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NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS • AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION • VOLUME 58 • NUMBER 1 • 2004

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>4 The First Mangrove Swallow recorded in the United States
Paul W. Sykes, Jr., Lyn S. Atherton, Murray Gardler, and John H. Hintermister, V</p>  <p>12 Editors' Notebook</p> <p>14 The Changing Seasons
Brian L. Sullivan</p> <p>46 SPECIAL INTERREGIONAL REPORT: Hurricane <i>Isabel</i> of 2003
Ricky Davis, Todd M. Day, Marshall J. Iliff, Robert C. Leberman, Steve Kelling, and David H. Elder</p> <p>164 West Indian Whistling-Duck (<i>Dendrocygna arborea</i>) at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia
Donald J. Schwab, Sr. and Mark Suomala</p> <p>168 Eurasian Kestrel in Florida: First record for the southeastern United States, with a review of its status in North America
Bill Pranty, Ed Kwater, Harold Weatherman, and Harry P. Robinson</p> <p>170 First dark-morph Hook-Billed Kite fledged in the United States
William S. Clark</p> | <p>59 Southern Atlantic
Ricky Davis</p>  <p>64 Florida
Bill Pranty</p> <p>68 Ontario
David H. Elder</p> <p>71 Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley
Robert C. Leberman</p> <p>74 Illinois & Indiana
Kenneth J. Brock</p> <p>78 Western Great Lakes
Peder H. Svingen</p>  <p>82 Iowa & Missouri
Bill Eddleman</p> <p>85 Tennessee & Kentucky
Chris Sloan and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.</p> <p>89 Central Southern
Robert A. Duncan and Lucy R. Duncan</p> <p>93 Prairie Provinces
Rudolf F. Koes and Peter Taylor</p> <p>95 Northern Great Plains
Ron Martin</p> <p>98 Southern Great Plains
Joseph A. Grzybowski and W. Ross Silcock</p> <p>102 Texas
Mark W. Lockwood</p> <p>107 Idaho & Western Montana
David Trochell</p> <p>109 Mountain West
Brandon K. Percival, Van A. Truan, and Christopher L. Wood</p> <p>113 Great Basin
Rick Fridell and Steve Summers</p> <p>117 New Mexico
Stuart O. Williams III</p> <p>121 Arizona
Gary H. Rosenberg and Mark M. Stevenson</p> | <p>125 Alaska
Theodore Tobish</p> <p>129 British Columbia & Yukon
Donald G. Cecile</p> <p>131 Oregon & Washington
Steven Modinow, Bill Tweit, and David Irons</p>  <p>136 Middle Pacific Coast
Steven A. Glover, Luke W. Cole, Scott B. Terrill, and Michael M. Rogers</p> <p>141 Southern Pacific Coast
Guy McCaskie and Kimball L. Garrett</p> <p>147 Baja California Peninsula
Richard A. Erickson, Robert A. Hamilton, Eduardo Palacios, and Roberto Carmona</p> <p>150 Mexico
Héctor Gómez de Silva</p> <p>155 Central America
H. Lee Jones</p> <p>158 West Indies & Bermuda
Robert L. Norton, Anthony White, and Andrew Dobson</p> <p>162 Hawaii
Robert L. Pyle and Peter Donaldson</p> |
|---|--|--|

The Regional Reports

- 30 Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon
Bruce Mactavish
- 33 Québec
Pierre Bannon, Samuel Denault, Yves Aubry, and Normand David
- 36 New England
Walter G. Ellison and Nancy L. Martin
- 
- Hudson-Delaware
Robert O. Paxton, Richard R. Veit, Joseph C. Burgiel, David A. Cutler, and Steve Kelling
- 54 Middle Atlantic
Todd M. Day and Marshall J. Iliff

Pictorial Highlights



ON THE COVER: This Corn Crake—found at the Petit-Terre Nature Reserve on Guadeloupe, French West Indies 28 September 2003—was the first recorded in the Caribbean. Bermuda too had a Corn Crake in 2003; its other records come from 1847, 1976, 1981, 1982, and 1991 (2 birds). The apparent surge in recent records suggests that European conservation efforts are succeeding: three-fourths of the 21 North American records come from the period 1854 to 1928, with later singles in New York in 1963, St. Pierre in 1989, Nova Scotia in 1993 and 1997, and Newfoundland in 2002. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.



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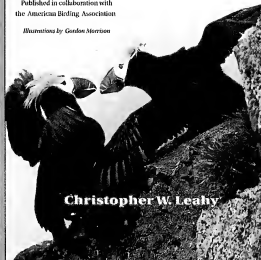
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The First Mangrove Swallow recorded in the United States

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INTRODUCTION

The Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival was held at Titusville, Brevard County, Florida on 13–17 November 2002. During the birding competition on the last day of the festival, the Canadian Team reported seeing several distant swallows at Brevard County's South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility known as Viera Wetlands. They thought these were either Cliff (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) or Cave (*P. fulva*) Swallows.

Following his participation at the festival, Gardler looked for the swallows on 18 November. The man-made Viera Wetlands are well known for waders, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, and open-country passerines. The facility is located in southern Brevard County (28° 17' N, 80° 46' W) at the west end of Wickham Road (County Road 509), and about 6.4 km north of Lake Washington in the formerly extensive freshwater marsh system of the St. Johns River. This wetland is surrounded by pastures, sod farms, citrus groves, and row-crops. Five impoundments (cells), surrounded by a low dike sys-

tem with a one-lane unsurfaced road on top, make up the wetland part of the facility (Figures 1 and 2). The impoundments comprise a total of 57 hectares (140 acres), are kept flooded much of the time, and present an open expanse of shallow water in an otherwise xeric landscape. Patches of emergent freshwater vegetation form mosaics across open water within each impoundment and in the shallows along the dikes. A few trees and aquatic shrubs are scattered across these wetlands.

At about 0830 EST on the 18th, Gardler stopped on the southmost dike of Cell 1 (Figure 2) to observe swallows foraging low over the water and flying into the strong north-to-northwest wind. The group consisted of Tree (*Tachycineta bicolor*), Northern Rough-winged (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*), and Cave Swallows. Among this collection of swallows was one with a white rump patch, dark upperparts with a greenish cast, and whitish underparts. It did not have the facial pattern or white flank patches of a Violet-green Swallow (*I. thalassina*). Reference materials at the site were limited, and obser-



Figure 1. Typical habitat at Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida. Photograph by Brooks H. Atherton.

inations were terminated about 1000 EST. Several members of the Florida birding community were immediately contacted, and the news quickly spread.

By 19 November, most observers had concluded that the bird was probably a Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*), but its identification was not certain. The Mangrove Swallow of Middle America, White-winged Swallow (*T. albiventer*) of northern and central South America, Tumbes Swallow (*T. stolzmanni*) of the northwestern coast of South America (a split from the Mangrove Swallow based upon differences in plumage color and pattern, morphometrics, nest construction, vocalizations, and distribution [Robbins et al. 1997] and treated as a full species in recent literature [Clements 2000, Ridgely and Greenfield 2001, Clements and Shany 2001, Dickinson 2003]), White-rumped Swallow (*T. leucorhoa*) of southeastern South America, Chilean Swallow (*T. leucopyga*) of southern South America, and the widespread Common House-Martin (*Delichon urbica*) of the Old World are similar in appearance, all having prominent white rump patches (Turner and Rose 1989; see ranges in Figure 3). We were quickly able to eliminate four of the six species based on color of the upperparts and/or lack of white supraloral streak, leaving only the Mangrove and the White-rumped in contention.

The Viera Wetlands bird, an adult in fresh plumage (hatch year [HY] birds have drab gray-brown upperparts rather than the glossy green of the adults), was present through 25 November, during which time it was seen by many observers. How long the bird had actually been present is unknown. Photographs of the swallow were taken on 18 and 20 November. From 19 November onward, a number of photographs were posted on websites and attached to emails accompanied by much discussion as to the correct identity of this swallow.

METHODS

The description we present is based upon our notes taken in the field, comments of others who also studied the swallow, and photographs of the bird taken at the site. To clarify a number of questions not available from the literature, on websites, or in published photographs and illustrations, a series of specimens was obtained on short-term loan from the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH; n=20), the Field Museum of Natural History (FMNH; n=21), the Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ; n=13) at Harvard, and the U.S. National Museum of Natural History (NMNH; n=8), all temporarily housed at the Georgia Museum of Natural History (GMNH) at the University of Georgia, Athens. Specimens on loan consisted of

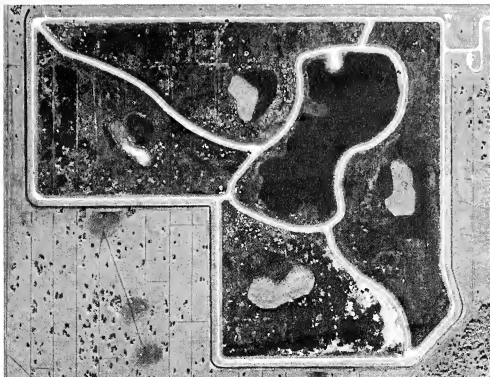


Figure 2. Aerial view of Viera Wetlands at the Brevard County South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. The Mangrove Swallow was most often seen in the southern part of Cell Numbers 1 and 2, located in the lower right and left of this map, respectively. Photographic map courtesy of Brevard County South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

38 Mangrove Swallows (31 adults, 7 immatures [HY]; 22 males, 16 females) and 24 White-rumped Swallows (21 adults, 3 immatures [HY]; 14 males, 10 females). The specimens examined represent a broad temporal and geographic spread for the two species. Of the specimens, 45 were collected in fall (15 August through 15 December), 23 Mangrove and 22 White-rumped (austral spring for the latter). A small sample of Tree Swallow specimens was also examined at the GMNH. Selected specimens were photographed for comparison and to show some of the range in variation of certain features within a species. Mass and selected linear measurements were taken from published sources on five species and used to develop a table for comparison. Additional linear measurements were taken from specimen material on loan. More measurements were, upon request, received from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia (ANSP; Matt Sharp, pers. comm.), the Los Angeles County Museum (LACM; Kimball Garrett, pers. comm.), and the NMNH (Roger Clapp, pers. comm.). Sharp, Garrett, and Clapp also provided comments about plumages of specimens.

VIERA CONDITIONS

The Viera Wetlands swallow was generally seen in the southern portion of Cell 1 (13.7 hectares or 33.8 acres) and Cell 2, a flying over the pasture to the south of these two areas. Other swallows present in the area were 20+ Tree Swallows, one Northern

Rough-winged Swallow, up to 12 Cave Swallows (with pale rumps and underparts; presumed to be one of the Mexican subspecies), and 5+ Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*). The majority of the observations were of the bird in flight, although on several occasions it was perched at a distance of approximately 50 m at heights of 1 to 3 m above the water surface on dead shrubs and short dead stubs. On 20 November, the swallow was photographed perched near the top of a dead tree at a distance of approximately 60 m and at a height of 14 m. It was seen in direct comparison with Cave Swallows at least once, but most of the time it was seen in close comparison (often within a meter) with Tree Swallows, flying into the wind as the birds aerial-foraged for insects. Observations of the flying bird were made from the dikes with 10x binoculars, sometimes as close as 4 m, but generally at 10 m or greater under good lighting conditions of clear to partly cloudy skies, mild temperatures, and winds from the north-northwest of 5-18 k.p.h. The bird often foraged just above the water surface near the dike, providing unobstructed views of the entire upperparts in direct sunlight, as well as side and frontal views. In foraging, it flew upwind a distance and then circled back. These flights ranged in estimated heights above water from 15 cm to 12 m. When perched, it was studied with 20-60x zoom scopes and through the telephoto lens of cameras. The bird would disappear from view for long periods and then suddenly reappear.

Table 1. Comparison of body mass and selected linear measurements of adults of five species of swallows as a general guide to size¹

Parameters ²	Species (mean/sample size/range, except for total length) ²					Sources
	Tree Swallow (<i>T. bicolor</i>)	Mangrove Swallow (<i>T. albilinea</i>)	White-rumped Swallow (<i>T. leucorhoa</i>)	Violet-green Swallow (<i>T. thalassina</i>)	Cave Swallow (<i>Petrochelidon fulva</i>)	
Mass (g) ³						
Both	20.1/82/15.6–25.4 ^a	15.0/18/14–16.5^b	9.0/–/17.0–21.0 ^a	—	20.4/25/18.4–22.3 ^a	
Male	—	—	—	14.4/16/13.0–16.3 ^d	—	^a Dunning 1984
Female	—	—	—	13.9/15/12.5–15.2 ^d	—	^b B. Stutchbury pers. comm.
Total Length cm (inches)	13 (5)	11 (4.25)	13 (5)	12–13 (4.75–5)	12 (4.75)	Turner & Rose 1989
Wing Length ⁴ (mm)						
Male	119.3/61/114–125 ^a	97.3/58/90–105^b	115.7/22/105–122 ^b	113.9/84/– ^c	112.3/640/– ^d	^a Robertson et al. 1992
Female	115.3/99/110–121 ^a	95.1/36/90–100^b	114.4/14/108–123 ^b	107.9/37/– ^c	111.9/823/– ^d	^b This paper; from museum skins
						^c Brown et al. 1992
						^d West 1995
Tail Length ⁵ (mm)	54.2/–/48–60 ^a	37.6/38/32–41^b	46.9/38/40–55 ^b	49.4/–/45–55 ^a	44.5/–/42–48 ^a	^a Turner & Rose 1989
						^b This paper; from museum skins
Depth of Tail ⁶ Fork (mm)	8.7/–/7–12 ^a	4.5/7/2–9^b	5.0/32/2–7 ^b	8.4/–/5–10 ^a	—	^a Turner & Rose 1989
						^b This paper; from museum skins
Width of Rump ⁷ Patch (mm)	—	17.4/47/10–23	16.3/32/8–22	—	—	This paper; from museum skins
Tip of Tail to Posterior Edge of Rump Patch (mm)	—	28.9/40/23–36	35.7/32/28–42	—	—	This paper; from museum skins

¹Treatment is at the species level and some samples presented may consist of one or more subspecies.

²Sample sizes were not given for some parameters in sources used.

³Body mass has been shown to be the single most accurate univariate measure of size in birds (Rising and Somers 1989), including structural framework and nutrient reserves (Clark 1979, Piersma and Davidson 1991).

⁴Flattened wing chord.

⁵Measured from emergence of the shafts to the tip of the longest pair of rectrices.

⁶Measured from apex of the fork as a perpendicular to a straight line connecting the tips of the longest two rectrices.

⁷A very imprecise measurement; taken at midpoint of the rump patch and measured from the distal to the proximal edges.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SWALLOW AT VIERA WETLANDS

- Age. Adult (AHY).
- Sex. Unknown.
- Size. Direct comparison in flight showed the Viera Wetlands swallow to be noticeably smaller than Tree and Cave Swallows. It had a smaller body, shorter overall length, shorter broader wings, and shorter tail than the Tree Swallows, and the body appeared chunky or barrel-chested, similar to that of Cave and Cliff Swallows. The smaller size of the Mangrove Swallow in comparison with four other species corresponds with measurement data (Table 1) and can be seen in the photographs of specimens (Figures 4 and 5). As previously mentioned, the wings of the Viera Wetland bird were shorter than those of the Tree and Cave Swallows. We were able to make this wing-length comparison repeatedly over the period the bird was present in the area, and this short wing length was also noted by many others. The mean wing length (Table 1) for the Mangrove Swallow is 18% shorter than that of the Tree Swallow, 16.5% shorter than that of the White-rumped Swallow, and 14% shorter than that of the Cave Swallow. Thus, the differences can be detected under field conditions when the Mangrove and Tree Swallows are observed together at relatively close range, as was the case at Viera Wetlands. Wing lengths of migratory birds in general tend to be longer and more pointed than those of birds that are nonmigratory (Gill 1990). Of the five species listed in Table 1, only the Mangrove Swallow tends to be nonmigratory, with the exception of some post-breeding movements (Howell and Webb 1995, Stiles and Skutch 1989, Turner and Rose 1989). Figure 4 clearly shows the difference in wing length between Mangrove and Tree and White-rumped Swallows.

- Flight. The flight was different from that of Tree Swallows in that it seemed to be "labored," with more rapid shallow wingbeats, and less gliding under identical conditions (flying in same direction into the wind). Tyler (1942) and Robertson et al. (1992) state that the Tree Swallow tends to glide more than many other species of swallow.

- Bill. Small, short, and dark.
- Eye. Dark; located well within the dark plumage on side of the head.

- Head. The crown and nape were iridescent (glossy) green, and the auricular region was black. It should be noted that all green areas of the plumage on this bird, both on the head and dorsally had a bluish component but were dominated by green. The lores were black. A very thin white line extended from the top of the eye forward to the small white patch on the forehead at the base of the bill. This supraloral streak became wider as it joined the forehead patch. Only the Mangrove and White-rumped Swallows have this dis-

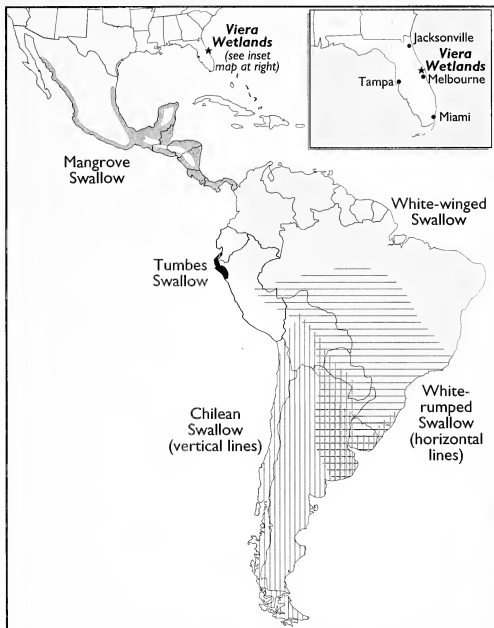


Figure 3. The range of the Mangrove Swallow is shown in dark gray shading (Panama northward), and its accidental occurrence on the east-central coast of Florida by a black star. The range of Tumbes Swallow is shown in black shading, the White-winged Swallow in light gray shading, the White-rumped Swallow by horizontal lines, and the Chilean Swallow by vertical lines. Range of the Mangrove Swallow is derived from Howell and Webb (1995), Ridgely and Gynne (1989), and Stiles and Skutch (1989); Tumbes Swallow from Ridgely and Tudor (1989) and Ridgely and Greenfield (2001); and White-rumped, White-winged, and Chilean Swallows from Ridgely and Tudor (1989). Map by Virginia Maynard.

tinctive white configuration on the head (see Turner and Rose 1989). However, some specimens of both Mangrove and White-rumped Swallows that we examined did not have the white patch extending across the base of the forehead. This character showed no correlation with sex or age and appears to be attributable to individual variation. A white nuchal stripe or incomplete collar extended part way up the base of the neck. These features are shown in Figures 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10.

- Back region. The middle and upper back were iridescent green, as seen in Figures 6, 7, 8, 11, and 12. The upperparts of the Mangrove Swallow are iridescent green, while those of the White-rumped Swallow are iridescent blue. The most obvious feature of the swallow at Viera Wetlands was its large white

rump patch contrasting with the dark upperparts and dark tail. The patch was rather long, extending from the trailing edge of the extended wings distally to, and including, some of the uppertail coverts. There was no dark dividing midline on the patch as in the Violet-green Swallow. In the field, the patch appeared to be entirely white. Most museum specimens showed a number of very narrow, pale grayish or dusky central shaft streaks within the white patch, but these cannot be readily seen on a flying bird under field conditions. Figures 13 and 14 of museum specimens show that these shaft streaks are not readily visible even at close range and were much less obvious on some individuals. The distal and proximal edges of the rump patch on the specimens were slightly irregular (not

straight lines). This was produced on the proximal edge by the extension of the tips of a few dark back feathers into the patch (Figures 13 and 14). With the distal edge, some of the white uppertail coverts in a number of the specimens we examined had iridescent green or brown subterminal spots that produced a lace-like pattern (Figure 16a). About 60% of the adult specimens had such spots, but when present, the prominence of the spots varied widely among individuals. This character is also present on some juveniles. These spots can barely be seen in Figures 6 and 15 of the Viera Wetlands bird and are shown in detail on specimens in Figures 14 and 16a. Such spots are very difficult

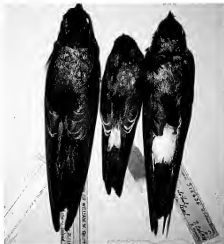


Figure 4. From left to right: comparison of specimens of fall adult Tree, Mangrove, and White-rumped Swallows. Note the differences in body and wing lengths, coloration of the upperparts, white borders to the tertials, and white rumps of the Mangrove and White-rumped Swallows. While the length and shape of the specimens may vary depending upon how well they have been prepared, the specimens were selected to reflect true relative sizes of the three species. Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.



Figure 5. Specimens, left to right by pairs: Tree, Mangrove, and White-rumped Swallows. The juveniles are on the left of each pair and adults on the right. The juvenile Mangrove Swallow has a trace of green iridescence on the back. The way the specimens were prepared accounts for the apparent differences in length and shape of the Mangrove pair. Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.

to see in the field except at close range with good light angle. Some White-rumped Swallows have brownish "blurred smudges" scattered across the rump patch (Figure 16b) that have a completely different appearance from the prominent spots of Mangrove Swallow.

• **Wings.** The primaries and secondaries were dull black. The upperwing secondary coverts were iridescent green and the upper primary coverts black. The leading edge of the wings showed some fine, irregular white-and-dark mottling (Figure 9). The underwing linings were white (Figure 17). The tertials were dark with green iridescence and had very prominent white margins on both sides (Figures 6, 8, 11, and 15). In the fall specimens of Mangrove Swallow, this white margin extends up both sides 30 to 50% of the individual feather length from the tip. The white margin tended to be wider and



Figure 10. Specimens of Mangrove Swallows (left three) and White-rumped Swallows (right three) showing the variation of the white supraloral streak and the white forehead between and within species, and the white underparts of both species. Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.

hence more obvious on the outer webs (Figure 13). There were some white edgings to several secondaries outboard of the tertials (Figure 15). In the austral spring specimens of the White-rumped Swallow, the white on the tertials is generally narrower and extends < 30% of the individual feather length from the tip (Figure 18); this also holds true for austral fall birds. On a few specimens, the white border was only at the tip or absent. Comparison of

the white tertial margins of the two species is shown on specimens in Figure 12. The broader white edges to the tertials of the Mangrove Swallow are a good field mark when in fresh plumage in summer and fall and readily separate it from the White-rumped Swallow.

• **Tail.** The tail was short and black with a very shallow fork (Figures 6 and 19). Most of the time, the tail appeared square-tipped in

the field. In the Mangrove Swallow, the mean tail length is 30% shorter than in the Tree Swallow and 20% shorter than in the White-rumped Swallow (Table 1).

• **Underparts.** The underparts appeared uniformly white from the chin to and including the under-tail coverts (Figures 8, 17, and 20). Most Mangrove specimens show a varying degree of pale grayish wash across the breast, but



Figure 6. Adult Mangrove Swallow in flight over Cell 1 at Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida, on 20 November 2002. The bird was in fresh plumage. Visible in this photograph are the white forehead, dark side of the head, incomplete white nuchal collar, green upperparts, black remiges, prominent white margins of the tertials and adjacent inner secondaries, conspicuous white rump patch, with dark spots on the proximal edge, and short black tail with a slight notch. Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.



Figure 7. Adult Mangrove Swallow at Cell 1, Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida, on 20 November 2002, with the white supraloral streak and white forehead patch as seen in flight. Photograph by John Puschack.

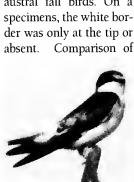


Figure 8. Adult Mangrove Swallow at Cell 1, Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida, on 20 November 2002. The white supraloral streak, forehead, underparts, tertial borders, rump patch, and green upperparts are visible on the bird. Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.



Figure 9. Adult Mangrove Swallow at Cell 1, Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida, on 20 November 2002. Apparent are the mottling on the leading edge of the wings and the white forehead and underparts. Photograph by John Puschack.



Figure 11. Perched adult Mangrove Swallow at Cell 1, Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida, on 20 November 2002. The green upperparts and white rump and underparts are shown. Photograph by Mary C. Wheeler.

this is not visible under field conditions. As with the white rump patch, the scattered, very fine pale gray/dusky central shaft streaks on the breast and belly are not visible in the field. To the rear of the white neck collar was an ill-defined dark wedge extending onto the sides of the breast that became somewhat diffused distally (Figure 17 and 20). This mark was much more apparent on the White-rumped Swallow specimens than on those of the Mangrove Swallow.

DISCUSSION

In summary, the combination of field marks separating the adult Mangrove Swallow from all similar species with prominent white rump patches, include: (1) small size, (2) glossy green head and back, (3) white supraloral streak, (4) black lores and auricular, (5) prominent white edges to the tertials in fresh plumage, (6) short black tail with shallow notch, and (7) white underparts. Tumbes Swallow does not have a white supraloral streak, is not known to migrate, occurs in a very arid habitat, and has a very restricted range. While the White-rumped Swallow has a white supraloral streak, it is noticeably larger (length, wings, tail, etc.; see Table 1), has glossy blue rather than green upperparts, and has much less white on the margins of the tertials throughout the year. The White-winged Swallow does not have a supraloral streak, the white edges of the tertials are much broader and more obvious than in the Mangrove Swallow, and the secondaries and secondary coverts show broad white edges, hence the English common name for the species. Both Chilean Swallow and Common House-Martin likewise lack a supraloral streak, have blue upperparts, and have longer, more deeply forked tails (Turner and Rose 1989). Violet-green Swallow (the Mangrove Swallow at Viera

Wetlands was originally thought by some to be this species) sometimes appears to have a white rump (Howell and Webb 1995), but Violet-green Swallow lacks the supraloral streak, is a larger bird, has upperparts of a different color green, and has a completely different head pattern. The range of the Mangrove Swallow is much closer to Florida than any other species of swallow of similar appearance, and the weather conditions preceding the discovery were favorable for the species to reach Florida.

The Mangrove Swallow is primarily coastal and is resident along both coasts of Mexico, from central Sonora and southern Tamaulipas, south to southern Panama (Figure 3). It is found from sea level to 600 m in Mexico and up to 1000 m elevation in Costa Rica (Howell and Webb 1985, Stiles and Skutch 1989, Turner and Rose 1989). While the Mangrove Swallow is considered resident, some seasonal movements have been reported (Howell and Webb 1995, Turner and Rose 1989). It is considered to be common to fairly common within much of its range and is usually found in association with water at coastal lagoons, estuaries, salinas, sloughs, fresh and brackish marshes, wet pastures, river courses, lakes, and, as its common name implies, in mangrove areas. This swallow usually forages close to the water surface or low over marshes and fields (Howell and Webb 1995, Stiles and Skutch 1989, Turner and Rose 1989).

Tumbes Swallow occurs on the northwestern coast of Peru and adjacent Ecuador, circa 1300 km south of the nearest known breeding population of Mangrove Swallow in southern Panama (Robbins et al. 1997). White-rumped Swallow is found in southern South America (Figure 3) and is migratory in the southern part of its range. We could find no records north of central Brazil, well south of the Amazon River. It is



Figure 12. Fall specimens showing the green upperparts and prominent white tertial margins of Mangrove Swallows (left three), and blue upperparts and white tertial tips of White-rumped Swallows (right three). Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.



Figure 13. Prominent white tertial margins, dusky central shaft streaks on some of the white rump patch feathers, and subterminal spots on some of the white upper tail coverts of the Mangrove Swallow specimens. Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.



Figure 14. Variation in amount of white tertial margins and subterminal spots on white upper tail coverts in Mangrove Swallow specimens. Note the dusky central shaft streaks in white rump patch of bird at left. Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.

considered fairly common to common near water in semi-open habitats (Ridgely and Tudor 1989, Turner and Rose 1989). The distribution of the White-winged Swallow (Figure 3) is the northern two-thirds of South America east of the Andes Mountains (except in northern Colombia and northwestern

Venezuela) south into northern Argentina and southern Brazil. It is a fairly common to common and is migratory in the extreme southern part of its range. It has a strong association with rivers and lakes (Ridgely and Tudor 1989, Turner and Rose 1989).

The Mangrove Swallow among those species predicted to occur in the southwestern United States (Jones 1998) and in Texas (Lasley and Lockwood 1999), but not in Florida (Pranty 1999). We predict that this species has a high probability of occurring infrequently anywhere along the United States/Mexico border and around the northern rim of the Gulf of Mexico.

Weather conditions preceding the discovery of the Mangrove Swallow at Viera Wetlands, for much of the month of November (Figure 21), could have aided the bird in its eastward movement across the Gulf of Mexico, most likely from the Yucatán region or perhaps Caribbean slope of Central America. During the period, three significant weather systems swept the Gulf Region under the influence of the El Niño—Southern Oscillation. These patterns are characterized by low-pressure



Figure 16. Detailed view of lower rump area of adult Mangrove Swallow (above) with dark subterminal spots of the white upper tail covers, contrasted with smudge-like markings on tips of feathers of white rump area of adult White-rumped Swallow (below). Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.



Figure 15. Adult Mangrove Swallow preening at Cell 1, Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida, on 20 November 2002. The green crown, white margins of the tertials, white of the inner secondaries, and large white rump patch are clearly visible. Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.



Figure 17. View of the underside of adult Mangrove Swallow at Cell 1, Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida, 20 November 2002. Visible are the white underparts, white wing linings, and dark diffuse wedge extending onto the side of the breast. Note the vestigial tenth primary that is typical of Hirundinidae (Turner and Rose 1989). Photograph by John Puschok.

cells that follow more southerly tracks than in most years. Often these southern systems are reinforced by strong polar air masses from central Canada, resulting in heavy winds and rain along the frontal boundaries. Upper-atmosphere analysis supports the surface observations, especially in the 850-millibar (mb) level at roughly 914–1523 meters (3000–5000 feet), a range often associated with bird migration but probably not with that of swallows, which are diurnal migrants that fly at much lower elevations.

On 5–6 November, a moderate low formed in central Mexico and pushed a cold front northeastward across the Gulf of Mexico on the 6th (Figure 21a). Winds ahead of this front were 25+ knots from the southwest. On 11–13 November, a strong cold front swept the Gulf Coast, with very cold high pressure penetrating deep into the southern United States (Figure 21b). Strong southerly-to-southwesterly winds developed 9–11 November, as a deep trough of the polar jet stream formed, reaching well into Texas. On 15–17 November, a moderate low-pressure area formed over the Texas-Arkansas border and tracked eastward and southward under the influence of a reinforcing cold front (Figure 21c). Converging systems brought heavy rain and strong winds to the Gulf Coast and Florida Peninsula.



Figure 20. Adult Mangrove Swallow at Cell 1, Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida, on 18 November 2002. The dark upperparts, white rump, dark side of the head, white underparts, and dark wedge-shaped streak extending onto side of the breast are visible in this photograph. Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.

We believe the Mangrove Swallow, which was found on the east-central coast of Florida in the latter half of November 2002, was present in Florida as a direct result of one or more of these weather systems. Also, these systems were probably responsible for the unprecedented incursion of Cave Swallows over much of eastern North America during the same general period (Brinkley and Lehman 2003).

This is the first record of the Mangrove Swallow for Florida and the United States. It has been accepted by the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee; vote 7/0, 18 July 2003 (Reed Bowman and Fred E. Lohrer, pers. comm.).

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank the staff of the Brevard County South Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility for permitting access to the Viera Wetlands complex to the birding community. We acknowledge Roger B. Clapp (NMNH), Paul Sweet (AMNH), Jeremiah



Figure 18. Adult White-rumped Swallow specimens showing variation in the white tips of the tertials and variation in marks (or lack thereof) in the white rump patch. Photograph by Lyn S. Atherton.



Figure 19. Adult Mangrove Swallow preening at Cell 1, Viera Wetlands, Brevard County, Florida, on 20 November 2002. Visible are the green upper parts, white underparts and black, somewhat square-tipped tail. Photograph by Mary C. Wheeler.

Trimble (MCZ), and David E. Willard (FMNH) for providing *Tachycineta* swallow specimens on loan from their respective institutions and to Elizabeth M. McGhee (GMNH) for receiving, housing, and returning the specimens on loan. We particularly express our appreciation to Roger B. Clapp, Matthew Sharp, and Kimball L. Garrett (LACM) for providing measurements and salient comments on swallow specimens as well as replying to inquiries about certain characteristics of the specimens in question.

Brooks H. Atherton provided the material for the weather analysis and a photograph of habitat. Debbie Coles of the Brevard County Natural Resources Management Office; Lynda J. Garrett, Library, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland; Bridget J. Stutchbury, York University, Canada; Angela K. Turner, University of Nottingham, United Kingdom; and C. Wesley Biggs provided helpful information. Thanks go to all who posted comments about and images of the Viera Wetland swallow on the various websites. Appreciation is extended to John Puschock and Mary S. Wheeler for use of some of their series of photographs of the Viera Wetlands bird, and to Steve Holzman, Peter J. Lasier, and Parley V. Winger for trying so hard to improve the senior author's computer skills. This paper has benefited from the helpful comments of Steve N. G. Howell and Peter Pyle. And we thank Bonnie F. Kepler for typing the draft manuscript.

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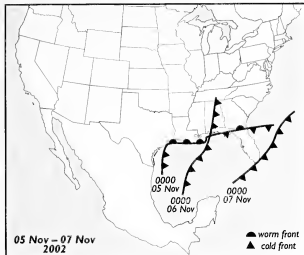


Figure 21a

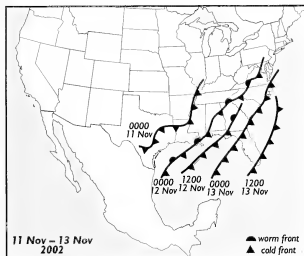


Figure 21b

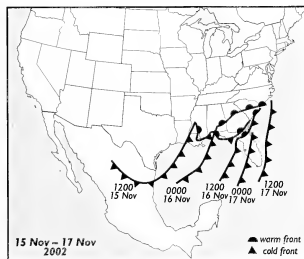


Figure 21c

Figure 21. It is likely that the appearance of the Mangrove Swallow in Florida was facilitated by one or more of three significant November 2002 weather events under the influence of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation, patterns characterized by low-pressure cells that follow more southerly tracks than in normal years. The 5–6 November front (Figure 21a) consisted of a moderate low that formed in central Mexico and crossed the Gulf of Mexico to the northeast on the 6th with southwesterly winds of 25 knots and greater. The 11–13 November front (Figure 21b) swept the Gulf Coast with very cold high pressure that penetrated deep into the southern United States and contained still stronger southwesterly winds. Finally, on 15–17 November, a moderate low formed over the Texas–Arkansas border and moved east and south (Figure 21c). Maps by Virginia Maynard.

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EDITORS' NOTEBOOK

The "Friends" Fund

Way to go, guys! Thanks to your generous contributions over the past twelve months, the journal is in the best financial shape of the past decade. In addition to over \$14,500 raised from the individuals listed below, the Sacramento Audubon Society has contributed \$1500 from funds raised by Jon Dunn in his lecture series there. (We'd have no objection if other lecturers would encourage local bird clubs and Audubon chapters to make similar donations!) These donations will be used to improve the printing and paper quality, as well as the length of the journal, in issues to come. In this issue, for instance, note the many extra pages and images. Thanks to all who have supported the journal in the past year—and don't forget that your donations are tax-deductible. (If we have left out any contributors for 2003, please contact the Editor directly at ensifera@aol.com.)

Photographic contributions

Many thanks from all who have contributed photographic material for this and past issues. The present issue contains more photographs than have ever been published in an issue of *North American Birds*, and we hope there is something of interest for everyone here. This issue was a difficult one to assemble for the production crew, largely because we had quite a few images submitted directly to the Photo Editor that lacked data such as the location, photographer, and date of the image. We would ask that contributors send photographic material directly to Regional Editors and that all such information (as well as email, street address, and telephone number) be included for all submissions. And please print all the information using large, block letters. Because so much image-material that is submitted now comes in digital formats, clear and correct attributions and sup-

porting information sometimes fall through the cracks of the Internet. This makes the task of assembling an issue more difficult than in the past, when "hard copy" was the rule. So do take pity on us, and make sure that every image submitted is accompanied by plenty of information on its provenance! For the record, we published 99% of the individual birds for which we received identifiable images.

Banes and biases

I hate hurricanes. And personally hope never to see another hurricane come ashore in my lifetime. *Isabel*, a long-lived, powerful Cape Verde hurricane, made landfall near Drum Inlet on the Outer Banks of North Carolina 18 September 2003 and moved northward through Virginia, trashing the homes, boats, and gardens of friends and family—and of many fellow birders—as well as the wildlife refuges, parks, and forests beloved by generations of local people and visitors. Venerable Hatteras lodgings I had cherished since 1965 broke apart and were swept off into the waters of the sound; the shattered lives of those who took a direct hit will take longer to mend. *Isabel* also caused considerable environmental damage to forests and waterways over portions of eastern North Carolina and eastern/central Virginia and was surely the worst Virginia storm since Hazel of 1954 and the Chesapeake-Potomac Hurricane of 1933. In Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, the terrible nocturnal landfall of Hurricane *Juan* visited havoc on the Halifax area 29 September this year, one of Canada's worst hurricanes ever and hardest to hit Halifax since 1893. And on Bermuda, *Fabian's* direct hit with 105 knots of wind on 6 September was the worst there since 1926 and one of the most destructive events in the island's hurricane-peppered history.

For a thousand reasons, these storms are detested and inarguably awful for the well-being of birds and people alike; but if they are so despised, why

the attention to these storms in these pages? Since the earliest days of *Audubon Field Notes*, hurricanes have preoccupied issues of this journal—in 1955, the passage of hurricanes *Carol*, *Edna*, and *Hazel* even made the cover of Vol. 9, No. 1, as did *Donna's* in 1961 (Vol. 15, No. 1). Part of the explanation is clear enough: tropical cyclones can take birds' distribution—the focus of the journal—and turn it upside-down, with displacements of some

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Our apologies to Travis Mahan, who has submitted some very nice photographs for recent issues but was surely chagrined to see his name misspelled each time! This issue features several more of Travis's photographs (Illinois & Indiana region), with proper credit this time. (Thanks for putting up with us, Travis!)

—Matthew F. Sharp

species appearing to show patterns, others seemingly random. We do know more about the birds associated with these storms now than we did in 1955, owing mostly the many landfalling hurricanes since the mid-1990s (after 1960, most of the twentieth century was relatively quiet for Atlantic tropical cyclones). We do not, however, know a great deal more today about the actual mechanisms by which pelagic birds, littoral birds, and shorebirds are moved by or grounded by these systems. These questions are raised in the "Changing Seasons" essay herein, with reference to the special interregional report on Hurricane Isabel, the latter an attempt to collocate the many data gathered during and after the passage of this terrible storm. Why were few Sooty Terns seen but many Wilson's Storm-Petrels, in contrast to so many storms of the past? Read all about it in this season's lead essay.

Perhaps another reason for the journal's storm-focus, however, is that a hurricane is perceived by most active field birders as a bounty, as suspension of the rules and reality of birding in their area, as perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the effects of such a storm, including its improbable cargo of pelagic birds, far inland on the local patch. To see such birds is, on some level, to enter into a different layer of ornithological history—initiated only in dusty notes and old specimens from the hurricane-charged late 1890s or early 1930s, periods completely beyond the ken of almost all modern birders. Lines on a local checklist that remain blank for decades are suddenly scrawled to overflowing; "suspect" records of the old-timers suddenly come into clear context.

We should not chastise ourselves too much on account of a certain fascination for destructive storms. Lives are lost; homes are lost and damaged; habitat is lost or degraded. (Perhaps only bark beetles and woodpeckers can look on a felled forest with relish.) Though none of us long for this kind of meteorological violence, so too are we utterly unable to prevent it—and perhaps our awe in watching the passage of these storms relates to our own powerlessness to influence them. To ignore the birds displaced by these storms would be inconceivable: we would forfeit the opportunity to understand the lives of so many species in *extremis*, in situations that show us both their vulnerability and their hardness, their behaviors almost never seen otherwise, and perhaps too forfeit the opportunity to perceive and document a key to the fluctuations in populations of such species over time. Curse though it may have been, *Isabel* has gotten its ornithological due in these pages, in keeping with the journal's tradition of six decades.

Hurricane coverage notwithstanding, long-time subscribers might notice that a few themes recur in recent years at *North American*

Birds, among them: Florida birds, hybrids, and subspecies. If not outright biases, such themes are not coincidences, either, but a product of several historical factors. One reason that so much of our recent material has come from Florida (articles on Mangrove Swallow, Budegerig, Eurasian Kestrel, Short-tailed Shearwater, nesting Elegant Tern) should be clear by a glance at the map: as an enormous peninsula jutting into the subtropics, the state has geography that ensures a rich and dynamic avifaunal record—in the cases of our recent papers, a Pacific shearwater, a Eurasian raptor, a tern and a swallow that should be in Mexico (roughly), and a nesting "exotic" from Australia all showcase the state's diversity. Another reason for so much material from Florida is that the state has several contributors, both professional ornithologists and birders, who see this journal as an appropriate place to send their manuscripts (we are most grateful). If one had to pick a single state that is currently "underbirded" as regards its potential for interesting publishable birding and ornithological material, Florida might well be a logical choice. The southeastern United States, too, though increasingly populous, generally receive much less birding attention than do the northeast.

But a decisive reason for our Florida—and in this issue Southeastern—focus is probably simpler still: for the Caribbean and Central America, for the West, for New Jersey, and for Canada, there exist quality journals that publish color material very similar to the fare of *North American Birds*. The journals *Western Birds*, *New Jersey Birds*, *Cotinga*, and *Birders Journal* are outstanding venues for material from western North America, New Jersey, tropical America, and Canada. Most states in the Midwest and Northeast also have good quality journals for their bird records, although most publish only in black and white, as is true of several smaller Caribbean-area journals. States in the Southeast and in the continent's center, however, have struggled to maintain state-level birding and natural history publications on a regular schedule, certainly understandable given the long hours required of the volunteers who staff these periodicals. And so the material we receive here tends to be skewed geographically, coming mostly from areas that have few alternative outlets. This is not to say that we do not regularly solicit articles from other parts of the continent or that what we print is anything other than superb! We are delighted that so many of our readers and contributors support their local, regional, and national publications, a rightful place for their articles and photographs; we are equally delighted that *North American Birds* can serve as repository for material from states or countries without local or regional journals that have the capacity to reproduce color material.

As to this journal's rather obvious recent fascination with, not to say bias toward, sub-

species and hybrid birds, we must plead guilty. Although the predecessor journals *Audubon Field Notes* and *American Birds* often treated bird identification questions, such articles now fall to *Binding* magazine, with *North American Birds* covering chiefly matters of bird distribution, including: expansions and contractions of range; migrations and extralimital occurrences; the distribution of subspecies; appearances of aberrant individual birds, morphs, or hybrids; atmospheric and oceanographic phenomena and their relation to birds' distribution; and related topics. In the course of considering avian distribution, we do make reference to matters of field identification, but these are rarely comfortable summaries of settled subjects (take for instance the questions of out-of-range "Gray-bellied Brant," hybrid albatrosses, "Siberian Pipits," hybrid ibises, "Western Flycatchers," and those odd four-year gulls). We have gotten correspondence on not a few of these birds in recent years, with the result that some records, such as those of Loggerhead Kingbird (*N. A. B.* 54: 235-240), have been found inadequate or in error. We intend to revisit an older article on Intermediate Egret on Midway Atoll, Hawaii (*N. A. B.* 53: 441-443), which may pertain to an "Eastern Cattle-Egret" rather than an Intermediate Egret (have we piqued the reader's interest?). From our recent issues on Western Birds East and Caribbean Birds, we received a full range of diverse opinions on photographs of potential Pink-sided Junco (*N. A. B.* 57: 303) and MacGillivray's Warbler (*N. A. B.* 57: 574) from New York, some in support, some questioning, some guardedly agnostic. It is remarkable, and very humbling to one's own grasp of bird identification, to receive opposing opinions from experts in their fields! And this is perhaps why we regularly publish images of unusual plumages and probable hybrids (see page 177 in the Pictorial Highlights): we feel it our duty to give countenance to the widest possible range of your discoveries—but especially those that provide all of us with unparalleled opportunities for learning. The Junco and other birds in these pages have led to fruitful, sustained discussions on the "Frontiers of Field Identification" listserve and elsewhere (see <<http://oceanwanderers.com/JuncoID.html>>) and brought to light unsolved questions and many unpublished images of puzzling individuals. By introducing questions to which we often do not have full answers, we intend not so much to jump the gun as to jump-start such discussions on such problems. We would not be "deconstructionists," who dwell unduly on the unidentifiable; rather, our frequent emphases on the limits of field identification are intended as a healthy caution for all of us, as exemplary exhortations to careful observation of the birds we're fortunate to study.

—Edward S. Brinkley

THE CHANGING SEASONS

The Big Picture

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In reading the regional reports from this past autumn, I was struck by how much we as a community of birders continue to learn about avian distribution and abundance, and struck too by the value and potential uses of these reports. I find it remarkable that after more than two centuries of North American bird study, the efforts of *North American Birds* contributors continue to illuminate little-known corners of the continent and its offshore waters. With each season's migration, we re-evaluate the suppositions put forth by the many previous authors of this column. What new questions will arise, and what questions seem to have been answered? Which species will continue to decline or expand, to irrupt or withdraw? And what might the underlying causes of these dynamics be? As our abilities to predict appearances of out-of-range species based on weather forecasts improve, is our understanding of the connection between birds' movements and weather systems also improving? Will November low-pressure systems tracking toward the Northeast again produce extralimital Cave Swallows—or were the flights of the past decade tied to factors that have less to do with weather patterns *per se* than with population dynamics? And will those same systems continue to disperse wayward western migrants and vagrants to the eastern United States and Canadian Maritimes (and even on toward Europe)?

Even as we confirm, annually, that certain meteorological events do have an influence on bird movements, still more questions than answers suggest themselves: Are Cave Swallows changing their usual migratory patterns, or have we simply become more aware of this species, when to expect it, and how to identify it? Has the flight of Cave Swallows been overlooked, or is the increase

in East Coast records a recent by-product of their expanding breeding distribution in North America? What other species might we expect to find associated with these systems (such as Ash-throated Flycatcher), and what accounts for the differences in their numbers and distribution in the East? Have there been changes in recent years in meteorological conditions that might affect migratory movements of these species? The pages of this journal brim with questions of this nature; it is refreshing that we have the freedom here to ask questions for which there may be no easy answers or even scientifically testable hypotheses.

Whatever our relationship to the many ornithological puzzles that appear in this journal, there is little doubt that we are rapidly becoming more astute birders in this hemisphere and that we as a group are also increasingly sanguine about the importance of the documentation of our time in the field. As to "rarities," birders in the Americas have minds now more open than ever: possibilities formerly thought extremely remote are now known to be regular. In the regional reports, records of Siberian species stretch from Hawaii to Alaska, from California to the Midwest and the East—almost all of them found by birders who *anticipated* their appearances. Tropical pelagic species were moved to the Great Lakes after a hurricane—and birders knew where and how to look for them. California birders found two new shearwater species this season, one from the North Atlantic, one from the South Pacific Ocean—and were fully prepared to identify and document both. Outlandish hummingbirds out of range? Only the Arctic regions seem out of bounds for these birds, whose appearances are catalogued and admirably documented by an army of backyard feeder-enthusiasts, almost a birding subculture in itself. In these pages one can detect scores of patterns amid the over 100,000 words of seasonal summary. I confess that I once gleaned these pages for images of rare and unusual birds, and I still enjoy this aspect of the journal; but increasingly I perceive it to be a valuable resource for documenting the often dramatic plight of our avifauna—the dynamic movements of species, whether in migration or more subtle passages, the ever-changing canvas of breed-

ing distribution, and even the difficult questions of birds' conservation in a landscape that seems ever more stressed.

On some level, it is difficult to conceive that birds' distribution and migratory patterns are substantially different than they were 200 years ago, or even 2000 years ago. But a careful reading of even just one's own regional reports—spanning back just a half century—is enough to broaden our imagination of how things must have been. Sixty years ago, much of Long Island was farmland and indeed much of the East Coast, especially in the South, was free from "development." One hundred years ago, California was largely wilderness; and Ivory-billed Woodpeckers were still to be seen in suitable habitat in several states. Two hundred years ago, contiguous forests stretched from the Atlantic Coast almost to the Mississippi River; the West was not yet "won," and native prairies burned annually. The paths of migratory birds and movements of mammal herds were not altered then by vast expanses of suburbia, telecommunications towers, skyscrapers, highways, or light pollution. Surely these anthropogenic influences have greatly altered bird movements and distribution and are in part responsible for the new patterns we read about here.

But as the natural history of North American birds has changed, so too, radically, have the natural historians. The growing numbers of birders in North America, the advances in bird identification that continue to be pioneered, and the truly new age of information-sharing clearly influence the permanent record of American bird distribution. One hundred years ago, who could have foreseen, for instance, the coordinated teams of Great Lakes birders, linked by cell phones and pagers, scouring their areas for hurricane-driven petrels and storm-petrels? A hundred years ago, hurricanes were horrible, unpredictable shocks to coastal communities; our satellites now witness their movements from birth, often thousands of miles from our shores, to extra-tropical extinction. Where naturalists of the nineteenth century perceived little in the way of ornithological patterns in such disturbances, twenty-first century birders execute sophisticated searches for seabirds in the interior, drawing on both history and technology. We live in the time of the Big Picture.



Figure 1. Up to four American Pipits of the Asian race *japonicus* were found in the Southern Pacific Coast Region in fall 2003. This bird photographed 12 October near Imperial Beach, San Diego County shows the distinctive features of the subspecies, including heavier back streaking, grayer back, bold blackish streaking in the malar area and underparts, and pinkish legs, all distinctions from North American taxa. Photographs by Larry Sonsone.

That the American landscape will continue to be altered is incontestable: human populations will grow, habitats will be lost, resources will be consumed, and species will become endangered and extinct. The planet's changing climate, whose Big Picture we are slowly coming to understand, will ensure that other, perhaps radical changes in habitats that are forecast will come to pass: Alpine meadows become forested, ice sheets melt, sea levels rise, the Everglades vanish. To step back from the specifics of the regional reports herein, and to imagine the future birdlife of the Americas as different from today as today's is from that of 1604: the Big Picture can seem bleak. After all, who could have imagined two centuries ago that the Passenger Pigeon would become extinct, when clouds of this species once moved like great storms across the skies? We have few quantified data on these birds, just the anecdotal astonishment of observers who found them innumerable. Take heart, then, in the contributions made within these pages. Thousands of birders across the reporting regions have counted the birds they observed, have recorded the details of plumage, habitat, voice, and movement. We are moving away from anecdote and toward serious citizen-derived, citizen-driven sci-

ence, whatever our errors or occasional misidentifications along the way. The information contained in these reports does not lack value, whether or not it influences public policy, land-management decisions, or conservation biology (as it does, frequently). Most important to realize, when we take that extra time to send the regional editors our findings, is that we cannot know today how the contributions made here—the hard work of many observers that collectively produces a snapshot of North American birdlife each season—will prove useful or important in the future. The astonishing information in these pages is invariably subtler than the wayward Siberian Accentor in Montana or Yellow Wagtail in Alabama (though these are marvelous discoveries). It is instead the Big Picture that can be intimated in the many and interconnected patterns of bird movement across the continent, weather-related or otherwise. For the autumn of 2003, patterns that suggested themselves to me involved: migratory birds' movements in relation to the Polar Jet Stream; the "invasions" of pipits and fulmars along the Pacific Coast; the riddle of "reverse-migration" in the northeastern quadrant of North America and its possible connections to the vagrancy of western birds

in the East; the influences of Hurricane Isabel; and the continuing increase in records of extralimital hummingbirds.

Weather Synopsis

As an enthusiast of both birds and weather, I read each regional editor's weather descriptions and bird-related hypotheses with great interest. Not only does this information brighten the regional reports with local flavor, it allows all of North America's birders to glimpse the conditions encountered in each region and imagine what it might have been like to bird there. The compilation of this information over time will lead to a better understanding of how bird migration, extralimital occurrences, and weather phenomena are linked.

By and large, the Northeast south through the Carolinas experienced an active weather pattern this fall, more so after September, hurricanes aside, that is. August and September were quite wet over most of the East (especially in the Middle Atlantic, Appalachia, and Southern Atlantic but also south to Florida and north to southern Québec), with heavy precipitation coming to eastern New England in October. A persistent weather pattern of strong cold fronts moving through from late September

through the end of November surely contributed to the plethora of western species in the East this fall, especially on the Atlantic coast. Away from the outer coasts, fall migration was considered "average" or poorer: concentrations of migrants or unusual species were not extensively observed, as is often the case. Farm fields were filled with water during the peak of shorebird migration, producing some remarkable counts of low-density species and rarities across the coastal plains, but interior reservoirs were often too full to provide good shorebird habitat, as in Pennsylvania. In general, the season was a few degrees warmer than normal—so reported from northern Quebec through Georgia—and this mildness was often connected in the regional reports to the survival of lingering migrants. The prairie states and provinces, the Midwest, and the Western Great Lakes region had generally mild, dry weather this fall, and most regional editors remarked on the lack of striking weather events and lack of concentrated migrants (though jagers were in very high numbers on the Great Lakes). Iowa was especially dry, but neighboring Missouri had above-normal rainfall, and both were colder than usual. To the south, in Tennessee and Kentucky, warmer-than-average temperatures and a pronounced passerine migration were reported, both potentially associated with record-late dates for several species. The Gulf Coast, too, saw strong migration after a wet August; the rest of the season was meteorologically mediocre but filled with interesting bird reports, though Texas reported an "uneventful" season.

The interior West was also quite warm: Glasgow, Montana had 39 straight days with highs exceeding 85° F, with warmth continuing through the third week of October. Idaho, too, had its warmest August on record. Reservoirs in many places ran dry, offering shorebirds habitat but negatively affecting migrant waterfowl later in the year. Late October and November, however, changed the season dramatically, with repeated cold fronts and low temperatures the rule. To the south, New Mexico and Arizona continued very dry and unusually warm, but the drought was eased in Nevada and Utah, where late-season snowfalls that continued into winter promised better reservoir levels in spring.

"Warm and dry" were also the adjectives applied to most of the U. S. Pacific coast this fall, where wildfires were especially severe in the southern quarter of the British Columbian interior and in southern California. Away from the fires, skies were reported as "clear" and migrants and vagrants in low numbers. As in Idaho and Montana, the warm, dry early season ended abruptly in mid- to late October, when Pacific storms

pounded first southern British Columbia, then Washington, Oregon, and northern California. The westerly gales in the Pacific Northwest were associated with a "wreck" of Northern Fulmars that eventually extended all the way into Mexico. To trace the genesis of these areas of warmth and cold, calm and storm, one has only to observe the movements of the Polar Jet Stream: where it moved north, dry high pressure with associated warm air settled in "below" it; along its path spun low-pressure systems, some of which displaced birds from typical migrational routes; and where it plunged southward, cold, dry air moved in "above" it, the first overtures of winter.

The Jet Stream

Most birders look to weather events on the local and regional level when planning their time in the field: storm squalls at inland reservoirs, coastal cold fronts, tropical cyclones, rainy days with drenched farm fields and sod farms—all are the stuff of fall birding at many points on the continent. Yet many of us, despite good resources on the Internet and even television, never think to look at weather from a wider meteorological vantage. The Jet Stream is generally understood as a steering mechanism for "synoptic-scale" (large-scale) weather systems (such as one sees represented on weather maps) in North America, but it rarely receives mention in this journal's regional reports, at least away from Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, where its effects in guiding in those pounding, moisture-laden Pacific storms are duly noted. Even more rarely does one read about the Jet Stream's effect on birds' movements, perhaps because it seems an indirect influence, perhaps because we associate birds' movements with more proximate meteorological phenomena. We may find, however, that studying the condition of the Jet Stream and understanding its complex influence on surface weather patterns will prove important in understanding the cross-continental and transoceanic movements of birds. What follows is a simple description of the mechanics of the Jet Stream, for those unfamiliar with it (see also Lehman 2003).

The Jet Stream (hereafter "Jet") is comprised of two relatively narrow circulations of air (the Polar and Subtropical Jets) that flow at high speeds, more or less from west to east, around the earth at middle and subtropical latitudes, respectively. These bands are mostly in the Upper Troposphere, at variable altitudes of roughly 5–15 km, with 10 km (about 32,000 feet) an average altitude. The Polar Jet is normally located at the boundary between cooler "polar"-modified air to the north (the Polar High) and the warmer, moister, "subtropical"-modified air to the south (the Subtropical High). While this elevation might seem too high to have

an influence on migrating birds directly, the conditions and direction of air in these streams powerfully influence and help to steer synoptic-scale systems, including those low-pressure systems (called "mid-latitude cyclones" by meteorologists) that we watch for on familiar weather maps. Not only does the Jet influence the direction of storm systems: the temperature contrast across the Jet provides much of the systems' energy. This is one of the chief reasons that such systems stay near (or are "advectioned by") the Jet.

The air that comprises the Polar Jet typically travels at about 240 k.p.h. (150 m.p.h.); though this is variable; airspeeds at the surface and those in the lower atmosphere, where nocturnal birds migrate, are typically much lower, but the systems with which these birds must contend are mostly guided, in some way, by flow of the Jet. The weather systems associated with these arcs typically move eastward at 30–50 k.p.h. (or about 20–30 m.p.h.). Much like a stream of liquid, the Jet's path is influenced by other aspects of its surroundings and thus flows in variable, buckling patterns that resemble sinusoidal waves. These "loops" in the Jet's flow form ridges (shaped like large hills on weather maps) and troughs (shaped like valleys), both of which have major effects of the steering, strengthening, and weakening of storms. Troughs tend to intensify and accelerate mid-latitude cyclones: a strong, persistent trough might steer storm after storm into a certain region, as we often see in the Pacific Northwest, affecting its avifauna in the process. (The interactions between mid-latitude cyclones and the Polar Jet are complex enough that further summary risks oversimplification.) As this journal's features have demonstrated on many occasions, strong mid-latitude cyclones have often been implicated in the dispersal of avian migrants to regions far outside their areas of normal occurrence (synopsis in Lehman 2003).

Much of the focus in past "Changing Seasons" essays has been on the Polar Jet's effect on both short- and long-distance bird vagrancy in the Midwest and East, where astoundment has turned to anticipation in the case of Siberian species such as Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Long-billed Murrelet, and Black-tailed Gull (all noted this season), as well as a few other nonpasserines, and where western North American species are awaited following even moderate low-pressure events. It should be pointed out that some exceptional birds such as these Long-billed Murrelets may indeed be flying at altitudes of five km or greater and thus flying along with the Polar Jet itself (how else does a Siberian Flycatcher reach Bermuda, as one did on 28 September 1980)? It seems reasonable to assume, more modestly, that the strength and position of the Polar Jet in the North Pacific could have considerable effect

on the number and composition of migrant landbirds found on North Pacific islands and along the Pacific Coast. If conditions are favorable for many low-pressure systems to form, these systems will likely be responsible for influencing the movements of migratory birds; if the Jet arches northward or southward, so too do the surface weather systems, and the birds whose migratory pathways lie in their paths will have to contend with them. The Polar Jet's movement is roughly toward the east and thus more or less with the flow of the dominant Mid-latitude Westerlies, which are produced ultimately by the rotation of the Earth. This does not mean that low-pressure systems guided by the Jet simply have westerly winds, however; in the northern hemisphere, low-pressure systems have winds both easterly/northeasterly (on the north side of the system) and westerly/southwesterly (on the south side). The winds that pose a challenge for long-distance Siberian migrants and for westbound "Trans-Beringian" migrants—birds that nest in Alaska but migrate across the Bering Sea to winter in Asia—are the westerlies, which are unfavorable for their migrations toward the southwest. (Most truly Asian birds found on Alaskan islands have been associated with winds blowing from Asia, not surprisingly; but we should bear in mind that a bird caught in a cyclone might well experience what appear to be favorable winds initially—a tailwind in the appropriate direction for migratory needs—but then be moved contrary to this direction as the cyclonic winds bring the bird around to the system's other side.) As troughs develop in the Polar Jet, advecting low-pressure systems eastward in the eastern North Pacific across lower latitudes, migrant landbirds south of Alaska too will be affected, moved in directions contrary to typical routes. As a trough develops and intensifies, fall migrants from Alaska may follow the southward winds associated with the trough toward the Hawaiian Islands, especially if this trough's progression is slow. The growing list of Asian avian visitors to the North-western Hawaiian Islands would seem to support the idea that migratory Asian species are being affected by systems steered toward the south by the Jet or by the Jet itself (Pratt et al. 1987), but see also this season's S. A. box in the Hawaiian islands report for an account of three major North American vagrants there in November.

Looking at the pattern of the Polar Jet during autumn 2003, one can see how some Siberian migrants might have been directed into North America by its movements. (We cannot offer here an inter-annual comparison of the Polar Jet's movements and the so-called avian "Siberian Express" years in

North America, but it would make for fascinating study.) The late-August Polar Jet—arching north from mainland China just below the Kamchatka Peninsula and into the Aleutians—allowed several cyclones to move across the Bering Sea, potentially influencing the movements of both coastal Asian migrants and Trans-Beringian migrants (Figure 2). The counterclockwise rotation of these systems and the associated southwesterly to northeasterly winds (depending on one's position in relation to the center of the low) possibly helped steer unusually high numbers of Red-throated Pipits and American Pipits of the race *japonicus* to the Alaskan islands, certainly more than seen in an average season here. By 10 September, the Polar Jet had become more powerful, steering surface systems toward the northeast from China across the Pacific Ocean south of the Aleutians, resulting in many days of easterly and northeasterly winds on the Pribilofs and thus the appearance there of numerous vagrants of North American origin here. (After the two Fork-tailed Swifts there in August, birds of Siberian origin reappeared only in late September and early October, when winds again became westerly there.) By 17 September, this very strong Jet had dipped still farther southward, with the strongest winds now plowing into the North American coast at the latitudes of Oregon and northern California, and by month's end, the Jet shifted still more to the south. Beginning in early October, the coasts of California and Baja were awash with reports of Red-throated Pipits.

The Great Pipit Invasion

The big story along the Pacific Coast was the large-scale invasion of Red-throated Pipits, in some cases accompanied by reports of the eastern Russian race of American Pipit (*Anthus rubescens japonicus*; Figure 1), hereafter for convenience's sake referred to as Siberian Pipit, following Lee and Birch (2002), rather than as "Japanese Pipit," its older name. The breadth and scope of the 2003 invasion had not been seen since the remarkable invasion of these taxa during fall of 1991 (McCaskie 1992, Yee et al. 1992). Early signs of this movement were already in evidence by late August at two Alaskan outposts: at Gambell, on St. Lawrence Island, Paul Lehman and others reported record-high numbers of both Red-throated and Siberian Pipits; and farther south in the Bering Sea at St. Paul Island, Derek Lovitch and the St. Paul Fall Survey reported excellent numbers of both. By early September, it was clear that a sizable dispersal of these birds, along a broad front, was underway.

At Gambell, Lehman noted record totals of no fewer than 94 Red-throated Pipits (21

August to 21 September) and 26 Siberian Pipits (27 August to 28 September), with single-day record totals of 26 Red-throated Pipits on 22 August and 40 on 28 August, and the single-day record total of Siberian Pipits being 13, seen daily between 30 August and 3 September. (The pipit spectacle there also featured three Pechora Pipits in September.) Farther south on St. Paul Island, Lovitch reported Red-throated Pipit high counts of 40 on 28 August and 49 on 29 August, with considerable numbers daily through 12 September, and additional scattered individuals appearing through month's end. Siberian Pipits were also in evidence on St. Paul, where up to 3 per day were seen regularly from 1 through 27 September (maxima of 6–8). (At the same time, greater-than-expected numbers of Yellow Wagtails appeared on St. Paul.) With at least 88 Red-throated Pipits encountered on these two islands on 28 August, it appears that hundreds of Red-throated Pipits must have been moving through these islands during late August and early September. Red-throated Pipits were in evidence farther south as well: one was on Adak in the Aleutians on 22 August (Ted Floyd and Chris Wood), and three were in coastal Southeast Alaska: one in Ketchikan 7 September and 2 in Juneau 7–20 September. Via the Internet, Lehman recommended that observers along the Pacific Coast be on the lookout for unusual numbers of these species.

These predictions bore fruit, as a veritable deluge of Red-throated Pipits hit the Pacific Coast in early October, stretching from Southeast Alaska and British Columbia through Baja California Sur. A combined total of at least 103 Red-throated Pipits was reported in these regions from 23 September through 25 November. High counts for the period from single locations included: 17 on San Clemente Island, California; 8–10 north of El Socorro, Baja California; a remarkable 8–10 at Santa Teresita, Baja California Sur; and 5+ at Cantamar, Baja California. The invasion of 2003 was comparable only to that documented in 1991, when 79 individuals were reported in twelve California counties, prompting the California Bird Records Committee to remove it from the state's Review List (C.B.R.C., in ms.). This species was first documented in California 40 years ago, when 12 were found by Guy McCaskie in the Tijuana River Valley 12–27 October 1964 (Garrett and Dunn 1981); it has proven to be nearly annual in the state since, although numbers fluctuate considerably from year to year. In recent years, Red-throated Pipits have been relatively scarce: fall 2000 produced only three in California and one in Baja California; fall 2001 produced nine; and only three were in California and one in Baja in fall 2002. An average

year for this species in California produces about four individuals, which underscores how extensive the invasion of 2003 was.

The strong showing of Siberian Pipits on the Alaskan islands also translated to the southern Pacific Coast, including the first three records for Baja California and no fewer than eight birds in California (four in each region). While our incomplete understanding of the distribution and variation in American Pipit subspecies certainly makes some extralimital records difficult to interpret (Lee and Birch 2002), Siberian Pipit is clearly being detected regularly in North America, particularly in the Bering Sea region, where it has been carefully video-documented on many occasions. Previous records of this subspecies in California have shown correlation with the appearance of numbers Red-throated Pipits (McCaskie 1990, McCaskie 1992, Yee et al. 1992), especially the 1991 invasion; thus it is no surprise that Siberian Pipit has once again shown up in numbers in what turned out to be a stellar year for Red-throated Pipits. While some records are certainly a result of the increase in birders' awareness of this subspecies, it seems highly likely that the weather factors that influence the movements of some Red-throated Pipits also influence the movements of some Siberian Pipits.

With two veritable "invasion years" of these species now on record, birders are naturally inclined to theorize about such movements. So many factors come into play here, and so many questions insist themselves, that we focus first on the most obvious: What was or were the route(s) taken to Alaska and California (and elsewhere)? How much of the flight was coastal, how much over open water? Why are these pipits overwhelmingly coastal in their distribution in the autumn? And finally, why is there a lack of winter records from the south at latitudes comparable to those of their normal winter grounds—and why so few spring migrant records anywhere outside Alaska in the United States?

Distributional clues •

The distributions of these two pipit taxa are divergent, enough so that finding a single, clear reason for their convergence in California is difficult. In North America, Red-throated Pipit is known to breed only in small numbers on the western tip of the Seward Peninsula, Alaska, with other breeding records spanning from Cape Lisburne to St. Lawrence Island (Kessel and Gibson 1978). While relatively few breeding records exist for this rugged and somewhat inaccessible region, it is possible that this species could be breeding in larger numbers than currently known. The great extent and

remoteness of their preferred breeding habitat (dry hillside tundra) in western Alaska contribute to the uncertainty about North American populations, and it does not seem outside the realm of possibility that hundreds breed in this area. The fall migration of Alaska's Red-throated Pipits is thought to proceed across the Bering Sea into Siberia and then south down the Asian coast to wintering grounds in coastal Southeast Asia (Alström and Mild 2003). This would suggest that, in typical years, relatively few would reach North America south of the Bering Sea region.

Siberian Pipit, however, is not known to breed in Alaska, and its nearest breeding grounds may lie no closer than the central Kamchatka Peninsula, according to at least some authorities; Alström and Mild (2003), however, assign all eastern Russian breeders to *japonicus*, including those on the Chukotskiy (Chukotsk) Peninsula in easternmost Siberia, just north of St. Lawrence Island. (The breeding American Pipits here, it should be mentioned, have also been called subspecies *härmsi* [Portenko 1989]; the affinities of Chukotskiy Peninsula breeders are thus somewhat unclear but probably lie with *japonicus*.) Like Red-throated, Siberian Pipit migrates south to winter in Japan and China.

While some might argue that Red-throated Pipits in southern North America must come from the small Alaskan population, in numbers that vary with breeding success and other factors, it seems more likely to me that the synchronous irruptions of Siberian and Red-throated Pipits, particularly in 1991 and 2003, indicate a common mechanism of displacement between taxa that share migratory pathways, at least on part of their fall migrations. (This basic assumption could be wrong, of course.) Whatever the ultimate sources of North American migrants and vagrants, Red-throated Pipits have consistently outnumbered Siberian Pipits during influxes in North America, even at Gambell, where both pipits occur regularly and where neither can be considered a "vagrant" in any real respect. It is quite possible, of course, that a mix of Red-throated Pipits from both the Old World and the New World (which are only a few miles apart here, after all) combine with smaller numbers of Siberian Pipits at some point on the migratory route and are thence displaced much greater distances. Although there is no way at present to distinguish Alaskan-nesting from northeastern-Asian-nesting Red-throated Pipits (also the case with Yellow Wagtails), it seems doubtful that Asian-nesting Red-throateds are outnumbered by Alaskan birds in these flights. We will leave that question open.

Vectors of vagrancy •

The question of the geographic origin of the Red-throated Pipits and Siberian Pipits involved in these invasions is a matter of substantial debate, particularly in California. The question is in fact germane to all Siberian vagrants that have turned up in California and Baja California, as there are relatively few records of Siberian species north of California and south of Alaska. Two theories have been put forth to explain the migratory routes taken by these pipits on their way to coastal California and Mexico, and the long-distance vagrancy of these taxa may be explained by one, both, or of course neither.

The first, which we will term here the "coastal migration theory," suggests that these birds cross into North America from Siberia and then move southward along the coast, largely escaping detection until they reach northern California. The second theory—let's call it the "trans-Pacific theory"—suggests that these birds undertake long-distance water crossings from Siberian and Alaskan breeding grounds southwestward across the Bering Sea. When displaced, such birds settle on landmasses to the northwest of the Pacific Coast, and then continue southeastward, flying directly over the Pacific Ocean until they make landfall, primarily in California. While both theories seem plausible, each has its confounding factors. One potential Achilles' heel of the coastal migration theory is that relatively few U. S. (or Canadian) records exist for Red-throated north of California: a few for the Yukon, 18 from British Columbia, and through 2003 one each from Washington and Oregon. One reason I suspect the agency of the Polar Jet in the 2003 invasion of pipits is this surprising geographic gap in the records of these pipits but also of other Siberian passerine vagrants: they appear annually in Alaska and to a lesser degree in offshore and coastal California, Baja California, and even Hawaii (albeit in smaller numbers than in western Alaska)—but are rarely recorded from the Pacific Northwest and southeastern Alaska. Records of long-distance migrants such as Red-flanked Bluetail, Arctic Warbler, Black-backed Wagtail, Dusky Warbler, Rustic Bunting, Olive-backed Pipit, Lancelated Warbler, Little Bunting, and Gray Wagtail would seem to support this scenario; importantly, North American records of Eurasian species that regularly winter at higher latitudes—such as Siberian Accentor and Brambling—do not conform to the pattern.

Perhaps the gap in records can be explained by the seemingly tenacious coastal distribution of these pipits, as access to these areas and the offshore islands is limited from Southeast Alaska to British Columbia. If

these taxa tend to stay as far west on the outer coasts as possible, then they would occur primarily on islands, even the western coasts of such islands—areas that receive little birding coverage. Certainly, though, coastal Washington and Oregon are fairly heavily birded in autumn, if not nearly so well canvassed as the San Francisco Bay area or Southern California. The paucity of pipits south of British Columbia and north of California—single records of Red-throated Pipit from Oregon (inland at Wickiup Reservoir, 6–11 October 2003), and Washington (San Juan Island, 14–16 September 1979)—does not suggest that these birds are being routinely overlooked. When one considers in particular the number of pipits involved in the 1991 and 2003 invasions, it would seem that even relatively less-birded areas should have produced more records of Red-throated Pipit at least. Nevertheless, there is danger in interpreting a dearth of data as an absence of birds. There are certainly many fewer birders working the vast coastlines north of California than are active in California; and it's also possible that pipits are almost never detected in Oregon and Washington because of the vast expanse of pipit habitat or because the birds are moving through these latitudes more rapidly than in southern California, which match wintering latitudes in Asia. I would be delighted to read in a future column that Pacific Northwestern birders found vagrant pipits aplenty on their coasts; the thinking below does not preclude this possibility.

It would appear that pipits undertaking a migration route between northeastern Russia

and Japan (described as a "maritime" route by Lee and Birch [2002] for Siberian Pipit) might be easily influenced by synoptic-scale weather systems and thus be more prone to disastrous (the majority of birds perishing) or successful (the majority surviving) migration events, which would then result in the

variable patterns of influx observed in California. The ability of passerines to make long-distance water crossings when entrained by such east-bound systems is well known in the northeastern Atlantic: the arrivals of Nearctic and Neotropical landbirds in Iceland, Great Britain, western

France, even Norway and the Azores following strong low-pressure systems from the North American landmass are eagerly awaited each autumn. It seems likely to me that migrant Red-throated Pipits are sometimes caught up in low-pressure systems, steered ultimately to the south/east of their normal migration pattern by the westerly winds associated with the southern edges of the systems. In years when these systems do not predominate, Red-throated Pipits may end up reaching Siberia in typical fashion, thus resulting in very few or no records farther south than Gambell. On the other hand, if just a few powerful systems push through the Bering Sea region at the appropriate time, intercepting large numbers of Red-throated Pipits, the end result might be dramatic. Instead of ending up in eastern Siberia, Red-throated Pipits would find themselves over the Bering Sea, and would thus be forced to fall out on islands in the region—St. Lawrence Island, the Pribilofs, and the Aleutians, as in late August 2003 (Figure 2). As the birds attempt to reorient and continue southwestward, the westerlies of east-bound cyclones might catch them up once again, forcing them to fly on until reaching the next bit of land, which appears to be—at least for the few fallouts on record—coastal California.

Why then the slight discrepancy between the timing of Alaska and California records? Red-throated Pipits move through Gambell and the Pribilofs beginning in late August and continue through mid-September

(Lehman, in press; D. Lovitch, pers. comm.), whereas the majority of California records fall between mid-September and early November. A simple explanation for the disparity is that these birds linger on the Alaskan islands, perhaps to refuel and wait for favorable local conditions before

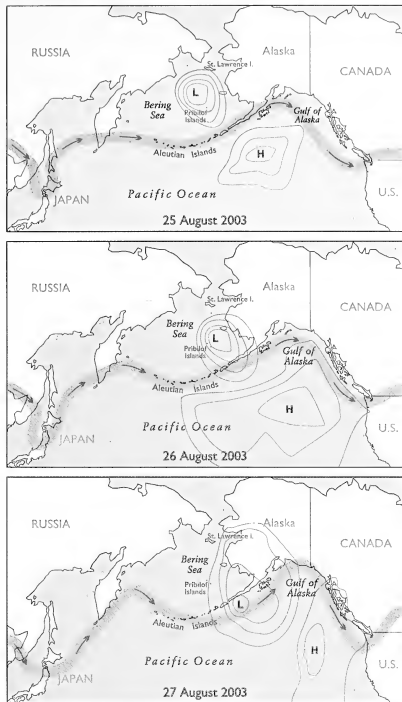


Figure 2. These three maps showing both the Polar Jet Stream and the surface weather phenomena for late August 2003 give some idea as to why record-high numbers of Red-throated Pipits and "Siberian Pipits" turned up on St. Lawrence Island and St. Paul Island in the Bering Sea at that time. The Jet Stream's winds, stretching from the Kamchatka Peninsula toward southern Alaska along the Aleutian Islands, brought a Bering Sea low-pressure system (cyclone) to the southeast, so that birds attempting to move southwestward toward the Eurasian landmass might mostly be diverted southeastward, with the system, and toward Alaska. With high pressure (anticyclone) to the south of the Jet's flow, surface winds between the high- and low-pressure systems would follow the direction of the Jet's winds. Thus, as the Jet shifted notably southward in September, pipits attempting to reorient toward Asia could, in theory, be moved over water through the Gulf of Alaska, southeastward offshore of Canada and the Pacific Northwest, making landfall chiefly in California, where the Jet at that time turned back toward the North American landmass. Maps by Virginia Maynard.

attempting to reorient themselves toward Asia—a behavior that has been documented in some of the Asian vagrants encountered on Southeast Farallon Island off northern California (P. Pyle, pers. comm.). Indeed, both Lehman and Lovitch noted large numbers present for several days to weeks at Gambell and on St. Paul respectively, and both found it difficult to tell if new birds were arriving or if they were simply accumulating here. If these species indeed wait for favorable weather to continue southwestward, it could be weeks (in some years) before these birds would depart. Perhaps, in some years, they successfully return to the Asian mainland, and perhaps, in others, unforeseen weather events ultimately guide them to the North American mainland. A bit of September birding on the Aleutians might shed light on this question.

The Jet's influence on weather systems and the related displacements of birds is a topic that abounds in questions but yields few obvious answers, despite ample meteorological data available on the WorldWideWeb (see <ftp://vtrga.sfsu.edu/pub/jetstream/jetstream_norhem/>). For instance, why were mostly pipits displaced during fall 2003, with little mention of other Siberian passerines making headlines away from the Bering Sea? Perhaps the position of the Jet was unfavorable to Trans-Beringian migrants during fall 2003, displacing mostly Alaskan Red-throated Pipits (and a few Siberian Pipits from northeasternmost Russia) toward the southeast but leaving Asian-nesting landbirds much less affected. Or are pipits able to endure displacement events over the ocean better than some other species-groups—and the less-hardy species perish before making landfall on North American soil? Or perhaps it's a matter of the density and composition of species moving southward along the Siberian and northeastern Asian coastlines during autumn: are these pipits two of the most common landbirds migrating through coastal northeastern Siberia (or offshore there) during fall?

The coastal bias •

Once in the lower latitudes of sunny southern California and the Baja California Peninsula, these pipits would probably be influenced much less by the Polar Jet, which tends to be more active to the north. Where are these birds being found within the Lower 48, once arrived from the north? Historically, and in 2003, almost entirely in coastal areas. This fall, most atypically, five Red-throated Pipits also appeared at inland locations: Oregon's first (this season); one of the Middle Pacific Coast's 32 was discovered at Ukiah Wastewater Treatment Plant, Mendocino County; two were in Palmdale, Los Angeles County; and one was at Galileo Hill

Park, Kern County in the southwestern Mojave Desert. Canada has but one inland record of Red-throated—from the Whitehorse Sewage Ponds, Yukon Territory 18 September 2000 (Eckert and Grünberg 2001)—and, prior to 2003, there were only eight inland records for California, six of which came during the 1991 invasion (McCaskie 1992). The inland record of a Red-throated from northeastern Arizona at Kayenta 12–17 October 1989 (Rosenberg and Stejskal 1990) stands as the farthest inland record of this species in North America.

Why the discrepancy in records between coastal and interior sites: is it the distribution of the birds—or of the birders—that produces this difference? If pipits experience unfavorable weather conditions during migration and attempt to compensate for these conditions later, it makes sense that most would be encountered along the Pacific Coast, where they would be concentrated first by initial arrival and subsequently by attempts to reorient themselves toward the west or southwest. It may also explain their numerous appearances on the California Channel Islands and Southeast Farallon Island. If they are arriving on the northern California coast and attempting to jump off at each migratory opportunity to head southwestward, then the majority should either return to the coast again farther south, or end up over the Channel Islands (or the sea). Interestingly, Red-throated Pipits that I observed last fall on San Clemente Island did not appear in association with other large movements of western (and eastern) landbirds. Rather, they appeared under a variety of atmospheric conditions, without any correlation to any particular condition, certainly *not* to the local conditions that produce fallouts of a great variety of migrants here. These appearances suggested to me that migrational urges, rather than any specific small-scale weather events, governed the birds' movements locally. Thus it would seem that if these species show up on the Pacific Coast largely as a result of weather-related entrainment (rather than impaired navigation, by "mirror-image" migration, for instance), their range of occurrence would remain relatively confined to the coast and offshore islands, as they continually attempt to reorient themselves toward the southwest. To test this notion, we should seek them out in appropriate habitat and times in the California (and western) interiors. Our bias toward birding the coast clouds questions about bird distribution with relation to noncoastal areas—nevertheless, the power of ocean coasts to "trap" migrating birds reluctant to cross the big ecotone is probably even greater than we grasp. Radar studies of bird

migration, especially in remote areas, will hopefully unlock secrets that our eyes, even with scopes and binoculars, cannot.

The silent spring •

Given the large numbers of Red-throated Pipits detected in North America during invasion years, at least a few should be found as spring migrants in North America, or so one would think. There are but two spring records of alternate-plumaged Red-throated Pipits for mainland Mexico: one on 11 April 1988 in Michoacan, and one in March 1992 in Colima (Howell and Webb 1992, 1995). The only winter record is of one collected at San Jose del Cabo, Baja California Sur on 26 January 1883 (Ridgway 1883). There are now only four other spring records for Red-throated Pipit outside of Alaska. What is happening to birds that successfully over-winter at latitudes comparable to those of their normal winter areas? Perhaps it's a matter of the lack of interest in birding their preferred habitat at the appropriate time of year (probably May in California), or the scant preference to stir interest. As this issue is going to press, three Red-throated Pipits have been seen in Oregon and Washington in May 2004! In interior Europe, Red-throats are more numerous during spring than fall (Alström and Mild 2003). An azimuth orientation set from eastern China to western Alaska, if translated to North America, would bring birds theoretically wintering in Middle America across the central United States and into the Canadian Arctic! There are probably North American contexts for vagrant birds of other continents reorienting in spring as they would on their home continent: Little Egret (Modinow et al. 2004), Garganey (Spear et al. 1988), and White-winged Tern (Campbell 2000) come to mind.

Our usual caveat must be stated again in closing: all of the above is speculation. And very probably, all of the ideas, or some combination thereof, about these birds' movements may be valid under certain conditions. Nevertheless, as the seasons progress and birders continue to report these species, more intriguing information will surely come to light. All birders should be aware of these pipits' movements—not just in Pacific coastal areas, but continentally: very possibly, these birds are going undetected inland. It also seems likely that eventually one will turn up on the East Coast; after all, there are many records for Britain, and if Asian birds such as Black-backed Wagtail and *ocularis* White Wagtail can turn up in the East, it would seem that the numerous Red-throated Pipit is even more likely. Maybe poring over flocks of American Pipits in fall is not your idea of fun, but such patient activity may yet reveal this species in the East. The best way

to prepare is to learn its diagnostic flight-call, a high, thin, slightly buzzy "speeet!" As birders become better versed in the identification of these two taxa, we will undoubtedly learn more about their occurrence in North America.

Reverse-migration & western vagrants in the East

The topic of avian vagrancy to the Canadian Maritimes, and to the Northeast generally, has occupied a place of prominence in *North American Birds* and its forerunners for some years, with commentators in years past referring to the so-called "Scotia Shadow," a vagrancy shadow of North America Neotropical migrants that extends from New England into the Maritime Provinces (cf. Brinkley and Lehman 2003). Emphasis in the past has been on relationships of strong low-pressure systems to these movements, but too little consideration has been given to another question: Why are these birds lingering in these northerly latitudes to such late dates in the first place? Such reverse-migration has been identified as a potential reason why certain Eurasian strays end up in Alaska, or why Fork-tailed Flycatchers and Tropical Kingbirds end up in the Northeast and Northwest, respectively, but its effect on birds within their home continent is less often explored.

It seems likely that the phenomenon of reverse-migration is far more common than we might suspect. If what we know of reverse-migration is based largely on the appearance of vagrant birds, then what of this phenomenon on a smaller scale, or in low-profile (that is, more common) species? Does it also take place in short or medium-distance migrants, but we simply fail to recognize it as such? My guess is that it occurs in many migratory species but that we connect the behavior chiefly with those species making large-scale migratory movements. In the case of the Canadian Maritimes and most of the Northeast, the appearance of very late Neotropical migrants is surely an example of this behavior. It seems possible that large numbers of such migrants commence their migration already misoriented, making their way mostly north during the fall instead of south. Over time (say, several weeks in September), this would result in wayward individuals attempting to find resources in the relatively cold northern areas during late September and early October. Perhaps these individuals continue to move slowly northward at this time, despite the increasingly northerly winds of late autumn, or perhaps they find a location that has ample resources and remain there. Perhaps these birds "stage" on a broad front across the Northeast and Canada, foraging on what resources remain, resulting in fewer

records of vagrants in the less-birded interior, and when conditions become favorable for migration—in the mind of a reverse-migrant, this would be the southerly or southwesterly winds that make for energy-efficient flight to the north-northeast—they take flight and arrive en masse across the mid-Atlantic and the Northeast, concentrating at the last bits of land to the northeast, the Canadian Maritimes and New England, but also detected to the south along most of the East Coast. The champions make it to Iceland and western Europe.

The lists of migrants (perhaps more technically "vagrants") associated with these fall-outs in the Maritimes are sometimes astounding—reading more like the results of a September day on the Gulf Coast than a normal October day in the Maritimes (see McLaren et al. 2000). Just as with the Asian plovers, two questions pose themselves: Where did these birds come from? How far did they travel? In the case of the 1998 fall-out in Nova Scotia, McLaren et al. (2000) make a good case for over-water entrainment by a fast-moving offshore low-pressure cell. But in most cases involving fallout of "late" migrants in the Northeast, such birds are found at coastal or insular locations following the passage of a low-pressure system onshore, from the west. How far might these birds have traveled to reach these locations? Again, the cited Maritime Canadian example (McLaren et al. 2000) involved an apparently long flight over water from the south, but in most instances, Neotropical passerines would probably travel at most 600–650 km non-stop under these conditions (based on my observations in the Gulf of Mexico). My hunch is that migrants arriving in the Northeast during these events must have been present not far away in the interior prior to these storm systems, perhaps originating from areas only a few hundred kilometers to the west or southwest.

My supposition is that large numbers of vagrants are likely present throughout the interior continental United States and Canada, and it is chiefly when weather events concentrate them (dominant southwesterly, then northwesterly winds)—or concentrations of birders find them—that they are detected. I suggest that misoriented migrants move northward on a broad front across North America and that they might be (and to an extent are) found anywhere over the course of an autumn. The heavy concentrating effects of the coast, coupled with offshore winds on either coast, can produce remarkable concentrations of migrant and vagrant birds, but interior sites—especially along "coastal" edges at lakes, reservoirs, and major rivers—are turning out to be increasingly productive places to witness this autumn phenomenon on a usually

smaller scale.

The conspicuous Cave Swallow provides a striking example of a species for which this scale is not smaller for interior sites: of some 77 reported this autumn (north of Florida, east of the Mississippi), about 28 came from sites away from the Atlantic, mostly along the Great Lakes (Table 1). The pattern this fall was similar to that of the autumn 2002 flight in the Northeast—but the southern component, assumed in 2002 to be "reorienting" individuals moving back southward on north winds (Brinkley and Lehman 2003), was completely missing this year. First records for New Brunswick, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts were noted to the north of 2002's sites. In all cases, Cave Swallows were located during southwesterlies that preceded the passage of cold fronts (a few) or during/after northwesterly winds of the passing cold front (most); a few of these birds seem to linger around lakes or coastal areas in most places, for up to a week. These Cave Swallow events show clear patterns: 1, 7/8, and 24/25 November were the main displacement events, all days of cold-frontal passage. One could surmise that Cave Swallows first move northeastward on southwesterly winds and are subsequently concentrated and made more findable by the subsequent northwesterlies. On the one hand, the consistently late dates of their appearances (sometimes with a few other late swallows, including vagrant Brown-chested Martin and Mangrove Swallow) suggests that these birds are "classic" misoriented migrants, but on the other hand their apparent reorientation southward (at least in 2002) would seem to support the argument that these birds were displaced rather than misoriented. One wonders whether a capacity to reorient southward during increasingly cold weather is incompatible with migratory misorientation as we currently describe it.

Widening the view from Cave Swallows to encompass a sample of other western species located in the East this spring (Table 2), the neat correlation of birds' first appearances with cold fronts' passages falters somewhat—but not as much as one might anticipate. In fact, an analysis of the dates in Table 2 shows that a clear majority of "first dates" corresponds to frontal activity in their respective regions, which of course vary more than do those of the more-concentrated Cave Swallows'. (Though many such birds are found on weekends, this may be less true now than in the past.) What's striking in the roster of rarities in Table 2 is that so many of the rarest were noted in association with the big three November fronts that moved Cave Swallows—Maryland's second Mountain Bluebird, Massachusetts' second Hammond's Flycatcher, South Carolina's two

Table 1. Cave Swallows in the Great Lakes and Northeast in fall 2003, ordered by date.

NUMBER	LOCATION	FIRST DATE
1†	Cape May, NJ	29 Oct
1	Niagara Falls, ON	1 Nov
1	Pt. Lepreau, NB	3 Nov*
3	Tobermory, ON	4 Nov
1	Cranberry Marsh, ON	6 Nov
3	Point Pelee N.P., ON	7 Nov
2	Long Pt., ON	7 Nov
23	Connecticut coast (various)	8 Nov
1	Charlestown, RI	8 Nov
2	Erieau, ON	8 Nov
2	near Point Pelee N.P.	8 Nov
1	Sturgeon Creek, ON	8 Nov
1	Pt. Petre, Prince Edward, ON	8 Nov
1	near Hillman Marsh, ON	9 Nov
1	Point Pelee N.P., ON	9 Nov
1	Jones Beach, NY	9 Nov
1	Culver's Lake, NJ	10 Nov
1	Cedar Springs, ON	10 Nov
1	Lighthouse Pt., CT	15 Nov
2	Orleans, MA	15 Nov*
5	Hamlin Beach, NY	24 Nov
4	Rye, NH	26 Nov*
1	Lighthouse Pt., CT	25 Nov*
2	Bridgeport, CT	26 Nov
1	Cranberry Marsh, ON	26 Nov
1	Chatham, MA	27 Nov

* = first state or provincial record

† = At least 13 more were reported from Cape May during November 2003, mostly after cold fronts, with several lingering for days or even weeks afterward; this has been a typical pattern there since about 1997, where November records extend back to 1991.

Calliope Hummingbirds (at the same flier), Delaware's first Say's Phoebe, both the Tropical/Couch's Kingbird in New Hampshire (its first) and the Couch's Kingbird x Scissor-tailed Flycatcher hybrid in New York (a first anywhere), a Cassin's Kingbird in Florida, a good number of Ash-throated Flycatchers, Virginia's three Harris's Sparrows, a Western Meadowlark on Martha's Vineyard, New Hampshire's third Bell's Vireo, Quebec's Townsend's Solitaire, a few Varied Thrushes, Tennessee's first Sage Thrasher, a flock of Smith's Longspurs in Indiana the list goes on. And it's probable that a few birds were not discovered in the first day or two of their arrival in the locations where found, so one would not expect even the high degree of correlation that Table 2 appears to document (there are, after all, still many more weekend-only birds than not).

