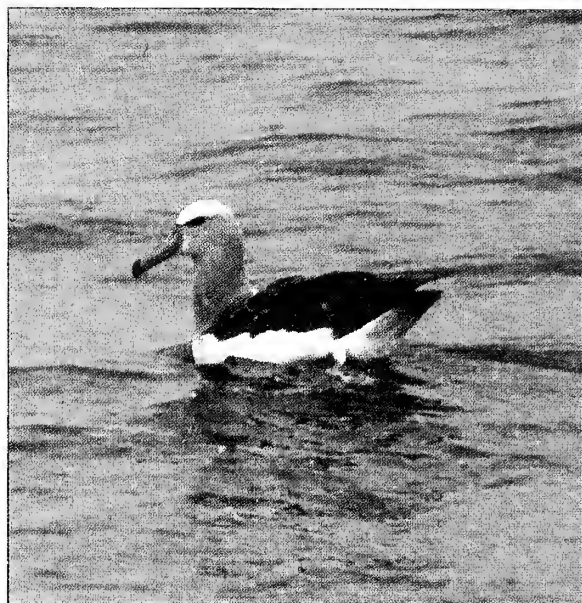
Texas has few records of the Olive Warbler, mostly from the desert ranges of the Trans-Pecos region from spring to fall. Indeed, the species is virtually unknown as a migrant away from breeding habitat. This male, just the 6th for the state, provided a notable exception. It frequented a small oasis at Hueco Tanks State Park, El Paso, 11–18 November 2000 and obliged this photo on 14 November. *Photograph by Barry R. Zimmer.*



Warblers (and vireos) from the southeastern United States continue their apparent increase and range expansion (see Patten and Marantz 1996, *Auk* 113:911-923), perhaps at the expense of more northerly breeders. Even the western Prairie Provinces are feeling the effects, where this male Northern Parula (left) was banded at Calgary, Alberta, 8 September 2000, and this female Hooded Warbler (right) was photographed at Banff National Park, Alberta, 8 September 2000. *Photographs by Ross Dickson and Terry Korolyk, respectively*



Only the second for Nevada, this juvenile Le Conte's Sparrow, Miller's Rest Stop (near Tonopah), Esmeralda, 1 October 2000 was among a number of "eastern" vagrants resting there during their southbound journey. Photograph by Martin Myers.

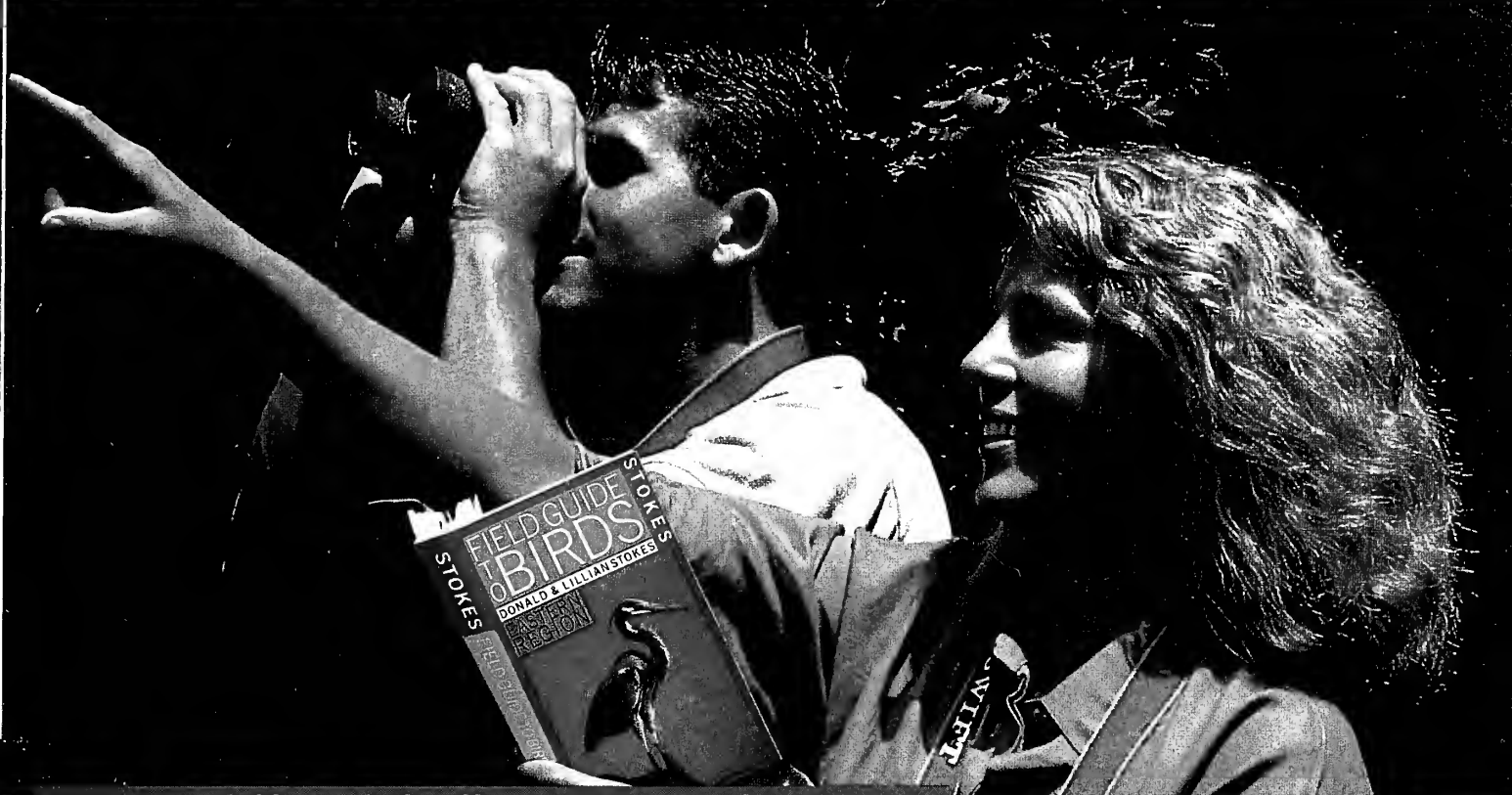


This immature Shy Albatross at Cordell Bank, Marin, 10 September 2000 provided California with its 3rd record, all in the past year or so. Unlike previous records, identified as pertaining to *T. c. cauta* or *T. c. stevini*, this bird was apparently *T. c. alvini*, providing the first record of this taxon for the northern hemisphere (see Cole 2000, *N. Am. Birds* 54:124-136). Photograph by Debi Shearwater.



The Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is regular in Alaska, but seldom are we treated to such a nice comparison between an alternate-plumaged adult (left) and a juvenile (right). Note the chevron-shaped markings on the flanks, more heavily streaked breast, and distinct pattern on the wing coverts and scapulars of the adult relative to the juvenile. These birds frequented St. Paul Island, Alaska, 23 August 2000. Photograph by Sean D. Smith.

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