What one misses with the limited focus on western vagrants, however, is the massive context, the Big Picture: the enormous flights of commoner species that accompany these birds on the fronts and provide context for their appearance. Read the "S.A. Box" in the Hudson-Delaware report on the million-plus birds, among them hundreds of thousands of American Robins, that passed through that region 8 November. No other eastern regions reported birds in such numbers that day, but Newfoundland had its second firm record of Vesper Sparrow at Cape Spear 7 November, a species that was numerous at Cape May, New Jersey the next day and detected as far south as Virginia's coast that weekend. Vesper Sparrow, though not a far-western species by any means, provides a good index for how broad the flight on this front probably was, as do numerous other species (see the regional reports). In narrowing the focus to westerners, too, we miss genuinely rare reverse-migrants from the Scotia Shadow such as the Least Flycatcher on 18 November at Marblehead, Massachusetts—not to mention very late birds such as Maryland's 9 November Yellow-throated Vireo, a host of November cuckoos, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Rufous Hummingbirds, Indigo and Painted Buntings, southern warblers, Blue Grosbeaks, Yellow-headed and Brewer's Blackbirds, Scissor-tailed and Fork-tailed Flycatchers, possible late Great Crested Flycatchers in several states, and less-common sparrows such as Le Conte's, Clay-colored, and Lark. (And I have not even mentioned White-winged Doves.) Excluding areas immediately west of the Mississippi River caused the omission of one of the most surprising vagrants in the "East," a Costa's Hummingbird in Minnesota that almost escaped identification (see the S.A. Box). Truncating the season at November's end, too, eliminates the incredible Gray Flycatchers in Ontario and North Carolina found in December and the apparent coastal incursion of Common Ground-Doves to North Carolina on 30 November and Virginia on 1 December.

Despite its shortcomings, Table 2 prompts a few more interesting observations and speculations. First, the "commoner" or more widespread rarities from the West—Ash-throated Flycatcher (minimally 19 birds), Say's Phoebe (7), Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow (7), Vermilion Flycatcher (6), Black-headed Grosbeak (5)—tend to show up on a wider range of dates and seem less tied to severe cold fronts' passage than do some other categories of species. Second,

the farther south and west one goes in the "East," the less correlation to cold fronts there appears to be for most species or groups of species. And third, some species—notably most western *Dendroica* warblers and those few Lark Buntings—turn up decidedly earlier than the main push of late flycatchers, Cave Swallows, and sparrows. Some of these points seem intuitive: these warblers and Lark Buntings are usually early migrants, so why shouldn't they turn up earlier than most sparrows, which move later in the fall? But if one wanted to argue that all the birds in Table 2 are specifically *misoriented* migrants, then such birds do not seem to fit with the October/November window for other wayward westerners.

In fact, there must be multiple reasons for the birds included in Table 2 to have strayed. The Lewis's Woodpecker in Wisconsin, for instance, is likely the outlier in a major flight of that species and of Acorn Woodpecker, probably linked to drought and to the widespread failure of the acorn crop out West; the Band-tailed Pigeons may have a similar connection. The Black-throated Gray Warblers that pass through the East in September, for example, may be *displaced* migrants, or possibly "mirror-image" migrants, whereas those that arrive in late November or December could be considered more severely *misoriented*. In trying to perceive a Big Picture here, it is important to consider that the passage of cold fronts in the fall surely reveal multiple phenomena: both those birds that have experienced modest-to-significant longitudinal displacement (such as the September Lark Buntings and more commonly Lark Sparrows and Dickcissels) and late birds that are found far, far north of normal, such as the October/November/December flycatchers, vireos, southern warblers, and tanagers. The widespread November 2003 records of "Summer" Tanagers in Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Nova Scotia depict the latter phenomenon across an especially wide swath. In more numerous species, and in those whose breeding range is close to the East (or whose winter range includes the East, especially Florida), we probably see a mix of both displaced and misoriented individuals: an Ash-throated Flycatcher on 5 September in Florida may be less likely to be severely misoriented than one on the French island of St. Pierre on 22 November. The Hudson-Delaware report and other reports sometimes (tentatively) distinguish migrants found during southwesterly winds (at Cape May, for example, 7 November 2003) from those noted after cold fronts; with years of observations at sites like Cape May, we may be able to distinguish such birds with more confidence in the future: birds moving northeastward, ahead of cold fronts, from

those moving southeastward, on the wakes of the fronts. Again, radar studies and satellite tracking could be immensely useful in making such distinctions. A recent paper (Gilroy and Lees 2003) argues against the model of "reverse-migration" and contends that birds disperse in many directions other

than normal and its inverse.

The Polar Jet's hand in moving such birds is almost always apparent, as with the pipits in the West, but here I argue against reverse-migration (misorientation, or faulty navigation in the broad sense) in the pipits and for it in the case of some late-season Atlantic

coastal vagrants for several reasons. First, a reversed orientation in the pipits would not account for the directions of movement observed. Second, pipits' movements, at least as we have documented them in North America thus far, appear to be similar to those in eastern Eurasia, with birds moving

Table 3. Strictly pelagic seabirds found coastally & inland following Hurricane Isabel in September 2003.

SPECIES	NO.	LOCATION	DATE
Herald (Trinidad) Petrel	1	Kerr Res., VA	19 Sep
Black-capped Petrel	5	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	19 Sep
	4	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	20 Sep
	1*	Fort Erie, ON and vicinity	20 Sep
	2*	Fairhaven S. P., NY	21 Sep
	2*	Waverly Beach, ON	23 Sep (1*)
	1	Syracuse, NY	24 Sep*
Cory's Shearwater	1*	Bellefonte, PA	19 Sep
	12	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	19 Sep
	2*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	20 Sep
	1*	Bald Eagle S. P., PA	20 Sep
	1	McClure, PA	21 Sep
Audubon's Shearwater	1	Cape May, NJ	19 Sep
Manx Shearwater	1	Cape May, NJ	19 Sep
Manx/Audubon's Shearwater	1	L. Gaston, NC	19 Sep
	2	Cape May, NJ	19 Sep
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	9	L. Gaston-Roanoke Rapids L., NC	19 Sep
	1	Goldboro W.T.P., NC	19 Sep
	2*	Hunting Cr., VA	19 Sep
	56*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	19 Sep
	2	Swift Creek Res., VA	19 Sep
	3*	Potomac R., DC	19 Sep
	1	Susquehanna R. at Fort Hunter, PA	19 Sep
	1	Rose Valley L., PA	19 Sep
	1	Cape May, NJ	19 Sep
	5	Chautauqua L., NY	19 Sep
	1	Woodlawn Beach S. P., NY	19-20 Sep
	1*	Van Wagners Beach, Hamilton, ON	19 & 22 Sep
	20*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	20 Sep
	2	Cayuga L., NY	20 Sep
	3	Riis Park, Queens, NY	20 Sep
	1	Athol Springs, NY	20 Sep
	1	Charlotte, VT	20 Sep
	3	Fairhaven S. P., NY	21 Sep
	1	L. Champlain, NY	21 Sep
	1	Pearce P. P., ON	23 Sep*
	1	Tip on Long Point, ON	27 Sep
	1	Crescent Beach, ON	27 Sep
	1*	Van Wagners Beach, Hamilton, ON	27 Sep*
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	1	Sunset Beach, Northampton Co., VA	18 Sep
	1	Satterwhite Pt., Kerr L., NC	19 Sep
	1	Kerr Res., VA	19 Sep
	17*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	19 Sep
	1*	Hunting Cr., VA	19 Sep
	1	L. Anna, VA	19 Sep
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (continued)	1*	Potomac R., DC	19 Sep
	1*	Bellefonte, PA	19 Sep
	1	Cape May, NJ	19 Sep
	1*	Bald Eagle S. P., PA	19-20 Sep
	7*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	20 Sep
Leach's Storm-Petrel	1	Airlee Res., VA	19 Sep
	1	L. Anna, VA	19 Sep
	1	Yellow Creek S. P., PA	19 Sep
	1	Bald Eagle S. P., PA	19 Sep
	15*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	19 Sep
	20*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	20 Sep
unidentified storm-petrel (mostly Band-rumped/Leach's Storm-Petrels)	1	L. Frederick, VA	19 Sep
	3	Swift Creek Res., VA	19 Sep
	1	between Front Royal & Luray, VA	19 Sep
	1	Belvoir Rd. Pond, Fauquier Co., VA	19 Sep
	38*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	19 Sep
	3	Cape May, NJ	19 Sep
	2	Port Bruce, ON	19 & 22 Sep
	25*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	20 Sep
	1	Susquehanna R. at Fort Hunter, PA	20 Sep
	1	Ithaca area, Cayuga L., NY	21 Sep
White-tailed Tropicbird	1	Roanoke Rapids L., NC	19 Sep
	1	Richmond, VA	19 Sep
	1	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	19 Sep
	1	s. of Smithfield, Johnston Co., NC	20 Sep*
Sooty Tern	7	Sunset Beach, Northampton Co., VA	18 Sep
	1	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	19 Sep
	2	Conejohela Flats, Lancaster Co., PA	19 Sep
	1	Delaware R., Philadelphia, PA	19 Sep
	1	Nockamixon S. P., Bucks Co., PA	19 Sep
	2	Cape May, NJ	19 Sep
	2	Shinnecock Inlet, NY	19 Sep
	1	Hamlin Beach, NY	19 Sep
	3	Point Beeze, Monroe Co., NY	21 Sep
	1	Point Pelee N. P., ON	22 Sep
	1	Hamlin Beach, NY	23 Sep
Bridled Tern	1*	Suffolk, VA	18 Sep
	1	Cheriton, VA	18 Sep
	3*	Sunset Beach, Northampton Co., VA	18 Sep
	130*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	19 Sep
	5	Cape May, NJ	19 Sep
	1	Shinnecock Inlet, NY	19 Sep
	1	Hamlin Beach, NY	19-23 Sep
	9*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	20 Sep
	1*	Suffolk, VA	21 Sep*
	2*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	21 Sep
Sooty/Bridled Tern	3*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	19 Sep
	1	Riis Park, Queens, NY	19 Sep
	2*	Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, VA	24 Sep*

* = possible or probable duplication of individual birds in adjacent locations and/or on other dates involved † = dead birds observed or specimen taken

farther and farther south with the coming of colder weather; the timing of their extralimital appearances is nowhere notoriously late. And third, the flights of pipits are relatively homogeneous, whereas the fallouts of Neotropical and other migrant birds in the Northeast through Europe are most remarkable for their heterogeneity; the variety of species is often more remarkable than the number of any particular species. There must surely be misoriented pipits out there, but such a bird that flies north or northeast or east from breeding areas is not likely to encounter any birders—or to survive for very long. The tug-of-war between concepts of weather-related displacement and migratory misorientation in this journal has gone on for decades; it should be clear that both models, alone and in concert, apply to situations such as those considered above. Knowing to what degree a particular bird is moved away from "normal" migratory pathways by one factor or another is probably impossible, but the rather different coastal fallouts of pipits and November's Neotropical migrant passerines in the Northeast do present us with at least a hint that discrimination may some day be feasible.

Hurricane Isabel

Autumn 2003 brought Hurricane Isabel to the mid-Atlantic coast. Watched with a mixture of dread and anticipation by birders through mid-September, the storm wavered little in its final week offshore, making a beeline for the southeastern coasts of North Carolina, hurricane alley itself. The storm made landfall near Drum Inlet, North Carolina at mid-day on 18 September, and then like Fran of 1996, charged to the northwest toward the Great Lakes, depositing numerous pelagic species in its wake (Table 3, Figure 3), along with scores of birds clearly moved from littoral areas—such as Black Skimmers, Royal Terns, American Oystercatchers—and hundreds of seabirds probably or possibly moved from offshore and the coast (many Laughing Gulls, six Sabine's Gulls, nine additional species of tern, all three jaegers, both phalaropes, and possibly Brown Pelican). Not since Fran had such a diversity of seabirds been observed in the eastern interior. The pelagic birds found inland after the storm conformed classically to past models (as theorized in e.g., Fussell and Allen-Grimes 1980, LeGrand 1990), inasmuch as >99% of such birds found were along the track of the disintegrating eye (the "center of circulation" marked on Figure 3) or to the east of this track. (The most powerful winds in a moving hurricane are found in the "right-front" quadrant, where it is thought, along with the storm vortex, most birds are caught up.) The few birds to the west of the track were seen in North Car-

olina, the state of landfall, and at Point Pelee, Ontario, where a lone Sooty Tern was seen three days after the storm had passed (Figure 3). The great girth of Isabel—a storm that covered more area than the state of Colorado—can surely account for a few birds "left of center."

Despite such conformity to overall expectations, Isabel proved that we know far less about such storms than we might think. Given the patterns of displacement from previous similar mid-Atlantic storms (see previous issues of this journal), Isabel's pelagic bird composition was unique. Of special interest was the unprecedented inland displacement of Wilson's Storm-Petrels, the high counts of Band-rumped Storm-Petrel so late in the season, the unusual proportion of Bridled (versus Sooty) Terns, and the displacement of multiple tropicbirds. The combined efforts of innumerable individuals made Isabel's fall-out surely the best-studied in history. For the particulars, see the Special Interregional Report on the storm-birds in this issue.

Tropicbirds of both species are scarce in the inshore Gulf Stream by late September. Isabel entrained at least four White-tailed Tropicbirds, two each in Virginia and North Carolina. Tropicbirds associated with hurri-

cane landfalls are quite rare, but Isabel's number was not unprecedented. Of the now 30 records of hurricane-driven White-tailed Tropicbirds recorded in the East north of Florida (1876–2003), all but three are clearly associated with the passage of major (Category 3 and above) hurricanes. (Not included here is a report of a White-tailed from Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia 6 September 1870, a year for which there are no hurricane data.) The all-time record is held by Hurricane #4 of 1938, which struck Long Island and New England as a Category 3 on 21 September, displacing six tropicbirds, three to New York and three to Vermont. Hurricane Hazel of 15 October 1954, a Category 4 storm, displaced four: one to Virginia, two to Pennsylvania, one to New York.

Storm-petrels are displaced into the interior to a lesser degree than several other "hurricane-birds" such as Sooty Terns or Laughing Gull, and most confirmed records in the East refer to the Leach's Storm-Petrel (at least 35 reports, 1879–1989, totaling 81+), with a few of Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (five reports, two showing no relation to hurricanes; Brinkley, in ms.). Between the years 1842 and 1996, storm-related reports of the smaller Wilson's Storm-Petrel number only about 23, though many of these are

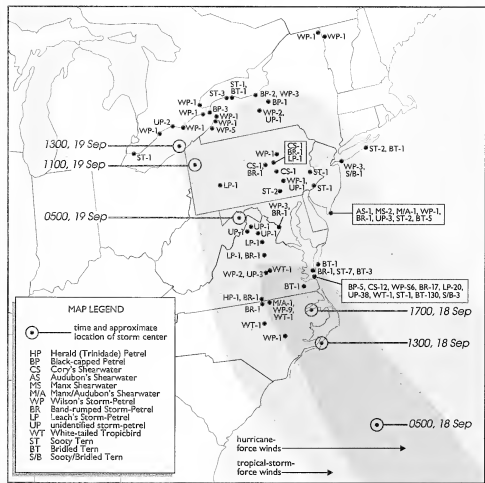


Figure 3. Plottings of onshore and inshore tubenoses, tropicbirds, and tropical terns during and following the landfall of Hurricane Isabel of 2003, most from 19 or 20 September (cross-reference Table 3). Potential duplication involved in adjacent reports is not represented. All reports considered tentative unless verified by the appropriate state/provincial bird records committee. Map by Virginia Maynard.

unverifiable and there are at least a dozen reports of live, unidentified storm-petrels 1884–1985 (Brinkley, in ms.). Many Wilson's have been seen along Atlantic coastlines during and following hurricanes, and there was apparently a very large kill of storm-petrels noted 27–30 August 1893 that stretched from Beaufort to Cape Lookout, North Carolina and south to the Isle of Palms, South Carolina (Auk 16: 247). Comments such as "10 miles of beach covered" with storm-petrels and "beaches strewn" with storm-petrels suggest massive mortality of at least some Wilson's (the only species mentioned) in this "Great Hurricane of 1893." Nevertheless, *contra* the historic assumption that this species is not likely to be moved inland by hurricanes, some 38 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were located in the interior along *Isabel's* path, including the interior lakes and rivers of North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, and Ontario (Table 3, Figure 3), a figure approaching twice the total of such reports ever.

What factors were different about *Isabel* that caused this remarkable displacement event of these small seabirds? In terms of storm track and timing, *Isabel* was most closely related to *Fran* of September 1996, also a Category 2 hurricane at landfall, though *Fran* did not have the Category 5 history of *Isabel* and was a more compact storm with an intact, well-defined eye at landfall. Diel timing was different between storms, with *Fran* making landfall during the night and *Isabel* during early afternoon. The seasonal timing was also different, by two weeks, perhaps as important as the storm's strength in accounting for its unusual constituency. Wilson's Storm-Petrels move south along the Atlantic Coast during fall and form large rafts along the edge of the Gulf Stream and in its interior by mid-September. Most landfalling hurricanes in the mid-Atlantic, including *Fran*, come ashore during the late summer or earlier September (*Hugo*, which made landfall in South Carolina 21 September 1989, was so devastating that there was little birding done along its path—it may well have killed thousands of storm-petrels, but there was no possibility of surveying outer beaches in this case). The later timing of *Isabel* would have put very large numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels almost directly in the path of *Isabel* just before it made landfall. Observers also found remarkable numbers of Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (at least 18 in Chesapeake Bay, 1 at Cape May, 6–7 inland) associated with the storm. This species is very rare in the North Carolina Gulf Stream after late August (Brian Patteson, unpubl. data), and the large numbers associated with Hurricane *Isabel* were a genuine surprise. Storm totals such

as this one suggest that this species can be carried inland from areas well out to sea (as Murphy [1936] first argued), certainly beyond the areas explored by pelagic trips at this time of year.

The composition and numbers of species present in and near the Gulf Stream off the southeastern United States immediately prior to hurricane landfalls, however, could well be very important in determining which species are moved into the interior. This influence is potentially illustrated in the pattern of "tropical term" displacement shown by *Isabel*: Bridled Terns had been, as usual, very common in these waters through September, but Sooty Terns had been scarce or absent in September, according to Brian Patteson, who suggests that the earlier September sweep by Hurricane *Fabian* east of the area might have been a factor in the Sooties' scarcity. The absence of large schools of Yellowfin Tuna, which Sooties follow when foraging, could also account for their low numbers with *Isabel*.

If one were to look only at raw numbers, this storm was unique among mid-Atlantic hurricanes in displacing larger numbers of Bridled Terns than Sooty Terns. These two outwardly similar species have historically been displaced by numerous hurricanes in the past, with records of Sooty Tern regularly stretching into the interior after storm events, while displaced Bridled Terns have occurred primarily along the coast. Documented records of Bridled in the North American interior are in fact few: three each after *Hugo* of 1989, *Diana* of 1984, and *Fran* of 1996 in North Carolina, 2 in Virginia after *David* of 1979, and one at Long Point, Ontario 20 September 1988 after the powerful *Gilbert*. (Others were moved into the Chesapeake Bay region by *Fran* and by *Donna* of 1960, and there is an anomalous record of one "killed by boy with a tennis racket" 17 June 1932 in Orangeburg, South Carolina.) All other reports (over 50, totaling over 100 birds) between 1960 and 2001 are from the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. In 2003, a Bridled Tern at Hamlin Beach State Park in upstate New York was thus among the least expected of *Isabel's* birds.

Are Sooty Terns over-reported after hurricanes because they are the "expected" inland hurricane species, that is, are some observers misidentifying Bridled Terns as Sooty Terns? Given the advances in field identification techniques in recent years, this explanation seems unlikely. It has been suggested by Brinkley (1999) that divergent wing-loading and aspect ratio, as well as general natural historical differences, might be responsible for the stark differences in inland dispersal of these two species. The "results" of *Isabel* appear to support this theory, as all Bridled Terns (139+ total) save the one in upstate

New York were noted on the Atlantic outer coasts (7), Chesapeake Bay mouth (130+), or its tributaries (1–2). Sooty Terns were seen on the outer coasts (11) and also located, as expected, far inland on Lakes Erie and Ontario (5, at least) and eastern Pennsylvania (4). Why precisely Sooties appear so much more inclined to be displaced inland, while Bridleds hug the coast, is not clear, but Sooty Tern's natural history—it forages in the open Atlantic and makes frequent trans-Atlantic flights—would seem preadapted for long-range dispersal or displacement. Atlantic Bridled Terns, by contrast, specialize on the pelagic drift community in the western North Atlantic, commonly use flossam perches between bouts of foraging, and do not normally disperse far from natal areas.

Relatively few seabirds are recorded during the actual landfall of these storms, when conditions make it difficult or impossible to search for birds in any case; most seabird records instead come from areas that seem to concentrate birds returning toward the sea. During the landfall of *Isabel*, I spent the day with several observers on the southern tip of the Delmarva Peninsula watching the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay from shelter on Sunset Beach. We saw only a few Sooty and Bridled Terns during the worst of the storm, along with one Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (at high altitude, remarkably). By late morning the next day, however, as the storm's center of circulation moved across western Pennsylvania and local winds had dropped to under 20 knots, the mouth of the Bay was alive with pelagic birds (Table 3). This procession of birds heading back to the sea through the open channels (between the artificial islands of the bridge-tunnel) continued throughout the late afternoon and the following day, enabling dozens of birders to observe them from the islands. These birds had presumably been scattered across the wake of the storm and were reorienting and finally finding their way down various rivers to Chesapeake Bay and ultimately the Atlantic Ocean. Many groups of observers in Virginia's interior also witnessed large flights of seabirds, especially terns, orienting to the southeast, toward the ocean, and one observer even saw an adult tropicbird fly over I-95 at Richmond, heading to the southeast! Just how many of the storm-displaced birds end up at such concentration points as the Chesapeake Bay mouth, however, is unknown. Were the birds seen on 19 and 20 September at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay simply birds that had been displaced into the Bay itself, or did they include birds that were carried far inland during the storm? Were the birds seen 20 September different individuals from those of the 19th, with the first day's birds having

already found their way back to the ocean? Speculative answers to these questions may differ, depending on the species involved. Many of the birds seen at the mouth of the Bay after *Isabel* appeared to be resting during late afternoon, particularly Bridled Terns, and many of the storm-petrels were rafted in flocks at this time. Throughout the day, however, many birds were returning to the ocean: Black-capped Petrels and Cory's Shearwaters could be seen at a distance approaching the channels and moving directly out to sea. The behavior of these birds unambiguously suggested to those watching them that displaced seabirds capable of moving back to proper habitat do so rather quickly, and that those taken inland continue to head to the southeast until they reach the sea via one of the larger bays, as was seen during Hurricane *Bertha* of 1996 at both Chesapeake and Delaware Bays.

Some other interesting hurricane-related questions beg to be answered. What proportions of storm-blown birds are actually seen and documented during these events? My gut feeling is that only small numbers of storm-related birds are actually encountered by birders. Given the huge area affected by these storms, and the fact that relatively few birders are able to get out after such an event, it seems likely that the great majority of storm-birds goes unseen. A key to understanding hurricanes' effects on seabirds (and other birds) is for birders to spend time at their local patches (especially large and medium-sized bodies of water), rather than on the coast, as hundreds of birders in fact did during *Isabel*. Seeing seabirds in large bays or at the coast is, by now, quite expected; but the fact that so many species turned up on rather small bodies of water in Pennsylvania (and a few in small towns' parking lots, as in *Fran*), suggests that only a fraction of such birds have been found in the past.

Do the majority of storm-blown individuals actually successfully return to the sea? After birds are displaced a certain distance inland, the likelihood of their successful return to the ocean seems minimal, especially in the case of the tubenoses. Records of Black-capped Petrels and Wilson's Storm-Petrels seemingly "stuck" on the Great Lakes for weeks after the storm (and found dead in later days) seem to bear this out. Some birds taken perhaps a few hundred miles inland might be able to return to the ocean by following seaward-flowing river systems, surely, but most storm-blown birds are seen in the 48 hours

immediately following landfall (most from *Isabel* were from 19-20 September), presumably when those still living have enough energy to move back to sea. There are many records of birds that remain on inland bodies of water after these storms, in some cases for several weeks, and then presumably die when their energies are exhausted, as appeared to be the case with Black-capped Petrels following *Fran*. For this reason, especially, we should be vigilant in our efforts to document the effects of hurricanes upon seabirds: Black-capped Petrels, with probably fewer than 1000 breeding pairs, are listed as "Endangered" by BirdLife International (Stattersfield and Capper 2000), and every set of available eyes is needed to monitor the impact of these storms on such vulnerable species. Hurricane *Hugo*, we should bear in mind, appears to have reduced the population of Bermuda Petrel, a Critically Endangered relative of the Black-capped, by five percent (D. B. Wingate, unpubl. data). Other gadfly petrels, such as the obscure Herald (Trinidad) Petrel (Figure 4), are so little studied that their conservation status and even taxonomic status is a matter of guesswork. This taxon, which nests on a few islands in the South Atlantic, may number no more than 2000 birds and is listed as "Vulnerable" (Stattersfield and Capper 2000).

Pelagic headliners

The southward irruption of Northern Fulmars along the Pacific Coast provided counterpoint to the plight of pelagics caught up in *Isabel*. Countless hundreds of this species were reported from far offshore to just off the beach along almost 6000 km of coastline from Washington through central Baja Cali-

fornia. Words used to describe this invasion ranged from "unprecedented" to "the highest number on record," and it seems that this species could be seen from just about any coastal vantage on the Pacific Coast during late October and November. Exceptional counts of this species throughout the period were: 250+ off El Socorro, Baja California 5 November; 550 off Punta Banda, Baja California 8 November; 7000 at Boiler Bay, Oregon 31 October; 5000 off Seaside, Oregon 19 November; and 800 off Westport, Washington 6 November. Sadly, all regions reported a subsequent die-off, with countless numbers washing ashore on coastal beaches and offshore islands. Analysis of beach-wrecked specimens showed that the vast majority of these, at least from central and southern California waters, were juveniles that had starved to death.

One must wonder how much such a large-scale die-off impacts the overall population of this species in the Pacific. With numbers reported like those of fall 2003, one wonders too what proportion of the birds involved in the incursion were juveniles. Of the age classes documented by specimens during the die-off, first-year birds predominated, which suggests that their survivorship was very low. By early January, however, the majority of Northern Fulmars that I saw in southern California waters appeared to be older non-juveniles. One assumes in most cases that adults and subadults are better prepared than young, inexperienced foragers to withstand periods of prey scarcity (which presumably drive such "invasions"), though it is probably just as likely that the fulmars were concentrated first by an abundance of prey and then affected by some disease that spread rapidly because of their



Figure 4. This light-morph Herald (Trinidad) Petrel was found well inland by Brian Patterson after the passage of Hurricane *Isabel*, on the dam at Kerr Reservoir in Mecklenburg County, Virginia 19 September 2003. It is shown here being prepared for release at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel by Grayson Pearce. Photograph by Edward S. Brinkley.

unusual concentrations. Episodes of this sort are not all that unusual along the Pacific Coast and probably occur at least once per decade, though earlier die-offs have not been as well publicized (P. Pyle, pers. comm.). In the southern hemisphere, episodes of large-scale mortality among tubenoses are rather common around New Zealand and Australia; combinations of prey scarcity, disease, and sustained periods of inclement weather often cause "wrecks" of the more abundant species. There is limited North American literature on this phenomenon in tubenoses; in the North Atlantic, most shearwater "die-offs" appear to be associated with becalmed conditions during spring migration or prey scarcity in summer, and there are a few known instances of shearwater "wrecks" during hurricanes that stall just offshore, as with Dennis of 1999. Northern Fulmar's response to cyclones (Manikowski 1971) may actually differ somewhat from Atlantic shearwaters', a subject worthy of study. Thinking back through the fulmars' mortality to those 2-3 Cory's Shearwaters in landlocked Pennsylvania, one wonders why it is that so few shearwaters were associated with *Isabel*—and why so few have been connected with hurricanes historically. Were the Pennsylvania Cory's the least fit of their kind, already too weak to fight the storm? Or were they among the survivors, as hundreds were exhausted by the winds and ultimately died at sea? Are the hurricane-driven birds we detect among the fittest, or the least fit, of their respective species? Is the rather incredible heterogeneity of species we observe in hurricanes similar to the great variety of landbirds seen in those Maritime "fallouts" in late autumn, or do the seabirds just have the misfortune to be in the wrong place during landfall? Bird mortality, a fascinating subject, is a true frontier in ornithology, especially for pelagic birds, whose lives are only slowly becoming known to us through long-term seabird studies from ships and pioneering satellite-tracking studies, which reveal journeys of unbelievable distances in the albatrosses, for instance.

The Pacific pelagic frontier astonished observers during fall 2003 no less than the Atlantic: it is remarkable how many vagrant pelagic species continue to be found in waters so regularly surveyed. Who would have dared predict Cory's Shearwater(s) would be seen in California? The first was discovered at Cordell Bank on 9 August, furnishing the first record for the entire Pacific Ocean. Remarkably, a Cory's was subsequently found off Point Pinos 22-23 August! There is some opinion that these sightings refer to the same bird; however, given the massive number of shearwaters present in the area at the time, it is impossible to say that two birds were not

involved. How this bird or these birds managed to make it to the Pacific is a subject almost beyond the limits of polite speculation; surely, they (or it) somehow made it across the Central American isthmus (records of the species from the western Caribbean appear to be increasing) ... assisted by a tropical storm? (Far less probable for this species would be a trip around Cape Horn.) No less exceptional in the shearwater pandemonium of autumn was the juxtaposition, within minutes, of the final Cory's Shearwater and a Streaked Shearwater, possibly the first time that the two *Calonectris* species have commingled. Only in California!

Another most unexpected Atlantic-Pacific nexus was documentation of four Little Shearwaters: one bird was nicely photographed in the familiar waters of Monterey Bay, California 29 October, and three were found in the previously unstudied ocean waters south of Sable Island, Nova Scotia 23-24 September. There are but two prior records for this species from North America, both from islands (Sullivan's Island, South Carolina in August 1883 and Sable Island, Nova Scotia in September 1896), but no convincing records of live birds at sea, making the discovery of three in one area all the more impressive.

Vagrant petrels also found their way into our waters this fall. A gadfly petrel that landed on a cruise ship near Maui was photographed and later identified through Internet discussion as a Stejneger's Petrel, providing Hawaii with its second record of this apparently rare wanderer; there are six records (seven birds) from California, plus a Texas specimen, but no other reports from North America. A long-range pelagic out of San Diego proved fruitful in September, turning up California's second Bulwer's Petrel about 50 km south of San Clemente Island on 4 September. These waters have been rarely explored in recent years, and future trips to this area well offshore hold promise. In addition to the Bulwer's Petrel, a Red-tailed Tropicbird was seen, along with a host of Red-billed Tropicbirds.

And the hummingbirds

As little as a dozen years ago, the appearance of a *Selasphorus* hummingbird in the East was occasion for what the British might call a "massive twitch." Today, birders are finding not only *Selasphorus* with regularity (including a startling proportion of Allen's) but species from as far away as Mexico as well. The Southeast maintained its pride of place in the vagrant-hummingbird department, but the envelope continues to be pushed northward: North Carolina's third Green Violet-ear was found this fall, as well as a remarkable third Magnificent Hum-

mingbird in Georgia. California's first Magnificent Hummingbird found its way to Pacific Beach—surely the first time this species has been recorded in coastal states on the opposite sides of the North American continent. Reverse-migrations of misoriented birds, or storm-swift waifs? Maybe a little of both. Satellite transmitters are still too heavy for these mites; their Big Picture will have to wait a bit longer.

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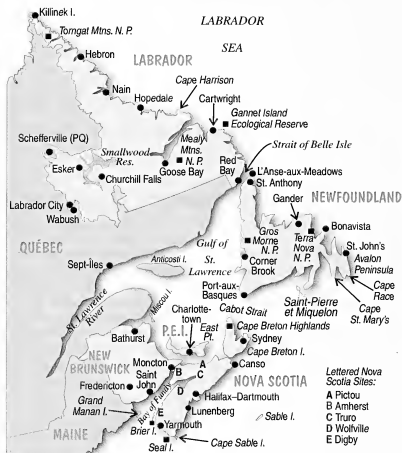
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Weather was relatively clement and mild this season, with the stark exception of the landfall of Hurricane Juan, one of Canada's worst ever, which came ashore just after midnight 29 September between Shad Bay and Prospect, NS—essentially a direct hit on Halifax—as a Category 2 storm, with winds of 158 k.p.h. (85 knots, gusts to 185

k.p.h. or 100+ knots), pressure of 973 mb, 40 mm of rain, and a storm surge of over 1.5 m and waves up to 9 m in Halifax Harbour. The storm passed over Nova Scotia and struck Prince Edward I. with sustained winds of 95 k.p.h. (gusts to 139 k.p.h.) in the predawn hours. Hundreds of thousands of Maritimers in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island—including many of the Region's most active birders—found themselves without electricity for weeks and with significant property damage, thus the lack of seabird reports associated with this storm. The last time Halifax experienced such weather was 22 August 1893, when the "Second Great August Gale," a Category 3 hurricane, hit St. Margaret's Bay. The fall season produced the usual

colorful list of "routine" rarities plus a few surprises. Pacific Loon, American White Pelican, Swainson's Hawk, Eurasian Whimbrel, White-winged Dove, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Cave Swallow, Lawrence's Warbler, Harris's Sparrow, and Painted Bunting were among the rarities found. A foray into unknown seas south of Sable Island, Nova Scotia turned up some very exciting pelagic species—Little Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, and Black-capped Petrel. An extraordinary fallout of birds detected in a pronounced, fast-moving weather front on St. Pierre, St. Pierre et Miquelon on 2 October was probably only the tip of the iceberg. Another extraordinary flight was associated with a gale 30 November, which moved Razorbills by the thousands out of the Bay of Fundy.

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

An ad. Pacific Loon in partial breeding plumage off Pickney Pt., Yarmouth, NS 16 Sep provided one of the few solid records for the Region as well as one of the earliest (B. McCormick, H. Barnett). Ten Cory's Shearwaters were seen about 75 km se. of Halifax, NS 5–6 Sep (BMT, BMy).

The American White Pelican first reported in Lethbridge, NL in mid-Jul was last seen 10 Aug (m. ob.). What was presumably the same bird was at Miquelon, SPM 21–24 Aug (RE et al.). "Southern" herons were widely reported. There was a distinct late Oct influx of Great and Cattle Egrets. Totals for all species by province were: Great Egret: 10 New Brunswick, 18 Nova Scotia, 2 St. Pierre et Miquelon, one Newfoundland. Snowy Egret: one New Brunswick, 7 Nova Scotia, and one Newfoundland. Little Blue Heron: 7 Nova Scotia. Cattle Egret: 2 New Brunswick, 3 Nova Scotia, 2 St. Pierre et Miquelon, and 3 Newfoundland. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: 5 Nova Scotia.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

A Greater White-fronted Goose was at Memramcook, NB 3–16 Nov (A. Clavette et al.). There were high counts of Snowy Goose, 69 on 13 Oct and 49 on 17 Nov, at Cavendish, PEI (DS). A Barnacle Goose with migrant Canada Geese at Waterside Provincial Park, NS 27 Oct was (as always) of unknown provenance (H. Brennan). Eurasian Wigeons by province were one in New Brunswick, 2 in Nova Scotia, and 11 in Newfoundland. Canvasback has always been rare in the Region, with the one report this autumn being of a female at Cape Jourimain, NB 10–18 Nov (m. ob.). Tufted Duck was more numerous than the combined totals for Canvasback and Redhead, with an

SA Mactavish, aboard an oil and gas industry vessel working beyond the Continental Slope s. of Sable I., NS 23 Sep–17 Oct had a number of interesting sightings from this ornithologically unknown part of the Atlantic Ocean. Most exciting were 3 **Little Shearwaters**: one 80 km wsw. of Sable Island 23 Sep and 2 together 80 km s. of Sable I. 24 Sep. Each was identified by the pale silvery panel in the secondaries and their coverts, which was visible for prolonged periods under ideal lighting conditions; tiny size; white high on face; and erratic feeding flight. The one previous Canadian record is of a dead bird found on Sable I. 1 Sep 1896; the only other North American record is of a hurricane-wrecked specimen from Sullivan's I., South Carolina Aug 1883 (but see this issue's Middle Pacific Coast regional report). Also rarely reported in Canadian waters but probably regular where seen—just n. of the Gulf Stream—were an **Audubon's Shearwater** 175 km ssw. of Sable I. and a **Black-capped Petrel** 140 km s. of Sable I., both 4 Oct.

early individual at East Pt., PEI 10 Oct (RC), one at New Glasgow, NS 30 Nov (KM), and 6 in St. John's, NL in Nov (m. ob.).

Rare raptors from Prince Edward I. were 2 Cooper's Hawks at East Pt. 10 Oct (RC) and a late Broad-winged Hawk at Miscouche 22 Nov (RC). Swainson's Hawk is being identified with greater regularity in recent years. In Nova Scotia, an imm. was photographed at point-blank range sitting on a fence post at Bellisle in mid-Sep (Scott Leslie), another was well seen at Brier I., NS 11–12 Oct (FL et al.), and Newfoundland's 2nd record was at Cape Race 11 Oct (TB, DB, JC). An imm. **Purple Gallinule** was captured in weakened condition near Clarenville, NL 23 Oct (*vide* BM). Two Sandhill Cranes were seen at Havelock, NB 11–13 Oct (*vide* DC), and 2 more were near Northwest R., Labrador in late Aug (Frank Phillips).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDIS

The pair of nesting American Oystercatchers accompanied by 2 young and an additional pair of ads. left Cape Sable I., NS 7 Sep (MN). Newfoundland and Labrador's 6th American Avocet was at Frenchman's Cove, Burin Pen. for the last two weeks of Aug (BMT et al.). There were three reports of Eurasian Whimbrel from Nova Scotia: one at Daniel's Head, Cape Sable I. 31 Aug (EM), one at Hartlan Pt. 17 Oct (FL), and a belated report of one nicely confirmed with photographs from Cape Sable I. 3 May (*vide* SF). The only Marbled Godwit was inland at Windsor, NS 3–23 Sep (RS et al.). The only three reports of Western Sandpiper were from Nova Scotia between 6 Sep and 19 Oct (*vide* SF). There was a fair migration of Baird's Sandpipers, with several in New Brunswick, 15 in Nova Scotia, 6 in Prince Edward I., one in St. Pierre et Miquelon, and 3 in Newfoundland. Buff-breasted Sandpiper likewise staged a typical migration through the Region with 6 in New Brunswick, 12 in Nova Scotia, and 5 in Newfoundland. An odd shorebird well studied and documented with numerous photographs at Bear Cove, Avalon Pen.,

NL 8 Nov was thought to be a hybrid **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** x **White-rumped Sandpiper** (KK, BMT). A Curlew Sandpiper was at Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan I., NB 7 Oct (G. Garneau, M. Turgeon). There was a good flight of Stilt Sandpipers on the w. side of the Region, with 13+ in New Brunswick and 11 in Nova Scotia. Four Ruffs was a bumper crop, with singles at Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan I., NB 21 Sep (B. Schutsky et al.); Inkerman Marsh, NB 22 Sep (M. David); Sable I., NS 29 Sep (ZL); and Brackley North Marsh, PEI 10 Aug (DS). All Long-billed Dowitchers reports were nicely concentrated in late Oct, with one at Sackville, NB 31 Oct (ST), 2 at Morien Bar, Cape Breton I., NS 19 & 25 Oct (SM), and one on Cape Sable I., NS 25 Oct (MN). The first American Woodcock in Newfoundland in several years was captured aboard an oil rig 200 km se. of St. John's on 29 Nov (C. Ryan). Wilson's Phalaropes continue a low-key presence, with 2 in New Brunswick, 3 in Nova Scotia, and one in Prince Edward Island.

Eighteen Pomarine Jaegers flying past Brier I., NS during an exceptional storm on 30 Nov was a high number for the late date (EM). Laughing Gull numbers were slightly above average, with 3 each in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, all in Aug and Sep; but one at St. Anthony, NL 31 Aug was rather far n. (BMT et al.). Little Gull reports were few, and, not surprisingly, New Brunswick was responsible for both: one at Cape Brülé 13 Sep (N. Belliveau) and an ad. from the Grand Manan ferry 1 Oct (K. Edwards). St. John's, NL had an ad. nominate-race Mew Gull 9 Nov (BMT, JWe) and a first-winter 20–30 Nov (DB). An ad. Yellow-legged Gull at St. John's, NL 29 Nov was thought to be the same individual present in Nov and Dec 2002 (PL, BMT). An ad. Sabine's Gull was chummed in e. of Grand Manan I., NB 6 Sep (*vide* DC), while single imm. were seen at sea off Bonavista, NL 30 Aug (BMT) and off Battle Harbour, NL 1 Sep (BMT). The gale of 30 Nov in the Bay of Fundy sent 20,000 Black-legged Kittiwakes past North Pt.,

Brier I., NS in two hours (EM).

Two Forster's Terns were at Cape Sable I., NS 9–30 Nov (MN et al.). A very late Arctic Tern flew past Cape Spear, NL 19 Oct (BMT). Black Tern has become a rarity in the Region, with the season's only sightings being singles at Borden, PEI 1 Sep (L. Homans, B. Martin) and on Miquelon, SPM 2 & 11 Sep (RE). An exceptional feeding concentration of 300 Razorbills at Cape Miquelon, SPM 12 Nov (RE) fits in with the sense of an increase in numbers in the e. part of the Region. However, this was overshadowed by a mind-boggling 5000 Razorbills filing out of the Bay of Fundy past North Pt., Brier I., NS during a great storm on 30 Nov (EM).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

The season's tally of White-winged Doves was 5: Alma, NB 19 Sep (Doreen Rossiter), Cape Sable I., NS 24–26 Aug (JN et al.), Sable I., NS 2–7 Sep (ZL), Canso, NS 17–24 Oct (TK), and Burnt Cove, Avalon Peninsula, NL 22–26 (Elizabeth Carew et al.). These represent Nova Scotia's 23rd to 25th records and Newfoundland and Labrador's 4th record. It was an average to good year for Yellow-billed Cuckoo, with totals of 5+ in New Brunswick, 18 in Nova Scotia, 3 in Prince Edward I., 3 in St. Pierre et Miquelon, and 5 in Newfoundland. A late Chimney Swift was at St. Pierre, SPM 28 Oct–1 Nov (LJ et al.).

Red-headed Woodpecker totals were slightly above recent autumn totals, with 4 in New Brunswick and 3 in Nova Scotia. It was an above-average season for Red-bellied Woodpecker: 5 in New Brunswick, 11 in Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland's 2nd ever was at a feeder in Rocky Harbour in the latter half of Nov. The status of Say's Phoebe has remained constant through the last three decades in the Region, with the one report for the period being the 16th for Nova Scotia at Bon Portage I. 15 Oct (*vide* BMy). Ash-throated Flycatchers, however, have clearly increased as a vagrant in the Region over the past decade, as the total of 3 birds attests: Pointe Verte, NB 11 Oct (Roger Guitard et al.), New River Beach, NB 18 Nov (MJC, Allen Gorham), and the most e. record to date was one videotaped at St. Pierre, SPM 22–24 Nov, a first for the French Islands (LJ). Six birds made an average fall for Western Kingbird, with one in New Brunswick, 4 in Nova Scotia, and one in Newfoundland. For unknown reasons, New Brunswick maintains the lion's share of the Region's Scissor-tailed Flycatcher records, including this fall's only sighting, an ad. at Cap Lumière 12 Oct (Maria Gauvin).

New Brunswick's eagerly awaited first

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
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
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 and records

acc.	accepted record
ad. (ads.)	adult(s)
imm. (imms.)	immature (s)
juv. (juvs.)	juvenile; juvenile(s)
p. a.	pending acceptance
ph.	photographed
sp. (spp.)	species (plural)
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
tape	audio tape-recorded
vt.	videotaped
†	written details were submitted for a sighting
*	a specimen was collected

confirmed Cave Swallow was videotaped at Pt. Lepreau 3 Nov (Eileen Pike). Single White-eyed Vireos were at Duncan Cove, NS 9–13 Oct (IM et al.) and Bear Cove, Avalon Peninsula, NL 8 Nov (BMT). Totals of Yellow-throated Vireo, slightly more regular, were one in New Brunswick and 4 in Nova Scotia. A high 10 Philadelphia Vireos at St. Pierre, SPM 2–4 Oct were part of an extraordinary fall-out of passerines and probably responsible for the lingering Philadelphia there 17–24 Nov (LJ, RE).

The only Sedge Wren reported was at Seal I., NS 25 Oct (FL et al.). The most significant of 6 Marsh Wrens reported was one at Cappahayden, NL 1 Nov for the 6th provincial record (BM, PL, LJ). The only Northern Wheatcres were singles at Medway Harbour, Queens, NS 18 Sep (NSN et al.) and Sable I., NS 1 Oct (ZL).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Four out of the 6 Blue-winged Warblers reported were surprising in Oct, beyond the normal dates of this regular vagrant: Miscou I. NB 4–6 Oct (RD et al.), St. Andrews, NB 16 Oct (Tracey Dean), Halifax, NS 1 Sep (AGH), Jollimore, NS 7 Oct (*vide* BMy), Trepassay, NL 27 Sep (DB), and St. John's, NL 8 Oct (TB). A male Lawrence's Warbler was well seen at St. Pierre, SPM 2 Oct (LJ), one of the very few records for this hybrid warbler in the Region. The date fits nicely within the range of Golden-winged Warbler records in the Region. A Northern Parula found freshly dead beneath a window in Cartwright, NL 26 Oct was the first record for Labrador (*vide* BMT). A very late Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Brier I., NS 17 Nov (JUS). Yellow-throated Warblers were at Brier I., NS 26 Oct (TP), Canso, NS 26 Nov (TK), and St. Pierre, SPM 4 Oct (SA). It was an average year for Prairie Warbler, with 3 in New Brunswick, 16 in Nova Scotia, and 4 in Newfoundland. Cerulean Warblers were singles at Bon Portage I., NS 5 Sep (*vide* MN), Robert's I., Yarmouth, NS 6 Sep (JN), and Cape Spear, NL 6 Sep (TB). There was a Worm-eating Warbler on Sable I., NS 24 Sep (ZL). The only Kentucky Warbler was at Arnold's Cove, NL 9 Sep (G. Stroud). Hooded Warblers were at Sable I., NS 1 Oct (ZL), Seal I., NS 2 & 14 Oct (different individuals; *vide* KM), and Miquelon, SPM 8 Nov (LJ). Yellow-breasted Chat totals were 3 in New Brunswick, 20 in Nova Scotia, 2 in Prince Edward Island, 2 in St. Pierre et Miquelon, and 5 in Newfoundland.

Significant Summer Tanagers were a late one at Greenwich, NS 29 Nov (BMy et al.) and one St. Pierre, SPM 3–6 Oct (LJ). As

many as 10 Scarlet Tanagers were part of the avian fallout at St. Pierre, SPM in early Oct (*vide* RE); a late one was confiscated from the jaws of a weasel at Cape Spear, NL 2 Nov (BMT). Clay-colored Sparrows were confined to the w half of the Region, with 6 each in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Newfoundland's 2nd solid record of Vesper Sparrow was at Cape Spear 7–16 Nov (BMT et al.), possibly associated with the front that brought scores of sparrows (including Vespers) to Cape May, NJ and Cape Charles, VA. It was a fairly good autumn for Lark Sparrow, with 2 in New Brunswick, 10 in Nova Scotia, and 3 in Newfoundland. New Brunswick's 5th Harris's Sparrow was at inland at Harvey 15–21 Nov (DG et al.).

Slightly above-average numbers of Blue Grosbeaks were 4 in New Brunswick, 6 in Nova Scotia, and 2 in Newfoundland. Indigo Bunting numbers were well above average, with Oct single-day totals reaching 7 in Nova Scotia and 5 in Newfoundland. Occurring before the influx of Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings was a remarkable 3 Painted Buntings in Nova Scotia, all at feeders: a female at Marriot's Cove, Lunenburg 13 Aug (D. MacLaughlin), a male at Sydney 20–22 Aug (S. Myers, I. Campbell), and a male at Halifax 11 Sep (*vide* BMy); these represent the 11th through 13th records for Nova Scotia. It was the biggest Dickcissel autumn in years: 3 in New Brunswick, 25 in Nova Scotia, 3 on Prince Edward I., 10+ in St. Pierre et Miquelon, and 8 in Newfoundland.

The 3 Yellow-headed Blackbirds in the Region were all in Nova Scotia between 12 Oct and 6 Nov (*vide* BMy). A female Brewer's Blackbird reported without details at Vernon, PEI 19 Oct would be a 2nd provincial record (D. Kennedy). There was a significant movement of Common Redpolls noted in New Brunswick and Newfoundland during Nov.

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Fall was warmer than usual, especially in Nunavik, where temperatures were about 2 to 3 degrees Celsius above normal. Southern Québec was closer to normal. There was a large area of above-normal precipitation stretching through most of the province. The North Shore and the Gaspé Peninsula were blessed with an unprecedented number of rarities late in the fall. These immense regions are birded by only a handful of local observers at this time of the year, and one wonders what could be found there with tenfold as many observers.

LOONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Pacific Loon at Saint-Fulgence 17 Nov was only the 2nd for the Saguenay region (CC). A count of 200 Greater Shearwaters made from the Magdalens Is.—Souris ferry 23 Oct was remarkable so late in the season (C. Roy). A Manx Shearwater feeding among a flock of Dovekies at Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 29 Nov established a new Regional record-late date by over a month (AC). Late Great Egrets included 4 at I. Dupas 4 Nov (JM) and one at Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes 10 Nov (R. Hanser, *vide* J. Nadeau). A very late Cattle Egret found at Cap-d'Espoir 24 Nov was killed by 3 Common Ravens 1 Dec (ph. AC, m. ob.). At least one, most probably 2 Black Vultures continued to wander near the tip of the Gaspé Pen., as evidenced by sightings at Gascons 30 Aug (MC), Gaspé 16 Sep–10 Oct (*vide* D. Jalbert), Cap-d'Espoir 16 Sep (GR), and Grande-Rivière 18 Sep (GR).

The 5 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Saint-Félicien continued through 8 Aug (*vide* GS). Especially intriguing were several reports of probable Canada Goose x Chinese Goose hybrids in localities very distant from one another. Two were banded by Canadian Wildlife Service biologists at Opinaca Res. (James Bay) 21 Jul (ph. P. Brousseau, MR, B. Gagnon), one was on R. des-Prairies (Montréal-Laval) 9 Jul–6 Sep (ph. R. Bourget, m. ob.), an unbanded bird was at Bergeronnes 23–24 Aug (ph. F. Gagnon, SB, SD), and one appeared at Deauville, near Sherbrooke 29 Nov (FR). A Barnacle Goose in the Boucherville is. 6 Sep (F. Riou, M. Guzzo), and one between Boucherville and Varennes 26 Sep (N. Desranleau) were probably the same individual. Singles also visited Victoriaville 12–23 Nov (ph. CR et al.) and Roxton Pond 23 Nov (M. Maheu, MB). Single Mute Swans were found at Les Cèdres 25 Nov+ (F. Rozon) and Beaurport 10–12 Oct (JL, D. Houx et al.). A Tundra Swan discovered at East-Sullivan, Abitibi 1 Nov was rescued 9 Nov after the lake had completely frozen, but the bird later died (R. Gauthier). Several Eurasian Wigeons turned up in the Montréal area in Oct (*vide* PB). Three Harlequin Ducks were spotted at Sainte-

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Catherine 16–27 Nov (M. Poulin, M. Bertrand, RB, m. ob.). A probable Common Goldeneye x Bufflehead hybrid was carefully studied at Laval 9 Nov+ (ph. GL, EP).

Incredibly, a 2nd Regional Swallow-tailed Kite showed up almost exactly a year after the province's first—and moreover in the same region, at Tadoussac 8 Aug (ph. V. Laplante, P. Corbeil, L.

Gagnon). Season totals of Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon came to 178 and 129, respectively, at Tadoussac, both representing new highs for this hawkwatch (SD, SB). At the Montréal site, the fall hawk count proved to be one of the best of recent years. Counts were above average for all raptors except Broad-winged Hawk (BB, MM). A dark-morph juv. Western

Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. calurus*) at Gatineau 28 Oct–30 Nov+ was the first documented by photograph in the Region and, according to B. K. Wheeler, was the farthest n. of any winter record for the subspecies in e. North America (A. Cloutier).

A Clapper Rail at Maria, Gaspésie 11–25 Oct was a stunning find, providing our first Regional record (ph. C. Lamarre, m. ob.). Counts of over 2000 Sandhill Cranes at Palmarolle, Abitibi 16 Oct (S. Gagnon) and 840 between Notre-Dame-du-Nord and Roulier, Témiscamingue 11 Oct (J. Fréchette, C. Schryer) were remarkable. Away from nw. Québec, a pair that summered at Saint-Gérard-des-Laurentides was joined by another pair 27 Aug+ (ph. M. Sokolyk), 2 were at Plessisville 25 Aug+ (P. Vignoul), 2 were at Cap-d'Espoir 3–15 Sep (PP), and 2 were at Hérouville 17 Sep (A. Delorme, M. Goyer).

An American Avocet made a one-day appearance at Île Migneron (Laval) 21 Sep (ph. EP, GL). A Spotted Sandpiper at Beaudette 22 Nov provided a new Regional late date (J. Chateauvert, C. Lessard). A Mar-

after species, single Red Phalaropes were detected at Portneuf 28 Aug (ph. GL, SD). Trois-Pistoles 5 Sep (JPO, ML), and Tadoussac 10 Oct (RP, MM, P. Carrier-Moisan). Up to 4 were sighted from the Trois-Pistoles–Les Escoumins ferry 12 Oct (MR, FS), and one was noted at Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley 9 Oct (FR).

JAEGERS THROUGH OWLS

There were several inland Parasitic Jaegers in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area 17 Aug–16 Sep, including an amazing one-day count of 9 at Métabetchouan–Saint-Gédéon 27 Aug (S. Boivin); one also reached L. Saint-Pierre 14 Sep (JM). An ad. Laughing Gull at Laval 1 Aug (ph. EP, GL) and one at Montréal the same day (J. Galowski) probably involved the same individual, while a second-year bird showed up at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 12 Sep (DB, Collinge) and another was at Pointe-à-la-Garde, Gaspésie 17 Sep (P. Beaupré, P. Dufour). A first-winter Franklin's Gull was photographed at Beauharnois 28 Oct (L. Simard). Reports of Little Gull were quite



This immature dark-morph Western Red-tailed Hawk (subspecies *calurus*) at Gatineau, Québec 24 November 2003 appears to represent the northernmost record of this form in the North American East to this season. Photograph by André Cloutier.

bled Godwit stopped at Baie-du-Febvre 6–7 Sep (J. Bourbeau), while a juv. Western Sandpiper visited Pointe-Yamachiche 14 Sep (MA, Montpetit, J. Coutu). A count of 22 Baird's Sandpipers at Val d'Or 28 Aug was surprising (LI). It was a very good fall for Buff-breasted Sandpiper, with at least 15 individuals reported throughout the Region (*vide* PB). The only Ruff stopped at Sainte-Martine 23–24 Aug (ph. SM et al.). There were several reports of Long-billed Dowitcher, including 8 ads. at Baie-du-Febvre 3 Aug (F. Grenon) and single juvs. at Saint-Simon, Gaspésie 31 Aug (JR, Lepage, D. Mercier) and at Saint-Méthode, L. Saint-Jean 14–15 Sep (D. Lavoie), where the species is still rare. A much sought-

after species, single Red Phalaropes were detected at Portneuf 28 Aug (ph. GL, SD). Trois-Pistoles 5 Sep (JPO, ML), and Tadoussac 10 Oct (RP, MM, P. Carrier-Moisan). Up to 4 were sighted from the Trois-Pistoles–Les Escoumins ferry 12 Oct (MR, FS), and one was noted at Sainte-Catherine-de-Hatley 9 Oct (FR).

numerous across the Region (*vide* PB). Single Black-headed Gulls reached Trois-Pistoles 13 Aug (RF; RP, M. Bourassa et al.), Les Escoumins 20 Sep (SB, O. Barden), and Tadoussac 25 Nov (ph. SB, SD). A first-winter Mew Gull of the American race *brachyrhynchus* was photographed at Tadoussac 16–28 Oct (SB, SD), while another visited Saint-Charles 25 Oct–1 Nov (GC, O. Barden). An ad. California Gull was carefully identified at Grandes-Berges-ronnes 16 Aug (SD,

SB), while the appearance of single first-winter birds at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 5 Nov (BB, MM) and at nearby Saint-Lazare 13 Nov (M. Dennis) possibly involved the same individual. An ad. Iceland Gull of the *glaucoides* subspecies at Tadoussac 26 Nov was apparently the first photographic documentation for the Region (SB). Sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gull in the Region continued unabated (*vide* PB). S. Québec hosted several Sabine's Gulls, including one at Pointe-Yamachiche 1 Sep (ph. C. Vachon, J. Gélinas), one at L. Magog 5–11 Sep (FR), 2 at Sainte-Catherine 7–8 Sep (RB), and one at Laval 2 Oct (MB). A first-winter Ivory Gull brightened Tadoussac 29 Nov (ph. FF, MM, S. Moisan). Caspian Terns

continued to be present on almost any expanse of water in the Montréal area, including R. des-Prairies, Ottawa R., Châteauguay R., Richelieu R., and even the Saint-Étienne marshes (*vide* PB). The center of abundance remained L. Saint-Louis, with the high count being 41 at Maple Grove 3 Sep (MB). A juv. Arctic Tern at Bedford 9 Nov represented a very rare fall sighting for the Montréal area (JG. Papineau).

A Razorbill near I. Sainte-Hélène (Montréal) 21 Nov (R. Guillet) and one at Sainte-Catherine 22 Nov (m. ob.) presumably represented the same individual. More Atlantic Puffins than usual were seen w. of their range along the St. Lawrence, including 4 seen from the Trois-Pistoles–Les Escoumins ferry 12 Oct (MR, FS), 3 at Saint-Vallier 20 Oct (GL, JB), singles at Tadoussac 22 Sep and 10 Oct (RP et al.), and at Les Escoumins 22 Nov (LM et al.). Nine Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported in the Region throughout the season (*vide* PB). The continued presence of Great Gray Owls in the Lower St. Lawrence since the last winter interruption in 2001 has been intriguing. This fall, singles were at Rimouski 19 Nov (RP), Sainte-Félicité-de-Matane 22 Nov (JD et al.), and Sainte-Luce 23 Nov (RP).

SWIFTS THROUGH FINCHES

The 1610 Chimney Swifts going to roost at Mont Laurier 1 Aug were noteworthy (R. Lebrun). An imm. Red-headed Woodpecker at Saint-Joachim, near Cap Tourmente 30–31 Oct was the only one for the season (R. Lepage, GL, JB). Single Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found at L'Annonciation 19–22 Oct (J. & MC. Campeau, *vide* G. Gauthier) and at I. Goyer (Carignan) 9 Nov (E. Samson, A. Lacasse). Record-high numbers of 164 American Three-toed Woodpeckers and 105 Black-backed Woodpeckers were banded throughout the season at the Tadoussac banding station (CB). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Beaudette 14 Oct was record late (JF. Rousseau), and a Willow Flycatcher singing at Cap Tourmente as late as 13 Aug also established a new record late date (GC). An Eastern Phoebe at Rimouski 27 Nov was very late and slightly e. of its range (RP). A Western Kingbird was identified at Montmagny 30 Oct (M. Huard). More exceptional at this season than in spring, 2 first-year White-eyed Vireos were reported: one was found at Île Charron (Boucherville) 30 Sep (Y. Gauthier), and the other was mist-netted at Tadoussac 31 Oct (ph. CB, SD, SB). A Cassin's Vireo, documented with an excellent illustration at Cap Tourmente 1 Oct, was a prize find and our 4th Regional record (JM, Giroux, JPO).

Although the number of Carolina Wrens

was down compared to the same period last year, a pair apparently nested at Saint-Hyacinthe, as shown by the presence of a family group of 6 or 7 there 25 Aug (F. Martin). An individual at Mont-Laurier 27–30 Oct was locally rare (A. Boisclair). A House Wren at Sept-Îles 12 Oct was considered a rarity for the North Shore (JFL, BD, CC), while a Marsh Wren at Saint-Fulgence 30 Sep was only the 3rd for the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area (GS). The only Northern Wheatfare of the season showed up at LaSarre 16–23 Oct, representing the 2nd for Abitibi (J. Laferrrière, C. Saint-Pierre). A Townsend's Solitaire at Sept-Îles 9 Nov was notable (JFL), but more exceptional was a Fieldfare in the same locale 13 Nov, furnishing our 8th Regional record (JFL). Out-of-range Brown Thrashers were reported at Rivière-Saint-Jean 3–5 Nov (YR) and at Laverrière 15 Oct (BV). A Blue-winged Warbler was record late by more than a month at I. Sainte-Hélène 12–22 Nov (SM, m. ob.). An out-of-range Golden-winged Warbler in the Magdalen Is. 2 Oct was also very late (DGG). The Northern Parula discovered at I. Sainte-Hélène 12 Nov survived through at least 5 Dec, a new record-late date by almost a month (SM, m. ob.). A Magnolia Warbler at I. Sainte-Hélène 5–11 Nov also established a new record-late date (SM). A Yellow-throated Warbler at Rimouski 30 Oct (D. Côte) and a Prairie Warbler at Grandes-Bergeronnes 11 Oct (SD et al.) represented additional good finds.

A Western Tanager brightened Port-Daniel 19–25 Oct (GR, PP et al.), and a Spotted Towhee at Sept-Îles 12–21 Nov was the first ever for the North Shore (ph. B. Poulin, BD, m. ob.). Single Clay-colored Sparrows at Cap Tourmente 13 Sep (LM, J. Goulet), Sept-Îles 4–12 Oct (BD, JFL, CC), and Chandler 18 Oct (PP, GR) were noteworthy. The Lark Sparrow now appears to be an annual visitor, especially in e. Québec, where singles were found at La Pocatière 2 Oct (ph. CG, CA), Betsiamites 19 Oct (R. Gilbert, A. Gosselin), and Tadoussac 19–20 Oct (ph. SD, SB, m. ob.). A Le Conte's Sparrow was considered late at La Pocatière 2 Oct (CA, CG). Single imm. White-crowned Sparrows of the gambelii race were found at Tadoussac 8–10 Oct (ph. SB, SD) and at Rimouski 12 Oct (JPO, ML). A female Black-

SA Unprecedented numbers of Dovekies were recorded in Nov in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and also in the estuary. Peaks of 690 and 1200 were estimated respectively at Tadoussac 21 Nov (SB, SD) and between Pointe-Saint-Pierre and Cap-d'Espoir, Gaspésie 23 Nov (MC et al.). But this was only the tip of the iceberg, considering that about 15,000 were tallied later in Dec at both Tadoussac (RP) and Matane (D. Desjardins, JD), and 22,000 were counted on the Percé C.B.C. (fide PP). In any case, since estimates were made from the shore, actual numbers were probably much higher. As expected, few birds were detected w. of the Saguenay R., and the only inland individuals were discovered at Saint-Fulgence 12 Nov (CC et al.) and Beaufort 29 Nov (GL). One theory proposed to explain this influx is this year's abundance of arctic zooplankton, particularly the Hyperideae amphipode *Themisto libellula*, in the Gulf and estuary. According to M. Harvey, a specialist on zooplankton at the Maurice-Lamontagne Institute, the concentration of this amphipode has been shown to correlate positively with the volume of cold waters from the Labrador Current, which penetrate in winter into the Gulf by way of the Strait of Belle Isle. Whether this cold surge has expanded in recent years (following the more rapid melting of Arctic ice) remains a matter of speculation. Nevertheless, it appears that since 1994, *Themisto libellula* has shown peaks of abundance in 1998, 2001, and particularly in 2003. On the other hand, little is known about past influxes of Dovekies in the St. Lawrence waters, undoubtedly owing to a lack of adequate observer coverage. Although the species is known to be annual in the Gulf at this season and although it has occasionally been noticed in fair numbers, e.g. in 1982, this year's irruption appears to be one of the most significant ever. Notable irruptions occurred along the U.S. coast in 1932 and 1950. In 1950, a few birds even strayed w. to the Montréal area, suggesting a widespread invasion. None were documented in the estuary at the time, but it does not mean there were not any there. It is anticipated that the relation between the abundance of Arctic zooplankton and Dovekie irruptions in the St. Lawrence waters will be elucidated in the future.

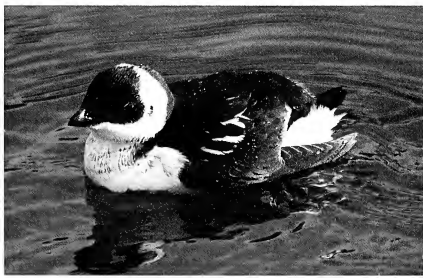
headed Grosbeak was identified at La Pocatière 21–22 Nov, providing our 3rd Regional record (ph. CA, CG). An imm. Indigo Bunting at Jonquière 18 Nov was the 2nd latest ever (J. McNeil), while singles at Grosse-Île 10 Oct (DGG, BV) and at Sept-Îles 3–4 Oct (CC) were significantly out of range. A total of 8 Dickcissels was impressive, while about 20 Baltimore Orioles that lingered through Oct–Nov in e. Québec and L. Saint-Jean represented a very unusual event (fide PB). A group of 5 Common Redpolls including 3 juvs. at Rivière-Ouelle 3 Aug provided an interesting record for the Lower St. Lawrence (CA, CG). This species has a history of sporadic

breeding in this region.

Addendum: Rare in the Outaouais region, a Yellow Rail was heard and seen at Luskville 22 May 2003 (D. Saint-Hilaire).

Corrigendum: The reported Barnacle Goose at Portneuf 17 Apr 2003 (N.A.B. 57: 319) should be deleted.

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This Dovekie photographed at Tadoussac, Québec in late November 2003 (here 24 November) was part of an enormous influx of the species into the St. Lawrence estuary in fall and winter.

Photograph by Renaud Pintiaux.

Between one and 3 juv. Northern Gannets cruised n. L. Champlain 6–24 Nov (TM, DJH et al.). Two to 4 American White Pelicans were in coastal Connecticut, first seen at Milford Pt., New Haven on 1 Nov (S. Spector et al.), with 2 per site seen 3 Nov in Guilford, next in New Haven (GH et al.), and then two hours later in Westbrook, Middlesex (A. Nichols). An imm. Great Cormorant at Cherry Pond, Jefferson, Coos, NH 13–24 Oct (S. & M. Turner et al.) was the most out of context of 2 seen inland. Separate sightings of an ad. female Magnificent Frigatebird from Monhegan 26 Sep (B. Schutsky) and Gloucester and Marblehead, Essex, MA the next day (TD. Noble et al., TA. Stone) probably involved the same bird. No frigatebirds were noted in association with *Isabel* the previous week, but some connection is conceivable.

The Reddish Egret holding over from Jul at Compton, Newport, RI until 13 Aug (G. Dennis et al.) provided a notable exception to the overall lack of s. herons reported (Great Egrets did stray inland in modest numbers, however). Bittern reports were mixed, the American Bittern total of 63 being marginally higher than any we have tallied from our sources in a decade. Only 3 Least Bitterns were located, one of these on the remarkably late date of 26 Oct at Warwick, Kent, RI (D. Wilson). Also unusual in light of the lack of s. herons were several Wood Stork sightings, including 4 at a farm pond in Barre, Worcester, MA 24–25 Aug (ph. C. Buelow et al.), one described adequately at Dover, Strafford, NH 2 Sep (TJ. Lanier), and one seen flying over the Barre Falls hawkwatch, Worcester, MA 7 Sep (T. Carrolan et al.). Black Vultures did not stray far n. this year, but they are now relatively numerous to the w. and s. in our Region. 10 for the season at the Blueberry Hill hawkwatch in Granville, Hampden, MA (JW et al.), 4 for the season on inner Cape Cod (v. o.), and a maximum of 12 at Sheffield, Berkshire, MA 20 Sep (ML et al.). Impressive Turkey Vulture counts at the n. periphery of its range included 60+ at Newport, Orleans, VT 3 Sep (B. & J. Prue) and 120 at Rochester, Strafford, NH (SM).

WATERFOWL

Tundra Swans, scarce in the Region, included 4 at Brattleboro, Windham, VT 12 Nov (CP, FH. Galbraith) and 2 at Coventry, Kent, RI 25 Nov (MT). Previously very rare, both Greater White-fronted and Ross's Geese continue patterns of annual occurrences. Eleven Greater White-fronteds were divided among Maine (one), Massachusetts (4), and Connecticut (6). Ross's Geese occurred at D.C.W.M.A.

from 11 Oct into Nov, with a maximum of 4 on 2 Nov (PJ, AS). An ad. at Milford, CT 22–27 Sep (N. Hamilton) was early and a state first, if accepted. A major flight of Brant occurred both on the coast and inland 16 Oct, with record counts of 2631 at Charlotte (RBL, TM) and 1580 at Seabrook, Rockingham, NH (SM). Several more Brant were seen



This adult male Common Ringed Plover was discovered on the South Lubec Flats in far "Down East" Maine 26 (here 27) August 2003. A first record for Maine and third for New England, it remained through 5 September. Photograph by Louis R. Bevier.

inland, including many during the 22 Oct waterbird fallout. Massachusetts's 11th Black Brant was found at Plymouth, Plymouth 25 Oct (WP). A wary Barnacle Goose was reported far to the n. at Collins L., Caribou, Aroostook, ME 11–13 Oct (ph. BS).

Excellent counts of dabblers this autumn were 198 Gadwalls at Barrington, Bristol, RI 30 Nov (RF), 90 Northern Shovelers on S. Monomoy, Barnstable, MA 27 Nov (BN), and 250 Northern Pintails also on S. Monomoy 2 Nov (BN et al.). Thirteen Eurasian Wigeons were reported from New Hampshire (one), Rhode Island (2), Maine (one), and Massachusetts (9) 10 Oct. A Cinnamon Teal found 25 Nov in Coventry, RI was reason to give thanks (MT). Redhead remains scarce in the Region, but one on the Connecticut R. at Hinsdale, Cheshire, NH 23 Nov (E. Masterson) was especially rare. An impressive total of 1540 Ring-necked Ducks was counted at Southborough, Worcester, MA 9 Nov (ML et al.). The Sterling, Worcester, MA Tufted Duck did not return this year, but females were found in Rhode Island at the E. Providence Res. 8 Nov (ML et al.) and at Wakefield,

Washington 22–30 Nov (m. ob.). Nine King Eiders were reported 10 Oct+. A female King at Hammonasset Beach S.P., New Haven, CT 23 Nov+ returned for its 3rd winter (G. & B. Nichol et al.). The 22 Oct waterbird fallout grounded 2 Common Eiders in the White Mts., with an imm. male at Bartlett, Carroll (R. Crowley) and an ad. male at Moore Res., Littleton, Grafton (S. & M. Turner). An imm. male Harlequin Duck at Cherry Pond 24 Oct (DG) was also a product of the 22 Oct fallout in New Hampshire. Impressive scoter numbers for their localities on 22 Oct included 11 Surfs and 95 Blacks in Bennington, VT (B. Powers, R. Stewart), 60 Surfs and 70 White-wingeds on Loon L., Plymouth, Grafton, NH (J. Wilhams), and 120 Blacks on Cherry Pond (DG). The best coastal scoter flight took place 4 Nov, with a record 9055 Blacks, plus 8140 Surfs and 1310 White-wingeds at A.P. (RH). Reports of Barrow's Goldeneyes commenced 25 Oct, with most reported during the last week of Nov, including a drake well s. at Stratford, Fairfield, CT 28 Nov (R. Harvey), for a seasonal total of 16.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANE

The Accipiter flight peaked in mid-Oct with 950 Sharp-shinned and 371 Cooper's at Lighthouse Pt., New Haven, CT 11 Oct (B. Banks et al.) and good counts at Lighthouse Pt. and Napatree Pt., Washington, RI 13 Oct (GH, J. Zbyrowski et al.). Good counts of Red-shouldered Hawk, a late migrant, included 15 at Barre Falls 18 Oct (BK) and 14 at Brigham Hill, Essex, Chittenden, VT 19 Oct (R. Renaud); Barre Falls' season total of 124 was also impressive (BK et al.). The peak Broad-winged Hawk flight was diffuse and low, with high counts in Vermont on 17–18 Sep and maxima to the e. on 21 Sep. Connecticut hawkwatchers continue to encounter multiple Swainson's Hawks, with 6 seen there between 30 Sep and 18 Nov, including 2 at Lighthouse Pt. 18 Nov (L. James et al.). Another Swainson's Hawk was reported on the Lincoln/Concord, MA town line 22 Oct (S. Perkins). There was a good late-season Red-tailed Hawk movement, with especially good numbers counted 7–8 Nov, including 139 on the latter date at Blueberry Hill (JW) and 233 for both days at Barre Falls (BK et al.). Rough-legged Hawks appeared in slightly above-average numbers, with over 40 reported beginning 30 Sep at Putney Mt., Windham, VT (B. Hughes et al.). The 37 Golden Eagles reported represent the best total for the Region since 1995, migrants were seen 10 Sept+. A black Gyrfalcon encountered at Pochet 1, Orleans, Barnstable

15 Nov (JT, RS, BN et al.) brought the first whiff of the Arctic to Massachusetts. Excellent counts of Peregrine Falcon included 44 at Block I, 3–5 Oct (m. ob.) and 5 at Pack Monadnock, Peterborough, Hillsborough, NH 9 Oct (I. McCleod), the latter a notable tally for an inland site.

Rails were reported in distressingly low numbers, even for this group of largely silent and secretive autumn migrants. Two Soras at Stockbridge, Berkshire 16 Aug were the first



The majority of Sabine's Gulls seen inland are in juvenal plumage, so the appearance of this adult off of the Charlotte, Vermont shore of Lake Champlain 5 September 2003 was a surprise. Photograph from videotape by Richard B. Lovell.

in summer for w. Massachusetts in a decade (ML et al.), and over half of the 11 Common Moorhens reported were in Vermont. More than 13 Sandhill Cranes were reported, the best total since 1994. Cranes included a family group of 3 from cen. Maine's recently established nesting population in early Aug at Belgrade, Kennebec (LRB et al.), a flock of 5 at Kennebunkport, York 17 Oct (J. Junker), and one back for its 6th year at Monroe, Grafton, NH, last seen 23 Nov (J. Williams, ph. C. Johnson, v. o.). Another crane was found in New Hampshire, with 3 more in Connecticut and one in Rhode Island.

SHOREBIRDS

American Golden-Plovers were noted in low to average numbers, with 150 reported. High counts were of flocks seen in transit rather than birds on *terra firma*. One found at Hampton B., Rockingham, NH 25–26 Nov was among the latest ever seen in New England (D. & L. Stokes, ph. SM). One of the best finds of the season was the ad. male Common Ringed Plover discovered on the Lubec Flats, Washington, ME 26 Aug and present until 5 Sep (ph. LRB et al.), the first for the Pine Tree State and just the 3rd for New England. American Oystercatchers continued to burgeon in s. New England, with record highs of 200 at Sandwich, Barnstable, MA 23 Aug (G. Gove) and 315 at S. Beach 31 Aug (BN). At least 3 American Avocets included one at Old Lyme, New London, CT 7–20 Sep (J. Norton et al.), a bird seen at Plymouth and Duxbury beaches, Ply-

mouth, MA 24–27 Sep (C. Walker), and one very late and inland at Sunderland, Franklin, MA 7–9 Nov (D. Minear et al.). Upland Sandpiper numbers continued to drift downward, with a mere 19 reported. Whimbrel high counts often occur just before the autumn season in New England, but this year, they were a week late, with 125 at Jonesport, Washington, ME 1 Aug (N. Famous) and 86 at Wellfleet, MA 2 Aug (ML et al.). Three Whimbrels were seen inland, including one at Great Meadows N.W.R., Middlesex, MA 30–31 Aug (B. Howell et al.) and 2 at D.C.W.M.A. 7 Sep (L. Master et al.). A pale-rumped Eurasian Whimbrel was found at Griswold Pt., Old Lyme 21 Sep (DP et al.). Hudsonian Godwit numbers were low, whereas 34 Marbled Godwits were above average, including 7 at S. Beach 19 Aug (BN), 2 at Hampton Harbor, NH 6–22 Aug (ph. SM et al.), 2 in Connecticut, and 4 in Rhode Island.

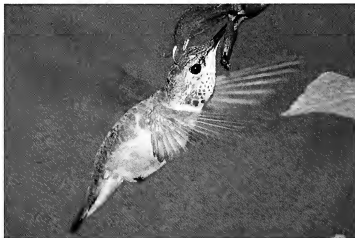
Red-necked Stints have now occurred at S. Beach in four of the last five autumns, given that this season's bird, photographed 14–19 Aug (ph. BN et al.), was again an ad., one wonders if a returning vagrant is involved in some of these occurrences. New Hampshire's first Little Stint (and the Region's 6th as well as the first since 1990) was an ad. found near Odiome Pt., Rye, Rockingham 7 Aug (ph. †MH, ph. SM, m. ob.) that proved very confiding and findable until 11 Aug, much to the delight of Regional birders. Migrant White-rumped Sandpipers were seen in excellent numbers on Cape Cod, with a peak count of 600 16 Sep at S. Beach (BN), singles at Westport, Bristol, MA (E. Nielson) and W. Addison, Addison, VT 27 Nov (*vide* VBA) were exceptionally late. Baird's Sandpiper numbers continued

very high for a 2nd consecutive fall, with 74 noted (maximum 13 at Plum I, 5 Sep, RH). Five Purple Sandpipers were reported on L. Champlain 24 Oct–1 Nov, and 400 at Rockport, Essex, MA 27 Nov (RH) was a very

good count within the last 10 years. An ad. Curlew Sandpiper graced S. Beach 18–31 Aug (C. Marantz et al.). Stilt Sandpipers were in better-than-average numbers, including a record 40+ at Scarborough Marsh, Cumberland, ME 10 Aug (LB); one was far inland at L. Josephine, Easton, Aroostook, ME in late Sep (BS), while another inland bird at Gill, Franklin, MA was very late 1 Nov (M. Taylor). Thirty-two Buff-breasted Sandpipers was an average total for the last decade. Ruffs were found at Edgartown, Dukes, MA 8 Aug (AK et al.) and Milford Pt. 6 Sep (J. Bair). Wilson's Phalaropes were well reported again, with 14 divided among Vermont (one), New Hampshire (one), Massachusetts (5), Rhode Island (3), and Connecticut (3, of which 2 at Hammonasset 3 Oct were notably late, B. Kleiner). As usual, a few Red-necked Phalaropes were seen in Vermont's Champlain Valley, and 3 appeared within Long Island Sound. Western Massachusetts cornered the market on inland Red Phalaropes, with a cooperative juv. in Westfield, Hampden 12–15 Sep (T. Swochak, ph. C. Buelow, m. ob.) and Berkshire's 2nd at Onota L., Pittsfield 9 Nov (R. Packard).

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDES

There were at least nine skua reports including 5 or more identified as Great Skuas in the Gulf of Maine in the Mt. Desert I. region 27 Aug–4 Oct (WT, LB et al.). Coastal jaeger reports were about average, although Pomarine were less evident in Nov than has been the case of late. The only Long-tailed Jaeger of the season was located 34 km e. of Mt. Desert Rock, ME 15 Aug (WT). On L. Champlain, 6 jaegers were seen 31 Aug–20



Proving that stunning photographs do not always reveal the identity of their subjects, this *Selasphorus* (Rufous/Allen's) hummingbird that spent the month of November 2003 in Little Compton, Rhode Island remains unidentified to species. Photograph by Geoff Dennis.

Sep, including 3 Parasitics through 11 Sep (RBL, TM et al.) and an ad. Pomarine 20 Sep (†TM, J. Osborn, AS).

White-winged gull reports used to be almost routine in late Oct in the 1970s and

1980s, but these days we seldom receive reports before mid-Nov, as was the case this year. Lesser Black-backed Gull numbers creep ever higher, with over 110 reported this autumn. Selected high counts included 25 at S. Beach 27 Sep (BN) and 22 on Nantucket 13 Nov (E. Ray); an ad. was far inland and far from any commodious landfill at L. Umbagog, Errol, Coos, NH 30 Sep (R. Quinn et al.). The late-autumn Regional Ring-billed Gull high peaked at 20,000, counted at Charlotte 14 Nov (TM, P. Riley). About 40 Little Gulls included 12 on L. Champlain, 5 in New Hampshire, 8 in Maine with a maximum of 6 at Pine Pt., Scarborough 12 Oct (LB, M. Resch), and 14 in e. Massachusetts. Black-headed Gulls numbered 16, including singles 16 Oct and 1 Nov at Grand Isle, VT (†DJH), one at Hampton, NH 16 Nov (SM, J. Lawrence), up to 4 in Maine, at least 7 in e. Massachusetts, and 2 in Rhode Island. Sabine's Gull reports included sightings of possibly the same juv. at Grand Isle and Charlotte 4 Sep (†DJH, †TM, RBL, H. Kaestner), a rare inland ad. 5 Sep at Charlotte (TM, ph. RBL), and one seen 20 km e. of Chatham, Barnstable, MA 7 Sep (S. Perkins et al.). As with other inshore pelagic species, coastal numbers of Black-legged Kittiwake were unexceptional, but the 22 Oct inland waterbird fallout produced an exceptional two-day flight on L. Champlain, with at least 12 on 22–23 Oct (10 on the former date) including a single ad. (TM, RBL, AS, DJH).

Two Sandwich Terns included a banded bird photographed at S. Beach 18 Aug (ph. P. Brown); that bird stayed until 29 Aug (D. Silverstein et al.). The partial band number readable in the photograph indicated to John Weske that this bird had been banded as a chick on North Carolina's Outer Banks in Jun 2002 by Micou Browne. A juv. Sandwich Tern was found at Napatree, RI 24 Sep (CR), possibly in connection with *Isabel*. The most northerly of 8 Royal Terns was at Westport, Bristol, MA 21 Sep (E. Nielsen et al.). The 40 Caspian Terns reported was an average tally. Reports from the species' New England breeding beachhead at L. Champlain continued through 17 Sep, while coastal migrants were reported until 14 Oct. Late Common Terns were found on L. Champlain at Charlotte 28 Oct (TM, RBL) and 27 Nov at Chatham (BN). A Sooty Tern was at Duxbury Beach 8 Aug (†D. Clapp).

Acid numbers remained mediocre through Nov. Over the past 50 years, the proportions of murre species reported in this region have been reversed: reports of Common Murres have increased, whereas those of Thick-billed have dwindled. As an example of this trend, witness 15 Com-

mon Murres versus 13 Thick-billed Murres counted at A.P. 21 Nov (RH). Completely unexpected was the serendipitous discovery of Vermont's 2nd Atlantic Puffin, swimming in Burlington harbor, *Chittenden* 27 Nov (†R. Scott).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A White-winged Dove observed at Kittery, York 27 Nov (LB, ph. LRB) was preceded by at least 10 other Maine records. A number of cuckoos stayed late in the North Country, including a Black-billed in Portland 2 Nov (R. Eakin) and Yellow-billed on Mt. Desert I., Hancock, ME 20 Oct (C. Robbins et al.) and at Gay Head 8–9 Nov (A. Fischer). The season's Snowy Owl flight was nearly nonexistent, with only 3 at traditional locations, beginning 20 Nov. Only 3 or 4 of the secretive Long-eared Owl revealed themselves to birders, while a respectable 27 Short-eared Owls were found mostly in coastal locations, with the exception of birds in *Grand Isle*, VT and Northampton, Hampshire, MA. Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded in average numbers (252) in Freeport, Cumberland, ME (J. Walker). A new banding station established in Uxbridge, Worcester, MA handled 185 (S. Wheelock). The peak

Rhode Island hosted tardy Chimney Swifts at Block I. 6 Nov (SMit, CR et al.) and in Providence 9 Nov (D. Finizia). The now-regular appearance of Rufous Hummingbirds (and of unidentified *Selasphorus*) is increasingly documented by carefully photographed or banded birds. This season brought 4 Rufous to Massachusetts and an ad. male to Connecticut, as well as 2 *Selasphorus* to the Bay State and one to Rhode Island. Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce in New England this autumn, with only eight reports.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

A late Least Flycatcher carefully studied at Marblehead, Essex, MA 18 Nov prolonged its already considerable tardiness by staying until 22 Dec (RH). Remote Tuckermuck I. off Nantucket, MA furnished the state's 2nd Hammond's Flycatcher 1 Nov (†RV), on a cold front that brought many other westerners to the East. The season's Say's Phoebe was photographed in W. Tisbury, Dukes, MA on 10 Sep (W. Manter, v. o.), as was the first of the state's 3 Ash-throated Flycatchers, in Stoneham, Middlesex 7–16 Nov (D. & I. Jewell, v. o.). Others were found in Melrose, Essex 11 Nov (MR et al.) and at Gay Head 18 Nov (VL). During the same month, 2 tardy Great Crested



An adult Fork-tailed Flycatcher, one of two in New England this autumn, graced a weedy field in Richmond, Rhode Island 7–10 September 2003—the Ocean State's fourth record. Photograph by Rachel Farrell.

Common Nighthawk migration in cen. Massachusetts seemed a bit later than usual this year, with two counts totaling 1518 on 26–27 Aug in Worcester and another peak of 730 on 4 Sep to the w. in Northampton; three other counts of 213–300 migrants came 4–5 Sep. A late straggler was seen in Pittsfield, Berkshire 9 Oct (TC).

Flycatchers were reported in Rhode Island, at Block I. 6 Nov (SMit, CR et al.) and at Tiverton, Newport 8 Nov (RF); Great Cresteds are very rare anywhere n. of Florida at this time of year, whereas Ash-throateds are annual in some numbers in the mid-Atlantic. A Tropical/Couch's Kingbird found at Claremont, Sullivan, NH 2 Nov was studied at length, but

the bird never vocalized, except perhaps briefly when it was snatched and carried off by a Sharp-shinned Hawk as observers watched (W McCumber, †S. McCumber, †R. Welsh, †A. Beals). The bird is, nonetheless, the Granite State's first record of either species. Again this year, only 3 Western Kingbirds were located in New England, 3 in Massachusetts and singles in Maine and Connecticut. A young male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher photographed in Chatham 13 Oct (†D. Manchester) stayed for two days, then apparently wandered n. over the next month before settling in at the Marconi Beach parking area, Wellfleet from 12 Nov until the first heavy snow in early Dec (ph. B. Elrick, m. ob.). Rounding out a stellar flycatcher season were 2 Fork-tailed Flycatchers: the first appeared briefly in Stonington, New London, CT 12 Aug (G. Williams), and Rhode Island's 4th lingered at Richmond, Washington 7-10 Sep (D. Finizia et al.).

A Regional total of 60+ Northern Shrikes, beginning 25 Oct, was the best showing since 2000. New Hampshire's 3rd Bell's Vireo lingered around the Exeter, Rockingham wastewater treatment plant 1-9 Nov (ph. SM, ph. JT, ph. D. Abbott, ph. MH, m. ob.), allowing brief looks for numerous visitors. A Warbling Vireo at Nahant, MA on the late date of 16 Nov (G. Tepke) could well have been of a western taxon. A Fish Crow far inland in Pittsfield, Berkshire, MA was notable, as was a count of 172 in Boston.

This season, Cave Swallows made three appearances along the New England coast. The first wave broke in Connecticut 8-9 Nov, with 23 at locations from Westport, Fairfield to Hammonasset Beach S.P. (v. o.); a single bird reported from Charlestown, Washington 8 Nov (†J. Murphy), represented Rhode Island's 3rd record. In the second group 15 Nov, a lone individual was at Lighthouse Pt. (DS), and 2 reached Orleans, MA, providing the long-anticipated first Bay State record (JT et al.). The last push 25-27 Nov brought 3 more to Connecticut, another to Orleans, and 4 to Rye, NH (ph. SM, ph. P. Brown, m. ob.). The latter birds established the first state record; plumage details observed on perched birds over two days suggested the southwestern race *pelodoma*, as expected. By most

accounts, Red-breasted Nuthatches staged a moderate flight this season, although a count of 300 at Roque I, Jonesport, ME 17 Oct (N. Famous) was remarkable. A Rock Wren seen but not photographed at Point Judith lighthouse in Narragansett, RI 24 Nov (Shane & Katy Patterson, *vide* R. Farrell) would constitute a first record for the Ocean State and is under review by the state's committee. After the tough winter of 2002-2003, numbers of Carolina Wrens were down, especially in Maine and New Hampshire. An unspecified number of Sedge Wrens was present on Monhegan I., from late Sep to 3 Oct, and one was in Lexington, Middlesex, MA 13 Sep (MR et al.).

in Tiverton, RI (ph. E. Oldmixon). Tardy thrushes included a Very banded in Wells, York, ME 1 Nov (J. Ficker) and an apparently injured Swainson's Thrush in Lexington, MA 22 Nov (MR). Notable high counts of 50 Swainson's came from Bluff Pt., CT 6 & 7 Oct (DS, D. Provencher et al.) and of 64 Hermit Thrushes at Providence, RI 3 Nov (RF). The peak count of 9000 migrating American Robins at Light-house Pt., CT came 8 Nov. Rather late for such a count were 45 Gray Catbirds at Block I 6 Nov (Smit, CR et al.). Five autumn reports totaling 12 individual Bohemian Waxwings gave little indication of the winter flight to come.

Recent peaks in warbler migration seem

to be occurring later in the season. Representative of this trend were counts at Bluff Pt., CT of 1500 individuals of 21 species 30 Sep, 2000 of 17 species 6 Oct, and 8000 of 13 species 7 Oct. Single Golden-winged Warblers were found in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, while 3 others were seen in Massachusetts.

Reports of at least 32 Tennessee Warblers represented a slight comeback for the species over recent autumns, and nearly twice that many Orange-crowned Warblers were reported: 2 in Vermont, a very high 11+ from Maine, 37 in Massachusetts, and 9 in Connecticut.

Warblers reported in low numbers included Magnolia (running against recent trends), Cape May, and Bay-breasted, all of which were banded in near-record low numbers on Appledore (DH). Stray w. warblers were represented by a Townsend's-type *Dendroica* at Napatree, RI 30 Sep (CR), currently under review, and one or 2 MacGillivray's in Massachusetts in Nov. The more expected s. strays reached farther n. than usual: Maine garnered 3 Yellow-throated War-

blers and single Prothonotary and Worm-eating Warblers, while Massachusetts and Rhode Island each had singles of each, along with single Cerulean and Kentucky Warblers in the Bay State and 6 Hoodeds in the s. coastal states. The Cave Swallow-bearing weather systems may have also been responsible for 2 of the Yellow-throateds, on 16 Nov in Portland, ME (DL) and 30 Nov-5 Dec in Nahant, MA (L. Pivacek, v. o.), as well as a Prairie Warbler in Johnston, Provi-



This young male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—which took up residence at the Marconi Beach parking area of Cape Cod National Seashore in Wellfleet from 12 (here 23) November into early December 2003—became a much-visited visitor here. Photograph by Phil Brown.

GNATCATCHER THROUGH WARBLERS

Interestingly, the discovery of late, reverse-migrant Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in S. Portland, Cumberland, ME 9 & 16 Nov (DL) and at Ipswich, MA 11 Nov (RH et al.) coincided with the arrival of Cave Swallows to the south. After missing Northern Wheatear last autumn, birders found birds in three locations: 7 Sep at both Epsom, Merrimack, NH (†N. & S. Osborne) and Egg Rock, Hancock, ME (WT), and 16 Sep

dence, RI 27 Nov (J. Murphy); these were only two of the 12 warbler species found in New England during the last week of Nov. Single-site high counts of Blackpoll Warbler came over a well-defined period, with 151 in Burrillville, Providence, RI 14 Sep (ML), and 82 in Windham, Rockingham, NH (MH) and 1200 at Gay Head (M. Pelikan) on 21 Sep. Unexpected on the immediate coast was a Louisiana Waterthrush at Gloucester, MA 31 Aug (RH). Rounding out warbler reports were a Regional record 45 Connecticut Warblers and 63 Yellow-breasted Chats, most in Massachusetts but with a scattering of each from Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Topping the chat counts were 5 in Orleans, MA 23 Nov (RH et al.).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

New England hosted a full selection of tanagers this season. A maximum count of 15 Scarlet Tanagers in Worcester, MA 28 Sep (ML et al.) was supplemented by a Summer Tanager that spent 15–16 Sep at Edgartown, MA (R. Stone) and a Western Tanager found in Plymouth, NH 30 Nov (TMH, TB. Griffith).

American Tree Sparrows arrived in good numbers, evidenced by 120 in Sandwich, Carroll, NH 3 Nov (TV). Reports totaling 40 Clay-colored Sparrows came from every state: the nesting pair at Grand Isle, VT, still present on 2 Aug, two reports from New Hampshire, 3 each from Maine and Rhode Island, 5 from Connecticut, and the balance from Massachusetts, including a count of 4 from Truro, Barnstable 2 Nov (JT). Connecticut birders found nearly half of the 41 Vesper Sparrows, a single report came from Rhode Island, and the rest were from New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Maine's Appledore I. and Monhegan I. accounted for most of the state's 9+ Lark Sparrows, including 3 on Monhegan 7 Oct (BS), while Massachusetts contributed an additional 6. Two female Lark Buntings, one on Appledore I. 7 Sep (DH et al.) and the other at Scarborough Marsh 18–20 Sep (ph. LB, m. ob.), were the first Maine records of the species in any season since 1983. Reports of a Henslow's Sparrow at Bolton Flats, Worcester, MA 5 Oct (TML et al.) and Rhode Island's 2nd Le Conte's Sparrow at Napatree Pt. 26 Nov (TCR) are under review by local bird records committees. Nelson's Sparrow-tailed Sparrows appeared inland at Bolton Flats and Northampton in early Oct. Seasonal high counts of more common sparrows included 29 Lincoln's Sparrows at Bolton Flats on 5 Oct (ML et al.), 200 Song Sparrows at Sandwich, NH 3 Nov (TV), 239 White-throated Sparrows at Westborough W.M.A., Worcester, MA 12 Oct (ML et al.), and 250 Dark-eyed Juncos at Gay Head 31 Oct (VL). An imm. Harris's Sparrow enter-

tained visitors to Great Meadows N.W.R. 7–9 Oct (S. Wheelock, v. o.), while Gambell's-type White-crowned Sparrows were reported from Newbury, Essex, MA 26 Oct (RH) and W. Brattleboro, VT 28 Oct (LM). Snow Buntings performed impressively, with high counts of 200 in coastal Connecticut, 500 in coastal New Hampshire, and 700 in Northampton, MA—all dwarfed by 1200 in Presque Isle, Aroostook, ME in late Nov (BS).

Two Nov Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at feeders in Newton, Rockingham, NH (ph. P. McFarland) and N. Truro, MA (ph. C. Skowron) lingered into Dec. Black-headed Grosbeak was reported from Monhegan in early Oct, while a young male visiting a feeder in Derry, Rockingham 31 Oct–4 Nov (S. Gould, ph. 15M, ph. B. Goodwin, v. o.) was the first in New Hampshire since 1978. Twelve Blue Grosbeaks appeared during the season in expected coastal localities from Maine to Connecticut. A count of 32 Indigo Buntings in Durham, Strafford, NH 27 Sep (SM et al.) was notable, as were tardy individuals in Portland 11 Nov (DL) and at Gay Head 22 Nov (AK et al.). Massachusetts's contribution of more than half of the 99 Dickcissels reported for the season was aided greatly by a count of 32 at Gay Head 14 Oct (VL et al.); every other state also contributed, including Vermont, where one was photographed in W. Brattleboro 20–31 Oct (LM).

The late Aug peak of Bobolink migration was captured by counts of 187 in Concord, NH 25 Aug (R. Suomala) and 148 in Northampton, MA 31 Aug (T. Gagnon). A very late Bobolink was at W. Haven, New Haven, CT 16 Nov (P. Desjardins). A Western Meadowlark at Gay Head 26 Nov (VL) called attention to itself by singing and calling. Four of the season's 6 Yellow-headed Blackbirds appeared in Aug, as early as 2 Aug, from Maine to Rhode Island. A Connecticut record count of 17 Boat-tailed Grackles was achieved at the traditional Sikorsky Airport, Stratford location on 15 Sep (F. Mantlik). An Orchard Oriole lingering on Monhegan to late Sep was unusual, as was a Baltimore visiting a feeder in S. New-

fane, Windham, VT 11 Nov (TCP).

Northern finches performed erratically, with only a handful of reports of Pine Grosbeak and both crossbills. Purple

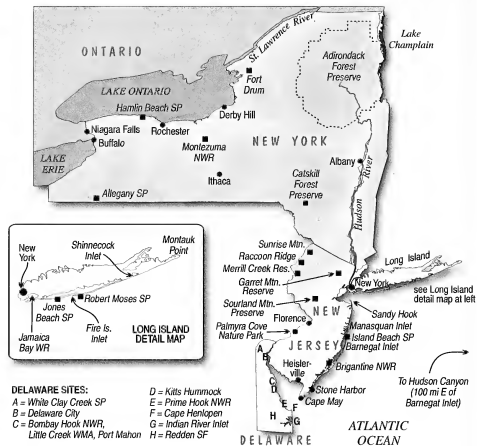


This furtive Bell's Vireo lingered around the Exeter, New Hampshire wastewater treatment plant 1–9 November 2003, a third for the state. Note the prominent wing bar on the greater coverts and weak broken spectacles. Photograph from videotape by Jeremiah Trimble.

Finches and Pine Siskins moved in modest numbers, the best being a count of 300 Purple Finches from the Lighthouse Pt. hawkwatch 19 Oct (S. Mayo et al.), and coastal maxima of 80 Pine Siskins in Massachusetts and 50 in Rhode Island. An observer in Sandwich, NH was surprised by 2 Common Redpolls a month early on 9 Oct (TV). Good numbers arrived in the rest of the Region in mid-Nov, with maxima of 150 at Owls Head, Knox, ME 18 Nov (S. Kauffman et al.) and 60 at Plum I. 22 Nov (T. Wetmore). Other observers at Plum I. the same day carefully studied a single Hoary Redpoll with a flock of 15 Commons (TRH, JT, RL). Finally, Evening Grosbeaks appeared in modest numbers across the Region, although the largest flock was only 30.

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Hudson-Delaware



DELAWARE SITES:

- A = White Clay Creek SP
 B = Delaware City
 C = Bombay Hook NWR, Little Creek WMA, Fort Mahon
 D = Kitts Hummock
 E = Prime Hook NWR
 F = Cape Henlopen
 G = Indian River Inlet
 H = Redden SF

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A wreck of tropical terns and tubenoses in upstate New York, the product of Hurricane Isabel in September, a hybrid *Tyrannus* flycatcher new to science, and an enormous migration of passerines noted across much of the Eastern Seaboard 8–9 November: it was an exciting fall season in Delaware, New Jersey, and New York. Through the period, temperatures were seasonable and precipitation above average. Fewer than usual mudflats were exposed during the fall shorebird migration, especially in Delaware, where shorebird numbers and diversity were down compared to recent years. The hurricane's passage excepted (see the Special Report in this issue), weather conditions for the passerine migration appeared to be favorable, as the monitoring of nocturnal migration suggested. In addition to hurricane highlights came upstate New York's first White-faced Ibis, a Magnificent Frigatebird at Long Island, a Pacific Golden-Plower in New York, and New Jersey's second Allen's Hummingbird. Of continuing interest and concern is the rapid decline of Evening Grosbeak in the East.

Abbreviations: Avalon Seawatch (Avalon, Cape May, NJ); Bombay Hook (Bombay Hook N. W. R., Kent, DE); Brigantine (Brigantine Unit, Forsythe N. W. R., Atlantic, NJ); Cape May (all locations s. of the Canal, Cape May, NJ); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., Monroe, NY); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., Long I.); Montezuma (Montezuma N.W.R., Cayuga, NY); Niagara R. (Niagara R. corridor between Buffalo, Erie, and Fort Niagara Beach, Niagara, NY).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

A staggering 44,309 Red-throated Loons were counted at the Avalon Seawatch (AON). For the 4th consecutive year, Eared Grebes were present at the Batavia W.T.P., Genesee, NY through most of the period, with up to 3 observed 15 Nov (GC, DS, m. ob.). Tubenose highlights not related to hurricanes included a White-faced Storm-Petrel (ph. Phil Jeffrey), New York's 7th, plus an Audubon's Shearwater at Hudson Canyon 17 Aug (Paul Guris et al.) and 2 Leach's Storm-Petrels and an Audubon's Shearwater off Barnegat, Ocean, NJ 8 Sep (AH). A Delaware pelagic trip 21 Sep tallied 16 Cory's, 26 Audubon's, and 4 Greater Shearwaters (AG); no obvious connection to the hurricane's passage could be made for these birds, though the count of Audubon's was high for the state.

A Brown Pelican at DeRuyter Res., Oneida 19 Sep could have been connected to Isabel (fide D. Crumb), but a few have been found wandering in upstate in fall recently (2002) and in e. Canada in sum-

mer 2003, outside the context of tropical cyclones. American White Pelicans made a superb showing on the coast this season: one in Rochester, *Monroe*, NY 7 Sep (MT), 3 at Slaughter Beach, *Kent*, DE 9 Oct (R. Egbert), 3 at Cape May 31 Oct (MOB), 6 at Turkey Pt., *Cumberland*, NJ 4 Nov (M. & G. Hoffman), 5 at Cape May 8-9 Nov (m. ob.), with 2 at Brigantine the same day and subsequently 2 there 8-9 Nov and 10 there 12 Nov (Judy Cinquina, m. ob.), 10 at Cape Henlopen, *Sussex* 11 Nov (L. Dumont), and finally, 10 at Cape May and 9 at Brigantine 14 Nov (JG), the latter two groups probably the same birds. A female Magnificent Frigatebird soared over the Fire I. Hawkwatch, *Suffolk*, NY 3 Oct (ph. S. D'Amato, J. Gluth, B. Kurtz, K. Thompson). Some 231,485 Double-crested Cormorants and 37,043 Northern Gannets were counted at the Avalon Seawatch through the end of Nov (AW). Outstanding were the Northern Gannets seen on L. Champlain, *Clinton*, NY on 6, 22, & 24 Nov (David Gusakov, Richard Lavallee, DH, m. ob.). Upstate New York's first White-faced Ibis appeared at Montezuma 27 Sep and remained until 6 Oct, affording great views for many observers (Andrew van Norstrum, ph. Meena Haribal, m. ob.). This constitutes one of few, if any, for the ne. part of the continent in the actual autumn; records known to us span Apr-Aug.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Observations of apparent Richardson's Canada Goose, which breeds in n.-cen. Canada and winters along the Texas coast, continue to increase through the Region, with a maximum count of 14 observed at the Iroquois N.W.R., *Genesee/Orleans*, NY from mid-Oct through early Nov (WD'A). It is not yet clear that most of these birds have been critically distinguished from Lesser Canada Geese (*parvipes*), a similar race with overlapping range. (Although many Richardson's can be safely told from Lessers in the field, there is some overlap between larger Richardson's and smaller Lessers, and such birds are difficult or impossible to distinguish in the field.) Multiple Greater White-fronted Goose reports were tendered, with up to 4 at Cheektowaga, *Erie*, NY 30 Nov (E. Krawczyk). Up to 6 Ross's Geese were found in Delaware, with 4 at Bombay Hook 1 Nov (MB) and 2 at Broadkill Beach, *Sussex* 1 Nov (Ed Sigda). Noteworthy for the Great Lakes was a Harlequin Duck at Golden Hill S.P., *Niagara* 23 Nov (KF). Through the end of Nov, 150,741 Black and 209,911 Surf Scoters

were counted at the Avalon Seawatch (AW).

In general, raptor counts were low, but 3 Swainson's Hawks were counted by Cape May's hawkwatch between 20 Oct and 8 Nov, and the count of 1024 Peregrine Falcons (JG) was above average. Rough-legged Hawks began to arrive in the Region in late Oct, with the first reports occurring across upstate New York 25 Oct (KJM, JM). Most impressive has been the recovery of Bald Eagles throughout the Region, best exempli-



It was another "good" autumn for White-faced Storm-Petrels off the Atlantic states, with this bird off Belmar, New Jersey 17 August 2003 adding to one off Massachusetts and at least three off Virginia. This species is probably an annual visitor to offshore waters in the autumn. Photograph by Phil Jeffrey.



Another star of the 17 August 2003 pelagic trip off New Jersey was this Long-tailed Jaeger, here eating a *Polysphemus* moth. Jaegers often hunt small landbirds well offshore, and pelagic flycatching is also a well-known behavior in the smaller species. Photograph by Phil Jeffrey.

fied by the numbers reported in Delaware, where up to 9 imm. eagles summered at Bombay Hook (*vide* AE).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Two Purple Gallinules were in New Jersey: an imm. at Cape May 20 Sep found by a visiting Polish birder (m. ob.), and another at the Flemington Marsh, *Hunterdon* 30 Sep-5 Oct (Frank Sencher, m. ob.). The unusually wet fall led to high water levels at most shorebird stopover locations, but there were still several notable observations. Certainly, the season's shorebird highlight was New York's first record of a Pacific Golden-Plover at Mecox Bay, *Suffolk* 1 Sep (Jim Ash, AB, HM). Late for upstate was an American Golden-Plover 9 Nov at the Batavia W.T.P. (MM). American Avocets during the fall period are becoming more numerous in Delaware, where a record-high count of 730

was made at Bombay Hook 14 Sep (AE), with 94 still there 23 Nov (FR). Always interesting away from the Atlantic coast, a Willet at Times Beach, *Erie*, NY 23 Aug was locally rare (Debbie Sharon), but the Willet found at Buffalo 26 Nov+ was extraordinary in that it overwintered (Peter Yoreg, WW). A Whimbrel along Cayuga L. shores, *Tompkins*, NY 19 Sep (A. Farnsworth, m. ob.) was probably grounded by *Isabel*. The Long-billed Curlew returned to Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ 11 Oct+ (JD, DD, m. ob.), and another was found at Toms River, *Ocean*, NJ 25 Oct (G. Wenzelburger, F. Lesser, m. ob.). The 16 Hudsonian Godwits at Pt. Breeze, *Monroe*, NY 21 Sep (DT) was a good count. Up to 50 Marbled Godwits were at Brigantine I., *Atlantic*, NJ 23 Sep-23 Nov (Pete Bacinski, m. ob.) provided by far the largest count in the state! A rare inland Purple Sandpiper on Cayuga L. 17 Oct (Tim Lenz) provided only the 3rd local record in 50 years. Where hundreds of Red Knots could once be found along the Delaware shoreline in fall, only single birds were reported this year (AE), but 1182 were tallied at N. Brigantine Natural Area, *Atlantic*, NJ 9 Aug (Mike Shanahan). Unusually early was a juv. Dunlin at Hamlin Beach, NY 29-31 Aug (ph. M. Davids, m. ob.). The only Curlew Sandpiper of the season was found at Bombay Hook 30 Aug (J. Russell), and the only Sharp-tailed Sandpiper—after the run of 4 last autumn—was a juv. at Johnson's Sod Farm, *Cumberland*, NJ 3-5 Sep (RC, m. ob.), the latter a state 2nd. A Red-necked Phalarope at Middle Saranac L., *Franklin*, NY 17 Sep was unusual for the Adirondacks (Nancy Kohlbecker, JP).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS

Fall Parasitic Jaeger sightings along L. Ontario were exceptional this year, with 21 counted at Hamlin Beach for the month of Sep alone (WS; some of those pushed shoreward by *Isabel*, surely). A flight of 17 Parasitics at Derby Hill 15 Oct was the best single-day flight since 1983 (BP)! Coastally, 222 Parasitics were seen at the Avalon Seawatch, with a peak of 27 on 13 Nov (AW). Beaches along L. Champlain, *Essex*, NY were very productive in and up to 6 Little Gulls (MM, Dana Rohleder, J&RH), 1000+ Bonaparte's Gulls, and a locally extraordinary Black-headed Gull (MM, J&RH). Up to 11 gull species were again tallied along the Niagara R. in Nov: the first report of Little Gull was 26 Oct, with a maximum of only 3 on 29 Nov (WD'A). Bonaparte's Gull num-

SA Discovered by Gary Chapin 9 Nov at Leicester, Livingston, NY, a flycatcher first thought to be an odd Western Kingbird in molt was photographed 22 Nov by Jay McGowan, who posted his digiscoped images (<<http://birds.cornell.edu/crows/KingGen.htm>>) and raised the possibility that the bird might instead be a Couch's Kingbird. Tape playback of Couch's Kingbird vocalizations in fact elicited a strong reaction by the bird. But even closer scrutiny of this bird, made possible because of the meticulous photographic record generated by numerous birders, revealed that the tail pattern more closely resembled that of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Kevin McGowan then photographed a series of specimens of yellow kingbirds, along with Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, from the Cornell Vertebrate Collections and made them available for all to view on the Web. The images of the bird in question, along with the specimens, allowed detailed comparisons of feather details and led most to conclude that the bird was a probable hybrid Scissor-tailed Flycatcher x Couch's Kingbird, a combination never previously documented. The bird remained until 2 Dec, allowing many observers to view this fascinating individual.

Had it not been for some creative use of new technologies—as well as diligent analysis of museum specimens—a plausible identification of this bird might never have been made. The cross-continental communication about this apparent hybrid was a modern exemplar of cooperative, thoughtful discussion in amateur ornithology.

What appears to be a Couch's Kingbird x Scissor-tailed Flycatcher hybrid frequented Leicester, Livingston County, New York 9 November through 2 December 2003 (here 22 November). The bird might have remained "under the radar" as a Western Kingbird, had it not been for Jay McGowan's photography and pursuit of a more compelling identification. The unusual graduated tail shape shows especially well in this photograph (see the Pictorial Highlights for a color image). Photograph by Kevin McGowan and Jay McGowan.



bers there grew from 4600 on 15 Nov (SK) to 12,000 by 29 Nov (Bruce DiLabio); singles of Black-headed Gull 30 Nov (Kevin McLaughlin) and California Gull in Nov



This late night hawk discovered by Jim Dowdell at Metuchen, New Jersey roosted locally 1-4 November 2003 (here 3 November). This bird had more richly colored underparts and perhaps a shorter primary projection than thought typical of Common, and although Lesser Nighthawk was eliminated, Antillean Nighthawk has proved difficult to rule out, owing to extensive variation in Common and limited understanding about fall plumages of Antillean. Photograph by Scottowitz.

(WDA, Jean Iron) were typical. By the end of Nov, the Avalon Seawatch had tallied 20,629 Laughing Gulls, 16,640 Ring-billed Gulls, and 7 Black-legged Kittiwakes (AW). Kittiwakes made an outstanding showing along L. Champlain, with 5 seen from Split Rock Pt., Essex, NY 22 Oct (DH, Ted Murin, m. ob.). The only observations of Franklin's Gull came from Delaware, with singles at Bombay Hook 5 Oct (BP) and 12 Nov (ML) and one at Broadkill Beach, Sussex 12 Oct (FR). In Suffolk, NY, a Sandwich Tern at Shinnecock Inlet 20 Sep (HM) and 3 at Mecox Bay 24 Sep (*vide* TWB) were very likely related to the passage of *Isabel*.

Alcids were few: 3 Razorbills were off of Montauk 29 Nov (Brian Kane, HM), and singles flew by the Avalon Seawatch on 11, 23, & 26 Nov (AW). A Black Guillemot, scarce of all Atlantic alcids in this Region, spent several hours at Manasquan Inlet, Ocean, NJ 24 Nov (BE).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The explosive range expansion of Eurasian Collared-Dove in North America appears to be skipping the Region: the only report, of a single, came from Sussex, DE (Shelley Lovelace). A White-winged Dove at Cape May 10-11 Nov (Len Kendall et al.) was also the only one reported. A report of White-throated Swift from the Mt. Peter Hawkwatch, Orange, NY 7 Nov has been submitted to the state records committee (Bill Elick, Judith Cinquina); we will report the outcome of their review in a later report. Pat Matheny and Katy Duffy banded 73 Northern Saw-whet

Owls at Cape May in Oct and Nov. A late night hawk found by Jim and Doyle Dowdell in Metuchen, Middlesex, NJ 1-3 Nov was not conclusively identified to species.

SA Perhaps also the vehicle for upstate New York's hybrid *Tyrannus* (see S.A. box above), a very strong low-pressure system that moved across the Midwest and East 8-9 Nov brought uncountable migrants to coastal regions of the Northeast and the mid-Atlantic states. This major coastal flight included high counts of mostly typical late-fall migrant passerines such as Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, and White-throated Sparrow. Sparrows were especially diverse in this flight, with 4 Clay-colored, 13 Vespers, and 7 Grasshoppers Sparrows, plus 3 Dickcissels recorded at Cape May 8 Nov (PEL, m. ob.).

But more spectacular still were the great numbers of American Robin, which were estimated at 500,000 birds at the Cape May (PEL) and 500,000 on sw. Long I. (Angus Wilson). At Cape May, the "wall of American Robins as seen from the Cape May hawkwatch extended from the lighthouse out over the ocean and from tree line to as high as could be seen—a once-in-a-lifetime spectacle" (JG). About 75,000 robins were noted at Cape May on the next day, 9 Nov (PEL), and several ended up in the United Kingdom afterward, e.g., in Wales 10 Nov (*Birding World* 16: 462-463). Just before this front—and probably moved into the Region by the southwesterlies that preceded it—single Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a Red-eyed Vireo, and a Scarlet Tanager appeared at Cape May 7 Nov (*vide* PEL). Other late birds located 8 Nov included a single Cliff Swallow (m. ob.) and Chestnut-sided Warbler (George Myers); these birds could easily also have arrived on the southwesterlies.

Two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds remained in Cape May through late Nov (PEL et al.). Historically, most Rufous Hummingbirds in the Region have been reported at feeders in late Oct and Nov; part of a more recent late-summer trend was the ad. Rufous Hummingbird at a feeder near Washingtonville, Orange, NY 1 Aug (Rick Horn). Six *Selasphorus* hummingbirds were found in the Region in Nov, among them New Jersey's 2nd Allen's Hummingbird at Cape May 14 Nov+ (Evelyn Lovitz, RC, MOB, PEL et al., banded by Mary Gustafson). Confirmed Rufous Hummingbirds were at Orient, Suffolk, NY 6 Nov (Ruth Oliva), at Villas, Cape May, NJ 10-22 Nov (J. Dowdell, m. ob.), at Wilmington, New Castle, DE through 23 Nov or so (Jeff Gordon), and at East Hampton, Suffolk, NY 23 Nov (*vide* SS). An unidentified *Selasphorus* was near Delaware City, New Castle 8 Nov (J. Janowski).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Delaware's first record of Say's Phoebe was found at Bombay Hook 1 Nov (C. Turner, MB, AG), and another was nicely pho-



Delaware's first record of Say's Phoebe was found at Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge on 1 November 2003. The month of November appears to be the peak period for many migrant flycatchers in the East. Photograph by Ed Sigda.

tographed at Brigantine 1 Oct (ph. P. Sanders, P. Simpson). The only Regional report of Ash-throated Flycatcher came from Cape May 10 Nov (JB, Hank Burk). There were at least 11 Western Kingbird sightings in the Region, all coming from New York and New Jersey, with most reports after mid-Oct.

Northern Shrikes arrived unusually early, with the first report from Iroquois N.W.R. 18 Oct (MM). While not as dramatic a number as last year's 50 Cave Swallows, at least 21 were seen in the Region. Most reports came from the hawkwatch platform at Cape May, including the state's first Oct record on 29 Oct (MO'B); other reports were of one at Jones Beach, Suffolk 9 Nov (Al Wollin, Matt Bayer), one at Culver's Lake, Sussex, NJ 10 Nov (Tommy Sudol), and 5 at Hamlin Beach 24 Nov (DT, BS). Three Brown-headed Nuthatches were seen at the n. limit of range at Big Stone Beach, Kent, DE 11 Oct (AE). The Region's only Varied Thrush was a one-day wonder in Central Park, New York City 24 Nov (B. McPhillips, J. Kamlet).

Early warbler migration was uneventful through the Region, which undoubtedly means it was good for the birds, though especially low counts on the coast of Tennessee Warbler and Bay-breasted Warbler continue long-term negative trends for both species, and Blackburnian Warbler was also noted as being very scarce coastally, as at Cape May. Early-season highlights included a Golden-winged Warbler 11 Sep at Hockessin, New Castle, DE (ML), single Black-throated Gray Warblers at Cape May 6 (MO'B et al.) & 16 Sep (Leslie Coley), and 4 Connecticut Warblers banded at Braddock Bay Bird Observatory between 27 Aug and 5 Oct (R. McKinney), part of a very good flight of the species in the Region as a whole. Later in the season, large flights of Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen coastally, with high counts of 59,000 on 3 Oct and 70,000

on 19 Oct at Cape May (MO'B et al.). Orange-crowned Warbler was also noted in higher-than-average numbers on the coast of New Jersey.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Le Conte's Sparrows made appearances at Sandy Hook, Middlesex, NJ 28 Oct (Stuart Malmid et al.) and at Cape May 15-17 Nov (Joe Palombo, m. ob.) but not in Delaware, where annual in recent years. The Region's dozen Lark Sparrows included totals of 5 at Cape May and 2 at Sandy Hook, plus New Jersey singles at Island Beach S.P. 20 Sep (fide LL) and Lincoln Park 14 Oct; others in the Region were singles 15 Sep at Jones Beach, NY (JG), 27 Sep at Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, Kent, DE (Kurt Schwarz, AG), and 8 Oct at Indian R., Kent, DE (Marshall J. Iliff). Typically rare before mid-Oct, an early Fox Sparrow was at Lakeside Beach S.P., Orleans, NY 28 Sep (S. & T. O'Donnell). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Orient Pt., Suffolk, NY 21 Aug-23 Sep (A. Bisk), with others at Pt. Au Fer, Clinton, NY 18 Sep (Gilles Perreault), Salem, NJ 19 Oct (AE), plus 2 at Port Penn, New Castle, DE 24 Nov (Don Gardner). A Brewer's Blackbird spent 15-16 Nov at Cape May (RC et al.).

Five Pine Grosbeaks were observed at Nun-da-ga-o Ridge, Herkimer, NY 31 Oct (John & Patricia Thaxton), harbingers of a decent winter finch year, at least upstate, though both crossbills were notable for their near-absences. While Purple Finch reports from breeding areas in the Adirondacks were few and far between, their numbers were notable as migrants in Oct and Nov. Especially impressive were the 775 Purple Finches counted over Cape May Pt. 15 Nov (MO'B). Pine Siskins were numerous in the Adirondacks near Keene Valley, Essex, NY in late Aug, with several hundred banded at Wesley Lanyon's station through the month. Coastal areas also had good Nov flights of siskins. The first Common Redpoll report was from Cape May 16 Nov (MO'B), and the first sizeable flock was 75 at Lakeside Beach S.P., Orleans, NY 22 Nov (KF). Evening Grosbeak numbers continue to plummet, with few reports of flocks numbering greater than 5. As recently as four years ago, flocks of 40-60 birds were widely reported.

Undocumented reports: We received reports with-

out details on several other species of potentially great interest in the Region this season. These will be published in Addenda in future columns, should documentation be forthcoming.

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Delaware's first documented record of Lark Sparrow was established on 27 September 2003 at Woodland Beach Wildlife Management Area. The species is annual in small numbers on the coasts of neighboring states, so this bird's confirmation in Delaware was expected. Photograph by Anthony Gonzon.

SPECIAL INTERREGIONAL REPORT

Hurricane *Isabel* of 2003

Ricky Davis

Todd M. Day

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Introduction

Hurricane *Isabel*—from an ornithological perspective perhaps the most closely studied tropical cyclone ever—originated from a tropical wave that moved westward from the coast of Africa on 1 September 2003. Over the next several days, the wave moved westward and became better organized. By the morning of 6 September, a tropical depression was formed, which became Tropical Storm *Isabel* later the same day. The storm turned west-northwestward on 7 September and intensified into a hurricane. Strengthening continued for the next two days while *Isabel* moved mostly west-northwest to northwest. On 10 September, the storm moved westward and continued in this direction until 13 September, moving along the Azores–Bermuda High. On 11 September, *Isabel* strengthened to a Category 5 hurricane, with maximum sustained winds estimated at 145 knots. After this peak, the

maximum winds remained in the 130–140-knot range until 15 September, a rare duration for such intensity. During this time, *Isabel* displayed a persistent “stadium” eye, some 35–45 nautical miles in diameter, of a size and symmetry more often associated with Pacific typhoons than with Atlantic hurricanes. On 13 September, *Isabel* approached a weakness in the western portion of the Azores–Bermuda High, which allowed the hurricane to turn to the west-northwest, then northwest on 15 September, and finally north-northwestward on 16 September. The latter motion would continue for the rest of *Isabel*’s life as a tropical cyclone, bringing the storm straight toward the southern North Carolina coast.

On 15 September, *Isabel* began to weaken, mostly owing to an increase in vertical wind shear, and the storm lost its “major hurricane” status (Category 3 and above) the following day. As the overall size of the hurri-



Figure 1. Hurricane *Isabel* makes landfall in North Carolina on the afternoon of 18 September 2003. Satellite image courtesy of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association.

cane increased, it maintained a Category 2 status (85–90-knot maximum winds) for the next two days. With its eye gradually filling, *Isabel* made landfall near Drum Inlet, North Carolina around 1:00 p.m. 18 September as a Category 2 hurricane (Figure 1), then weakened slowly as it moved across eastern North Carolina. It weakened to a tropical storm over central Virginia and lost tropical characteristics as it moved across western Pennsylvania on 19 September. *Isabel* brought tropical-storm conditions to a large area from central North Carolina northward to the eastern Great Lakes and western New England. Extratropical *Isabel* moved northward into Canada and was absorbed into a larger baroclinic system moving eastward across south-central Canada early on 20 September.

The many bird sightings listed in this Special Report must surely relate to the size and strength of *Isabel*, which was only the fifth hurricane in recorded history to sustain Category 5 intensity for 30 hours. Both the Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunters and the NOAA Hurricane Hunters flew missions into the storm and measured the *strongest wind ever observed* in an Atlantic hurricane: 203 knots (or 234 m.p.h.) at 4500 feet on the afternoon of 13 September. The lowest pressure observed by reconnaissance aircraft was 920 mb 12 September.

More than for any hurricane in the past, birders in the storm's path were prepared, both for the damage to property and infrastructure (the storm track was very well predicted almost a week in advance) and for the inevitable fallout of seabirds and shorebirds that occurs with landfalling Atlantic tropical cyclones. Those birders who were able to venture out safely—and many in North Carolina and Virginia had no such opportunity—discovered thousands of displaced birds, including pelagic seabirds. Many of these were commendably well documented with photographs, field sketches, and notes, and a few specimens were obtained as well. Notably, storm-petrels were studied in the interior, from North Carolina to Ontario, and for the first time in many areas, at least some storm-petrels were convincingly identified to species, with the rarest of the brown species inland—Wilson's Storm-Petrel—identified in interior North Carolina, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, and Ontario. One probable Wilson's Storm-Petrel was even noted 20 September on Lake Champlain at Charlotte, Vermont, a potential state first to add to the many listed in the reports below. The proliferation of storm-petrel records was perhaps the most unexpected aspect of *Isabel*, inasmuch as past September storms have produced few storm-petrel records from the continent's interior, and August hurricanes have entrained mostly Leach's Storm-Petrels.

Hurricanes create a special burden for those birders who document their records carefully: it is difficult to photograph and sketch birds and take extensive notes under windy, rainy conditions, and for birders far inland, nearly every seabird sighted requires some sort of documentation in order to be approved and archived. The burden is magnified for regional editors, who must not only compile but also vet these many hundreds of sightings rather quickly—a mountain of material that might not cross a regional editor's desk in 20 years otherwise. The summaries below have been assembled with as much accuracy as possible over the late-fall and winter months, but many reports remain to be reviewed in detail. *All reports digested below may be assumed tentative until approved by respective state and provincial bird records committees.* For observer attributions, refer to the respective regional report. Wind, storm-surge, rainfall, and other measurements below are given in English rather than metric units, as used by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (U.S.A.).

—Ed.

Southern Atlantic Region

Ricky Davis

NORTH CAROLINA

Isabel brought hurricane conditions to portions of e. North Carolina and tropical-storm conditions to much of the state. The highest

observed wind on land was sustained at 69 knots, with a gust to 85 knots at near Cape Hatteras on 18 Sep. Elizabeth City reported 64-knot sustained winds, with a gust to 84 knots that day; gusts of 91 knots at Ocracoke and 88 knots at New Bern were also reported. (The wind record from the most seriously affected areas is incomplete, as several observing stations were destroyed or lost power as *Isabel* passed.) The lowest pressures observed on land were 957 mb at Arrowhead Beach and 958 mb in Hobucken. In the North Carolina estuaries, storm-surge values were generally 4–6 feet above normal tide levels over the e. portions of the Pamlico Sound and most of the Albemarle Sound. Values of 6–10 feet above normal tide levels were observed in the w. end of the Pamlico Sound, with a maximum value of 10.5 feet reported on the Neuse R. in Craven County. Rainfall from Hurricane *Isabel* averaged 4–7 inches over large portions of e. North Carolina.

Extensive damage to property limited birders' ability to search for storm-driven seabirds, particularly on the n. Outer Banks, where the storm's fury cut a new temporary inlet between Hatteras and Frisco. Birds noted in North Carolina included six species of tern, two species of storm-petrel, an unidentified shearwater (probably Manx or Audubon's), and 2 White-tailed Tropicbirds (Table 1). Never before have multiple tropicbirds been discovered inland in the Carolinas. South Carolina, to the s. of the storm's landfall point, reported no unusual species associated with the storm. In addition to these sightings, a Cory's Shearwater was found injured at Ocracoke 20 Sep (E. Hanrahan)—noteworthy perhaps for being the only such casualty recorded.



This adult White-tailed Tropicbird, found by George Armistead at the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Virginia after *Isabel* 19 September 2003, successfully resisted efforts of local Great Black-backed Gulls to dispatch it. This bird was one of four tropicbirds seen following the storm but only the second documented conclusively in Virginia; it furnished species #341 for the bridge-tunnel. Photograph by Edward S. Brinkley.

Table 1. Terns and seabirds associated with the landfall of *Isabel* in North Carolina.

Species	No.	Location	Date	Observer
<i>Puffinus</i> shearwater	1	L. Gaston	19 Sep	EE
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	9	L. Gaston-Roanoke Rapids L.	19 Sep	EE, FE
	1	Goldsboro W.T.P.	19 Sep	ED
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	15	Satterwhite Pt., Kerr L.	19 Sep	RT, PT
White-tailed Tropicbird	1	Roanoke Rapids L.	19 Sep	EE
	1*	s. of Smithfield, Johnston	20 Sep	vide CS
Caspian Tern	10	Roanoke Rapids L.	19 Sep	EE
	15	Jordan L.	20 Sep	JR et al.
Royal Tern	1	Goldsboro W.T.P.	18 Sep	ED
	6	Falls L.	19 Sep	DK
	70	Roanoke Rapids L.	19 Sep	EE
	20	L. Gaston	19 Sep	EE
Sandwich Tern	10	Roanoke Rapids L.	19 Sep	EE
	1	Falls L.	19 Sep	WC
	1	Goldsboro W.T.P.	19 Sep	ED
Common Tern	3	Roanoke Rapids L.	19 Sep	EE
	2	Kerr L.	19 Sep	RT, PT
	12	Jordan L.	20 Sep	JR et al.
Arctic Tern	1	Roanoke Rapids L.	19 Sep	EE
Forster's Tern	30	Goldsboro W.T.P.	18 Sep	ED
	20	Roanoke Rapids L.	19 Sep	EE
	3	Jordan L.	20 Sep	JR et al.
Black Skimmer	1	Roanoke Rapids L.	19 Sep	EE

* = specimen recovered

S = distinct from another of the species seen on the Virginia portion of this lake

Middle Atlantic Region

Todd M. Day and Marshall J. Iliff

The passage of Hurricane *Isabel* through the Coastal Plain, Piedmont, and nw. mountains of the Region 19 Sep brought sustained winds of 60 knots and gusts to at least 93 knots (Gwynns L., VA) into the s. Chesapeake Bay area, where severe flooding was widespread in coastal areas and along rivers. Storm surges of 3–5 feet above normal tide levels were observed over the central portions of the Chesapeake Bay and 5–6 feet over the s. portion of the Bay. The storm here could be compared only to the "Chesapeake-Potomac Hurricane" of 21–24 Aug 1933, which tracked through the w. Bay 23 Aug and caused flooding some 9.8 feet above mean high water in Norfolk (about 7.9 feet during *Isabel* in Norfolk, just under the Mar 1962 "Ash Wednesday" storm levels). With *Isabel*, surge values of 6–8 feet above normal levels were observed in the

upper reaches of the Bay near Annapolis and Baltimore, Maryland and in most of the main rivers draining into the Chesapeake Bay. Even higher surges occurred at the heads of the rivers, with values of 8.5 feet above normal levels at the Richmond City locks along the James R. in Virginia and nearly 8 feet along the Potomac R. in the District of Columbia. Water levels exceeded previous record levels established in the 1933 hurricane in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, and Annapolis. Farther n. along the Eastern Shore of both states, surge values ranged from 4 to 6 feet. The rising waters prevented many observers from gaining access to observation points in coastal areas.

Though the top winds measured in the Region were still under those of the 1933 storm (76 knots) and of *Hazel* of 1954 (68 knots, gusts to 113), the wind field of *Isabel* was greater than that of the 1933 storm, and its track farther to the west—entering Virginia at Emporia, exiting in w. Maryland—meant that the damage to trees and structures was tremendous, the costliest storm in Virginia's history by far. Many veteran hurricane-birders contended with downed trees, power outages, and damaged homes and were unable to leave blocked neighborhoods

for several days, especially in the e. Tidewater of Virginia.

Birds associated with this storm were in keeping with those of hurricanes past, particularly *Fran* and *Bertha* of 1996, whose tracks were w. and e. of *Isabel's*, respectively, but there were some distinctions in species entrained, probably owing to the later date, daytime landfall, and different history of *Isabel*. Most notable among the distinctions were the comparative lack of Sooty Terns in *Isabel*, though they have been widespread in storms with similar tracks, such as *Fran* of 1996 and *David* of 1979. Bridled Tern, by contrast, was recorded in record-breaking numbers. *Isabel* was also above average for Roseate Tern and Black Skimmer. Black-capped Petrel was present in small numbers at the C.B.B.T. but nowhere in the interior (unlike in *Fran*), whereas storm-petrels were extremely numerous in *Isabel* but almost absent in *Fran*. Reasons for such distinctions between storms are not obvious.

VIRGINIA

Rainfall from Hurricane *Isabel* averaged 4–7 inches over large portions of e. and cen. Virginia and Maryland. Rainfall totals of 8–12 inches with locally higher amounts occurred in the n. Shenandoah Valley. Upper Sherando, Virginia reported a total of 20.2 inches. Lesser amounts in the 2- to 4-inch range occurred elsewhere over e. Virginia and on the Delmarva Peninsula, where the impact of the storm was much less than on the mainland, except for low-lying Bay islands (such as Tangier and Smith) and marsh-side communities, such as Oyster, Northampton.

Isabel's wide wind-field, much greater than those of the more compact hurricanes of 1996–1999, probably explains the presence of several tropicbirds in the storm, a genus not seen in the numerous hurricanes of 1996–1999. A White-tailed Tropicbird was present in the morning and afternoon at C.B.B.T.'s Chesapeake Channel 19 Sep (acc. GLA; ph. BLS; ph. ESB, vt. RLAn, GP, BP, TMD, IAT, IR, RKA, RKO, JBr), and Allen Bryan watched an ad. tropicbird, apparently this species, flying southeastward across I-95 in Richmond at 8:30 a.m. the same day. A possible tropicbird was reported in *Frederick*, VA 19 Sep (RGSAS). Virginia has only one other substantiated record of this species, a wrecked ad. (*) at Staunton during Hurricane *Hazel* 15 Oct 1954, and there are two other records from the state's offshore waters. Other birds from the C.B.B.T. 19–20 Sep are noted in Table 2 (BLS, GLA, GP, BP, ESB, RLAn, DLH, GW, IR, RKA, RKO, JBr, RR, HFD, Darryl & Charlie Smith et al.). Most noteworthy were the large numbers of storm-petrels on both 19 and 20 Sep, which appeared to be quite exhausted, and the very

Table 2. Birds recorded from Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel after Hurricane Isabel.

Species	19 Sep	20 Sep
White-tailed Tropicbird	1	0
Black-capped Petrel	5	4
Cory's Shearwater	12	2
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	56+	20+
Leach's Storm-Petrel	15+	20+
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	17+	7+
Leach's/Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	38+	25+
Parasitic Jaeger	3	0
Pomarine Jaeger	2	0
unidentified Jaeger	1	1
Bridled Tern	130	9
Sooty Tern	1	0
Sooty/Bridled Tern	3	0
Black Tern	3	1
Caspian Tern	75	12
Royal Tern	180	35
Sandwich Tern	150	20
Forster's Tern	250	100
Common Tern	400	40
Black Skimmer	6	22
unidentified phalarope	4	0

large numbers of Bridled Terns 19 Sep, many of which were seen riding abundant storm-flostrams along Bay tidelines in the Chesapeake Channel.

Brian Patteson located a grounded light-morph Herald (Trinidad) Petrel on the bridge at John H. Kerr Res. and Dam, Mecklenburg 19 Sep (acc.; ph. BP), which he brought back to the C.B.B.T. to release later that day (m. ob.); the reservoir has one other record of the species, also a light morph (6 Sep 1996, Fran), and 3 others were recorded during *Bertha* of 1996 and *Bonnie* of 1998 between Virginia and North Carolina. Unlike after *Fran*, no other gadfly petrels were found on the lake following *Isabel's* passage, possibly because the storm center passed to the e. of Kerr dam.

Other species associated with the hurricane were in keeping with recent storms, with the startling exception of the scads of storm-petrels detected inland, very much in contrast to *Bertha* and *Fran* of 1996. One of the first birds of the storm in fact was a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel seen overhead at Sunset Beach, Northampton 18 Sep (GLA), the harbinger of more to come in this area

(Table 2). Inland, a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was carefully identified by experienced observers at Kerr Res. 19 Sep (BP, Russ & Patricia Tyndall, CMS), the first for the state's Piedmont, with another at L. Anna the same day (GW). A Band-rumped Storm-Petrel and 2 Wilson's Storm-Petrels were near Hunting Cr., *Fairfax* 19 Sep (Robert Hilton, Lisa Shannon et al.), and 2 more Wilson's Storm-Petrels were at Swift Creek Res. that day (Paul Bedell), the latter the first from Virginia's Piedmont. Single Leach's Storm-Petrels, likewise the first for the Piedmont, were at Airlie Res., *Fauquier* 19 Sep (Mike Day, TMD, ICT, SH, DMD, GJ) and L. Anna (GW), and another likely Leach's was between Front Royal and Luray in the mis. (R&AS). Unidentified storm-petrels thought not to be Leach's were at Swift Creek Res. (3; HFD) and L. Frederick, *Frederick* (one; William Leigh). An unidentified *Oceanodroma* was at Belvoir Road Pond, *Fauquier* 19 Sep (Bob Abrams, Joan Boudreau). Observers at C.B.B.T. commented extensively on the difficulty of separating Leach's and Band-rumped when in states of extreme feather wear and exhaustion, when both distinctive flight characters and differences in plumage were obscured or erased.

Terns rarely linger after a storm's passage, and widely separated groups of observers (Boatwright; Rottenborn; Bryan; Elisa Enders) all described birds as flying strongly to the southeast early in the morning of 19 Sep. Only a handful of Bridled Terns remained around the Bay mouth 20 Sep, with 2 on 21 Sep (WTP); other exceptions were a Royal Tern at Beaverdam Res., *Loudoun* and a Black Skimmer at Harrison Road pond, *Fauquier* 20–21 Sep (both KG, m. ob.).

Other interior larids 19 Sep not digested in Table 3 included a Great Black-backed Gull at Shenandoah River S.P. (*Idle R&AS*), 10 Laughing Gulls in a pond n. of Weyer's Cave, *Augusta* (Harry & Beth Lumadue), 43 along the Dry R., *Rockingham* (Mike Shank), 11 at Airlie Res., where one Black, 10 Common, and 3 Sandwich Terns were also found (TMD, SH, GJ, ICT, DMD), 3 Forster's Terns at Claytor L., *Pulaski* (Brian Kane), and a Black Skimmer with 33 Laughing Gulls n. of Mt. Crawford, *Rockingham* (Polly & Fred Scott, Tom & Nita Lord, John M. Irvine, WTP). Another Black Skimmer was at L. Althone, *Fauquier* 19 Sep (ph. TMD, SH, GJ, DMD, ICT). Nine Laughing Gulls appeared after a frontal passage 27 Sep at South Holston L., *Washington*, almost certainly wandering waifs from the storm (J. W. Coffey, Rack Cross). A Bridled Tern at Eclipse on the Nansemond R. in Suffolk 18 Sep may have been the same bird as found possum-killed 20 Sep (*; acc. Les Willis, BP); 2 dark-

backed *Sterna* were seen dead at C.B.B.T. but were unrecoverable (RLAK, ESB). Other instances of mortality were not recorded, other than several dozen Clapper Rails on s. *Northampton* beaches on the Bayside 20–25 Sep (m. ob.).

In addition to the species noted in Table 3, there were four reports of single Roseate Terns: one at Cape Charles Harbor in a large storm-roost 18 Sep (ph. ESB), one at L. Orange, *Orange* 19 Sep with 3 Forster's Terns (George & Rosemarie Harris), one at the *Augusta* S.T.P 20 Sep with 2 Forster's Terns (Allen Larner), and one in *Amherst* 19 Sep (Mike Boatwright), the latter among 130+ other larids, mostly unidentified. Away from the Atlantic coastline, this species is a true rarity, and it is hoped that documentation on this and other "review species" will be received by the Virginia committee.

Shorebirds are frequently grounded or entrained by hurricanes. During storm passage 18 Sep, Armistead et al. observed 24 American Oystercatchers, 10 Sanderlings, 38 Willets, 38 Pectoral, 3 Least, 24 Western, one Spotted, and 16 White-rumped Sandpipers, plus 65 unidentified sandpipers, 18 Lesser Yellowlegs, 11 Marbled and 3 Hudsonian Godwits, one Piping, 200 Black-bellied, and 19 Semipalmated Plovers, 3 American Golden-Plovers, one Whimbrel, and 3 Wilson's Snipe at Sunset Beach, mostly birds flying north on hurricane-force se. winds. Hundreds of shorebirds flying s. into the wind at C.B.B.T. 19 Sep included ca. 40 Semipalmated Plovers, 400 Lesser Yellowlegs, 30 White-rumped Sandpipers, 1200+ "peep" (Semipalmated, Western, and Least Sandpipers), and 270 Pectoral Sandpipers, as well as a few Willets, American Oystercatchers, Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones, and a Whimbrel 20 Sep. First-rate finds were a Willet (JBB, SCR, GW, Chuck van Scoyoc) and a Red-necked Phalarope (SCR) at L. Anna 19 Sep, with 2 Red-neckeds at Airlie Res. (TMD, SH, GJ, ICT, DMD) and another phalarope at L. Frederick the same day (R&AS). Also noted were 150 Pectoral, 40 Least, and 40 Semipalmated Sandpipers in nw. Virginia 19 Sep (R&AS) and single Marbled Godwits at C.B.B.T. and L. Manassas 19 Sep (ph. TMD, DMD, GJ, SH, ICT).

While many birds hunker down during storm passage, others clearly fly with or around in the storm. Observers on the Eastern Shore who watched from safe havens saw dozens of Tricolored Herons (33 at Sunset Beach alone), smaller numbers of Glossy and White Ibis, Great and Cattle Egrets, Tree and Barn Swallows, Merlins, Ospreys, American Kestrels, Chimney Swifts, Belted Kingfishers, and American Black Ducks moving in or with the heaviest afternoon winds of 18 Sep.

Table 3. Larids noted during and after Hurricane Isabel in Virginia.

Location code	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
SPECIES										
Parasitic Jaeger	2 juv.†	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herring Gull	4	0	0	0	✓	300	0	0	0	0
Great Black-backed Gull	4	0	0	0	35	45	0	0	0	0
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laughing Gull	310	40	0	131	250	5000	14	"lots"	50	25
Ring-billed Gull	13	1	0	1	✓	14	0	0	0	0
Sabine's Gull	1 juv.†	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caspian Tern	5	2	2	0	2	51	0	2	1	2
Royal Tern	52	3	2	0	12	90	0	0	2	10
Forster's Tern	23	100	20	0	46	290	0	0	0	30
Common Tern	275	20	5	0	132	55	0	45	2	50
Arctic Tern	1†	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandwich Tern	2	1	0	0	15	6	0	2	0	1
Least Tern	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
white tern sp.	0	0	75	0	✓	0	0	0	0	10
Sooty Tern	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Bridled Tern	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
Black Tern	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Black Skimmer	4†	0	0	1	23	32	1	2	2	1
dark tern sp.	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0

LOCATION KEY:

- A = A. Anna, Spetzkykano & Louisa (FSCR; GW, JB, Chuck van Sooy; Allen Bryan; Brenda Tokin)
 B = L. Frederick, Fredericks (BRAS)
 C = Smith Creek Res., Chesterfield (HFD; Paul Beeth)
 D = From Royal to the e. edge of Luray, Warren (BRAS)
 E = Sunset Beach, Northampton (18 Sep; G.A., B.S., RGA)
 F = Cape Charles, Cheriton, and Oyster, all Northampton (18 Sep; ESR, SWH)
 G = Stuart's Draft S.T.P., Augusto (John Spahr)
 H = L. Manassas, Prince William (TMD, ICT, SH, GJ, DMD)
 I = Mill Creek L., Amherst (Mike Boatwright; Myrna Patterson)
 J = John H. Kerr Res. and Dam, Henric/Berkeley (BP, Russ & Patricia Tyndall)

† = photographs by SCR acc. by the Virginia Avian Records Committee in Category 1 ✓ = present in numbers but numbers not counted

MARYLAND & DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Winds associated with *Isabel* in Maryland and D.C. were less intense than those measured in Virginia. At Thomas Pt., sustained winds of 42 knots, with a gust to 58 knots, were measured on the morning of 19 Sep, while Reagan National Airport reported 39-knot sustained winds with a gust to 50 knots the same day. Rainfall amounts ranged from scarcely an inch at Ocean City to 10 inches in w. Maryland.

In contrast to Virginia, Maryland observers struggled to find the right locations for connecting with hurricane birds. The state has fewer reservoirs and no viewing points that compare to the C.B.B.T. Additionally, flood tides prevented access to some of the more prominent Bay peninsulas including (but not limited to) Tilghman I., Hooper I., and Point Lookout S.P. Because the storm passed to the n. of the

state during the night, prevailing winds at dawn were westerly and presumably pinned birds against Maryland's Eastern Shore. Thus, Western Shore Bay-watches did not yield as many storm-related bird sightings as the same efforts had during *Fran* of 1996, and the few accessible locales visited on the Eastern Shore were far more productive. Tern counts suggested that in fact most storm-blown birds were moving down the e. half of the Bay (as in *Bertha* of 1996). No tubenoses or rare pelecyaniforms were noted in Maryland during the storm. Some Black Terns were seen in the storm (not mentioned below), and a high, late count of 8 in *Kent* 21 Sep (WGE, NLM et al.) could have been related to *Isabel*.

Western Shore • A Bay-watch from North Beach and Chesapeake Beach, Calvert 19 Sep

produced a flyby Arctic Tern (MH) and a cooperative, perched Roseate Tern (MH, JLS, MLH), as well as a single Sandwich Tern. Sandy Point S.P. had a Black Skimmer 19 Sep (HLW, LMD).

Eastern Shore • A Bay-watch at the e. end of the Bay Bridge, *Queen Anne's* (DCz, MAT) produced a steady southbound stream of Royal and Common Terns that held Maryland's first Sooty Tern of *Isabel*, a south-bound ad. bird. Also there were an ad. Pomarine Jaeger (county first, as was Sooty Tern) and a Red-necked Phalarope. The only other Sooty Tern in the storm was a south-bound juv. (†WGE) at Tolchester Beach, for *Kent's* first, that same afternoon. Two Black Skimmers (ad., juv) were at Eastern Neck N.W.R. the following day; another county first (†WGE, NLM). Vying with the Arctic and Roseate Terns above for the rarest bird of the storm in Maryland, a juv. light Long-tailed Jaeger seen well at Blackwalnut Pt., *Talbot* (†GLA) during the afternoon represents only the 4th well-documented state record, although there have been about 10 total reports, including one previous record away from the Atlantic, an ad. in Frederick following *Fran*. A single Sandwich Tern at Rigby's Folly was new (#263) for H.T. Armistead's champion yard list.

Inland • In addition to the storm-petrels mentioned above, Abrams had a Black Skimmer near the Memorial Bridge, D.C., along with 3 Wilson's Storm-Petrels and one Band-rumped Storm-Petrel; the extent to which these may have overlapped with Hunting Cr., VA storm-petrels is unknown. In the upper Chesapeake Bay section, a Parasitic Jaeger was reported on the C&D Canal, *Cecil* 19 Sep (Gary Griffith), an unidentified jaeger was seen in the Northeast R., *Cecil* (Chris Starling), and a Parasitic was seen flying over Turkey Pt., *Cecil* 24 Sep (Chris Starling). On the Potomac R. in *Charles*, Jett and Brewer were rewarded at Aqualand Marina with first county records of Black Skimmer (2) and Sanderling (both ph. GMJ, GB). Another juv. Black Skimmer was found at a highway drainage pond near Hickory, *Harford* 20 Sep (G. Futral, MB, MH, v. o.). Black Hill Res., *Montgomery* produced just 2 Common Terns (DCz, MAT), and efforts in inland *Carroll* were unproductive (RFR). In w. Maryland, Kiddy, Churchill, and Cameron made a circuit of *Allegheny* on the morning of 19 Sep. They were probably closest to the storm's track and the location of the eye at dawn. At Rocky Gap in the morning, they found *Allegheny's* first Red Phalarope (ph. RK, JBC, CC), along with a Sanderling, 8 Forster's Terns, and a Black Tern. Later in the day, North Branch

(RK, JBC, CC) held a Forster's, a Black (ph. RK et al.), and 6 Common Terns (ph. RK et al.), a Stilt and 2 White-rumped Sandpipers, and a Laughing Gull (ph. RK et al.). Another 4 Laughing Gulls were at Terminus, Cumberland, *Allegheny* (ph. RK). These represent the first confirmed Laughing Gulls for the three w. Maryland counties.

Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley Region

Robert C. Leberman

PENNSYLVANIA

Hurricane *Isabel* goes down in Pennsylvania history as its most remarkable bird-hurricane to date: never before has the fallout of seabirds and coastal birds associated with such an event been so well tracked by birders in the state. Before, during, and after the storm, a virtual army of birders was afield and in nearly constant contact with one another by cell phone and via the Internet. The result was the documentation of storm-tossed species in numbers and variety without precedent in the Region. In addition to documented reports of Cory's Shearwater, three species of storm-petrel, American Oystercatchers, unprecedented numbers of phalaropes, jaegers, several Sabine's Gulls, Royal, Arctic, and Sooty Terns, and Black Skimmer, there were unconfirmed reports of Magnificent Frigatebird, Bridled Tern, and Brown Noddy. For an essentially landlocked state, the reports were simply overwhelming, although the weather presented few difficulties: rainfall was moderate, and the highest wind gust was clocked at 52 knots in Middletown 19 Sep.

Pelagic seabirds and coastal species

In this category are included only those seabirds and littoral species certain to have been entrained either at the coast or offshore. A Cory's Shearwater was observed at Bellefonte, *Centre* 19 Sep, and what was probably the same bird appeared the next day at nearby Bald Eagle S.P., where it subsequently was found grounded and taken to a rehabilitation center (*vide* GG, m. ob.). Another grounded Cory's Shearwater, found at McClure, *Mifflin* 21 Sep, survived rehabilitation and was later released (Tammy Evans, *vide* DH). There is only one previous record of Cory's Shearwater docu-



A Hurricane *Isabel* victim, this Black-capped Petrel was found near Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York on 24 September 2003. A passerby saw it fly out of a bush and into the path of a van along a busy street in downtown Syracuse. It was taken to a veterinarian but did not survive. The specimen is now at the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates. Photograph by Jean Soprano.

mented for the state. Storm-petrels, too, are almost unknown from Pennsylvania, but *Isabel* provided two sightings of Wilson's Storm-Petrels, the first for Pennsylvania in approximately 100 years: one was on the Susquehanna R. at Fort Hunter, *Lancaster* 19 Sep (E. Chubb), the other at Rose Valley L., *Lycoming* on the 19th (D. Ferry). A Leach's Storm-Petrel appeared at Yellow Creek S.P. on the 19th (RH, MH, PH, M. Fialkovich), and at least one was at Bald Eagle S.P. the same day (S. Braun, R. Boyle, GG). Even more exceptional, at least one Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was at Bellefonte, PA on the 19th (ML, P. Miller); what perhaps was the same bird was found at nearby Bald Eagle S.P. that evening (GG, DG) and again the next day (J. Horn, m. ob.). An unidentified storm-petrel was seen at Ft. Hunter, *Dauphin* 20 Sep (D. Hoffman).

There were 4 Sooty Terns reported 19 Sep: 2 at the Conejohela Flats, *Lancaster* (EW, JHo, RW), one on the Delaware R. at Philadelphia near the airport (A. Guarente), and one at Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks* (BE). A Royal Tern on the Susquehanna R. upstream from Conejohela Flats was new for *Lancaster* 20 Sep (Dfa, JHe, ph.). A Least Tern at Marysville, *Dauphin*, PA 19 Sep (D. Colyer) was surely related to the storm and probably entrained from the coast. Single Black Skimmers at Long Arm Res., *York* 20 Sep (B. Pugliese) and Shawnee L., *Bedford* the same day (E. Richards) were hurricane waifs. More exotic still were single American Oystercatchers at Nockamixon S.P. 19 Sep (BE, E. Harding, D. Birchler) and in the Pennsylvania

mts. at Dunning's Creek Wetlands, *Bedford* 19 Sep (TD). Laughing Gulls were almost too numerous to mention, but noteworthy were birds seen well inland in *Bedford* (3 birds), *Centre* (6), *Somerset* (3), *Warren/McKean* (4),



The most widespread and numerous of the seabirds displaced by hurricanes are usually the terns. This Arctic Tern at Lake Nockamixon, Bucks County, Pennsylvania 23 September 2003 was one of few ever so documented in the state. Its connection to the hurricane's passage is virtually certain, although several other records of the species in Pennsylvania show no such connection, including several in fall 2003. Photograph by Alan Brody.



Perhaps the least expected (or most unprecedented) aspect of Hurricane *Isabel* from an ornithological perspective was the large number of Wilson's Storm-Petrels documented from interior sites. This bird at Lhaca, New York 21 September 2003 (main image) was one of at least 38 reported from interior sites: 10 in North Carolina, four in Virginia (plus 60+ on the Bay), three in Washington, D. C., two in Pennsylvania, 13 in upstate New York, one in Vermont, and five or more in Ontario. This is twice the total of all interior records known from 1842 through 2002. The inset photograph—of a Wilson's Storm-Petrel being devoured by a Ring-billed Gull—was taken at Fairhaven State Park, Cayuga County, New York 21 September. Wilson was also seen being attacked by Bonaparte's Gulls in upstate New York and Mergansers over the Chesapeake Bay. Photographs by Kevin McGowan and Jay McGowan (main) and Gerard Phillips (inset).

plus singles in *Montour* and *Clarion/Venango*.

Potential or probable grounded overland migrants

Associated with the turbulent low pressure, winds, and rain of *Isabel* were many shorebirds, gulls, and terns, many of which could well have been entrained hundreds, even thousands of miles away but which also could simply have been storm-grounded while in overland migration. A flock of 23 Black-bellied Plovers at Bellefonte, *Centre* 19 Sep (ML) was unusual there. Five Long-billed Dowitchers inland in the Pennsylvania mts. at Yellow Creek S.P. 19 Sep (MH) were clearly hurricane-related, and *Isabel* dropped off unprecedented numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes in Pennsylvania that day: at Bald Eagle S.P., one flock contained 38 birds (ML), a flock of at least 21 was spotted at Pymatuning Res. in *Crawford* (JM), and smaller numbers were reported from *Lancaster*, *Somerset*, and *Clarion/Venango*. Also unprecedented in Pennsylvania, 15 Red Phalaropes were seen along the Susquehanna R. at Marysville, *Daughin* 19 Sep (DH), and one was at Bald Eagle S.P. 20 Sep (W. Laubsher, D. Rocky, DFa).

There were four reports of Pomarine Jaeger 19 Sep: one along the Susquehanna R. at Marysville (D. Bogar), another a few km. s. at Conejohela Flats (JHe, RMI), an ad. at Muddy Run Fisherman's Park, *Lancaster* (B. & F. Haas), and farther w., in the mts., one at L. Somerset (R. Gallardy, m. ob.). A Long-tailed Jaeger was found well inland at Allegheny Res., *Warren* 19 Sep (JF), while single Sabine's Gulls were at Yellow Creek S.P. (VHD), *Conejohela Flats* (JHo),

Allegheny Res. (JF), all 19 Sep, and at Bald Eagle S.P. on the 20th (m. ob.). An Arctic Tern at Bald Eagle S.P. 19 Sep (ML, JHo, RW) could well have been brought in from pelagic waters, but there were other Arctic Tern records this fall in the Region not associated with the storm.

Hudson-Delaware Region

Steve Kelling

Throughout the Hudson-Delaware region, observers watched the progress of *Isabel* carefully as it made landfall to the south and proceeded northward into the Region by the afternoon of 19 Sep. On that day, observers were stationed along the state's Atlantic coast, on the Great Lakes' and Finger Lakes' shorelines, as well as at other inland reservoirs and lakes. Though the Region's 3 Black-capped Petrels in New York were almost expected—in light of the species' presence in the Great Lakes region

after *Hugo* of 1989 and especially *Fran* of 1996—quite unexpected were some 13 Wilson's Storm-Petrels at six different locations upstate, where there are only four prior records, dating from 1875, 1933, and 1938. Likewise, 4 or more Sooty Terns near Rochester were par for the course, but a reported Bridled Tern in that area would be much rarer: the species has no history in the state's interior after hurricanes, and indeed there are few reports for anywhere in the continent's deep interior.

DELAWARE

Delaware's geography, lacking in prominent capes with east-west orientation or other features such as large reservoirs that might corral hurricane-born sea-

birds, means that the state rarely records such waifs. There were no reports of birds indubitably tied to *Isabel*, and only a few probably connected to the storm's passage: an Audubon's Shearwater 20 Sep at Cape Henlopen S. P., Sussex (Eric Braun, FR, Anthony Gonzon), a Sandwich Tern at Indian R. Inlet, *Kent* 20 Sep (AE), and a Red Phalarope at New Castle Docks, *New Castle* the same day (AE). A Brown Pelican at New Castle Docks 19 Sep (Colin Campbell) was possibly also tied to the storm.

NEW JERSEY

As New Jersey saw only moderate tropical-storm-force easterly winds (to 35–40 knots) 18–19 Sep as a result of *Isabel's* passage to the south and west, seabird sightings were limited to 19 Sep on the s. coast, where the storm's only certain Manx Shearwater, Northern Gannet, and Black-legged Kittiwake were seen, along with high numbers of Sandwich and Roseate Terns (Table 4; compiled by Michael O'Brien, m. ob.). The flocks of shorebirds seen passing along the Delaware Bay from Cape May were equally impressive: counts of hundreds of peep, several hundred Pectoral Sandpipers, and even a Baird's Sandpiper were made. Storm surges in Delaware Bay were generally 3–4 feet at the mouth of the bay and 5–6.5 feet at the head of the bay and along the Delaware R. below Philadelphia.

NEW YORK

Although most of New York state experienced comparatively moderate weather during *Isabel's* decay into a tropical, then an extratropical depression 19 Sep, the number of birds recorded as a result of the storm—both pelagic species and overland migrants—was without precedent for some areas, particularly the Finger Lakes and the s. shores of L. Ontario from Oswego to Hamlin Beach (Table 5). Birds almost certain to have come from Atlantic coastal or pelagic zones into upstate included Black-capped Petrel, Wilson's Storm-Petrel, at least one possible Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Bridled and Sooty Terns, Black Skimmer, and (very probably) Laughing Gulls. One shearwater on the coast was the only one recorded (Table 5), along with a few Sandwich Terns. In addition, unusual records of

Table 4. Totals from seaway at Sunset Beach, Cape May, New Jersey 19 September.

Manx Shearwater	2
Audubon's Shearwater	1
Manx/Audubon's Shearwater	1
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	1
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	1
Band-rumped/Leach's Storm-Petrel	3
Northern Gannet	3
Red-necked Phalarope	2
Pomarine Jaeger	15
Parasitic Jaeger	9
Parasitic/Long-tailed Jaeger	1
Black-legged Kittiwake	1
Sandwich Tern	34
Roseate Tern	16
Arctic Tern	1
Black Tern	6
Bridled Tern	5
Sooty Tern	2

Table 5. Hurricane-associated birds from New York state 19–24 September.

SPECIES	No.	DATE	LOCATION	COUNTY	OBSERVERS
Black capped Petrel	2	21 Sep	Fairhaven S. P.	Cayuga	GP, BP, KM
Black capped Petrel	1	26 Sep	Syracuse	Onondaga	*Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Wilson's Storm Petrel	5	19 Sep	Chautauqua L.	Chautauqua	K. Vanstrom, WD; 2 there on the 20th
Wilson's Storm Petrel	2	20 Sep	s. Cayuga L.	Tompkins	W. Hutcheson, m. ob.
Wilson's Storm Petrel	3	20 Sep	Riis Park	Queens	P. Shen
Wilson's Storm Petrel	3	21 Sep	Fairhaven S. P.	Cayuga	GP, BP, KM
Wilson's Storm Petrel	1	19 Sep	Woodlawn Beach S. P.	Erie	K. Fox
Wilson's Storm Petrel	1	20 Sep	Woodlawn Beach S. P.	Erie	MM, WD
Wilson's Storm Petrel	1	20 Sep	Athol Springs	Erie	K. Fox
Wilson's Storm Petrel	1	21 Sep	L. Champlain	Essex	Ted Murin
storm-petrel (Band rumped?)	1	21 Sep	s. Cayuga L.	Tompkins	C. Marantz, T. Lenz, P. Hosner, m. ob.
unidentified shearwater	1	19 Sep	Riis Park	Queens	P. Shen
Laughing Gull	1	19 Sep	Hamlin Beach	Monroe	WS, m. ob.
Laughing Gull	1	20 Sep	Lansing, Myer's Pt.	Tompkins	J. Wells
Laughing Gull	1	21 Sep	Fairhaven S. P.	Cayuga	KM
Laughing Gull	1	21 Sep	Hamlin Beach	Monroe	WS, MT
Bridled Tern	1	19 Sep	Shinnecock Inlet	Suffolk	P. A. Buckley, T. Lauro
Bridled Tern	1	19 Sep	Hamlin Beach	Monroe	DT, J. Barry (imm.)
Bridled Tern	1	20 Sep	Hamlin Beach	Monroe	RS, DS (imm.)
Bridled Tern	1	23 Sep	Hamlin Beach	Monroe	WS, J. Bounds (imm.)
Sooty Tern	2	19 Sep	Shinnecock Inlet	Suffolk	P. A. Buckley, T. Lauro
Sooty Tern	1	19 Sep	Hamlin Beach	Monroe	DT, J. Barry et al. (juv.)
Sooty Tern	3	21 Sep	Pt. Breeze	Monroe	DT (all ads.)
Sooty Tern	1	23 Sep	Hamlin Beach	Monroe	RS, WS, J. Bounds (juv.)
Sooty/Bridled Tern	1	19 Sep	Riis Park	Queens	P. Shen, m. ob.
Black Skimmer	1	20 Sep	Oswego Harbor	Oswego	KM, GP, m. ob.

Table 6. Charadriiforms noted inland in New York during the passage of Isabel 19–20 September.

SPECIES	No.	DATE	LOCATION	COUNTY	OBSERVERS
Parasitic Jaeger	1	20 Sep	Cayuga L.	Tompkins	J. & K. Confer, C. Spagnoli
Pomarine Jaeger	1	19 Sep	Hamlin Beach	Monroe	DT, J. Barry, m. ob.
Common Tern	3	19 Sep	Cayuga L.	Tompkins	P. Hosner, T. Lenz, K. Rosenberg, m. ob.
Arctic Tern	1	19 Sep	Cayuga L.	Tompkins	P. Hosner, T. Lenz, K. Rosenberg, m. ob.
Arctic Tern	2	20 Sep	Hamlin Beach	Monroe	DT (ads.)
Red necked Phalarope	8	19 Sep	Cayuga L.	Tompkins	P. Hosner, T. Lenz, K. Rosenberg, m. ob.
Red necked Phalarope	1	19 Sep	Montezuma NWR	Cayuga	J. Fitzpatrick, SK, C. Marantz, m. ob.
Red necked Phalarope	1	20 Sep	Derby Hill	Oswego	Ride BP
Red necked Phalarope	4	21 Sep	Fairhaven S. P.	Cayuga	GP, BP, KM, m. ob.
Red necked Phalarope	2	19 Sep	Buffalo	Erie	MM
Red necked Phalarope	5	20 Sep	Batavia	Genesee	J. Skelly
Red necked Phalarope	1	20 Sep	Hamlin Beach	Monroe	DT
Red Phalarope	5	19 Sep	Cayuga L.	Tompkins	P. Hosner, T. Lenz, K. Rosenberg, m. ob.
Red Phalarope	2	20 Sep	Derby Hill	Cayuga	Ride BP

phalaropes, terns, jaegers, and allies were made in some upstate areas, birds that could have been entrained from coastal or pelagic areas but that also could have been grounded by the storm while on overland migration (Table 6). A Whimbrel and a Brown Pelican (see the main regional report) are less certainly included in the latter category.

Ontario Region

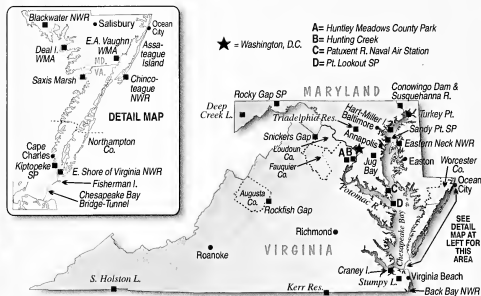
David H. Elder

Hurricane Isabel—only an extratropical depression by the time it reached Canada—nevertheless carried a number of interesting birds when it reached s. Ontario 19–20 Sep. The storm's gale-force winds were initially easterly on 19 Sep, but as the storm passed and winds shifted to the west-southwest later that evening and through the next few days, the e. end of L. Erie produced significant sightings of terns and tubenoses, though apparently far fewer of the latter than seen in Fran of 1996.

At Crystal Beach, Ridgeway, a probable Black-capped Petrel was seen 21 Sep, the first of the storm's birds, along with a possible Greater Shearwater (J. Lamey; no details received as yet). At Fort Erie the next morning, a distant bird could only be identified as a gadfly petrel (AW). Later in the day, several observers had good views of a Black-capped Petrel in the same area, likely the same bird (DB et al.). Another one or 2 Black-capped Petrels were observed 23 Sep at Waverly Beach (WD/A et al., m. ob.), and a dead one was found along the same beach the same day (Innis Milline, BH, EH). Individual Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen off Van Wagners Beach at Hamilton 19 Sep (BW) and 22 Sep (DRS, AW), with singles 27 Sep off the Tip of Long Pt. (L.B.O.) and at Crescent Beach (A. Adamo). A dead one was found along Van Wagners Beach 27 Sep (JO, JH, JHe, BS), and another dead bird was found on a residential driveway near John E. Pierce P.P. 23 Sep (B, M&GP). Unidentified single storm-petrels were seen 19 and 22 Sep at Port Bruce (DAM).

Almost certainly carried in by Isabel, an imm. Least Tern was found at Crystal Beach 22 Sep (BH, SH), and a Sooty Tern was watched off the Tip of P.E.N.P. the same day (DJM, RJC et al.)—a first record for the Pelee area if accepted by the O.R.B.C. A possible Sooty Tern was reported from Crystal Beach, Ridgeway 21 Sep (J. Lamey; no details as yet) as well. In addition to these terns, lakewatchers saw small numbers of Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, all likely local birds. ☺

Middle Atlantic



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In notable contrast to the dry months of 2002, the regular rains in 2003 made it the wettest year on record in eastern parts of the Region. August was warm, with temperatures and precipitation near or above average, providing favorable water levels and abundant flooded farm fields in most coastal areas during peak shorebird passage. Eurasian shorebirds put in brief appearances on Virginia's Eastern Shore: no Curlew Sandpiper, for the first time in many years, but Eurasian Whimbrel and Sharp-tailed Sandpiper were both detected. Early in the season, at least three White-faced Storm-Petrels were found off the Virginia coast, a species once thought to be quite rare here.

September saw the procession of numerous cool and cold fronts, with most note-

worthy pushes during and following regular fronts on 1, 5/6, 13/14, 16/17, 24, and 29/30 September. The passage of Hurricane Isabel through the Region on 19–20 September left in the storm's wake almost uncountable seabirds strewn throughout the Region (see the Special Report in this issue).

October and November were enlivened by the passage of more cold fronts, some of them, especially in November, bringing an extraordinary assortment of western taxa into the Region: Varied Thrush and Mountain Bluebird (in Virginia and Maryland, respectively, but both on Assateague Island) were new for the outer Coastal Plain, while Heermann's Gull, Cinnamon Teal, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Cave Swallow, Western Wood-Pewees, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Harris's Sparrows, and Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows all had at least some precedent where reported. We continue to hope that more of the rarer reports will be documented; unfortunately, some of the more interesting species reported this season lacked documentation.

Abbreviations: Assat. (Assateague I., Worcester, MD); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); Blandy (Blandy Experimental Farm, Clarke, VA); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, s. of Northampton, VA); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack VA); Chino (Chino Farms, Queen Anne's, MD); Craney (Craney I., Portsmouth, VA); D.C. (District of Columbia); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore

of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton, VA); Hart (Hart-Miller I., Baltimore, MD); Kipt. (Kiptopeke S.P., Northampton, VA); O.C. Inlet (Ocean City Inlet, Worcester, MD). The state for a location is noted the first time it is mentioned in the text.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A Red-throated Loon at Kerr Res., Mecklenburg, VA 27 Sep (AD) was early and unusual for the Piedmont. Returning for the 10th year at South Holston L., Washington, VA, Eared Grebes were first noted 27 Sep, with 3 birds among 2 early Horned Grebes, and peaked with 7 birds 2 Nov (JWC, RCR). In Maryland, one at Chertestown W.T.P. was Kent's 2nd 26 Sep–16 Nov (*WGE, m. ob.), and another was at Hurlock W.T.P., Dorchester, MD 13 Oct (RFR et al.).

Pelagic trips from Virginia Beach (BP et al.) noted one Audubon's and 15 Cory's Shearwaters, a White-faced and 455 Wilson's Storm-Petrels 16 Aug; a 7 Sep trip had 34 Cory's and 6 Audubon's Shearwaters, 2 White-faced and 600 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Bruce Mactavish, working on a research vessel in the Gulf Stream some 255 km off Virginia Beach, noted a Black-capped Petrel and 15 Cory's Shearwaters 19 Nov, a new late date for the former.

Great Cormorants were at Roaches Run, Arlington, VA 18–19 Nov (VK, FB) and Liberty L., Carroll, MD 19–25 Nov (p. a., BE, RFR). A Double-crested Cormorant was seen from a cruise ship 290 km e. of the Virginia Capes 18 Oct (GLA). American White Pelicans were reported in record numbers. The first was reported 13 Jul at Hog I., Surry, VA (J&HW), then seen sporadically through 23 Aug (LL et al.), and seen again 4 Oct (Ben Copeland). In Northampton, 2 pelicans passed Kipt. 10 Sep, with 5 there on 30 Oct, 18 at E.S.V.N.W.R. 31 Oct, and 2 on 23 Nov at Kipt. (fide BTa). At Waverly Rd., Talbot, MD, 5 were seen 9 Oct (p. a., Herndon Steilkie, fide LR), while 5 were at Poplar I., Talbot on 11–24 Oct (p. a.; fide LR). In Worcester, MD, where there are few American White Pelican records, 4 were seen 15 Nov at Taylor's Landing Rd. (p. a., HH, JBr), one was at George's I. Landing 16 Nov (p. a., ZB), 19 were at Newport Farms pond near Hays Landing 22 Nov (p. a., Mike Walsh), with 13 there 24 Nov (p. a., SHD), and 9 were at Sinepuxent Bay 29 Nov (p. a., J&JH). A county-wide Fall Count in Kent tallied a good number of Cattle Egrets, with 24 flying w. over the Bay and 74 seen at Reeses Corner Rd. (WGE et al.). The White-faced Bird continued at Chinc. through 7 Aug (p. a., WTP).

Three Ross's Geese were at Leonard's Pond, Rockingham, VA 26 Nov–1 Dec* (p. a., Ken Ranck, m. ob.). Other Ross's Geese were at more expected Eastern Shore locations, but 2–3 at Great Oak Pond 3 Oct–16 Nov

(†WGE, NLM et al.), along with an ad. hybrid Snow x Ross's 10 Oct (†WGE), demonstrated that this may be a regular Kent location for the species. A strong cold front 12 Nov brought a flock of 15 Greater White-fronted Geese, along with a flock of 23 white Chen, to Smith's Pond, Augusta, VA (AL); our assumption is that this was a displaced flock of gambelli, although this form has been confirmed only a few times in the Region (most Greater White-fronteds have been Greenland *flavirostris*). Other Greater White-fronted Geese were an ad. at Great Oak Pond with a Greater White-fronted x Canada hybrid 10 Oct (WGE), a juv. *flavirostris* 11–13 Oct at Chestertown W.T.P. (†WGE, RFR), a *flavirostris* at Chino 23 Nov (JG), and 2 on 26 Nov at the Northampton Landfill (JSp). A molting drake Cinnamon Teal was reported from Hart 30 Aug (p. a., JLS, MH, HH), but distant photographs were inconclusive; Maryland has two prior accepted records and three additional reports. Possibly record-early were 8 American Wigeons at Elliott 1, Dorchester 2 Aug (GMi). A drake Eurasian Wigeon was at Deal 1, W.M.A., Somerset, MD 29 Nov (John Hubbell). Harlequin Ducks returned to usual haunts at the C.B.B.T. and O.C. Inlet, arriving at the former a bit early on 9 Nov (JL, B.J. Westervelt). Inland Surf Scoters included 28 on L. Artemesia, Prince George's, MD 11 Oct (DM); there were scattered others in Howard and Allegany, MD, and on the Potomac R. below D.C.; another was at Belmont Bay, Fairfax and Prince William, VA 31 Oct (KG). Inland White-winged Scoter reports came from South Holston L., Washington 2 Nov (JWC, RCr), Halethorp Pond, Baltimore, MD 11 Nov (SA), and on the New R., near Radford, VA 28 Nov, staying into at least Jan (CK). A Black Scoter was at the Great Marsh at Mason Neck N.W.R., Fairfax 9 Nov (KG, RR). Common Eider reports were of a single 4 Oct at C.B.B.T. (HLW, LMD) and 14 at O.C. Inlet 18 Nov (MH). King Eiders were reported 18 Nov+ at O.C. Inlet (2 birds; JLS, MH) and at C.B.B.T. 28 Nov+ (a nearly ad. male; BTe, JSp, m. ob.). The Bluehead that appeared at Huntley Meadows, Fairfax 28 Jun was last seen 18 Aug (FB et al.).

KITES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Mississippi Kite sightings from Fairfax (see Summer report) were singles at Springfield 17 Aug (Dan Kluzka) and near Vienna 24 Aug (TMD), which suggest that they may be breeding elsewhere. A Tidewater sighting

8–9 Aug at Kempsville, Virginia Beach (Doug Davis, *file* RLAn) and one along the Meherrin R., Greensville/Southampton, VA 5 Aug (David Chaffin) were more expected. Three Northern Goshawks were noted at Chino: one on 20 Oct and 2 on 10 Nov (JG). A Swainson's Hawk was noted at Kipt. 30 Sep (JO, HTA et al.), and a Rough-legged was there 16 Oct (JO et al.). Another Rough-legged 8 Nov at Sky Meadows S.P., Fauquier, VA was on a more typical date (KG, LM).



A few Franklin's Gulls are found each year in the Middle Atlantic Region, which often turns up more "Midwestern" or interior western gulls (California, Thayer's) than do regions to the north and northeast. This first-winter Franklin's was captured on film 4 October 2003 at the landfill in Prince William County, Virginia. Photograph by Stephen C. Rottenborn.

After a cold front, a blustery 13 Nov brought a state-record 23 Golden Eagles to Town Hill, MD (RK)—the previous high of 13 was from the same location. Regional hawk-watches reported mostly typical numbers, though some records were broken. The few falcons that travel along ridges produced either record or near-record numbers at Rockfish Gap, Augusta, and Snickers Gap, Clarke/Loudoun, VA (BTe, TMD). Snickers Gap posted a new season high of 170 Bald Eagles, and 282 Osprey missed the record mark by only 7 birds, further evidence that these two species are still rebounding strongly. Regional hawkwatch totals are posted at <ahawkcount.org>.

The only Sandhill Crane reported was one flying over Orange, VA 20 Oct (p. a., †G. Harris). An American Golden-Plover was somewhat late near Jamestown 1, Williamsburg, VA 18 Nov (BW), as was a Piping Plover at Eagle's Nest Campground, Worcester 7 Nov (MH). Among Maryland's latest Black-necked Stilts were 5 s. of Hurlock 29–30 Aug (JBr, MH et al.). American Avocets appeared at a few unexpected locations: 8 at Quillen's Pond 21 Aug provided

Augusta's 3rd fall record (AL); 2 at Merkle W.M.A., Prince George's 24 Aug furnished a county 2nd (Al Guarente), as did one in Talbot 15 Sep at Pickering Creek Wetlands (LR); and Craney boasted 8–30 birds 23 Aug–30 Sep (DCI, EE, LL, m. ob.). Lesser Yellowlegs at Wheat Ln., Northampton, peaked at 700 on 12 Sep (ESB). Latest Spotted Sandpipers were at Hurlock W.T.P. 7 Nov (MH), Assat. 8–9 Nov (ph. MLH et al.), and Little Seneca L., Montgomery, MD 9 Nov (Rick Sussman).

Reese continued regular bird surveys of the Poplar 1. Impoundments through the fall, and numbers were mostly what would be expected; most notable were 5 Buff-breasted Sandpipers 8 Sep. A Eurasian Whimbrel (one of the white-rumped subspecies from the Old World) was seen with *hudsonicus* Whimbrel 2 Aug at Chinc., a 5th state record (p. a., †ESB, CT, PP et al.). A Long-billed Curlew was found 14 Nov at Chimney Pole Marsh, Hog 1, Northampton (p. a., Ruth Boettcher, Alex Wilke, Barry Truitt), the first documented Virginia record in 15 years. A Long-billed Curlew was also briefly described at the Maryland/Delaware border, Cecil 31 Aug (p. a., †Marcia Watson-Whitmyre). Hudsonian Godwits seem to be increas-

ingly scarce in the Region; this season's only reports were of singles at Chinc. 11 Aug (GLA et al.) and at Blackwater N.W.R., Dorchester 15 Nov (HTA et al.). A lone Ruddy Turnstone was at Cedar Run Wetlands, Prince William 12 Aug, along with a White-rumped Sandpiper (L.C.). This was a good fall for Baird's Sandpiper, especially at Hart, where a state high count of 24 was made on 30 Aug (JLS, MH, HH et al.). Brinkley's frequent Aug and Sep visits to a flooded field along Wheat Ln. produced a juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 4 Sep (p. a., †ESB), Virginia's (and the Region's) 4th; sharing the field that day were up to 9 Upland, 8 Buff-breasted, 20 White-rumped, and 50 Pectoral Sandpipers, 10 American Golden-Plovers, and 450 Black-bellied Plovers. A female Ruff at Assat. 27 Nov (JLS, MH) was the only report of the species. "Optimal" water levels in the Chinc. impoundments produced good counts of Silt Sandpiper, with 319 on 2 Aug and 200 on 11 Aug, in company with hundreds of Short-billed Dowitchers, many of them *hendersoni* (ESB, GLA et al.). Silt Sandpipers were also reported 23–24 Aug and 1 Sep (3) from North Branch, Allegany, along

with a Baird's Sandpiper 17 Aug (JBC). In Virginia, Stilt Sandpipers were at Roanoke W.T.P. 9 Aug (TF) and Leonard's Pond, Rockingham 16 Sep (Leonard Teuber), with 3 at Huntley Meadows, Fairfax 27 Sep and one lingering there to 4 Oct (RR). Notable shorebirds from *Augusta* included 2 Western Sandpipers 1 Aug (AL) at Smith's Pond and a high count of 32 Pectorals 28 Sep at Stuarts Draft W.T.P. (AL). Perhaps the biggest surprise was a very early Purple Sandpiper at North Beach, MD during Hurricane *Isabel* 19 Sep (MH, JLS, MLH); *Calvert* has just one or two prior records. A Long-billed Dowitcher at Univ. of Maryland Central Farm 28 Sep was *Howard's* 3rd (TBO, EH).

Wilson's Phalarope reports from Virginia included 3 at Craney 17 Aug–9 Sep (EE, DLH, Mike Iwanik) and one in the mts. at Riverview, Radford 9 Nov (CK); in Maryland, one was at the Chestertown W.T.P. 26–28 Sep (†WGE, RFR). A Red Phalarope found at Pandapas Pond in Jefferson National Forest, Montgomery, VA 4 Oct (acc. ph. †ET) was a first for the county and about the 8th for the Mountains and Valleys; more expected was one seen on a Virginia Beach pelagic trip 7 Sep (BP et al.). Other Red-necked Phalaropes were off Virginia Beach—4 on 16 Aug and 2 on 7 Sep (BP et al.)—plus up to 2 were at Craney 23 Aug–9 Sep (EE, LL et al.) and one was at Great Oak Pond, Kent 21 Sep (†WGE, NLM).

GULLS THROUGH SHRIKES

Bill Moskoff photographed an ad. Heermann's Gull at Chinc. 13 Aug (p. a.), a 2nd record for the Region and Virginia; the first was a juv. at Craney in Aug 2002. (The Florida ad. was still present in Aug in the vicinity of Ft. De Soto, so there were at least 2 ad. Heermann's in the East in 2003.) Two first-winter Franklin's Gulls were found at the Prince William Landfill, *Prince William* 4 Oct, with one bird seen as late as 9 Oct (p. a., †ph. SCR, SH, LC, GW). In Maryland, a first-winter Franklin's was reported at Oxen Cove, *Prince George's* 1 Nov (DM). A juv. Sabine's Gull at South Holston L. 7 Sep provided the first record for the Mountains and Valleys Region of Virginia (acc. ph. †ET, R.C. Sam-Cross et al.). The Sandgates Kelp Gull continued in Maryland, with scattered

reports during the season.

Of 56 Gull-billed Terns in flooded fields between Townsend and Willis Wharf, VA 11 Aug, only 2 were juvs. (ESB, GLA et al.). Sandwich Terns, uncommon in Maryland, were seen at O.C. Inlet and Assat, during Aug (v. o.), but 21 at Assat. 27 Sep (JLS, MH)



Hurricane *Isabel* generated hundreds of records of displaced terns, including four of Roseate Tern in Virginia, a species poorly known (and documented) in that state. This adult Roseate (left) was photographed at Cape Charles harbor, Northampton County during the afternoon landfall of the storm 18 September 2003. Photograph by Edward S. Brinkley.

was among Maryland's highest counts (and latest dates). A Common Tern was at Staunton View Park, Halifax, VA 24 Aug (AD). Black Terns in Virginia were at Claytor L., Pulaski 27 Aug (4; CK), Amelia L., Amelia 4 Aug (Adam Phelps), and at Stuarts Draft W.T.P., *Augusta* 4 Sep (AL). The only alcids this season were from the new seawatch at Smith L., *Northampton*, VA and included a Dovekie 9 Nov, 5 Razorbills, and 35 unidentified large alcids (more details in the Winter report).

A singing Eurasian Collared-Dove at Cape Charles town 26 Aug (ESB, SWH) was n. of the Cedar Grove "stronghold" near Kipt. Two White-winged Doves were reported 17 Nov: one in Suffolk, VA (to 25 Nov; acc. ph. †LW); the other at E.S.VN.W.R. (p. a., BW et al.). A Monk Parakeet visited a Germantown, *Montgomery*, MD feeder 1–18 Oct (Keith Gillis). Unusual or seasonal hummingbirds are now expected in the Region, but tracking them has become difficult. Of at least 11 *Selasphorus*, 2 were one-day sightings at Nokesville, *Prince William* 4 Aug (Ken Bass) and at Applesseed Nursery, *Northampton* 6 Aug (Jeff Klingel, *vide* ESB). Birds that settled into feeders first appeared in Sep at Sabillasville, *Frederick*, MD (Sara & Don Hurley), but the bulk arrived in Nov, many staying into Jan. Six Rufoues were banded in the Region, including the first ad.

male ever banded by Gustafson 7 Nov at Round Hill, *Loudoun*. An imm. female *Archilochus* found at the Ripley Gardens in D.C. 17 Nov (LF) was not identified until 21 Nov, when in-flight photographs by Czaplak showed the diagnostic outermost primary shape of Black-chinned Hummingbird, confirmed by Bob Sargent and others. The bird was banded 4 Dec (MG)—the first to be banded in the Region—and was seen at least through 10 Dec (LF, JF). Other Nov *Archilochus* were from Kipt. 7–9 (BTA et al.) & 18–19 Nov (Thuy Tran, vt. RLAn, HTA et al.) and at Cape Charles town 30 Nov (SWH); the first report, possibly of a Black-chinned, has been circulated for review.

A Northern Flicker banded at Chino 31 Oct (JG, ph. JP) had significant orange suffusion in the primaries; it remains unclear if such birds in fact represent hybrids. A Big Sit at Kipt. 12 Oct tallied 50 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, a state high count for a single site (HTA et al.). Of the 12+ Olive-sided Flycatcher reports, only one—at Assat. 28 Aug (MH)—was away from typical inland locations. Western Kingbird reports were fewer than in recent years, with 2 in *Northampton*, one inland in *Albemarle*, VA 6 Oct for a county first (*vide* Bill Minor), and one in West, *Somerset* 12 Oct (RFR, BE). A singing Alder Flycatcher was heard at Flag Ponds S.P. 13 Aug, for an overdue *Calvert*, MD first (Tyler Bell, Arlene Ripley). A Northern Shrike in Ocean City 12 Nov (MLH, HH, JBr) was the earliest ever for *Worcester*.

SWALLOWS THROUGH FINCHES

Barn Swallows maxed at 9636 at Kipt. 30 Aug (HTA), with 1800 Purple Martins the next day at Kipt., both notable local counts. A single *Petrochelidon* swallow videotaped and studied at length at the New Windsor W.T.P., *Carroll*, MD 4 Oct was identified as a Cave Swallow of the Caribbean race *fulva* (p. a., BE, vt. †RFR, Kurt Schwarz); reviewers will need to rule out the sw. race (*swainsoni*) of Cliff Swallow.

Record late was a Yellow-throated Vireo from Lillipons, *Frederick*, MD 9 Nov (†Clive Harris). Rare inland, Sedge Wrens were at the Virginia Tech Campus, Blacksburg, *Montgomery* 21 Aug (BK), at a strip mine near Smith Branch, *Buchanan*, VA 23 Sep (ph. RM, Ed Caudill), at Occoquan N.W.R., *Prince William* 4 Oct (LC), at Bell's Lane, *Augusta* 11 Oct (HFD, LL), and at Sky Meadows S.P. 22–23 Nov for a county first (TMD, RPA, JL et al.). An uncommon migrant in the mountains, a Marsh Wren was at the Virginia Tech campus 14 Oct (BK). A Winter Wren in *Montgomery*, MD 24 Aug (Paul Zucker) was far from known breeding areas. A Brown-headed Nuthatch was at the King and Queen landfill 29 Nov on Virginia's little-explored Northern Neck (FA). One at East-

SA Two Western Wood-Pewees reports come from the coast, one in each state. Exhaustive documentation and photographs were provided for a hatch-year bird banded 12 Oct at Little Island Recreational Park, Virginia Beach (just n. of Back Bay N.W.R.) by Rob and Ann Simpson (see photographs, inset, and Pictorial Highlights). The distance between the longest uppertail covert and tail tip was 26mm, well outside the range of Eastern Wood-Pewee and approaching the lower end of Western Wood-Pewee. The measurement of the longest primary minus the longest secondary was 25mm. Other, more subjective field marks also indicated Western. Virginia has only one prior report, not accepted by the VARCOM. The Maryland bird was heard calling and seen at Assat. 4 Oct (p. a., JLS).

The status of this species on the East Coast remains a mystery. Most e. states have no acceptable records, with only Massachusetts (four records), Florida, and Maryland accepting it to the state lists. Maryland's seven prior records were of birds collected or banded by Chandler S. Robbins, who not only collected the first East Coast specimen in Ocean City 13 Sep 1961 (*USNM 478783) but who also six years later collected another here (*USNM 530823); these were identified subspecifically by Van Renssen as *saturatus* and *veliei*. His other five records (all of banded birds) are from Ocean City in 1961 (12, 19, & 26 Sep) and Laurel, Prince George's 3 Sep 1977 and 5 Oct 1992. The Maryland Records Committee has not yet treated these banding records.



This hatch-year Western Wood-Pewee at Virginia Beach 12 October 2003 was carefully measured to confirm identification. Shown here is the measuring of the distance between the longest uppertail covert and the tail tip, which was 26mm, and the very sooty-chested look of the bird. Photographs by Rob and Ann Simpson.

ern Neck N.W.R. 19 Oct (p. a., †WGE et al.) was about 8 km n. of regular range.

Hafner had a brief but good look at a Mountain Bluebird (p. a., †MH) that dropped from the sky into a lone tree at Bayside Campground, Assat. 8 Nov. A Varied Thrush studied for five minutes at Chinc. 19 Oct (p. a., †Rene Laubach et al.) was the Region's only outer-coast report. An impressive flight of nocturnal migrants over Cape Charles 4 Sep through midnight included thousands of Bobolinks, hundreds of Wood Thrushes, scores of Veery, with a few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and several Upland Sandpipers and Green Herons. The banding operation at Kipt. netted a Bicknell's Thrush 23 Oct (JRu), and Chino banded singles 22 & 29 Sep (JG).

Songbird flights were best noted at the s. tip of the Eastern Shore and in the Appalachians in Sep, with scattered local inland sites recording good numbers. Rock Creek Park, D.C. had good diversity of Neotropical migrants and some large fall-outs, with 20 Black-and-white Warblers 1 & 5 Sep, 30 Chestnut-sided and 12 Black-

throated Vireo Warblers 1 Sep, and 30 Red-eyed Vireos 1 & 6 Sep (GMA, BC et al.). Other good showings were on 24 & 30 Sep. Mayhorn's impressive yard count at Compton Mt., Buchanan, VA hit full stride 6 Sep with 48 Tennessee Warblers. Similar Tennessee numbers were had the following days, peaking at 58 on 13 Sep. He had good counts of Black-throated Green Warblers, with 13 on 6 Sep and 8 Yellow-throateds the same day. Warbler counts at Mountain L., Giles, VA 14 Sep tallied 60 Tennessee, 25 Cape May, 25 Black-throated Blue, and 10 Bay-breasted, along with 15 Blue-headed Vireos (BK). The two major coastal flights occurred 16-17 Sep and 29 Sep. The 17th produced 168 Northern Parulas, 356 American Redstarts, 143 Magnolia Warblers, 45+ Black-throated Vireo Warblers, and 13 Scarlet Tanagers, at Sunset Beach, Northampton (ESB, BP, BLS, GLA). The showstopper of the season, however, was on the 29th. In a two-hour period before dawn, T. M. Day tallied some 800 flight calls of mostly *Catharus* thrushes and Indigo Buntings between Kipt. and

E.S.VN.W.R. Dawn brought a reorientation flight at Sunset Beach of 550+ Gray Catbirds, 150+ Yellow-shafted Flickers, 140+ American Redstarts, 120 Gray-cheeked Thrushes, 100 Swainson's Thrushes, 65+ Northern Parulas, 65 Brown Thrashers, 50 Veeries, 50 Indigo Buntings, and 35 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, among other species with less impressive totals and hundreds of unidentified birds (TMD, ESB et al.). The Kipt. station netted 45 Northern Parulas, 42 American Redstarts, and 17 Magnolia Warblers (JRu) that day.

Maryland's 2nd report of Black-throated Gray Warbler was a very well-described bird at Bayside Campground on Assat. 22 Oct (†SHD); the previous record was from *Talbot* 23 Sep 1994. Of 2 Yellow-breasted Chats at Sunset Beach, Northampton 29 Sep, one was thought to be of the w. race *auricollis* (Tom Saunders, ESB, TMD); this form has apparently also been found in Georgia and Massachusetts. Rarely detected as a fall migrant, a Prothonotary Warbler was at Assat. 26 Oct, nearly record late (MH, ZB, MB). Other late-ish warblers included a Golden-winged

SA Gruber's banding station at Chino, *Queen Anne's* produced several interesting records this fall, but foremost among them was a *Zonotrichia* sparrow captured 9 Nov (JG, ph. JP). It showed the general color and pattern of a White-throated, but had a grayish face and chest, buffy lores, and an indistinct white throat patch. Most notably, the bill was almost entirely pinkish, suggesting that it is in fact a White-throated x White-crowned hybrid. Although Dark-eyed Junco hybridizes semi-regularly with White-throated Sparrow, White-throated x White-crowned hybrids are little known. While P. Pyle (1997; *Identification guide to North American birds*. Slate Creek Press, Bolinas, California) reports that this hybrid combination is unknown, there does appear to be at least one such record (from Long Pt., ON, Apr 1994) with photographs that look almost identical to the Maryland bird (ph. p. 232 in Beadle, D., and J. Rising. 2002. *Sparrows of the United States and Canada: the photographic guide*. Academic Press, San Diego). See the Pictorial Highlights section.

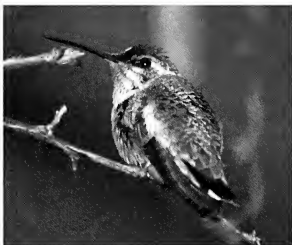
banded at Kipt 4 Oct (JRu), an American Redstart in Ocean City 8 Nov (Worcester's latest, RFR), a Black-throated Blue at Sandy Point S.P. *Anne Arundel*, MD 8 Nov (WGE et al.), a Yellow-throated Warbler at Burke's Garden, *Tazewell*, VA 10 Nov (BK), a Cape May at E.S.VN.WR. 17 Nov (EE), and a Nashville Warbler at Fort C.F. Smith Park, Arlington 17 Nov (VK).

A Black-headed Grosbeak was well seen 12 Sep at Beaverdam Park, *Gloucester*, VA (p. a., †DLH et al.). A Blue Grosbeak was near Jamestown I., Williamsburg 23 Nov (BW). A Painted Bunting at Bayside Campground 5 Sep (p. a., MLH) was a first for well-worked Assat and the 4th for Worcester Late for Worcester was an Indigo Bunting 8–9 Nov (ph. MLH, ZB). Six to 10 Dickcissels at Assat. 12 Oct (MH et al.) made a record-high state count for fall migrants.

Continuing the trend of recent years, Harris's Sparrows (p. a.) were reported in the Region, even on the Coastal Plain, unprecedented in Virginia. Two birds, an ad and an imm., were found at E.S.VN.WR. 7 & 9 Nov, respectively, through at least 17 Nov (ph. RLAK, Bill Keith, †TMD, ph. TE; vt. RLAn, m. ob.). Gaskill discovered an ad. Harris's Sparrow at Julie Metz Wetlands, *Prince William* 22 Nov, while Wilson reported a possible 2nd ad. there 24 Nov; at least one remained well into winter. There were eight reports of 9 Lark Sparrows; notable were singles 28 Sep at the Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship in *w. Loudoun*, possibly a first for that county (LC, Joe Coleman, Tom Bjorkman), 22 Sep in *James City*, VA (BTA), and 4 Oct in Western Regional Park, *Howard* (RCu, †JSo, †NM et al.). Clay-colored Sparrows numbered about 15, all except 6 from the coast: at Chino 28 Oct (JG, ph. JP) and 2 Nov (JG), at Western Regional Park, *Howard* 25 Oct (†RCu), at Pickering Cr., *Talbot* 26–27 Oct (ZB, MH, MB), at Swoope, *Augusta* 26 Oct (AL), and at Sky Meadows S.P. 8 Nov (KG, LMD). A Henslow's Sparrow was at Guesses Fork, *Buchanan* 2

Nov (ph. ET, RM). *Queen Anne's* had its first Le Conte's Sparrow, a banded bird at Chino 19 Oct (p. a., JG, ph. JP). The only inland Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow this fall was at L. Manassas, *Prince William*, VA 22 Sep (TMD). Single Gambel's White-crowned Sparrows were banded at Chino 26–28 Oct and 5 Nov (JG). A Lapland Longspur near Taneytown, *Carroll* 4 Oct (RFR, BE) was Maryland's earliest ever.

A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen by many during a Big Sit at Assat. 12 Oct (MH, JLS et al.), and one was at Figg's Landing Rd., Worcester 8 Nov (HH, JBri, JLS). Brewer's Blackbirds were again in the Nokesville, *Prince William* area 27 Nov, with a peak count of 18 on 29 Nov (LC); another was near the New River Valley Airport, *Pulaski* 30 Nov (CK). A single, late Bobolink was at Rappahannock River Valley N.W.R., *Westmoreland*, VA 22 Nov (FA). Two Common Redpolls were noted at Assat. 22 Nov (HH, JBri). Highly unusual was a very early Evening Grosbeak seen and heard on



This hatch-year female Black-chinned Hummingbird—the District of Columbia's first and the Region's second—was found in the Smithsonian Institution's Ripley Gardens 17 November (here 27 November) and last seen 10 December 2003. First identified from flight photographs, the bird was banded 4 December. Shown here are the diagnostic club-shaped outer-primary tips and typical ashen color of the face. Photograph by George M. Jett.

25 Sep near Oyster, *Northampton* (†KG). Other coastal sightings were reported on a more typical date, 8 Nov, with singles at Assat. (ZB, DP) and at Savage Neck Road, *Northampton* (Arun Bose).

Undocumented reports: A Wood Stork at *Bavon, Mathews*, VA 11–12 Sep lacked details (Mary Pulley, *vide* J&HW), although the species is difficult to mistake. A Franklin's Gull (plumage undescribed) at Diamond Point Road, *Baltimore* 30 Nov would be close to record late (Peter Lev). A White-crowned Sparrow identified as a Gambel's but not detailed was reported at Terrapin Park, *Queen Anne's* 18 Oct (p. a., HH, JBri).

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lent plumage and very wary, arrived with the Snow and Ross's Geese. Other Barnacles to our n. were singles noted in Pennsylvania, Maine, and Nova Scotia, plus 3 or 4 in Québec. This report will be reviewed by the state records committee, as the species is not on North Carolina's official list.

Eurasian Wigeons were noted at Pl. 2 Nov (BY et al.) and at the S.S.S. 1-9 Nov (SC et al.). Another good find at the S.S.S. was a Cinnamon Teal 4 Oct (SC et al.), the only report of the season. The only eider was a female Common at Bogue Inlet, NC 12 Nov (GM). The best inland scoter report included 12 Surfs and 8 Blacks at Falls L., NC 8 Nov (DK). Also at Falls L. 8 Nov were 2 Long-tailed Ducks (DK), providing a rare inland fall sighting. Common Merganser reports of note, all of females, included 2 at L. Julian, *Buncombe*, NC 8 Nov (WF, BO), one at H.B.S.P. 24 Nov (RL), and one at Buckhorn Res., *Wilson*, NC 26 Nov (RD). The best inland Red-breasted Merganser counts involved 37 at Jordan L., NC 22 Nov (J&KB) and 35 at West Point L. Dam, GA 14 Nov (WCh).

KITES THROUGH TERNS

Several Swallow-tailed Kites were still present from the summer in the Cape Fear R. area of *Columbus*, NC, as late as 9 Aug (*vide* HB). Locally unusual Mississippi Kites included one at Pl. 3 Aug (ET) and 2 in the Great Smoky Mountains N.P., NC 17 Sep (RM). Always noteworthy, an imm. Northern Goshawk was a good find in *Hyde*, NC 24 Nov (WD). Another interesting hawk was the "dark-morph" ad. Red-tailed near the W.F. George L. Dam, GA 27 Nov (WC); it is not clear whether *harlani*, *calurus*, or an intergrade of some sort was involved. Full documentation on unusual Red-tailed Hawks in the Region would be gladly received by the editor and the state committees. Golden Eagles were found more often than usual, with sightings from the coast and the mts. of the Carolinas. The best count was the 3 over *Bakers Mt.*, *Catawba*, NC 4 Oct (*vide* DM). Inland reports of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were about normal throughout the



Something was afoot with Brown Noddy in August 2003: records came from Atlantic waters off Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina, where the species is quite rare. This bird off Manteo, North Carolina 10 August was one of several seen that weekend, the only pelagic records here since 1992. Photograph by Michael Stubblefield.

Region. Unusual, though, was the very early Merlin at New Bern, NC 20 Aug (AG) and the excellent count of 12 Merlins at Cape Lookout, NC 29 Sep (JF, RB). The only Yellow Rails reported were one at Bodie I., *Dare*, NC 16 Oct (MS) and 2 at North R., *Carteret*, NC 29 Nov (JF et al.). Sandhill Cranes migrated through Georgia in excellent numbers this fall, although the movement seemed to be somewhat late. Elsewhere, 3 returned to the North R., *Carteret*, NC area 30 Nov

counts were 6 at Hoop, 23 Sep (WF) and 4 at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 22 Sep (ND et al.). South Carolina's 3rd Snowy Plover was photographed at *Deveaux Bank*, *Charleston* 27 Nov (SM). This is the Region's 5th Snowy; all have been in relatively inaccessible areas. Very rare inland, a Black-necked Stilt provided the first fall report for the E.L.H. 13-24 Aug (M&StE, CL et al.). Also rare inland, 6 American Avocets were in *Bartow*, GA 2 Aug (BZ), and 2 were at the E.L.H. 27 Sep-10 Oct (TK et al.). Upland Sandpipers moved through in normal numbers, with the best counts being 24 at

the Marshallville, *Macon*, GA sod farm 15 Aug (WC) and 13 at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 23 Aug (JE, JCh). A very late Upland Sandpiper was at the C. Hatt. campground 26 Oct (JL, JK). A Eurasian Whimbrel—a bird of one of the several white-rumped, Old World subspecies of Whimbrel—was a good find at Bogue Inlet, NC 12 Nov (GM); Whimbrels with white rumps have been reported perhaps four or five times in the past in North Carolina. Long-billed Curlews were found at the usual spots, with the best count being of 3 at Little St. Simons I., GA during the fall (BN et al.) and 3 at Shackleford Banks, *Carteret*, NC 12 Nov (JF et al.). Only 2 Hudsonian Godwits were found this fall, both at P.I. 7-9 Aug (PB et al.) and 15-16 Oct (MS, LG et al.). Baird's Sandpipers were found in all three states, but most were in Georgia. The best count reported was of 5 at *Macon*, GA 6 Sep (TI et al.). Top Buff-breasted Sandpiper counts were 9 in *Bartow*, GA 1 Sep (JS, DV) and 5 in *Morgan*, GA 20 Sep (MF). The very rare Ruff was found once this fall, with an imm. male at South Pond, Pl. 11 Oct (LG et al.). A rare inland Wilson's Phalarope was in *Bartow*, GA 30 Aug (BZ); the best count came from the S.S.S., with 18 there 14 Aug (SC).



This Snowy Plover was found during a Piping Plover survey on *Deveaux Bank*, *Charleston County*, South Carolina 27 November 2003—the third for that state and fifth for the Southern Atlantic Region. Photograph by Sidney Maddock.

(JF et al.) for the 2nd year in a row, up to 4 were at *Santee N.W.R.*, SC 29 Nov (RC, CE), one was in *Henderson*, NC 22 Nov (WF), and 6 were over *Townville*, SC 15 Nov (SP et al.).

American Golden-Plover sightings were unusual somewhat this year. The best

South Polar Skua numbers off North Carolina continued to be low. Only one was noted, off *Hatteras* 13 Sep (BP et al.). Three Parasitic Jaegers seen from shore at H.B.S.P. 8 Nov (ND, DFA) were good finds. Also that day, those same observers

reported a Long-tailed Jaeger and were able to compare it to the Parasitics. If this report is accepted by the state records committee, it would be only the 2nd or 3rd and would be the latest fall record for South Carolina. Franklin's Gulls made a good showing, appearing in all three states. The best count was an amazing 9 (many of them photographed) at the S.S.S. 2 Nov (SC). Elsewhere, one was at Mt. Pleasant, SC 1 Nov (DFA, ND), one was at West Point L. Dam, GA 3 Nov (WC), 2 were on Cumberland I., GA 30 Oct (*vide* BZ), one was at Oregon Inlet, NC 30 Aug (MDe), and one was at the Frisco, NC pier 11 Nov (MM). The only Glaucous Gull reported was an early second-winter bird at Oregon Inlet, NC 23 Oct (EP, NB). Very rare inland, and the first in our Region in some time, imm. Sabine's Gulls were at L. Norman, NC 25 Sep (TP et al.) and L. Hickory, NC 30 Sep-7 Oct (DM, m. ob.); the possibility exists that the same bird was involved, as the two lakes are not far apart. A very late Gull-billed Tern was on Cumberland I., GA 15 Nov (*vide* BZ), and 2 Royal Terns were unusual inland at Columbus, GA 20 Sep (WC). Excellent tern counts not associated with Hurricane Isabel included 411 Caspian at the S.S.S. 13 Oct (SC), 300 Sandwich at Barden's Inlet, Carteret, NC 12 Nov (JF et al.), 100 Common at West Point L., GA 16 Sep (WC), 80 Bridled off Savannah, GA 23 Aug (RW et al.), 119 Sooty off Hatteras, NC 2 Aug (BP), and 1000 Black Terns at Little St. Simons I., GA 20 Aug (BW). Rare onshore and very late was the Arctic Tern reported at Pt. 24 Oct (EP, NB); the bird was seen well at close range as it flew overhead at North Pond and out to the ocean. Brown Noddy made news this fall in North Carolina's pelagic waters: singles 9 & 10 Aug off Oregon Inlet (BP, GLA et al.) were the first since a May 1992 bird off Oregon Inlet. Equally noteworthy in Georgia waters were 2 off Savannah 29 Aug (RW et al.), furnishing only the 3rd offshore report for that state.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

There were 2 White-winged Doves this fall: at H.B.S.P. 30 Sep (RL) and at Eastwood, James I., SC 31 Oct-8 Nov (DF, ND, RC, CE). Causing much excitement was the Common Ground-Dove found near North River, Carteret, NC 30 Nov (JF et al.)—the first report of this species in that county since the early 1980s! The



This male Green Violet-ear attended a feeder in Newland, North Carolina 5-11 October (here 10 October) 2003. This was the third record for North Carolina and, as with the previous birds, was in the mountains of that state. Photograph by Wayne Forsythe.

number of Black-billed Cuckoo reports was about average, with singles being found at various locations in all three states. A sick Barn Owl found in Raleigh, NC 15 Aug was treated at the vet school and then released 18 Aug (AB); the species has not been found in the immediate Raleigh area for many years.

Hummingbirds continued to provide excitement in the Region. The most unexpected was North Carolina's 3rd Green



This Calliope Hummingbird (foreground) shared its backyard with another of its species, plus a Rufous Hummingbird, at Greer, South Carolina 9 to (here) 10 November 2003.

Photograph by Charles Webb.

Violet-ear, an ad. male at a feeder in Newland, Avery 5-11 Oct (WF, KC). Almost as unusual was Georgia's 3rd Magnificent Hummingbird, a female at a feeder in Athens, GA 10-14 Aug (S&SL). Black-chinned Hummingbirds included an imm. male at Simpsonville, SC 15 Oct (PW), a female at a feeder in Savannah,

GA 30 Oct-14 Nov (SC), and an imm. male at the same feeder 14 Nov+ (SC). The only Calliope Hummingbird report was of special interest in that it involved 2 imm. birds at the same feeder in Greer, SC 9-10 Nov (C&JW, GP)—the first time 2 have been in one yard in the Region. Several ad. male Rufous Hummingbirds were found, including feeder birds at Columbia, SC 1-3 Aug (*vide* BH), Williston, Carteret, NC 13 Aug (*vide* JF), and in Ashe, NC in mid-Oct (*vide* BH).

Olive-sided Flycatchers were found a handful of times each in North Carolina and Georgia. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were once again found in all three states, continuing the recent trend of increasing reports during the fall. Other *Empidonax* reports of note involved an Alder Flycatcher responding to a tape at Charleston, SC 1 Oct (ND, BM), a Willow Flycatcher singing at Falls L., NC 15 Sep (BB), and a Least Flycatcher singing on the very late date of 25 Oct at Simpsonville, SC (PW). A male Vermilion Flycatcher returned to last winter's location in Sumter, GA 1 Nov (PH). There were several *Myiarchus* flycatchers of note this fall. A Great Crested was incredibly late in Candler, GA 23 Nov (JF, EH). A *Myiarchus* photographed in Ben Hill, GA 12 Nov was said to be a Great Crested but the photographs suggest Ashthroated (MD). Two definite Ashthroated Flycatchers were found in North Carolina, one at Pt. 8 Nov (JL et al.) and the other near North River, Carteret 30 Nov (JF et al.), about the 7th and 8th state records. The most interesting Western Kingbird reports were inland at Happy Valley, Caldwell, NC 19 Sep (DM et al.) and at the Robinson Nature Preserve, Cobb, GA 28 Oct (BL et al.). The only Gray Kingbirds found were 2 at Ft. Fisher, NC 10 Sep (HBI), while the only Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were on Stagecoach Rd., Catawba, NC 20 Sep (DM et al.), at Pt. 18 Nov (*vide* JL), and at St. Marys, Camden, GA 24 Nov (SW et al.).

Georgia had another Bell's Vireo, this one at K. Mt. 5 Oct (GB), only the 2nd accepted one, among five total reports. Rare fall Warbling Vireos included singles at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC 10 Sep (ND, BM), Simpsonville, SC 24 Sep (PW), and Roanoke L., NC 15 Oct (JL). Philadelphia Vireos continued to be widespread

during the fall season. The best one-day count was of 3 at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 1 Oct (WF, RS). Common Ravens continued their presence along the I-85 corridor in cen. North Carolina, with one to 2 in *Alamance* 2 Aug (RE) and 21 Sep (RD) and one in *Rougemont*, *Durham* 3 Oct (RE). The only Cave Swallow reports this fall involved one at Magnolia Plantation, SC 30 Nov (PN et al.) and one extremely early at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 9 Aug (KO, AC), the latter seen with Cliff Swallows for comparison.

North Carolina had its 5th Northern Wheatear at Conestee Falls, *Transylvania* 13 Oct (ph. DB, WF). The thrush migration once again received mixed reviews, with most observers calling it lackluster, although some impressive counts were noted. A pre-dawn count of nocturnal migrant thrush calls at K. Mt. 20 Sep included 493 Swainson's, 18 Gray-checked, 15 Veery, and 25 Wood (BZ). A pre-dawn thrush count at Ridge Junction Overlook on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Mt. Mitchell, NC 21 Sep tallied 500 Swainson's, 50 Gray-checked, 20 Veery, and 50 Wood (RD). During the first three hours of light that morning, Davis saw 200 Swainson's, 25 Gray-checked, 20 Veery, 50 Wood, and one Hermit Thrush in the overlook area. Another pre-dawn count in *Warren*, GA 5 Oct included 325 Swainson's and 35 Gray-checked Thrushes (JFI). Missing in these reports is mention of Bicknell's Thrush. Regional observers might consider setting up inexpensive nocturnal flight-call monitoring stations of the sort designed by W. R. Evans (<www.old-bird.org>). The nocturnal flight-call notes of Bicknell's Thrush—a very little-known migrant through the Region—can be distinguished in many cases from the lower-pitched notes of Gray-checked Thrush. Even a basic mini-disc recording system (<www.minidisco.com>) offers the capacity to record such call notes in the field, which can later be analyzed by computer to confirm identification to species. We might then shed some light on the mystery of this species' migration through our Region, in both spring and fall.

WARBLERS THROUGH CROSSBILLS

Several elements of the warbler migration in the Region deserve mention. Golden-winged Warblers were reported more frequently and in higher-than-normal numbers this season, the best counts being of 5 at Swannee Cr., *Gwinnett*, GA 27 Sep (EH), 4 at Dawson Forest W.M.A., GA 26 Sep (JFI), 4 at the Savannah River Site, SC 1 Oct (PC), and 3 at Durham, NC 17 Sep



This male Black-throated Gray Warbler at Kennessaw Mountain, Georgia 8 (here) through 11 September 2003 provided the second documented record for that state.

Photograph by Bob Zaremba.

(MS). Tennessee Warblers were rather abundant migrants in the w. portions of the Region, as evidenced by counts such as 500+ at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC 21 Sep (RD), 377 banded at Roan Mt., NC during the fall (RK), and a record seasonal total of 1250 at K. Mt. (GB). Black-throated Green Warblers also came through in record-high numbers at K. Mt., with a seasonal total of 866 (GB). Cerulean Warblers had their best season at K. Mt. since 1997, with 204 tallied (GB). Another species recorded more often than normal was Wilson's Warbler, with at least 20 different sightings across all three states. The rarest of the fall was



This Northern Wheatear was a one-day wonder at Conestee Falls, North Carolina 13 October 2003—only about the fifth for the state and second for the mountains. Photograph by Wayne Fyarshe.

undoubtedly the Black-throated Gray Warbler found at K. Mt. 8–11 Sep (ph. PHO, m. ob.), the 2nd for Georgia.

Several late and lingering warblers were found, as is usual in a mild autumn. The best reports involved 5 different Tennessee Warblers in Georgia during Nov, a Nashville in Lawrenceville, GA 21–24 Nov (EH), a Yellow at L. Matt. 21 Nov (MM), a Chestnut-sided in *Terrill*, GA 2 Nov (JFI, EH), 3 Black-throated Greens at Eufaula N.W.R., GA 7 Nov (WCH), a Bay-breasted at K. Mt. 6 Nov (GB), an American Redstart on Roanoke I., NC 11 Nov

(JL), a Prothonotary at North Pond, P.I. 16–19 Oct (LG et al.), and a Yellow-breasted Chat at the Brickyards, Augusta, GA 30 Nov (PC). Other rare sightings included single Prothonotary Warblers at Jackson Park, NC 9 Aug (ST) and 11–14 Sep (RS), 2 Kentucky Warblers on Roanoke I., NC 6 Sep (JL), and single Canada Warblers on the coast at Edisto Beach S.P., SC 25 Sep (ND) and at Roanoke I., NC 24–25 Sep (JL). Connecticut Warbler was reported three times, with one at Folly Beach, SC 7 Sep (ND), one at Jordan L., NC 14 Sep (MS), and one banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC 25 Sep (RK). The usually rarer Mourning Warbler was also found three times, with singles at Suwannee Creek, GA 27 Sep (JS, CL), at Robinson Nature Preserve, *Cobb*, GA 30 Sep (DH), and at P.I. 16 Oct (MS). This fall's only Western Tanager was an imm. male at Cape Lookout, NC on the rather early date of 29 Sep (JF et al.).

Clay-colored Sparrows were found in all three states this fall. As expected, most were along the immediate coast, but several inland birds were found as well. The farthest inland were singles at Hoop. 3 Oct (WF) and at the Robinson Nature Preserve, GA 19 Oct (DH). Lark Sparrows were found in both Carolinas, with the best counts being 3 at Ft. Fisher, NC 24 Sep (BSm) and 2 at the S.S.S. 13 Sep (SC). The best Henslow's Sparrow count was the 8 at Paulk's Pasture, GA 28 Nov (EH, BZ), and the best Le Conte's Sparrow total was 3 at Phinizy Swamp, Augusta, GA 22 Nov (PC). Very rare inland, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were good finds at McAlpine Park, *Mecklenburg*, NC 14 Oct (TP) and at Phinizy Swamp, GA 19 Oct (CLo) and 9–22 Nov (PC). Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from across the Region; 4 in *Edgecomb*, NC 2 Nov made the top count (RD), and one was banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC on the very early date of 1 Sep (RK). Another record-early sparrow was the Swamp Sparrow at the E.L.H. 20 Sep (*vide* TM), bearing the previous date by 10 days. Lapland Longspur reports involved one early at Ft. Fisher, NC 11 Oct (AW et al.), 2 at H.B.S.P. 8 Nov (ND, DFA), and 20+ at Hoop. 19 Nov (WF). The only Snow Buntings found were one at P.I. 17 Nov (RK) and 2 at C. Hait. 18 Nov (PM et al.).

The best one-day count of Rose-breasted Grosbeak was the 200+ at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC 21 Sep (RD). Several late or lingering Rose-breasted were at Atlanta, GA 27–28 Nov (BL) and in *Coffee*, GA 28 Nov (ABI). A Blue Grosbeak was especially late near Excelsior, *Candler*, GA 23 Nov (JFI, EH), as was an

Indigo Bunting at Jekyll I., GA 21 Nov (LT). Also of note was the huge movement of Indigos at the Altamaha W.M.A., GA 12 Oct: 410 were counted in two hours (PS)! Dickcissel reports came from all three states, with the best counts being 3 in Bartow, GA 1-2 Aug (BZ), 4 in Upson, GA 6-15 Oct (MB, EB), and 3 near Townville, SC 23 Nov (ND). A Bobolink was rather late near North River, Cartaret, NC 30 Nov (JF). A Western Meadowlark reported in n. Greene, GA 15 Nov (PS, CK) is under review by the state records committee. Rare for the Outer Banks were a single Rusty Blackbird at Pl. 16 Oct (RD) and a female Brewer's Blackbird at the C. Hatt. campground 16-18 Oct (ED, TP et al.). Other noteworthy Brewer's reports included one at the Savannah N.W.R., SC 22 Nov (CR) and 4 at Hoop, 10 Nov (WF). Only one Shiny Cowbird was reported, once again from the S.S.S. 14 Aug-13 Sep (SC). Purple Finches were reported widely this fall, in contrast to recent years. Early-ish ones were in Nags Head, NC 17 Oct (SMo, SCB) and in Durham, NC 19 Oct (JR). Red Crossbills were found only in the higher elevations of the Carolinas, the exception being one at Ringgold, Catoosa, GA 31 Oct (JP) at an elevation of about 300 m. The best

crossbill counts were of 12 at Bald Knob Ridge, near Mt. Mitchell, NC 18 Oct (MW), 10+ all fall at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC (RK), and 9-10 near the Wallhalla Fish Hatchery, Oconee, SC 22 Nov (ND). There was only one report of Evening Grosbeak, that being of "two dozen" in w. Granville, NC 8 Nov (*vide* SCb); given the scarcity of this species in the past 15 years, a count this high would be extraordinary. Singles turned up that day in coastal Maryland and Virginia, where now very rare.

Corrigendum: A Long-billed Curlew reported from Pawleys I., SC 1 May (N.A.B. 57: 334) was noted by Bob Maxwell (BM) rather than by Jack Peachey.

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Above-normal summer rainfall created abundant shallow wetlands around most of the Region. As a result, shorebirds and other species were widely distributed, which may have reduced numbers at favored birding spots. A major storm 28 September created spectacular fallouts along the central Gulf Coast and elsewhere over the next several days. The largest fallout occurred at Fort De Soto Park 29 and 30 September, with thousands of landbirds, including 24 warbler species, each day. The fallout even extended inland: 15 warbler species

were found in three hours at Highlands Hammock State Park 30 September. Verifiably documented highlights included Long-billed Murrelet and Black-faced Grassquit.

Abbreviations/definitions: report (any observation); record (only reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence).

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL

There were no unusual loons or counts of pied-billed Grebes in the Region. Good counts of Pied-billed Grebes were 116 at Viera 29 Oct (DF) and 125 at Polk phosphate mines 18 Nov (PF, TJC). Eared Grebes of note were one at L. Apopka Restoration Area, Orange 19 Oct (HR), 2 at Hamilton phosphate mines 21 Nov (JK), and 3 at Polk phosphate mines 22 Nov (PF et al.). Cory's Shearwaters seen off the Keys were 5 at 409 Hump 16 Aug and one off Key Largo 17 Aug (LMA et al.). Other Keys pelagic finds were one Leach's Storm-Petrel off Key Largo 17 Aug (JHB) and 120 Brown Boobies off Marathon 4 Oct (LMA). The Magnificent Frigatebird roost at Cedar Key N.W.R., Levy peaked at 500 birds

19 Aug (DH, KL), while another frigatebird at Bald Pt., Franklin 26 Oct (DM) was unusual so far north.

A Great White Heron at Ocala, Marion 2 Sep (ReR) was unusual inland and so far north. Good counts of Reddish Egrets in the n. peninsula were 15 at Hagens Cove, Taylor 3 Aug (JHI et al.) and 10 at Huguenot Memorial Park, Duval 10 Aug (RC). Eighteen American Bitterns at L. Apopka 23 Nov (HR) may have established the highest non-C.B.C. total in Florida. Uncommon away from fresh water, one Least Bittern was in a brackish marsh at Ten Thousand Islands N.W.R., Collier 1 Oct (TD), while another at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., Miami-Dade 13-21 Nov (RD) was locally rare. An apparent White Ibis x Scarlet Ibis at Lakes Park, Ft. Myers 25 Aug had a scarlet body and a whitish neck (VM). One Glossy Ibis was at L. Jackson, Leon 12 Oct (GM), with 2 there 30 Nov (MC). Unusual so far n. were single Roseate Spoonbills at Gainesville 5 Aug (LT) and St. Marks N.W.R., Wakulla 3 Nov (HVT). Locally high spoonbill counts were 75 at Quarantine I., Duval in Aug-Sep (BRI), 186 at Merritt I. N.W.R. 27 Sep (PF et al.), and 50 inland at Trinity, Pasco 14 Oct (KT).

WATERFOWL

Greater White-fronted Geese made a good showing in the Region, with 25 over St. Marks N.W.R., 13 Nov (JM), 4 at LaCrosse, Alachua 14 Nov (MBU, SH et al.), 2 at Hamilton mines 21 Nov (JK), and 5 at L. Jackson 25 Nov (GM). Among several Snow Goose reports were 40+ at Alligator Pt., Franklin 13 Nov (JM), 11 at Alachua, Alachua 15 Nov+ (PBU et al.), and 61 at Hamilton mines 21 Nov (JK). Fulvous Whistling-Ducks at L. Apopka, Orange numbered 840 on 22 Oct (HR). An impressive count of 2275 Green-winged Teal came from Polk mines 22 Nov (PF et al.). Southerly scoters were a Surf at Pompano Beach, Broward 3 Nov (*, *vide* WG), a White-winged at Canaveral N.S., Volusia 29 Nov (JP, PBI), and Blacks at Miami 15-17 (RD) & 22-28 Nov (SS et al.). Over 100 Blacks at Canaveral N.S. 29 Nov (JP, PBI) was a notable tally. Two Long-tailed Ducks flew by Playalinda Beach Canaveral N.S., Brevard 11 Nov (DF, MG). A Common Goldeneye at Polk mines 22 Nov (PF et al.) was rare inland, while another goldeneye at Punta Gorda, Charlotte 27 Nov (JBo) was rare so far south.

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Notable Swallow-tailed Kite aggregations were 200 feeding on dragonflies at L. Apopka 5 Aug (HR) and 30 over Sanibel Lighthouse, Lee 31 Aug (VM). As many as 10 Small Kitties in Collier fed on exotic Channelled Apple Snails (*Pomacea canaliculata*)

that are locally abundant (TD, CE et al.). There were five reports of Short-tailed Hawks, all of singles between San Mateo, Putnam and Lake Placid (v. o.). A juv. Swainson's Hawk furnished the first for Ft. De Soto Park 27 Oct (LA et al.), while another juv. was over L. Apopka 23 Nov (HR). The Guana River S.P., St. Johns falcon watch 27 Sep–12 Oct tallied 37 Merlins and 239 Peregrine Falcons (BS et al.).

During surveys of Werner-Boyce Salt Springs S.P., Pasco 25 Oct, Black Rails were discovered at four new locations (KT). Rails at L. Apopka included a first-ever Clapper and 69 Kings 28 Nov and 132 Sora 23 Nov (HR). Another Sora was early at Ten Thousand Islands N.W.R. 15 Aug (TD). An ad. and 2 juv. Purple Gallinules at Trinity 10 Sep (KT) were rare in w. Pasco, while a brood of 8 Common Moorhens in a brackish marsh at Ten Thousand Islands N.W.R. 1 Aug furnished the first refuge breeding report (TD). Some 30 Limpkins accompanied the Snail Kites mentioned above (TD, CE et al.). Among a high-flying southbound flock of 12 Sandhill Cranes over Lake Wales Ridge S.E., Polk 26 Nov was a smaller, dark bird that appeared to have white wing stripes, perhaps a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (BP).

American Golden-Plovers were widespread (v. o.). Three Snowy Plovers were found 8 Nov in Duval, where birds have wintered the previous four years (PL). Plovers at Ft. Myers Beach included 39 Wilson's 16 Aug and 130 Semipalmateds 4 Oct (CE), while Ft. De Soto supported 150 Semipalmateds, 75 Wilson's, and 15 Piping 1 Nov (PS). Other Piping Plovers were 39 at Crandon Beach, Miami-Dade 12 Nov (RD) and 2 at Cedar Key 16 Oct (JHI). Among 10 reports of American Avocets, one at Marathon 4 Oct (BrM) was rare in the Keys, while 205 at Polk mines 22 Nov (PF et al.) represented a good inland total. A Solitary Sandpiper at Polk mines 22 Nov (PF et al.) was late or wintering. Thirty Upland Sandpipers were near South Bay, Palm Beach 3 Sep (JP). Huguenot Park supported 57 Whimbrels 15 Aug (RC). Good counts of Red Knot were 700 at Nassau Sound, Duval beginning 10 Aug (PL), 450 at Ft. Myers Beach 4 Oct (CE et al.), and 250 at Ft. De Soto 1 Nov (PS). Other sandpipers at Polk mines included 2100 Semipalmateds and 360 Westerns 19 Sep, 13,500 Least 2 Nov, and 1900 Silt 2 Nov (CG, PT). Two Pectoral Sandpipers at Trinity 24 Nov (KT) were notably late. Always a good find in the Region, a Baird's Sandpiper was spied at L. Apopka 10–14 Sep (HR).

JAEGER THROUGH WOODPECKERS

At least 2 Franklin's Gullpeckers the Nassau-Duval coastline 23 Oct–16 Nov (PL, ph. BR1), with another at Ft. De Soto

SA Previous summaries have reported the presence of Elegant and "Elegant-type" terns in the Tampa Bay area the past several years. During May and Jun 2002, successful breeding of an Elegant Tern with a Sandwich Tern was documented (N.A.B. 57: 280–282). No undisputed "pure" Elegant Tern was seen in Florida during 2003, but observations of Elegant-type terns in the Tampa Bay area continued. At Ft. De Soto, Atherton photographed 3 different terns in Oct: 2 appeared very similar to ad. Elegant Terns, but the juv. that begged from one of the ads. had a mixed black-and-yellow bill.

29 Oct (LA et al.). A Lesser Black-backed Gull arrived at Crandon Beach 2 Aug, and 7 were there 14 Nov (RD). Other notable reports were 36 at Huguenot Park 22 Sep (RC), and locally rare singles at Cedar Key 1 Nov (AKr), L. Apopka 23 Nov (HR), and New Port Richey, Pasco 29 Nov (KT). Always an exciting find, a juv. Sabine's Gull stopped by Huguenot Park 19 Oct (JK). Twenty-one Gull-billed Terns fed on grasshoppers flushed by a mower at Mayport, Duval (RC), while 3 at New Port Richey fed on Fiddler Crabs 12 Nov (KT). At least one pair of Gull-billeds bred for the 2nd year at Hamilton mines (JK). Terns at Ft. De Soto 1 Nov included 50 Caspian, 500 Royal, 700 Sandwich, and 1200 Forster's, along with 300 Black Skimmers (PS). Furnishing the 5th Florida record, the 4th specimen, and Florida's first Atlantic report was the moribund Long-billed Murrelet found in Broward 22 Nov (*AKr). White-crowned Pigeons were n. to Boca Raton, Palm Beach 20 Sep (LMO, LMC) and Birch S.P., Broward 28 Sep (MBe, WG). White-winged Dove's expansion into the n. peninsula continues, as evidenced by 51 at Gainesville (MMe et al.), 50 at Ocala (PO), and 15 at Branford, Suwannee 6 Nov (DD). Two Budgerigars at Horseshoe Beach, Dixie 25 Nov (DG, EH) were the first reported from that locale since the late 1970s. Thirty-two Black-hooded Parakeets at Holiday, Pasco 18 Nov (KT) marked the n. limit of their range along the Gulf coast, while one at Jupiter Inlet 24 Nov (JaH) furnished the first Martin report. Also in a new Pasco location were 60 Monk Parakeets at Veteran's Village 16 Sep (KT). Rarely seen in the Region, Black-billed Cuckoos enlivened St. Marks 17 Aug (JD, JM), Gainesville 23 Sep (PBu), and O'Leno S.P., Alachua 26 Sep (JHI). Single Groove-billed Anis were at Bald Pt. 30 Oct (JM, JD) and St. George Island S.P. 22 Nov (RN), while 3 were s. to L. Apopka 2–16 Nov (HR et al.). Fourteen Barn Owls were totaled at L. Apopka 1 Sep (HR). A Short-eared Owl, presumably of the Caribbean race, was a surprise at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve, Okechobee 11 Aug (PMi, CT)—how long will it be before breeding of this taxon is documented in the state? A Buff-bellied Hummingbird was e. to Alligator Pt. 24 Nov (JM, JD), and a Black-chinned Hummingbird arrived to winter at Gainesville 15 Nov (BaM).

The earliest of seven *Sceloporus*, all singles (v. o.), was noted 25 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

Three Olive-sided Flycatcher reports fell within a narrow nine-day window: Ft. De Soto 20 Sep (ph. LA et al.), Everglades N.P., Miami-Dade 26–28 Sep (LMA et al.), and Key West 28 Sep (ph. BrM). Late-ish Eastern Wood-Peeees were at L. Apopka 2 Nov (HR) and Toxohatchee State Reserve, Orange 13–14 Nov (MG). L. Apopka retained its title as Florida's tyrannid hotspot: one Alder Flycatcher 14–16 Sep, 14 Least Flycatchers 12 Nov, 416 Eastern Phoebes 26 Oct, a Vermilion Flycatcher 22 Oct–2 Nov, an Ash-throated Flycatcher 5 Nov, 4 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers 19 Oct+, and five species of kingbirds—a Tropical Kingbird beginning 12 Nov, a Cassin's Kingbird (for its 5th year) beginning 27 Nov, a peak of 30 Westerns 27 Nov, and 4 single Grays variously beginning 20 Aug; the last Eastern was seen 12 Oct (HR, JP). Another Alder Flycatcher called at Key West 15 Sep (BrM), while a silent Alder/Willow Flycatcher was at Highlands Hammock S.P., Highlands 30 Sep (BP). Vermilion Flycatchers graced Bald Pt. 19 Oct (JM, JD) and Frog Pond W.M.A., Miami-Dade 25 Oct+ (BBR et al.). Increasing in the Region—or at least being identified more frequently—Ash-throated Flycatchers were found at Bald Pt. 19 Oct (JM et al.), Paynes Prairie (2 birds) 5–14 Nov (ML et al.), San Felasco Hammock, Alachua 10 Nov+ (BE et al.), and Emeraldal Marsh, Lake 27 Nov (JP). The first Gulf coast La Sagra's Flycatcher was reported at Honeymoon I. S.R.A., Pinellas 7 Sep (PF, SR).

Rare but regular migrants, Bell's Vireos were found at St. Marks 25–26 Aug (TC et al.), L. Apopka 3 Sep (HR), Ft. George I., Duval 29 Sep (RC), Birch S.P. 1 Oct (WG, RM), and Frog Pond 16 Nov+ (RD). Scarcer still, Warbling Vireos enlivened Jacksonville 19 Sep (JoCo) and O'Leno S.P., Columbia 8 Oct (PBu). Seventy Red-eyed Vireos at St. Petersburg 29 Sep (EH) were part of the fall-out, while another at Dunedin Hammock Park, Pinellas 30 Nov (KN) was extremely late. Black-whiskered Vireos outside breeding areas were at St. George I. 29 Sep (JaC) and two sites in Broward 27 Sep (file WG). L. Apopka had 41 Cliff Swallows 14 Sep (HR). Good counts of Barn Swallows were 2600 at L. Apopka 24 Aug (HR), 325 at



These two Franklin's Gulls frequented Big Bird Island, Nassau Sound, Duval County, Florida 23 October (here) through 16 November 2003; the species is annual in the state in small numbers. Photograph by Patrick Leary.

Viera Wetlands, *Brevard* 3 Sep (DF), and 1000 at Jupiter Inlet 7 Sep (JaH).

Robinson counted 344 House Wrens at L. Apopka 26 Oct (HR). There were 21 Veeries at Werner-Boyce Salt Springs S.P., *Pasco* 29 Sep (KT) and 25 Swainson's Thrushes at O'Leno S.P. 27 Sep (JHh), with 15 others at Birch S.P. 30 Sep (*vide* WG). Four Wood Thrushes were spotted at Ft. George 1. 5 Oct (RC), with 4 singles elsewhere in the peninsula (v.o.). Robinson estimated 660 Gray Catbirds at L. Apopka 12 Oct. Clewiston's Common Myna flock totaled 8 individuals 1 Nov, including at least 2 juvs. (BP). Six Cedar Waxwings at Alachua 29–30 Sep

(GH, RoR) were the only individuals reported in the Region.

WARBLERS THROUGH MUNIAS

At St. Marks, a Yellow Warbler—which is not known to breed in the Panhandle—was observed feeding a cowbird fledgling 22 Aug (JD)! High counts of warblers from L. Apopka (HR) included 145 Yellows (record non-C.B.C. count) 24 Aug, 83 Prairies (another record) 10 Sep, 732 Palms 29 Sep, 51 Northern Waterthrushes 14 Sep, 41 Louisiana Waterthrushes (another record) 3 Sep, and 706 Common Yellowthroats 5 Oct. A Brewster's Warbler graced Jacksonville 1

Oct (JCo). Golden-winged Warblers were well reported (v. o.), with a record count of 6 at Ft. De Soto 29 Sep (LA et al.), 3 remaining to 2 Oct (PF), and 3 others at Salt Springs S.P. 17 Oct (KT). Single Nashville Warblers were found at Key West 18 Sep (BrM), Wahoo Key, *Monroe* 20 Sep (BrM), Barnes Park, *Miami-Dade* 21 Sep (JHB), and St. Marks 23 Oct (JCa).

Late-ish warblers were a Magnolia in Leon 2 Nov (GM), a Blackburnian at Hollywood, *Broward* 16 Nov (KR), and a Bay-breasted at L. Apopka 5 Nov (HR). Irregular in Florida, an Audubon's Warbler was found at Frog Pond 28 Oct (ph. LMa). Seven reports were received of Cerulean Warbler, all singles 22 Aug–25 Sep (v.o.). Swainson's Warblers were well reported, with 3 at Ft. Lauderdale 7 Sep (MS et al.), 2 at Bonner Park, *Pinellas* 16 Sep (KN), 3 at Ft. De Soto 30 Sep–2 Oct (LA, PF et al.), and singles at Birch S.P. 3 & 4 Oct (MS, WG). Nice counts of Kentucky Warblers were 4 at Ft. George 1. 2 Aug (RC) and 5 at San Felasco Hammock 28 Aug (JHh). Surprisingly widespread were Mourning Warblers, with 5 singles reported: Wahoo Key 13 Sep (BrM, banded), Key West 15 Sep (BrM), Ft. De Soto 16–18 Sep and 2–5 Oct (LA, JP et al., ph.), and Bald Pt. 17 Sep (JD). A wintering female MacGillivray's Warbler was found at Tree Tops Park, Davie 16 Nov (KR et al.). There were 16 reports of Wilson's Warblers Regionwide 24 Aug–23 Nov (v.o.),

Table 1. Selected counts of warblers associated with the fallout on 28 September to 2 October 2003.

Species	Location	Number	Date	Observers
Tennessee Warbler	Birch S.P.	8	28 Sep	<i>vide</i> WG
Tennessee Warbler	Salt Springs S.P.	31	29 Sep	KT
Tennessee Warbler	Ft. De Soto Park	11	2 Oct	PF
Chestnut-sided Warbler	St. Petersburg	70	29 Sep	EH; state high count
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Sawgrass Lake Park	18	30 Sep	RS
Magnolia Warbler	Sawgrass Lake Park	15	30 Sep	RS
Magnolia Warbler	Ft. De Soto Park	15	30 Sep	BH et al.
Blackburnian Warbler	St. Petersburg	40	29 Sep	EH
American Redstart	Ft. De Soto Park	40	2 Oct	PF
Ovenbird	Highlands Hammock S.P.	30	30 Sep	BP et al.

with 5 of these in Leon. Six single Canada Warblers were reported 24 Aug–5 Oct (v.o.), while 4 single Yellow-breasted Chats were seen in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe.

Associated with the big fallout were 13 Scarlet Tanagers at Salt Springs S.P. 29 Sep (KT). Providing the 5th verifiable North American record was the male Black-faced Grassquit at Long Pine Key, Everglades N.P. 1–25 Sep (BRo et al., ph. JP). Clay-colored Sparrows were surprisingly widespread, with 13 individuals at nine sites. Among these were 3 singles at Bald Pt. 16 Sep–25 Oct (JD, JM), 4 at Paynes Prairie 8 Oct–1 Nov (JHi et al.), and 2 at L. Apopka 16 Nov (HR). Seven single Lark Sparrows passed by Bald Pt. 26 Aug–3 Oct (JD), with 5 singles elsewhere (v. o.). A Song Sparrow was s. to Frog Pond 3 Sep (JP). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were found at six sites: Paynes Prairie 6 Oct (JHi), L. Apopka 26 Oct and 16–20 Nov (HR), Starkey Wilderness Park, Pasco 3 Nov (KT), St. Marks 11 Nov (DR et al.), Frog Pond 16 Nov (RD), and Alligator Pt. 24 Nov (JM). Not a record count but still an amazing total were the 435 Swamp Sparrows at L. Apopka 23 Nov (HR). Dark-eyed Juncos made a slight incursion into the Region, with singles at Ft. Myers 12 Nov (JoH), Bald Pt. 15 Nov (JD et al.), Tallahassee 29 Nov (Pmc), and Ocala N.F. 25 Nov (JP). Irregular in Florida, 3 Lapland Longspurs thrilled observers at Viera 22–28 Nov (JP et al., ph.). At San Felasco Hammock, a Black-headed Grosbeak was a one-day wonder 26 Sep (GK). High counts of Blue Grosbeaks were 22 at L. Apopka 10 Aug (HR) and 25 at Alachua 17 Oct (PBu). Indigo Bunting totals included 336 at L. Apopka 15 Oct (HR), 75+ at Alachua 17 Oct (PBu), 150 at Paynes Prairie 19 Oct (MMA, ES), 22 at Odessa, Pasco 23 Oct (KT), and 150 at Hague, Alachua 26 Oct (MMA, AKe). Presumably the same male Painted Bunting returned to a Tallahassee feeder 16 Oct+ for its 6th season (BBu).

Providing the 3rd highest total in Florida were the 115,000 Red-winged Blackbirds at L. Apopka 16 Sep (HR). The only Yellow-headed Blackbird report received was 2 at Hague 26 Oct–2 Nov (MMA, JB et al.). The L. Apopka roost also contained 5500 Boat-tailed Grackles 13 Aug, 7300 there 16–19 Sep, but only 20 by 5 Oct (HR). A trio of Shiny, Bronzed, and Brown-headed Cowbirds appeared at a Cedar Key feeder 30 Sep (DH). Another Shiny was in Hendry 17 Nov (VM et al.), and other Bronzed were 3 at Sanibel Lighthouse 15 Sep (VM), 2 at Flamingo, Everglades N.P. 25 Oct (JP), and 10 at Naples 21 Nov (DS). Meanwhile, 10,000 Brown-headed Cowbirds were at Hague 9 Nov (AKe). At L. Apopka, there were 4 Orchard Orioles 3 Sep and 7 Baltimore Orioles 29 Sep (HR). An American Goldfinch was quite



A Black-faced Grassquit at Long Pine Key, Everglades National Park, Miami-Dade County, Florida 1–25 (here 3) September 2003 posed for nice documentation of this scarce West Indian vagrant. This is only the fifth documented record for the state (and United States), though there are at least as many undocumented reports. Photograph by John Puschok.

early at St. Augustine 4 Sep (JHo).

Escapees: A White-checked Pintail with a red band on one leg—thus presumably an escapee—was at Homestead, Miami-Dade 7–10 Nov (DL et al., ph. JHB). Two Gray Partridges at L. Apopka 14 Sep (HR) furnished the first Florida report. Also debuting in Florida was a White-necked Raven (*Corvus albicollis*) at Delray Beach 2 Nov, which reportedly had been present for about 18 months (ph. LMa)—the species is native to Africa. An Orange Bishop visited a Homestead feeder 4 Nov (ph. DT), and a Java Sparrow frequented a Pasco feeder Aug–Oct (ph. BBy).

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Ontario



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The late summer and fall is a time of transitional weather, and when one considers the huge size of the province of Ontario, just about every condition possible will likely occur. On the same day in mid-August, hot and humid conditions in southwestern Ontario contrasted sharply with the first snow of the approaching winter along the Hudson Bay coast far to the north. Summer tended to ease out slowly through most of the central and southern parts of the province, with enjoyable weather the rule. In the north-west, an unpleasant taste of winter arrived in mid-September, when a week of cold resulted in several inches of snow on the ground. Once the snow melted, a more settled but slowly cooling trend was the rule for the majority of the province. The approach and arrival of Hurricane Isabel was the most anticipated weather event of the period (see the Special Report, this

issue). Another anticipated event was the arrival of Cave Swallows in early November, again in the southern part of the province.

The fall migration was rather unspectacular, and many birders commented on how birds just seemed to slip away, with low numbers and little buildup in many cases. Of course, rare birds did turn up: Band-tailed Pigeons in Sudbury and London, a Rufous Hummingbird in Kingston, a Kentucky Warbler near Thunder Bay, and a Ross's Gull in Point Pelee National Park were seen by birders from across the province.

Abbreviations: C.A. (Conservation Area); G.T.A. (Greater Toronto Area); K.E.N. (Kingston Field Naturalists); L.P.B.O. (Long Pt. Bird Observatory); O.B.R.C. (Ontario Bird Records Committee); P.E. Pt. (Prince Edward Pt.); P.P.N.P. (Pt. Pelee National Park); S.T.P. (Sewage Treatment Ponds); T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape Bird Observatory).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Red-throated Loons were noted across the s. part of the province, primarily off the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario. The largest number seen at one time was 8 off

Selkirk P.P. 19 Oct (M.Ro, CH), while a total of 9 was recorded 6 Oct–14 Nov at Amherst I. and P.E. Pt. (K.E.N.). Individuals were off the Tip of P.P.N.P. 31 Oct (AW), 5 Nov (AW, RLW), and 12 Nov (STP). A juv. in Algonquin P.P. 24 Oct was the 3rd record for the park (CBo, KC). Observers at Kettle Pt. noted 2 on 20 Sep, one on 3 Oct, and 2 more were found at Pinery P.P. 30 Nov (AR). In the G.T.A., an early single was at the Leslie Street Spit 31 Aug (JCa). A Pacific Loon was found 2 Nov with 392 Common Loons at P.E. Pt. (K.E.N.). Common Loons also concentrated at Rondeau, with 500 counted 18 Oct (SC). A nice count of 321 Pied-billed Grebes was made near Rondeau P.P. 12 Oct (JBU). A Horned Grebe at Long Pt. 16 Aug was early (L.P.B.O.), as were 12 at Presquille P.P. 1 Sep (BMD). Peak numbers were 120 at P.E. Pt. 6 Oct and 800 there 2 Nov (K.E.N.), with 40 at the Tip of P.P.N.P. 23 Oct (AW). Red-necked Grebes were still nesting on Kelly L. at Sudbury 7 Aug, with 7 there 18 Sep (JL). The Bronte Harbour nesting site held 8 ads. and 2 imms. 24 Aug (NM). Good numbers of Red-neckeds were found on L. Ontario near Rattray Marsh: 61 on 9 Sep (GB), 106 on 6 Oct (DEP), and 53 on 31 Oct (DEP). Single Eared Grebes were found off the East Beach of P.P.N.P. 5 Nov (KAM, RLW), 8 Sep at the Townsend S.T.P. (TT), 23–25 Aug at the Alfred S.T.P. (the 4th record for e. Ontario; BMD), and 22–27 at Cobourg (MB, LW).

American White Pelicans, all singles, were at Cootes Paradise, Hamilton 28 Aug–1 Sep (RStA), over the Holiday Beach raptor banding station 25 Sep (G&RDB), at Peacock Pt. 2 Sep (DG), and over the Hillman Marsh near P.P.N.P. 23 Sep (DJ, JB et al.). Great Egrets bred successfully on the Leslie Street Spit, G.T.A., with 3 fledged young noted 23 Aug (RBHS, WY). A wayward bird was found far to the n. at Eagle R., w. of Dryden 23 Sep (CE), and another was n. of Ottawa 11 Sep (MT). A record-late one was on Amherst I. 6 Nov (JHE). The period's only Snowy Egret was found on the rather late date of 6 Nov at Selkirk P.P. (JM). A Cattle Egret at Moosonee 13–16 Oct furnished the 2nd record for s. James Bay (D&DR), while at the other end of the province, one was noted near Marysville 17 Oct (VPM). Other singles were at Wheatley Harbour 3 Nov and at Sanctuary Pond, P.P.N.P. 5 Nov (KAM, RLW), at Sturgeon Cr. 31 Oct–15 Nov (SM), and another at Thunder Bay 20 Oct (AH). The only Glossy Ibis of the period was at Holiday Beach near Wheatley 17–30 Oct (DJW).

Several Black Vultures were found across the s. part of the province, with single birds at P.E. Pt. 10 Sep (DO) and in the same area at the late date of 1 Nov (K.E.N.), the 2nd

and 3rd records for the area. One was at the Tip of P.P.N.P. 9 Aug (AW), and another was at the Townsend S.T.P. 8 Sep (TT). A more n. record was a bird at North Bay 8 Aug (S.O'D). Good numbers of Turkey Vultures moved over the G.T.A., with 746 counted 2 Oct and 309 counted 5 Oct from the High Park Hawkwatch (HS). An additional 333 were over Birchwood Park 2 Oct (DEP). At Wheatley 210 were counted in 3 hours at the rather late date of 8 Nov (AW).

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Two Greater White-fronted Geese were at Burlington 24–25 Oct (DD et al.), and 3 were at the Jack Miner Sanctuary near Kingsville 13 Nov (DJW). Another 2, apparently *flavirostris*, were found 30 Oct at Sturgeon Cr. (FD, IW, RPH). A Snow Goose at Long Pt. 4 Sep was very early (L.P.B.O.); 18 were noted over High Park, G.T.A. 1 Nov (AA); and 52 were over Kettle Pt. 3 Nov (AR). A flock of 45 over Van Wagners Beach 2 Nov was a high count for the Hamilton area (BCr). Ross's Geese put in a good appearance, with singles at Erieau 16 Nov (JB, KB et al.), at Lowbanks 23 Nov (WDA et al.), Selkirk P.P. 2 Sep (JM), at West Lake Harbour 25–26 Sep (MR et al.), and at Thunder Bay 28 Sep (BM). Of particular interest was a small flock of 5 at Hillman Marsh 16 Nov (DJW, DS). Long Pt. had 2 Brant 19 Oct (L.P.B.O.), with 2 more at the Tip of P.P.N.P. 7 Nov (KAM, RLW). Farther e., 150 were at Cobourg and 117 at Presqu'île P.P. 28 Oct (CEG). The Long Pt. area held 10,000+ Tundra Swans in mid-Nov (L.P.B.O.). A single Tundra Swan first found in Algonquin P.P. 10 May remained to 21 Sep, for a first summer and only the 3rd fall record (CBo). A remarkable flock of 12,500 American Wigeons at Rondeau constituted a new area high, while 3700 was the maximum noted at Kingston 2 Nov (K.F.N.). A Common Eider at Long Pt. 9 Oct–1 Nov provided the first record for the area, and another was at P.E. Pt. 13–27 Sep (DO). A Harlequin Duck was constant at Port Credit 17–28 Nov (DEP), and 2 flying past the Tip of P.P.N.P. 21 Sep were early (STP et al.). A flock of 50 Surf Scoters at Cobourg 22 Oct represented the highest count there in a decade (MB); 50 off the Tip of P.P.N.P. 7 Oct were early (KAM). A Black Scoter off Van Wagners Beach 18 Sep was also early (WDA). A Long-tailed Duck on Nym L. e. of Atikokan 31 Oct provided the first area record and only the 2nd for the Rainy River District (DHE). A Bufflehead in Algonquin P.P. 27 Nov provided a late park date (CB et al.). Up to 5 Barrow's Goldeneyes were scattered along the Ottawa R. 27 Oct Nov (BB, m. ob.), with a single present at Stoney Cr. 8–30 Nov (BC, LC). Excellent numbers of

Red-breasted Mergansers were recorded off Cobourg, with three counts exceeding 2000, peaking 28 Oct with 3176 (LW).

Bald Eagles continue to increase throughout the province, with at least 20 noted at Long Pt. 10 Sep (L.P.B.O.) and 62 at the Atikokan landfill 3 Nov (DHE). Hawkwatchers at Port Hope had some very good fall counts of Red-shouldered Hawks, among them 15 on 19 Oct and 18 on 22 Oct (RF). In addition, a locally high count of 263 Red-tailed Hawks was made 19 Oct (RF). A dark-morph Harlan's Hawk was well studied at the tip of P.P.N.P. 14 Nov, for the first park record (AW et al.). A nice movement of 217 Rough-legged Hawks was observed along the coast of L. Superior near Marathon 20 Oct (AW, MJ). An imm. Golden Eagle flew over the Thetford S.T.P. 9 Nov (AR), and an ad. was over Ivy Lea 16 Nov (RDW). One in Algonquin P.P. 20 Sep furnished a new early date for fall (VM). A total of 11 was noted in the P.P.N.P. area 22 Oct–30 Nov (m. ob.), and 10 were counted over the G.T.A. 2 Oct–21 Nov (m. ob.). A single Gyrfalcon was first noted in Thunder Bay 19 Nov (BR). A remarkable high count of 35 Peregrine Falcons was made during a morning watch at the Tip of P.P.N.P. 12 Oct (M&SK).

A juv. Purple Gallinule was at Holiday Beach 26–27 Sep (BP), and another at Shirleys Bay on the Ottawa R. 28 Sep (JW) provided the 3rd area record. The first fall record for Sandhill Cranes in Algonquin P.P. occurred 22 Oct, when 15 flew over Cedar L. (DS, RS). An unbanded Piping Plover was at the tip of P.P.N.P. 31 Aug–4 Sep (JC, BG et al.). Single American Avocets found their way to Long Pt. 2 Sep (L.P.B.O.), to the Chesterfield S.T.P. 18–20 Sep (2nd Ottawa area record; JW), with a different bird at the nearby Winchester S.T.P. 28–29 Sep (MG). Elsewhere, one found the Leslie Street Spit 30 Aug–1 Sep (PNN), and another was on Amherst I. 3–13 Oct (BMD). The Blenheim S.T.P. was very attractive to Hudsonian Godwits: one was there 17 Aug (KB, JB), 7 on 13 Sep (BM), and 4 on 27 Sep (BM et al.). Two were also found 11–16 Oct on Amherst I. (K.F.N.). The P.P.N.P. area had a record-late Marbled Godwit 24 Oct at Sturgeon Cr. (DJW). Single Western Sandpipers appeared 24 Aug at P.E. Pt. (RTS), 13 Sep on Amherst I. (JHE, RDW), 15 Sep at Presqu'île P.P. (BMD), and at Sturgeon Cr. 8 Oct and 27 Oct–5 Nov (KAM, AW). Presqu'île P.P. hosted a record-high 32 Baird's Sandpipers 1 Sep (BMD), and another large concentration of 31 was at the Copper Cliff tailings ponds near Sudbury 4 Sep (JL, CB). A single at Atikokan 17 Aug was rare for the area (DHE). Dunlin moved over P.E. Pt. and Amherst I. in high numbers, with 1890 grounded by poor

weather 2 Nov (K.F.N.). A juv. Stilt Sandpiper lingered at Sturgeon Cr. 24 Oct–1 Nov (AW et al.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found in good numbers in the onion fields near P.P.N.P. 24 Aug–10 Oct: 13 on 30 Aug was the highest count there (AW et al.), and a total of 13 was found on Amherst I. 3 Sep–12 Oct (PJG). Singles were seen at Toronto I. 7 Aug (GC) and the tip of Long Pt. 16 Aug (L.P.B.O.). A Ruff was at the Blenheim S.T.P. 16–17 Aug (PC, AR), and a Long-billed Dowitcher tarried at Sturgeon Cr. to 7 Nov (AW et al.). The Townsend S.T.P. attracted 3 Red-necked Phalaropes 7 Sep (Cbu, CD'A). Four Red Phalaropes were off Van Wagners Beach 10–13 Sep (BC), and a single was found on Amherst I. 17 Nov (RDW).

GULLS THROUGH CROWS

There was a good fall flight of jaegers, with all three species reported. Single Pomarine Jaegers were identified off P.E. Pt. 30 Aug (DO), off Van Wagners Beach 7 Sep (BK et al.) and 4 Nov (MA), and off Fort Erie 22 Sep (DB). At least 57 Parasitic Jaegers were counted from Van Wagners Beach during the period, with the first noted 31 Aug (BH et al.), a maximum of 20 counted 2 Sep (BC), and the last noted 4 Nov (RZD). At least 6 were at Fort Erie 22 Sep (DB et al.), and a light-morph bird was at Shirleys Bay 23 Sep (DM), a rarity for the area. A remarkable 5 Long-tailed Jaegers were off Kettle Pt. 3 Sep (AR), feeding from the surface and chasing nearby gulls. Singles were off Van Wagners Beach 23 Aug (RZD, BCh) and 3 Sep (BH, EH).

The only Laughing Gull reported was an ad. seen near Petticoat Cr. C.A. 14 Sep (RJ), in advance of the hurricane. A Franklin's Gull at Moosonee S.T.P. 27 Sep–8 Oct was the 2nd record for the s. James Bay area (D&DR). Elsewhere, singles were found at Kingston 1 Nov (K.F.N.) and at Hillman Marsh 26 Aug (KAM) and 27 Oct (DJW). A Black-headed Gull in late Nov at L. Fanshawe near London was quite unexpected (BL). Two Bonaparte's Gulls were in Algonquin P.P. 1 Nov, a late date for the park by five weeks (DT, RT). A juv. Thayer's Gull was at the Thunder Bay marina 18 Oct (AW, NE), and an Iceland Gull at Long Pt. 2 Sep was record early (L.P.B.O.). As usual, a California Gull was consistent at Niagara Falls Nov+ (m. ob.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found in good numbers, with the earliest noted 31 Aug off Van Wagners Beach (RZD). Long Pt. had 23 on 14 Sep (L.P.B.O.), and 11 were at Shirleys Bay in mid-Sep (BMD). Ottawa birders were treated to the area's first Slaty-backed Gull, a second-winter bird discovered at the Ottawa Valley Waste Recovery Centre 12 Nov; it remained at least to 27 Nov (CM,

SA Once again, **Cave Swallows** appeared in s. Ontario in mid-autumn. A total of 21 birds was recorded, as compared to 110–120 in 1999 and 9 in 2002. Two distinct waves occurred. The first wave began 1 Nov with a single bird at Niagara Falls (TS), 3 farther n. at Tobermory 4 Nov (EJM), one at Cranberry Marsh 6–7 Nov (KJ, DK), 3 at the Tip of P.P.N.P. 7 Nov (KAM, RLW), and 2 the same day at the Tip of Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.). On 8 Nov, 2 were at Erieau (BM), 2 at the onion fields near P.P.N.P. (AW et al.), and a single at Sturgeon Cr. (STP). One found 8 Nov at Pt. Petre, Prince Edward was picked up dead 10 Nov; it proved to be of the expected sw. race *pelodroma* (WTF). On 9 Nov, singles were noted on the L. Erie shore s. of Hillman Marsh (MBR) and at the Tip of P.P.N.P. (RPH et al.). The last of the wave was found at Cedar Springs, with one bird 10 Nov (KB).

The next wave moved into the Great Lakes area about 23 Nov on a mass of warm air and sw. winds. Most of the birds recorded were s. and e. of the lakes, with only one making it into Ontario at Cranberry Marsh 26 Nov (DK, DL). It had the misfortune to be caught by a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

MF et al.).

Sabine's Gulls were also well reported, with a total of 4 off the Tip of P.P.N.P. 31 Aug–3 Oct (AW, IR et al.), 11 juvs. off Van Wagners Beach 2 Sep (AK, RZD), and 4 at Sarnia 2 Oct (AR). Single juv. Black-legged Kittiwakes appeared off Van Wagners Beach 31 Aug (BH, EH) and 13 Sep (DD et al.), with 2 there 9 Sep (BC). Two were also noted at Kettle Pt. 13 Nov (AR). An ad. Ross's Gull off the Tip of P.P.N.P. 12 Sep was a total surprise (AW, PET et al.): the bird furnished the 2nd park record and was nearly six weeks earlier than any previous record for the province, at least s. of the Arctic. A nice flock of 3000 Common Terns was at Buff Bar, Long Pt. 17 Sep (L.P.B.O.), and 900 were on the Leamington dock 17 Aug (AW). A molting Forster's Tern at Shirley's Bay 18–20 Sep was the first area record since 1991 (BMD).

A Band-tailed Pigeon visited feeders at Westree near Sudbury 26 Sep into mid-Oct (AB, CW), and another was found in London 17 Nov (GM, PR, m. ob.) and remained there into Jan, despite regular harassment by a Cooper's Hawk. A Eurasian Collared-Dove was noted at Bronte Harbour 3 Aug (GE). Single Black-billed Cuckoos found in P.E.N.P. (NCM, SB) and P.E. Pt. (JHE, RDW) 2 Nov were record late for both areas. Very few owls were reported, despite the apparent abundance of mice, voles, and shrews. On 11 Nov, a single Snowy Owl was on Amherst I. (JS), and a Great Gray Owl at Algonquin P.P. 10 Oct was thought to be a resident rather than one from farther north (KC, RT et al.).

In London, good numbers of Chimney Swifts were observed entering chimneys to roost in Sep and early Oct, with high counts of 460 on 23 Sep and 620 on 28 Sep (m. ob.). A Rufous Hummingbird found a feeder in Kingston 21 Nov and remained Nov+ for a 3rd area record (K.F.N.). Red-bellied Woodpeckers invaded the n. shore of L. Superior, with single birds at Marathon 14 Nov (RFu), Rossport 19 Oct (AW, MJ), Red Rock 7–9 Oct (O&VP),

Thunder Bay 25 Nov (NE), Kakabeka Falls 16 Nov (BR), and Atikokan 16 Dec (CY, DHE). Elsewhere, 2 were found in the Ottawa area, where the species is rare, with one 30 Oct at Carp (WA) and one 18 Nov at North Gower (AC). A Western Kingbird delighted many birders at Pembroke 30 Oct–2 Nov (CM, m. ob.), and another was found at Long Pt. 21 Sep (Rfo et al.). On 19 Oct, a wandering Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was noted 30 km e. of Thunder Bay along Hwy 11/17 (JR); far to the s., an imm. was at Rondeau 5 Oct (BM). Black-billed Magpies moved into the Atikokan area in early Oct for the first winter in 20 years, with at least 3 seen at the landfill and at feeders in town (DHE).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

A Northern Wheatear was a nice find at Moose Factory 10 Oct (AW, MJ). Quite unexpected was a Northern Mockingbird at Nipigon 20 Nov (ABI). Some 50 American Pipits at Lakeport 10 Nov was a remarkable number for that late in the fall (CEG). Bohemian Waxwings moved into nw. Ontario rather early, with large flocks present in Atikokan by 9 Oct (DHE). The waxwings and American Robins quickly consumed the abundant Mountain Ash berry crop and promptly disappeared. A Kentucky Warbler was banded at the T.C.B.O. 13 Oct, the 2nd Thunder Bay record (Jwo), whereas a Hooded Warbler banded 26 Sep at Selkirk P.P. was a first fall record for the area (JM). A Lark Sparrow was at the T.C.B.O. 13–14 Sep (Jwo). In Algonquin P.P., a concentrated search in suitable sedge habitat turned up at least 10 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows 3–12 Oct (RT et al.). Prior to this effort, the species had been recorded only twice in the park. A Lincoln's Sparrow was found a feeder in Atikokan in early Oct and remained into Nov+, surviving temperatures down to -37° C. (DHE); there are very few previous winter records for the province. A Smith's Longspur was found in a convenient location on a lawn at the Thunder Bay marina

14 Sep (NG), allowing close and conclusive study. A first winter Black-headed Grosbeak at a feeder 24–30 Nov in Pakenham was a first record for the Ottawa area (BJ, Mja, TB, m. ob.). Common Redpolls, scarce during the past winter everywhere in Ontario, appeared in good numbers by mid-Oct. A count of 6900 was made 20 Oct near Marathon, as flocks of redpolls moved steadily nw. along the coast of L. Superior (AW, MJ). A Eurasian Tree Sparrow was seen 24 Aug in Leamington, the 2nd record for the P.P.N.P. area.

Cited observers (subregional contributors in boldface): Alfred Adamo, M. Apse, William Argue, Margaret J. C. Bain, Stan Bajurus, G. & D. Balkwill, Jan Barnett, Dave Beadle, Tony Beck, C. Bell, Anne Blanchette, Chris Boettger, Bob Bracken, A. Brethour, George Bryant, Jim Burk, Keith Burk, Chris Burns, Alvin Cameron, John Carley, R.J. Cermak, Pet Chapman, Steve Charbanneau, B. Charlton, Barry Cherriere, Linda Cherriere, Kevin Clute, Glenn Coady, James Cole, Bill Crins, F. Dale, C. D'Aguiar, W. D'Anna, Bruce M. DiLabio, Ron Z. Dobos, Dave Don, Carrolle Eady, Gavin Edmonstone, David H. Elder, J.H. Ellis, Nick Escott, Manson Fleugel, R. Ford, Rodney Fuentes, Denny Gardiner, Mark Gawn, P. J. Good, Clive E. Goodwin, Brett Groves, Jack Hanna, Al Harris, C. Heffernan, John Heslop, B. Holden, E. Holden, S. Holden, Randy P. Holden, Mike Jacques, Karl Jennewein, Mark Jennings, Bob Jourmain, Dave Jolly, R. Joos, Dan Kaczynski, A. Keaveny, Michael & Susan Klieb, Burke Korol, Rick Lauzon, J. Lemon, Bill Lindley, Doug Lockrey, N. Macdonald, V.P. Mackenzie, Sophie Macsoud, Blake Mann, D.A. Martin, Virgil Martin, Kevin A. McLaughlin, Ethan J. Meleg, Chris Michener, John Miles, D.J. Milson, B. Moore, Dave Moore, Norman C. Murr, S. O'Donnell, D. Okines, John Olmsted, Oiva & Velta Paju, Jeanette B. Pepper, B. Pettit, Stephen T. Pike, B.M. & G. Priekstaitis, P.N. Prior, Brian Ratcliff, Peter Read, Marianne B. Reid, Ian Richards, Alf Rider, Maureen Riggs, Julie Rosenthal, M. Ross, Dan & Diane Ryder, D.R. Salisbury, J. Scott, Howard Shapiro, Troy Shively, Dan Simpson, R.B.H. Smith, R.T. Sprague, Bob Stamp, R. Stavinga, Dan Strickland, Rick Stronks, Margo Swainson, Mike Tate, Tom Thomas, Wynne Thomas, Doug Tozer, Ron Tozer, Paul E. Turnquest, Robert L. Waldhuber, John Walmsley, Dean J. Ware, Ron D. Weir, L. Wensley, C. Whiteclaw, John Woodcock, Irene Woods, Alan Wormington, B. Wylie, Colin Young, W. Yung. Other observers submitting observations not cited herein have our deepest thanks. ☺

Aside from the excitement of Hurricane *Isabel* (see the Special Report, this issue), it was a fairly typical and uneventful fall for birds and bird migration. Rainfall was higher and more persistent than usual, perhaps contributing to the presence of more than the usual number of late (delayed) migrants reported from across the Region, as well as to a scarcity of shorebirds at some traditional stopover sites because of high water levels.

Abbreviations: O.N.W.R. (Ottawa N.W.R., Ottawa/Lucas, OH); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA); P.N.R. (Powdermill Nature Reserve, Rector, Westmoreland, PA).

LOOKS THROUGH VULTURES

An out-of-season Red-throated Loon was present near Ligonier, Westmoreland, PA 11 Aug (RCL). On 8 Nov, 115 Common Loons were observed over Holmes, OH (ES), and that same day in Pennsylvania, 232 passed Hawk Mt. Sanctuary (DB) and 500 flew over Rt. 183 a few km. s. of the sanctuary (R. Cook). Some 260 were observed from Stone Mt., Huntingdon/Mifflin, PA 29 Nov (GG). An out-of-season ad. Horned Grebe spent all of Aug at the Conojehela Flats, Lancaster, PA (DH). A very early Eared Grebe was in Paulding, OH 19 Sep (D. & M. Dunakin), and 2 were unexpected finds on Pymatuning L., Andover, OH 5 Nov (CH).

An American White Pelican, the only Pennsylvania report this season, was at the Linesville Fish Hatchery, Pymatuning L. 30 Aug (RFL). A Brown Pelican at Loraine, OH 19 Sep (BR) and another at L. Cary, Wyoming, PA 25 Sep could have been related to the passage of Hurricane *Isabel*, but several have roamed the Midwest and Great Lakes in recent years with no context for hurricane entrapment. Inland flights of over 1000 Double-crested Cormorants were noted over Clark, OH 17 Oct (LG) and Clermont 8 Nov (D. Morse, Jr.); 246 were listed at Pymatuning L., PA 28 Sep (RFL), and 350 were at Tincum 8 Nov (MS). A Great Cormorant was at the Conojehela Flats, Lancaster, PA 18 Oct (R. Schutsky, D. Rieger). The 2 Anhingas seen soaring over Hawk Mt. Sanctuary 23 Sep (DB) provided the 3rd sighting this year for *Berks*, PA (Jde RK).

A census at O.N.W.R. (EP et al.) revealed 144 Great Blue Herons 3 Aug and 198 Great and 12 Snowy Egrets 7 Sep; a late Snowy was still at Otawa 2 Nov (T. Bartlett). Rare in Ohio, a Tricolored Heron was seen intermittently at Medusa Marsh, Erie 1 Aug–7 Sep (D. Horn, ph. SS, m. ob.). Thirty-nine Cattle Egrets remained at their nesting colony at Turning Point L., Erie, OH 5 Aug (RH, S. Harlan); one was a rare find at Pymatuning L., PA 23–27 Sep (SK, MV), as was one at Core Creek Park, Bucks, PA 16–24 Sep (Jde AMI). Green Herons apparently had a very successful breeding season in nw. Pennsylvania, where 20 were found at a small pond at Geneva Marsh, Crawford 5 Aug (RCL). An imm. White Ibis was a rarity at Middlecreek

Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



W.M.A., Lancaster, PA 11 Aug (DFe). A Glossy Ibis was at Pipe Creek Wildlife Area, Erie, OH 24 (S. Hupert) & 30 Aug (J. Lehman); another was at Conojehela Flats, PA 9 Sep (J. Book), where there were 5 on the 20th (DW, JHo). A flock of 29 Black Vultures over Granville, Licking, OH 1 Oct (GP) was indicative of the species' continuing northward expansion in the Region.

WATERFOWL

A scattering of Greater White-fronted Geese across the Region included 8 birds from three sites in w. Ohio, plus singles in *Berks* (RK) and *Carbon*, PA (D. Hawk). A mixed goose flock that put down along the Ohio R. at Apple Grove, Mason WV during a storm 12 Nov (WA) included 15 Greater White-fronted, 200 Snow, and at least 10 Ross's Geese. A count of 13 Ross's Geese at Erie 13 Nov (JM, BC) set a new high count for Pennsylvania; in Ohio, singles were in *Portage* 23–30 Nov (LR) and *Hamilton* 29 Nov (N. Cade). In West Virginia, a Brant was at the Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason, WV 19 Nov (WA, M. Griffith); among many reports across Ohio and Pennsylvania was a high of 27 along the Susquehanna R. near Clark's Ferry 6 Nov (DH). A Barnacle Goose was at Coatesville Res., Chester, PA 21 Nov (H. Merker). Good counts of Tundra Swans, away from L. Erie, included 500 at Findlay Res, Hancock, OH 6 Nov (B. Hardesty)

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and 360 on L. Somerset, Somerset, PA 7 Nov (AMA, B. Wolff).

An evening census of Wood Ducks passing over a road at Pymatuning L., Crawford, PA tallied 1101 birds 20 Sep (AMA). A remarkable 2600 Gadwall were listed at O.N.W.R. 5 Oct (EP et al.); inland, 90 were at Pymatuning L. 9 Nov (RFL). The only Eurasian Wigeon report was of a male at Churchville Res., Bucks, PA 18 Oct (M. Corn). A 2 Nov census recorded 1648 American Wigeons, 2100 Mallards, and 231 Northern Pintails at O.N.W.R. (EP); 3 very early pintails were found 15 Aug near Erie, PA (BC). The 590 Ring-necked Ducks at Camp Dennison, Hamilton, OH 14 Nov (B. Foppe, H. Armstrong) provided a good inland count. The duck of the season, a female Common Eider, was at Fairport Harbor, Lake, OH 25–29 Sep (Jpo, ph.)—the same locality where one was found in Nov 2002 (same bird?). The season's only Harlequin Duck, an imm. male,

passed by Lakeshore M.P., Lake, OH 8 Nov (JPo). Surf Scoters were widely reported across Pennsylvania and Ohio in flocks of up to 31. White-winged Scoters, however, were scarce, with just 6 birds reported from five sites in Ohio and one in Findlay Twp., Allegheny, PA 16 Nov+ (MV). Better counts of Black Scoter were of 21 at Rose Valley L., Lycoming, PA 6 Nov (J. Lipar) and 89 near Clark's Ferry Bridge, Dauphin, PA the same day (DH). Five Long-tailed Ducks were early at Pymatuning L. PA 28 Sep (RFL). Heavy fallouts of Ruddy ducks included 700 at Mogadore Res., Portage, OH 9 Nov (LR), 520 at L. Somerset, PA 7 Nov (AMA), and 900 at Yellow Creek S.P. 7 Nov (MH).



This Long-tailed Jaeger at Lake Nockamixon, Bucks County, Pennsylvania 1 September 2003 (here) provided a second state record. Even without the passage of Hurricane Isabel later in the month, the interior lakes and reservoirs of the East and Midwest were productive for jaegers and Sabine's Gulls in 2003. Photograph by Elaine Ilyan.

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

A late Osprey was at L. Arthur, Butler, PA 20 Nov (PH), and another was at East Fork S.P., Clermont, OH 22 Nov (D. Graham). A juv. Mississippi Kite was in Princeton, Mercer, WV 11 Aug (JPh), near the site where one had been seen a week earlier (R. Canterbury). The 216 Bald Eagles seen from Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, PA represented a record high there (DB). Birders at most hawkwatches experienced an unusually good flight of Northern Harriers; away from these stations, a high count of 15 was made in Wyandot, OH 21 Nov (RC), while 10 were regulars at the Flight 93 crash site near Somerset, PA (JPa). High single-day counts of Broad-winged Hawks included 1055 at Stone Mt. hawkwatch, Huntingdon/Mifflin, PA 20 Sep—the day following passage of Hurricane Isabel (GG)—and 1200+ at Perrysburg, Wood, OH 23 Sep (S. Stockford). A light-morph ad. Swainson's Hawk was one of the season's highlights at Fairport Harbor, OH 20 Nov (R. Hannikman, LR, JPo). A very early Rough-legged Hawk was spotted along Chestnut Ridge at Stahlstown, Westmoreland, PA 21 Sep (L. Hess). The Golden Eagle flight was exceptional along Pennsylvania's ridges: the 159 spotted from Hawk Mt. represented a new seasonal high there (DB); a total of 182 had passed by the Allegheny Front hawkwatch, Somerset/Bedford, by the end of Nov, and the 51 listed there 23 Nov was reportedly the largest single-day count for the East (TD). A record 137 Goldeneyes were tallied at Stone Mt. hawkwatch this season, with totals of 25 on 13 & 20 Nov (GG), and a record 206 Golden Eagles had passed by the Waggoner's Gap hawkwatch through Nov (D. Grove)!

A Yellow Rail was found near Sugarcreek, Tuscarawas, OH 6 Oct (ph. R. Schlabbach), where, amazingly, the species has been seen

twice before at the same farm since 1991 (Jide ES). The season's only King Rail was reported from Big Island W.A., OH 4 Aug (J. Fry). The high count for Sora was 43 at Cedar Point N.W.R., Lucas, OH 14 Sep (E. Tramer). At O.N.W.R., Common Moorhens peaked 7 Sep at 27 (EP et al.), and 20 was a good count at Geneva Marsh, PA 5 Aug (RCL). The peak date for American Coot was 2 Nov, when 3133 were listed at O.N.W.R. (EP). Two hundred Sandhill Cranes passed over Dayton 6 Nov (J. Hickman) and 180 were over Whitehouse, Lucas, OH on the 29th (T. Kemp); among Pennsylvania sightings, 5 ads. from a local breeding population lingered in Plain Grove Twp., Lawrence, all fall (m. ob.), and 5 passed Allegheny Front hawkwatch 30 Sep (TD).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

It was a good season for American Avocets across Ohio, highlighted by about 15 seen intermittently at Conneaut, Ashtabula, OH 3 Aug–5 Oct, including 8 on 4 Aug (C. Spagnoli); one was a good find at Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason, WV 6 Sep (WA), and there were a few avocet sightings across Pennsylvania. A Spotted Sandpiper in Auglaize, OH 15 Nov was a late find (DD). Single, possibly hurricane-associated Hudsonian Godwits 19 Sep were at P.L.S.P. (BC) and on the Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, PA (JHe, RMI); in Ohio, one was at O.N.W.R. 5–18 Oct (RH, m. ob.). A Marbled Godwit stopped at P.L.S.P. 2 Aug (BC), and 3 visited Conneaut, OH 27 Aug–4 Sep (m. ob.). A Purple Sandpiper at Walnut Beach, Ashtabula, OH 22 Nov (ES) was the season's only sighting. On 2 Nov, O.N.W.R. was host to 238 Long-billed Dowitchers (EP et al.). A Red Phalarope on the Allegheny R. at Starbrick, Warren, PA 7 Oct (J. Schultz) could have been left over from Isabel's passage but was possibly just a ground migrant.

An imm. Long-tailed Jaeger was a well-documented rarity at Nockamixon S.P., Bucks, PA 31 Aug–1 Sep (AMi, m. ob.); in Ohio, a possible Long-tailed Jaeger at Hoover Res., Franklin 8 Oct (J. Sauter) is under review by the Ohio records committee. Recorded with increasing frequency in recent years, an impressive 9 Laughing Gulls was reported 10 Aug+ across Ohio. Equally impressive, over 30 Franklin's Gulls were scattered over 14 sites in Ohio; in Pennsylvania, where the species is rarely found, 2 frequented Pymatuning Res. 20 Oct–4 Nov (SK, m. ob.). The only report of Black-headed Gull was of one flying over O.N.W.R. 11 Nov (B. Whan, B. Colan, D. Horn). Away from L. Erie, the Bonaparte's Gull flight peaked at 600 at Pymatuning

Res. 23 Nov (RFL), and the high at Mosquito L., Trumbull, OH was 500 on 24 Oct (CH). A Sabine's Gull was a good inland find at Salt Fork S.P., Guernsey, OH 1 Sep (J. Larson, T. Sponseller); a juv. Sabine's Gull found 2 Sep at McVeytown, Mifflin, PA (J. Norton) did not survive rehabilitation.

Common Tern numbers peaked at 2000 at O.N.W.R. 7 Sep, the same day that the Forster's Tern count reached 1000 (EP et al.). There were still 41 Forster's Terns at Pt. Clinton, OH as late as 23 Nov (D. Sanders). An Arctic Tern was at Conejohela Flats 28 Sep (J. Brooks, T. Garner, EW), one was at Nockamixon S.P. 23 Sep (JHo), and yet another was at Rohm & Haas, Bucks on the 28th (Jide AMI); none of these showed clear connection to the passage of the hurricane, but in all cases, storm-transport (or grounding) is conceivable.

OWLS THROUGH THRUSHES

No Snowy Owls appeared in the Region, even along L. Erie shores. Short-eared Owls, however, were widely reported across Pennsylvania in Nov, where up to 5 were seen in Washington (M. Kern) and 6 at grasslands at Imperial, Allegheny (J. Hoffmann, DW). In a poor season for Northern Saw-whet Owls, only one was reported in Ohio, and the 24 banded at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center in Huntingdon, PA represented the lowest total in a four-year program (J. Brackbill). Among some rather good counts of Common Nighthawk, best were 200 listed in Greene, OH 27 Aug (N. Smith), and 711 on 27 Aug and 507 on 8 Sep (DY) at Etna, Allegheny, PA; a very late bird was at Forty Fort, Luzerne, PA 2 Nov (S. Galanty). Such early birds should be checked carefully for other species, such as Lesser Nighthawk and Antillean Nighthawk. Top Chimney Swift counts included 3800 birds at a roost in Dublin, Franklin, OH 11 Sep and 5360 at a Reading, PA school 7 Sep (K. Knight). The total of 259 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds banded at P.N.R. this fall was 132% above the 40-year average, indicative of an unusually heavy flight. It was also a phenomenal season for *Scelasphorus* hummingbirds: of 10 Ohio birds (scattered over nine counties), all that could be identified to species were Rufous Hummingbirds (A. Chartier), and in Pennsylvania 4 out of 6 *Scelasphorus* (in five counties) were identified as Rufous (m. ob.).

With 88 banded at P.N.R., the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher migration was well above the 40-year average of 58. A rather late Acadian Flycatcher was netted there 8 Oct (RM, RCL). A very late Eastern Kingbird was at Yellow Creek S.P. 1 Nov (MH). The only Loggerhead Shrike reported this season was at Killdeer Plains W.A., Wyandot, OH 12 Nov+ (m. ob.). The first Northern Shrike appeared at Bavington, Washington, PA 23 Oct (DY), and the species was widely reported thereafter across the n. part of the Region.

An ailing female Purple Martin of the nom-

imate race lingered at a farm where the species nests near Van Wert, *Junata*, PA until 17 Nov, a new late year for the Region and anywhere a. of Florida (T. Petersheim, A. Troyer, M. Kenepp); it was handled and found to have no fat (*file* Arlene Koch). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow was still at Castalia Pond, Erie, OH 16 Nov (SS), and late Barn Swallows included one at Pymatuning Res. 16 Nov (RFL) and another in Clermont, OH 27 Nov (B. Stanley). In what was the poorest showing in 40 years, just 23 Black-capped Chickadees were banded at P.N.R. (RM, RCL), and no mention was made of any flights elsewhere in the Region. Rather late Sedge Wrens were at P.L.S.P. 6 Oct (BC) and in Ohio at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands 19 Oct. A healthy looking, actively feeding Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was still at O.N.W.R. 2 Nov (RH). In a good flight, 164 Gray-checked Thrushes were banded at Black Swamp Bird Observatory, *Ottawa*, OH 7 Sep–16 Oct (M&JS); 480 Swainsons' and 215 Hermit Thrushes were also netted there this season. A Bicknell's Thrush, audio-recorded during pre-dawn flight over P.N.R. 23 Sep, was somewhat w. of the species' presumed primary flight path (ML). A very late Wood Thrush was at Headlands Beach S.P., OH 20 Nov (LR).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The fall warbler flight was rather ordinary, with most species found in about average numbers at banding stations; observed departure dates, however, averaged later than usual. A Blue-winged Warbler certainly was a late find at Gordon Park, Cleveland, OH 11 Oct (C. Rieker), as was a Golden-winged Warbler banded at P.N.R. 11 Sep (RM, RCL). In Ohio, a very late Tennessee Warbler was at Glenwood Gardens, *Hamilton* 9 Nov (FR), a Nashville Warbler lingered to 22 Nov at Cleveland (ES), a Prothonotary Warbler was unseasonable at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, *Lucas* 11–19 Oct (M. J. Kohn, SS, m. ob.), as was a Louisiana Waterthrush 24 Sep at Rocky River M.P. 24 Sep (RH). Two late Yellow Warblers (probably *D. p. amnicola*) were at P.L.S.P. 27–28 Sep (JM). A Prairie Warbler was a rare fall find at Headlands Beach S.P., OH 25 Sep (LR). The Black-throated Blue Warbler, with 706 netted, was the most numerous species banded at Allegheny Front Migration Observatory, Grant, WV (4.5% above the 10-year average). Black-poll Warbler was second with 402 (24% below average), followed by 338 Black-throated Green Warblers at 7% below average (GH, RB). With just 5 banded, Mourning Warblers were at less than half their usual numbers at P.N.R., and 8 was also considered a low fall total at Black Swamp Bird Observatory (M&JS).

An imm. female Summer Tanager banded at P.N.R. 10 Sep (RCL, RM) apparently represented Pennsylvania's first fall record away from the Piedmont region in the southeast. A Scarlet Tanager in *Wood*, WV 21 Nov (D. Esker) was over a month late. American Tree

Sparrow numbers were good, with a high of over 500 at Gordon Park, Cleveland, OH 22 Nov (ES). Single Clay-colored Sparrows were at Natrona Heights, *Allegheny*, PA 13 Sep (D. Darney) and Peace Valley Park 20 Oct (*file*, AM), while one was late in *Holmes*, OH 1 Nov (ES). Single Lark Sparrows were rarities in Lemon Twp., *Wyoming*, PA 13 Sep (BR) and at Peace Valley Park 28–30 Oct (BE, B. Lishman). Fifteen Henslow's Sparrows remained at the Voice of America grasslands, *Butler*, OH 3 Aug (FR, M. Busam); in Pennsylvania, a migrant was at P.N.R. 10 Oct (RCL, RM), and a record-late bird appeared at Peace Valley Park 1 Nov (AMI, C. Rutt). Weedy wetlands continued to



Quite rare in Pennsylvania (but most likely in mid-Atlantic), Franklin's Gull was noted both at Pymatuning Reservoir and here at Miller Pond, Crawford County 22 October 2003. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

attract Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Miami-Whitewater Wetlands in Ohio, where a high of 5 was listed 12 Oct (C. Betrus); in Pennsylvania, five sightings came from P.L.S.P. 27 Sep–2 Nov (BC), while *Bucks* singles were at Pine Run Dam 6 & 28 Oct (K. Rieker, DfA) and at Peace Valley Park 8 Oct (AMI, J. Mirabella). In a good flight, an early Lincoln's Sparrow was at Wilkes-Barre, PA 24 Aug (S. Galanty, B. Wasilewski), and a somewhat late bird was at P.N.R. 7 Nov (RCL, RM). A Harris's Sparrow was documented at Headlands Beach S.P., *Lake*, OH 12 Oct (B. Fambrough), the Region's only report. A high count for White-crowned Sparrow was of 250 at Gordon Park, Cleveland, OH 11 Oct (RH); an apparent Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was at N. Chagrin Metropark., *Cuyahoga* OH 2 Nov (K. Metcalf), and another was picked out among a flock of White-crowns at Martins Creek Power Plant, *Northampton*, PA 13 Oct (RW).

An Oregon Junco visited a feeder in Pipestone S.P., WV 29 Nov during the first snow of the season (JPh). Lapland Longspurs seemed more frequent than usual over much of the Region, with a high count of 150 in *Morrow*, OH 17 Nov (R. Royle). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak spent the last week of Nov at a Mursvyle, *Westmoreland*, PA feeder (*file* MMC). A late Blue Grosbeak was an exceptional find near E. Park Res., *Philadelphia* 4 Oct (MS). Fifty Eastern Meadowlarks were at Voice of America grasslands, OH 1 Nov (J. Brown), and 40 was an excellent count of the species near Clarksville, *Greene*, PA 2 Oct (RB). A well-described male Brewer's Blackbird was a rarity for nw. Beaver, PA 21 Nov (G. Malosh).

Purple Finches staged a good flight at P.N.R., where 61 were banded on one day, 19 Oct, and 257 were captured during the season (RCL, RM); elsewhere their migration seemed moderate, with at Ohio high of 15 at Oak Openings M. P., *Lucas* 19 Oct (G. Links, J.

Chadwick). Fifty-two Red Crossbills passed by Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, PA 25 Oct–7 Nov (DB). 2 were in Lemon Twp., *Wyoming*, PA 18 Nov (BR), and 2 were at Ricketts Glen S.P., *Luzerne* 16 Nov (JHy). In Ohio, 2 were noted at Cleveland, OH 2 Nov (S. Zadar), and 3 were at Oak Openings 30 Nov (S. Hite). Three White-winged Crossbills passed the Second Mt. Hawkwatch, *Lebanon*, PA 2 Nov (G. Kopenhaver, D. Schwenk), one was at Ricketts Glen 16 Nov (JHy), and one was in Eaton Twp., *Wyoming* 17 Nov (BR). The earliest Common Redpoll was seen at Hawk Mt. 25 Oct (DB), and there was a scattering of reports from elsewhere across Pennsylvania thereafter. An early Evening Grosbeak was reported from Westerville, *Franklin*, OH on 5 Oct (J. & K.

Davis), 15 were at Auburn Lookout, *Berks*, PA 23 Oct (K. Grim), and 10 appeared at Pipestem S.P., WV 23 Oct (JPh).

Addendum: A colony of 4 or more Henslow's Sparrows was present during season near Fairfax Stone, *Tucker*, WV (P. E. Lehman et al.). Up to 3 singing Clay-colored Sparrows were present through at least 19 Jul (P. E. Lehman et al.) in Canaan Valley, *Tucker*, WV, one of which was a returning bird from the previous summer season, possibly two seasons.

Corrigenda: In the Spring 2003 report, the Lark Sparrow mentioned at P.L.S.P. 25 May should read Lark Bunting; and the 10 Lapland Longspurs at P.L.S.P. should read 10 on 25 Mar (not 109 on 5 May).

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Illinois & Indiana



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Full weather was generally mild and wet. In Chicago, where November can be brutal, temperatures averaged 2.5° F above normal. Perhaps as a result of the moderate weather, late-season frontal activity on Lake Michigan produced unexceptional bird movements. As often happens, assessments of the migration were mixed. The only quantitative evaluation came from northeastern Indiana, where Jim Haw compared Neotropical migrant numbers at Fox Island Park with data collected there over the past 23 years: 23 species were above the past, three equaled the mean, and 18 were below average, suggesting a fairly typical autumn flight there. Memorable aspects of the season included some spectacular rarities, a bumper

jaeger flight, a plethora of banded Northern Saw-whet Owls, and a Northern Shrike invasion.

Abbreviations: Carl. L. (Carlyle L. in Clinton, Fayette, and Bond Counties, IL); I.B.S.P. (Illinois Beach S.P.); L. Chau. (L. Chatauqua N.W.R., IL); L. Gibson (sw. Indiana); M.C.H. (Michigan City Harbor, Indiana lakefront); Mill. B. (Miller Beach, IN, the southernmost point on L. Michigan).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

The Region enjoyed another excellent Red-throated Loon flight, with 83 birds in Indiana and 17 in Illinois. Maximum daily tallies included 10 at Mill. B. 22 Nov (MT, BJG, PBG) and 9 at I.B.S.P. 15 Nov (DTW, AFS). The season's only Pacific Loon appeared at I.B.S.P. 28 Nov (AFS). Once again, the peak Common Loon flight occurred within a very narrow window. Maximum counts included an impressive 429 at L. Lemon, IN 6 Nov (JHV, SHV, DRW), 424 at Mill. B. 5 Nov (JJM), and 135 in East Fork L., Richland, IL 6 Nov (LH). Red-necked Grebes were not

reported in Illinois, but an above-average 7 were noted in Indiana. The Eared Grebe flight was near normal, with 7 birds in Illinois and 2 in Indiana. Western Grebes were surprisingly scarce; one on the Mississippi R., in Hancock, IL 22 Nov (AD) constituted the season's only report.

American White Pelicans numbers remained at the high levels of recent years. The peak tally was 5000 at Horseshoe L., Madison, IL 7 Oct (JZ). Double-crested Cormorant numbers were also quite high, with a maximum of 5500 at Carl. L. 31 Oct (KAM, CL). Though numbers were modest in Illinois, several large Great Egret counts were logged in Indiana, where the peak tally was 468 birds along the flooded Wabash R., mainly in Parke 3 Aug (AWB). Fall Cattle Egrets were scarce, with only five reports in Illinois and one in Indiana; the largest count was of 25 in St. Clair, IL 8 Aug (KAM). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron lingered late in Chicago's Lincoln Park to 3 Sep (GAW). A Juv. White Ibis was at Carl. L. 10-11 Aug (DMK, ph. TM, m. ob.), and a White-faced Ibis was at the same site 20-21 Sep (KAM, DMK, ph. TM et al.).

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Peak goose tallies included 126 Greater White-fronteds at L. Chau. 21 Nov (RBj, SBJ), 3000 Snows at Carl. L. 16 Nov (DMK), and 4 Ross's at Carl. L. 2 Nov (DMK). It was an above-average fall for Tundra Swans, with a state record 280 at Pigeon River W.M.A., IN 6 Nov (Haw, FH, MW). Puddle-duck numbers were near normal; noteworthy counts included 4700 Gadwalls at Hennepin L., IL 19 Nov (DFS) and 3800 Northern Shovelers at Clear L., IL 30 Oct (RBj, SBJ). Diving duck reports were mixed. On the down side, the Region's maximum Redhead count was only 338 birds, but the report of 8300 Greater Scaup on the Lake, IL lakefront 15 Nov (KAM, CTI, TK) represented an exceptional fall count, perhaps the highest ever. It was a good autumn for sea ducks. The Surf Scoter flight on L. Michigan was well above average, and inland birds were recorded at 11 locations, including a maximum of 7 at East Fork L., Richland, IL 26 Oct (LH). White-winged Scoters were less prevalent, with below-average numbers on the lakefront; the largest inland count was only 7 at Lock & Dam 14, Rock Island, IL (SF). A strong Black Scoter movement was highlighted by 30 birds at Lake Forest, IL 25 Oct (RHu), along with inland birds at five locations. A single Harlequin Duck was seen at Mill. B. 19 & 29 Oct (JJM, KJB), the season's only report. One to 4 Long-tailed Ducks were recorded at seven inland sites; as expected, the peak count occurred on L. Michigan, where 9 were recorded at Evanston 1 Nov (WS).

Hawkwatchers at I.B.S.P. recorded a fine season. Noteworthy tally totals at that site

(all reported by VB) included 51 Osprey 24 Sep, 244 Sharp-shinned Hawks 15 Oct, 38 Red-shouldered Hawks 13 Nov, 3193 Broad-winged Hawks 24 Sep, and 132 Merlins 12 Oct. Four Swainson's Hawks were still in Kane, IL 7 Sep (R&AM). In early Nov, a strong Rough-legged Hawk movement occurred along the L. Michigan shore, with 17 reported on the Indiana lakefront 1 Nov (JKC, EMH, JJM, MT) and 15 at I.B.S.P., 7 Nov (VB). The vanguard of a good Golden Eagle flight consisted of an ad. that arrived at East Fork L., IL on the unusually early date of 1 Oct (LH). An excellent autumn Sora tally of 25 birds was logged at Spunky Bottoms, Brown, IL 29 Aug (TM, MD). Once again Common Moorhen numbers were low. This fall's maximum tally was a paltry 6 birds at Horseshoe L., Madison, IL (KAM). The peak American Coot count, by a wide margin, was 21,900 at Hennepin L., IL 19 Nov (DFS). The Region's Sandhill Crane population continues to flourish. This year's movement through the Jasper-Pulaski W.M.A. staging area peaked at 24,619 on 18 Dec (*vide* JSC), and the maximum Illinois tally was 3100 at L. Villa 7 Nov (RBI).

SHOREBIRDS

Shorebirds were fairly well distributed across both states. The maximum American Golden-Plover tally, a pitifully low 15 birds, was recorded in McHenry, IL 23 Aug (R&AM) and duplicated in Jay, IN 4 Oct (Haw et al.). The peak Black-bellied Plover tally was a more encouraging 43 birds at Mill. B. 25 Oct (MT). Among the 8 Piping Plovers reported this season were 2 juvs. banded on L. Michigan and a bird that lingered at L. Gibson through 30 Oct (ph. JJM), a new late date for Indiana. Black-necked Stilts were restricted to Illinois, where 7 were found at Grassy Slough, Johnson 8 Aug (FB) and another at Rend L. 14 Sep (LH). It was a good fall for American Avocets, with double-digit counts in both states; the maximum tally was of 29 at Clear L., IL 16 & 29 Oct (RBj, SBj). By far the largest Lesser Yellowlegs tally consisted of the 3032 birds at L. Chau. 31 Jul (RBj, SBj). The lakefront's heavy Whimbrel movement, which began in late summer, extended through 25 Aug, with a total of 14 birds for the fall season. A single inland Whimbrel was at Carl. L. 6 Sep (WR). Hudsonian Godwit reports consisted of 4 at Mill. B. 21 Aug (JJM, KJB), 6 at Fermi, IL 31 Aug (ES), and a remarkable flock of 26 that flew over M.C.H. 26 Aug (BJG). Marbled Godwits were unusually widespread, with inland reports of 2 at Carl. L. 26 Aug (DMK), plus singles at Rend L. 4 Sep (FB) and Carl. L. 13 Sep (KAM). The only lakefront report consisted of 4 Marbleds at M.C.H. 1 Sep (JJM).

An average Red Knot flight yielded an alternate-plumaged bird (rarely seen in this season) at Mill. B. 1 Aug (JJM) and an inland report in Scott, IN 2-28 Aug (JDW). Peak counts among the smaller sandpipers included 610 Semipalmateds at Clear L., IL 29 Aug (RBj, SBj), 11 Westerns at Carl. L. 30 Aug (DMK, MD, TM), 500 Least at Horseshoe L., Madison, IL 1 Aug (KAM), 3000 Pectorals at Horseshoe L., Madison, IL 3 Aug (WR), 130 Dunlin at Rend L., IL 8 Nov (LSy), and 32 Buff-breasted at L. Chau. 21 Aug (RBj, SBj). Highlight of the shorebird flight was the appearance of single Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in both states. A juv. appeared briefly at the Wakarusa sewage ponds, Elkhart (same location as last year's Mountain Plover) 25 Sep (DSt, ph. †JKC, ph. JJM et al.) to provide Indiana's 2nd record. Another juv. Sharp-tailed, which proved considerably more cooperative, was discovered at the Blackhawk Forest Preserve, Kane, IL 28 Sep and remained through 6 Oct (SC, ph., †GAW, ph. TM, m. ob.). Two record-late juv. Baird's Sandpipers were found at Brookville Res., IN 6 Dec (DCD). The Region's only Purple Sandpipers consisted of 2 birds at M.C.H. 8 Nov (BJG, DL). A count of 55 Stilt Sandpipers in Vigo, IN 5 Oct (PS) provided a record count for the state, and a Ruff at Quiver L., IL 11-14 Oct (KR, LA, DMK, ph. TM, AFS et al.) generated considerable excitement. A tardy Wilson's Phalarope lingered at Sanganos W.M.A. until 11 Oct (TM). The peak Red-necked Phalarope tally was 4 at L. Chau. 11-14 Sep (KR, HDB, TM, AFS). Single inland Red Phalaropes were at L. Chau. 11-14 Sep, (HDB, TM) and at Carl. L. 27 Sep (DMK).

JAEGERs THROUGH TERNS

It was a remarkable year for Parasitic Jaegers on s. L. Michigan. The season got off to a fast start when 16 Parasitics (2 ads., 14 juvs.) were identified at Mill. B. 4 Sep (JJM, PBG, KJB); Sep ultimately yielded 91 jaegers, 48 of which were Parasitics. At least 2 individuals landed on beaches, allowing close study: one at M.C.H. 14-19 Sep (ph. JKC, ph. JJM, m. ob.) and another at Montrose

25-29 Sep (ph. RHu, ph. TM, ph. GAW, m. ob., *Chicago Field Museum). The Parasitics, along with an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at Mill. B. 4 Sep (JJM, PBG) and 46 unidentified jaegers, combined to generate a season record 102 jaegers for the Indiana lakefront.

The gull flight by contrast was rather mundane, with the exception being the ad. Black-tailed Gull found by Brendan Grube 5 Aug at Mill. B.—Indiana's first record and only the 2nd report for the entire Midwest. This bird did not linger here but was relocated two days later on Chicago's Montrose Beach, where first detected at mid-morning by Michael Miller; the bird remained there until mid-day (RHu, ph. JKC, m. ob.). Franklin's Gulls peaked 19 Oct, when 150 were counted at Carl. L. (DMK). A strong Little Gull flight on the Indiana lakefront began with a crisp juv. at Mill. B. 26 Aug (ph. JJM) and peaked 14 Sep, when a state record 3 birds were seen at M.C.H. (JJM, BJG). Glaucous Gulls were scarce, with only 2 reported at different locations on the Chicago lakefront 22 Nov (RHu, JP), possibly the same individual. The Black-legged Kittiwake flight consisted of but one bird, a juv. at Mill. B. 13 Nov (Asi, JJM, LPv, JGb et al.). Sabine's Gulls fared considerably better, with 14 reported on the Indiana lakefront, plus 10 inland birds. Inland reports included 2 juvs. at L. Springfield, IL 20-26 Sep (HDB et al.) and 2 more at Carl. L. 27 Sep (DMK, m. ob.), plus single juvs. at Brookville Res., IN 27 Sep (WHB) and at L. Lemont, IN 1-10 Oct (DRW, JHR, ph.Stv, m.o.b.). Peak *Sterna* tern tallies included 135 Caspian Terns at Mill. B. 12 Aug (MT), 2185 Commons at M.C.H. 23 Sep (JJM, PBG, KJB), and 81 Forster's at Carl. L. 6 Sep (DMK). A strong Aug movement of Black Terns peaked at M.C.H. on the 26th, when 248 were counted (JJM).

DOVES THROUGH PIPIT

The season's maximum Eurasian Collared-Dove count was a hefty 30 birds at Wattonville, IL 5 Aug (DMK, TM, ASe). As evidenced by several good counts, including 8 at Carl. L. 4 Aug (DMK), the fall Yellow-billed Cuckoo flight was perhaps the best in

Table 1: Rufous Hummingbirds in the Illinois & Indiana Region, Fall/Winter 2003-2004.

Age/gender	Location	Date	Identification	Observers/Banders
imm. female	Porter, IN	14 Sep-24 Nov	* specimen	Bernell & Diane Grieger
ad. male	Monroe, IN	20 Sep+	photographs	Jerry & Trudy Marsischky
imm. female	Vanderburgh, IN	3 Nov+	banded 28 Dec 2003	C. Hutcheson, <i>vide</i> Sso
ad. female	Monroe, IN	11 Nov+	banded 7 Jan 2004	C. Hutcheson, <i>vide</i> Cmly
female	Richland, IL	12 Nov+	banded 21 Nov 2003	PW, LH, VK
imm. female	Marion, IN	21 Nov+	banded 21 Dec 2003	Allen Chartier, <i>vide</i> DG
female	Kane, IL	unknown	banded 6 Dec 2003	VK et al.

*specimen preserved at the Joseph Moore Museum, Earlham College.

two decades. Although Long-eared Owl reports were sparse, Short-eared Owls were more than plentiful, with numerous sightings that included a maximum of 75 at the reclaimed Hawthorn strip mine, Sullivan, IN 30 Nov (DRW). The s. Indiana fall banding season for Northern Saw-whet Owls proved spectacular (124 total banded). The Brown station banded 70 and had one foreign recapture (RbT), while a new site in Greene banded 54 (JAG). The Region's Common Nighthawk reports were disturbingly low: the maximum count was only 150 birds. A Whip-poor-will at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's West Beach 25 Oct (JKC, Sbg, RP et al.) provided a new late date for the state. Over the season, Vernon Kleen banded 348 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at various Illinois locations. It was a record autumn for Rufous Hummingbirds, with 5 identified in Indiana and 2 in Illinois (see Table 1).

Flycatchers appeared in good numbers. Noteworthy reports included a remarkably late Alder at Carl L. 27 Sep. (DMK, m. ob.), 2 Willows in Chicago's Lincoln Park 20 Sep (GAW), and 29 Eastern Kingbirds at Rock Cut S.P., IL 27 Aug (DTW). The best flycatchers, however, were 2 Say's Phoebe: Indiana's 3rd at Mill. B. 29 Sep (ph. †KJB, †PBG, Nila Grube) and another at Carl L.

31 Oct (ph. DMK, CM, JE, ASe). Northern Shrikes invaded this fall, with 28 birds in Illinois and another 8 in Indiana. The first arrival was in Cook, IL 4 Oct (Ralph Herbst), and the peak count of 2 was logged at three Illinois locations 19–23 Oct. Vireos were quite plentiful, season highlights included a record-late Blue-headed Vireo in the Indiana Dunes 16 Nov (BJG) and a remarkable 13 Philadelphia Vireos on the Chicago lakefront 20 Sep (GAW). Three tardy Fish Crows lingered at Horseshoe L., Madison, IL until 10 Nov (KAM).

It was a poor fall for Purple Martins; the Region's maximum reported count was only 150 birds at Wolf L., IL 14 Aug (WJM). Peak totals of other swallows were more encouraging, with 25,000 Trees in Bond, IL 1 Nov (KAM, DMK, FB, TM), 600 Northern Rough-winged at L. Chau. 6 Sep (KAM), 3000 Banks at L. Chau. 9 Aug (LLH), and 600 Cliffs in Parke, IN 3 Aug (AWB). Sedge Wrens staged a good flight, which included 20 in Greene and Sullivan, IN 12 Aug (LSI) and 11 in Kankakee, IL 2 Aug (JHz). Casual in the Region only a decade ago, Townsend's Solitaires have become regular fall visitors. Reports this autumn include singletons at Lyons Woods, IL 19 Nov (AFS, ASI) and at West Beach, IN 21 Nov (JJM). Veeries were scarce, with only sin-

gles reported in Illinois and a maximum count of 4+ in Indiana. In contrast, Swainson's Thrush executed a strong flight, with 220+ estimated passing in Brown, IN 20 Sep (JHv, SHv) and 100 on the Chicago lakefront 20 Sep (WS). A Hermit Thrush tally of 75 in Chicago's Lincoln Park 16 Oct (WS) was also noteworthy. The Region's only Varied Thrush was in Bushnell, IL 20 Nov (LLH). American Pipits appeared in good numbers across the Region, with peak tallies of 100 at Pigeon River W.M.A., IN 18 Oct (Haw, FH, SS), 90 at Kankakee W.M.A., IN 8 Nov (DG), and 75+ in Macon, IL 2 Nov (TM, MD).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Fall warblers generated few comments, suggesting a fairly typical flight. Tennessee Warblers were reported in excellent numbers, highlighted by a peak of 81 in Cook, IL 31 Aug (DFS). A very tardy Yellow Warbler lingered in Chicago's Lincoln Park until 1 Oct (GAW). Noteworthy maximum counts of various *Dendroica* warblers included 20 Cape Mays at L. Monroe, IN 27 Sep (Carolyn Begley, Jiri Dadok), 75 Palms in Chicago's Grant Park 19 Sep (DFS), and 18 Bay-breasted at the Chicago Botanic Garden 30 Aug (AA). Out of the blue, a Grace's Warbler appeared on the Chicago lakefront at Mon-



After its 5 August 2003 cameo appearance on the Indiana lakefront, this striking Black-tailed Gull thrilled a score of Chicago birders when it spent the morning of 7 August on Montrose Beach. *Digitized photograph by John K. Cassidy.*



Small Arctic-breeding larids retain juvenal plumage for a relatively short period, so birders rarely encounter this plumage in the Lower 48 United States. This juvenile Little Gull graciously sat for a portrait 26 August 2003 on Miller Beach, Lake County, Indiana.

Photograph by Jeffrey J. McCoy.



Always a crowd-pleaser, a Ruff at Quiver Lake, Illinois 11-14 October (here 12 October) 2003 generated considerable excitement. *Digitized photograph by Travis Mahan.*



Casual throughout the Illinois & Indiana Region, this juvenile White Ibis, discovered by Dan Kassebaum at Carlyle Lake, Illinois 10 August 2003, lingered through the following day. *Digitized photograph by Travis Mahan.*

trose Beach 8 Sep (Clara Coen, JP, ph. RHU, ph. KH, m. ob.). The bird was reasonably cooperative at Chicago lakefront's famous Magic Hedge for that day only. Migrant Common Yellowthroats were unusually plentiful; peak tallies included 29 in the Lake, IN traps 16 Sep (JJM, KJB) and 21 on the Chicago lakefront 20 Sep (GAW). Several correspondents noted a decline in Canada Warbler numbers.

A late Summer Tanager in Monroe, IN 18 Nov (SE), constituted that state's first Nov record, and a Scarlet Tanager in n. Porter, IN 5 Nov (BJG) provided a new late date for Indiana. A very late Blue Grosbeak was found at Rend. L., IL 19 Oct (DMK). Unusually high Dickcissel numbers were recorded in Aug, with a maximum of 69 in Greene, IN 12 Aug (LST, DRW). Rarely found in cen. Indiana, a Clay-colored Sparrow in downtown Indianapolis 2 Oct (RLH, LAC) was quite noteworthy. A remarkable 450 Savannah Sparrows in Greene and Sullivan, IN 21 Oct (DRW) provided a record-high tally for the state. Harris Sparrows were well represented in the fall flight with a half-dozen in each state. Smith's Longspurs made two appearances this fall, with 8-10 in Richland, IL 2 Nov (LH) and a single at Mill. B. 29 Oct (JJM), which provided Indiana's first fall record in three years. Excellent Bobolink numbers were recorded

(this fall—245 at L. Chau. 6 Sep (KAM, HDB) and 20 still in Montgomery, IN 18 Oct (AWB, LAC, RLH et al.).

The winter finch flight did not meet expectations, as often happens. Among species in this group, Purple Finches made the strongest showing, with modest to good numbers across the Region. On the down side, no crossbills or Evening Grosbeaks were reported. Beginning in mid-Nov, small numbers of Common Redpolls appeared in both states near L. Michigan. The Pine Siskin movement was late and mediocre; the peak tally was 65-70 at Chicago's Morton Arboretum 29 Nov (UG).

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Thayer's Gulls occur far less frequently at interior sites in the Illinois & Indiana region than on Lake Michigan shores; consequently, this juvenile at Lake Decatur, Illinois 17 October 2003 was of great interest. *Digitized photograph by Travis Mahan.*



In September 2003, the southern Lake Michigan lakefront was inundated with Parasitic Jaegers, including at least two that spent time on the beach. This juvenile was on Chicago's Montrose Beach 25-29 September. This bird ultimately died and has been preserved as a specimen in the Chicago Museum of Natural History. *Digitized photograph by Travis Mahan.*



Quite rare away from Lake Michigan in the Illinois & Indiana region, this Great Black-backed Gull appeared in central Illinois at Lake Decatur, 13 and (here) 14 August 2003. *Digitized photograph by Travis Mahan.*



The Illinois & Indiana Region enjoyed some eight Piping Plovers in fall 2003. This bird paused in its migration at Miller Beach, Indiana, the southernmost point on Lake Michigan, on 30 August. *Digitized photograph by John K. Cassidy.*

Western Great Lakes



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November was mild, and many species lingered. Each state had its share of rarities—including a first regional record initially identified via television newscast!

Abbreviations: Agassiz (Agassiz N.W.R., Marshall, MN); Big Stone (Big Stone N.W.R., Lac Qui Parle, MN); H.R.N.R. (Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, Duluth, MN); R.R.B.O. (Rouge River Bird Observatory, Wayne, MI); S.M.R.R. (Southeast Michigan Raptor Research, including Lake Erie Metropark and Pte. Mouillee HQ, Wayne, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula, MI); Wisc. Pt. (Wisconsin Point, Douglas, WI); W.P.B.O. (Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, Chippewa, MI).

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Down from last fall was the total of 342 Red-throated Loons at W.P.B.O. 22 Aug–15 Nov.

Wisconsin had Red-throats on the Great Lakes and one inland in *Dane* 19 Nov (AS); Minnesota's 4 were all on L. Superior. A Pacific/Arctic Loon passed W.P.B.O. 8 Oct (p. a., KJB). Two Pacific Loons visited LaCrosse, WI 1 Nov (MP); Minnesota had only 3 on L. Superior, fewer than recent fall seasons. W.P.B.O. tallied 3114 Common Loons 14 Aug–15 Nov (peak 320, 14 Oct). A possible Yellow-billed Loon could not be rebound at Madison, WI 16 Nov (CM). Record-high at W.P.B.O. were 21,454 Red-necked Grebes 15 Aug–15 Nov (peak 6789, 22 Aug). Intermittently seen was a Western Grebe in *Alger*, WI 18 Oct+ (SH, ph. ZG). Four Clark's Grebes at L. Osakis 19–21 Aug (BWF), one at Big Stone 24 Sep (BJU), and one at Thielke L. until 2 Oct (m. ob.); were more than usual for Minnesota.

Providing only the 2nd Minnesota record were 2 ad. Neotropical Cormorants at Big Stone 12 Aug–6 Oct (KJB, m. ob.); Bardon also found Minnesota's first in Jul 1992! Up to 14 Snowy Egrets hunted at Pte. Mouillee (m. ob.). Snowy Egrets were in four Wisconsin locations, and one lingered in *Otter Tail*, MN 5–11 Oct (KRE, CRM et al.). One or 2 Little Blue Herons in *Dane*, one in *Dodge* 7 Aug (JF), and 3 in *Kenosha* was above average for Wisconsin; in Minnesota, 3 lingered

in *Douglas*, and one visited *Ramsey* 31 Aug. Michigan had more Cattle Egrets than usual (one to 4 birds in each of six locations), up to 100 were near Pelican L., MN in Aug (*vide* CRM), and one was late in *Rock*, WI 2 Nov (AP). Wisconsin had the Region's only Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in *LaCrosse*, *Portage*, and *Sheboygan*. The only *Plegadis* ibis were singles in s. Minnesota 15 Sep (CFI) and 18 Oct (PME). A Black Vulture flew by Pte. Mouillee headquarters 2 Oct (p. a., CB, DF).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAILS

Possibly summering were Greater White-fronted Geese in *Otter Tail*, MN 18–22 Aug (E&JE et al.) and 2 in *Dane*, WI 10 Sep (NR). Casual in Michigan, Berrien's first Ross's Goose was in Benton Twp. 7–13 Nov (ph. TBA, ph. KM, LL, m. ob.); another was reported at Muskegon 29 Oct (p. a., JGG, CF). The female Common Eider at Pte. Mouillee since spring disappeared after 9 Nov (AMB); an unidentified eider showed up in St. Clair, MI 29 Nov (p. a., PCC). For the 2nd consecutive fall, as many as 6 Herring Gulls flocked together in Cook, MN 26–28 Oct (MSS, m. ob.). One to 4 Harlequins in four locations was more than usual for Michigan.

Even more extensive than last fall's was this season's swath of Surf Scoters in 15 "inland" Minnesota locations, though Michigan and Wisconsin each had only two reports away from the Great Lakes. More than triple last fall's total were the 1170 Surf Scoters at W.P.B.O. 14 Sep–11 Nov (peak 556, 29 Sep). Wisconsin had early White-winged Scoters in *Brown* 2 Aug (T&IB) and *Oneida* 8 Aug (B&KF), plus inland White-winged in *Portage* and *Sauk*, and inland Black Scoters in *Portage* and *Forest*. W.P.B.O. counted 3447 White-winged and 253 Black Scoters for the season, both up significantly from last fall, plus 12,492 Long-tailed Ducks (peak 1985, 5 Nov). Wisconsin reported Barrow's Goldeneye in *Marathon* 1–5 Nov (DB) and *Ozaukee* 16 Nov (JF); a drake was in *Houston*, MN 11–15 Nov (PEJ).

More than double the previous one-day record at H.R.N.R. was a total of 102,329 raptors (101,698 Broad-winged Hawks) 23 Sep (TSM, DSC, FJN et al.). Unusual for Wisconsin was a Swainson's Hawk in *Ozaukee* 23 Sep (SC, BC, MBO); also see Table 1. Ferruginous Hawks were documented in three w. Minnesota counties in Oct. Michigan had Golden Eagles at eight locations away from hawkwatches, including 6 birds in *Washenaw* 10 Nov (Jsc). Wisconsin had only three reports, while Minnesota had Golden Eagles at 21 locations away from H.R.N.R. Gyrfalcons in Cook, MN 1 Nov (AXH) and at H.R.N.R. 8 Nov (DSC) may

Table 1. Raptor count totals at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve and Southeast Michigan Raptor Research, Fall 2003.

Species	H.R.N.R.	S.M.R.R.
Turkey Vulture	2243	73,886
Osprey	118	246
Bald Eagle	3356	199
Northern Harrier	928	1372
Sharp-shinned Hawk	21,091	12,080
Cooper's Hawk	158	882
Northern Goshawk	866	50
Red-shouldered Hawk	5	874
Broad-winged Hawk	160,776	87,259
Swainson's Hawk	7	14
Red-tailed Hawk	12,897	12,161
Rough-legged Hawk	580	100
Golden Eagle	161	124
American Kestrel	1484	2380
Merlin	178	83
Peregrine Falcon	38	87
Gyrfalcon	1	0

have been the same individual. Prairie Falcons in three nw Minnesota locations included a juv. in Kittson 31 Aug (KRE et al., ph. JJS). Rarely detected after mid-Aug, each state ticked Yellow Rail: one in Dane, WI 8 Sep (MZ), 2 in Alpena, MI 21–23 Sep (KFS, BA), and one in Jackson, MN 3 Oct (BBR). A Black Rail was seen in Milwaukee 13 Sep (p. a., JI); Wisconsin also garnered a King Rail in Ozaukee 5 Oct (TCW).

SHOREBIRDS

Shorebird surveys peaked at 4076 individuals (22 species) in Big Stone/Lac Qui Parle, MN 15 Aug (PCC). Black-bellied Plovers peaked at 165 in Huron, MI 8 Oct (TBe). Michigan reported 6 Piping Plovers in three locations in Aug, plus singles in Berrien 13 Sep (ph. TBA) and Iosco 20 Sep (REr); the only other report was of 2 in Dodge, WI 16 Sep (DT). Eleven of the summer's 12 Black-necked Stilts were at Pte. Mouillee 22 Aug, and several lingered until the 30th (m. ob.). Michigan's total of 15+ American Avocets in six locations included 6 at WPB.O. 12 Oct (ph. AMB, m. ob.); as many as 12 avocets were at Milwaukee, WI (m. ob.), while 36 at Agassiz 11 Oct (PHS et al.) established Minnesota's 2nd highest count.

Agassiz attracted 170 Greater Yellowlegs 17 Aug (PHS et al.). Single Whimbrels transited Iosco, MI 2 Aug (REr), Door, WI 27 Aug (BS), Duluth, MN 9 & 21 Sep (MH et al.), and W.F.B.O. 25 Aug & 16 Sep. Normally rare in fall, 20 Hudsonian Godwits visited Sali L., Lac Qui Parle, MN 24 Aug (BJU). Single Red Knots were at Agassiz (KRE et al.)

and Big Stone (PCC) 30 Aug and Brown, WI 10 Sep (DVD). Michigan had one or 2 knots at Pte. Mouillee 20 Aug–13 Sep (m. ob.) and 3 at W.P.B.O. 29 Aug (KJB). Semipalmated Sandpipers peaked at 1239 at Pte. Mouillee 16 Aug (TSM). Michigan had single Western Sandpipers at Pte. Mouillee in Aug (AMB et al.) and Manistee 10 Oct (BA). Wisconsin reported Westerns (all p. a.) in three locations 28 Aug, plus one in Racine 30 Sep–2 Oct (p. a., DG et al.). A flock of 32 White-rumped Sandpipers at W.P.B.O. 2 Nov (KJB, KM Jr.) was an unusual number there; singles tarried in Outagamie, WI 6 Nov (DT) and St. Clair, MI 14 Nov (LHa). All three states reported increased numbers of Baird's Sandpipers, including 90 in Marathon, WI 23 Aug (DT) and 103 at Agassiz 6 Sep (PHS, JMJ). Noteworthy was the count of 1354 Pectoral Sandpipers in Big Stone, MN 12 Aug (KJB). Michigan welcomed Purple Sandpipers in Berrien, Iosco, and Muskegon in late Nov. Silt Sandpipers peaked at 691 at Agassiz 6 Sep (PHS et al.).

Buff-breasted Sandpipers were scarce in Michigan (only 12 birds) and down in Minnesota (fewer than 200 statewide), but Wisconsin had multiple reports from eight counties. The Ruff in Benzie, MI 20–23 Sep (p. a., ph. CJF KAW, BA et al.) was a county first. Dowitcher counts included 81 Short-billeds at Pte. Mouillee 30 Aug (AMB) and a record-high 312 Long-billeds at Agassiz 11 Oct (PHS, JMJ). Wilson's Phalaropes peaked at 250 in Polk, MN 13 Aug (EEP). Red-necked Phalaropes were scarce in Michigan (three locations) and Wisconsin (four locations), but 263+ were scattered across 18 Minnesota counties. Single Red Phalaropes (all p. a.) were in Door, WI 18 Oct (WH), Macomb, MI 3–8 Nov (ph. ST, ph. ATC, m. ob.), and Monroe, MI 25–29 Nov (TP et al., ph. BM, ph. AMB).

JAEGERS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Minnesota reported 2 Parasitic Jaegers and 4 unidentified jaegers at Duluth. Wisconsin's only Parasitics were at Wisc. Pt. 19–28 Sep. In Michigan, Grigg identified 4 Parasitics at the

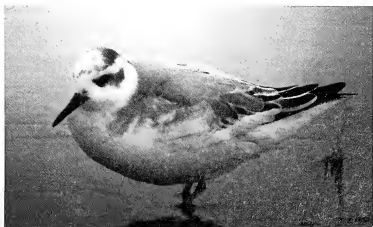
Presque Isle lighthouse in Sep; W.P.B.O. had 6 Parasitics and 24 unidentified jaegers for the season. Away from L. Michigan, a Parasitic was at Three Oaks W.T.P. Berrien, MI 4 Oct (KM). Pomarine Jaegers were reported at Wisc. Pt. 19 (RJ, DT) & 28 Sep (DT). Two ad. Laughing Gulls visited Sheboygan, WI 4 Aug (CSO); Michigan had singles in Berrien 4 Aug (WEJ) and Monroe 29



This female Common Eider, only the third for Michigan, arrived at Pointe Mouillee, Monroe County on 17 May 2003 and remained through 9 November (here 2 June). The bird was initially elusive but became more cooperative during summer and fall. Photograph by Allen Chartier.



This female Black-necked Stilt was one of four (two pairs) that arrived at Pointe Mouillee, Monroe County, Michigan in early May 2003, providing only the third state record (here 2 June). Both pairs remained through the summer to nest, a state first, producing a total of eight young. Photograph by Allen Chartier.



Currently a species considered casual in Michigan, this Red Phalarope was found on Lake Erie offshore of the Whiting Power Plant, Monroe County 25 through (here) 29 November 2003. Photograph by Brad Murphy.

SA Providing a first Regional record was a **Costa's Hummingbird** near Delano, *Wright, MN* (TDM, ph. CFa); the bird was identified in late Nov but may have visited a feeder there since mid-Sep. On 6 Nov, it was lured indoors by the homeowners when the weather turned cold. The bird would have gone unnoticed by the ornithological community had it not been the subject of story that aired during Thanksgiving week on a local Twin Cities television newscast. Donald Mitchell, a hummingbird bander from nearby Hudson, WI, happened to be watching the newscast and noticed that the bird was not a Ruby-throated Hummingbird as presumed by the news crew and homeowners. He visited the home to verify that the bird was indeed an imm. male Costa's that had almost completed molt into ad. plumage. The bird was removed from the home on 5 Dec and taken to a local wildlife rehabilitation clinic, where it died a few days after arrival. It is now in the collection (*) of the University of Minnesota's Bell Museum. This is the easternmost documented occurrence of Costa's Hummingbird, which amazingly has yet to show up in the se. United States, the hot-spot for wintering hummingbirds from the West.

Nov (m. ob.). Little Gulls visited *Berrien, Ottawa, and Van Buren* in Michigan. A Mew Gull appeared in *Milwaukee, WI* 26 & 29 Nov (p. a., DG, JF). Six juv. Sabine's Gulls in Michigan were evenly split between Port Huron, *St. Clair* and *W.P.B.O.* Up to 4 Sabine's at *Wisc. Pt.* were sandwiched between one in *Sault* 5 Sep (AHo) and another in *Kenosha* 22 Nov (JH); most noteworthy for Minnesota were an early juv. in *Red Lake* 30 Aug (PHS, JMJ) and a first for *L. Winnibigoshish* 20 Sep (PHS). *W.P.B.O.* tallied 3395 Common Terns 16 Aug–15 Oct (peak 2814, 13 Sep).

New locations for Eurasian Collared-Doves included *Cedar Grove, WI* 14 Aug (HM) and *Chippewa* and *Dakota, MN*. Late cuckoos included a Black-billed in *Van Buren, MI* 20 Oct (SW) and a Yellow-billed

in *Ozaukee, WI* 27 Oct (SC, BC). Short-eared Owls increased in Michigan (~29 birds in nine counties). Rufous Hummingbirds in Michigan (all banded) were in *Calhoun* 15 Aug+, *Ingham* 14 Sep–8 Nov, and *Berrien* 20 Oct+ (m. ob.); Tessen identified one in *Outagamie, WI* 28 Aug. *Selasphorus* hummingbirds not identified to species visited *Calhoun, MI* 15–25 Aug (p. a., DP) and *Menominee, WI* 2 Sep (DT).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Providing only the 2nd Wisconsin record was a Lewis's Woodpecker in *Ozaukee* 21 Oct (p. a., SC, BC). Say's Phoebe strayed to *W.P.B.O.* 31 Aug (p. a., KJB, JFo) and 23 Sep (ph. JEB, m. ob.). Single Western Kingbirds wandered as far e. as *Presque Isle, MI* 9 Sep (WNG) and *W.P.B.O.* 18 Sep (LJD, KJB, JFo).

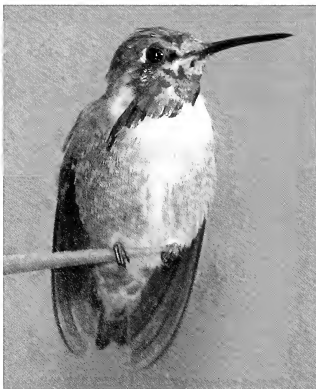
A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in *Dakota, MN* 18–19 Oct (JPS et al., ph. TPB) was a county first; record late was one in *Oconto, WI* 22 Oct–3 Nov (DE, m. ob.). Wisconsin's 4th Fork-tailed Flycatcher alighted in *Oconto* 24 Oct (p. a., TE). Late and unusually far n. was the Loggerhead Shrike in *Alpena, MI* 29 Oct (WNG). Late and

unusual for the U.P. any time was the White-eyed Vireo at *W.P.B.O.* 19–29 Oct (KM Jr., KJB et al.); another visited *Dane, WI* 18 Aug (PA). Possibly record late was a Warbling Vireo in *St. Joseph, MI* 25 Oct (SS).

Providing the 5th Michigan record was a Rock Wren in *Bay* 20 Oct (ph. MW). *Carolina* Wren appeared as far n. as *Bay, Benzie, and Isabella* in Michigan, and in six Wisconsin locations; in n. Minnesota, a juv. netted at *Bigfork, Itasca* 30 Aug lingered into early Dec (ph. DRM). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers strayed as far n. as *Marshall (D&BM)* and *Polk (EEF)* in Minnesota; one at *W.P.B.O.* 1 Nov was late for the U.P. Minnesota reported Mountain Bluebirds in *Cook* 31 Oct–2 Nov (DRB et al.), *Lac Qui Parle* 10 Nov (BJU), and *Swift* 14–15 Nov (RAE et al.). Townsend's Solitaires were in three Wisconsin and seven Minnesota locations, including a first county record 20 Nov in *Swift (RB)*. Record late for Minnesota was a well-described Veery at Two Harbors, *Lake* 23–25 Oct (JWL, KRE et al.). A Varied Thrush in *Marquette, MI* 9 Oct (BJ) and another at *Neenah, WI* 27 Nov (DK) were the only reports from those states, but 5 visited Minnesota. Northern Mockingbird numbers increased in Michigan (~17 birds in 10 counties). Minnesota's 9th Sage Thrasher lingered at Grand Marais, *Cook* 17 Oct–11 Nov (JWL, KRE et al.). Bohemian Waxwings arrived earlier than usual, with Sep reports from all three states, including 11 Sep at *W.P.B.O. (JFo)*.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Warblers lingered in all three states (see Table 2). Still casual in Minnesota, a Yellow-throated Warbler loitered in *Otter Tail* 25–30 Oct (ph. GR&SW, S&DM, m. ob.); later still was one in *Macomb, MI* 25 Nov+ (fide KO). Four Prairie Warblers in Michigan included one at *W.P.B.O.* late Aug (JFo); Wisconsin's only Prairie was in *Shawano* 7 Sep (LR). A



Providing a first record for the Western Great Lakes region was this immature male Costa's Hummingbird near Delano, *Wright County, Minnesota*, possibly present there since mid-September 2003 but not identified until November. The species is essentially unknown as a vagrant to the Southeast and East, unlike most other western hummingbirds. Photograph by Chris Faggal.



This Rock Wren, Michigan's fifth, was a one-day wonder at Nyanquing Point, *Bay County* 20 October 2003. Photograph by Myles Willard.

Table 2. Late warblers in Western Great Lakes Region, Fall 2003.

Species	Location	Date/Observers
Orange-crowned Warbler	R.R.B.O., MI	21 Nov (JAC)
Nashville Warbler	St. Louis, MN	4–5 Nov (JWL)
Nashville Warbler	Wayne, MI	9 Nov (JAC)
Northern Parula	Lake, MN	25 Oct (KRE)
Yellow Warbler	W.P.B.O., MI	11 Oct (PCC)
Yellow Warbler	Duluth, MN	14 Oct (MJJ)
Magnolia Warbler	Milwaukee, WI	18 Oct (MBO)
Cape May Warbler	Sauk, WI	31 Oct (AHO)
Cape May Warbler	St. Louis, MN	31 Oct (SLF)
Pine Warbler	Steele, MN	9–14 Nov (NFT)
Pine Warbler	Duluth, MN	18–20 Nov (LE)
Bay-breasted Warbler	Dane, WI	25 Oct (PA)
Blackpoll Warbler	Lake, MN	25 Oct (KRE)
Cerulean Warbler	Wayne, MI	20 Sep (WGP)
American Redstart	Washkewau, MI	1 Nov (MKH)
Prothonotary Warbler	Hennepin, MN	26 Sep (CB)
Ovenbird	Wayne, MI	16 Nov (KO)
Northern Waterthrush	Wayne, MI	30 Oct (m. ob.)
Common Yellowthroat	Dane, WI	18 Nov (PA)
Yellow-breasted Chat	Rock, WI	25 Sep (NS)

Yellow Palm Warbler was banded at R.R.B.O. 1 Nov (JAC, D.O. AD).

Wisconsin had Summer Tanagers in Oconto 25 Oct–15 Nov (m. ob.) and Milwaukee 28 Nov (TCW). Late and unusually far n. in Michigan were Summer Tanagers in Manistee 13–30 Nov (PZ, KAW et al.) and Presque Isle 25–30 Nov (WNG). Providing the 7th and 8th Michigan records were single Green-tailed Towhees at W.P.B.O. 24–29 Sep (TRW, ph. AMB, m. ob.) and Wayne 29 Nov+ (p. a., m. ob., ph. ATC). Wisconsin's 11th Spotted Towhee showed well in Waukesha 12 Nov+ (DG, m. ob.). Minnesota had male Spotted Towhees in two *Lac Qui Parle* locations, plus a *St. Louis* first at Duluth 25 Oct–5 Nov (ED). Unexpected were the Lark Sparrow in Wayne, MI 26 Nov (p. a., ph. PC, CB, m. ob.) and Lark Bunting at W.P.B.O. 13 Oct (p. a., KM Jr., KJB). For the 2nd consecutive fall, Lark Bunting made an appearance in Wisconsin, this time in Racine 25–28 Aug (p. a., DG et al.). Wisconsin's 3rd-latest Grasshopper Sparrow tarried in Washington 18 Oct (p. a., RCD). Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows transited nine Minnesota locations, plus Dane, Milwaukee, and Racine in Wisconsin.

Casual in Michigan, single Smith's Longspurs visited W.P.B.O. 26 Sep (p. a., KJB) and 9–12 Oct (KJB, ph. AMB, ph. BM, m. ob.). Smith's were in nine Minnesota locations, including an early appearance at Duluth 13–17 Sep (DWT et al.) and up to 75 at Red Rock Prairie, Cottonwood (m. ob.).

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Marilyn Bontly (MBo), Terry P. Brashear, Calvin Brennan, Conny Brunell (CB), Paul E. Budde, Adam M. Byrne, David S. Car-



This very cooperative Smith's Longspur, representing Michigan's 12th accepted record, stayed 9 (here) through 12 October 2003 at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County, where it was remarkably the 7th local record.

Photograph by Jeffrey J. McKey.



A cooperative Green-tailed Towhee in a backyard in Livonia, Wayne County, Michigan—first noted 29 November 2003 (here 13 December)—overwintered here, providing an eighth state record. Another Green-tailed Towhee, the state's seventh, frequented Whitefish Point on the Upper Peninsula on 24-29 September this season. Photograph by Allen Chartier.

Iowa & Missouri



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Most of the Region was extremely dry during August, especially in Iowa (second-driest August in 131 years) and northwestern and north-central Missouri. Heavy rains in Missouri in late August and November, and moderate rainfall in Iowa during September, did little to fill dry wetlands and shallow lakes. Southeastern Missouri and parts of the Ozarks had normal to above-normal rainfall, however. Temperatures were normal to below normal in much of the Region through September but turned cold at the end of September and early October, dropping to well below freezing in parts of Iowa and to freezing in northern Missouri and the eastern Ozarks. Cold temperatures returned in northern parts of the Region in early November, with subzero temperatures appearing in Iowa by the end of the season.

The cold, dry conditions resulted in poor migrations of geese, dabbling ducks, and shorebirds, and in few outstanding movements of passerines. However, good numbers of diving ducks appeared in Iowa and northern Missouri, several rare gulls appeared in both states, a few breeding species lingered in both states, and some western species appeared in eastern Missouri.

Abbreviations: C.A. (Conservation Area), E.B.C.A. (Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area, MO); Grammar (Grammar Grove, IA); Hitchcock (Hitchcock W.M.A. hawkwatch, IA); O.S.C.A. (Otter Slough Conservation Area, MO); R.E.D.A. (Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area, MO);

SArice fields in se. Missouri were identified as breeding sites for Black-necked Stilts nearly 20 years ago. This habitat might also harbor numbers of migrants. Fifteen American Bitterns were tallied in rice fields near Dexter, Stoddard, MO 5 Oct (JE; record high). Highlighting this fall, and first reported in Jun, were numerous Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, peaking at 21 at Dexter 11 Oct and last reported 17 Oct (JE). A site near Hornersville Swamp, Dunklin had 2 on 16 Aug (JE). High counts of raptors included 10 Mississippi Kites near Hornersville 17 Aug and a record 20 Northern Harriers 11 & 17 Oct at Dexter (JE). During rice harvest at Dexter 11 Oct, a Yellow Rail and a record 400 Soras were counted (JE). With acreage of rice predicted to increase in Missouri, and with loss of natural wetlands, birds should target this habitat for future census work.

S.O.C.A. (Schell-Osage Conservation Area, MO); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., MO); S.L.R. (Swan Lake N.W.R., MO); W.A. (Wildlife Area).

LOONS THROUGH VULTURES

Red-throated Loons at unusual sites included singles at Thomas Hill Res., Randolph, MO 2 Nov (PhA) and Saylorville Res., Polk, IA (juv.) 9–16 Nov (†AB, †SSP). An ad. Pacific Loon at Mozingo L., Nodaway, MO 2 Nov was also at an unusual site (DE, PK, TR). A strong migration of Common Loons included a peak 167 at Saylorville Res., Polk, IA 3 Nov (the most since 1991; AB, RC) and at least 130 at Clear L., Cerro Gordo, IA 4 Nov (CJF, RG). More Horned Grebes were seen in Iowa than in several years, beginning with 3 at Saylorville Res., Polk 5 Oct (AB). Peaks were 13 at Linn 7 Nov (DR), 11 in Marion 11 Nov (AB), 10 in Appanoose 22 Nov (RC), and 5 at Rathbun L., Appanoose 27 Nov (AB). Single Red-necked Grebes were at Little Wall L., Hamilton, IA 21 Oct (KLP, †SSP), Thomas Hill Res., Randolph, MO 1 Nov (JU et al.), and Green Hills Golf Course L., Chillicothe, Livingston, MO 9 Nov (SK). Initial concentrations of American White Pelican appeared in Iowa 30 Aug: 5500 at Jester Park, Polk (Ben) and 5000 at Red Rock, Marion (AB). Pelicans peaked at 8500 on Saylorville Res. in early Oct (AB, JJD). Late Double-crested Cormorants included one at R.E.D.A. on 3 Nov (Keith McMullen) and 4 at Mozingo L., Nodaway, MO 22 Nov (DE, PK). A late American Bittern was at Hunkah Prairie, Prairie S.P., Barton, MO 5 Nov (Cyndi Evans).

Four Snowy Egrets at R.E.D.A. 11 Oct (BR, MT) and an incredible single at Montrose L., Henry, MO 2 Nov (†JE) were very late. Cattle Egrets, hard to find this fall in Iowa, included singles at Hawkeye W.A., Johnson 19–31 Oct (CE, JH, JF), Adair 31 Oct (JS), and Allamakee 4 Nov (FL). The largest movements of Turkey Vultures in Iowa came the 3rd week of Oct: 208 at Hitchcock 17 Oct (MO) and 88 in Allamakee 14 Oct (FL); the Hitchcock total of 2812 was a record (MPR).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Geese were sparingly reported in Iowa but

SA Again this autumn, all three scoters appeared in both states and were joined by Long-tailed Ducks. The 7 individual Surf Scoters in Iowa were at three locations: Pool 13, Clinton 29 Oct (Paul Van Nieuwenhuyse); Diamond L., Poweshiek 27-30 Oct (MPr) and 11-13 Nov (JH, †MPr); Saylorville Res. 14 Oct (AB), 8-11 Nov (DT et al.), and 25 Nov (AB); and Polk City Wildlife Area 9-12 Nov (AB). Missouri sites were Thomas Hill Res., Macon 3 Nov (JB), Greve Coeur L., St. Louis 8 Nov (MT), and L. Contrary, Buchanan 11 Nov (JH). An early White-winged Scoter was on the Mississippi R. in Scott, IA 9 Oct (†Chuck Leib). By 17 Nov, there were 7 at Lock & Dam 14 (SF, DR, JF), which dwindled to one by the end of Nov. Four single White-winged were at three Missouri sites: R.E.D.A. 2 Nov (Dave Becker); Greve Coeur L., St. Louis 8 Nov (MT); and Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Nodaway 11 Nov (DE). The earliest Black Scoter in Iowa was at Saylorville Res. 8-27 Nov (DT, †KLP, †John Ruttenbeck); Missouri sightings were of 2 at Thomas Hill Res., Macon 1-3 Nov (JH, Della Rhoades et al.) and one at Winfield Dam, Lincoln 8 Nov (MT). The first Long-tailed Duck in Iowa was at Saylorville Res. 4 Nov, where numbers peaked at 11 on 30 Nov (AB et al.). In Missouri, single Long-tailed Ducks were at S.C.R. 4 Nov (TR), Smithville L., Clay 6 Nov (KM), and Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Nodaway 9 Nov (DE).

were more abundant in Missouri. The only Greater White-fronted Geese in Iowa were at Hitchcock, peaking at 300 on 21 Oct, with the last 75 there on 23 Nov (MO). Large concentrations of Snow Geese included 250,000 over Hitchcock 23 Nov (MO) and 330,000 at S.C.R. 19 Nov (TR). At least 2000 Tundra Swans were at Wexford, Allamakee, IA 4 Nov (FL), and the latest was one on the Mississippi R. in Scott, IA 27 Nov (SF). Numbers of dabbling ducks were generally poor, the notable exception being 800 Blue-winged Teal during the season's first big push of migrants at Dunbar Slough, Greene, IA 21 Aug (JJD). Diving ducks were present in very good numbers, however, with peaks of 4180 Ring-necked Ducks at S.C.R. 4 Nov (TR), 7100 Lesser Scaup at Saylorville Res., Polk, IA 3 Nov (RC, AB), and 200+ Buffleheads at S.L.R. 24 Nov (SK).

Ospreys at Grammar set a new season high of 40 (MPr, BPr) and a daily high of 10 on 14 Sep. A late surprise was a pair of Mississippi Kites with chick at Carl Junction, Jasper, MO 25 Aug (Dave Hennessy). Season totals of Bald Eagle at Hitchcock and Grammar were 729 and 271, respectively, the latter a new high (MPr). Broad-winged Hawks totaled 712 at Grammar, with a one-day high of 567 on 20 Sep (MPr). Imm. Swainson's Hawks were along the Skunk R., Story, IA in Aug (KLP, SSP); top day for this species at Hitchcock was 522 birds 30 Sep (MO). Record numbers of Red-tailed Hawks (3000+) were counted at Hitchcock through Nov (MO), and the Grammar total was 817 (MPr). Perhaps the most interesting raptor sighting of the season was a Ferruginous Hawk at Union Hills W.M.A., Cerro Gordo, IA 14 Oct (†; Jide FH). One to 2 Merlins were reported in 11 counties in Iowa, beginning with one at Waterman Twp., O'Brien 5 Sep (DK). The 10 reports in Missouri were mostly in the w. counties, but single e. birds were at Winfield Dam, Lincoln 13 Sep and

Caruthersville Catfish Farms, New Madrid 5 Oct (JE). Single Prairie Falcons were reported from Iowa in Guthrie 29 Aug (†Jeff Nichols), Pottawattamie 14 Oct (†MO), Pottawattamie 20 Oct (†Jerry Toll, †MO), and in Woodbury 27 Oct (†Gerald L. Von Ehwegen). A Prairie Falcon in Missouri was at an unusual e. site, Clarence Cannon N.W.R., Pike 16 Nov (†Michael Batzke, JB, PHa).

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS

The only Greater Prairie-Chicken reports were of 29 at Dunn Ranch, Harrison, MO 15 Nov (SK) and one at Montrose Pastures, St. Clair, MO 21 Nov (JE). Yellow Rail sightings included one each at Snake Creek Marsh, Greene, IA 20 Sep (AB, Ann Johnson) and Waterman Twp., O'Brien, IA 6 Oct (DK); 4 near St. Anthony, Marshall, IA 7 Oct (†Carl Kurtz, Jide JJD); and one at a Wetland Reserve Program site, Linn, MO 9 Oct (SK). A very early individual was at S.L.R. 27 Aug (John Guthrie). Two, one-year-old female Whooping Cranes, raised and fitted with radio transmitters at Necedah N.W.R., WI, spent part of their fall in Iowa. Beginning in early Sep, they foraged on the Upper Mississippi River N.W.R. and near New Albin and the Upper Iowa R., Allamakee (Ric Zarwell). The 2 cranes departed 7 Nov, when temperatures fell.

Single Piping Plovers were reported from Hawkeye W.A., Johnson, IA 22-23 Aug (CE, †THK) and Stockton Res., Polk, MO 17 Aug (CB). Two late Black-necked Stilts were at the Caruthersville Catfish

Farms, New Madrid, MO 12 Oct (JE). There were two reports of juv. Hudsonian Godwits: at Union Slough N.W.R., Kosuth, IA 7 Sep (†MCK) and at Coralville Res., Johnson, IA 2-24 Oct (BSc, JF, THK). A single Spotted Sandpiper at S.L.R. 24 Nov was very late (SK). One to 2 juv. Red Knots were at Pinchey Bottoms, Marion, IA 1-9 Sep (†AB, ph., †JG, †JJD). Another was photographed at Terra L., Polk, IA 8-16 Sep (†JG, †AB). There were three Iowa reports of the very rare fall migrant White-rumped Sandpiper: up to 2 at Jester Park, Polk 23-25 Aug (†AB), with singles at Dewey's Pasture, Palo Alto 30 Aug (†LAS) and in Marion 2 Sep (†AB). Concentrations of Pectoral Sandpipers were 2760 at Red Rock Res., Marion, IA 28 Aug (AB, RC) and 550+ at Big Lake S.P., Holt, MO 13 Aug (MR; record high). Four remained at S.C.R. 19 Nov (TR). Among the 11 reports of Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Missouri were 3 birds reported from a part of the state where they are rarely seen, at Caruthersville Turf Farm, New Madrid 1 Sep (JE). A single male Ruff was at Mud L., Buchanan, MO 13 Oct (†LL). Another casual shorebird was a Red Phalarope at Owego Wetland, Woodbury, IA 14 Sep (†BHF).

Franklin's Gull totals peaked in Iowa at 23,000 each on Red Rock Res., Marion and at Saylorville Res., Polk (AB). The latest one was at Saylorville Res. 23 Nov (BEn). The peak number of Bonaparte's Gulls was 775 at Saylorville Res. 9 Nov (BEn). The last Common Tern sighting was of 2 at Saylorville Res., 12 Oct (†AB, BEn). Late Forster's Terns were at Pleasant Creek S.P., Linn, IA 6 Nov (3; †JH), Smithville L., Clay, MO 30 Oct (KM) and Big Lake S.P., Holt, MO 5 Nov (one; †TR). Least Tern persists in tiny numbers in Iowa, where an ad. was at Union Slough N.W.R., Kosuth 20 Aug (MCK), 3 were at Saylorville Res. 26 Aug (AB), and one was in Pottawattamie 18 Sep (MO).

DOVES THROUGH WRENS

Eurasian Collared-Dove is no longer subject to review in either state, with birds seen in 11 Iowa and 10 Missouri counties, usually in association with grain elevators or other food sources. Two migrating

SA It was a banner year for rare gulls in the Region. A single Laughing Gull was at Saylorville Res., Polk, IA 13 Sep (†DT). A Black-headed Gull was at the n. end of Spirit L., Dickinson, IA 2 Aug-26 Oct (†ET, †LAS). Another Iowa rarity, an ad. Mew Gull, was below the dam at Red Rock Res., Marion 23 Oct (†AB). Birders in both states found California Gulls, including an ad. at R.E.D.A. 28 Nov (JH) and an apparent member of the Great Plains population (*albertainensis*) at Coralville Res., Johnson, IA 24 Nov (†JF). A single ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Coralville Res., Johnson, IA 15-17 Oct (†JF, †JH, ph. THK, BSc). What appeared at first to be a single Little Gull at Montrose L.C.A., Henry, MO 2 Nov turned out to be 2 different birds (†JE; †EW et al.). Finally, single juv. Sabine's Gulls were at Lock & Dam 14, Scott, IA 30 Sep-2 Oct (DR, SF) and Smithville L., Holt, MO 18-22 Sep (†Kyle Driggers, LL, TR).

Short-eared Owls were early near Montrose C.A., Henry, MO 18 Oct (JE). A high of 4000 Chimney Swifts was at Hitchcock 16 Sep (MO), and the latest was in Scott, IA 11 Oct (DR). Six Rufous Hummingbirds were banded in e. Missouri this fall: near Cape Girardeau 12 Oct+ (BE, LC), in St. Louis 13 Nov, at Chesterfield, St. Louis 14 Nov, in St. Louis 20 Nov, at Farmington, St. Francois 25 Nov, and at St. Louis City 30 Nov (LC). Surprisingly, there were no *Scelaphorus* reports from w. Missouri, and the single Iowa report was referred to the records committee (*vide* PH). About half of the migrating Red-headed Woodpeckers at Hitchcock were imm., more than usual (MO).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in Iowa were first seen at Liscomb, Marshall 23 Aug (MPR) and last reported at Grammar 14 Sep (MPR). Missouri sightings included one at Rock Bridge S.P., Boone 1 Sep (Robert Fisher, Gary Johnson) and 2 banded at the Missouri Western Campus, Buchanan 14 Sep (JHI). An Acadian Flycatcher found this summer at the unusual n. location of Myre Slough, Winnebago, IA was last heard calling 13 Aug (CJF). The latest 3 birds in Iowa were in Van Buren 6 Sep (RC). A single imm. Acadian Flycatcher was found dead in Columbia, Boone, MO 10 Sep (BG). Two Alder Flycatchers were identified by voice in Iowa, in Polk 2 Aug (DK) and at Grammar 20 Aug (†MPR). Five were found in Missouri 13 Aug: 3 at Nodaway Valley C.A., Holt and 2 at Bob Brown C.A., Holt (MR). The latest 8 Least Flycatchers in Iowa were found at Call S.P., Kossuth 12 Sep (†MCK). Singles were at Nodaway Valley C.A. 13 Aug and nearby McCormack C.A., Holt 1 Oct (MR); late). The latest Eastern Kingbird was at Hitchcock 7 Oct (†MO; latest since 1974). A juv. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was e. of normal range at Busch C.A., St. Charles, MO 21 Sep (JE).

A Warbling Vireo was at Big Lake S. P., Holt, MO 1 Oct (MR; very late). Some 210 Blue Jays were counted at Big Lake S.P., Holt, MO 3 Oct (TR). Fish Crows continue to expand their range in Missouri, attested by the 2 seen at Montrose C.A., Henry 26 Sep (MR), with the latest at Table Rock L., Taney 8 Nov (Jackie West). Carolina Wrens in Iowa were reported more n. and w. than usual, including in Cerro Gordo (Bruce Marzinske), Woodbury (BFH), Cherokee (Dick Bierman), and Plymouth (JJD). Unexpected was a Winter Wren of subspecies *pacificus* at Brookside Park, Story, IA 21 Oct (KLP, †SSP). Sedge Wrens were in good numbers in Missouri, with a relatively high 40 at S.L.R. 5 Aug (SK), 27 at

Nodaway Valley C.A. 13 Aug (MR), and 29 at Bob Brown C.A., Holt 13 Aug (MR).

THRUSNES THROUGH WARBLERS

A Swainson's Thrush at Grindstone Nature Area, Columbia, Boone, MO 4 Sep was early (BG), while a very late individual was at Fellows L., Greene, MO 16 Nov (†Grace Jordan). A single Bohemian Waxwing was reported from Clayton, IA 22 Nov (†Danny Akers). A total of 52 Orange-crowned Warblers and 36 Nashville Warblers was banded on the Missouri Western Campus, Buchanan, MO (JHI). A Northern Parula at Big Oak Tree S.P., Mississippi, MO 12 Oct was late (JE). Unusually early Yellow-rumped Warblers included 4 in Worth, IA 30 Aug (RG, PH) and 2 in Story, IA 14 Sep (KLP, SSP). A Pine Warbler was in Mason City, Cerro Gordo, IA 25 Aug (†CJF), and other singles were at Bacon Creek, Woodbury, IA 10 Sep (†BFH) and Glendale Cemetery, Polk, IA 14 Sep (†Robert Cecil). A late imm. Magnolia Warbler was at Big Spring, Carter, MO 12 Oct (MR). A Black-throated Green Warbler at Watkins Mill S.P., Clay, MO 26 Oct (KM) and a Yellow-throated Warbler at L. Springfield, Greene, MO 5 Oct (Dave Catlin) were late. A high count of 18 Wilson's Warblers came from Nodaway Valley C.A. 30 Aug (MR). One very late Common Yellowthroat appeared in Warren, IA 25 Nov (JS). Sep records of Yellow-breasted Chat are few in Missouri, but 3 were recorded, the latest being banded on the Missouri Western Campus 13 Sep (JHI).

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

Late Summer Tanagers included 2 at Big Spring, Carter, MO 11 Oct and one at Stockton L., Cedar, MO 13 Oct (MR), while late Scarlet Tanagers were one in Pottawattamie, IA 18 Oct (MO) and 2 at Big Spring 11 Oct (MR). Forty-one Song Sparrows and 31 Lincoln's Sparrows were banded at the Missouri Western Campus (JHI). A single early Lapland Longspur was at Saylorville Res., Polk, IA 6 Oct (AB). Smith's Longspurs are sparingly found in fall in Iowa, but reports are increasing: 3 were at Union Slough N.W.R., Kossuth 19 Oct (†MCK), 2 were at Owego Wetland, Woodbury 25 Oct (†BFH), and 7 were at Knutson's Pond, Cerro Gordo 14 Nov (†RG). A high of 45 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was at Tower Grove Park, St. Louis City, MO (JE; 2nd highest). A count of 91 Dickcissels was logged at Bradford Farm, Boone, MO 12 Sep (PM; record high). The highest count was 60 at Clarence Cannon N.W.R., Pike 29 Sep (JE). The only Iowa report of Yellow-headed Blackbird was of a record-

large flock of 40 at Hitchcock 15 Sep (MO). An imm. male was at Morehouse, New Madrid, MO 9 Sep (Ryan Layton). A very early male Rusty Blackbird was at Spring Run, Dickinson, IA 6 Sep (†LAS). Two reports of very early Brewer's Blackbirds were of a male at Knutson's Pond, Cerro Gordo, IA 30 Sep (†RG) and 3 females at Pool Slough, Allamakee, IA 1 Oct (†FL). A very late Orchard Oriole was at Big Creek S.P. in Polk, IA 6 Oct (†AB), whereas the latest Baltimore Orioles were 2 in Van Buren, IA 6 Sep (RC). In contrast to recent years, Purple Finches were seen early and often this season. The first were 4 in Appanoose, IA 20 Sep (RC), and the highest count was 265 at Hitchcock 2 Nov (MO). Single Common Redpolls were first observed in Cerro Gordo, IA 21 Nov (CJF, RG) and at Jefferson City, Cole, MO 27 Nov (Barb Duncan). Four Eurasian Tree Sparrows near Buffalo in Scott, IA 10 Nov represented a range extension (†Dick & Kit Sayles).

Undocumented rarities: A Clark's Grebe was reported at Thomas Hill Res., Randolph, MO 7 Nov. A Ferruginous Hawk was reported at Wa-Sha-She Prairie, Jasper, MO 18 Nov. A single extralimital Eurasian Tree Sparrow at Columbia, Boone, MO was first reported 28 Nov.

Corrigenda: The recent report of Magnificent Hummingbird was not accepted by the Missouri Bird Records Committee. A late Yellow-throated Warbler at Bettendorf, Scott, IA 24 Sep 2002 should be added (†DR).

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This immature Roseate Spoonbill, first discovered 19 August 2003 (here 22 August) in Maury County by Damien Simbeck, is one of only a handful ever found in middle Tennessee. It delighted observers with its uncharacteristically lengthy stay, through 8 September. Photograph by Michael O'Malley.

first of Sauerheber's wintering flock of Tundra Swans were observed 25 Nov (MMn). A Mottled Duck at Enslay 4-7 Oct (ph. JRW, m. ob.) furnished a Regional first. A hybrid Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was observed in w. Fulton, KY 30 Aug (MM, BP).

This fall's scoter movement was modest compared to that of 2002. Surfs were reported from four Kentucky and three Tennessee locations 21 Oct-23 Nov, with a high of 15 on the Ohio R. at Louisville 21 Oct (MA). There were only two reports of White-winged Scoter: one at S. Holston L., TN 2 & 8 Nov (WC et al.) and 2 at Britton Ford 16-18 Nov (tJRW et al.). Reports of Black Scoter included 3-5 on the Ohio R. at Louisville 7 Nov (MA, MS, BY), one on L. Cumberland, Pulaski, KY 9 Nov (RD), and one at Paris Landing S.P., Henry, TN 16 Nov (tJRW).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

One of the highlights of the season in Kentucky was a Swallow-tailed Kite at Sinclair 12-31 Aug (ph. SA et al.). Single Mississippi



This Swallow-tailed Kite, an extremely rare visitor to Kentucky, was present in Muhlenberg County 12-31 August (here 15 August) 2003. Photograph by David Roemer.

of view over Bernheim Forest, Nelson, KY 30 Nov (MM, BP); another soared past the Soddy Mt. hawkwatch 8 Nov (BH). It was another good fall for Merlins, with 12 reports of one to two birds in Kentucky and three reports of single birds in Tennessee 10 Sep-22 Nov.

Single King Rails were observed at Sauerheber 4 (BP et al.) & 18 Oct (JP) and at Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton, TN 2 & 27 Oct (KC, CB). A juv. Virginia Rail in Union, KY 1 Aug (LP, EC, BP) appeared to be less than full-grown and may represent a first nesting record for Kentucky. A Sora was still in Muhlenberg, KY 9 Nov (BP et al.). Common Moorhen was confirmed nesting at Sauerheber in early Aug (CC).

Sandhill Cranes were seen a few weeks earlier than nor-

mal, with a flock of 36 over Calloway, KY 10 Oct (KCo) and ca. 30 over s. Jefferson, KY 12 Oct (MB).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS

It was not a great season for shorebirds, as high lake and river levels inundated some of the best habitat. There were four reports of Piping Plover from Tennessee: one to 2 at Island 13 on the Mississippi R., Lake 2-5 Aug (NM, KL), one there 1 Sep (tJRW), and one at Rankin Bottoms, Cocke 1 Sep (tRK et al.).

One to 4 American Avocets were reported from two Kentucky and two Tennessee sites 3 Aug-13 Oct, an additional 2 at S. Holston L., TN 12 Nov (BG et al.) were unusually late. One to 4 Willets were reported from only two Kentucky and two Tennessee sites 9 Aug-13 Sep. A Hudsonian Godwit in Calloway, KY 19 Sep (tHC) will represent a 4th state record if accepted by the Kentucky records committee. The lone reported Marbled Godwit (always rare in the Region) was relatively early in Union, KY 1 Aug (ph. BP, EC, LP). The only Red Knots reported, 3 at Mud 1,

Shelby, TN 18 Oct (JRW), were late.

A White-rumped Sandpiper, a rare fall migrant in the Region, was in Rowan, KY 20 Sep (SM). Buff-breasted Sandpiper numbers were low; 2 at Rankin Bottoms, Cocke, TN 5-14 Sep (RK et al.) were unusual away from w. Tennessee. Single juv. Red-necked Phalaropes were present 14 Sep in Union, KY (tBP) and at Enslay (JRW). Single juv. Red Phalaropes were present in Marshall, KY 13-17 Sep (ph. HC et al.) and at Britton Ford 1-10 Nov (KA, ph. JRW, m. ob.). Unusually late shorebirds included a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Union, KY 1 Oct (BP, JD, MM), a Semipalmated Plover in w. Fulton, KY 26 Oct (RD, SD), a Sanderling at Douglas L., TN 7 Nov (tRK), 2 Western Sandpipers at Enslay 8 Nov (JRW), and 4 Western Sandpipers in Marshall, KY to 16 Nov (HC).

Single Laughing Gulls of various ages were reported on 10 occasions on L. Barkley, KY and on Kentucky L. from the dam s. to Pace Pt., Henry, TN 2 Aug-29 Nov; in addition, 2 were observed in Lake, TN 2 Nov (JRW), and a group of 9 on S. Holston L. 27 Sep (WC, RC) represented not only a high



This Mottled Duck, discovered 4 October 2003 (here) by Jeff Wilson in the Enslay Bottoms in the southwestern corner of Memphis, furnished an expected first record for Tennessee. Last seen 7 October 2003, this bird served as a wake-up call for observers in the Region to study dabbling ducks more carefully. Photograph by Jeff R. Willis.

count for upper e. Tennessee but one of the highest ever for the Region. One to 15 Franklin's Gulls were observed on L. Barkley, KY and Kentucky L. from the dam s. to Britton Ford 15 Sep-22 Nov; one in Harlan 23 Sep (MM, BP) was the 2nd for se. Kentucky. A flock of ca. 70 at Britton Ford 1 Nov (MT, DMA) was noteworthy—but nothing could compare to the staggering total of 3145 Franklin's Gulls counted along the Mississippi R., Lake, TN the following day (JRW, NM); this event obliterated the Region's previous high count of 100 observed on the Ohio R. at Louisville on the same date, 2 Nov, in 1960!

Lesser Black-backed Gull is now regular in small numbers on L. Barkley, KY and Kentucky L., KY/TN; single individuals of vari-

ous ages were reported on nine occasions 15 Sep–26 Nov. Sabine's Gulls provided a highlight at both ends of Tennessee; a juv. was on S. Holston L. 7 Sep (RC, SC, ph. ET, m. ob.), and 2 juvs. were at Island 13, Lake 10 Sep (ph. MT, NM).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

As numbers continued to increase at existing locations, Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported from a handful of new locations during the season. A relatively late nesting Yellow-billed Cuckoo was flushed from a nest in Pulaski, KY 2 Aug (RD). The only Long-eared Owls reported were 2 in Muhlenberg, KY 28 Nov (BP, AC). Efforts to document Northern Saw-whet Owl in the Region continued to bear fruit. The earliest was one netted in e. Jefferson, KY 7 Nov (MM, BP), but in e. Tennessee, a remarkable 18 were banded in Blount 14–30 Nov+ (JG et al.). A very late Whip-poor-will was at Short Creek, Grayson, KY 15 Oct (JPT).

It was another banner fall for unusual hummingbirds, with no fewer than 30 individual birds present in Nov. Most that were identified were the expected Rufous Hummingbird. The highlight was a banded ad. male Calliope Hummingbird, Tennessee's and the Region's 4th, in Blount 28 Oct–5 Nov (JAM, ph. HH, m. ob.); the bird eluded several attempts to capture it. A detailed sum-

bird in Memphis, TN 30 Oct (HJRW).

A Bell's Vireo at Shiloh N.P., Hardin, TN 16 Sep (HBS) was an unusual find; an extraordinarily late individual was heard singing at Sinclair 19 Oct (HC, RD). Also late was a singing Blue-headed Vireo in Hamilton, TN 21 Nov (KC). A very late nesting record for Red-eyed Vireo was established by an ad. feeding 2 young in Pulaski, KY 10–11 Sep (RD). First indications of a modest Red-breasted Nuthatch movement were singles in Hamilton, TN 6 Sep (DA) and in e. Putnam, TN 20 Sep (BS); by the end of the period, small numbers of birds were fairly well distributed across the Region.

Nesting Sedge Wrens were documented in Muhlenberg, KY (MM, BP), Henderson, KY (BP), and Montgomery, TN (DM), the latter representing the first confirmed record for Tennessee. There are no nest records for Marsh Wrens in the Region, but single birds in Union, KY 17 & 23 Aug (BP) and Muhlenberg, KY 30 Aug (BP, MM) seemed to be potentially of local origin. A Sage Thrasher in Knox, TN 8–30 Nov+ (SH, ph. RHO, m. ob.) furnished an unexpected first record for the Region.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

It was a good season for warbler fallouts; observers noted good numbers of Golden-winged, Blackpolls, and Cape Mays (the latter two usually

present in numbers only in the e. mts.), as well as an unusual showing of Ceruleans in e. Tennessee. One of the highlights of the season was the presence of a the Region's first MacGillivray's Warbler at Radnor 25 Oct–19 Nov (vt. JS, m. ob.). Single Connecticut Warblers, rare in the Region in fall, were reported in Davidson, TN 19 Sep (ShM) and at Roan Mt., Carter, TN 25 Sep (RK). Unusually early warblers included a Black-throated Green in Warren, KY 10 Aug (JE), a Chestnut-sided in Pulaski, KY 19 Aug (RD), a Palm in Lake, TN 24 Aug (KL), and single Orange-crowns at Shelby Bottoms, Davidson, TN 2 Sep (SHy) and in Bar-



Red Phalarope is the rarest of its tribe in Tennessee, and migrants rarely stay for more than a day or two. This bird, discovered by Ken Allen at Britton Ford in the Big Sandy Unit of Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge in Henry County 1 November 2003 (here date unknown), lingered for ten days. Photograph by Mike Todd.

ren, KY 5 Sep (MM). Probably due at least in part to mild late-fall temperatures, there were numerous late records of warblers, including a Mourning at Radnor 31 Oct (SHy), an Ovenbird at Radnor 1 Nov (JS) and another in Hamilton, TN 2 Nov (LW), a Black-and-white at Radnor 2 Nov (CWk), a Northern Waterthrush in e. Jefferson, KY 4 Nov (JB, PB), and a Hooded in Boyd, KY 3 Nov (LT). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler found dead in Memphis, TN 4 Nov (ph. MJ) was not only exceptionally late but a rare find for w. Tennessee, while one in Marshall 13 Sep (HC, EC, RL, MW) likely represents a first fall record for w. Kentucky.

There were three reports of Clay-colored Sparrow, which remains a poorly known and/or very rare migrant in the Region: one in e. Jefferson, KY on the early date of 24 Aug (TJB, PB), one in Blount, TN 10 Oct (TDT),



This photograph shows but a small sample of the staggering flight of 3145 Franklin's Gulls observed by Jeff Wilson along the Mississippi River in Lake County, Tennessee on 2 November 2003. The highest previous count in the Region was of 190 in Louisville, Kentucky—on the same date in 1960. Photograph by Jeff R. Wilson.

mary of the Region's winter hummingbirds will appear in the winter season report.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Shelby Park, Nashville, TN 15 Aug (PC, FF) established a new early date for the area; conversely, one in Unicoi, TN 5 Oct (JM) was unusually late. Two extremely late nesting records of Eastern Wood-Pewee were documented this season: an ad. feeding 2 young birds in Pulaski, KY 25 Sep (RD) and ads. feeding young in e. Jefferson, KY 24–30 Sep (BW). A Great Crested Flycatcher in Millington, Shelby, TN 6 Oct (VH) was late, as was a Western King-



Sabine's Gulls are extremely rare in Tennessee, so sightings of singles at both ends of the state were remarkable. This juvenile was a one-day wonder at South Holston Reservoir on the Tennessee-Virginia border 7 September 2003.

Photograph by Ed Talbot.



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This banded adult male Calliope Hummingbird, Tennessee's fourth overall, showed up at the home of Jo Ann McMullen in Maryville, Tennessee on 28 October 2003 (here 30 October). The bird departed on 5 November, after frustrating several attempts to capture it to read its band. Photograph by Harold Howell.

and one in Pulaski, KY 10 Nov (fRD); all are subject to records committee review. An unusually high number of reports of migrant Lark Sparrows included one at Sinclair 30 Aug (MM, BP), one in Pulaski, KY 9–10 Sep (RD), one at Shelby Bottoms, Davidson, TN 16 Sep (MS), 2 at Ensley 20–21 Sep (JRW et al.), and one very late bird (and unusual any time of year for e. Tennessee) in Washington, TN 25 Nov (DE).

Lingering Henslow's Sparrows remained at Sinclair well into fall, with a juv. (not fully grown) and a nearby ad. with food observed 21 Sep (BP, MS, BY) and at least 2 still there 9 Nov (MM et al.). Presumed migrant Henslow's were observed in Blount, TN 25 Oct (DT) and at the Big Sandy Unit of Tennessee N.W.R. 31 Oct (MT). Le Conte's Sparrows were present at a few usual haunts in the Region, but they were also noticeably absent from others due to habitat conversion. Four Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported: one in Knox, TN 28 Sep (CN et al.), 2 at Eagle Lake W.M.A., Shelby, TN 18 Oct (JRW), and one at Sinclair 19 Oct (HC, RD). A Snow Bunting, casual in Tennessee, was in Scott, TN 29 Nov (fNeM, SJS).

For the 3rd year in a row, at least one Yellow-headed Blackbird was detected in a blackbird roost in Union, KY 27 Sep–29 Oct (BP et al.); another was at Shelby Farms, Shelby, TN 23 Sep (G&JP). A very tardy Orchard Oriole was observed in Lyon, KY 21 Sep (MS, BY, BP). A few Purple Finches and Pine Siskins began showing up in early Nov, but by the end of the period, only small numbers were still being reported. The only report of an Evening Grosbeak was of one heard in Warren, KY 8 Oct (DR).

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Central Southern

After a soggy August, September was uncharacteristically dry and devoid of tropical systems. A strong cold front penetrated the Region 27–28 September, bringing exceptional vagrants to Alabama and the Florida Panhandle, including a possible five species new for Alabama! October and November weather was typical, with dry high-pressure systems prevailing between cold fronts.

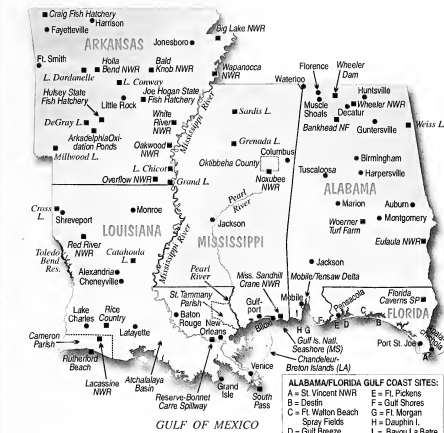
Transients were timely, although numbers of typical winter visitors along the coast were unusually low at the end of the period, with ducks, Horned Grebes, Bonaparte's Gulls, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and others yet to arrive in normal numbers. Sparrows, however, appeared in usual concentrations.

Feeder watchers in widely scattered locations throughout the Florida Panhandle and southern Alabama lamented a dearth of yard birds. Judging from our visits to favorite spots, we agree that common birds as well as migrants seemed down in numbers, although heavy patronage by hunting *Accipiters* makes such impressions of relative abundance difficult to interpret.

Abbreviations: FW.B.S.F (Fort Walton Beach spray field, Okaloosa, FL); L.S.U.M.N.S. (Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., e.-cen. Mississippi); nw. Florida (Florida west of the Apalachicola R.); St. Catherine (St. Catherine Creek N.W.R., Adams, MS); Wheeler (Wheeler N.W.R., n. Alabama); Yazoo (Yazoo N.W.R., Washington, MS). State names are included only with the initial use of a place name.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

A Pacific Loon, the 6th for Arkansas, was at L. Dardanelle, Pope 8 Nov (LN, KN). In Alabama, where rare, one was in Marshall 21–22 Nov (RAR, SWM, SRM). A Red-necked Grebe in Marshall 21 Nov was Alabama's 12th (p. a., RAR, LBR). Rare to uncommon along the Gulf Coast, Eared Grebes were in Mobile, AL 12–14 Oct (m. ob.) and at the FW.B.S.F 4 Oct–30 Nov+ (m. ob.). Very rare in Arkansas, a Western Grebe was reported in Washington 7 Nov (JN, MM). Three Cory's Shearwaters 58 km ssw. of South Pass 7 Oct provided Louisiana's 5th and 6th records (*L.S.U.M.N.S., DLD, SWC, DPM, CCS). A Masked Booby was in Choctawhatchee Bay, Okaloosa 12 Sep (BG), and another was at Dauphin I., AL 16 Sep (BCG, HH). Large flocks of American White Pelicans were reported in Alabama (630), Arkansas (1200), and Louisiana (1200–1500). Accidental in Mississippi, Neotropical Cormorants were found at St. Catherine 9 Aug, where an ad. and a subad. were observed (p. a., TS, MS, SJD, m. ob.). A subad. was



also seen in Humphreys, MS 30 Aug (SJD). In Louisiana, where Neotropics are uncommon, 425 were counted 15 Sep in St. Martin (JWB, RD). Magnificent Frigatebirds were late 30 Nov in Baldwin, AL (RC) and 8 Nov in Plaquemines, LA (PW et al.).

Ardeids appeared in unusually high numbers along the Mississippi and nw. Florida coasts Aug–mid-Sep. Only 5 American Bitterns, a species infrequently reported in recent years, were reported for the entire Region. A count of 1256 Great Egrets in Tallahatchie, MS 30 Aug must have been impressive (GK, SK, SJD). Rare in the mountain region of Alabama, a Snowy Egret was in Jefferson 27 Sep (HHK, RDK). Uncommon inland in Mississippi, 29 Tricolored Herons at a St. Catherine roost was a good count (SJD, GK, SK et al.). Up to 5 Glossy Ibis strayed to Yazoo, MS 2–24 Aug (p. a., SJD), 4 were at St. Catherine, where rare, 9 Aug (p. a., GK, SK, SJD), and another surfaced in Humphreys 30 Aug (p. a., SJD). A rare migrant in Arkansas as well, one Glossy Ibis was early in Desha 16 Aug (KN, LN et al.), and 10 were in Mobile 24 Aug, where uncommon (GDJ).

A White-faced Ibis at Ft. Morgan, Baldwin provided Alabama's 15th record (p. a., LRD, RAD), and 4 were reported from

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Arkansas 14–20 Sep (m. ob.), where rare. Still accidental in Mississippi, a single White-faced Ibis was at St. Catherine 9–10 Aug (p. a., TS, MS, SJD, m. ob.), 2 were at Yazoo 30 Aug (p. a., GK, SK, SJD), and another was in Humphreys 30 Aug (p. a., GK, SK, SJD). *Plegadis* not identified to species were reported in numbers in Mississippi and Alabama, with a near all-time high for Alabama of about 30 at Mobile on 24 Aug (GDJ). A peak count of 352 was recorded at St. Catherine 9 Aug (SJD), and 2 remaining at Noxubee 23 Oct were the latest for the area by 14 days (TS). For the 2nd straight year, Roseate Spoonbills were counted in good numbers in Arkansas and Mississippi, with 51 and 300 reported, respectively. One in Mobile 4–10 Sep was very rare (DD, AH).

As last year, Wood Storks were reported in impressive numbers: 3578 were estimated 9 Aug at St. Catherine (SJD), with state totals of 2 in Alabama, 350 in Arkansas, and 4300 in Mississippi.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued their range expansion in Louisiana, with 30-35 (including 7-9 juvs.) seen 4 Oct-15 Nov at Bayou Sauvage N.W.R., Orleans (DM, BMM, LE, PW). A pair of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks with 7 half-grown young at Yazoo provided Mississippi's first verified breeding 16-19 Oct (DL, ph. SJD, TS, m. ob.). What can only be described as a massive movement of Greater White-fronted Geese from nw. Florida to the Mississippi Gulf Coast occurred 21-23 Oct. On 22 Oct, JAW observed 65 birds on a westward course over Niceville, Okaloosa. The same day, RAD and LRD watched an estimated 510 moving w. at Ft. Morgan. During the same three-day period, NB estimated a few thousand passing through Hancock, MS. One can only speculate what brought so many of this species, rare e. of Louisiana, so far off their normal migration route. Maximum ever for inland Alabama were 65 at Wheeler 29 Nov (BKF). An estimated 10,000 to 20,000 Snow Geese passed through Washington 1-2 Nov (JN). Formerly accidental in the Region, Ross's Geese have appeared regularly in recent years. Alabama had 8, nw. Florida 5, and Arkansas one in the period 8-28 Nov.

Two Gadwalls at Yazoo 24 Aug were very early (SS). An ad. male Eurasian Wigeon at Eufaula N.W.R., Barbour 13 Nov was Alabama's 7th (p. a., CTS, LW). A Cinnamon Teal was seen 4 Nov in Lonoke, AR, where very rare (LY, H&MP). Seven Lesser Scaup in Sharkey, MS 24 Aug were the earliest ever for the area. A count of 1500 in Washington 7 Nov was the highest ever for nw. Arkansas (JN, MMI). Surf Scoters were reported from Mississippi (3) and Arkansas (13) 23 Oct-14 Nov, while Mississippi tallied a total of 7 Black Scoters in the same period, and Arkansas had 4 White-wingeds 6-12 Nov. Washington had 200 very early Buffleheads 7 Nov (JN, MMI). Single female



This dark-morph immature *Buteo* at Ft. Morgan, Alabama 15 (here) through 16 October 2003 was identified by experts as Alabama's first Short-tailed Hawk. Photographs by Lucy Duncan.

Common Mergansers were reported from there 9 (JL, SSp, SL) & 15 Nov (JL, SSp). Twelve Ruddy Ducks, including a juv. in Humphreys 26 Jul (SS, KH), only the 2nd breeding record for Mississippi. On 7 Nov, nw. Arkansas had its highest ever count of Ruddy Ducks, some 1200 on L. Fayetteville (JN, MM).

Two kettles of Swallow-tailed Kites totaling 150+ in Escambia, FL 7 Aug were a maximum for the area (GF FL). Late in Leflore, MS, another was sighted 24 Aug (SJD, AHa). Twenty-five Mississippi Kites in Clay, MS were also impressive (TS). A dark *Buteo* over Ft. Morgan, Baldwin, AL 15-16 Oct proved to be the Region's first Short-tailed Hawk, a dark-morph imm. bird documented nicely (p. a., ph. LRD, RAD, ph. ALM et al.). Probably an indication of its more common occurrence now, only one report of Bald Eagle was received. An ad. Golden Eagle, casual in nw. Florida, was in Santa Rosa 28 Sep, the earliest for the state by three days (RAD, LRD). Another ad. was at the FWB.S.E 7 Oct (LRD, RAD, CB), and an imm. was in Bay, FL 31 Oct (BL). Rare in Alabama, a Golden Eagle 27 Oct in Marshall was early for the Tennessee Valley region (RAR). Probably under-reported because of increased sightings in

recent years, Peregrine Falcons were tallied in only three states: Mississippi (4), Arkansas (3), and Louisiana (28).

A Black Rail 17 Nov at the FWB.S.E was nw. Florida's 12th (LRD, CB, RAD). Seven Soras 27 Sep in Jefferson were quite high for Alabama's Mountain region (SSH). For the 5th consecutive year, Purple Gallinules nested at Noxubee 5 Aug-3 Sep (TS). Three ads. and 3 juvs. in Howard, AR 11 Oct were very late (CM). For the 4th consecutive year, Common Moorhens nested at Noxubee, where 4 downy young and one grown juv. were present 22 Aug (TS). A rare nester in n. Mississippi, Common Moorhens (including 6 juvs.) were in Tallahatchie 30 Aug (GK, SK, SJD); 4 ads. and 21 juvs. were tallied in Howard 11 Oct (CM); and 5 were at Yazoo 19 Oct (TS), where still considered uncommon. A count of 1325 American Coots was reported from Washington (JN, MMI, DP, AG). Locally rare, 11 Sandhill Cranes graced Elmore, AL 20 Nov (RER). The maximum for Alabama's Tennessee Valley was 160 at Wheeler 29 Nov (BKF, m. ob.).

SHOREBIRDS

American Golden-Plovers, Regional fall rarities, showed up early in Shelby 20 Aug (HHW, ASC) and Colbert 17 Aug (SWM), in Alabama's Mountain and Tennessee Valley regions, respectively. Others were noted in Mississippi in Hancock 22 Sep (NB), Grenada 14 Oct, and Humphreys and Leflore 18 Oct (SJD). Only Louisiana reported Snowy Plovers, with 69 counted 28 Sep-29 Nov. A Semipalmated Plover 4 Nov in Lonoke was quite late (LY, H&MP). Piping Plover reports came from Louisiana (17), Arkansas (10), and Mississippi (2), 1 Aug-29 Nov. Killdeer appeared in high



Florida's ninth Say's Phoebe was found by visiting birder Barry Fleming at Fort Pickens near Pensacola 13 October 2003. This cooperative bird, a first for the Panhandle, spent its Florida vacation feeding in dune vegetation until 15 October. Photograph by David Dortch.



An exciting find in Arkansas was the discovery of a molting adult Curlew Sandpiper by Kenny and LaDonna Nichols in Prairie County on 2 August 2003. Seen by many observers, it furnished a first record for the state.

Photograph by LaDonna Nichols.

numbers in Alabama. *Colbert* had 250 on 15 Aug (DJS), topped by 500 in *Lowndes*, AL 24 Aug (LFG). Thirty American Oystercatchers in *Mobile* 30 Nov was considered a good number (RC). One at Gulf Shores, AL 11 Oct was locally rare (ALM). An astounding group of 1279 Black-necked Stilts 2 Aug in *Humphreys* (SJD) preceded a peak of 217 American Avocets there 21 Sep (SJD).

Oktibbeha, MS had its earliest ever Willet 2 Aug (TS), and its latest ever (by 16 days) Upland Sandpiper 20 Sep (SJD). Marbled Godwits, uncommon in the Region, were reported from Arkansas (one), Alabama (one), Mississippi (7), and nw. Florida (8). Very rare in Arkansas, a Red Knot was in *Prairie* 17–18 Sep (KN, LN). In *Humphreys*, Western Sandpipers peaked at 1047 on 18 Oct, and Least Sandpipers maxed at 4986 on 2 Aug (SJD). Alabama had its most-ever Leasts in *Lowndes* with 700+ on 24 Aug (LFG). A first state record for Arkansas, a molting ad. Curlew Sandpiper graced *Prairie* 2–3 Aug (KN, ph. LN, m. ob.). Stilt Sandpipers peaked at 617 on 13 Sep in *Humphreys* (SDJ). Alabama's 6th Ruff surfaced in *Limestone* 25 Oct (p. a., RAR, DBR). Long-billed Dowitchers peaked at 5000 on 2 Nov in *Prairie* (KN, LN), with a respectable 2034 birds 21 Sep in *Humphreys* (GK, SK, SJD). Very rare in the Region, Red-necked Phalaropes were in *Prairie* 23 Aug (KN, LN), *Humphreys* 13 Sep (ph. SJD), and *Oktibbeha* 19–22 Sep (TS, MS).

JAEGERS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An imm. Pomarine Jaeger was 68 km s. of South Pass, LA 7 Oct (BMM, DLD, SWC, CCS); another was seen 14 Oct along the *Mobile* coast (ph. DD). A Parasitic Jaeger 22 Sep at Ft. Pickens, *Escambia* was nw. Florida's 12th (RAD). Franklin's Gulls peaked in Mississippi at 634 in *Grenada* 26 Oct (SJD). In nw. Florida and Alabama, where rare, singles

were in *Okaloosa* 23 Oct (AK, LM), *Baldwin* (ADM, ALM), and *Mobile* (BCG). At *Wilson Dam Colbert/Lauderdale*, AL, 17 were the maximum ever for the area (DJS). Alabama's 4th California Gull, a juv., was at *Wilson Dam* 8 Oct–14 Nov (p. a., ph. DJS, PN, GM, FM). Two ads. were in *Cameron*, LA 25–26 Oct (p. a., DPM, ph. RDP, ph. PW et al.). A juv. was reported in *Cameron* 25 Oct (p. a., PC, DaP). Lesser Black-backed Gulls totaled 7 in *Louisiana* 24 Oct–14 Nov, with 2 at *Wilson Dam*, AL 29 Oct–16 Nov (DJS) and another in coastal *Mobile* 7 Nov (BS, BeS, DD). An ad. Great Black-backed Gull, considered very rare in Louisiana, was in *Lafourche* 11 Oct–5 Nov (p. a., PW, ph. BMM, RDP, CCS); an ad. was in coastal *Mobile*, AL 5–7 Nov (ph. DD, BS, BeS). Three Louisiana pelagic tryps yielded 46 Bridled and 17 Sooty Terns 20 Aug–7 Oct (*L.S.U.M.N.S., DLD et al.). Singles Sooties were at Ft. Pickens 5 Aug (RAD) and in *Mobile Bay* 18 Aug (SW). Noteworthy were 51 Black Terns in *Leflore* 30 Aug (GK, SK, SJD).

White-winged Doves continued their expansion across se. Louisiana and as far as nw. Florida, with successful breeding in Gulf Breeze, FL, where 12 ads. and 4 juvs. were seen 20 Aug–18 Sep (LRD, RAD). Inca Doves were reported in small numbers in Louisiana from *Orleans* to *Lafayette*, where there were 2 nestlings 3 Oct (JWB, EV). Only 2 Common Ground-Doves were reported, both from Louisiana, where they are considered declining. Groove-billed Anis, rare but fairly regular in the Region, made appearances in *Okaloosa* 4 Oct (LF, DW); Ft. Pickens, 6 Oct–5 Nov (AS, m. ob.); Cantonment, *Escambia* 30 Nov (CG); Dauphin I. 15 Oct (BCG); *St. Martin*, LA 22 Oct (JH); and *Hancock* 5 Nov (NB, QBG).

Alabama's first Flammulated Owl 31 Oct (p. a., ph. BS, RCI, VF), found injured on a *Mobile* street, was treated at a rehabilitation facility and flown to California for release. Very rare in the Region, individual sightings of Lesser Nighthawks were in coastal *Mobile* 6 Nov (p. a., DD) and in *Cameron* 25 Oct (p. a., DPM, ph. RDP et al.) and 25 Nov (p. a., PW, ph. RDP et al.). Ten Whip-poor-wills 9 Sep in *Oktibbeha* was a good count (TS, MS). Nancy Newfield commented

that migration of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and w. hummingbirds was below average. She banded a Broad-billed Hummingbird 11 Nov in Reserve, *St. John the Baptist*, LA. Single Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were reported from Alabama, Mississippi, and nw. Florida 24 Nov-. Accidental in Arkansas, a Calliope Hummingbird stayed in *Pulaski* early Nov–19 Dec+ (p. a., JM, P&LF et al.). Now commonplace, Rufous Hummingbirds were widely reported throughout the Region. An Allen's Hummingbird (b. by NN on 16 Nov 2002) returned to a *St. Tammany*, LA feeder 3 Nov. A report of 5 Red-cockaded Woodpeckers from *Monroe*, AR 25 Nov was encouraging (LY, WS, KD).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

Rare but regular, Olive-sided Flycatchers were in *Hancock* 18 Sep (NB) and *Franklin*, AL 4 Sep (2 birds; DJS). Eastern Wood-Pewees were late breeders in *Hancock*, where 2 recently fledged young were found 1 Sep (SS). There were eight well-documented reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher from Alabama, where one was banded at Ft. Morgan 4 Oct (RRS). A Say's Phoebe, Florida's 9th and the first for nw. Florida, was at Ft. Pickens 13–15 Oct (p. a., BKF, DS, ph. LRD, ph. DD et al.). Casual in nw. Florida, a Vermilion Flycatcher was at *FWB.S.F.* 22 Nov (RAD, LRD, BT, DJ). Rare in Alabama and



This Flammulated Owl, found injured 31 October 2003 in *Mobile*, Alabama, was rehabilitated and flown to California for release. Another was found in the *Florida Panhandle* 9 November 2001.

Photograph by Bill Summerour.

Mississippi, single Vermilion Flycatchers were in *Mobile* 10 Oct (LFG) and *Jackson* 16 Oct (NB et al.), and 7 were reported from Louisiana. Ash-throated Flycatchers are now rare but regular in Alabama, Louisiana, and nw. Florida, with singles reported 5 Sep in *Santa Rosa* (RAD), 23 Oct at the EWB.S.E (AK, LM), 29 Oct at Ft. Pickens (CB, ST, RAD et al.), 15 Oct at Ft. Morgan (b. ph. RRS), and 10–12 Nov in *Orleans* (JW, TW, DPM, BMM). A Western Kingbird was a rare find in *Oktibbeha* 1–5 Oct (TS, ph. SJD, m. ob.). Ten Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at Dauphin I. 14 Oct made Alabama's maximum count (RAR, LBR). One was in *Oktibbeha* 1 Aug (SJD), one was in *Adams*, MS 22 Oct (MDD), and 5–6 were in *Hancock* 12 Oct–15 Nov (NB).

The only Bell's Vireo reported was a bird found at Ft. Morgan 11 Oct (JRW). A Yellow-throated Vireo on the same date in *Benton*, AR was late (JN, MMI). Two rare Warbling Vireos were at Ft. Morgan 6 Oct (b. RRS). One of several outstanding vagrants to grace Ft. Morgan this fall was a Yellow-green Vireo 10 Oct, a first for Alabama (p. a., b. DB, FB, RRS, ph. DD, m. ob.). The largest concentration ever of Purple Martins in nw. Arkansas was 700 in *Benton* 17 Aug (JN, AG, MMI).

Three Cave Swallows were a rare find 26 Oct in *Cameron* (p. a., BMM, DPM, PW). Three White-breasted Nuthatches 26 Sep in Montgomery were the maximum for Alabama's coastal plain (LFG). A singing House Wren 4 Aug in *Jefferson*, AL indicated possible nesting (HHK). A very rare Rock Wren was a good find in *Pope* 8 Nov+ (KN, LN). Hopefully underreported regionally, 4 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were in *Oktibbeha*, along with 37 Swainson's Thrushes (SJD). A count of 147 Wood Thrushes passing over *Montgomery* 16 Oct must have been heartening (LFG). A Sage Thrasher at EWB.S.E 23 Oct was nw. Florida's 5th (p. a., AK, LM). The sensational vagrant of the season was a Yellow Wagtail at Ft. Morgan 29 Sep, a first for Alabama and first e. of the Rockies (p. a., DD, RAD, CB, LRD, HH, VF et al.). Two ad. Cedar Waxwings feeding 2 juvs. 8 Sep in *Calhoun* were 270 km farther s. than the previous known breeding record in Arkansas (JC).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Migrating warblers appeared in the Region as usual, but reports were punctuated with several outstanding finds. Golden-winged Warblers were reported from Mississippi (2) and Alabama (19), and 15 Nashville Warblers were a good and early number in

Faulkner, AR 21 Sep (HR). A potential state first, a Virginia's Warbler was seen 29 Sep at Ft. Morgan (p. a., DD, RAD, CB). Very late was a Yellow Warbler 6 Nov in *Jackson*, MS (NB et al.). A Cape May Warbler 7–8 Oct in *Oktibbeha* was only the 6th ever there (TS). A Kirtland's Warbler in n. Pensacola 17 Oct



The second for Florida, this American Tree Sparrow enjoyed brief notoriety amidst 50 young Tae-kwan-do students and enthusiastic birders near a Fort Pickens picnic shelter in Escambia County 25 to (here) 26 October 2003. Photograph by Peggy Baker.

(MC) was the first for nw. Florida since 1953! Noteworthy were 20 American Redstarts and 15 Wilson's Warblers in *Faulkner* 21 Sep (HR).

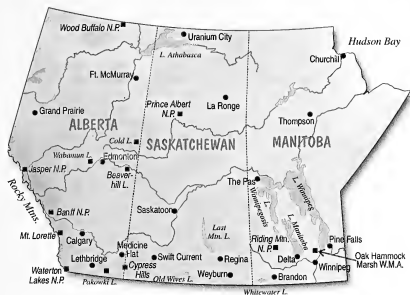
An American Tree Sparrow 25–26 Oct at Ft. Pickens was only Florida's 2nd (p. a., HH, DG, ph. LRD, RAD, ph. PB, ph. DD, PWS, m. ob.). Rare but regular on the coast, Clay-colored Sparrows were at Ft. Pickens 13 Oct+ (DS, AK, m. ob.) and Ft. Morgan 8 Oct (SWM). A Brewer's Sparrow at Fort Pickens 24 Sep could have provided the first Florida record; the report has not been accepted by the F.O.S.R.C. (LRD, RAD). A Vesper Sparrow was early 4 Oct in *Benton* (JN). Rare in Mississippi, a Lark Sparrow was in *Hancock* 2 Sep (NB). Rare in interior Alabama, Le Conte's Sparrows were at Wheeler 15 Nov (RAR, HD) and in *Montgomery* 18 Oct (LFG). A Song Sparrow in *Ohaloosa* 20 Sep was the earliest ever by 13 days for nw. Florida (AK, JAW). Rare to uncommon in the Region, a Lincoln's Sparrow was in *Montgomery* 18 Oct (LFG). In Mississippi, one was in *Yalobusha* 2 Oct (SJD), another was in *Oktibbeha* 28 Oct (TS), and 4 were banded at Yazoo 17–18 Oct (SS et al.). Swamp Sparrows arriving in nw. Florida early and in numbers were also noted in *Hancock* 3 Oct, where 45+ were estimated (NB). In *Prairie*, 75 Smith's Longspurs were counted 25 Nov (LY, WS, KD). A Painted Bunting 16 Oct in *Oktibbeha* was the latest ever for the area by 17 days. Rare in fall in the Region, Bobolinks made appearances at Grand Isle, *Jefferson*, LA 28

Sep (DPM, RDP) and at Ft. Pickens 12 Oct (RSD, RAD). A Yellow-headed Blackbird at Ft. Pickens 20 Sep was a rare find (AK et al.); singles were in *Lafourche* 28 Sep (DPM et al.) and 11 Oct (PW, BMM, CCS). A Common Grackle on an oil rig 221 km se. of *Cameron* 14 Oct and another there 15 Oct raise questions about the species' migratory movements. The only Bronzed Cowbird report came from *Hancock*, where one visited a feeder 14 Oct (NB). A Baltimore Oriole in *Oktibbeha* 17–20 Nov was very late (JB, TB), while *Rapides*, LA had a very early American Goldfinch 30 Aug (JEJ).

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August was mainly hot and dry, with little respite until an abrupt cooling trend arrived in mid-September and brought a foot of snow to Alberta's mountain parks and pushed most non-hardy lingerers out of the Region. Conditions moderated for much of October, but wintry weather prevailed before the end of the month and persisted through most of November, so that late waterfowl and shorebirds were also scarce. The most noteworthy rarities were found in Saskatchewan and Alberta, many

of them the fruit of Bob Luterbach's persistent searching at Last Mountain Lake, SK.

Abbreviations: C.B.B.S. (Calgary Bird Banding Society); L.M.L. (Last Mountain L., SK); Whitewater L. (Whitewater Lake W.M.A., MB).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

An ad. Red-throated Loon was a good find at Buena Vista Resort, L.M.L. 1 Nov (BL). Up to 4 Pacific Loons were present on L.M.L. 12 Oct-11 Nov (BL), and about 13 were reported in Alberta (m. ob.). An imm. Yellow-throated Loon graced Wabamun L., AB 25 Oct (THI, RK, FW).

Numerous Great Egret sightings in Manitoba included 30 at Oak Hammock Marsh 22 Aug (PG, MK) and up to 6 in the Delta area (m. ob.); just one was noted in Saskatchewan, at Neptune L., 26 Aug (CB, MB), while one was in Alberta at Irricana 30 Aug and 1 Sep (TK, BW). One Snowy Egret was observed at Reed L., SK 9-10 Aug (AH, BL), up to 3 were reported at Whitewater L. to 11 Sep (m. ob.), and one of the 2 present in Aug at Frank L., AB lingered to 14 Sep (m. ob.). Cattle Egrets reached unprecedented numbers at Whitewater L., with several counts of 125 to 175 birds 8-11 Sep (CC, AE, LV). An imm. near Carlsbad 22 Sep-1 Oct was about the 11th for Alberta (DR, m. ob., ph. TK). An imm. Green Heron at Regina's Wascana Marsh 25 Sep was a rarity in Saskatchewan (BL), while 2 visited Winnipeg's Fort Whyte Centre on or about 10

Sep (*vide RJ*). A wounded Black-crowned Night-Heron near Neepawa 29 Nov was presumably doomed (BG). This year's White-faced Ibis concentration at Whitewater L. peaked at 14 on 13 Aug (RKO, PT, RZ), while 11 were counted at High River and Frank L., AB the same day (BW).

A record-high 272 Brant were counted at Gordon Pt., Churchill 1 Oct (PJ), with 11 more 12 Oct (BC). A survey flight over Riding Mountain N.P. revealed 11 ad. Trumpeter Swans and 7 cygnets 29 Aug (KK). One of 2 Tundra Swans hatched near Clavet L. this summer survived until fall migration (M&SL). Rarely noted in fall, a male Eurasian Wigeon visited Murray L., AB 25 Oct (PH). Unusually early were 6 imm. Harlequin Ducks at Calgary 20 Aug (AS); singles visited Victoria Beach, MB 26 Oct (CA, RP, JSW, LV), McPheat Park, L.M.L. 3-9 Nov (BL), and Cold L., AB 15-24 Nov (THI). Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks were generally scarce, except for above-average numbers of White-winged Scoters at L.M.L. (BL). Also at L.M.L., a hybrid male Common x Barrow's Goldeneye was carefully observed 31 Oct and 9 Nov (BL).

RAPTORS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A well-described White-tailed Kite near Neepawa L. 11-12 Oct was the first ever reported in Alberta (K&LW). An Osprey was unusually late at Churchill 3 Oct (PJ). An unprecedented tally of 3495 Broad-winged Hawks migrated high over Lynchs Point, MB 13 Sep (GH, GW, JS). The latest sightings of Harlan's Hawk in Saskatchewan were near Lumsden 17 & 18 Nov (BL). Ferruginous Hawk productivity was high in Manitoba, with 3.2 young per successful nest (KDS). Few Rough-legged Hawks were reported anywhere. An unusually early Gyrfalcon was observed three times at Nickel L., SK 3-17 Sep (CB).

Gray Partridge and Sharp-tailed Grouse numbers were the highest in many years from sw. Manitoba to s. Alberta, likely benefiting from dry conditions and the huge numbers of grasshoppers (m. ob.). An impressive 12,000 Sandhill Cranes were counted at Whitewater L. 10 Sep, with 1000 unusually late near Lenore, MB 23 Oct (CC).

A probable Pacific Golden-Plover was an exceptional find at the Whyburn, SK sewage lagoon 14 Sep (CB, MB). Very late for Manitoba was a Killdeer at La Barriere Park 9-13 Nov (LK, GG). Some excellent counts of American Avocet were reported: 600+ at Luck, Reed, and Chaplin Lakes, SK 9 Aug (BL), 700 at Reed L. alone 7 Sep (TK), and 2000 at Beaverhill L., AB 16 Aug (AC, MH). One was tardy at Pine Coulee Reservoir, AB 9 Nov (TK). Three Black-necked Stilts were well north near Edmonton 31 Aug (NW).

Manitoba's first Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, a juv. near Gillam 22 Aug, was well described by the lone observer (AW); a report of an ad. from Oak Hammock Marsh 4 Jun 2000 was not confirmed. Fifteen hundred Short-billed and about 500 Long-billed Dowitchers were estimated at Luck L. 9 Aug (BL), while Short-billeds were thought to predominate in a flock of 25,000 dowitchers at Whitewater L. 10 Sep (CC). Unusually late were single Wilson's Phalaropes in Alberta near

SA One rare shorebird would be a highlight for anyone's season on the prairies, but Reid Barclay had amazingly good fortune, finding three exceptional species: a Curlew Sandpiper, 2 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, and a female Ruff (along with 500 Pectoral Sandpipers) at Alberta's Langdon Res. 24 Sep. All stayed for two or three days, long enough for many to enjoy. A jet stream "arching beautifully from Eurasia and Alaska right down through the Calgary area" was thought, perhaps responsible for this bonanza.



Last Mountain Lake, Saskatchewan attracted this Ancient Murrelet from 27 September through 16 October 2003, the third recent record for this lake. Photograph by Darryl Ford.

Strathmore 3 Oct (TK) and at Cucumber L. 10 Oct (RK).

A possible Kumlien's (Iceland) Gull or Kumlien's x Thayer's intergrade was photographed near Shepard, AB 28 Oct (TK). An imm. Lesser Black-backed Gull was photographed at the dump near St. Ambrose, MB 10 Sep (TK). Single imm. Glaucous-winged Gulls visited Cold L. 4 Oct (RK) and Calgary 10-25 Oct (TK). A possible Slaty-backed Gull, a second-year bird, was videotaped at Cold L. 14-15 Sep (THI, RK). Other rarities were an imm. Sabine's Gull at Mearon L., SK 1 Sep (M&SL), an Ivory Gull at Churchill in Nov (RT), and an imm. Arctic Tern at Cold L. 28 Aug (RK). An Ancient Murrelet at Trestle Bay, L.M.L. 27 Sep-16 Oct furnished a 3rd record in five years for that locality and for Saskatchewan (BL, DS, m. ob., ph.).

Alberta's 2nd documented White-winged Dove stayed at Lacombe from 30 Aug to 9 Oct (DM, ph. TK). Additional records of Eurasian Collared-Dove at Mortlach, SK included an active nest 9 Aug (BL) and a peak count of 14 birds 27 Nov (MF); Manitoba's 2nd visited Landmark 18-19 Oct (FG et al., ph. CA). A Black-billed Cuckoo was an unusual visitor to Calgary 3 Aug (DB, RW). A Barn Owl carcass was found on a road near Estuary, SK 20 Sep (RW, fide TH). Snowy Owl numbers were low Regionwide, though a family was noted near Churchill in early Sep (BC). The only owl highlights were the numbers of Northern Sawtooth Owls banded this fall: 48 (plus 4 Boreal Owls) near Millerville, AB (C.B.B.S., fide MH) and 26 in Saskatchewan (fide SH).

Over 450 Common Nighthawks were seen between La Loche and Green L., SK 14 Aug (JSJA). A male Anna's Hummingbird at Sheep River Valley 26 Oct (WS) was about the 10th for Alberta. Migration at Medicine Hat, AB featured the city's first 2 Calliope Hummingbirds and above-average numbers of both Ruby-throated and Rufous Hummingbirds (PH). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird strayed to Churchill 11 Sep (PR, fide BC). A Red-bellied Woodpecker at Gimli, MB 10 Oct (BC) was farther n. than usual. Two Williamson's Sapsuckers—a male and a

female—were carefully observed near Good Spirit Lake PP, SK 2 Sep (DFO, fide BA). A Red-breasted Sapsucker at Banff 2-4 Nov (ph. JB, m. ob.) furnished about the 5th accepted record for Alberta.

PASSERINES

A record-late Say's Phoebe lingered at Manitoba's Plum Marshes 25 Oct (JH et al.). In contrast with other n. predatory birds this season, a strong migration of Northern Shrikes was noted in s. Saskatchewan and s. Manitoba. Alberta's first Yellow-throated Vireo, present at Calgary's Inglewood Bird Sanctuary 2-24 Aug, was banded and photographed (C.B.B.S., m. ob.). A Clark's Nutcracker was observed at McDowell, SK 8 Oct (MB, fide SH). An excellent count of 537 Purple Martins was reported for the Kelleher-Lerross, SK area 20 Aug (Gwp).

One of 5 Townsend's Solitaires noted in Saskatchewan fed on live box elder beetles at Regina 15 Nov (JC, BL), while one was new for Churchill, MB on or about 25 Oct (DF). At least 7 Varied Thrushes were reported across s. Manitoba in Nov, from Boissevain to Pincey and Pinawa (m. ob.). Single Northern Mockingbirds visited Minnedosa, MB 2-24 Aug (CC) and Rosthern, SK from late Oct-15 Nov (HD, fide TH).

A Yellow Warbler at Churchill 4 Oct (fide BC) would have been late anywhere in the Region. A Hodgeville, SK farmyard attracted a Townsend's

Warbler 8 Aug and a Black-throated Blue Warbler 26 Sep (MP). Two Black-throated Blues turned up in Manitoba at Winnipeg's Assiniboine Park 26 Aug (GH, AM) and at Birds Hill PP 21 Sep (GB). Hopelessly lost in a blizzard was a Blackburnian Warbler at Dymond L., MB (nw. of Churchill) 31 Oct (DF et al., ph. JG). A Pine Warbler near Taber 9 Sep (LB) was a rarity for Alberta, while stragglers in Winnipeg included a Bay-breasted Warbler 19 Oct (MW, WC) and a Northern Waterthrush 28 Oct (GB).

In Manitoba, a male Scarlet Tanager at Pinawa still had spotted young in tow 16 Sep (RZ) and a Beggan Tohee used a Virden feeder for a few days from 18 Nov (M&CS), and a Field Sparrow visited Grosse Isle 19 Sep (KG). A Lincoln's Sparrow was extremely late at Canmore, AB 29 Nov (KB). Among many declining grassland species, McCown's Longspur appears to be decreasing in sw. Saskatchewan, so easterly records of one near Trossachs 2 Aug and 7 near Maxim 26 Aug were noteworthy (CD, ML). Also feared to be declin-

ing, Rusty Blackbirds were well represented, with flocks of 400+ near Tofteld, AB 30 Sep (FW), 400+ in Grosse Isle, MB 24 Oct (KG), and 180 near Minnedosa 29 Oct (CC). A probable family of 4 Bullock's Orioles near Weyburn, SK 12 Aug and one bird near Trossachs, SK 30 Aug were noteworthy (CB, MB). Thirty Cassin's Finches furnished a high count for Alberta at Sheep River Valley 5 Oct (WS, RW). White-winged Crossbills staged a strong migration Regionwides and Common Redpolls were numerous across the s., while Pine Siskins were generally scarce.

EXOTICS

Interesting feeder visitors in Manitoba were a Ringed Turtle-Dove at Brandon Hills 1 Aug (T&RW) and a European Goldfinch at Gimli 31 Oct (BC).

Observers (provincial compellers in boldface):

Jody and Jessie Allair, Bill Anaka, Christian Artuso, Martin Bailey, Reid Barclay, Kevin Barker, Jill Beylem, Lloyd Bennett, Carol Bjorklund, Wade Brown, Garry Budy, Bonnie Chartier, Ward Christianson, Amanda Cole, Jim Cummings, Calvin Cuthbert, Hertha Dahl, Ken De Smet, Mary Ann Dudragne, Adolf Ens, Dennis Fast, Mary Flack, Darryl Ford (DFO), Ken Gardner, Fran Giesbrecht, Bob Grant, Gordon Grief, Paula Grief, Michael Harrison, Al Hartley, Trevor Herriot, Ted Hindmarch (THI), George Holland, Jean Horton, Stuart Houston, Reinhard Jansson, Paul Jones, Michele Kading, Ken Kingdon, Lorne Klassen, Richard Klauke, Rudolf Koes (RKO), Terry Korolyk, Steve Lane, Bob Luterbach, Doug Matagio, Al Mickey, Wayne Nordstrom, Robert Parsons, Myrna Priebe, Murray & Carole Sangster, Dan Sawatzky, Janice Smith, Wayne Smith, Robert Storms, Jo Swartz (JSw), Peter Taylor, Robert Taylor, Liis Veehma, Marlene Waldron, Adam Walley, Gene Walz, Guy Wapple (Gwp), Ron Wawryn, Ray Wersher (RWe), Fred Whitley, Tom & Renee Will, Bill Wilson, Rob Wright (RW), Reto Zach.



Manitoba's second Eurasian Collared-Dove of the year (and ever) was this bird at Landmark 18 through 19 (here) October 2003. Photograph by Christian Artuso.

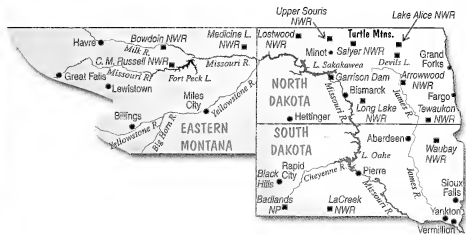


Although this European Goldfinch probably escaped from captivity, it was still a welcome guest at a Gimli, Manitoba feeder on 31 October 2003. Photograph by Bonnie Chartier.



Though still one of the rarest gulls in Manitoba, Lesser Black-backed Gull is being reported with increasing frequency there. This immature (center) was photographed at the landfill on PR227 near St. Ambrose 10 September 2003. Photograph by Terry Kurtyk.

Northern Great Plains



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The hot, dry weather of July continued through October. The Glasgow, Montana weather station tallied a record 39 consecutive days with highs over 85° F. In October, highs over 80° F were recorded on seven days, with 85° F on 21 October. The weather changed abruptly in late October, however, when snow fell across much of the Region. Large areas of Montana and North Dakota recorded subzero temperatures the first few days of November. Freezeout Lake, Montana recorded -16° F on 6 November. The abrupt weather change appeared to have trapped many late migrants, and lingering birds were widespread. On the whole, the migration, except perhaps for larids, was lackluster.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

A potential 6th record for South Dakota, a Red-throated Loon was noted 16 Nov in Perkins (p. a., JPL, KM, RDO). American White Pelicans peaked at 3000 in Stutsman, ND 15 Sep

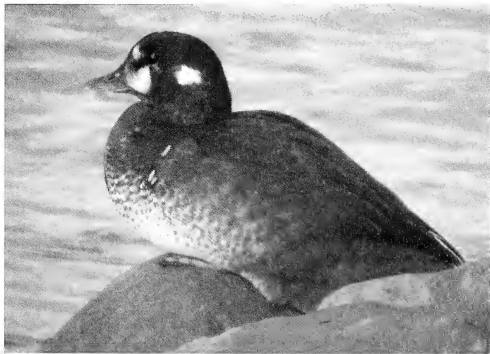
(PRS). A new high fall count for North Dakota, 26 Snowy Egrets were in Kidder 20 Sep (HCT, CDE). White-faced Ibis continue to expand in the Region; at a new nesting area for North Dakota, ads. were seen feeding young in Pierce 18 Aug (REM), and in Montana, an impressive peak of 180 was noted at Freezeout L. 4 Aug (MS).

Casual in South Dakota, a Brant was seen 11-14 Nov in Buffalo (p. a., DS, JSP,

KM). Casual at Ft. Peck, MT, a radio-collared Trumpeter Swan was seen 14 Nov (CC). A nice peak of 3450 Canvasbacks was recorded at Medicine L., MT 13 Oct (REM). If accepted, a Harlequin Duck 8-30 Nov at Oahe Dam would provide the 2nd record for South Dakota (p. a., KM). Scoter reports were widespread, with a high of 17 White-winged Scoters noted at Nelson Res., MT 1 Nov (JPL). Unusual for South Dakota, Black Scoters were reported from four counties. Long-tailed Duck reports were also widespread, with a peak of 10 in Buffalo, SD 16 Nov (RDO). Also in South Dakota, 255 Hooded Mergansers was a notably high count in Yankeston 1 Nov (JC). Northern Goshawks staged a strong movement into the Region, with the first an early bird in Hughes, SD 4 Sep (RDO). Gyrfalcons also showed up in numbers, with one report in Oct and 11 reports in Nov. Numbers of gallinaceous birds were notably high, no doubt owing to the recent mild winters and drier summers. Gray Partridge seems to have recovered nicely from the lows of the 1990s. Casual in Montana, a Whooping Crane was near Homestead 12-13 Oct (p. a., EM, REM).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS

The latest for North Dakota, 15 Marbled Godwits were seen 22 Oct at L. Bertha, Cass (KRC). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper 26 Sep at Freezeout L., MT would, if accepted, provide the 2nd record for the state (p. a., MS, JN). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were widely reported, with up to 2 at Medicine L. 24 Aug-11 Sep providing



First noted 8 (here 9) November 2003, this Harlequin Duck remained to the end of the period below Oahe Dam, a second record for South Dakota. Digital photograph by Doug Backlund.

the 12th record for Montana (p. a., TN, REM, JS). The species was also noted in *Harding*, SD 29 Aug (CEM, KM), west of normal migration routes. Furnishing the 15th report for North Dakota, a Red Phalarope was in *Grand Forks* 30 Sep (p. a., EEF).

As is typical in fall, larids provided their share of unusual sightings. About the 11th report for North Dakota, a Parasitic Jaeger was at Long Lake N.W.R. 15–18 Sep (p. a., PVN, GK, HCT). Two ad. Little Gulls were at Devil's L., ND 27 & 28 Sep (p. a., REM, DNS), the 9th and 10th state records. A new high for the state, 2600 Bonaparte's Gulls were on Devil's L. 28 Sep (REM, DNS). An ad. Mew Gull on 1 Nov provided a first report for *Burleigh* (p. a., CDE, HCT), and single ads. documented at Garrison Dam 7–9 (p. a., REM) & 30 Nov (p. a., DNS) represent the 12th through 14th reports for North Dakota. In South Dakota, the 8th through 10th reports for Mew Gull were documented 13–19 Nov in *Buffalo* (p. a., RDO, KM), 29–31 Oct at *Pierre* (p. a., RDO, KM), and 10 Nov in *Fall River* (p. a., DS, JSP). The 17th report for North Dakota, an Iceland Gull was at Garrison Dam 27 Nov (p. a., REM, DNS). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Bismarck, ND 31 Oct–2 Nov provided the first *Burleigh* report (p. a.,



Present in late October and early November 2003 (here date unknown), this Painted Bunting provided a second state record in Lawrence County, South Dakota.

Digital photograph by Bonnie Jones.

CDE, HCT, DNS), while a third-year bird was at Garrison Dam 22–27 Nov (p. a., REM, DNS). In South Dakota, single Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at *Pierre* 9–11 Sep and 9 Nov (p. a., RDO, KM). Seven reports of Sabine's Gull from the Dakotas included peaks of 4 in mid-Sep at *Pierre*, SD (p. a., RDO) and 5, including one ad., at Devil's L., ND 28 Sep (p. a., DNS, REM).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

The 7th report for Montana, 4 Eurasian Collared-Doves were in *Choteau* 10 Aug



This Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge 24 August 2003—the 12th record for Montana—was later joined by another individual.

Digitized photograph by Ron Martin.

(p. a., BM), and in North Dakota, first county records were reported for *Stutsman* 22 Sep (HAK) and *Hettinger* 23 Nov (JPL). Only about the 20th report for North Dakota, a Barn Owl was collected in *Burleigh* 13 Sep after being killed by a Red-tailed Hawk (*; p. a., MAG, CDE). An unidentified screech-owl was seen 8 Sep at *Benton Lake* N.W.R., MT, providing a first refuge record for a screech-owl of any kind (SM). Rarely reported in the Region, a Great Gray Owl was noted 26 Oct in the Little Belt Mts., MT (JG). Single Calliope Hummingbirds in *Lawrence* 17 Aug (p. a., RDO, KM) and *Edmunds* 8 Sep (p. a., MZ) provided the 7th and 8th reports for South Dakota. Eight reports of Rufous Hummingbird were received for South Dakota.

The 13th report for North Dakota and the first since 1995, a Lewis's Woodpecker was in *McKenzie* 4–10 Aug (p. a., MAG). Red-bellied Woodpeckers were more mobile than usual in North Dakota, with reports from four counties nw. of usual range. An American Three-toed Woodpecker 12 Sep in *Malta*, MT was well ne. of usual haunts (DP, TP). In South Dakota a Pileated Woodpecker 5 Nov in *Day* provided a first county record (WS). A Hammond's Flycatcher in *Custer*, SD 1 Sep provided the 2nd documented report for the state (p. a., JC). The 4th record for Montana, a Great Crested Flycatcher was near *Fromberg* 6 Sep (GF).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

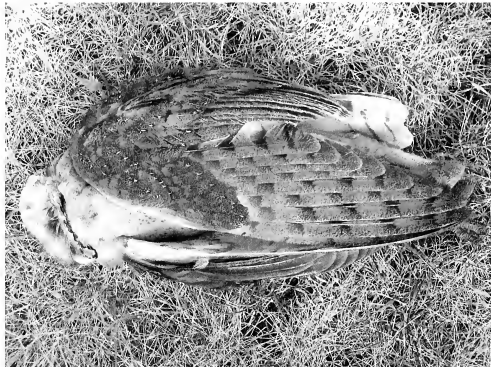
The first Oct report for South Dakota, a Yellow-throated Vireo was in *Hughes* 22 Oct (p. a., RDO), while one in *Bismarck*, ND 19 Sep was the first there in eight years of observation by Ellingson and Talkington. A Plumbeous Vireo was well



Sabine's Gulls made a good showing in the Dakotas this year. This adult and juvenile (top) were two of five found on the first-ever "pelagic" trip onto Devil's Lake, North Dakota 28 September 2003. Also casual in fall in South Dakota, a juvenile Sabine's Gull (bottom) at *Pierre* 21 September 2003 was one of four present there in mid-month. Photographs by Ron Martin (top) and Doug Backlund.

n of normal Montana range in Ft. Peck 7 Aug (CC). Philadelphia Vireo made a strong w. showing, with a single 22 Aug in Williams, ND (JPL) and three reports from Westby, MT 24 Aug–6 Sep (p. a., REM, TN, JM).

The 13th report for North Dakota, a Blue-winged Warbler was documented at Minot 20 Sep (p. a., REM). Late and w of usual, a Golden-winged Warbler was in Hughes, SD 29 Sep (RDO). Providing the second-latest records for North Dakota were a Tennessee Warbler 29 Oct and an Orange-crowned Warbler 2 Nov at Arrowwood NWR (PRS). Five Cape May Warblers were reported from Westby, MT 25 Aug–20 Sep, the only location where they are regular in the state. The 11th sighting for Montana, a Black-throated Blue Warbler was near Worden 18 Oct (p. a., GF, HC). A Black-throated Green Warbler at Westby 2 Sep would provide the 11th record for Montana if accepted (p. a., JM, TN). A potential 8th record for South Dakota, a Townsend's Warbler was reported 7 Sep in Pennington (p. a., TBW). Providing the 2nd Nov report for the state, an Ovenbird was documented at Fargo 6 Nov (DPW). A MacGillivray's Warbler was late in Harding, SD 2 Oct (CEM). A Canada Warbler was far west in Great Falls, MT 20 Aug (GS).



Casual in North Dakota, this Barn Owl was killed by a Red-tailed Hawk in Burleigh County 13 September 2003. Digital photograph by Mark Gonzalez.

TANAGERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A Summer Tanager photographed in Grand Forks, ND 9 Nov furnished the 2nd fall record for the state (EEF). Very unusual in fall, a Baird's Sparrow was

singing 30 Sep in Stutsman, ND (PRS). The latest on record for South Dakota, a Le Conte's Sparrow was in Clay 15 Nov (DS, JC), and the second-latest for North Dakota were 2 Le Conte's in Sheridan 19 Oct (REM, SE). Casual in Montana but possibly regular in the ne corner, 4 Swamp Sparrows were seen at Medicine L. N.W.R. 20-28 Sep (p. a., JPL).

Providing the 2nd record for South Dakota, a Painted Bunting was photographed in Lawrence in late Oct and early Nov (fide DB). A Dickcissel was late in

Clay, SD 18 Oct (DS). A new high for North Dakota, 568 Bobolinks were counted 9 Sep in Grand Forks (EEF). A Cassin's Finch in Ft. Peck, MT 29 Sep–1 Nov was ne of normal range (CC). A flock of 200 House Finches in Grand Forks, ND 26 Nov was an unusually large gathering of this species (DOL). Good numbers of Common Redpolls had invaded the Region by the end of the period, although Pine Siskin numbers remained very low, with few birds reported. A Lesser Goldfinch in Shannon, SD 12 Aug provided a first county record (p. a. KCJ).

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Representing the first North Dakota record since 1995, this Lewis's Woodpecker spent a week in early August 2003 (here date unknown) in the Badlands of McKenzie County. Digital photograph by Keith Carliss.

Southern Great Plains



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

mingbirds, and juncos of many forms.

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

LOONS THROUGH SPOONBILL

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

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

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

WATERFOWL

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

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

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

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

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

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

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

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



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

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

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

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

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

WRS). Careful study was given to 2 Gray Flycatchers found at different locations in *Cimarron*, OK 24 Aug (BH, JS, JM) and 4-5 Sep (JWA, m. ob.). A regular but rare migrant along the w. edge of the Region, Dusky Flycatcher was reported in *Kimball*, NE 30 Aug (BFH), *Finney*, KS 31 Aug (SS, DS, S&S), and *Texas*, OK 29-30 Aug (JAG). Birds reported as Cordilleran Flycatchers were in *Cimarron*, OK 25 Aug (JM, JS), *Morton*, KS 5 Sep (DS, SP et al.), and *Sioux*, NE 6 Sep (HKH); in such cases, Pacific-Slope Flycatcher is usually difficult to rule out, even in the hand, so caution is urged. A Say's Phoebe in *Dixon*, NE 13 Sep (JJ) continued the series of sporadic sightings to the e. of usual range. At its breeding outpost in *Cimarron*, OK, 3-6 Vermilion Flycatchers were found through 10 Sep (*vide* JWA), while an Ash-throated Flycatcher was still present in *Morton*, KS 12 Sep (PJ et al.). Western Kingbirds in *Grant*, KS 6 Oct (KH) and *Scotts Bluff*, NE 8 Oct (KD) and an Eastern Kingbird in *Osage*, OK 6 Oct (JWA) were somewhat tardy.

November records of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher are not unknown in Oklahoma, but one in *Cherokee*, OK 22 Nov (MM) and 2 in *Carter*, OK 23 Nov (BF) were part of a recent later-departure pattern.

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

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

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

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

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Harris, Berlin Heck, Craig Heflebower, George Kamp, Nathan Kuhnert, Jo Loyd, Jeri McMahon, Kurt Meisenzahn, Steve Metz, Terry Mitchell, Mike Mlodinow, Pam Moser, B. Nixon, Tim O'Connell, Mitchell Oliphant, H. Sansing, E. & C. Saunders, Pat Seibert, Ron Shepperd (RSs), John Sterling, Elsie Stubb, B. Vandergriff, Pat Velte, Ann Wilber, Doug Wood (DWD), Don Woodfin, M. Yancey, Jay Yeary ☺

Texas

news, with one discovered at White Rock L., Dallas 9 Nov (MW et al.) joined by 2 others 16–20 Nov (m. ob.).

Undoubtedly the bird of the season was the ad. Yellow-nosed Albatross found off South Padre I., Cameron 26 Sep (fBMc, JAr, m. ob.), providing the 4th state record. Also seen on this boat trip were 29 Cory's Shearwaters, 6 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, and 6 Masked Boobies. Inland wandering Brown Pelicans made appearances at L. Waco, McLennan 10 Jul–2 Oct (RH et al.), Stillhouse Hollow L., Bell 18 Oct–3 Nov (RPi, RK), and L. Sam Rayburn, Nacogdoches 2–11 Nov (KE et al.). The Brown Pelican present at McNary Res., Hudspeth during the summer remained until 6 Sep (JPa, BZ). American White Pelicans have steadily increased in numbers in far w. Texas over the past several years: this season, a group of 23 was at McNary Res. 30 Sep, and 39 were present there 8 Oct (BZ). An especially unusual sight was 4 American White Pelicans at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village Nature Trail 28 Nov (JBl); perhaps the same birds were those reported the following day at Lajitas, Brewster (LCo). A Neotropical Cormorant at Lubbock remained for a lengthy stay of 8 Aug–15 Nov (PK, m. ob.).

Very early American Bitterns were at Stillhouse Hollow L., Bell 13 Aug (RPi) and Greenbelt L., Donley 19 Aug–2 Sep (H&IO); also of interest was one in Midland 25 Oct (JHe). A rarity in the Panhandle was a Least Bittern at Amarillo, Randall 23 Aug (KS); one was still at San Bernard N.W.R., Brazoria on the late date of 12 Nov (JWi). Two Snowy Egrets at L. Worth, Tarrant 29 Nov (MR) were extraordinarily late. At L. Sam Rayburn, San Augustine, a Little Blue Heron 16 Nov (DWo, JF) and a Tricolored Heron 18–19 Nov (GG, DWo) were late in departing. Farther w., single Tricolored Herons were at Balmorhea L., Reeves 30 Aug (ML) and in s. Midland 1 Sep (RMS, SSC). The Stillhouse Hollow L. Reddish Egret reported during the summer remained until 4 Aug. An imm. dark-morph Reddish Egret discovered in Lubbock, Lubbock 6 Aug–2 Nov (PK, m. ob.) provided a first record for the South Plains. Another at McNary Res. 16 Aug (JPa) furnished just the 2nd Hudspeth record. Always rare in the Trans-Pecos, 2 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were at Balmorhea L. 3 Aug (JPa).

Glossy this continued to be found with increasing frequency in the e. half of Texas; this season, 7 were found inland to Tarrant. A single bird at Red Bluff L., Loving 13 Sep (EC, ph.) was more unexpected. Roseate Spoonbill reports of note included 12 at L. Fort Phantom, Jones 2



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Abbreviations: T.B.R.C. (Texas Bird Records Committee); U.T.C. (Upper Texas Coast). The following are shortened names for the respective local, county, state, or national parks, and wildlife refuges, etc.: Anahuac, Bentsen, Big Bend, Big Bend Ranch, Brazos Bend, Buffalo Lake, San Bernard, and Santa Ana.

LOONS THROUGH STORKS

Single Pacific Loons were reported from L. Meredith, Hutchinson 29 Nov (BPi) and Imperial L., Pecos 22–24 Nov (EC). A pair of Least Grebes at Brazos Bend, Fort Bend was observed 20 Aug with 2 new chicks along with a juv. from the previous nesting (DHe). A Least Grebe in nw. Guadalupe 10–19 Aug (NB) provided a rare Hill Country record. An Eared Grebe in Midland 23–24 Aug (A&DK) was early for the Permian Basin. A Horned Grebe at Magnolia Beach, Calhoun 15 Nov (BFR) provided a rare Central Coast record. In n.-cen. Texas, Western Grebes made

The most common adjective applied to the fall of 2003 was "uneventful." Weather conditions were generally favorable for migrating birds, making for low species counts at migrant traps throughout the state. With the exception of the northern Trans-Pecos and most of northwestern Texas, the state enjoyed normal to above-normal precipitation. The highlight of the season, and certainly for the year as well, was an adult Yellow-nosed Albatross studied at length off South Padre Island on 26 September.

Aug (LB, JHo), at least one at McNary Res. and nearby Tornillo Res., El Paso 16 Aug–24 Sep (JPa, BZ), and 4 at L. Nasworthy, *Tom Green* 5 Oct (MaA). A group of 5 Wood Storks was at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 23 Oct (DSa et al.); other lingering storks included 18 at Brazos Bend S.P., *Fort Bend* 23 Oct (JSt), 3 near Rio Hondo, *Cameron* 5 Nov (DMU et al.), and one at Mitchell L., *Bexar* 9 Nov (HRE).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

A gathering of 300+ Greater White-fronted Geese on Cactus L., *Moore* 8 Nov (BPI) was the largest ever reported in the Panhandle. Incredibly early was a flock of 100 Snow Geese at Fort Hood, *Coryell* 15 Sep (SSU). Other early geese sightings included a Snow on w. Galveston I. 6 Oct (JSt) and 6 Ross's at Cactus L., *Moore* 23 Oct (KS). An unbanded imm. Trumpeter Swan was discovered in Lubbock 15 Nov (TAF). An apparent Common Pochard of unknown provenance was with a group of Redheads on L. Worth, *Tarrant* 5–6 Nov (TMR et al.). This was a banner season for Surf Scoters at inland locations: a remarkable 9 birds at Balmorhea L. 23 Nov (EC) was perhaps the most outstanding of the many reports. A White-winged Scoter was found in Greenville, *Hunt* 6 Nov (MW). A first-winter female Long-tailed Duck made an appearance in Amarillo, *Potter* 28–30 Nov (ph. BPI). Zimmer noted that this was the best fall ever for Red-breasted Mergansers in far w. Texas, with 20 birds at three reservoirs in El Paso and *Hudspeth* 20 Nov.

This season produced two reports of Hook-billed Kites from along the coastal prairies: one at Corpus Christi 26 Sep (TGS) and the other at Smith Pt., *Chambers* 18 Oct (p. a., TDF, DRU, WN, DWa). The Smith Pt. Hawkwatch had a new single-day high of 29 Swallow-tailed Kites 15 Aug. A great rarity in the Trans-Pecos, a Swallow-tailed Kite was seen near Alpine on 4 Sep (EH), and apparently the same individual was still present 10–22 Sep (JBe, GY et al.). Two White-tailed Kites wandered in to the Pineywoods at Alazan Bayou W.M.A., *Nacogdoches* 30 Sep (Dwo, JF). Freeman counted 550 Mississippi Kites near Utley, *Bastrop* 3 Sep, and a lingering individual was seen at Smith Pt. 1 Nov (SP). An imm. Northern Goshawk was observed flying over Fort Worth, *Tarrant* 4 Oct (TMR et al.). Gray Hawks lingered to record-late dates at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground, with one remaining until 24 Nov (EC). Unexpected were 2 Red-shouldered Hawks near Sweetwater

L., *Nolan* 9 Oct (BFR). Broad-winged Hawks noted w. of their normal haunts included 2 at El Paso on 27 Aug (JPa), one at Lubbock 28 Sep (AF) and 2 more there 2 Oct (AF), a single bird at Canyon, *Randall* 5 Oct (BPI, RSc), and 5 in *Nolan* 6 Oct (BFR).

Details of a Short-tailed Hawk reported near San Marcos, *Hays* 20 Nov (TBA) will be reviewed by the T.B.R.C. A high count of 1608 Swainson's Hawks was made in *Nolan* 6 Oct (BFR). Well n. of its normal range was a White-tailed Hawk near New Braunfels, *Guadalupe* 10–18 Oct (BN, GSc et al.). A Zone-tailed Hawk lingered through the season in sw. *Bandera* (MIH), where the species is very rare after Sep. Single Ferruginous Hawks were reported on 5 & 18 Oct at Smith Pt., *Chambers* (Smith Pt. Hawkwatch staff). A Crested Caracara at Lake O' the Pines, *Marion* 27 Sep (BMe) is the first reported from the Pineywoods. An early American Kestrel



Common Ground-Dove is a very rare visitor to the northern third of Texas. This immature bird, discovered in eastern Parker County 23 October 2003, provided one of the very few well-documented records from the area (and a county first).

Photograph by Martin Reid.

was at Smith Pt., *Chambers* 15 Aug, tying the U.T.C. early date. A rather early Peregrine Falcon was near Temple, *Bell* 4–5 Aug (RPI). A Prairie Falcon near Pawnee, *Bee* 16 Nov provided a rare South Texas record (WS).

QUAIL THROUGH TERNS

A Scaled Quail found near Mathis, *San Patricio* 8 Aug (RB) was a great find for this location, if of wild origin. A Yellow Rail was at Lubbock 18 Oct (AF). A King Rail in *Donley* 10 Aug (BPI) provided a first county record. Two ad. Purple Gallinules lingered at Kurth L., *Angelina*

to 10 Oct (GGu), providing a late record for the Pineywoods. Single Purple Gallinules were also present near Austin, *Travis* from late Oct through 27 Nov (SE et al.) and *Katy, Harris* 12 Nov (JoB). Three Sandhill Cranes were reported near Sealy, *Austin* on the very early date of 27 Aug (JMu).

A Black-bellied Plover, rare for the area, was in *Midland* 15 Aug (DHU). In the w. half of the state, American Golden-Plover reports included 4 in *Harley* 18 Oct (BPI, RSc et al.) and singles at Red Bluff L., *Loving* 31 Oct (EC), *Midland* 11 Nov (MSt, RMS), and *Imperial L., Pecos* 22–24 Nov (EC). A high count of 125 Piping Plovers was made along 27 km of Mustang I. beach, *Nueces* 10 Nov (BFR, PH). Mountain Plovers were first noted near Granger L., *Williamson* 19 Oct (TFe) and were also present near the New Braunfels Airport, *Guadalupe*, with 22 located 18 Nov (BD). A lingering Black-necked Stilt stayed in *Midland* until 8 Nov (JAd, RMS). Late-staying American Avocets in nw. Texas included 26 in *Randall* 11 Nov (KS) and one in Lubbock 15 Nov (AF). An unusually large number of Willets, 16, was at Balmorhea L. 30 Aug (ML). What had to be a breathtaking sight were an estimated 500 Upland Sandpipers in an alfalfa field near Ashtola, *Donley* 25 Aug (BPI). A concentration of 500 Long-billed Curlews near Littlefield, *Lamb* 27 Nov (JST) was a high number so late in the season. A Red Knot near Idalou, *Lubbock* 24 Aug (TS) was a good find. An early Sandlinger made an appearance in Amarillo, *Potter* 30 Aug (EK, BiM, RSc). Sandlingers were noted in four Trans-Pecos locations, including one (or 2) at Presidio, *Presidio* 16 Sep and 2 Oct (ML), for a county first.

A White-rumped Sandpiper at Danbury, *Brazoria* 4 Nov (JSt) represents one of few fall records for the U.T.C. and the state. A Ruff was foraging at sod fields in *Calhoun* 9–10 Aug (TBFr). Short-billed Dowitchers of note included one at North Fork Buffalo Res., *Wichita* 5 Sep (TK), one at Red Bluff L., *Loving* 7 Sep (EC), and a first county record for *Bell* at L. Belton 6 Sep (RPI). Three late migrant Wilson's Phalaropes were at Imperial Res., *Pecos* 22 Nov; only one remained on 27 Nov (EC). Three late Red-necked Phalaropes at Lubbock 15 Nov (AF) provided a first Nov record for the South Plains. Red-necked Phalaropes returned to inland salt lakes in *Cameron* 5 Nov, with 11 on the East L. tract of the Lower Rio Grande Valley N.W.R. (DSI). The bird of the season in the Panhandle was a Red Phalarope at Cactus L., *Moore* 8

Nov (ph., †BPI).

With just one previous Trans-Pecos record, an ad. Parasitic Jaeger at McNary Res. 23–30 Sep was an outstanding find (†BZ, JZ). A very early Franklin's Gull was at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant* 4 Sep (MR), and 20+ were at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Navarro* 8 Sep (PB et al.). A first-winter Mew Gull was discovered at McNary Res. 26 Nov (†EC). A California Gull reported from East Beach, *Galveston* 27 Oct (MAU) provided the 2nd earliest U.T.C. record. This fall was an excellent one for Thayer's Gulls, with no fewer than 4 documented in the state: a first-winter bird at L. Belton 28 Oct–2 Nov (†RPI, RK, EC), a third-winter bird at Pointe San Luis, *Galveston* 8–15 Nov (†MAU et al.), a first-winter at Bolivar Flats and East Beach, *Galveston* 13–24 Nov (†MAU, NBI et al.), and a first-winter bird at El Paso 29–30 Nov (†JPa). A juv. Lesser Black-backed Gull was at L. Tawakoni, *Hunt/Rains* 7 Oct (CL). Six Sabine's Gulls were reported during this season: singles at Canyon L., *Comal* 20 Sep (DPU, GSc, CRo), L. Waco, *McLennan* 5 Oct (FBU, JoM), McNary Res. 10–14 Sep (BZ, EC) and 4 & 19 Oct (JPa), and one at Red Bluff L. 15 Sep (EC).

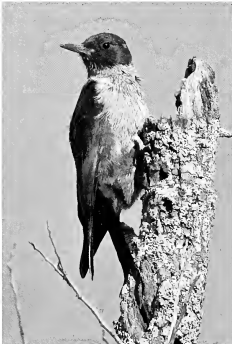
Always a nice find in the Trans-Pecos, single Caspian Terns were at Balmorhea L. 3–12 Aug (JPa, RR) and McNary Res. 14–23 Sep (EC, BZ). Zimmer noted a good fall showing of Common Terns in far w. Texas, with singles at McNary Res. 10 & 23 Sep, 2 there 30 Sep, and a surprising 8 at the same location 8 Oct. Three Common Terns were at Red Bluff L. 15 Sep, and 2 were present there 20 Sep (EC). Six Bridled Terns were tallied on the 26 Sep pelagic trip (BMc, JAr), and 2 were also found out of Port Aransas, *Nueces* 11 Oct (LJ).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An unexpected Common Ground-Dove in *Parker* 23 Oct (MR) provided a first county record. Always a nice find in the fall, a Black-billed Cuckoo was at Pollywog Pond, Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 6 Oct (LJ, WS). Unusual for the number was 5 Barred Owls in *Donley* 6 Sep (BPI). Two Common Pauraque continued in w. *Guadalupe* throughout the season (SSc). A Chuck-will's-widow was still present near Afton, *Dichens* 31 Aug (BBE, AF, BRa). Also of note was a Chuck-will's-widow heard in *Midland* 20 Sep (D&JM). Early migrating Whip-poor-wills were detected at Bryan, *Brazos* 13 Aug (JuW) and Utey, *Bastrop* 21 Aug (Bfr).

A female Broad-billed Hummingbird was spotted near Boot Spring, *Brewster* 2 Aug (PH), and males were reported near

Valentine, *Jeff Davis* 10 Aug (CEa) and in Alpine, *Brewster* 25 Oct (JK). The White-eared Hummingbirds found in the Chisos Mts. remained until 31 Aug (m. ob.). The female White-eared Hummingbird in the Davis Mts. was last seen 1 Sep (M&ME). Two Buff-bellied Hummingbirds finally departed Chappell Hill, *Washington* 11 Oct (MEF), after having been present there since spring 2002. An apparent female Lucifer Hummingbird was videotaped at Kingsland, *Llano* 5 Sep (DB).



Lewis's Woodpeckers are regular winter wanderers to western Texas in the fall and winter. This individual made its way eastward to Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, Travis County 25 (here 28) November 2003. Photograph by Greg W. Losley.

Three Lucifers lingered at Big Bend's Panther Junction until 22 Oct (MF). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were noted in the cen. Trans-Pecos in good numbers this season, with at least 8 between 13 Aug and 30 Oct. A female-type Black-chinned Hummingbird was reported from near Richards, *Montgomery* 3 Oct (JWa et al.), and a lingering Black-chinned was at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 1 Nov (BBE), providing a rare Nov record for the High Plains. An Anna's Hummingbird made a brief appearance at Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 14 Nov (Bfr, PH). A great bird to see anywhere in Texas, a female Costa's Hummingbird was photographed in El Paso 24 Oct (†BZ). A female Calliope Hummingbird was discovered at L. Belton, *Bell* 31 Aug (J&MV, RK). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were documented in n.-cen. Texas for the first time this fall when an imm. or female was found in Carrollton, *Denton* 23–25 Aug (ph., †KSA), followed by a male in Archer City, *Archer* 27–28 Aug (NM), an imm in *Tarrant* 31

Aug (DPI), and a single bird at the Heard Museum, *Collin* 25 Nov (KSt). These were part of an amazing movement of *Scelasphorus* hummingbirds through the Region, with four times as many sightings as normal. A female Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Bryan, *Brazos* 17 Oct (SD) provided a first record for the Central Brazos Valley area. In recent years, it has become clear that Allen's Hummingbird is a regular migrant in Texas; documented this season were singles banded near Victoria, *Victoria* on 31 Aug and 28 Sep (†BO), one banded at Matagorda, *Matagorda* on 16 Sep (†CBr), and an ad. male in the Davis Mts. 2 Aug–6 Nov (M&ME, †ML, ph.).

A Belted Kingfisher was an unexpected sight in *Dewitt* 30 Jul (DMu). A Green Kingfisher along the San Marcos R. near Luling, *Caldwell/Guadalupe* 26 Aug (Bfr, GL, TG) provided first records for both counties. Lewis's Woodpeckers were discovered at three locations this season: an ad. at Dog Canyon in the Guadalupe Mts., *Culberson* 18 Oct (FL), an imm. at Palo Duro Canyon SP, *Randall* 20 Oct (†KS), and an ad. at Balcones Canyonlands N.W.R., *Travis* 25 Nov+ (JC, BR, m. ob.). Rare for El Paso, an Acorn Woodpecker was found on the w. side of the city 26 Nov (JPa). A Red-bellied Woodpecker strayed w. to Lubbock 16 Nov (B&SRa). A Williamson's Sapsucker made a very early arrival in El Paso 6–16 Sep (JPa). A Downy Woodpecker was a nice find at the confluence of the Frio R. and Atascosa R. in *Live Oak* 16 Nov (WS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH JAYS

An early Olive-sided Flycatcher was at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 10 Aug (DVe). An Eastern Wood-Pewee was noted at Big Bend's Rio Grande Village 5 Sep (MF). An amazing 11 Acadian Flycatchers were found in Corpus Christi 22 Sep (WS); this species is considered a rare fall migrant here. Another Acadian Flycatcher of interest was at Riverbend Nature Center, *Tarrant* 21 Sep (DPI). A Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher turned up at Bastrop, *Bastrop* 1 Nov (Bfr). Two of the Buff-breasted Flycatchers present during the summer on the Davis Mts. Preserve were last seen 28 Sep (JG, CEd). A rather early Say's Phoebe was near the Midland airport 22 Aug (DHu), and singles were found on the Fennessey Ranch, *Refugio* 13 Sep (DMu) and at Packerly Channel, *Nueces* 6 Oct (WS). A Vermilion Flycatcher in Tyler, *Smith* 14 Oct (TIP) was a county first but was followed shortly by another at L. Tyler 29 Nov (CBe et al.). Imm. Vermilion Flycatchers wandered n. to Lubbock 23 Aug (AF, CR, NW) and Buffalo L., Ran-

dall 19 Sep (KS). The Dusky-capped Flycatchers present throughout the summer in the Chisos Mts., *Brewster* remained until 1 Aug (EC). An Ash-throated Flycatcher discovered at Alazan Bayou W.M.A., *Nacogdoches* 18–20 Oct (RT et al.) provided the most conclusive record yet for the Pineywoods. A Brown-crested Flycatcher was at the w. tip of its range at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 1 Sep (MAd, LL). Wandering Great Kiskadees were found at Elgin, *Bastrop* 3 & 17 Aug (JL) and in w. Harris 1 Nov (BH).

A Couch's Kingbird in Marble Falls, *Burnet* 2 Oct (DB et al.) provided a rare record for the e. Hill Country, while another in Austin 4 Oct–15 Nov (HRU) was also a good find. A Cassin's Kingbird at Sweetwater, *Nolan* 2 Oct (BFR) was e. of the normal migration path, and 6 at Sierra Blanca, *Hudspeth* 1 Nov (EC) were certainly late. Single Western Kingbirds in Indianola, *Calhoun* 15 Nov (BFR, PH) and in Live Oak 16 Nov (WS) provided late fall records. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at El Paso 18 Sep (JSp) was a great find and represented just the 2nd Sep record for the area.

A White-eyed Vireo in Amarillo, *Randall* 28 Sep (RSc) provided a nice Panhandle record. A hatch-year male Black-capped Vireo in the Basin at Big Bend 27 Sep (KB) was the 2nd-latest record for this species in the state. A lingering Gray Vireo was along Indian Cr., *Terrill* 28 Nov (CM). A Plumbeous Vireo in Lubbock 10 Aug (AF) seemed very early. An outstanding fall find, a Philadelphia Vireo was at Balmorhea S.P., *Reeves* 14 Sep (ML, EC). Red-eyed Vireos were found w. to Donley 6 Sep (BPI), Lubbock 14 Sep (AF), the Chisos Mts. 26 Sep (BC), and El Paso 22 Sep (BZ). The Yellow-green Vireo seen at Santa Ana during the summer was last reported 29 Aug (TB). Western Scrub-Jays irrupted into El Paso in very good numbers this fall, beginning in early Sep (JPa, EZ). Pinyon Jays made a brief appearance in the Davis Mts. this season, with up to 8 present 22 Sep–6 Oct (M&ME). On the South Plains, a large concentration of 500 American Crows had gathered near Littlefield, *Lamb* by 25 Oct (JST). A Fish Crow documented at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 27 Sep (CG et al.) was w. of normal haunts. A Common Raven wandered e. to Stillhouse Hollow L., *Bell* 30 Nov (RPI) for a 3rd county record.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

A Violet-green Swallow was picked out of a swarm of swallows at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant* 13 Sep (MR), and 2 others darted over Lubbock 12 Oct (AF). Mountain Chickadee is listed as hypothetical for Big Bend, but this season brought two well-described, independent sightings: one in Boot Canyon 15 Aug (T&EF) and the other from Laguna Meadows 31 Aug (SC). A Bushitit in Wichita Falls, *Wichita* 27 Nov (VPE) provided a first county record. White-breasted Nuthatches in El Paso 20 (JPa) & 26–28 Aug (BZ) provided first local Aug records. A Rock Wren on the Granger L. dam 25 Oct (TFe) was noteworthy. A House Wren at Lafitte's Cove, *Galveston* 21 Sep (DVe) was the 3rd earliest for the U.T.C. A Sedge Wren in Lubbock 18 Oct (AF) was unusual there.

A very rare fall migrant Gray-cheeked Thrush was reported at Caddo L., *Harrison* 15 Oct (C&JF). A Hermit Thrush near Sea Rim S.P., *Jefferson* 15 Sep represented a new fall early arrival for the U.T.C. (DVe). A late Wood Thrush was along Alum Cr., *Bastrop* 5 Nov (BFR). A

season was a major movement of Sprague's Pipits through the Rolling Plains 12 Oct, when Freeman counted 207 flyovers near Sweetwater. A Phainopepla wandered e. to Midland 30 Aug–2 Sep (BL).

A Golden-winged Warbler in Wichita Falls, *Wichita* 11 Oct (TjIH) appears to be a county first. Tennessee Warblers were noted in Lubbock 13 Sep (BB et al.) and 2 Oct (AF), and in El Paso 21 Sep (JPa). A late Nashville Warbler was noted along the Lampasas R., *Bell* 10 Nov (RPI). A remarkable 6 Lucy's Warblers were in El Paso 15 Aug (RR), and another was in El Paso on the notably late date of 27 Sep (JPa). Northern Parulas made appearances in Lubbock 17 (AF, Bra) & 23 Aug (TS). A male Tropical Parula was in San Antonio, *Bexar* 21–22 Aug (GLI et al.). A Magnolia Warbler in Lubbock 28 Sep (AF) and 2 at L. Tanglewood, *Randall* 12 Oct (A&TC) were uncommon. A Cape May Warbler at Sea Rim S.P., *Jefferson* 19 Oct (DVe) made for a good fall record. The only inland Black-throated Blue Warbler reported this season was a male in Austin 2 Oct (SB). Black-throated Gray



One of the surprising finds of the fall season was a Lapland Longspur at Lake Benbrook, Tarrant County 7 October 2003; this species is normally not expected in Texas before mid-November. Photograph by Martin Field.

lingering Gray Catbird was near Lorenzo, *Crosby* 21 Nov+ (ML). An amazing count of 19 Brown Thrashers was made at Sweetwater, *Nolan* 9 Oct (BFR). Another Brown Thrasher frequented the cen. Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 31 Oct+ (T&CH). One of the more interesting finds of the season were the 2 Crissal Thrashers at Big Spring S.P., *Howard* 27 Sep (RMS); the species has been noted here regularly by the Midnats since Nov 2002. Single Sprague's Pipits were noted at three Trans-Pecos locations: Sierra Blanca, *Hudspeth* 1 Nov (EC), Red Bluff L. 2 Nov (EC), and near Kent, *Jeff Davis* 4 Nov (RPI). Certainly another important discovery this

Warblers made an excellent showing in the state this season, with one at Amarillo, *Randall* 5 Aug (RSc), one in Lubbock 11 Sep (AF), different individuals at Rose Hill Cemetery, Corpus Christi 6 Oct (LJ) & 11–13 Oct (DMu, WS), one in Austin 1 Nov (C&JS, ph.), and one in sw. Banderita 8 Nov (MIH). An interesting pattern of early arriving Black-throated Green Warblers was noted in the e. third of the state, with 4 found 5–14 Aug. Also of note was a female Black-throated Green in the Chisos Mts. 9 Aug (BS, TFe, ML). A Pine Warbler made a brief appearance in Midland 23–24 Aug (D&JM).

Palm Warblers are casual migrants in the Pineywoods; singles at Central Heights, *Nacogdoches* 7 Oct (DWO, MHW, JF) and L. Livingston, *San Jacinto/Polk* 18 Oct (JO) were both rarities, and one in Hemphill 27 Sep (DSm) provided a county first. A Blackpoll Warbler at High I., *Galveston* 19 Aug (EC) was the earliest ever reported for the U.T.C. Cerulean Warblers are very rare fall migrants in Texas, so singles at Beaumont, *Jefferson* 22 Aug (HJ) and Central Heights, *Nacogdoches* 29 Aug (DWO) were extraordinary. Early American Redstarts were noted at El Paso 17 Aug (RR) and in w. Guadalupe 20 Aug (LGI, SSc). Noteworthy Worm-eating Warbler

records came from Amarillo, *Randall* 24 Sep (BS) and Spring Branch, *Comal* 29 Sep (BD) this season. A Swainson's Warbler at High I. 19 Aug (EC) was the second-earliest fall record for the U.T.C. An Ovenbird at Sea Rim S.P. 10 Aug was the earliest-ever fall record for the U.T.C. (DVE). A lone Louisiana Waterthrush was in Boot Canyon, *Brewster* 9 Aug (ML, EC, TFE), and another was at a Davis Mts. ranch 4 Sep (JG, CED). Also of interest were single Louisiana Waterthrushes at Buffalo L. 21 Aug (KS) and Lubbock 31 Aug (AF).

Wandering MacGillivray's Warblers were found 2–27 Oct at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* (m. ob.) and Chappell Hill, *Washington* 1–2 Nov (DVo). A Hooded Warbler on w. Galveston I. 8 Aug was the 4th earliest ever for the U.T.C. (JSU). An early Canada Warbler was at High I. 8 Aug (CTL). Red-faced Warblers were again documented in the Chisos Mts., with one in Boot Canyon 6–14 Aug (TEC, TTF et al.) and 2 present 12 Aug (TPh). The Painted Redstarts present in Boot Canyon during the summer were last noted 5 Sep (JL). Sekula and Heindel recorded an astounding 135 Yellow-breasted Chats in Corpus Christi 6 Sep.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A lone migrant Hepatic Tanager was in El Paso 30 Aug (JPa). Noteworthy Scarlet Tanagers included one in Amarillo, *Randall* 24 Sep (RSC), a male in El Paso 7–8 Oct (p. BZ), and one in *Marion* 11 Oct (DMe, C&JF). A female Yellow-faced Grassquit was reported from Santa Ana, *Hidalgo* 28 Sep (p. a., TMO). Eastern Towhees were noted at Palo Duro Canyon S.P. 25–31 Oct (I&WJ, m. ob.) and Lubbock 26 Oct (AF). A Clay-colored Sparrow at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 22 Sep was the 3rd earliest for the U.T.C. (DMu). A rather early Brewer's Sparrow was in Midland 15 Sep (D&Jm). There was a spate of early-arriving sparrows on the South Plains this season, with 10 Clay-colored Sparrows in Lubbock 11 Aug (JBrU), 3–5 Vesper Sparrows at Muleshoe N.W.R. 9–16 Aug (BPh), and a Savannah Sparrow at the same location 16 Aug (AF). A Sage Sparrow in w. *Jeff Davis* 5 Oct was an early arrival (KB, ML). Paton photographed a Baird's Sparrow near Tornillo Res. 30 Aug, providing a first for *El Paso* and the first Aug record for the state. A very early Le Conte's Sparrow was at Hagerman, *Grayson* 14 Sep (DDC, DL); another was found in s. *Midland* 8 Nov (RMS et al.). An early Fox Sparrow was in Midland 13 Oct (DK). A Swamp Sparrow at Smith Pt., *Chambers* 4 Oct was the second-earliest fall record for the U.T.C. (DVE). A very early Dark-eyed Junco was

discovered by the Midnats in s. *Midland* 13 Sep. Another truly astounding fall record was a Lapland Longspur at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant* on the very early date of 7 Oct (ph. MR).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks visited El Paso on 20–21 Sep and 4–11 Oct (JPa), and a female was in Wichita Falls 29 Sept (VP) for only the 2nd fall record for that county. Quite late were 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Palo Duro Canyon S.P. 4–13 Oct (I&WJ). A Lazuli Bunting at Port O'Connor, *Calhoun* 24 Sep provided a rare fall Central Coast record (BFR). A late migrant Indigo Bunting was in the Guadalupe Mts. 22–23 Nov (EK). Late were a Painted Bunting in Pinto Canyon, *Presidio* 25 Sep (KB) and a Dickcissel at Quintana, *Brazoria* 8 Nov (MAU). A Rusty Blackbird made a very rare appearance in the Permian Basin at Midland 12 Nov (DK). An imm. male Baltimore Oriole was found at L. Ranom Canyon, *Lubbock* 4–13 Sep (CR, AF et al.), and an ad. male was there 6 Sep (AF). A rarity these days, a lone Purple Finch was in San Antonio 21 Nov (GLI). A great find was a Cassin's Finch in Dalhart, *Dallam* 8 Nov (BPI). House Finches continue to expand their range southward; this season, 3 were at Falcon County Park, *Starr* 6 Nov (DMu, CC, WS). An Evening Grosbeak seen briefly at L. Worth, *Tarrant* 31 Oct (MR et al.) was only one reported this season.

Undocumented reports: Northern Goshawk in Dallas 17 Nov; Red-faced Warbler in Boot Canyon, *Brewster* 25 Aug; Yellow-faced Grassquit at Santa Ana, *Hidalgo* 29 Sep. The Blue Mockingbird present in Pharr, *Hidalgo* last winter reportedly returned in mid-Sep and was irregularly seen through the season.

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Aug (BC) was about Idaho's 11th. The 6 Blue Jays reported made an exceptionally poor showing for this species. Now annual somewhere in the Region, a Blue Jay x Steller's Jay hybrid was at Coeur d'Alene, ID 11-30 Nov+ (NM). Out-of-range Bush-tits in *Gem*, ID 25 Aug (F&MZ) provided an interesting latilong record. Sightings of 4 Bewick's Wrens in sw Idaho 4 Oct-1 Nov were well above the norm. Two reports of Northern Mockingbird in s. Idaho were typical, but one in n. Idaho's *Bonner* 29 Sep (BB) was exceptional. The bird of the season was a marvelous Siberian Accentor in *Park* 22-30 Nov+ (†EHe, SW, m. ob.)—Montana's first record and the Region's 2nd.

WARBLERS THROUGH GRACKLES

The list of rare-but-expected warblers in Idaho was impressive and included single Tennessee Warblers at L.P. 31 Aug (RB) and Camas 21 Sep (MCR). Chestnut-sided Warblers at Camas 2 & 6 Sep (MCR) and in Boise 12 Sep (DT); Magnolia Warblers at Camas 6 Sep & 8 Oct (MCR) and near Boise 5 Oct (MC), a Black-throated Blue Warbler near Rexburg 11 Oct (DCI); Palm Warblers in Boise 9 Sep (MC) and in *Madison* 7-8 Nov (DCI); Blackpoll Warblers at Camas 12 & 16 Sep (MCR) and near Boise 1 Oct (MC), and a Black-and-white Warbler at Camas 30 Aug (MCR). Unexpected were a Bay-



One of the Region's most exciting events of the fall season was the discovery of Montana's first White-tailed Kite near Stevensville on 30 November 2003 (here 1 December) by Virginia Vincent.
Photograph by Wayne Tree.

breasted Warbler in Boise 15 Sep and a Hooded Warbler there 28 Oct (MC). Especially rare in fall were a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at L.M. 29 Aug (DG) and a Lark Bunting in *Flathead*, MT 10 Sep (BR). A migrating Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow found in Bozeman, MT 6 Oct (†RW) was the Region's first; the nearest edge of its known range is more than 500 km away in ne. Montana. Swamp

Sparrows were unusually numerous. Idaho's reports included one near Rexburg 13 Oct (DCI), 6 in *Elmore* 15 Nov (DT), and one in *Canyon* 28 Nov (DT). Even more unusual was one near Bozeman, MT 11 Oct (†EH) that represented Montana's 12th record. The tally of rare-but-regular *Zonotrichia* sparrows was well above average, with 26 White-throated, 8 Golden-crowned, and 15 Harris's Sparrows reported. Four Rusty Blackbirds constituted an average fall total for the Region. A total of 4 Common Grackles in sw Idaho 4 Oct-17 Nov was well above average.

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Mountain West

August ushered in another season of superlatives. This autumn had megararities in the form of Whooper Swan and Kelp Gull and a fairly strong showing of waterbirds and shorebirds. Labor Day weekend was the best on record for migrants, thanks to a major cold front that passed through the Region. Chico Basin Ranch was particularly productive that weekend, with twenty-one species of warblers (a new two-day record). Mountain jays, parids, and finches stayed in the mountains. Even Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins were scarce away from their breeding locales. Black-capped Chickadees and House Wrens were found in very low numbers, leading many to speculate that West Nile Virus affected their populations in the Region.

While we almost always get reports of very rare species, we do not receive as many reports of uncommon species (e.g., Northern Waterthrush or American Redstart). This makes it challenging for us to put migration of uncommon birds into perspective. We have seen some improvement in reporting of early and late dates. Unfortunately, few observers count numbers of individuals, so many of the highest counts for the Region never make it into print. While we acknowledge that we do not have the space to print all observations, we do use them and maintain a database of such records. So, please do send in high counts, early dates, late dates, and observations of uncommon species.

We are very excited with the substantial increase in reports from Wyoming, thanks to the addition of several subregional compilers who have volunteered to solicit records and organize data from their regions in Wyoming: Gloria Lawrence, Jim Lawrence, Terry McEneaney, Chris Michelson, Susan Patla, and Bert Raynes. Doug Faulkner will continue to coordinate all records from Wyoming.

Abbreviations: Barr (Barr Lake S.P., Adams); Chico (Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso/Pueblo, CO); E.K.W. (Edness Kimball Wilkins S.P., Natrona, WY); Eleven Mile (Eleven Mile Res., Park, CO); Jumbo (Jumbo Res., Logan and Sedgwick, CO); W.H.R. (Wyoming Hereford Ranch, Laramie, WY); Yellowstone (Yellowstone N.P., Park and Teton, WY). Due to reporting biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Colorado, except that each Wyoming location is noted as such the first time it appears in the text.

LOONS THROUGH IBIS

A Red-throated Loon photographed at Elk-head Res. 1 Nov (FL, DH), provided a first for Moffat and a 2nd for Routt and furnished one of very few records for Colorado's West Slope. The only other Red-throated in the Region was at Standley L., Jefferson 30



Nov-6 Dec (LS). A juv. Pacific Loon at Neenoshé Res., Kiowa on the early date of 1 Oct (BG, DN) was the first of 35 Pacific Loons to be found in Colorado—the most ever reported in a single season. A distinct highlight among these was an alternate-plumaged bird at Eleven Mile 18 Oct (NP, AS). Wyoming got into the action, with 2 at Woodruff Narrows Res., Uinta in the first week of Nov (TG). A total of 168 Common Loons was likely the highest total for any season in Colorado. This included a new high count for Colorado of 34 Common Loons at Pueblo Res., Pueblo 13 Nov (BKP). A nice count for any single location in the Region, 4 Red-necked Grebes were found at Healey Res., Johnson, WY 25 Oct (CM, AH, J&GL); Colorado had at least 3 Red-necked Grebes from Pueblo Res. 7-30 Nov (BKP).

Wandering young herons usually show up in late summer and early fall, as exemplified this year by a juv. Tricolored Heron found in Bent 3-9 Aug (DN). A Tricolored Heron reported from Lathrop S.P., Huerfano on the late date of 2 Nov (SA) raises eyebrows for its tardiness, although the latest Colorado record was of a bird collected in Yuma 20 Nov 1987 (*DMNH #39487). There was a late pulse of Cattle Egrets through the Region in early Nov that

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SA The movement of swans in the Region this autumn was unprecedented. As early as 21 Oct, *Tundra Swans* were noted at McNitch Res., *Sublette*, WY 21 Oct (B. Scurlock). One was seen as far s. as Miramonte Res., *San Miguel* on the early date of 25 Oct (CD, BW et al.). By late Oct, the first large flocks of both *Trumpeter* and *Tundra Swans* were building along the Snake R. in Wyoming (T. Mangelson). Woodruff Narrows Res. in sw. Wyoming hosted 82 *Tundra Swans* on 8 Nov (TG). Another was at Holiday Park, Laramie 8–16 Nov (T. Payton). *Trumpeter Swans* peaked in Yellowstone on 19 Nov with 570 birds (the Yellowstone resident population stands at 20 [fide TM]). While it is exceedingly challenging to obtain an accurate count, it seems that there were some 27 individual *Trumpeter Swans* in Colorado from 15 Nov through the end of the month, perhaps more. Now, consider that through the end of 2000 there were only 19 documented sightings of *Trumpeter Swan* in Colorado. *Tundra Swan*, recently added to the Colorado's review list, put on the best show in the state in well over a decade, with roughly 40 individuals reported, including sightings that stretched along the Front Range from *Larimer* to *Huerfano* and West Slope birds in *Rautt*, *Moffat*, *Rio Blanco*, and *La Plata*.

Terry McNeaney found the prize of the season: a second-year **Whooper Swan** in Yellowstone's Hayden Valley—the first for the Region. In the context of proliferation of migrant swans in the Region, this bird may well be a legitimate vagrant: the arrival of this bird coincided with that of another far-flung Asian vagrant, Montana's Siberian Accentor.

included birds in mountain valleys, sw. Wyoming, and Colorado's West Slope. *American Bitterns* are rare in W. Colorado, so one at a ranch pond in the Paradox Valley 11 Sep (JB) was exciting. Indeed, migrant *American Bitterns* are rarely noted anywhere in the Region, and one at Hale Ponds, Yuma 14 Nov (BKP, PAG, MP) was one of the latest migrants ever found. *Green Herons* appeared in normal numbers, with the northwestmost individual showing up in *Natrona*, WY 27 Sep (B. & D. Walgren). Continuing their summer incursion, juv. *Yellow-crowned Night-Herons* wandered to Valco Ponds in Pueblo 18 Sep–6 Oct (RM, m. ob.) and Belmar Historic Park, *Jefferson* 19 Sep–11 Oct (K. Schofield, m. ob.). A flock of *White-faced Bids* at Ridgway Res. 8 Sep (CLW, TL) included a *Glossy Ibis*, the first reported in *Ouray* and the first fall report for the Region.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Greater *White-fronted Geese* occurred in average numbers in Colorado, with at least 50 individuals seen mostly scattered along the Front Range and plains. Noteworthy sightings included *West Slope* singles in *Moffat* 21–24 Oct (FL), *La Plata* 21 Nov (JB), and *Mesa* 23 Nov (Larry Arnold), with mountain-park sightings of 3 in *Jackson* (AS, NP) and one in *Park* 1 Nov (MP). The only one reported from Wyoming was at Lion's Park 10 Nov (DAL). A major passage of *Snow Geese* moved through Colorado's mountains and West Slope 31 Oct–2 Nov, including record counts of 120 at Elkhead Res. (FL, DH), 400 at Spinney Mountain Res., *Park* (v. o.), 200 in *Nucla* (CD), and some 500 in *San Miguel* (CD, BD et al.). As expected, small numbers of *Ross's Geese* were noted in all of these flocks.

Numbers of *Canvasback* are increasing in the Region, with a high count of 500 at L. Maria, *Huerfano* 27 Oct (DS). The *Surf Scoter* show was almost as good as last year's, with 26 in Colorado and 8 in Wyoming, including 6 at *Woodruff Narrows*

Res. (TG). Wyoming's only *White-winged Scoter* was found early in *Buffalo*, *Johnson* 25 Sep–10 Nov (B. South, BR, CM); Colorado had an impressive 17 *White-winged*. There were 6 *Black Scoters* in Colorado this season, including a first for *Otero* 18–23 Nov (SO). *Mississippi Kites* lingered into Aug in *Sterling* and *Greeley* (where they now breed), and at least one was in Ft. Collins 1–9 Sep (J. Beason, B. Wheeler). Quite late were 2 in *Pueblo* 20 Sep (MY). Very few *Broad-winged Hawks* were noted this fall, with the only Wyoming report coming late in the season from E.K.W. 10 Oct (SB). A *Black Merlin* was reported at *Uravan* 9 Oct (CD, BW). While there are several reports of the attractive race of *suckleyi*, there is still no documented record or specimen in the Mountain West. At least some proportion of nominate-race birds can be quite blackish, thus our caution in reporting this individual.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Shorebird habitat was particularly good at that fabulous trio of ne. Colorado reservoirs: *Jumbo*, *Prewitt*, and *Jackson*. A count of 46 *Solitary Sandpipers* at *Johnson L.*, *Sedgwick* 28 Aug (CLW) probably represented a new high count for any one location in the Region. A juv. *Piping Plover* at *Barr* 8–10 Aug supplied the 5th record for *Adams* and first since 1986 (BS, m. ob.); another was at *Barr* 23 Aug (R. Siebert). Very rare in fall, 2 *Hudsonian Godwits* were reported from *Yellowstone* 24 Aug (A. Brown, E. Hendrickson, TM). The only *Ruddy Turnstones* were seen on 29 Aug, one at *Goldeneye Res.*, *Natrona*, WY (BRI, SB) and one at *Barr* (BB, LAB, DF). Always noteworthy, *Red Knots* this season were at *Jackson Res.* 18 Sep (2; one until 21 Sep) and at *Pueblo Res.* 24 Sep–2 Oct (one; BKP, SM, m. ob.), the latter the first for *Pueblo* since the 1980s. A *Semipalmated Sandpiper* at *Green Mountain Res.*, *Summit* 5 Sep (FL) provided one of few mountain records of this species and possibly a county first. *Pec-*

toral Sandpipers were noted on the West Slope from *La Plata* and *Montrose*, where rare. *Dunlin* made a fine showing, with 23 individuals in Colorado, including 11 at *John Martin* 6 Nov (DN). A *Curlew Sandpiper* was reported from *Jackson Res.* 23 Sep (JB). Eleven *Buff-breasted Sandpipers* were reported from e. Colorado this season. Roughly 19 *Short-billed Dowitchers* were reported in Colorado; the only Wyoming report was from *Goldeneye Res.* 20 Aug (CM). Four *Red Phalaropes*, all from Colorado, was on par with what we would expect. One at *Trinidad L.* 8 Nov was probably the first for *Las Animas* (BKP, MP). An *American Woodcock* was found at *Fort Morgan* 8 Nov (P. Walker); Colorado has fewer than 10 documented records of this species.

Among this fall's many lingering waders were 4 *Snowy Plovers* at *Neenoshie Res.* 11 Oct (DN et al.). *Greater* and *Lesser Yellowlegs* were both found into mid-Nov. *American Avocets* were widely reported in Colorado during Nov, with an astonishing "nearly 200" reported from *Ridgway Res.* 8 Nov (CD). The latest was at L. *Holbrook*, *Otero* 18 Nov (SO). A *Long-billed Curlew* at *Nucla* 2 Oct (CD, BW) was one of the latest ever reported in the Region. Typically clearing out by mid-Oct, 8 *Sanderlings* were seen during the first four days of Nov, with birds in *Bent*, *Jefferson/Douglas*, *Pueblo*, *Boulder*, and *Kiowa* (v. o.). *Least Sandpipers* lingered well into Nov, including 40 seen at *John Martin* 1 Nov (DN), 10 at *Ordway Res.* 6 Nov (BKP), and one at *Pueblo Res.* 30 Nov (BKP, MP). Typically gone by Nov, over 50 *Long-billed Dowitchers* were seen that month, including the latest at the most unexpected locale of *Brown's Park N.W.R.*, *Moffat* 26 Nov (FL).

A juv. *Long-tailed Jaeger* graced *Barr* 31 Aug (TL, BG), the 2nd for *Adams*. A subad. *Pomarine Jaeger* provided excitement at *Chatfield* 5–14 Nov (JK, m. ob.). Another jaeger, at *JTL Ponds*, *Natrona*, WY 7 Nov (CM), was thought to be a *Parasitic Jaeger*. Such late jaegers are typically *Pomarine*. Some 10,000 *Franklin's Gulls* at *Jumbo Res.* 24 Aug (BG, BS) provided the highest count of any gull species this fall. Seven *Mew Gulls* were found in Colorado, including what would be the first for *Morgan* at *Jackson Res.* 7 Oct (HK). A juv. *Thayer's Gull* was at *JTL Ponds* 8 Nov (DF, CM, m. ob.). While reported several times in Wyoming, apparently none of these has been adequately documented; the species is very uncommon in Colorado. The *Lesser Black-backed Gull* season was ushered in early this year with the first of at least 15 found in Colorado arriving at *Pueblo Res.* 24 Sep. The gull of the season certainly belonged to that dark-mantled ad. four-year gull first

found at Jackson Res. and thought to be a Lesser Black-backed Gull 17 Sep (S. Messick, HK). Photographs were sent over the Internet, piquing the interest of several birders who arrived the next day and were able to study the bird for several hours. They came to the conclusion that the bird was apparently a fourth-cycle Kelp Gull (CLW, TL, m. ob.) now on a northern-hemisphere molt cycle and still growing its outer primaries. The bird remained at Jackson Res. through 27 Sep and was refound in Larimer 19 Oct (NK, m. ob.), where it wandered around until at least 2 Nov (CW, BG).

Small gulls and terns were fairly widespread in the Region. Bonaparte's Gulls were more numerous than usual. Colorado had 40 Sabine's Gulls, Wyoming just 2. "Several hundred" Black Terns were at Jumbo 24 Aug (BS, BG). The biggest story, however, was the unprecedented flight of over 150 Common Terns on 13 Sep; more than 5 at any one location is noteworthy, so counts of 86 at Boulder Res. (CLW, BS) and about 50 at Chatfield (JS) were completely unexpected. At least one ad. Arctic Tern was involved in this flight, seen at Union Res., Weld (CLW, BS), and another, possibly the same bird, was seen later that day at Boulder Res. (ph. CLW, BS). Another Arctic Tern was at Pueblo Res. 23-30 Nov (BKP, ph. MP, m. ob.), almost a month after the latest Regional record.

An Ancient Murrelet, Wyoming's 3rd, was found by high school students in an Afton High School parking lot, Lincoln 30 Oct (D. Constans, SP). It was flown to California but died of aspergillosis. Establishing another 3rd state record for Wyoming, a Long-billed Murrelet was found on a Forest Service Road above Blacktail Cr. in the Bear Lodge Mts., Crook, WY 18 Nov (J. Hagen). It was released at McNenny Hatchery in South Dakota but was not seen on the following day.

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

White-winged Doves are becoming entrenched in the Region, with 14 reported this fall, including one seen most of Nov in Riverton, Fremont, WY (T. Axthelm) and one on Colorado's West Slope at Norwood 6-8 Sep (TL et al.). As is often the case, the

latter bird was seen with Eurasian Collared-Doves. Inca Doves were found at Rocky Ford, Lamar, and Pueblo (v. o.). Very rare in fall, a Black-billed Cuckoo was at Chico 30 Aug (vt. CLW, BS). Walden Ponds hosted an exceptionally tardy Yellow-billed Cuckoo 3-10 Oct (TF).

It was a superb fall for rare hummingbirds. Leading the fray was a Green Violet-ear found at a feeder in Evergreen, Jefferson 3-4 Oct (ph. R. Pyon, *fide* K. Niyo). This furnishes the 2nd record for Colorado and the Region. A Magnificent Hummingbird

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appeared in larger-than-expected numbers, with at least 8 in Colorado (v. o.).

Labor Day weekend saw an impressive fallout of flycatchers, including at least 80 Western Wood-Pewees and 7 Great Crested Flycatchers at Chico (v. o.). A female Vermilion Flycatcher was in Canon City 12-14 Sep (SM). Several Eastern Kingbirds were noted in w. portions of the Region, including one 16 Sep at Jackson, Teton, WY. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher wandered to Slough Cr. in Yellowstone 30 Aug (T.

Kenefick). The only Gray Vireo reported was in Durango 13 Sep (JB, SA). One of several rarities found at E.K.W. was a Yellow-throated Vireo 2 Sep (CM). Cassin's Vireos are proving to be uncommon migrants in the Region, with an impressive high count of 13 at Chico 30-31 Aug (v. o.). Six Blue-headed Vireos were reported this fall, including one far w. at E.K.W. 3 Sep (CM, AH). The 5 Philadelphia Vireos reported in Colorado were average for a fall season. Corvids were decidedly sedentary this year, and several observers commented that numbers were down. The only unusual corvid sighting was a Blue Jay in Craig 29 Sep (FL).

Purple Martins were found at Ramah S.W.A., El Paso 21 Aug (MP) and Lamar 17 Sep (BG, BKP, R. Siebert). The species is rare away from its West Slope nesting locales. The latest Tree Swallow was seen in Franktown, Douglas 7 Nov (HK, UK), and the latest Barn was at Chatfield 3 Nov (JK). Another Cave Swallow was found in Colorado n. of Colorado Springs 9 Aug (LS). This is at least the 3rd single-observer sight record in two years—it seems only a matter of time before one is finally photographed or videotaped in the Region. Bushtits wandered to se. Colorado in Nov, with reports from Bent and Prowers (v. o.). A Carolina Wren was in Pueblo 2 Sep (DS). There were at least 9 Winter Wrens, with Wyoming's single report coming from Grand Teton N.P., WY 19 Oct (SP). A not-so-sneaky Sedge Wren dazzled birders at Fountain Creek Regional Park, El Paso 17-22 Oct (MP, BKP, m. ob.). Eastern Bluebirds put on a strong showing, with many scattered across Colorado and 3 at W.H.R. in Sep (v. o.). Very scarce in fall, Veery was noted at Chico 30 Aug (CLW et



This subadult Pomarine Jaeger at Chatfield Reservoir, Jefferson County, Colorado 5 (here 8) through 14 November 2003 was part of an almost-annually-detected movement of this species through the Mountain West at this time of year. Photograph by Bill Schmoker.

at Rye, Pueblo 17 Sep (DS). An imm. male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was photographed in Nucla 27-28 Sep (CD, BW)—the 2nd found in the Region w. of the Continental Divide. A female Anna's Hummingbird was found in Bow Mar 3 Oct (TJ), where it remained into the winter. And most amazing of all, an imm. male Costa's Hummingbird was banded in Pingree Park, Larimer (TJ, C. English, L. Miller, B. Wiard).

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al.), Loudy-Simpson Park, *Moffat* 30 Aug (FL), and Barr 7 Sep (BG). The only Wood Thrush was found at W.H.R. 12 Oct (DAL). A Bendire's Thrasher was reported w. of La Garita, *Saguache* 6 Aug (JB, PD), near the location where many reports have come from in the past (but few of them documented). Still considered very rare in Colorado, a Sprague's Pipit was found in *Sedgwick* 18 Oct (BG, BS, CLW). Early and far to the s. was a Bohemian Waxwing in *Lamar* 28 Oct (BG, JT, D. Russell).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Colorado had a superb fall for such uncommon warblers as American Redstart (50), Black-and-white Warbler (46), and Ovenbird (42), largely because of the Labor Day weekend cold front that forced down numbers of these and other early migrants. Yet with "only" 31 species of warbler, some observers felt the warbler flight disappointing. Noteworthy warblers in the Region included a very late Yellow-throated Warbler in Canon City, *Fremont* 29 Nov (MP, LE); single Pine Warblers at Pueblo 4-8 Sep (BKP, MY), E.K.W. 14 Sep (CM), and L. Hasty, *Bent* 21 Nov (DN); a Bay-breasted Warbler at E.K.W. 2 Sep (CM); a Worm-eating at Barr 6 Sep (GR); 5 Mourning Warblers in e. Colorado 28-31 Aug; and 3 Canada Warblers, with a female at Chico 30 Aug (CLW et al.) and 2 at Barr 31 Aug (DF, GR). Other parulid highlights in w. Colorado and Wyoming included single Magnolias in *Montezuma* 9 Sep (JB), *Moffat* 18 Oct (FL), and W.H.R. 21 Sep (TF NP); 4 Black-throated Blue Warblers in Wyoming (3 in *Natrona*, one in *Laramie*—none in Colorado); and single Hooded Warblers in *La Plata* 2 Sep (JB) and *Ouray* 5 Sep (CLW, TL).

Late warblers not already mentioned included a Tennessee at Denver 23 Oct (J. Schieving); 4 Nashvilles in Nov, the latest at Boulder 15 Nov (PG); a Northern Parula 12 Oct at Ft. Lyon (BKP et al.); single Townsend's 30 Oct in Boulder (CLW, BS) and Pueblo (BKP); Palms on 2 Nov in Estes Park (S. Rashid) and Highlands Ranch (BE); a Blackpoll at Fountain Creek 26 Oct (TF m. ob.); and an American Redstart in Westcliffe, *Custer* 18 Oct (MF, LE, BKP). Single Summer Tanagers were in *La Plata* 28 Aug (JB), *Douglas* 18 Sep (A. Crockett), and *El Paso* 22-26 Nov (KP et al.). A Scarlet Tanager was reported from *El Paso* 7 Sep (KP) and another in *Jefferson* 25 Oct (HK). A late Western Tanager was in Rye 3 Nov (DS).

November Chipping Sparrow reports were of singles in *Prowers* 14 Nov (DAL, JT) and *Pueblo* 17 Nov (B.B. Hahn). Also late, a Clay-colored Sparrow was in *Prowers* 1 Nov (DAL). An average number of 6 Field Sparrows was reported from e. Colorado. Single extralimital Grasshopper Sparrows were

seen in *Custer* 16 Aug (BKP) and *Montezuma* 19 Sep (JB). Two migrant Le Conte's Sparrows were in *Bent* 12 Oct (BKP, RH, DS, SO). Single Red Fox Sparrows occurred at W.H.R. 12 Oct (DAL), in Colorado City, *Pueblo* 26-28 Oct (DS), Bonny Res., *Yuma* 14 Nov (BKP, MP, PAG), and *Nucla* 26-30 Nov (CD, BW). Many Lincoln's Sparrows lingered through the end of the season. Also noteworthy were over 60 Swamp Sparrows found this fall in Colorado, perhaps the highest total ever. Several observers at Neenoshe Res. reported a Smith's Longspur 11 Oct (DN, BS, RH, DS, J. Mammoser et al.), and another was near Julesburg, *Sedgwick* 18 Oct (CLW, BS). These sightings and another sighting from *Adams* in the fall of 2002 await review by the Colorado Birds Records Committee; there are no accepted records as yet for the state. A few Snow Buntings were found in late Oct and Nov in Wyoming and Colorado. Three Orchard Orioles found in Colorado City 31 Aug (DS) were an unusual find for the Greenhorn Valley. A male Purple Finch was at Pueblo City Park, *Pueblo* 9 Nov (M. Ackley), and 2 were in Colorado Springs, *El Paso* 9 Nov (MP, M.G. Peterson). White-winged Crossbills were reported from *Gunnison*, *Hinsdale*, *Mesa*, and *Saguache* in Colorado. Seventeen Common Redpolls were reported from Wyoming and one from Colorado.

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Great Basin

The fall season found the drought slightly broken. Most Utah mountain areas received near-normal or above-normal snowfall, a trend which continued into the winter. Mountain ranges in Nevada also started the season with more snow than in the past five years. There were some minor invasions, perhaps due to continuing drought conditions at the beginning of the season, by woodpeckers and some corvids. Highlights of the season included Utah's first Reddish Egret, a very rare Heermann's Gull, and perhaps the first documented records of Blue-headed Vireo. There was a good showing of eastern warblers, in some part owing to a constant coverage by Nevada birders at vagrant traps.

Abbreviations: A.I.C. (Antelope Island S.P., Causeway, Davis UT); Bear River (Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT); Circle L (Circle L Ranch, Dyer, Esmeralda, NV); Corn Cr. (Corn Creek, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV); Dyer Pond (Dyer Pond, Esmeralda, NV); Fish Springs (Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab, UT); Garr Ranch (Garr Ranch, Antelope Island S.P., Davis, UT); Gunlock (Gunlock S.P. and Res., Washington, UT); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark, NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, Washington, UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda, NV); Red Hills G.C. (Red Hills Golf Course, St. George, Washington, UT); Pahranaqat (Pahranaqat N.W.R., Lincoln, NV); PL (Pyramid L., Washoe, NV); Quail Cr. (Quail Creek S.P. and Res., Washington, UT); Sand Hollow (Sand Hollow S.P. and Res., Washington, UT); Soda L. (Churchill, NV); Stillwater (Stillwater N.W.R., Churchill, NV); Washington Fields (Washington Fields, Washington, UT).

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Two Red-throated Loons, perhaps the rarest of the four loon species recorded in the Region, were found in Washington, UT this winter. The first was an ad. at Gunlock 8-9 Nov (LT, ph. RF), and the 2nd was an imm. at Quail Cr. 10-14 Nov (ph. RF et al.). Pacific Loons, somewhat regular in the Region, showed up at several locations in both states. A Red-necked Grebe at Pyramid L. was observed 9-11 Nov (GS, JWa). A subad. Brown Pelican was a great find at L. Mead National Recreation Area, Clark, UT 9 Nov (RSa). Least Bitterns were noted at three locations: one at H.B.V.P. through 31 Aug (JBr), plus a juv. there 12-26 Sep (BST, JBr); up to 5 at Stillwater 6-28 Aug (4 ads., one fledging 28 Aug; WH); and one at Ash Meadows 30 Oct (SG). The presence of young at two locations in the



Region is quite notable.

The most surprising finds of the season were Utah's first and 2nd Reddish Egrets. On 14 Aug, LT found an imm. at Gunlock, which stayed through 21 Sep (ph., m. ob.). Amazingly, another imm. was found 3-9 Sep at James Walter Fitzgerald W.M.A., Tooele (ph. MMo, MW), 390 km n. of the first sighting. Green Herons at the Provo Airport Dike, Utah, UT 14 Aug-4 Sep (JR et al.) and Cottonwood Bend Ranch, Grand, UT 15 Aug (DF) were in areas where not often reported. A California Condor with wing-tag #32 was spotted at Kolob Res., Washington, UT 13 Sep (KW, PL et al.).

Tundra Swans are rarely reported from Washington, UT, so 11 at Gunlock 8 Nov and one at Sand Hollow 23 Nov were nice finds (RF, KCo). A Greater White-fronted Goose, rare for s. Nevada, was at H.B.V.P. 10 Oct (JHe, fide JBr). Ross's Geese were reported in scattered small numbers throughout the Region, as is normal. Three reports of Eurasian Wigeon were remarkable, as most years there are none. A male was at Hyrum S.P., Cache, UT 5 Nov (SD, fide MSt), 2 males were seen at Fish Springs 18 Nov (JBa), and a male was at Lakeridge G.C., Reno, Washoe, NV for its 4th consecutive winter. Long-tailed Ducks put in appearances at A.I.C. 2-24 Nov, where up to 7 were seen (DGr et al.) and at Duff's Pond, Lahontan Valley, Churchill, NV 14-21 Nov (WH). It was an average fall for scoters: small numbers of Surf Scoters were reported

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from Elko and Washoe, NV and Morgan and Washington, UT, all late Oct-Nov dates. White-winged Scoters were found in similar numbers and on similar dates in Nevada (Clark & Washoe), but there was only one Utah sighting (Morgan).

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

Common Black-Hawks are found in small numbers throughout the summer every year now in sw. Utah, but successful breeding evidence is scant. Although nests are located, fledged young birds are almost unreported. Two ads. with at least one fledged young were found 23 Aug at Gunlock (LT et al.). Several Red-shouldered Hawks were found in w. and s. Nevada but only one in Utah and at the same location as the Common Black-

Hawk on 23–24 Aug (LT et al.). A Zoned-tailed Hawk was photographed soaring by Lava Pt., Zion N.P., Washington, UT 25 Aug (RF). A small flock of 7 Gambels Quail was found 25 Sep at Minersville Res., Beaver, UT. This location is 100 km of the species' regular known range in Utah and quite far from its usual Mohave Desert habitat, so the question of origin arises (RF, LT). A Black Rail spent 11–24 Sep at H.B.V.P. (JBr). Breeding records of Common Moorhen are scarce for the Region, especially for n. Nevada. This season there were two: on 7 Aug, WH observed 2 ad. feeding 3 chicks at Carson R., Churchill, while on 16 Sep–28 Oct, he saw an ad. and a young bird at Taber-Rose Ponds, Lahontan Valley, Churchill.

Single American Golden-Plovers were found at three locations: H.B.V.P. 25 Sep (JBr), A.I.C. 2 Nov (DGr), and at East Canyon S.P., Morgan, UT (J&KB). Two Snowy Plovers at Sand Hollow 20 Aug were considered a first fall record for Washington (RF, KCo). A very nice find was a Mountain Plover at Carson L., Churchill, NV 16–19 Aug (fDS, GS). At Bear River on 21 Aug, American Avocet numbers peaked at 13,832 and Marbled Godwit numbers peaked at 8965 (BO). A

juv. Ruddy Turnstone 24 Aug at PL was the only one reported (DT). Small numbers of Sanderlings were reported from Clark & Washoe, NV and Washington, UT 5 Sep–22 Oct, well away from the Great Salt L., where Sanderlings were numerous as usual. Semipalmated Sandpipers are rare to scarce migrants through the Region (occasionally large numbers can be found around the Great Salt L., but not this year). Ones and twos were found this fall in Churchill and Clark, NV and Box Elder and Washington, UT. Nine Pectoral Sandpipers at H.B.V.P. 27 Sep was a somewhat high count (GS et al.). Dunlin are regular in the Region only around the Great Salt L., where up to 7 were seen this fall. Other records were: one at Soda L. 17 Sep–10 Oct (JWa, RSk), one at H.B.V.P. 19–25 Oct (CP, JBr), 2 at Pahrnagat 12–13 Oct (RF, KCo, JWa), and one at Hurricane sewage ponds, Washington, UT 11–12 Oct (ph. SS, RF). Two alternate-plumaged Silt

SA Acorn Woodpeckers practically exploded across the w. Nevada scene this fall. Many long-time Nevada birders were finally able to add this bird to their state lists. This species is very rarely recorded e. of the Sierra Nevada range. Word from California is that this year was apparently the worst in a long time for acorn production, which may explain the widely wandering woodpeckers. The Nevada tally follows: 2 in Verdi, Washoe 15 Jun–23 Aug (RB et al.), a male in Lida, Esmeralda 13 Sep (ph. MMe, GS), one at Circle L 21 Sep (ph. GS, DT), one female at Corn Cr. 26 Sep–11 Nov (RSa, GS, MMe), one male at Corn Cr. 27 Sep (GS) and another (or the same?) male there 23 Oct (JWa), one male at Spring Mountain S.P., Clark 27 Sep (JBr et al.), one at Dyer Pond 5 Oct (NB, MBI, JT), and one in a Fernley, Lyon yard 14 Oct (DT).

Sandpipers were found at Bear River 2 Aug (GB, ATH, MS), and singles were found at Sun River G.C., Washington, UT 22 Aug (JV) and H.B.V.P. 12 Sep (JBr et al.). Short-billed Dowitchers were reported from Churchill and Clark, NV and Washington, UT 2 Aug–14 Sep. A high count of 10,152 Wilson's Phalaropes was made 21 Aug at Bear River (BO). A rare Red Phalarope was found at Soda L. 10 Oct (ph. JWa).

The gull find of the season was Utah's 2nd Heermann's Gull on 2 Oct at South-gate G.C., Washington, UT (MD, ph. fKW, ph. RF, ph. SS et al.) This gull, which appeared to be in second-winter plumage, stayed for only about five or six hours. Three Glaucous-winged Gulls were at PL. 9–29 Nov (DS, FP, GS). Sabine's Gulls were found at the following locations: 2 at Soda L. 5–19 Sep (GS, JWa,

increase, with over 70 individuals reported this season in 10 locations. The most northerly records were one at River Lane, Utah, UT 3 Aug (TR, JBI) and at a new northernmost Nevada location at PL., where up to 6 were regularly found at Sutcliffe trailers 8–30 Nov (DT, JT, GS, MMe). High counts were a flock of 22± on 7 Nov—which also contained 3 Ringed Turtle-Doves—in Mesquite, Clark, NV (SS, PS) and 24 in Washington, Washington, UT 13 Nov (RF). Single birds in Beaver, Beaver, UT 21 Aug (EH) and in Reno, Washoe, NV 19 Sep (ph. RH) added to the ever-growing list of Regional sites. An Inca Dove in Kanab, Kane, UT 15 Sep (ATI, fide CT) provided an extremely rare out-of-Washington record for Utah. A Greater Roadrunner reported from Tropic, Garfield, UT 3–21 Oct (HGP) provided another very unusual and hard-to-



Utah's first confirmed Reddish Egret was found by Larry Tripp at Gunlock State Park, Utah on 14 August 2003 (here). This immature remained through 21 September 2003 and was enjoyed by dozens of observers. Remarkably, another turned up at the James Walter Fitzgerald Wildlife Management Area, Utah 3–7 September 2003. Photograph by Rick Fridell.

RSk, DGH), one at Gunlock 7 Sep (LT, ph. RF), up to 2 at A.I.C. 21 Sep–1 Oct (RR, BBr, TJ, J&KB), and one at Deer Creek S.P., Wasatch, UT 19 Oct (TR, MMo). Common Terns were reported from Churchill, NV and Box Elder and Washington, UT 6–25 Sep.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to

comprehend record at an elevation of 1905 m and certainly not in roadrunner habitat. A Flammulated Owl was a very nice yard bird 2 Oct in Reno (ME). Another Reno "yard owl" was a Northern Saw-whet Owl in FP's yard 6 Oct; unfortunately, this one was found dead. Only 2 Vaux's Swifts were found: at Gunlock (LT) and at Corn Cr. (RSA), both 7 Sep. Anna's Hummingbirds are a regular feature now in s. Nevada and fast becoming so in Washington, UT. Up to 4 or more were at a feeder in Leeds, Washington 21 Sep–19 Oct (CS). A female at a North Ogden feeder, Weber, UT 30 Nov+ was far n. of where they are usually recorded. A Calliope Hummingbird at H.B.V.P. 31 Aug was at an unusual desert location (MBa, fide JBr).

Lewis's Woodpeckers were widely reported and scattered throughout the Region in more areas than expected. Most unusual was a concentration of 27 at Kolob Res., Washington, UT 28 Sep (KCo, RF).

An ad. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported from Harker Canyon, Sheeprock Mts., Toole, UT 3 Sep (p. a., TMMO, MW). This would be an unprecedented early date for this species in the West. An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Lytle 8 Nov (p. a., LT) occurred at a more typical date for the West. Red-naped x Red-breasted Sapsuckers were reported at Corn Cr. 15 Oct (MSM et al.) and at Central, Washington, UT 27 Nov (LT). Red-breasted Sapsuckers were widely reported in w. Nevada. One at Lytle 17–25 Oct provided Utah with one of its very few documented records (ph. RF, KW, LT). Many observers also noted an abundance of Red-naped Sapsuckers at many locations; it seemed that any small patch of trees in the w. Utah desert had one or more. Gilded Flickers continue to be reported in extreme s. Nevada, where there were two reports: 2 at Corn Cr. 8–10 Oct (J&MC, Rsa) and one at H.B.V.P. 14 Nov (JBr).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

Three Least Flycatchers were reported, all without details: at Garr Ranch 6 Sep (RR), at Miller's R.A. 7 Sep (JWa), and at Circle L 5 Oct (GS). The only Eastern Phoebe reported was at Corn Cr. 15 Oct (MSM). A very late Cassin's Kingbird was at H.B.V.P. 10–29 Nov (CP, *vide* TL). An Eastern Kingbird was at Beryl Jct., Iron 30 Aug for a rare s. Utah record (LT). Three Blue-headed Vireos were found, 2 of which were photographed: at Red Hills G.C. 2–4 Oct (LT, ph. SS, PS, RF), at Lytle 5 Oct (ph. RF, KCo, ph. SS, PS), and at Corn Cr. 23 Oct (p. a., tJWa). The Utah records would be the first documented records for the state if accepted, and there is only one accepted Nevada record. A very late Warbling Vireo was at Miller's R.A. 2 Nov (JWa, BHa). Four Red-eyed Vireos were found this season in Utah: at Jordanelle Wetlands, Wasatch 17 Aug (J&KB et al.), Santa Clara R. near Gunlock, Washington 19 Aug (RSt, GB, ATH), Garr Ranch, Davis 21 Aug (LL, AO et al.), and Red Hills G.C. 24 Sep (LT).

A Blue Jay visited an Ogden, Weber, UT feeder 7–30 Nov (PM, SF et al.). Western

Scrub-Jays were noted by several observers to be plentiful outside of their normal habitats. Winter Wrens were widely observed, with 11 reports from 21 Aug to 19 Oct from four Nevada counties (*Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye, and Pershing*) and four Utah counties (*Beaver, Box Elder, Davis, and Washington*). Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were far from



Utah's second confirmed Heermann's Gull was discovered by Marilyn Davis at Southgate Golf Course, St. George, Utah on 2 October 2003. Although it only remained for a few hours, several individuals were able to observe and photograph this second-winter bird. Photograph by Rick Fridell.

typical habitat at Corn Cr. 26 Oct (MMe). Three reports of Swainson's Thrush included singles at Kaufman Ranch, Millard, UT 27 Sep (SS, PS, RF, LT), Tonopah 5 Oct (NB, MBI, JT), and Pahranaagat 11 Oct (KW, JWe et al.). One of the great finds of the season was a Wood Thrush at Pahranaagat 11–13 Oct (tKW, JWe, ph. RF et al.); there are very few records for the Region. Varied Thrushes were widely scattered across w. Nevada, with 10 reports ranging from 11 Oct to 21 Nov in Churchill, Clark, Esmeralda, Lyon, and Nye. Utah, where this species is much rarer, had only one, in Logan, Cache 27 Nov (SD, *vide* MS). Gray Catbirds breed sparingly in the Region but are seldom reported in migration, so singles in Utah at Scott M. Matheson Wetlands Preserve, Grand 19 Aug (DF) and Lytle 1 Nov (LT) were notable. Brown Thrashers put in a good showing, with four reports: Miller's R.A. 4 Oct (GS et al.), Corn Cr. 5 Oct (Rsa), Lytle 17 Oct (RF, KW), and Corn Cr. 23 Nov+ (Rsa). A Phainopepla was unusually far n. of its normal range in the Region at Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder 3 Oct (PF, JM, KL).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Warbler migration was generally reported as average, with many of the usual e. vagrants reported. Tennessee Warblers were reported from Gunlock 7 Sep (LT), Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 21 Sep (GS, DT), and H.B.V.P. 25 Sep (JBr). Northern Parulas were "numerous," with 5–6 found: one at Torrance Ranch, Beatty, Nye, NV 7

Sep (JBo), one at Kaufman Ranch, Millard, UT 14 Sep (PF, JM, DGr), one or 2 at Tonopah, Nye/Esmeralda, NV 21 Sep (ph. GS, D&BS), one at Miller's R.A. 27–28 Sep (GS), and one at Dyer Pond 4 Oct (GS). The 2 Chestnut-sided Warblers were probably about normal for the Region: a female at Circle L 6 Sep (GS) and an imm. at Springville, Utah, UT 4 Oct (TJ). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was at Corn Cr. 15–17 Oct (MSM et al.), and a female was at Lytle 18 Oct (LT). Traditional wisdom used to be that Hermit Warblers were very rare and not regular through Utah. Recent years have proved that this species

is a scarce but annual fall migrant through at least s. Utah, with peak passage mid-Aug to mid-Sep in montane coniferous forests. Reports this fall included singles at Gunlock 23 Aug (LT et al.), Pine Park, Washington 23 Aug (JV), and Lava Pt., Zion N.P., Washington 25 Aug (ph., tRF). In Nevada Palm Warblers were by Dyer, Esmeralda 11 Oct (GS), Corn Cr. 12 Oct (GS, Rsa), and Miller's R.A. 22 Oct (JWa). Blackpoll Warblers are one of the scarcer "regular" vagrants in the Great Basin, so 3 this fall was a good number: an early one at Porter Springs, Pershing, NV 29 Aug (JWa, RSt, DGh), one at Box Elder Campground, Mantua, Box Elder, UT 6 Sep (DW), and one at Circle L 20 Sep (GS). Black-and-white Warbler records spanned 1 Aug–5 Oct in Clark and Washoe, NV and Box Elder, Davis and Washington, UT. American Redstart reports were similar: 29 Aug–21 Oct in Clark, Esmeralda, and Mineral, NV (none in Utah). A male Prothonotary Warbler brightened up Circle L 18–19 Oct (JWa, DT). Only a single Ovenbird was reported, that from McCarran Ranch, Washoe, NV 3 Oct (JL et al.). Northern Waterthrushes were reported

from Garr Ranch 21 Aug (BHi), Porter Springs, *Pershing*, NV 29 Aug (JWa, R5t, DGh), Dyer Pond 6–7 Sep (GS), and Clover Springs, *Toole*, UT 9 Sep (EH). A most unusual Kentucky Warbler record came from the unlikely location of Tropic, *Garfield*, UT on 5 Nov (HGP). The bird was a stunned window-strike victim that was examined in hand; the bird revived before photos could be taken and was released. There are only two or three pre-

species. A Lark Bunting at Bear River 9 Aug (BBe) was somewhat expected, but one in the Washington Fields 28 Aug (RF) was more surprising. Several Fox Sparrows were reported, as usual, but 2 were reported as Sooty Fox Sparrows, which until recently were not expected in the Region – one at Porter Springs 10 Oct (JWa) and one at Circle L 11 Oct (JWa). Four single Swamp Sparrows was more than expected for fall: H.B.V.P 9 Oct (JBr),

Bunting was found at Corn Cr. 29 Aug (†RSa). This bird was a female, which may make the possibility of natural occurrence more likely. A Dickcissel at Lytle 31 Aug (†LT, RF et al.) was the first for *Washington*. Bobolinks were reported from Corn Cr. 11 Oct (RSa) and the *Washington Fields* 14 Oct (RF). Five+ Common Grackles at Taylorsville, *Salt Lake*, UT 17 Oct were said to have been present since early summer and to have nested in the area (CD) White-winged Crossbills were regularly found through the fall in *Cache* and *Salt Lake*, UT mountains. A male Lawrence's Goldfinch put in a one-day appearance at Corn Cr. 18 Oct (†RSa).



Unprecedented numbers of Acorn Woodpeckers were observed in Nevada during the fall season, as elsewhere in the West. This individual was photographed on 9 September 2003 at Lida, Esmeralda County, Nevada. Photograph by Martin Meyers.

vious Utah records of this species. A male Hooded Warbler first reported from Corn Cr. 6 Jun remained through 1 Sep (RSa et al.), a remarkable summering record at this desert location. It was seen 11 times 13 Jul–1 Sep. On 13 Jul, most of its tail was missing, but by 5 Aug the tail had grown back in. Two other reports of Hooded Warbler came from Utah: a female at Pineview Res., *Weber* 14 Sep (AS) and a well-described male at Horsehoe Canyon, Canyonlands N.P., *Wayne* 12 Oct (†SM). An extremely late Wilson's Warbler was at Gunlock 1 Nov (LT). A well-described Canada Warbler was found at the Carson Diversion Dam, *Churchill*, NV 2 Oct (p. a., †DT), one of very few regional reports.

A Summer Tanager at Dyer Pond 5–11 Oct (N&MBi, JT, GS) was a bit n. for this

Red Hills G.C. 9 Nov (LT), Timpanogos Wastewater Treatment Plant, *Utah*, UT 14 Nov (PF, JV), and Gunlock 30 Nov (LT). Nine White-throated Sparrows made for a healthy showing this season, ranging from 7 Oct–28 Nov in *Clark*, *Esmeralda*, and *Lyon*, NV and *Salt Lake* and *Washington*, UT. The only Harn's Sparrow report came from Circle L 25–28 Oct (GS, MME). A nicely photographed Chestnut-collared Longspur was at Miller's R.A. 26 Oct (ph. GS, ph. MME). Only 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported: one at Dyer 20 Sep (GS) and one at Indian Springs, *Clark*, NV 16–22 Nov (ph. RG). Indigo Bunting reports were scant also, with only three: 2 males at Gunlock 3 Aug (LT), one male at Lytle 31 Aug (LT), and a female at Circle L. 25 Oct (GS, MME). The always enigmatic Painted

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Serious drought and warmer than usual temperatures continued as the main weather story through fall 2003, resulting in drying lakes and rivers along with poor cover and food conditions. It was, however, a season notable for rarities, including four new species—Royal Tern, Eastern Screech-Owl, Henslow's Sparrow, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow—bringing the state list to 506. These novelties were joined by New Mexico's second Piratic Flycatcher, plus numerous additional surprises, some not seen in the state for many years or decades.

Abbreviations: B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte L.); G.B.A. (Gila Bird Area, riparian habitat on Gila R. below Riverside); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.); Maxwell N.W.R. and vicinity); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap near Melrose); R.G.N.C. (Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs area, Eddy).

LOONS THROUGH QUAIL

A remarkable 2 Red-throated Loons were at Ute L. 16 Nov (vt. JO), where one lingered until 22 Nov (JEP). Unreported for the past two years, an imm. Yellow-billed Loon was at L.V.N.W.R. 9 Nov (MR). Early was a Horned Grebe at Sumner L. 20 Sep (JEP, JO). Shrinking lakes resulted in notable waterbird concentrations, including aerial counts of 4300 *Aechmophorus* grebes and some 2000 American White Pelicans in the E.B.L.—Caballos area 24 Oct (MW). Single imm. Brown Pelicans strayed to E.B.L. 3–9 Aug (WW et al., ph. JZ) and Morgan L. 26 Aug (J. Rees, *vide AN*), and an ad. was at Brantley L. 29 Aug (WW). West and a local first was a Great Egret at Tyrone 28 Sep (EL). A Tricolored Heron at B.L.N.W.R. 3–5 Aug (JO, SOW) was joined by another 6–28 Aug (JO, MS, JZ, WW); another Tricolored was at Truth or Consequences 24 Aug (ph. JO). Single imm. Reddish Egrets were at E.B.L. 5–10 Aug (MS, ph. JZ, ph. JO) and in the Brantley-Avalon area 20 Sep (ph. JO) through 24 Oct (SW). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Truth or Consequences 20 Aug (WW); another at Texico 17 Oct (ph. JO) apparently had both feet on the Texas side of the line. The 2 imm. Roseate Spoonbills at B.L.N.W.R. in Jul remained until 25 Sep (GW et al., ph. JO, ph. WH); this was only the 5th documented occurrence of the species in the state. Rarer still, a Wood Stork reported at B.L.N.W.R. 1 Aug (D. & L. McKinney) was relocated 5 Aug (GW); the species was last reported in New Mexico 30 years ago. Several Turkey Vultures lingered later than

New Mexico



usual, including 2 at Conchas Dam 22 Oct (WW), 6 at Deming 24 Oct (LM), and one at B.L.N.W.R. 29 Oct (GW).

For the 2nd consecutive year, Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were found at L. Avalon, with 2 there 5–29 Aug (SW, WW) and 3 on 18 Sep & 13 Oct (SW). Some 11,700 Gadwall were concentrated on what was left of E.B.L. 24 Oct (MW). A male Eurasian Wigeon was at Maxwell 3 Oct (DC). Early was a male Greater Scaup at Cochiti L. 12 Oct (WH). An imm. Surf Scoter at Holloman L. 8–9 Aug (SW, JO) apparently had lingered from spring; elsewhere, single Surf sculls were at L.V.N.W.R. 2 Nov (SF) and Grindstone L. near Ruidoso 23 Nov (ph. JO). Noteworthy for *San Miguel* was a fledgling Mississippi Kite at Clabber Hill Ranch below Conchas Dam 27 Aug (WW). Early was an ad. Bald Eagle at Conchas L. 8 Oct (MW). A record 16 Broad-winged Hawks passed the Manzano Mts. lookout 21 Sep–5 Oct (HawkWatch International). A flock of 200 migrant Swainson's Hawks stopped at La Plata 27 Sep (AN) to feast on grasshoppers. One Aplomado Falcon was detected in s. New Mexico 24 Sep (RM), where drought has greatly reduced available prey. Montezuma Quail were considered fairly common in the n. Peloncillo Mts. Aug–Nov, although broods were small due to drought (CL); 6

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were noted at two sites in the Burro Mts. 7 Oct (SOW).

CRANES THROUGH ROADRUNNERS

What was believed to be a Demoselle Crane passed through Bosque with Sandhills 15 Oct (R. Kruidenier); rumors of an escaped Demoselle in the "Rocky Mts." are under investigation. High counts for Black-bellied Plover were 6 at B.L.N.W.R. 1 Oct (GW) and 4 at Tucumcari L. 11 Oct (JO). An American Golden-Plover was a surprise at Maxwell 27 Sep (ph. DC). Noteworthy were one to 2 Snowy Plovers at Sumner L. 15 & 17 Sep (DE, BN, WW). Two Semipalmated Plovers at Alamo, Socorro 9–26 Sep (D. Yaez) provided a local first; the high count for the species was 13 at E.B.L. 20 Aug (WW), and the latest was one at Tucumcari L. 5 Oct (CR). Migrant Killdeer were much in evidence in Aug, including 92 at Stubblefield L. 2 Aug

(DC) and 147 at B.L.N.W.R. 16 Aug (GW). A high of 567 American Avocets was at E.B.L. 7 Sep (CR). Small numbers of Upland Sandpipers were noted at six locales 3 Aug–6 Sep, including one w. to Luis Lopez 13 Aug (JO). Alfalfa fields are popular with migrant Long-billed Curlews, as evidenced by 472 near Otis 29 Sep (L. Stanley, *file* SW). Late was a Marbled Godwit at E.B.L. 28 Sep (JEP). Providing a first for *Sandoval* was a Ruddy Turnstone at Cochiti L. 6 Sep (MR); another at Sumner L. 17–20 Sep (WW et al., ph. JO) was a *DeBaca* first. A good Sanderling season produced reports from 10 sites from the R.G.V. eastward 8 Aug–10 Oct, including 5 each at Tucumcari L. 5 Oct (CR) and Brantley L. 20 Sep (JO); w. was one near Rodeo 29 Sep (JEP). Also w. of expected were 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Isleta 28 Aug (ph. JO). Tucumcari L. proved particularly attractive to shorebirds, including 18 Pectoral Sandpipers and 34 Silt Sandpipers 1 Oct (WW). Nicely described was a vocal Short-billed Dowitcher at Sumner L. 17 Sep (WW). Red-necked Phalaropes were in evidence nearly statewide 10 Sep–10 Oct, including one found dead at Glorieta 12 Sep (L. Heydt) and a high of 31 at Maxwell 27 Sep (ph. DC). Single Red Phalaropes appeared briefly at Subfield L. 13 Sep (DC) and L.V.N.W.R. 14 Oct (WW).

California Gulls found where rarely reported included 2 at Bluewater L. 9 Aug (CR), one at Clovis 1 Oct (WW), and one s. to Sunland Park 26 Nov (JNP), where there was also a first-winter Thayer's Gull 29–30 Nov (ph. JNP). Sabine's Gulls were at eight sites from the R.G.V. eastward 22 Sep–14 Oct, including 2 each at Eagle Nest L. 1 Oct (DC) and Bosque 22 Sep (EL) and 3 at Sumner L. 27 Sep (RG). Two Caspian Terns were at Bosque 17 Sep (ph. JO). The term of the season was a state-first Royal Tern that put in a surprise one-day appearance at Cochiti L. 12 Oct (WH et al., ph. JO). Late were 3 Forster's Terns at L. Avalon 4 Nov (SW), as were 2 at nearby Brantley L. 29 Nov (JO). A Least Tern strayed to Sumner L. 2 Aug (JO). Eurasian Collared-Doves, now present in towns and villages throughout New Mexico, continued to increase in numbers—including 15 at Sumner L. 3 Aug (JO), 31 at Maxwell 2 Oct (ph. DC), and about 40 each at Bosque Redondo 16 Sep (DK), Socorro 16 Oct (JS), and San Antonio 23 Nov (CR)—and were judged to be equal in numbers to Mourning Doves at Carlsbad (SW). Far n. was an Inca Dove at Maxwell 6 Oct (ph. DC). Three Common Ground-Doves were at a Rodeo farm 2 Aug (RW), site of persistent reports since May. Greater Roadrunners are rightly renowned for their

diverse diet: in Las Cruces, a hummingbird met its match when it was captured and eaten by a roadrunner 4 Sep (E. Mayfield); in Albuquerque, 2 roadrunners spent 30 Sep flycatching for wasps at blooming flowers (SOW).

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Another first for New Mexico was a vocal, rufous-morph Eastern Screech-Owl at Portales from 18 Nov (m. ob., ph., audiotape JA) into Dec; searches with tapes for other Easterns near the Texas line produced only Westerns (JO). Owl-banding efforts in the Manzano Mts. netted 20 Flammulateds 1 Sep–8 Oct, 5 Northern Saw-whets 5 Sep–1 Oct, and a Long-eared 19 Sep (J. DeLong). A Short-eared Owl was at B.L.N.W.R. 23 Oct (GW). Noteworthy for *Torrencia* were 4 Whip-poor-wills along the Manzano Crest Trail 4 Aug (T. Huning); late was one in the Peloncillo Mts. 22 Oct (CL). A new Black Swift breeding site was discovered at 3300 m near Truchas Peaks, behind a waterfall on the North Fork Rio Quemado, where 8 roosted and one nest was seen 26 Aug (JB). At Jemez Falls, eight Black Swift nests were active 5 Aug (R. Levad), but subsequent visits 22 Aug and later (HS) suggested that only two were successful.

An impressive 10 Broad-billed Hummingbirds were n. to Skeleton Canyon 9 Aug (WB), and one was in P.O. Canyon 27 Aug (CL); far from the Peloncillo Mts. were singles near Radium Springs 1–5 Oct (MS, ph. JZ) and far n. to Los Lunas 7–13 Nov (RB et al., ph. JO). Single Magnificent Hummingbirds were at Cloudcroft 3 & 7 Aug (P. McCasland, SW), where the species is probably regular but seldom reported. Two Lucifer Hummingbirds were in Skeleton Canyon 9 Aug (WB); Lucifers "peaked" in P.O. Canyon 9–13 Sep, with the last there 25 Sep (CL). An ad. male Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Tatum 30–31 Aug (ph. JO) provided only the 7th credible state record. Migrant Anna's were one at Socorro (J&MH) and 2 at Deming (LM) 25 Aug; a high of 9 was in P.O. Canyon 9 Sep (CL), and one reached Las Cruces by 29 Oct (L. Schulte). An ad. male Coe's Hummingbird visited P.O. Canyon 25 Sep (CL). Very late was an ad. male Calliope that adopted an Albuquerque feeder in mid-Nov and remained into Dec (D. Foreman). An ad. male Rufous lingered at an Albuquerque feeder until 16 Nov (RD). Only recently confirmed in New Mexico, an Allen's Hummingbird was banded at L. Roberts 8 Aug (J. Day-Martin); diagnostic rectrices were retained.

Dispersing Lewis's Woodpeckers were in evidence in the e. and s., including one at Bosque Redondo 14 Sep (JO), one to 2 in

Socorro 15–26 Sep (PB), 2 perched on occotillo at Radium Springs 18 Oct (MS, JZ), one at Mesilla 15 Nov (GE), and one over Sunland Park apparently heading for Chihuahuas 25 Oct (JNP); another was at Deming 25 Oct (JEP, JO), where one wintered last year. A Red-headed Woodpecker was at Maxwell 23 Sep (ph. DC), where rarely recorded in recent years; noteworthy for *Chaves* were 2 Red-heads at Bosque Draw 1 Aug (M. Roedel), one at B.L.N.W.R. 30 Aug & 2 Sep (GW), and 4 at Roswell 22 Aug (JEP). Lowland Williamson's Sapsuckers were singles at R.G.N.C. 1 & 6 Sep (K. Granillo, JEP) and Albuquerque's South Valley 6 Sep (DE, BN). An ad. male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was near Cimarron 18 Nov (ph. DC); single imms. were at Clabber Hill Ranch 22 Oct (WW), Summer Dam 16 Oct (JO), and N.R.T. 31 Oct (JO). Early for the e. plains was a Red-naped Sapsucker at B.L.N.W.R. 12 Sep (JEP). Far e. was a Downy Woodpecker near Clovis 1 Oct (WW). American Three-toed Woodpeckers where rarely reported were 2 each on Borrega Mesa e. of Truchas 26 Aug (JB) and Elk Mt., San Miguel 2 Aug (JO), and singles in the Valle Vidal area, Colfax 16 Oct (DC), near Luna, Catron 23 Aug (LM), and in the n. Black Range, Sierra 23 Aug (JO). Carefully studied Yellow-shafted Flickers were single males at N.R.T. 13 Sep–31 Oct (JO, JEP, DE, BN) and at Bosque Redondo 16 Oct (JEP) and a female at Socorro 3 Oct (RD).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

One to 2 Least Flycatchers were at N.R.T. (JO, WW, DK), Tucumcari (CR), Boone's Draw (JO), B.L.N.W.R. (CR, DM), and Tatum (JO) 29 Aug–5 Oct. Late was a Dusky Flycatcher at G.B.A. 5 Nov (WH). According to available diagnostic keys, a flycatcher banded at R.G.N.C. on the early date of 3 Aug was a Pacific-slope Flycatcher (NC, SC). Black Phoebe's nested n. to both San Juan (AN) and Colfax (DC) in 2003; the last at Farmington was seen 14 Aug (AN), whereas the last near Cimarron was seen 5 Aug (DC). Presumably early Eastern Phoebes were singles at San Idefonso 15 Aug (BF) and L.V.N.W.R. 14 Sep (D. White). Peripheral Vermilion Flycatchers were singles at Tolar, Roosevelt 20 Sep (JK) and Tinnie, Lincoln 9 Aug (SW). A Great Crested Flycatcher strayed w. to Socorro 25–26 Sep (PB); one at R.S. 14 Sep (SW) furnished the only additional report. New Mexico's 2nd Piratic Flycatcher entertained many at Bosque Redondo 12–16 Sep (JEP et al., ph. JO, ph. GE, ph. WH, ph. KS). An ad. Eastern Kingbird and 2 large young were at Socorro 1–2 Sep (PB). Peripheral Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were singles near Sumner L. 10 Sep (RG) and at Fort Sumner 21 Sep

(CR); noteworthy were 13 near San Jon 5 Oct (CR) and 30 near Otis 28 Aug (SW). Earliest Northern Shrike was one at Conchas L. 9 Nov (JK). Late were single Plumbeous Vireos at G.B.A. 5 Nov (WH, CR) and Deming 24 Nov (LM). One or more Blue-headed Vireos were at N.R.T. 20 Sep–31 Oct (JEP, DE, BN, WW, ph. JO), and another was at Fort Sumner 21 Sep (DE, BN). Single apparent Philadelphia Vireos were at N.R.T. 14 Sep (ph. JO) & 17 Oct (ph. JO) and Luis Lopez 27 Sep (ph. JO). Six Gray Jays near Elk Mt. 2 Aug (JO) were at the s. fringe of range. Dispersing Pinyon Jays included 3 e. to Tucumcari 5 Oct (CR), 4 in cen. Albuquerque 15 Sep (CR), and in the far s., one in the Peloncillo Mts. 19 Sep (CL), 3 at Deming 29 Nov (LM), and 2 at Radium Springs 20 Oct (MS, JZ). Of concern for Pinyon Jay are predictions that drought and beetles may kill 90% of the pinyon pines in New Mexico. Once considered scarce or local, American Crows continued to make their presence known: 2000 streamed through Corrales 26 Oct (WH), 800 had reached Radium Springs 1 Nov (MS, JZ), and 1000 or more were at Mesilla 15 Nov (GE), where there were demands for "control" to protect pecan orchards; unusual were 45 at Deming 21 Sep (LM).

Purple Martins were n. to the Sangre de Cristo Mts., with 8, including young, w. of Raton 4 Aug (DC) and 3 e. of Terrero 2 Aug (JO). The 400 Cave Swallows at Carlsbad Cavern 2 Nov (SW) were the most ever for so late in the season; in the lower R.G.V., Caves peaked with 20 at Radium Springs 6 Aug (MS, JZ). A phenomenal 5000 Barn Swallows were concentrated at the drying E.B.L. 28 Sep (CR).

WRENS THROUGH TANAGERS

Single Winter Wrens were in Cimarron Canyon 20 Nov (DC) and at Sumner L. 14 Oct (WW) and Bosque 26 Oct (CR). Nicely detailed was a bright ad. Sedge Wren at Clabber Hill Ranch 5 Oct (WW). A cat-caught Wood Thrush at Santa Fe 15 Oct (NC, ph. SC) was rehabilitated and eventually released. A Gray Catbird lingered in Cimarron Canyon until 20 Nov (ph. DC); in the middle R.G.V., 2 ads. with 3 large young were at Socorro 25 Aug–11 Sep (PB). An apparent juv. Sage Thrasher near Stubblefield L. 6 Aug (DC) may have been locally produced, as ads. were noted there in Jul (DC). Brown Thrashers were at seven locales from the R.G.V. eastward, topped by 6 at Bosque Redondo 16 Oct (JEP, JO). Sprague's Pipit may be regular in R.G.V. grasslands; this season 3 were found on Albuquerque's West Mesa 16 Oct (DH), plus one at Sevilleta N.W.R. 11 Oct and 2 there 13 Nov (DH). Far n. were up to 3 Phainopepla near Cerrillos

17 Aug–30 Sep (LS), the 2nd consecutive year at that Santa Fe locale. What was described as an imm. Olive Warbler was n. to the Zuni Mts. 9 Aug (DE, BN, CR); elsewhere, singles were in the Burro Mts. 26 Sep (LM) & 6 Nov (WH), and an ad. was in Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 28 Nov (BN).

Single Tennessee Warblers were at Hackberry Draw, Otero Mesa 27 Sep (SW) and Socorro 10 Oct (PB). A very early Nashville was near Elk Mt. 2 Aug (JO), while somewhat late was a Lucy's at Radium Springs 26 Sep (MS, JZ). Highlights of the season were single Chestnut-sideds at Fort Sumner 21 Sep (BF), N.R.T. 4 Oct (JEP, ph. JO), and Sunland Park 27 Sep (JNP), single Magnolia Warblers at Bosque Redondo 20 Sep (CR) & 4 Oct (JEP), N.R.T. 3 Oct (ph. JO), Portales 24 Sep (JA), Capitan 28 Sep (BF), and near Cloudcroft 10 Sep (SW), a Black-throated Blue at N.R.T. 31 Oct (ph. JO), and one (or more?) Black-throated Green Warblers at N.R.T. 16 Sep–25 Oct (DK, CR, WW, ph. JA), a Bay-breasted Warbler at N.R.T. 16 & 28 Sep (DK, RB), and a Blackpoll Warbler at Bosque Redondo 13 Sep (JEP, ph. JO). Hermit Warblers made an impressive showing in the southwest, with one n. of Luna 2 Sep (LM), 2 in the Pinos Altos Mts. 20 Aug (LM, GE), plus one there 19 Sep (LM), 2 in the Peloncillo Mts. 27 Aug (CL), and singles in the Black Range 1 Sep (CR), Burro Mts. 4 (SOW) & 26 Sep (LM), and the Animas Mts. 5 Oct (C. Painter). Far e. was one in Robinson Draw, Guadalupe Mts., 17 Aug (DE, BN). Single Black-and-whites were at Cerrillos (LS), Bosque Village, Valencia (CR), Percha (DE, BN), N.R.T. (JEP, JO, CR), and R.S. (JS) 30 Aug–4 Oct. American Redstarts were at five sites from the R.G.V. east 30 Aug–11 Oct; w. was one in the Burro Mts. 26 Sep (LM). Scarce in fall, single Ovenbirds were at N.R.T. 14–28 Sep (m. ob.), near Clovis 1 Oct (WW), and at Carlsbad 11 Oct (R. West), and 2 were at Boone's Draw 13 Sep (JO). A Hooded Warbler was at Los Alamos 17 Oct (GF). A Summer Tanager lingered at Bosque 24 Oct (DH).

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

With only five previous New Mexico reports, Eastern Towhee is a one of our rarest species; this season a male was found at Bosque Redondo 14 Oct (WW) and another male was at Bosque 19–22 Oct (JEP et al., ph. JO, ph. LG). Two to 3 Borteri's Sparrows persisted at a Rodeo farm

2–16 Aug (RW). Early was an American Tree Sparrow s. to R.G.N.C. 8 Nov (CR); others where rarely noted were 2 on Ute Cr., Harding (JO) and one at Nara Visa (JO) 15 Nov. Clay-colored Sparrows w. of usual included 3 at Deming 4 Sep (LM), 6 at Rodeo 6 Sep (RW), and up to 2 in P.O. Canyon 3 Sep–3 Oct (CL). Earliest Field Sparrows were 2 in the Mesalero Sands, Chaves 15 Oct (DM) and one at N.R.T. 17 Oct (JO); one was near Lingo, Roosevelt 9 Nov (T. McDaniel). A Baird's Sparrow was on Otero Mesa 27 Sep (SW), and up to 4 Baird's were at the Santa Teresa turf farm 13–27 Sep (ph. JNP, ph. JZ). An ad. Le Conte's Sparrow put in a brief appearance at Clabber Hill Ranch 22 Oct (WW, ph. JA). New to New Mexico was a Henslow's Sparrow at Clabber Hill Ranch, first found 10 Oct (ph. JO) and still present 12 (JEP) & 22 Oct (WW). Yet another New Mexico first was an imm. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow "harvested" by a cat in Albuquerque 22 Sep and now residing at the Museum of Southwestern Biology (*, *vide* R. Dickerman). Early was a red Fox Sparrow at B.L.N.W.R. 27 Sep (GW), where there were 3 on 14 Nov (GW); apparent gray forms were in P.O. Canyon 13–14 Oct & 28–31 Oct (CL). Lincoln's Sparrows arrived much earlier than usual, with singles in the Black Range 31 Aug (CR), P.O. Canyon 3 Sep (CR), Burro Mts. 4 Sep (SOW), N.R.T. 7 Sep (JS), and Florida Mts. 8 Sep (LM). Single Harris's Sparrows were at Ute L. 27 Nov (ph. DC) and B.L.N.W.R. 14 Nov (GW); an ad. Golden-crowned reached Bosque 28 Nov (WH). Yellow-eyed Juncos were refound in the Burro Mts., with 2 there 4 Sep (SOW) and 4 on 22 Sep (R. Wilcox, *vide* D. Zimmerman), but none were found 26 Sep or later; a transient Yellow-eyed was in Maverick Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 1 Sep (CL). Several Lapland Longspurs were found in Colfax after 28 Oct, including a high of 11 at Stubblefield L. 24 Nov (DC). Very early was a small flock of Chestnut-collared Longspurs far s. to Santa Teresa 13 Sep (JNP).

Maintaining a presence in the ne. part of the state was a Northern Cardinal at Tucumcari L. 5 Oct (CR); noteworthy was a male in P.O. Canyon 11 Aug (CL). An ad. male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Kirtland, San Juan 23–24 Nov (AN); other Rose-breasted were single imm. at Madrid 4–5 Oct (LS), Bosque Redondo 17–28 Sep (MS, JZ, CR, RB), and Luis Lopez 27 Sep (ph. JO). Far n. was a male Varied Bunting at Socorro 1 Sep (PB); another male in Skeleton Canyon 9 Aug (WB) furnished a local first. Painted Buntings continued to appear w. of usual, including singles at Tyrone 31 Aug (EL) and P.O. Canyon 27 Aug (CL) and a high

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of 12 at Rodeo 2 Aug, with one still there 6 Sep (RW). Dickcissels had a good season, with often multiple reports from 11 locales from the R.G.V. eastward 9 Aug–7 Oct; w. were one at Rodeo 6 Sep (RW) and 2 there 27 Sep (JEP) and one to 2 in nearby P.O. Canyon 26–27 Sep (CL).

Most unusual were 2 Bobolinks in an uncut alfalfa field at Rodeo 6 Sep (RW). Bronzed Cowbirds continued to insinuate themselves into the local scene—a juv. Bronzed was begging from Canyon Towhees at Dripping Springs 9 Aug (ph. JO), and another juv. was fed by a Hooded Oriole in P.O. Canyon 17 Aug (CL). Another Hooded Oriole nest attempt in P.O. Canyon ended badly when coatis ate the nestlings 22 Aug (CL). Earliest rosy-finches at Sandia Crest were 3 Blacks 15 Nov; about 35 Blacks and Brown-capped were there by 18 Nov (*vide* KS). Pine Grosbeaks where rarely reported were 2 on Elk Mt. 2 Aug (JO) and 4 at Apache Cr. n. of Chama 31 Aug (J&MH). Red Crossbills found conditions to their liking in the Sangre de Cristo, Jemez, Sandia, and Sacramento Mts.: a pair nested successfully near Angel Fire 1–28 Aug (ph. DC), "hundreds" were in the Valle Grande area 11 Oct (CB), 100–200 were at and near Sandia Crest Sep–Oct, including many begging juvs. in mid-Oct (CB, KS et al.), and moderate numbers were near Cloudcroft 16–17 Aug (CB). For the 2nd consecutive year, American Goldfinches nested successfully near Cimarron, where a pair fed 2 nestlings in a saltcedar 5 & 8 Aug (ph. DC).

Corrigenda: In the fall 2002 report (N.A.B. 57: 97), a Prairie Warbler at R.S. 21 Sep (CR, BN) was erroneously reported as a Pine Warbler. Omitted by mistake were single Pine Warblers at Socorro 19 Oct (SG) and near Clovis 20 Oct (CR).

Initialed observers: Julian Avery, William Baltosser, Pat Basham, Jason Beason, Ryan Beaulieu, Craig Benkman, David Cleary, Nancy Cox, Steven Cox, Robert Doster, Gordon Ewing, Douglas Emkalns, Stephen Fettig, Bernard Foy, Gary Froehlich, Larry Gorbet, Rebecca Gracey, David Hawksworth, John & Marty Hirth, William Howe, Jim Krakowski, David Krueper, Eugene Lewis, Carroll Littlefield, Larry Malone, David Mehlman, Raymond Meyer, Alan Nelson, Bruce Neville, Jerry Oldenettel, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Brandon Percival, Mary Ristow, Christopher Rustay, Lavry Sager, Kenneth Schneider, Hart Schwarz, March Scott, John Shipman, Gordon Warrick, Mark Watson, Richard Webster, Steve West, William West, S. O. Williams, James Zabriskie. ☺

Abbreviations: Avra Valley S.T.P. (A.V.S.T.P.), Banning Creek Field Station, Mule Mts. (B.C.E.S.), Boyce Thompson Arboretum (B.T.A.), Gila Farms Pond (G.F.P.), Haysayampa R. Preserve (H.R.P.), Lower Colorado R. valley (L.C.R.V.), Navajo Indian Reservation (N.I.R.), Pinal Air Park pecan grove (P.A.P.), San Pedro River (S.P.R.), Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson (S.W.T.), Whitewater Draw Wildlife Area (Whitewater).

LOONS THROUGH DUCKS

A Pacific Loon was extremely early at Big L. in the White Mts. 19 Aug–19 Oct (DR, ph. GC et al.), an area where one was reported in May. Other early Pacific Loons were at Flagstaff 17 Oct (T. Linda) and Imperial N.W.R. 5 Nov (CK, CN). One at Upper L. Mary 7–11 Nov (JC et al.) and 2 at Watson L. 8–11 Nov (†CST) made an above-average total for the season. Common Loons put in another strong showing, with 27 reported statewide 19 Oct–28 Nov away from the L.C.R.V. (m. ob.). The Least Grebe at Sam Lena Park, Tucson remained through 11 Oct (DJ et al.). Always sparse, migrant Horned Grebes were seen near Kansas Settlement 15 Nov (PS, †J. Mueller) and A.V.S.T.P. 25 Nov+ (E. Kline, ph. MMS). Three Eared Grebes at Wilcox 8–23 Aug (RT et al.) were three weeks early. Migrant Western Grebes were widely reported; 50 at Ashurst L. 9 Nov (JP) and 60 at Cholla L. 27 Nov (RHu) were remarkable concentrations. An ad. and a juv. Clark's Grebe together at Tsalle L. 17 Sep (CL) confirmed a new breeding locale. Casual as migrants, single Clark's were reported at Granite Reef 4 Oct (H. Fibel), Big L. 19 Oct (JV), Becker L. 25 Oct (GC, DR), Lyman L. 9 Nov (JV), Ashurst L. 14 Nov (JP), Upper L. Mary 14 Nov (JP), and Becker L. 27 Nov (JV). Three were at Concho L. 15 Nov (JV).

Strays from the Gulf of California, single Brown Pelicans were at Sacaton 24 Aug (C. Fisher), Paloma 28 Aug (W. Wehje), Patagonia L. 26 Oct–20 Nov (E. Knapp), near Palo Verde 2–8 Nov (BG et al.), and Tempe Town L. 29 Nov+ (T. Gaskill). Two were at Alamo L. 8 Nov. Neotropical Cormorants were again reported in numbers from Maricopa and Patagonia L. (m. ob.). Quite a surprise was a Magnificent Frigatebird in the Salt R. Canyon 20 Sep (D. Davis); very few have strayed this far ne. The ad. Tricolored Heron at Chandler remained through 16 Aug (m. ob.). An imm. was in Nogales 23 Oct–4 Nov (M. Auslander, ph. MMS), and an ad. was at S.W.T. 15–16 Nov (B. McKnight et al.). Continuing the recent trend of annual occurrence, single imm. dark-morph Reddish Egrets appeared at Gila Bend 14–19 Sep (SG, †RJ) and Tucson 11–12 Oct (ph. MMS, m. ob.).

Migrant flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese were few, with 23 on 3 Sep (BN, L. Liese) and 40 on 11 Sep (MMS, MPo), both in Tucson. Other reports were few as well: 2 were in Tucson 3 Sep (BN), with singles at Flagstaff

Arizona



19 Sep (JC), St. Johns 31 Oct (JV), and Imperial N.W.R. 6 Nov (CK, CN). Good numbers of Snow Geese were again reported. Notable flocks included 40+ at Wenima 2 Nov (GC, DR) and 30 near Bitter Springs, N.I.R. 2 Nov (P. Friederici). Eight "Blue" Snow Geese—casual in Arizona—were at Lyman L. 5 Nov (GC, DR), with another at Thatcher 15 Nov (B. Andrews). Single Ross's Geese at Phoenix 13 Sep+ (T. Gaskill) and Pinetop 19 Sep (MPo, ph. MMS) were very early and may have summered. Another 12 were reported statewide 2–23 Nov (m. ob.), an above-average number. Tundra Swan reports rebounded from recent lows, with two flocks observed: 30 at Becker L. 27 Nov+ (JV et al.) and 13 flying by Palo Verde 28 Nov (PD, E. Schocat). The male Eurasian x American Wigeon returned to Willcox 21 Nov+ (SH et al.). The summering female Greater Scaup remained at Willcox through 11 Oct (m. ob.) Another individual was reported there in early Oct (SH, K. Kamper). Surf Scoter numbers were about average, with singles at Becker L. 2 Nov (GC, DR), Imperial N.W.R. 5 Nov (CK, CN),

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Upper L. Mary 7-9 & 11-19 Nov (JP et al.), and Saguro L. 23 Nov (SG). White-winged Scoters were present in above-average numbers: one at Hereford 8 Nov (MM et al.) was a first record for the upper S.P.R.; one at St. Johns 9 Nov (JV) and 2 at Ashurst L. 9-20 Nov (JP, ph. JC) were accidental. Casual away from the Colorado R., a female Barrow's Goldeneye at Ashurst L. 18-20 Nov (JP, ph. C. van Cleve) was a first Flagstaff-area record. Red-breasted Mergansers are rare away from the L.C.R.V.; 34 reported 25 Oct-10 Nov from widespread areas was well above recent averages (m. ob.).

KITES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

White-tailed Kite reports rebounded. One in open country near White Mountain Res. 13-20 Sep (J. A. Morgan, vt. D. Trohock, *vide* S. Levy) was only the 2nd ever found n. of the Mogollon Rim. In more typical areas, singles were near San Simon 3 Aug (JE), along Rucker Rd. 15 Aug (M. Kehl), Willcox 17 Nov (K. Kamper), and Palo Verde 25 Nov (MMS et al.). Two were again in the San Rafael Valley 14 Oct+ (m. ob.). A Mississippi Kite wandered to Bisbee 19 Sep (J. Pike). Warm weather led 8 Gray Hawks to linger past early Oct in se., with the latest seen 8 Nov in St. David (JH et al.). An early migrant Common Black-Hawk was along the S.P.R. near Hereford 8 Aug (MM, D. Knox), where rare. A juv. wandered to Granite Dells 27 Aug (M. Leeper). Late individuals were below L. Pleasant 21 Sep-23 Oct (TC) and in Marana 25 Oct (S. Edwards). At least one Red-shouldered Hawk continued at H.R.P. during the period, last seen 27 Sep (PM). At Grand Canyon N.P. hawkwatch sites, 20 Broad-winged Hawks were tallied 19 Sep-6 Oct (Hawk Watch International, *vide* J. Smith). The only one reported away from the canyon was over Tucson 7 Oct (TRH). The latest report for the Chiricahua Mts. of Short-tailed Hawk was of an ad. on 18 Sep (B. Chapman). A juv. Zone-tailed Hawk was seen 20 Sep-31 Oct in Yuma (HD), where rare. One in the Flagstaff area 23-25 Oct was late (JP, M. Murov). One (or more) in the Tucson area 31 Oct+ (m. ob.) seemed likely to winter again. A Crested Caracara that wandered s. of Lake Havasu City 27 Oct (M. Totcky) was later seen road-killed but was not salvaged (*vide* K. Blair). The scant few recent L.C.R.V. records have been from farther south.

Two families of Common Moorhens at Ganado L. 11 Aug (RHu) established the first nesting record for the N.I.R. The species is sparse even as a migrant in n. Arizona. Black-bellied Plovers put in a good showing, with singles at Willcox 5-12 Sep (G. Harritt, ph. DSJ, MMS), Whitewater 26 Sep-4 Oct (R. Wilt, RH), Dateland 3 Oct (HD), Becker L. 30 Oct (GC, DR), and El Mirage 6 Nov (R. Widner et al.). The only American Golden-Plover was at Paloma 21-25 Sep (ph. BG, RH). Rare

migrant Snowy Plovers were 2 at Willcox 8 Aug (RT), 5 at Dateland 24 Aug (HD), one at Gila Bend 7 Sep (BG), and 2 at Willcox 12 Oct (K. Kamper). In the s., late American Avocets, a result of the warm fall, were 2 at Willcox through 14 Nov (m. ob.), 23 at El Mirage 23 Nov (TC), 3 at A.V.S.T.P. 23 Nov (JH), 2 at Whitewater 29 Nov+ (SH et al.), and 3 at Chandler 29 Nov (PD). A late Willet was at Willcox 6-10 Sep (MMS, MPo). Whimbrel are casual away from the L.C.R.V.; this fall, one was at Paloma 20-25 Sep (BG, ph. RH), and 2 were at Whitewater 27 Sep (GW). Extremely late was a Marbled Godwit at Becker L. 26 Nov (GC, DR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper reports included singles at Willcox 2, 14, & 19 Aug (JB, SH, RW et al.) and Green Valley S.T.P. 26 Aug (M. J. Iliff), a low total by recent standards. Following a bumper crop of migrants, late Baird's



This juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpiper created a stir when found by Bill Grossi near Gila Bend on 2 November 2003 (here); there are only two prior Arizona records. Digitized photograph by Mark Stevenson.

Sandpipers included one at Paloma through 3 Nov (C. Babbitt) and another to 14 Nov, some four weeks late, at Willcox (DSJ et al.). One of the highlights of the year was a juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Paloma 2-3 Nov (ph. BG et al.), Arizona's first since 1985. There are only two previous accepted records, also from *Maricopa*. Short-billed Dowitchers were in short supply, with the only reports being of 3 ads. at Willcox 19 Aug (P. Wang, ph. C. van Cleve), a juv. there 25 Aug (RWE, RAR), and a

juv. at Tuba City 5 T.P. 28 Aug (CL). Nine Wilson's Snipe at Pasture Canyon 12 Nov was the largest group ever on the N.I.R. (CL). A Wilson's Phalarope lingered at Willcox 20 Oct-21 Nov, more than a month late (ph. DSJ, m. ob.). A few Red-necked Phalaropes were also notably late: 3 at G.F.P. 2 Nov (PD) and one at A.V.S.T.P. 4 Nov (MMS). Red Phalarope reports were of one at Upper L. Mary 25-28 Oct (†JP et al.) and 2 at Willcox 1 Nov (F. Fekel, ph. MMS), about normal for the season.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A 2nd Franklin's Gull joined the summering bird at Willcox 14-23 Aug (K. Kamper, m. ob.); there were no prior Aug records in se. Arizona. Still casual, a Heermann's Gull wandered from the Gulf of California to Patagonia L. 22 Nov (R. van Zandt et al.). An ad. Herring Gull was early at Willcox 27 Sep-1 Oct (ph. GW, m. ob.). Nine others away from the L.C.R.V. 3 Oct-25 Nov (m. ob.) was an above-average number. The gull of the year by far was a juv. Glaucous-winged Gull at Palo Verde 23 Nov+ (TC, ph. RJ et al.); there are only five previous Arizona records, the most recent in 1981. Sabine's Gulls were widely reported in near-record numbers, with 15 statewide 21 Sep-15 Oct (m. ob.).

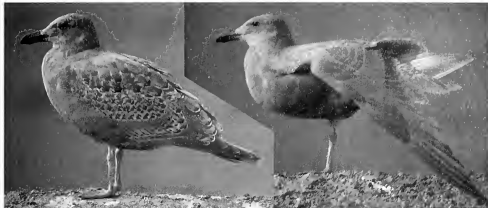
Few Ruddy Ground-Doves were found. Three continued near Red Rock through at least 22 Aug (m. ob.), 2 were at P.A.P. 30 Aug (MMS et al.), and an ad. male was at the odd location of Oak Flat near Superior 6 Oct (CST). Vaux's Swift is scarce on the N.I.R.; one was in Tesqui Canyon 4 Oct (CL, C. Salt). A male Broad-billed Hummingbird was in Yuma 30 Oct (B. Crimmins) where casual. A female White-eared Hummingbird was away from feeders in Grand Canyon 13 Aug (RH et al.). Most Violet-crowned Hummingbirds depart by the end of Sep. Late individuals were in lower Ramsey Canyon 7 Oct+ (J. Hirth), at B.C.E.S. 15 Nov+ (TW et al.), and in Hereford 16-21 Nov (M. Pretti). The Plain-capped Tanager in Ash Canyon was last seen 17 Sep (M. J. Ballator). No fewer than 7 Lucifer Hummingbirds were in eastside Huachuca Mt. canyons, with the latest on 7 Oct (m. ob.). Two late Calliope Hummingbirds were banded in Miller Canyon 21 Oct (GW). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Sawmill Canyon, Huachuca Mts. 22 Oct (SH) was late; one in ne. Tucson 5 Nov+ (C. Englander) appeared set to winter. Reports of late Allen's Hummingbird were again received, with one in Madera Canyon 22 Sep, 2 in Miller Canyon 23 Sep, and one at Arivaca nearly two months late on 12 Oct (GW); all were banded.

The male Eleventh Trogon returned to Santa Cruz above Patagonia L. 31 Oct+ (RH, m. ob.). Two lingered in Sycamore Canyon, Santa Cruz to 27 Oct (DSJ). Green Kingfisher numbers remain down; the only report was of one heard in Sycamore Canyon, Santa Cruz 1

Nov (RH). Lewis's Woodpeckers were again reported in above-average numbers in s. Arizona this fall. Single Acorn Woodpeckers also appeared in the lowlands at Scottsdale 16 Nov (J. Bartley) and Tucson 21 Nov+ (MPo, MMS). Casual anywhere in the state, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported as follows: an ad. female at Patagonia L. 31 Oct (SH), a juv. at Pasture Canyon, N.I.R. 5 Nov (CL, ph. JC), a juv. along Harshaw Cr. 15 Nov (TBN et al.), a juv. in Ramsey Canyon 21 Nov (R. Shaw), and one without details from Colossal Cave Park 28 Nov (M. Kehl). Apparent Red-breasted x Red-naped Sapsucker hybrids were at Portal 1 Nov (T. & L. Gates) and Patagonia L. 30 Nov+ (PD, ph. MMS, GHR). Due to the prevalence of intergrade and hybrid individuals resembling *S. ruber daggetti* in Arizona, careful documentation of any putative *S. ruber* is highly desirable. A Downy Woodpecker in a Portal yard 21 Aug (vt. RW, RAR) was one of few recent documented reports from the area: the species' actual status s. of the Mogollon Rim is unclear due to confusion with Ladder-backed Woodpecker and icastus Hairy Woodpecker. Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flickers are casual anywhere in Arizona. Ad. males were observed at Cow Springs L. 15 Oct & 22 Nov and in Sycamore Canyon, Yavapai 23 Nov (all CL), and an intergrade individual was in Prescott 8 Nov (CST).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA

Although Hammond's Flycatcher is a regular migrant in s. Arizona, at least 30 seen in Sycamore Canyon, Santa Cruz 27 Oct (DSJ) was an unusually high count. A Gray Flycatcher in Pasture Canyon 5 Nov (JC, CL) represented the latest record ever of any *Empidonax* for the N.I.R. Individual Eastern Phoebees were found in sw. Phoenix 20 Sep (CBA), Patagonia L. 31 Oct+ (SH), S.P.R. near Hwy 90 4 Nov (DT), and near Rio Rico 29 Nov (MK); this species remains a rare but regular winter visitor to s. Arizona. Still quite unusual for the n., a Vermilion Flycatcher was at Becker L. 11 Sep (ph. GHR); there are only a few previous records from Apache, one of which is from winter. Several Dusky-capped Flycatchers lingered later than usual, the latest reports coming 10 Oct from Tubac (DT) and Patagonia (GB). A Brown-crested Flycatcher near L. Pleasant 21 Sep (TC) was also very late. Tropical Kingbirds were reported at a number of new se. Arizona locations during Aug and Sep, but one at G.F.P. s. of Phoenix 1 Oct (RJ) and an incredibly late individual seen and heard in Gilbert 15 Nov-7 Dec (M. Wehman; ph. RJ) were only the 7th and 8th *Marticoa* records. Something was definitely going on with Cassin's Kingbirds this fall, with no fewer than 30 reported around the se. in Oct and Nov, including several lingering into Dec. A Thick-billed Kingbird at H.R.P. 21-27 Sep (TC) was a first for *Marticoa*. West-



Only a sixth state record and the first since 1981, this Glaucous-winged Gull was found in Palo Verde, Arizona on 23 (here 25) November 2003 by Troy Corman. It remained into winter and furnished the first record away from the lower Colorado River. Digiscoped photograph by Mark Stevens.

ern Kingbirds were found lingering late into the fall at Nogales 31 Oct (MPo, JBo) and in Mesa 11 Nov (R. Mendez). Single Eastern Kingbirds, always a nice find in Arizona, were in Pasture Canyon 2 Sep (JP), Eagar 11 Sep (ph. GHR), and the Agua Fria R. near Arcosanti 23 Sep (B. Pranter et al.). Rounding out the "kingbird" list, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was along the Vermilion Cliffs 5 Aug (C. Olson, S. Osborn), representing one of the few n. Arizona records. One of the Rose-throated Becards that summered at the Patagonia Roadside Rest Area was last reported quite late on 24 Sep (m. ob.).

The only Northern Shrike of the season was one reported on Black Mesa 20 Nov (CL), where this species is likely regular in winter. Casual anywhere in the state during fall, a Yellow-throated Vireo was along the S.P.R. near Escapule Wash 28 Aug (M. Pretti); another was in Granite Basin 18 Sep (CST), establishing a first Prescott area record. Unusual were at least 4 Cassin's Vireos found in Oct in ne. Arizona, where this species is casual (CL et al.). Still considered casual in the state, single Red-eyed Vireos were reported from B.T.A. 1-7 Sep (CST, ph. K. Rademaker) and from Granite Reef Picnic Area 9-14 Sep (SG).

By mid-Sep, it became clear that there was at least a minor movement of corvids into se. Arizona. Small numbers of Steller's Jays were scattered around at odd locations throughout the season, such as a small flock in the Mule Mts. 15 Nov (TW et al.) and 2 near Elfrida 29 Nov (TW et al.). Western Scrub-Jays made a more substantial irruption in the early Sep, but numbers decreased later in the season. More unusual was a Mexican Jay along the riparian area near Tubac 9 Nov (MMS, JBo); this species is virtually never recorded away from its breeding habitat. Of interest was a Purple Martin at Pasture Canyon 2 Sep (JP); there are few N.I.R. migrant records for this species. Very late was a single Violet-green Swallow along with several late Barn Swallows at Green Valley S.T.P. 26 Nov (K. McBride).

Mountain Chickadees occasionally move into lowland areas during irruption years; this

fall a flock of up to 5 was present at B.T.A. 8-18 Nov (H. Fibel, B. Demaree et al.). Other perids and nuthatches also seemed to be on the move, with extralimital reports of Bridled and Juniper Titmice and no fewer than a dozen reports of White-breasted Nuthatches from lowland locations. Boring on the amazing, Arizona's 2nd Carolina Wren was found visiting a feeder in Tolleson 21 Sep-11 Oct (ph. TFG); the previous Arizona record was a territorial bird present at Cook's L. for nearly two years. Very late for the N.I.R., a single House Wren was in Pasture Canyon 19 Nov (CL). Greater-than-usual numbers of at least 6 Winter Wrens were reported from around the state this fall. A few lowland Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported; one was along the Agua Fria R. near L. Pleasant 23 Oct (JBA), and another was at B.T.A. 27 Oct (K. & L. Bielek). The now-famous pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers that nested successfully during the spring and summer at Patagonia L. remained in the same area through Nov. Incredibly, several additional Black-capped Gnatcatchers were located during the fall season: one was along Proctor Rd. near Madera Canyon 9 Aug (MPo, JBo, TFG), one was seen and heard calling in California Gulch 15 Aug (SH), a pair was located in Montosa Canyon, Santa Rita Mts. 1 Oct+ (TRH, BM, PS et al.), 2 were reported from the s. end of California Gulch 24 Oct (K. Graves), and another pair (perhaps offspring of the breeding pair?) was reported from Sonoita Cr. above Patagonia L. 31 Oct+ (JBo, MMS).

Although a regular breeder in the oak zone of the Huachuca Mts., Eastern Bluebird is accidental in the adjacent riparian zone, with only one previous record; this fall, one was reported along the S.P.R. near Hereford 29 Nov (MM). The only report of Rufous-backed Robin this season was of one along Sonoita Cr. above Patagonia L. 21 Nov+ (R. Shaw, m. ob.; ph. GHR). Varied Thrush is always an interesting find in Arizona; one on Black Mesa 20 Oct (CL) provided only a 2nd local record, one was in the Inner Basin, San Francisco Peaks 23 Oct (CST et al.), and one turned up

at the B.T.A. 30 Nov+ (RD et al.). Gray Catbirds away from breeding areas included singles in Tubac 27 Aug (M. J. Iliff, D. Cooper), in Flagstaff 13 Sep (J. Griffith), and near Portal 2 Nov (GB). Certainly out of place was a Brown Thrasher at Bog Hole, San Rafael Grasslands 9 Aug (R. Bowers); at least 3 others were reported at a more expected season in Oct and Nov. An extralimital Sprague's Pipit was found at the sod farm near Scottsdale 18–27 Oct (PD, m. ob.); there are very few previous reports in the state away from natural grasslands. Phainopeplas appeared to be on the move, with several reports away from normal areas of occurrence, including one at Page 25 Aug (G. Nealon), a late individual at Keams Canyon 15 Sep (CL), and 10 at Concho L. 28 Sep (JV).

WARBLERS THROUGH GOLDFINCHES

A first-year Olive Warbler, a species rarely if ever seen in the lowlands, was reported from Sonoita Cr., Patagonia 10 Oct (GB). Above-normal numbers of Tennessee Warblers were reported, with singles at B.T.A. 17 Sep (SG), at Patagonia L. 19 Sep (SH), along Granite Cr. 24 Sep (†CST), and in Tucson 18–23 Nov (CST, S. Birky et al.). A late Nashville Warbler was at S.W.T. 23 Oct (CST). Only 2 Northern Parulas were found, one at Gilbert 26 Oct (ph. J. McMorrin) and one at S.W.T. 11 Nov (BS). Several late Yellow Warblers were reported, including individuals that lingered into Dec in Tucson and sw. Phoenix. A Chestnut-sided Warbler at Greer 23–24 Aug (DR) represented one of the few *Apache* records. Another was reported from Scottsdale 1 Nov (JBA).

It was a banner fall for Magnolia Warblers in the state, with singles reported from the S.P.R. 26 Sep (†SH), at Agua Fria N.M. 1 Oct (W. Anderson et al.), along the Agua Fria R. below L. Pleasant 9 Oct (JBA), along Tanque Verde Wash, Tucson 11 Oct (WR), and at the Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix 13 Oct (T. Chew et al.; ph. RJ); this species is casual in the state. Less rare in the fall, a Black-throated Blue Warbler was also along the Agua Fria R. below L. Pleasant 24–29 Oct (JBA, ph. RJ), while another was in Prescott 27 Oct (CST). One of the better warblers of the fall, a male Black-throated Green Warbler was at Patagonia L. 30 Oct (JBo). Another casual warbler in the state, single Blackburnians were found at Cameron 23–24 Sep (JC, CL), at Willow L., Prescott 4 Oct (CST), and along the Agua Fria R. below L. Pleasant 9–12 Oct (JBA, †RJ). Outstanding was a report of a male Yellow-

throated Warbler in lower Carr Canyon 22 Aug (M. Pretti). A Grace's Warbler in Sawmill Canyon 22 Oct (GH) was very late. One of the rarer warbler sightings of the season was a Bay-breasted Warbler along Sonoita Cr. above Patagonia L. 30 Oct (JBo). It was an impressive season for both Black-and-white Warblers and American Redstarts statewide, with no fewer than 15 and 14 reports, respectively.



A most accomplished skulker, this Carolina Wren in a Tolleson, Arizona yard 21 September 2003 provided only the second Arizona record of the species—and possibly the westernmost record anywhere. Photograph by Bill Grossi.

Prothonotary Warblers were found along the Agua Fria R. below L. Pleasant 11 Sep (JBA) and at Sierra Vista S.T.P. 12 Oct (B. Ison, J. Hays). No fewer than 20 Northern Waterthrushes and 6 Louisiana Waterthrushes were reported, greater-than-usual numbers for each for a given fall season. Roughly normal numbers of Hooded Warblers were found this fall, with one in Garden Canyon 10 Aug (K. Kaufman et al.), one at Arivaca 21 Sep (DP, B. Ashton et al.), and one at Tucson 18 Oct (MMS). Up to 2 Wilson's Warblers lingered into Dec at S.W.T. (GB et al.). At least 4–5 Painted Redstarts were found at low-elevation sites during the fall, with a number lingering into Dec. A family group of up to 4 Rufous-capped Warblers once again remained in French Joe Canyon, being last reported in mid-Sep (m. ob.).

A number of Summer Tanagers also lingered later than usual, with at least 2 seen well into Nov. We received a credible report of a Scarlet Tanager from Peppersauce Canyon 6 Oct (P. Norton). Most of Arizona's reports come from Oct and Nov. A late Western Tanager was in Nogales 25 Oct (MPo, MMS). Interesting was a Rufous-winged Sparrow singing in Guadalupe Canyon 14 Aug (ph. RH), a few km from the border with New Mexico, where there are no reports of this species. Unprecedented were no fewer than 27 individual Clay-colored Sparrows found statewide in Sep and Oct; this species is typically casual to rare in the state during the fall

and winter. Extralimital Grasshopper Sparrows included one in Pasture Canyon 27 Sep (JP, T. Linda) and one at Willow L. 14 Nov (CST). Easily the bird of the fall was the first Arizona record of the long-overdue Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow found and well documented at AVS.T.P., Tucson 7–8 Oct (GB, m. ob.; †, ph. RH, ph. CBe). Both Swamp and White-throated Sparrows were reported widely this fall. The only Harris's Sparrow of the season came to a feeder in Eagar 30 Nov+ (DR). The newly discovered sod farm near Scottsdale was the place to be for longspurs this fall, with up to 5 McCown's 25–27 Oct (PD, RJ et al.), one Lapland 7 Nov (ph. RJ), and up to 50 Chestnut-collareds during most of Oct (RJ, m. ob.).

Although it was difficult to determine the actual number, no fewer than 40 Painted Buntings were reported statewide during Aug and Sep, an unprecedented number, with a majority coming from the Portal area and another 12 in one day just over the border in Rodeo, NM (RWE). Similarly, at least 25 different Dickcissels were reported in Sep, a much higher-than-usual number than for a single fall season. Another species that was off the charts in terms of reports this fall was Bobolink, with no fewer than 14 found in Sep and Oct. A Common Grackle was reported from the S.P.R. near Hereford 9 Nov (MM, J. Woodley), a species that is casual at best in the state. Very few Lawrence's Goldfinches were reported this fall, with a couple of reports coming from cen. Arizona only. A relatively large influx of American Goldfinches was noted on the N.I.R. in mid-Nov, with 42 at Pasture Canyon 19 Nov (CL) and 47 at Cow Springs L. 22 Nov (CL), both local high counts.

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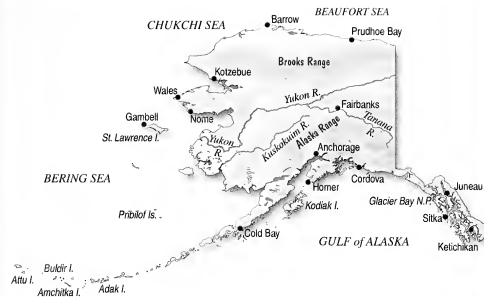
Alaska

Essentially a repeat of weather conditions and storm patterns of last year, fall 2003 matched its predecessor's amazing highlights, with superlative finds from all points of the compass. Even without decent Aleutian Islands coverage, this year's rarities from the Region's outposts were remarkable all season long. Because of steady mild and mostly storm-free conditions well into November, Alaska breeders, especially passerines, made a systematic and early out-migration, which seemed odd given the extremely late initial accumulating snowfalls and ice-up. Waterbirds and some semi-hardy ferals did linger into the winter season, mostly from the North Gulf of Alaska coast and various Southeast locales. A first-ever fall survey from St. Paul Island in the isolated Pribilofs was as fruitful—albeit with mostly Nearctic wanderers—as recent years' Gambell summaries. Among the numerous highlights were accounts of six new Pribilof species and five first records for the autumn season. With this year's consistent Bering Sea coverage came further examples and evidence of an offshore drift of many boreal-forest breeders, which has historically punctuated fall seasonal highlights. With these and recent data from St. Lawrence Island and from Nunivak Island, it appears that many "resident" and migrant passerines from the Mainland end up offshore in very small numbers and focused in a narrow time-frame between the last week of August and the last week of September. Dedicated coverage from other communities, mainly along Alaska's extensive coast from Nome to Ketchikan, contributed excellent supporting documentation for numerous rarities and extralimital species, such that our knowledge of fall dispersal and distribution of migrants and vagrants now rivals that from the spring season.

Abbreviations: A.B.O. (Alaska Bird Observatory); S.E. (Southeast Alaska); S.C. (South-coastal Alaska); U.C.I. (Upper Cook Inlet). Referenced details, specimens, photographs, digital photographs (dph.), and videotape are on file at the University of Alaska Museum. *Italicized place names* denote especially unusual locations for the noted species.

LOONS THROUGH CRANES

Arctic Loon reports came only from the Bering Strait and included singles near Nome 20 Aug and offshore at Gambell 31 Aug, 6 Sep, and 2 Oct (WINGS). Lehman recorded an excellent



Yellow-billed Loon passage from the Gambell seawatch, where he noted 98 mostly alternate-plumaged ads. moving eastward, presumably from staging areas, 22 Sep–8 Oct, including a record maxima 28 on 25 Sep (PEL). Perhaps because coastal coverage within their range is sparse, we have few data on the timing and direction of Yellow-billed Loon movements, especially offshore, thus singles at St. Paul I. 6 & 23 Sep and 3 Oct (ST. PAUL) were of interest as well. A single Pied-billed Grebe from Sitka's productive Swan L. 15 Sep was the season's lone find (MLW, MET).

Fortunately to combine work at sea fishing commercially with birding, JBA sits in the "catbird seat" for pelagic finds in the North Gulf: his highlight this season was a Pink-footed Shearwater off Kodiak 22 Aug. Certainly a good portion of the North Pacific's vast Short-tailed Shearwater population was feeding off Gambell at the nw. tip of St. Lawrence I. in mid-Sep, when Lehman submitted a conservative estimate of 1.2 million birds there 20 Sep (PEL et al.). Not unprecedented but noteworthy inshore were single Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels near Cordova 5 Oct (MB, AL) and Ketchikan 21 Oct (AWP, SCH), with a storm-related Leach's

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Storm-Petrel also in Ketchikan the same day. Up to 2 Double-crested Cormorants were seen at St. Paul I., where casual, 16 Sep–8 Oct (ST. PAUL).

Perhaps because of the unusually protracted waterbird season, waterfowl highlights were decidedly minor and without clear patterns. Of the few notables, a Snow Goose, casual in the Pribilofs, was on St. Paul I. 6 Oct (ST. PAUL), and a flock of probable "Tule" Greater White-fronted Geese was near Juneau 6–9 Sep (MS, PS, RJG, BA)—including one with a neck-collar radio-transmitter that had been fitted while the bird was in molt. This form is casual in S.E.; most birds have been thought to make non-stop flights to and from Cook Inlet breeding sites and the Columbia R. estuary. Still casual

SA The staff of the *M/V Tiglax* had the fortune of finding and photographing a subad. **Shy Albatross** (*Thalassarche cauta*) near Kasatochi I. in the cen. Aleutians 4 Aug (ph. BB et al.), a first for the Region. The observers have provided documentation that suggests the bird was of the taxon *salvini*, which is treated either as a race of *cauta* or, increasingly, as a separate species, *Salvin's Albatross* (*T. salvini*). Details and photographic documentation provided by the cadre of observers are being circulated, and the final disposition of the record will be reported in a subsequent report here.

Previous North Pacific records of individuals in this species complex include one of nominate *cauta* from Washington waters (1 Sep 1951), two of *salvini* from California waters (10 Sep 2000, 27 Jul 2001), one of apparent *salvini* from Hawaii at Sand I., Midway (8 Apr 2003), plus others not identified to subspecies off Washington (22 Jan 2000), Oregon (10 Oct 1996), and California (24 Aug 1999, 29 Jul 2000, 17 Sep 2000). North Pacific records (now 10) thus fall between early Apr and late Jan, with half of those from Aug–Sep.

for the Region and especially away from S.E., was a female Wood Duck in the Cordova area 31 Aug (AL). The s. Bering Sea arrival of Eurasian Wigeon was well-tracked on St. Paul I.: the first 2 were noted there 18 Sep, followed by additional birds to a peak of 16 on 7 Oct, as fall coverage came to an end. Two drake Tufted Ducks reported from Cordova 16 Sep (AL, JM) were odd (especially for this mild season); most fall arrivals from w. Aleutian sites, where small numbers are regular, come later in the month. S.C. records of the species are almost entirely from late fall and early winter. Such is also the case for Steller's Eider, a molting drake of which was nicely documented from Petersburg in S.E. 8–10 Oct (†WP); most of the few prior S.E. records come from Nov and later.

A juv. Northern Harrier at St. Paul I. 22–24 Sep and probably later (ST. PAUL), only the 2nd ever for the Pribilofs, added to the pattern of most fall Bering Sea/Aleutian records. S.E. observers attempted a few hawk-watches at strategic locations, mainly at open water crossings, and turned up decent raptor concentrations, including "lots more than normal" Red-tailed Hawks off Baranof I.'s se. flank near Port Alexander throughout Sep (AB); a peak 61 raptors (of seven species of regular migrants, excluding Bald Eagles) along the beach n. of Juneau 14 Sep (GVV); and 12 American Kestrels and 37 Red-tails near Ketchikan 22 Sep (AWP, SCH), a new local high count. These numbers are somewhat surprising, as it has been assumed that most fall migrant raptors moved s. and e. across the Coast Range via the larger mainland river watersheds. The Pribilofs' first ever Merlin ventured offshore in the Bering Sea, where casual, to St. Paul I. 18 Sep (ST. PAUL).

American Coots gathered at Sitka's Swan L. beginning 8 Oct and reached the season's high count of 5 through Nov (MLW, MET). One to 3 near Juneau 19 Sep–mid-Nov (MLK) were the only others reported. A lone Sandhill Crane found St. Paul I. 27 Sep (ST. PAUL), the Pribilofs' first ever in fall, while a group of 20 Sandhills drifted over Kodiak's Narrow Cape 7 Oct (JD, SD), where there are few fall reports.

PLOVERS THROUGH AUKLETS

Pacific Golden-Plovers appeared more numerous than usual at several sites where they are annual but found in sporadic, inconsistent numbers. These included a record-high seasonal total of 335 from Gambell (21 Aug–8 Oct), where most regular, with a few lingering to 5 Oct (PEL); a daily maximum of 89 at St. Paul I. 24 Sep (ST. PAUL); another good tally of 250 at Kodiak's Narrow Cape 28 Sep (SS); a good local count of 10 at Gustavus 30 Sep (ND, PV); and 2 juvs. in Ketchikan 7

Sep (AWP, SCH), where rare. Mongolian Plovers at St. Paul I. totaled 5 between 27 Aug and 12 Sep (ph. DL, ST. PAUL); these and a single farther n. at Gambell 26 Aug (DWS, SB) were the only ones noted. Piston located a staging group of 45 Black Oystercatchers on the outer coast of Dall I. in S.E. 10 Oct (AWP), where conditions probably typically



One of four juvenile Wood Sandpipers on St. Paul Island this fall, this bird stayed 12 (here) through 14 September 2003. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

support singles or small groups in winter. Shorebird attractions otherwise were marginal this year, with the highlights including a Greater Yellowlegs at Safety Sound near Nome 20 Aug, where casual (vt. WINGS); a record late for Kodiak Lesser Yellowlegs 5 Oct (JBA); a good fall tally of 4 Wood Sandpipers at St. Paul I. between 26 Aug and 1 Oct (ph. DL, ST. PAUL); at least 4 Solitary Sandpipers from three s. S.E. sites 6–11 Aug (m. ob.); an average peak total of 9 Gray-tailed Tattlers from St. Paul I. 31 Aug (ST. PAUL); a casual-in-fall Temminck's Stint at St. Paul I. 31 Aug–3 Sep, plus a juv.



This Black-tailed Gull provided Ketchikan's fourth record 1 and (here) 2 October 2003. Alaska has about 20 other records of this Asian species. Photograph by S.C. Heint.

Long-toed Stint (also casual in fall) at Paul I. 16–20 Aug (DL, GB, vt. PEL, WINGS) and a juv. Little Stint (casual; DL, GB) 8–9 Aug as well as a record-late Least Sandpiper there through 24 Sep (ST. PAUL); and a very rare Silt Sandpiper 10 Sep at St. Paul I., a local fall first (ST. PAUL). Rare but regular species included several Red-necked Stints at both Gambell and St. Paul I. and single juv. Ruffs at St. Paul I. 15–16, 26, & 29 Aug (ST. PAUL). A record-large flight of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at Gambell and St. Paul I. included 74 for the season at

Gambell and many more on St. Paul, where the single-day peak was of 66 birds 29 Aug (ph. DL), but the season's total was almost impossible to calculate. Very high numbers of Long-billed Dowitcher were noted at St. Paul I., including a count of 113 there 8 Sep (ST. PAUL).

Based on fall surveys of staging Bar-tailed Godwits in the cen. Yukon–Kuskokwim Delta, biologists noted that this was the 5th consecutive year in which the proportion of juvs. in staging flocks was at or below 3% (BJM, REG). Such consistently low proportions of juvs. warrants enough concern that spring and breeding-season studies are planned for 2004 to evaluate the Alaska population's condition and demographic parameters. A juv. Red Knot was at St. Paul I., where casual, 24–25 Sep (ph. DL, ST. PAUL). Systematic coverage at St. Paul I. provided an excellent accounting of fall movements for nominate Rock Sandpipers, with the fall peak 509 on 8 Sep dwindling to 44 by 7 Oct (ST. PAUL). Cook Inlet winter sites begin concentrating these birds by early Nov, with this season's initial spike of arrivals coming on 9 Nov, when 15,453 were tallied on U.C.I.'s w. shore (REG). An early group of (probable) nominate-race Rock Sandpipers showed up on the e. side of U.C.I. near Beluga Pt. 22 Aug (TE, fide RLS), where there are few prior reports. One of the expected race *tschuktschorum* at Gambell 7 Oct was perhaps the latest for the n. Bering Sea (PEL). Casual away from the outer S.E. coast were up to 25

Red Phalaropes in Ketchikan after a storm 21–26 Oct, with another 2 even farther inshore on McDonald L. 23 Oct (AWP, SCH).

As is typical, the Ketchikan area grabbed all the attention for rare gulls, where fish-processing activities and geography concentrate vast numbers and a great diversity of fall larvae. Up to 3 Franklin's Gulls were at the waterfront there 17 Aug–7 Sep, while another individual showed up on the Mainland at McDonald L. 30 Sep–13 Oct (both AWP, SCH). Another ad. Black-tailed Gull also surfaced in Ketchikan, a local 4th, at the same spot as last fall's bird 1–2 Oct (AWP, ph. SCH). Two Glaucous-winged & Western Gulls were described from Ketchikan 21 Sep and 4 Oct (AWP, SCH), where they are regular puzzles in the gull hordes, while a clean ad. Western Gull was photographed at the waterfront 24 Oct (AWP, ph., 4SCH). Both hybrids and Westerns are casual here in fall. At least 4 Slaty-backed Gulls were described from both the Kodiak environs 16 Sep–13 Oct (RAM, ph.) and St. Paul I. 15–17 Aug (ST. PAUL). Lehman's Gambell area surveys have provided an excellent picture of late-season movements of four-year gulls in the n. Bering Sea. Over the past few autumns, he has noticed

small numbers of vagrant Herring Gulls and Glaucous-winged Gulls off St. Lawrence I. This year's numbers for both species were unprecedented, highlighted by "flights" of 73 and 66 Herring Gulls 3 & 4 Oct and an even more amazing 104 and 89 Glaucous-winged Gulls, also moving westward past the n. side of this island, on the same two days (PEL). Recent data published for St. Mathew I. indicate a rising trend in Glaucous-winged Gull populations at the species' n. limits, certainly corroborated by Lehman's notes for the past few years.

The Gambell seawatch produced sightings of a single basic-plumaged Marbled Murrelet 5–7 Oct (†PEL) and 2 and then a single Kittlitz's Murrelet 5 Sep and 2 Oct (PEL), both casual species in the n. Bering Sea. Something drove unprecedented and widespread numbers of Crested Aululets into nearshore waters at Kodiak, beginning abruptly with a few thousand moving past Narrow Cape 15 Nov (SS) and peaking with "tens of thousands" just offshore there 27 Nov (OH, *file* RAM). Although thousands winter in small and dispersed groups in the greater Kodiak area offshore waters, these numbers and movements were surprising.

DOVES THROUGH PIPITS

Two early Morning Doves—singles in Ketchikan 7–13 & 15 Sep (AWP, SCH and a single e. of Cordova 19 Oct (KB, NB)—were the season's only finds. A lone Northern Hawk Owl crossed the Coast Range and appeared on the coast near Juneau 1 Oct (GVV); there are few S.E. records. Widespread and early Northern Pygmy-Owls forecasted a fine fall showing, with multiple sightings from Gustavus/Glacier Bay to Ketchikan. Most observations were centered in the Juneau area, where at least 6 birds were present 15 Oct–18 Nov+ (m. ob.; *file* GVV). Northwest of Juneau were another 3 near Pt. Couwenen 17–18 Oct (MB) and at least 2 in Gustavus 5 Oct–30+ Nov (ND, PV). (Ones or twos are more normal in fall, mainly from Juneau and S.E.)

An amazing group of 125 Vaux's Swifts staging around Juneau's Fish Cr. 12 Sep (GVV) was certainly one of the Region's highest ever counts, while 2 in Ketchikan 27 Sep (AWP) were record late for that locale by 12 days and nearly record late for the entire Region. Two solitary Fork-tailed Swifts hawked about protected bluffs at St. Paul I., one 26–31 Aug and the other 28 Aug only (†DL, ph. Brad Murphy, ST. PAUL), only the 5th and 6th records for the Pribilofs. Most of the Region's 15+ records come from early autumn. After a hiatus of several years, Costa's Hummingbirds reappeared, with an imm. well documented as a Kodiak first record 29 Aug–20 Oct (ph. RAM) and an ad.



In company with a few Glaucous-winged Gull x Western Gull hybrids among Ketchikan's fall gull hordes, this adult Western Gull was photographed 24 October 2003. Most of Alaska's few records come from the Ketchikan area in fall. Photograph by S. C. Heintz.

male to the e. at Cordova 5 Sep–31 Oct (ph. AL et al.). Most of the Region's few records come from S.C. sites. Two Rufous Hummingbirds reached offshore to Kodiak, where casual, 25 Aug and 26 Oct (ph. RAM), while a female in Juneau 11–12 Oct (GVV) was another of the Region's few Oct reports. A Belted Kingfisher at St. Paul I. 10 Aug (DL) provided the 3rd Pribilof record.

What a rare thrill to report here the occurrence of a Eurasian Wrenneck at Gambell, an alert bird that spent most of 2–5 Sep feeding on various insects and larvae on a decaying whale carcass (vt., †PEL, dph. PD, WINGS). Most readers know of the Region's (and continent's) only prior record, a specimen found dead at



The first of two Varied Thrushes on St. Paul Island this fall, this bird frequented a small mine cut 24 September 2003. It was one of several North American strays on the island during three weeks of northeasterly winds in September. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

Wales on 8 Sep 1945. The appearance of this Eurasian breeder follows previous years' extreme rarities at Gambell from similar Palearctic ranges, whose travels must have taken them to the e. Bering Sea in "reversed" migration across n. Eurasia. Five Red-breasted Sapsuckers scattered around much of Kodiak I. 14 Oct–28 Nov (ph. RAM, DP, PP, TH, BR, MD) represented an exceptional fall push away from

traditional breeding and migration corridors, which range typically to the Yakutat area of n. S.E. Single Interior, boreal forest *septentrionalis* Hairy and *nelsoni* Downy Woodpeckers (ph. MM) ranged to the coast in S.E., where casual, with one each reported from Juneau mid-Oct into Dec and 26 Oct, respectively (*file* GVV; ph.). Notable Northern Flicker finds included a single in the alpine zone at Kodiak 3 Sep (IB), where casual, and 2 out in the Bering Sea, where also casual, at St. Paul I. 15 & 27 Sep (ST. PAUL).

A mild early season must have provided fine conditions for insectivorous species, since the only significant tyrannid report was of a Western Kingbird, rare in fall and a first for Ketchikan, 3 Sep (AWP, ph. SCH, TLG, CF, JFK). Nearly all of the Region's

sporadic reports come from Jun and Jul. Only one Sky Lark report came in, a single at St. Paul I. 26–29 Sep (ST. PAUL), a first in fall for the Pribilofs. A Horned Lark of the Asian race *flava* was noted at Gambell 12 Sep (PWS) and another on St. Paul I. 8 Oct, the latter only a 2nd island record for the species and subspecies (ST. PAUL). Single Bank Swallows moved offshore to St. Paul 28 Aug & 4 Sep (ST. PAUL), where occasional in fall, while a group of 10 at Juneau 14 Sep (GVV) and a waif Barn Swallow at Cordova 12 Oct (AL) were both pushing near the season's late extremes. The Cordova bird was probably S.C.'s latest ever. Mostly single Interior Black-capped Chickadees in the Juneau area 5 Oct–29 Nov (LB, DM, BA, MH, SZ, GVV) were notable and included a flock of 4 on 8 Nov; these represent the highest incursion numbers for the Juneau area. Casual in the Bering Sea, and mainly in fall, a single Red-breasted Nuthatch reached St. Paul I. for the first time on 31 Aug (ph. DL, ST. PAUL).

The dispersal of Mainland boreal-forest breeders offshore into the Bering Sea appears to be a regular fall phenomenon, according to data accumulated over the past 20 years. Additional examples this season included 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets at St. Paul I. 19 & 27 Sep (ST. PAUL), where casual, and a single Ruby-crowned to Gambell 23 Sep (PEL), about the 4th record in fall there, and up to 3 on St. Paul I. 19–29 Sep (ST. PAUL). If there could be such a thing as a "cooperative" Middendorf's Grasshopper-Warbler, it was the individual in the Gambell middens 5 Sep (GW, vt., †PEL, PD et al.) that scurried around in taller vegetation to glean insects. Eight of the Region's 12 records of this casual visitor come from fall (30 Aug–25 Sep), with the remaining four from 10 Jun to 11 Jul. Lehman's Gambell forays, along with earlier fall records totaling 5 birds since 1978, reveal that Dusky Warbler is an annual migrant, at least in the Bering Sea, with another single—Gambell's 6th—located

there 14 Sep (†PEL). All Gambell records have been since 1997.

Numbers of Trans-Beringian passerines were considered to be above average at Gambell and the Pribilofs. Of these, single imm. Bluethroats were seen 23 Aug and 25 Sep on St. Paul I., where casual (ST. PAUL). An imm. Red-flanked Bluetail at St. Paul I. 5 Oct (ph., †DL, ST. PAUL) was quite late, one of few fall reports, and a 2nd fall and 3rd ever for the Pribilofs. Returning Gray-cheeked Thrushes from c. Siberia provided record-high numbers at Gambell, with 28 total counted 27 Aug–15 Sep (PEL); 2 were at St. Paul I. 4 & 10 Sep (DL). Occasional off the Mainland into the Bering Sea was a Hermit Thrush also at Gambell 16 Sep (vt. PEL), with 3 at St. Paul I. 19–25 Sep (ST. PAUL), where there are few fall records, probably due to lack of coverage. Adding to the extralimital thrush list were single Varied Thrushes on St. Paul 24 & 29 Sep (ph. DL, ST. PAUL), a Pribilof first and 2nd for fall and only the 2nd and 3rd for the island. Casual in the Bering Sea, 4 American Robins were noted on St. Paul I. 19 Sep–2 Oct (ST. PAUL).

A Northern Mockingbird, casual and sporadic in its appearances in the Region, was found near Cordova 28–29 Jul, a first local record (KB, AL et al.). Siberian Accentor made its best showing ever in the Region, with a season tally of 3 at Gambell 3–22 Sep (vt. PEL, G. Ewing, WINGS) and another 2 to the s. at St. Paul I. 3–7 Oct (ST. PAUL), the first for the Pribilofs.

WAGTAILS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS

Bering Sea observers noted above-average numbers of migrant Yellow Wagtails, mainly within the standard time-frames, with the exception of a very late individual at St. Paul I. 27 Sep through 1 Oct (ST. PAUL); there are few later departure dates for the Region. The Region's first ever fall-season Pechora Pipit skulked around the Gambell middens, where 3 singles were documented 9–14 Sep (vt., †PEL, PD, WINGS). Given this species' retiring habits, we may never fully understand its fall Bering Sea status. It was also a banner year in the Bering Sea, and elsewhere, for Red-throated Piptits, with record counts, both at Gambell, with 94 for the season 21 Aug–21 Sep (PEL), and at St. Paul I., with a peak of 49 on 29 Aug (ST. PAUL). Possibly related to and synchronous with that strong showing were S.E. reports, where the species is casual: one in Ketchikan 7 Sep (AWP, SCH) and 2 in Juneau 7–20 Sep (GVV, MS). American Piptits appearing to be of the Asian race *janponicus* were also noted in very high numbers at Gambell, where 26 between 27 Aug and 28 Sep were counted, the single-day high count being of 13 birds present 30 Aug–3 Sep. On St. Paul I.,

between one and 3 birds were seen most days 1–27 Sep, with a high of 6–8 on 12–18 Sep.

Ketchikan finally produced a Cedar Waxwing nest, with young, 13 Aug (AWP, SCH), while the only extralimital away from S.E. was a single n. in the Gulf at Kodiak 15 Sep–29 Oct (ph. RAM). A few Cedars probably wander into S.C. each fall. Of the surprisingly few late warblers, highlights included a single Yellow Warbler in Ketchikan 27 Oct (AWP, SCH) and one Wilson's in Juneau 17 Nov (GVV). More noteworthy were offshore warblers in the Bering Sea, where all parulids are casual. Highlights included 2 Townsend's at St. Paul I. 7 & 18 Sep, the Pribilofs' first ever (ST. PAUL), 2 Blackpolls there 4–9 Sep, also the Pribilofs' first (ST. PAUL), and a lone Wilson's Warbler at Gambell 22 Sep (PEL). The season's solo Palm Warbler was documented in Ketchikan 19 Oct (AWP, ph. SCH), a 5th for that locale.



This Common Rosefinch, found by Paul Lehman 1 September 2003 at Gambell, Alaska, remained until the next day, a third fall record there. Photograph by Phil Davis.

As is typical in autumn, emberizids were at the fore, from the Bering Sea and S.E. in particular. Bering Sea oddities included a total of 3 American Tree Sparrows, the firsts in fall for the Pribilofs, at St. Paul I. between 23 and 25 Sep (ph. DL, ST. PAUL); 2 Chipping Sparrows at Gambell 16–19 Sep & 3 Oct (vt. PEL, PWS); an incredible first Bering Sea record of Alaska's 5th ever Clay-colored Sparrow, also at Gambell, 20 Sep (vt., †PEL); a Lincoln's Sparrow at St. Paul 23 Sep, a Pribilof first (ST. PAUL); 2 Lincoln's Sparrows at Gambell 9–11 & 19 Sep, only the 2nd and 3rd in fall for St. Lawrence I. (PEL); and amazing seasonal totals of 10 Fox Sparrows 30 Aug–25 Sep and 17 Golden-crowned Sparrows on St. Paul I. 29 Aug–7 Oct (ST. PAUL). Of the 8 Dark-eyed Juncos found at St. Paul I., single *oreganus* were described 18–20 Sep and 4–5 Oct (ST. PAUL). Although a few Nearctic sparrows venture into the Bering Sea most years, this season's totals were especially impressive. Three Swamp Sparrows in S.E.—a single on the Mainland at McDonald I. 13 Oct and 2 in the Ketchikan area 29 Oct & 2 Nov (AWP, †SCH)—provided the 16th local records,

by far the bulk of Alaska's complete total.

Three separate Little Buntings turned up around Gambell 25 & 27 Aug and 2–4 Sep (vt., †PEL, WINGS), where nearly a decade's worth of surveys has revealed this n. *Emberiza* to be an almost annual autumn visitor. As in the prior fall, dispersing McKay's Buntings appeared at Gambell 3 Oct (flock of 7; PEL), while a season total of 6 ad. male McKay's Buntings at St. Paul I., where also very conservatively identified, spanned 2–7 Oct, the high count of 3 coming from the last date (ST. PAUL). Continuing a recent fall trend, another Black-headed Grosbeak was discovered in S.E., an imm. near Ketchikan 26 Sep (vt., †TLG), a local first. A short but decent description of an imm. Oriole, seen briefly near Ketchikan 2 Sep (AWP, †SCH), certainly sounded like a Bullock's Oriole, but the observers thought that the observation time did not permit conclusive identification. Fringillid highlights from the

Bering Sea included a female Common Rosefinch at Gambell 1–2 Sep (vt., †PEL, WINGS, DM et al.), a 3rd St. Lawrence I. fall record, 3 Bramblings on St. Paul I. 10 Sep–3 Oct (ST. PAUL) and one at Gambell 9–16 Sep (J. Huntington, vt. PEL), up to 3 Red Crossbills left over from the summer invasion at Gambell to 29 Aug (vt. PEL), and a season-high 9 Pine Siskins in the Gambell middens 21 Aug–4 Oct (vt. PEL, WINGS), where there had only been a few prior reports. A total of 3 Pine Siskins at St. Paul I. between 6 and 18 Sep were equally noteworthy (ST. PAUL).

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British Columbia & Yukon

From droughts to floods, fire to ice—British Columbia experienced all extremes this season. A strong ridge of high pressure stayed off the coast until the first week of September. As a result, storms were directed across northern sections. During the first weekend of the month, a 90-minute deluge hit the Fort Nelson area, resulting in cars floating down the streets. Meanwhile, the parched southern quarter of the province's interior sections was going up in smoke, as numerous wildfires consumed both forests and some unfortunate adjacent urban areas. The ridge began to weaken during the first week of September, providing enough moisture to allow fire-fighting crews to finally gain an upper hand on the blazes. The autumn storm season began in mid-October, as a series of powerful storms barreled onto the coast, overfilling what had become nearly empty reservoirs and squelching the lingering fires. Following two weeks of Pacific storms, the fog turned more northerly, and most of the province was enveloped in cooler air, which lingered through most of November. The Yukon experienced a fairly typical fall, with most species departing on schedule and winter conditions sweeping the territory by mid- to late November.

Abbreviations: P.G. (Prince George), R.M.B.S. (Reifel Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Ladner), R.E.B.O. (Rocky Point Bird Observatory, Victoria), S.T.P. (Sewage Treatment Plant), Whse. (Whitehorse, Yukon).

LOONS THROUGH COOT

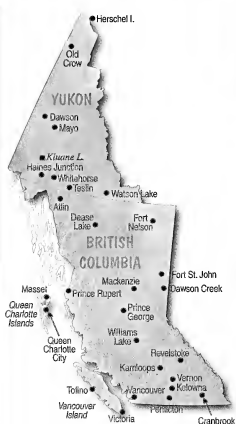
Two Red-throated Loons were at Pentiction, 17–20 Sep (FW, LN et al.) for a very rare Okanagan occurrence. A group of 5 Western Grebes, casual in the Yukon, was on Schwatka L. 3 Oct (HG, CE). Northern Fulmars washed ashore in Oct, both alive and dead, suffering from starvation and dehydration. Six live birds were found on Long Beach 19 Oct (AD et al.), and 40 birds

were turned in to the local bird rehabilitation center. Severe ocean conditions may have prevented the birds from feeding. Highlights from a cruise boat s. of Hecate Strait included 750 Northern Fulmars, 500 Sooty and 4 Pink-footed Shearwaters, 40 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, and a single Laysan Albatross 8 Aug (TS, SHM). The range and numbers of Double-crested Cormorants continue to grow in the province, with a pair successfully breeding in the Creston Valley W.M.A. (LVD) and the highest count ever in Tofino, of 360 on 28 Nov (AD). Interior outliers included singles at Wardner 16 Oct (PD) and Castlegar 7–18 Aug (EB), increasing to 3 at Castlegar on 3 Sep (EB).

Cattle Egrets were noticeably absent except for 6 at Nelson 10 Nov (JG). Likely the same Black-crowned Night-Heron that was at Vaseux in Jul was there again 13 & 17 Aug (RJ; AB). An imm. White-faced Ibis was first located at Boundary Bay 18 Sep (KL), then found in a ditch in Delta 20 Sep (Rto), and finally seen in Langley 27 Sep (Jide Rto) for a 2nd Vancouver area record. A very early ad. Emperor Goose, seen in flight with Snow Geese in Delta 12 Oct (Rto, CJ), provided the lower mainland with its first record in five years. The only Ross's Goose of the season was a single at Creston 25 Sep (LVD, PMC). An ad Rock Ptarmigan was a rare find on Grouse Mtn. 21 Nov (ph. LM). American Coots bred on the Whse. sewage lagoons, with 2 ads. and 2 downy young 1–2 Aug (HG, BD). The high count of coots there was 166 on 3 Oct (HG), and the last bird was seen 29 Oct (FG), by which time the lagoon was nearly frozen over.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Black-bellied Plovers were found in record numbers in Salmon Arm, with 11 on 19 & 28 Sep (DGC). One of the Region's Pacific Golden-Plover hotspots, Tofino, furnished 6 on 8 & 10



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Oct (AD), and a late individual was present there 23 Oct (AD). Two Pacific Golden-Plovers alongside 2 American Golden-Plovers provided a nice study at the Whse. sewage lagoons 14 Sep (ADM, CE, HG). American Avocets are casual visitors to the s. coast in fall, where 3 birds remained at the Serpentine R. mouth 9–30 Nov (JA). Rare away from the Peace R. area, a juv. Hudsonian Godwit was at R.M.B.S. 14 Sep (IP), and another was in Isawwassen 23 Oct–2 Nov (PC et al.). Western Sandpipers were present in record numbers in Salmon Arm, with 127 on 23 Aug (DGC), and Bairds Sandpipers were there in numbers not seen there for many years, with 232 on 29 Aug (DGC). The Vancouver area's 12th and 13th records of Red-necked Stint were both from Boundary Bay: an alternate ad. 7 Aug (GLM) and a juv. 30 Aug and 3 Sep (fRto, JF). The Vancouver area's 8th record of White-rumped Sandpiper was a basic ad. at R.M.B.S. 18 Sep (Rto). Single juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were at Whse. sewage lagoons 12–14 Sep (CE, HG, ADM); Viaduct Flats, near Rolla 20 Sep (MPH); Saanich 23 Sep (GLM); and Tofino 17 & 23 Oct (AD). Rare in fall was a Dunlin at the

SA The Region's first confirmed record of Whooping Cranes was furnished when a pair was discovered near Prince George last summer. The pair continued their movement along the Fraser R. to Dome Cr. 10 Aug (RZ) and finally on to the McBride area 22–28 Aug (JH, vt. JS, ph. GS). During this time, there were a number of sightings that would suggest the following flight path: 30 Jun–6 Jul Prince George area; 7 Jul–7 Aug Fraser R. to Dome Cr.; 7–13 Aug Dome Cr. to McBride; 14–28 Aug McBride area (Figure 1). Since these birds were unbanded, it was not possible to establish their origin or their life-history, although one would assume that they are part of the Wood Buffalo N.P. flock. This occurrence leaves more questions than answers, such as: why would a pair of ad. Whooping Cranes arrive in British Columbia when others are still tending to chicks? Assuming they experienced a failed nesting attempt, where was that attempt made? What are the chances that these birds actually arrived during spring migration and thus had a chance to seek out new breeding sites?



Figure 1. The probable route traveled by the Whooping Crane pair in British Columbia, 30 June to 28 August 2003. Map by Virginia Maynard.



This Spotted Owl at Jericho Park, Vancouver, British Columbia 30 September 2003 is one of perhaps 10 that remain in Canada. Photograph by Calvin Gehlen.

Whse. sewage lagoons 24–27 Oct (CD, HG). Juvenile Ruffs included singles at Boundary Bay 13 Sep (Mfo, Sfo) and Courtenay 22–26 Sep (AM, NM et al.). As Northern Fulmars were washing ashore, small numbers of Red Phalaropes were in inshore waters, with one at Tofino's airport 19 Oct, 3 at Tofino 20 Oct, and 4 at Long Beach 22 Oct (AD). S. Yukon also enjoyed juv. Red Phalaropes at the Whse. sewage lagoons, where 2 there 12 Sep (CE), 3 there 1 Oct (CE, HG), and 2 lingering to 3 Oct (HG).

A Little Gull was sighted in Comox 11–12 Sep (JF NH, GLM et al.), a first local record. A juv. Glaucous-winged Gull, very rare in fall, and a second-year Glaucous-winged x Herring Gull hybrid were at the Whse. landfill 5 Nov (CE). An ad. Slaty-backed Gull was found at the Cumberland Landfill 29 Nov (tJF) and later relocated 6 Dec at the Cumberland S.T.P. (tJF), while another ad. was in Delta 2–30 Nov (Rto). The only interior Sabine's Gulls were singles: one seen flying across Kelowna's floating bridge 15 Sep (RJC) and an ad. at the Whse. Sewage lagoons 11–12 Sep (HG, ph. CE). A second-year Crested Auklet furnished the 2nd provincial record when discovered at R.P.B.O. 5 Sep–3 Oct (AR, ph. JJ et al.). It was often in the company of Rhinoceros Auklets between Pedder Bay and R.P.B.O. The precipitous crash of Whitehorse—the Yukon's only—Rock Pigeon population, which numbered over 500 in 1997, has brought the species nearly to the point of extirpation there. Some 42, likely the whole population, were counted there 21 Oct (CE).



The incredible Crested Auklet at Rocky Point Bird Observatory, Victoria, British Columbia (here 23 September 2003) stayed in the ocean between the observatory and Pedder Bay, usually in the company of Rhinoceros Auklets. See the Pictorial Highlights for a color image. Photograph by Jukka VanTammen.

Northern Pygmy-Owls were fairly conspicuous in the cen. interior, suggestive of a widespread southward/downslope movement that may result in above-average numbers in the coming winter (Jde JB). A Spotted Owl, one of few remaining in Canada, was in Jericho Park 30 Sep (ph. HD et al.), an extraordinary Vancouver record. The most recent surveys found fewer than 10 birds in the province. A hummingbird at Royston feeder, s. of Courtenay, was finally confirmed as an ad. male Rufous Hummingbird 29 Nov (ph. AM et al.), one of very few Nov records for the Region.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FINCHES

Rare in the lower mainland, an imm. Lewis's Woodpecker was in Delta 30 Aug (Rto, JF). A pair of White-headed Woodpeckers was at the w. end of Green L., s. Okanagan 6 Aug (RaC, CaC). A record-late Willow Flycatcher was at R.P.B.O. 15 Oct (JJ, JG). Vancouver's first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was an imm. at R.M.B.S. 1 Oct (Rto, MM). The Yukon enjoyed its first and 2nd Scissor-tailed Flycatchers: a male near Dawson City 3–4 Aug (CD, RO et al.) and an imm. first found in Tofino 24 Aug (JW) and later relocated in Ucluelet 2 Sep (BS). A Tropical Kingbird was in Ucluelet 23–24 Oct (BSI), and another was found later in Tofino 12–13 Nov (AD), where this species is almost annual. Two late swallows, one confirmed as a Cliff, were at the Whse. sewage lagoons 7 Oct (HG). An imm. Barn Swallow of Eurasian subspecies was in Delta, a first Vancouver area record 1–4 Nov (tRto). A Western Scrub-jay was in Ladner 19 Oct–30 Nov (DK et al.). A Rock Wren on Mt. Albert Edward 21 Aug provided one of few modern Vancouver I. records (JF, NH, AM).

A cold front dropped dozens of American Robins in Whse. 19 Sep, with two flocks totaling 130 noted in Whse.—Porter Cr. (CE, PS) and another 200 in downtown Whse. (CE). Among the robins were a Gray-checked Thrush 20 Sep (CE) and a Swainson's Thrush 19 Sep (HG). A Gray Catbird, rare on Vancouver I., was at R.P.B.O. 16 Sep (GLM, SM). Almost annual, a Red-throated Pipit was at Boundary Bay 13 Sep (Rto). Rare in the Okanagan, a Tennessee Warbler was banded at Vaseux 10 Sep (BL, SO). Nashville Warblers rarely wander to Vancouver I., yet one was in Duncan 21 Sep (DM). An ad. male Chestnut-sided Warbler at Creston 6 Sep (LVD) provided

a new addition to the West Kootenay area checklist. A Palm Warbler was in Vernon 4 Oct (CS), where this species rarely occurs. An imm. Blackpoll Warbler was a rare sight in Richmond 26 Sep (Rto, JO, TK). A window-killed Ovenbird was picked up near Victoria 1 Sep (JH, ph. MN) and sent to the University of Victoria. The Yukon experienced an unusually high number of warblers that bred to the se. of the territory: this year's catch at the Albert Cr. Banding Station at Upper Liard through Aug and Sep included 36 Magnolia Warblers (latest 31 Aug) and 27 American Redstarts (latest 4 Sep) (TMK). An imm. male American Redstart fledged through a yard in Whse. 22 Aug (PS, CE). A Wilson's Warbler was very late in Nakusp 18 Nov (GSD).

An imm. or female Western Tanager remained very late at R.M.B.S. 10–30 Nov (ph. JI et al.) and was joined by a 2nd on 20 Nov (JI). More often seen in spring, an imm. Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Kelowna 29 Sep (CC) furnished the latest Okanagan record; an imm. female was in Richmond 26 Sep (JO, TK). An ad. Brewer's Sparrow was found in Duncan 9 Nov (DM). A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was found at Viaduct Flats, Sydney 10 Oct (Jde CSa). The Yukon's only previous fall record of Song Sparrow was in 1943; reports this year included one apparently lingering on a possible breeding territory at Judas Cr., Marsh L. area 8 & 11 Sep (CE) and one feeding with Dark-eyed Juncos at Watson Lake 14 Sep (TMK). A cold-front fallout 20 Sep produced a flood of sparrows, with about 500 Dark-eyed Juncos, along with 20 American Tree Sparrows, 100 White-crowned Sparrows, and one Chipping Sparrow tallied in downtown Whse. (CE). An ad. White-crowned Sparrow remained at a Dawson City feeder 16–30 Nov (ML). An ad. male Brambling was in North Vancouver 20 Nov (RB).

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Oregon & Washington

The Region's fall weather can be summarized by two words: warm and dry. From August through October, the Region's temperatures averaged about 2° C above normal, though in November, temperatures dropped, averaging about 2.5° C below normal. August was exceptionally dry, with most of the Region experiencing less than half of normal rainfall. Subsequently, precipitation was only 70-90% of normal, excluding western Washington, where several large October storms caused widespread flooding. There was no clear effect of weather on birds this fall, excepting that October and November windstorms carried many starving Northern Fulmars into Washington's sheltered marine waters.

The fall was a good one for rarities. There were 29 records deserving boldface, including three potential first state records. Among vagrants, warblers were particularly well represented, with 25 species reported. Wandering woodpeckers also made the news, including several unprecedented occurrences. The season's big headline, however, was one of numbers. Consider the following single-site, single-day totals: 150,000 Red-throated/Pacific Loons, 800,000 Sooty Shearwaters, 50,000 Northern Shovelers, 150,000 scoters, 34,000 American Coots, 33,000 scup, 8000 Black-bellied Plovers, 6000 Mew Gulls, 15,000 Vaux's Swifts, 200 Lewis's Woodpeckers, 4000 Violet-green Swallows, and 300 Chestnut-backed Chickadees. Additionally, state record high counts were set for Great Egret, American Kestrel, Marbled Godwit, Surf-bird, Long-billed Dowitcher, South Polar Skua, Yellow Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Black Rosy-Finch. Why? Part of the answer likely lies in increasing observer attention to common species. Though perhaps not as "good" as actual population increases, this is still a most welcome trend.

Abbreviations: F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., 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); F.N.P. (Point No Point, Kitsap, WA); Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark, WA); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla, WA). "East-side" and "westside" denote locations east and west of the Cascade crest, respectively.

LOONS THROUGH QUAIL

A total of 150,000 Red-throated/Pacific Loons flew past Boiler Bay, Lincoln 20 Nov (PP). Oregon's 2nd Arctic Loon stopped at Yaquina Bay, Lincoln 22-23 Nov (FWH). Up to 200 Common Loons gathered on Wickau Res., Deschutes



5-19 Oct, an impressive concentration for a freshwater location (JS, C&MM). Representing a modestly subpar fall, single Yellow-billed Loons were at Port Townsend, Jefferson 8 Nov (S. McDougall), Rosario Head, Skagit 8-14 Nov (G. Bletsch), and N.S.C.B. 24 Nov (TR). For the first fall in at least 10 years, there were no Clark's Grebes reported from w. Washington. In w. Oregon, several pairs with young remained at F.R.R. to 29 Aug (JS), but only one was found elsewhere, a lone bird at Floras L., Curry 6 Sep (D. Heyerly).

Fall pelagic trip coverage included 10 trips out of Westport, one out of Ilwaco, and four off the cen. Oregon coast. The 9 Aug Westport trip had one Laysan and 596 Black-footed Albatrosses (BT); otherwise, Black-footed numbers were mediocre, and no other Laysans were reported. A Short-tailed Albatross, banded in Japan this spring and radio-tagged in the Aleutians this Aug, flew s. past Washington and Oregon during late Nov, ranging from 20 to 100 km offshore (R. Suryan); this Short-tailed was about the 7th for both Washington and Oregon.

Pink-footed Shearwater numbers were excellent, averaging over 300 per trip, and 16 Flesh-footed Shearwaters were reported from 30 Aug on, about average. Pink-footeds were also seen in above-normal numbers from shore, with tallies of 50 at Boiler Bay, Lincoln 21 Sep (PP) and Siltcoos L. outlet, Lane 28 Sep (J. Fontane). Buller's Shearwater numbers were quite low until 5 Oct, when 705 were found off Westport. Sooty Shearwater numbers were good in Aug,

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with two mid-Aug trips totaling 13,000 and 23,000, but most of the Sep/Oct counts were below 500. From shore, Sooty Shearwater numbers were excellent, with peaks of 800,000 along Clatsop Beach 25 Aug (L.C. MP) and 250,000 at Klipsan Beach, Pacific 17 Aug (MD, MLD); unlike as for fulmar, no unusual mortality was noted. Only 11 Short-tailed Shearwaters were found offshore, all in late Sep and Oct.

SA Northern Fulmars appeared in record numbers along the Region's coast. Peak tallies from Oregon's shore included 7000 at Boiler Bay 31 Oct (PP) and 5000 at Seaside, *Clatsop* 19 Nov (SW), and Washington's top coastal count was 800 at Westport 6 Nov (CW). Unfortunately, large numbers were found dead on beaches as well. Fulmars also staged an unprecedented invasion deep into the Puget Trough, where extremely rare. These birds arrived in two waves, one in mid-Oct and one in mid-Nov, both associated with strong westerlies. Peak counts included 109 at P.N.P., 11 Nov (VN) and 90 at Seattle 11 Nov (J. Nance). Past Puget Trough records have correlated somewhat with coastal die-offs, likely representing oceanic food scarcity. Notably, organized pelagic trips, almost all prior to Oct, gave little hint of the invasion to come, averaging under 200 per trip until 27 Sep off Westport, when 1231 were reported (BT).

However, a few Short-taileds arrived in the Puget Trough, where not annual, including 3 at P.N.P. 11 Nov (VN) and one at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 17 Nov (DD). Manx Shearwater sightings continue to proliferate. A Manx was off Deep Bay, *Lincoln* 16 Aug (T. Guy), 2 were at Leadbetter Point, *Pacific* 10 Aug (FCW), and one was at O.S. 1 Aug (F.M. Donahue); several others were reported from shore without documentation. A Wilson's Storm-Petrel over Astoria Canyon, *Clatsop* 13 Sep provided the 2nd Regional record this year and Oregon's first since 1996 (T.G.G., T. Shelmerdine, T. Snetsinger). Adding to the menagerie of tubenoses in the Puget Trough this fall was Skagit's 3rd Leach's Storm-Petrel, found in a Burlington parking lot 31 Oct (E. Lark, ph. KW). Atypically, several Leach's were reported from shore along the outer coast, mostly during mid-Oct and mid-Nov.

Westside flocks of American White Pelicans were formerly most unusual, but they have been found increasingly over the past few years. Groups of 25 and 34 spent most of the summer and then lingered into early Sep at F.R. and Sauvie I., respectively (m. ob.); the only W. Washington sighting was of 2 at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 30 Oct (DD). Great Egrets seem to be increasing throughout the Region. A tally of 144 at Ridgefield 25 Sep was likely a record count for Washington (S. Hagen), while 190 on Sauvie I. 14 Aug was equally unusual (HN). To the n., 9 Greats were found at scattered locations in *Snohomish* during Aug, unprecedented for the n. Puget Trough. A Snowy Egret was n. of its usual range at Toledo, *Lincoln* 9 Nov (C. Philo). Cattle Egret numbers remained very low: 5 near Sylvania, *Snohomish* 25 Oct-1 Nov (SM, DD), 3 at Dallesport, *Klickitat* 29 Nov (SJ), and singles at Florence 8 Nov+ (SM, DD), Astoria, *Clatsop* 2 Nov (Jde LC), and North Cove, *Pacific* 9 Nov (Pis, RS). A Green Heron, rare in e. Washington, was at Paterson Slough, *Benton* 28 Aug (C. Merkley), and up to 2 frequented Bingen, *Klickitat* 19 Aug-24 Sep (SJ). Black-crowned Night-Herons were well reported in w. Oregon, including one high in the Cascades at Gold L. near Willamette Pass, *Lane* 8-9 Aug (J. & K. Fairchild). Most unusual for fall, stray White-faced Ibis visited Tumalo Res., *Deschutes* 11 Aug (JM) and Vanport Wetlands, *Multnomah* 19 Sep (Jf, B. Sutes); almost all of the Region's vagrant ibis occur during spring/summer.

Two Pink-footed Geese of unknown origin graced *Hoquiam*, *Grays Harbor* 5 Nov+ (ph. RS,

PtS). This species has been recorded about 15 times in North America but never w. of Pennsylvania. Thus, captive origin would seem likely, but apparently Pink-footeds are exceedingly unusual in captivity in North America (per G. Toffic). The long-staying Port Angeles Emperor Goose remained throughout the period (BN). A Snow Goose at Sumner L., *Lake* 16 Aug was more than a month early and may have summered locally (PaS). Errant Ross's Geese included one at Fernhill Wetlands 9 Nov+ (MMI, HN), 2 at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* 10 Nov+ (JP), and one near Four Lakes, *Spokane* 10-11 Nov (MH, JA); this represents a better-than-average fall.

Seven eastside Eurasian Wigeon were found 22 Oct+. Eurasian Milfoil, considered a nuisance weed in Washington's waterways, is prime food source for many waterbirds. One



These two Pink-footed Geese were discovered at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor County, Washington on 2 November 2003, a week after passage of a storm system with powerful northeasterly winds. However these birds arrived here, they remained through the season and drew hundreds of birders to Washington's Outer Coast. Photograph by Ruth Sullivan.

heavily infested stretch of the Columbia R. near Vantage. *Klickitat* harbored 34,000 American Wigeons on 12 Nov, probably the largest concentration ever in e. Washington (RH, JT); one wonders how many Eurasians were hiding among the throng. Even more impressive, a report of 50,000 Northern Shovelers from L. Abert, *Lake* 14 Sep was unprecedented for the Region (T. Seager). A Common X Green-winged Teal near Florence, *Snohomish* 30 Oct provided a record-early arrival of Common Teal genes (SM), but no pure Common Teal were reported.

A male Tufted Duck x scaup hybrid was near Maryhill, *Klickitat* 28 Nov (DMA, vt. SM); no pure Tufteds were identified. Scap, also gathered in large numbers near Vantage, with 33,000 present 12 Nov, probably a Washington

record high count (RH, JT); the majority of scaup here are typically Lessers. A stunning concentration of 150,000 scoters was located between Cooks Chasm and the mouth of the Yachats R., *Lincoln* 4 Nov (R. Lowe). Both White-winged and Surf Scoters appeared in near-normal numbers on the eastside. Thirty-seven Surflets were found in the period 20 Sep-17 Nov, with a peak of 13 near Fishhook Park, *Walla Walla* 2 Oct (C. & F. Simonen), and there were 16 White-wingeds 27 Sep-17 Nov. Also noteworthy were 9 Surflets high in the Cascades w. of Santiam Pass at Big L., *Lincoln* 14 Oct (JF). A Black Scoter at McNary Dam 9 Nov added to only eight previous eastside records, most of which have been Sep-Nov (MD, MLD, J. Gatchett). Only 3 eastside Long-tailed Ducks were located: singles at Bingen, *Klickitat* 6 Nov (SJ) and 8 Nov near Parkdale, *Hood River* (SJ) and at McNary Dam (MD, MLD, PaS). The Common Goldeneye x Bufflehead hybrid returned to Wentatche, *Chelan* 28 Nov for the 3rd consecutive winter (DB).

An Osprey at Redmond, *King* 26 Nov was very late for Washington (M. Hobbs). White-tailed Kites are increasing on the Westside, as evidenced by 14 at Puget I., *Wahkiakum* 29 Nov (BT); one in the Cascades at Washington's Chelan Ridge Hawkwatch 7 Oct was clearly out of place (D. Harrington). Counts of 115 Sharp-shinned Hawks at Oregon's Bonney Butte Hawkwatch 4 Oct (D. Helzer) and 114 there 13 Oct (DB) were exceptional. There were 5 Red-shouldered Hawks in Washington this year. In w. Washington, a record-early bird was at Ridgefield 13-16 Aug (TA), another (or the same) one was there 2 Nov (TBT), and one was at Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* 14 Sep (T.E. Newbold). In e. Washington, 2 Red-shouldered were at Conboy N.W.R., *Klickitat* 4 Sep (JE). Red-shouldered Hawks also continue to increase in Oregon, with about 50 w. of the Cascades and, e. of the Cascades, 3 in

Deschutes, 2 in *Harney*, and Malheur's first near Vale in late Sep (E. Marple). Three Broad-winged Hawks were reported from the Chelan Ridge Hawkwatch, including 2 on 24 Sep (D. Harrington), while 11 passed the Bonney Butte Hawkwatch 4-30 Sep, including a peak of 8 on 30 Sep (MMI). A single late Broad-winged stopped at Fields, *Harney* 18 Oct (Maitreya). A Swainson's Hawk, extremely rare on the outer coast, was near Brookings, *Curry* 4 Oct (TR). A concentration of 60 American Kestrels at Conboy N.W.R. 5 Sep was likely a record for Washington (JE). The fall was better than average for Gyrfalcons, with 6 in Washington and one in Oregon, including early birds at Vantage, *Kittitas* 4 Oct (SM, C. Beachell) and Wicketup Res., *Deschutes* 11 Oct (T. Janzen). It was a distinctly subpar fall for Prairie Falcons

w. of the Cascades, with singles near Monroe, *Snohomish* 22 Nov (MB) and at F.R.R. 26 Oct (JS). A wayward Ruffed Grouse at Windust Park 15 Sep was approximately 80 km from the nearest suitable habitat and likely a *Franklin* first (†CW, F. Boesche). A total of 54 Mountain Quail was tallied along the N. Fork of the John Day R., *Grant/Umattila* 19 Aug, in an area where normally hard to find (MD, MLD). A collection of 34,000 American Coots took advantage of the milfoil near Vantage 12 Nov (RH, JT).

PLOVERS THROUGH ALCID

A tally of 8000 Black-bellied Plovers at Leadbetter Pt., *Pacific* 30 Aug was the Region's highest ever (CW). On the westside, the fall was a good one for Pacific Golden-Plovers but poor for Americans, with a final count of approximately 25 Americans, 68 Pacifics, and 21 unidentified. The peak count of 6 Americans and 38 Pacifics came from O.S. 4 Oct (CW, RTS, TN). On the eastside, however, American Golden-Plovers had their best year since 1996, with 6 detected 20 Sep–5 Oct, plus one early bird at Potholes Res., *Grant* 10 Aug (DG, ph. J. Flynn); most eastside records have been early Sep–late Oct. A Snowy Plover near Florence, *Snohomish* 2 Sep was only the Puget Trough's 3rd (ph. KW, JW); amazingly, the 2nd was just this spring in Seattle! Two Snowies at Stinking L., *Harney* 23 Sep were very late for the eastside (NS). An estimated 2000 Killdeer at Cold Springs N.W.R., *Umattila* 25 Sep was among the Region's largest concentrations ever (CC, JC). A Black-necked Stilt at Priest Rapids, *Grant* 5 Oct was about a month late (AS, ES), while one at the New R. 3 Aug was only the 3rd for well-birded Coots (J. Heaney). A flock of 24 American Avocets (rare on the westside) at F.R.R. 3 Sep set a westside record (D. Fix, DI, L. McQueen, PSh), while one at Alice Bay, *Skagit* 29 Nov+ furnished a record-late date for Washington (P. Webster). Four others were in w. Oregon 3 Sep–14 Nov.

This fall was exceptional for Solitary Sandpipers yet did not match autumns of 2001 and 2002. A total of 34 Solitaries was seen on the eastside, and 24 were on the westside, with a maximum of 9 at Othello, *Adams* 29 Aug (BF) and late birds at Y.R.D. 2 Oct (NL) and Finley N.W.R., *Benton* 6 Oct (RC, JF). A Whimbrel, rare on the eastside, visited Wenatchee/East Wenatchee 15–19 Sep (DB). The fall was a marvelous one for Hudsonian Godwits, with 5 in Washington and 3 in Oregon adding to about 41 previous Regional records; 6 were on the westside 20 Sep–19 Oct, another was near Ellensburg, *Kittitas* 21 Aug (†SDs), and a record-late bird was at Tokeland, *Pacific* 26 Oct–16 Nov (TR. Robinson, J. Hadley, ph. RS, †BT, TR. Lawson). For only the 2nd fall since 1975, there were no Bar-tailed Godwits documented. A count of 1400 Marbled Godwits at Tokeland 12 Nov shattered Washington's previous high count (E. Hunn). On the eastside,

where rare, 4 Marbled Godwits were at Heron L., *Spokane* 26 Aug (F. Haywood, J. Alonso), and singles were at Cold Springs Res., *Umattila* 3 Sep (CC), W.W.R.D. 11 Sep (TA), and LaGrande, Union 25 Sep (TB). An ad. Ruddy Turnstone, very rare for the eastside, was at Potholes Res., *Grant* 3–4 Aug (ph. DSc, DB). A gathering of 650 Surf-birds at the Siuslaw R. jetties, *Lane* 5 Aug provided a record-high Oregon count (J. Fontane, M. Iliff). A Red Knot, extremely rare in the Willamette Valley, was at F.R.R. 14 Oct (D. Arendt, DDW). Thirty Sandpefers, well above normal, were detected on the eastside, punctuated by 17 at Potholes Res. 20 Sep (DSc), the highest e. Washington tally since 1980. It was a good fall for Semipalmated Sandpipers, with 85 in Washington and 17 in Oregon, nearly evenly split between eastside and west. The peak tally was 20 at Lind Coulee, *Grant* 6 Sep (CW, RTS, TN), plus singles at Y.R.D. 1–3 Oct (BW) and L. Sammamish, King 1 Oct (C. Haynie) were the Region's first for Oct. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers appeared in numbers again this fall, with 17 recorded 15 Sep–27 Nov. The top count was 5 near Florence, *Snohomish* 8 Oct (JW, KW), while one near Walla Walla 27–29 Sep added to approximately 17 previous eastside records (MD, MLD). Silt Sandpipers were also reported in above-average numbers, with 47 on the eastside and 12 on the west; following the pattern of the last few years, some stayed quite late, including one at Soap L., *Grant* 22 Oct (IA), 3 at Lind Coulee 24 Oct (RH), and one near Florence, *Snohomish* 25 Oct (SM, DD). Seven Buff-breasted Sandpipers this fall was near normal: up to 4 at N.S.C.B. 23 Aug 2 Sep (TR, K. Fairchild), plus singles at Tillamook Bay 24 Aug (R. Smith), O.S. 26 Aug (†PS, RS), and Port Townsend, *Jefferson* 1–8 Sep (DW, BWA, ph. GGe, ph. RS). It was a Ruff fall again, with 11 found in the Region, including 3 on the eastside, from which there were only about 15 previous records: Lind Coulee 23 Aug (BL, NL), Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 11 Sep (TA), and Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 5 Sep (JM). Also of note was a Ruff at O.S. 29 Nov that was about two months tardy (PS, ph. RS); at least 4 different individuals stopped near Florence, *Snohomish* 30 Aug–25 Sep (JW, ph. KW, GA, vt. SM). It was another good fall for eastside Short-billed Dowitchers, with about 15 in Washington and 3 in Oregon, 25 Aug–11 Sep; one wonders if recent increases there are due to improved observer awareness. A Short-billed at Coos Bay 27 Nov was about a month late (TR). A Washington record-high 1510 Long-billed Dowitchers were near Florence, *Snohomish* 25 Oct (SM, DD). Continuing a long-term trend, offshore phalarope numbers were quite low, with peaks of only 262 Red-neckeds and 80 Redds off Westport 9 Aug. A gathering of 5000 phalaropes at Summer L., *Lake* 9–10 Aug was about evenly split between Wilson's and Red-necked (DT). Rare in the Willamette Valley, 4 Red Phalaropes were at Halsey, *Linn* 30 Oct (JF), one was at

F.R.R. 30 Oct (L. Gilbert), and another was at Fernhill Wetlands 18 Oct (L. Meserve).

Jaeger numbers offshore were rather unsatisfactory this fall, with Pomarines averaging a paltry 6 per trip and a total of only 14 Long-tailed Jaegers all season. In contrast, South Polar Skuas set records, with counts of 30 off Westport 5 Oct (BLB) and 7 off Newport 4 Oct (GG). Away from the coast, 4 Parasitic Jaegers were found on the eastside, where not annual, including 2 at W.W.R.D. 13 Sep (MD, MLD), another there 14–16 Sep (MD, MLD), and one at Soap L., *Grant* 17 Aug (ph. DSc, DB); a Parasitic at P.N.P. 19 Nov was about three weeks late (TA). There were 16 Franklin's Gulls away from e. Oregon, including 9 in e. Washington, 5 in w. Washington, and 2 in w. Oregon; this is, perhaps, average for the last few years but well below the numbers of a decade ago. Little Gulls have also declined over the last decade, and for the first fall since 1993, there were no Regional records. Heermann's Gulls again visited in good numbers, with 5000 at Siletz Bay, *Lincoln* in early Aug (PP, WH) and another 5000 flying s. past Boiler Bay, *Lincoln* 17 Nov (PP). A Mew Gull at Iowa Beef, *Walla Walla* 2 Sep was a month or so early for the eastside (SM), while a maximum of 6000 flew past Boiler Bay 2 Nov (PP). A tally of 10,000 California Gulls at Siletz Bay in early Aug was among the highest ever for the Region (WH, PP). Western Gulls very rarely stray from coastal waters, except along the Columbia R. and the Willamette R., where they are regular in small numbers e. to the Tri-Cities and in the n. Willamette Valley. Interior Western Gulls elsewhere this fall included one at Moses L., *Grant* 15 Nov (DSc) and *Josephine's* first at L. Selmac 17 Oct (DV). Five Oregon and 3 Washington Glaucous Gulls 13 Oct+ represented the best fall since 1994. An astonishing 15 Sabine's Gulls were found on the eastside 7–25 Sep; oddly, only one was found in the Puget Trough, at Dash Pt., *Pierce* 21–30 Sep (CW). Offshore, Sabine's seemed to pass through late, with 371 off Westport 5 Oct (BT) but none off Oregon during Aug and Sep (GG) and only 95 off Washington during the same time period (BT). A Black-legged Kittiwake, rare in the Puget Trough, was at P.N.P. 10–19 Nov (VN).

Only 5 Elegant Terns were found this fall, all along the Oregon coast 1–27 Aug. Common Tern numbers were exceptional on the eastside, with over 150 found during 1 Sep, punctuated by 41 at Sprague L., *Adams* 1 Sep (SM, BF). Arctic Terns were extremely scarce offshore; only 10 were noted all season. A Forster's Tern stopped at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 16 Oct (DD); they are nearly annual in the Puget Trough, mostly in Oct and Nov, considerably later than elsewhere in the Pacific Northwest. The 10 Forster's in w. Oregon were all during Aug, including maximum of 7 at F.R.R. 9 Aug (DI). Three juv. Black Terns at F.R.R. 3 Sep were present three weeks after the mass departure of local breeders (DI), and a very rare westside fall migrant was at Van-

port Wetlands, *Multnomah* 10 Sep (Jf). After a reasonable breeding season, Common Murre numbers appeared normal offshore. Several Cassin's Auklet counts exceeding 100 off Oregon and Washington seemed to indicate a rebounding population, as did an average of 2.5 Tufted Puffins per trip.

PIGEONS THROUGH PIPIITS

Rare on the eastside, 3 Band-tailed Pigeons were near Chinoock Pass, *Yakima* 30 Aug (AS, ES), and one was at McCall Basin, *Yakima* 24 Aug (AS, ES). Washington's 3rd Eurasian Colared-Dove was near Silvana, *Snohomish* 9 Oct (†DD). Oregon's 7th White-winged Dove was at Astoria, *Clatsop* 4 Sep (†MP). A w. Washington record-high 600 Mourning Doves were at Woodland, *Cowlitz* 29 Nov (SM, CW, RTS, TN). A Great Gray Owl was near Clearwater Guard Station, *Garfield* 20 Sep (P. Sprague); there are still very few records from Washington's Blue Mts. Representing a typical fall, single Boreal Owls were located at Freezeout Ridge, *Okanogan* 25 Oct (AS, ES), in *Willowa* near Tollgate 27 Sep and 26 Oct (MD, MLD), and at Todd L., *Deschutes* 4–10 Oct (PA, DS). Eugene's Vaux's Swift roost peaked at 15,000 in the period 16 Sep–3 Oct (DI), and a roost in n. Portland still had 10,000 on 13 Oct (R. Thompson). A stray Anna's Hummingbird was near Wapato, *Yakima* 8 Sep–5 Oct (AS, ES); this species is still rare in e. Washington away from *Klickitat*. Three Costa's Hummingbirds in Oregon this fall, all on the westside, was above average. The fall was a good one for Lewis's Woodpeckers, highlighted by a stunning 200 near Balch L., *Klickitat* 25 Oct (WC). Single Lewis's, rare in w. Washington, were at Mt. Pleasant, *Skamania* 1–14 Sep (WC) and Steigerwald L., *Clark* 15 Sep (WC). Acorn Woodpeckers wandered far and wide. One on White's Ridge, *Yakima* 1 Sep was only Washington's 2nd away from *Klickitat* (†RH), while another at Bend 20 Nov was *Deschutes*'s first (DH). Less displaced, but still noteworthy, was an Acorn near Oakridge, *Lane* 10 Sep (DI), and the small resident population in Washington persevered, with 5 found near Balch L. 20 Sep (J. Bragg). A Williamson's Sapsucker at Mary's Peak 2 Sep provided a very rare Coast Range record and was a first for *Benton* (D. Robinson); 2 seen 19 Sep were also just w. of the Cascade crest near Waldo L., *Lane*, where nearly annual (A. Prigge). Red-naped Sapsuckers are very rare w. of the Cascades, so singles at Vancouver, *Clark* 12 Nov+ (R. Korpi), Portland 19 Sep (GL), and near Brookings, *Curry* 21 Nov (DM, Phil Hicks) were noteworthy. Similarly, Red-breasted Sapsuckers are rare e. of the Cascades; thus, singles near Yakima 23 Sep (M. Roper) and at Lostine R. Canyon, *Willowa* 24 Sep (TB) were nice finds. Finishing off the cadre of stray woodpeckers, a White-headed at Summit L. 13 Aug was likely *Clackamas*'s first (E. Specht).

For the 5th consecutive fall, Least Flycatcher-

ers were identified in the Region, with singles at Wahluke Slope, *Franklin* 31 Aug (SM, BF, DSc) and at Hat Rock S.P., *Umatilla* 9 Sep (J. C. C.); most fall records have been late Aug–mid-Sep. A rash of tardy *Empidonax* in Oregon included a Willow at Portland 14 Oct (E. Knight), a Hammond's at Riley, *Harney* 18 Oct (CG), a Dusky at Malheur 12 Oct (J. Carlson), and a Pacific-slope at Portland 16 Oct (GL). Another Dusky at Eugene 8 Sep furnished a very rare fall Willamette Valley record (DI). Two Black Phoeebes were found in Washington, both probably returning birds: Ridgefield 13–22 Aug (†TA) and near Cathlamet, *Wahkiakum* 17 Aug–29 Nov (KK, vt. BT); Washington has only five records. Another Black Phoebe near Frenchlen 28 Sep was only the 2nd for heavily birded *Harney* (D. Smith). A Say's Phoebe near Silverdale, *Kitsap* 25 Oct was about the 12th for fall in w. Washington (BwA), while 6 in w. Oregon was near average. An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Steigerwald L., *Clark* 29 Aug was about the 16th for w. Washington (WC); most have been from mid-May through late Jul. Another Ash-throated near Lebanon, *Linn* 7 Aug was n. of that species' range in w. Oregon (B. Thackaberry). Washington's 5th Vermilion Flycatcher graced Nisqually N.W.R., *Thurston* 30 Nov (ph. C. Standridge); the late-fall date is consistent with previous records. There were 8 Tropical Kingbirds this fall, including early birds at Oysterville, *Pacific* 20 Sep (CW, ph. MD) and N.S.C.B. 25 Sep (†TR); of the remaining 6, 4 were in Oregon and 2 in Washington, with one at Gearhart, *Clatsop* remaining through Nov (MP, SW). A Western Kingbird near Ilwaco, *Pacific* 2 Sep was on the outer coast, where very rare during fall (D. Paulson). Washington's 3rd Scissor-tailed Flycatcher of the year, and 6th overall, was at Seattle 2 Aug (ph. S. MacKay, M. Miller), while another near Burns, *Harney* 3–23 Oct was about the 18th for Oregon (J. Schultz, NS).

There were 2 westside Loggerhead Shrikes: one at F.R.R. 16 Oct (A. Orahoske) and a late bird near Brownsville, *Linn* 20 Nov (R. Campbell). A Blue-headed Vireo in Eugene 10 Sep was Oregon's 9th and *Lane*'s first (DI, L. Irons); most previous records were 9 Sep–5 Oct. A Hutton's Vireo, extremely rare in e. Washington, was on White's Ridge, *Yakima* 6 Oct (BF). Four Blue Jays in Washington and 3 in Oregon, 12 Oct+ was near normal. Western Scrub-Jays continue to wander and colonize, with an especially lost bird in the Blue Mts. on Devil's Tailbone Ridge 1 Aug (P. Wik) and 4 at the Bonney Butte Hawkwatch 20 Sep (D. Manzer); less peculiar but also noteworthy were individuals in *Clatsop*, *Pacific*, *Shagit*, *Clallam*, and *Kitsap* 30 Aug–26 Oct. A kettle of 95 Common Ravens at Florence, *Snohomish* 9 Aug provided an exceptional count for the westside (SM, DD). A concentration of 4000 Violet-green Swallows at Woodland, *Cowlitz* 15 Sep was extraordinary (W. Weber). A Rough-winged Swallow near

Vantage, *Kittitas* 24 Nov was about two months late (B. Sundstrom). Though a far cry from gatherings of recent years, 50,000 Barn Swallows were near Dayton, *Yamhill* 24 Sep (D. Albright, C. Karlen), and 20,000 were at F.R.R. 17 Aug (DI, PSh).

The only lowland Mountain Chickadees were 4 in s. *Klickitat* 22 Sep–30 Oct (SJ). An estimated 300 Chestnut-backed Chickadees near Jewell, *Clatsop* 31 Aug likely set a Regional record (L.C.). A White-breasted Nuthatch near Wood L., *Mason* 18 Aug (MM) was a vagrant, but from where? With the Puget Sound population now extirpated, the nearest source would be either *S. c. aculeata* from *Clark* or *S. c. tenuisima* from *Kittitas*, both about 200 km away. A Rock Wren, rare w. of the Cascades in Washington, was on Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 22–24 Oct (BwA). Bewick's Wrens, like Western Scrub-Jays, continued to expand in the Region, leading to some birds appearing in most unlikely situations. Topping this fall's list was a Bewick's at nearly 1800 m near Bear Gap, *Yakima* 10 Aug (AS, ES); other notable strays were at Sprague L., *Lincoln* 28 Sep (MB, MH) and Frenchlen, *Harney* 10 Oct (MD, MLD). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Prineville Res. 15 Aug was a *Crook* first (ph. CG). A Mountain Bluebird, very rare w. of the Cascades during fall, visited Thornton Creek, *Lincoln* 27 Aug (D. Faxon); most such records have come from Nov. A Townsend's Solitaire at O.S. 19 Oct was on Washington's outer coast, where not annual (AS, ES). Gray Catbirds at East Wenatchee, *Douglas* 23 Sep (DB) and Tumalo S.P., *Deschutes* 6 Oct (SS) were late, though Washington records from mid- to late Sep have increased greatly over the last few years. Only 3 Northern Mockingbirds were noted in Oregon away from their localized *Jackson* breeding areas, while Washington had singles near Joyce, *Clallam* 2–4 Sep (K. Ladenheimer) and at Bingen, *Klickitat* 28 Nov (DMA, SM). Washington's 8th Brown Thrasher was at Spokane 1 Oct (W. Hall, JA). Long overdue, Oregon's first Red-throated Pipit defied conventional wisdom by appearing at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes* 6–11 Oct (C&MM, ph. DT); the Region's only other record comes from San Juan I. 14–16 Sep 1979.

Oregon's 3rd Blue-winged Warbler was at Riley, *Harney* 9 Sep (AC, D. Farrar, S. Steinberg). Washington's 2nd Golden-winged Warbler was on Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 11–12 Sep (ph. BwA, D. Watkins, BN); the first was in *Spokane* 20 Aug 1998. This fall's only Tennessee Warbler was at Redmond, *Deschutes* 2 Oct (K. Owen). Five Nashville Warblers in w. Washington early Aug–early Sep were most unusual; most w. Washington Nashvilles are found during spring. The westside's 4th Virginia's Warbler was at N.S.C.B. 11–13 Sep (TR, D. Lauten, D. Petty); past records were all from Oregon during fall. Washington's 12th Northern Parula was at North Beach, *Pacific* 7 Sep (vt. BT, T. Schooley); the two prior fall records were in 18

Aug and 1 Sep. A stunning 200 Yellow Warblers were in Tumalo S.P. 1 Sep (DH, S. Kornfeld). Adding to about 40 previous records, Oregon had 3 Chestnut-sided Warblers; near Sisters, *Deschutes* 1 Sep (H. Horvath), at Fields, *Harney* 3 Sep (vt. SM), and at Bend 7 Sep (J. Moodie). A Myrtle Warbler at Skagit City 9 Aug was about a month early (SM, DD). A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Tacoma 27 Nov was more than six weeks late (R. McNair-Huff). A Hermit x Townsend's Warbler at Wenatchee, *Chelan* 29 Aug was e of the Cascades, where Hermit genes are rare (SM). A Blackburnian Warbler, approximately Oregon's 10th, was near Sisters, *Deschutes* 19 Aug (DT); this was the earliest during fall by nearly a month. Vagrant Yellow-throated Warblers provided Washington's 2nd and Oregon's 5th record near Asoin 19 Oct (H. Vande Voorde, T.L. LaVoie) and at Frenchglen, *Harney* 1-26 Oct (S. Wright, ph. NS), respectively; the only previous fall record is of a bird that attempted overwintering in Okanogan, WA. Palm Warblers are very rare on the eastside and rare on the westside away from the outer coast. Stray Palms were widespread this fall, including 3 from the interior west and eastside birds at Malheur 13 Sep (NS) and 30 Sep-2 Oct (NS), Sprague L., *Lincoln* 28 Sep (MH), and 2 at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes* 9-11 Oct (D. Pettey). Adding to 14 previous records, Washington had 2 different Blackpoll Warblers at Lyons Ferry, *Franklin* 6 (TCW, RTS, TN) & 15 Sep (TCW) plus another bird at Sprague L., *Lincoln* 9 Sep (TIA); most prior Washington Blackpolls were late Aug-early Sep. Not to be outdone, Oregon had 5 Blackpolls 31 Aug-20 Sep; during recent years, Oregon has averaged about 2 per fall, with a great majority of these from the southeast. The Region's only Black-and-white Warbler was at Prineville Res., *Crook* 10 Aug (CG). An American Redstart at Ridgefield 16 Aug provided a rare westside record (WC), while 3 at Lyons Ferry, *Franklin* 30 Aug were an unusual number for migration on the eastside (SM, RH). Three Ovenbirds this season brought Oregon's total to nearly 50: Bend 7 Sep (JM), North Bend, Coos 16 Oct (S. Townsend), and Elk R., Curry 24 Nov (J. Rogers); most fall records have been during late Aug and early Sep. Very rare on the westside, a Northern Waterthrush was in Seattle 21 Aug (TA), and a more adventurous bird landed on a boat 17 km off Garibaldi, *Tillamook* 4 Oct (fide C. Roberts).

A Chipping Sparrow at Port Townsend, *Jefferson* 27 Nov was more than two months late (DWA). Washington's 5 Clay-colored Sparrows this fall were unprecedented, but a single in Oregon was somewhat disappointing. Notably, all were from the westside, including one at Steigerwald L., *Clark* 30 Aug, about two months early for the westside (WC). A migrant Vesper Sparrow, now noteworthy in W. Washington, was at Seattle 19 Sep (K. Aanerud). A single Lark Sparrow, rare on the Oregon coast, was at

Bayoccan Spit, *Tillamook* 7 Sep (DMA). A gathering of 275 Savannah Sparrows at Ediz Hook, *Clallam* 15 Sep set a Washington record (R. Rogers). Single Slate-colored Fox Sparrows were at Portland 1 Sep (GL) and Puget I., *Wahkiakum* 29 Nov (BT); recent records have demonstrated that this taxon is regular w of the Cascades, often occurring surprisingly late in the fall. Swamp Sparrow numbers were good again this fall, including 6 in Washington and 5 in Oregon; sightings from the eastside, where barely annual, included singles at Vantage, *Kittitas* 16 Oct (TA), Tumalo S.P. 7 Oct (SS), Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 9 Nov (DH), and McNary Dam, *Umatilla* 13 Nov (MD, MLD). Six Harris Sparrows this fall, 2 in Washington and 4 in Oregon, was subpar. A Slate-colored Junco at Palouse Falls, *Franklin* 15 Sep was record early for Washington (CW). A McCown's Longspur was described from Grayland Beach, *Pacific* 5 Nov (TMD, MLD); if accepted, this would furnish Washington's first record. Oregon's 2nd Smith's Longspur was in n. Portland 17-18 Oct (ph. S. Jagers); the first was near Florence, *Lane* 24 Sep 2000. Oregon had another exceptional fall for Chestnut-collared Longspurs, with a stunning 14 at Wickiup Res., *Deschutes* 4-10 Oct (DH), plus singles near Seaside, *Clatsop* 5 Oct (MP) and at Clatsop Spit 4-13 Oct (B. O'Brien, MP); there are about 18 prior records, mostly from early Oct—early Nov, including about six last fall. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Everett 14 Sep was only Washington's 4th from fall (TSM), while singles at Grants Pass, *Josephine* 12 Aug (DV) and Portland 12 Sep (MMi) provided a fairly typical fall total for Oregon. An Indigo Bunting at Fields, *Harney* 16-18 Oct was only the 7th for fall in Oregon, most of which have been during Nov (T. Janzen).

A Bobolink, rare on the Oregon coast, was near Florence, *Lane* 28 Sep (J. Fontane). A gathering of 5000 Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Corfu, *Grant* 8 Sep set a Washington record (RH). A Rusty Blackbird at McNary Dam, *Umatilla* 9 Nov added to about 13 previous Oregon records (MD, MLD, J. Gatchett); in Washington, singles near Kent, *King* 24-28 Oct (MB), near Brady, *Grays Harbor* 5 Nov (T. Peterson), and at Sedro-Woolley, *Skagit* 23 Nov (T.G. Bletsch) represented an average fall. Washington's 13th Common Grackle visited a race track in Auburn, *King* 15 Aug (A. Roedell); this was W. Washington's 3rd and the first since 1975. In Oregon, which averages about 2 Common Grackles annually, one was at Frenchglen, *Harney* 23 Oct (M. Boretta). A flock of 430 Brown-headed Cowbirds at Skagit City 13 Sep set a Washington record (SM, DD); this species has been increasing, especially as a winterer in the Region. Up to 200 Black Rosy-Finches frequented Steens Mt. 10 Aug-4 Oct, likely setting a Regional record (HN, NS, TR). A Pine Grosbeak, unusual on the westside away from the Cascades/Olympics, was near Elbow L., *Thurston* 2 Aug (Paul Hicks). A White-winged

Crossbill near Baldy Pass, *Okanogan* 26 Aug was the only report (B. Sundstrom). A small influx of Common Redpolls was noted in late Nov, with groups of up to 4 found in *Spokane*, *Grant*, and *Douglas* (MM, DSC, DB). *Shamania*'s first Lesser Goldfinch appeared at Underwood 27 Nov (Sj, C. Flick); Washington's breeding population is still restricted to *Klickitat*, but numbers there have been increasing, and so has the frequency of strays. Oregon's 6th Lawrence's Goldfinch visited Roseburg, *Douglas* 28 Aug-8 Sep (ph. L. Balaban); interestingly, previous records were all from winter and spring.

Corrigenda & addenda: The following records came to light at the most recent meeting of the Washington Bird Records Committee: a photograph of a Black-bellied Whistling Duck at Port Orchard, *Kitsap* 11 Jul 1997, a potential first state record. Specimens of the following, not previously noted in these pages, now reside at the University of Puget Sound: Mottled Petrel, O.S. 8 Feb 2003 and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Lind, Adams, date unknown.

The following sightings published in this column were not endorsed by the Washington Bird Records Committee owing to uncertainties about identification: Yellow-billed Magpie near Pasco 15-16 Jun 2002; Bay-breasted Warbler near Granite Falls 27 Jun 2002; and Common Grackle at Othello 3 Jul 2002.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Jim Acton, Gail Aslanian, Tom Aversera (WA), David Bailey (DBY), David Beaudette, Diane Bednarz (Skagit), Trent Bray, Mary Breece, Wilson Cady, Lee Cain, Rebecca Cheek, Alan Contreras, Craig Corder, Judy Corder, Merry Lynn Denny, Mike Denny, Don DeWitt (DDW), Scott Downes (SDs), Dennis Duffy, Joe Engler (Clark), John Fitchen (JFI), Jeff Fleischer, Bob Flores, Chuck Gates, George Gerds (GGE), Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Denny Granstrand (Yakima), Dean Hale, Randy Hill, Wayne Hoffman, Mark Houston, Stuart Johnston, Ken Knittle, Bruce LaBar (BLB), Bill LaFramboise (lower Columbia Basin), Nancy LaFramboise, Gerard Lillie, David Mandell (DMA), Judy Meredith, Tom Mickel (Lane), Craig and Marilyn Miller (C&MM), Mark Miller (MMi), Jim Moodie, Matt Moskwik, Don Munson, Harry Nehls (OR), Vic Nelson, Tracy Norris, Bob Norton (Olympic Pen.), Hal Opperman, Michael Paterson, Jason Paulos, Phil Pickering, Tim Rodenkirch, Doug Schonewald (DSc), Ryan T. Shaw (RTS), Paul Sherrill (PSh), Steve Shunk, Dan Stephens (Chelan), Andy Stepniwsky, Ellen Stepniwsky, Noah Strycker, John Sullivan, Patrick Sullivan (PS), Paul Sullivan (PaS), Ruth Sullivan, Jim Tabor, David Tracy, Dennis Vroman, Jan Wiggers, Keith Wiggers, Don Waggoner, Brad Waggoner (BWA), Steve Warner, Bob Woodley, Charlie Wright.

equal numbers of both sexes, 96% were imm. birds, and the ratio of 92% dark morph to 8% light morph indicated the birds were from the Gulf of Alaska. A likely Greater Shearwater was reported 5 & 12 Oct off *Monterey*, but the only details submitted were for the latter date, when the bird was briefly and not fully seen. Wilson's Storm-Petrels are annual from Jul through Oct off *Monterey* and *Marin*. This season's high count was 25+ off *Marin* 21 Sep (RS, SBT et al.). Quite rare inside S.F. Bay, Ashy Storm-Petrels were near Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 28 Sep (Paul Jones), 29 Sep (RSTh), and 28 Oct (RSTh). A flock of 400 Least Storm-Petrels on *Monterey Bay*, *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz* 15 Sep (ShJ) was a very high number, especially outside a major El Niño event.

A Red-tailed Tropicbird over EI. 29 Sep (ph. KNN) was the 7th in the Region and at the same location as the first state record in 1979. A Brown Booby off *Mendocino* 21 Sep (Mtb, †RyT, ph. †DLSh, †JRW, †CEV et al.) was a first for that county and the farthest n. in the Region. Brown Pelicans are very scarce away from the coast; a juv. in the interior at Clear Lake S.P. 19 Oct-6 Nov (JRW, DvW) was a first for *Lake*.

HERONS THROUGH RAILS

Least Bitterns were found at the Bear Creek Unit of San Luis N.W.R., *Merced* 6 Aug (JHG) and n. of Davis, *Yolo* 11 Aug (fide SCH). Reports of Cattle Egrets continue to be limited. The only significant number noted was 102 from s. of Dixon, *Solano* 30 Aug (Clu, LLu). Among a few wandering Aug birds was *Placer's* 2nd w. of Lincoln 21 Aug (TEa). White-faced Ibis were widely reported and lingered later than usual. Seventy birds at Bridgeport Res. 25 Aug (PJM) and the same number at Crowley L. 31 Aug (JLD) constituted new high counts for *Mono*; 2 at the former location 3 Oct (ES, Mike McClaskey) established a new *Mono* late date. Ibis lingered late at Crespi Pond,



This Little Shearwater, a first for California and the West Coast, was photographed just five kilometers off Point Joe, Monterey County 29 October 2003. Photograph by Debra L. Shearwater.

Monterey 2 Nov (Bruce Belknap), the C.C.F.S. Waterbird Pond, *Santa Clara* 4 Nov (RWR, FV), and Harkins Slough, *Santa Cruz* 22 Nov (fide DLSu). A single Black Vulture seen flying to roost with a Turkey Vulture at Arcata, *Humboldt* 8 Oct (DFx) was found nearby the next morning (ph. RbE, ph. GAB, m. ob.). This is only the 3rd record for the Region and the state.

sonal. An apparent family group of 8 Ruddy Ducks at over 2800 m elevation on the Upper Chain L. in Yosemite N.P., *Madera* (Kevin & Chris Enns-Rempel) likely established a new altitude record for this species in the park.

Coastal Northern Goshawks included juvs. over Hawk Hill, *Marin* 3 Oct (Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen), at Gray Whale Ranch, *Santa Cruz* 11 Oct (†SGe), and in w. Sonoma, *Sonoma* 4 Nov (RAR). Broad-winged Hawks in less-expected locations included birds e. of Casa de Fruta, *Santa Clara* 12 Sep (Paul Fox), at the Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 8 Oct (RJR), and over *Santa Cruz*, *Santa Cruz* 13 Oct (DLSu). Swainson's Hawks made a strong coastal showing, with 8 seen over *Marin*, *Contra Costa*, *S.F.*, *San Mateo*, and *Santa Cruz* 24 Aug-10 Oct. *Humboldt's* first Gyrfalcon (and the Region and state's 10th) was seen near the Eel River W.A. 16-23 Oct (KI, †DFx, Dominic Bachman, Eric Nelson); it was also seen crossing the water between the *Humboldt* jetties 27 Oct (fide DFx) and in the Arcata Bottoms 3 Nov (†KGR). Typically seen with flocks of Aleutian Canada Geese, the falcon was seen diving on



This leucistic Buller's Shearwater was in the same small flock of shearwaters in Monterey Bay as a melanistic Pink-footed Shearwater 4 October 2003. Photograph by Debra L. Shearwater.

Remarkably, the 2nd record was of a bird that wintered in the same area 19 Sep 1993-9 Feb 1994.

A Black Brant near Colusa, *Colusa* 27

them on the latter date. A Yellow Rail was flushed along Cordelia Slough, *Solano* 12 Sep (Conrad Jones) during levee grass cutting, and another was found dead at

Harkins Slough 25 Oct (ph. Bev Brock, Lynn Hemink), the first for *Santa Cruz* since 1905.

SHOREBIRDS

Twelve reports of American Golden-Plovers were submitted, none of them with documentation. Among these was a remarkably late juv seen at the Merced N.W.R. 20 Nov (*Merced's* 2nd, PJM, ADeM). Despite their being frequently reported, separating this species from the similar Pacific Golden-Plover is far more difficult than generally believed, and the true status, especially of adult birds, is unclear. Because of this, the C.B.R.C. recently voted to add this species to the state Review List. Consequently, records submitted without convincing documentation will no longer be published. A coastal Mountain Plover roosting with Snowy Plovers at Pajaro Dunes 13 Oct (Jane C. Warriner) was only the 3rd for *Santa Cruz*. Solitary Sandpipers made a strong showing, with at least 21 reported from 10 counties 3 Aug–1 Oct, 12 of these between 22 Aug and 2 Sep. A surprise inland Wandering Tattler was at Los Gatos, *Santa Clara* 22 Oct (Robert Power). A Hudsonian Godwit found 27 Aug in

SA This fall brought an impressive invasion by Lewis's Woodpeckers to the lowlands of the Region, as well as a smaller movement of Acorn Woodpeckers. The influx of Lewis's was first noted at several locations in late Aug and had generally played itself out by the end of Oct. Among the dozens of reports were numerous sightings from the coast, S.F. Bay, and the C.V., all areas where they are quite rare. A total of 61 noted flying over *Contra Costa* ridgetops 19 Sep–11 Oct (*SAG, JSL*) hints that this fall's movement was truly massive. The probable cause of this invasion was the apparent collapse of the acorn crop throughout much of the Region. Indeed, by the end of Nov, it had become clear that the Sierra foothill and Coast Range wintering strongholds were completely devoid of Lewis's Woodpeckers.

2nd and 3rd (both J.Lx). A faded alternate-plumaged Marbled Godwit at Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* 26 Oct–14 Nov+ (ph. m. ob.) was thought to be a Bar-tailed Godwit for much of its stay, until correctly identified on 10 Nov (DSg).

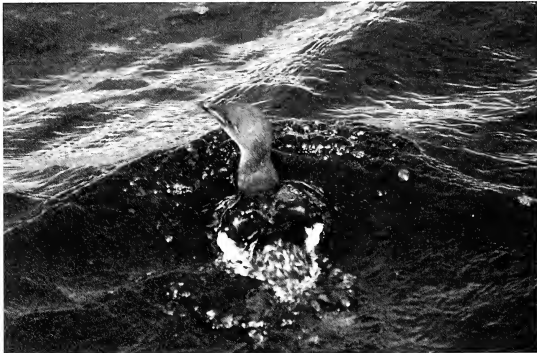
Good concentrations of Red Knots included 500 at San Leandro 25 Aug and 550 at Hayward 19 Sep (both Gerry McChesney, both *Alameda*). At least 28 Semipalmated Sandpipers, nearly all juvs., were reported 1 Aug–23 Sep, including *Shasta's* 2nd at the Redding WTP 1–3 Sep (†TEA, †BED, m. ob.). Most notable of many Baird's Sandpiper reports was that of 84 at Clam Beach 3 Sep (KGR), a record count for *Humboldt* and 2nd in the Region only to the 100 birds at Crowley L., *Mono* 6 Sep 1987. Three Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were found, including an early juv at Abbott's

Mono L., *Mono* included about 90,000 Wilson's 31 Jul and 60,000 to 66,000 Red-necked in early to mid-Sep (both Joe Jehl). Elsewhere, 7200 Red-necked on the Alviso Salt Ponds 31 Aug (MMR, MJM) nearly doubled the previous high count for *Santa Clara*. Good numbers of Red Phalaropes were blown inland into S.F. Bay (primarily *Santa Clara*) and to coastal *Santa Cruz* and *Monterey* 30 Oct–4 Nov. A single juv. was well inland with 150 Red-necked Phalaropes at West Valley Res., *Modoc* 12 Sep (LLU, RS et al.).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDES

South Polar Skuas are regularly encountered offshore in small numbers, but 29 in *Monterey Bay*, *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz* 4 Oct (Shj) was a high number. Very rare inland in the Region, a Long-tailed Jaeger was at *Shasta L.*, *Shasta* 30 Aug–6 Sep (TS, †BED, BY et al.). A Laughing Gull, rare and irregular along the Region's coastline, was at Wilder Ranch S.P., *Santa Cruz* 2 Nov (†SGe). Exceptional numbers of Franklin's Gulls were present in the Klamath Basin in spring and summer, and this carried over into the fall, with a high of 128 at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 14 Aug (DS). This number likely represents a high fall count for the state. A Franklin's Gull at Salt Springs Res. 27 Sep (†JCS) was a first for *Calaveras*, and one at Clear Lake S.P. 2 Sep (DvW) was the 2nd for *Lake*. Two imm. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found, one at Crowley L., *Mono* 22–23 Oct (†JLD, ph. CHw, Rosie Beach) and another at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery, *Sacramento* 25 Nov (ph. SNGH, JLD, †WEH, m. ob.). The latter was seen later that day at nearby Folsom L., *Placer* (Bwb, TEa). Arctic Terns are quite scarce away from the outer coast, so 3 juvs. at L. Tahoe, *Placer* 15 Sep (DS) were noteworthy. A Least Tern at MacKerricher S.P. 25–26 Aug (†DT et al.) was well n. in the Region and only the 2nd for *Mendocino*.

Craver's Murrelets are annual offshore, but 6 in *Monterey Bay*, *Monterey* and *Santa Cruz* 2 Aug (Shj) was a decent showing.



There were two Thick-billed Murres in the Middle Pacific Coast region this fall; this individual was photographed off *Santa Cruz* 4 October 2003. Photograph by Scott B. Terrill.

Alviso, *Santa Clara* (Dean Manley) was enjoyed by many 29 Aug–1 Sep. Remarkably, this bird was joined by another individual 30 Aug–1 Sep (JSL, ph. †m. ob.). Although missed for the next four days, both birds were seen one last time 6 Sep (ph. Jean Myers). Marbled Godwits at Trinity L. 16 Aug & 7 Sep were Trinity's

Lagoon, *Marin* 4–5 Sep (Jim White, ph. RS, SNGH, CCh); the others were at Eel River W.A., *Humboldt* 22 Sep (SMcA, KI, KGR, RbF) and the Palo Alto Baylands, *Santa Clara* 5 Oct (†Daniel Bump). A dozen Ruffs were found in seven counties, including an ad. male s. of Willows, *Glenn* 6 Sep (†JSL). Peak phalarope counts at

There were 2 Thick-billed Murres documented off *Mendocino* 21 Sep (v. Lt. Er, ph. †S.B.T., †D.L.S.H. et al.) and off *Santa Cruz* 4 Oct (†David Ward, †D.L.S.H., ph., †S.B.T., ph. RyT et al.). Annual in late summer and fall in recent years, Long-billed Murrelets were at Waddell Bluffs, *Santa Cruz* 19 Aug (†D.L.S.U.), MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 20–24 Oct (†D.T., †G.E.C., †J.R.W., †C.E.V.), and off s. Trinidad, *Humboldt* 30 Aug–2 Sep (P.A.H., m. ob.). All pelagic California records of this Asian species are from quite close to shore.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Six vagrant White-winged Doves were found coastally; the lone inland record was *Lake's* first at Kelseyville 30 Oct (†J.R.W.). Single Yellow-billed Cuckoos at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 11 Aug (found dead; *file* RS) and Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 13 Aug (found injured; *file* DR) continued a weak trend of post-breeding wanderers found dead or injured. A Lesser Nighthawk 17 Aug was the first for Hayward R.S., *Alameda* and a rarity for S.F. Bay (RJR). A hatchling Black Swift on the nest at Año Nuevo S.R., *San Mateo* 17 Aug represented the first breeding in two years at this once traditional site (RSTh). A White-throated Swift near Hopland 12 Nov was the first ever found in *Mendocino* in fall (CEV). A male Broad-billed Hummingbird at a Sonoma feeder 13–27 Nov (Karen Palmer, RLE, BDP, v. LLU, CLU, m. ob.) was the 2nd for *Sonoma* and just the 7th for the Region. Black-chinned Hummingbirds have long been considered very rare coastal visitors, though in recent years, records have begun to accumulate more rapidly. Even so, a minimum of 18 individuals (including at least 15 from *Santa Cruz* alone) 26 Aug–27 Sep was a startling total. Belted Kingfishers rarely rate mention here, but one that snared an American Goldfinch off a feeder in a yard at Redding, *Shasta* 17 Nov was certainly noteworthy (Randy VanOrden). Six juv. Lewis's Woodpeckers near Dinosaur Pt. 7 Aug were suggestive of local breeding in w. *Merced*, an area where breeding has never been documented (KVV).

Five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers included the first for Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 8 Oct (RJR). Six Eastern Phoebe's, all coastal,

were detected beginning 25 Oct. Tropical Kingbirds made a strong showing, with at least 34 found 18 Sep–30 Nov; all were coastal except for one at San Felipe L. 23–25 Oct, a first for *San Benito* (Mark Paxton, KVV, †R.J. Adams). A healthy concentration of 49 Western Kingbirds was found in just one-half km of the tour loop at Lower Klamath N.W.R., *Siskiyou* 14 Aug (DS). Three Eastern Kingbirds reached the coast: 25 Aug near Eureka, *Humboldt* (M.Wa, KGR); 6 Sep at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* (DT); and 25–29 Sep at Moss Beach, *San Mateo* (RSTh, m. ob.). One



This striking male Broad-billed Hummingbird visited a feeder at Sonoma, Sonoma County, California, present 13–27 November (here 16 November 2003). It was only the seventh to be documented in the Middle Pacific Coast Region. Photograph by Kathy Robertson.

inland at Ahjumawi S.P. 28 Jul–2 Aug (Francies McRae, Dennis Holmes, Randy Van Orden) was surprisingly just the 2nd for *Shasta*.

VIROES THROUGH THRUSHES

A Bell's Vireo, now among the Region's rarest vagrant passerines, was banded at Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 9 Sep (B.S.O.L.). A dismal fall for vagrant viroes yielded just 2 Blue-headed (both undocumented), 3 coastal Red-eyes 3–16 Sep, and no Yellow-throated or Yellow-greens. It seems bizarre that more Philadelphias were detected than Red-eyes, but 4 turned up this fall: at El. 2–4 Sep (ph. P.R.B.O.); at Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* 13–26 Sep (R.C., R.F., †D.R., m. ob.); at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 25 Sep (E.S., ph. WEH); and at Pine Gulch Cr., *Marin* 2–5 Oct (R.S., CLU, LLU).

Forty-seven Yellow-billed Magpies at

Tar Canyon, Kings 25 Oct was a very large flock for an area where they have rarely been found (JLx). As many as 3 Chestnut-backed Chickadees put in a rare C.V. appearance at Davis, *Yolo* 30 Sep–30 Nov (SCH, m. ob.). A "Plain" Titmouse at South Lake Tahoe, *El Dorado* 14 Oct–26 Nov was at a location where neither species is expected (DS). A Rock Wren at Sequoia L., *Fresno* 25 Aug was just the 2nd seen by the observer at this location in 39 years (GWPO). Single Townsend's Solitaires at Hayward R.S., *Alameda* 16 Nov (RJR) and Howard Ranch, *Sacramento* 29 Nov (JTr) were each at unusual locations.

THRASHERS THROUGH PIPITS

A Gray Catbird on Bayview Hill, S.F. 20–22 Sep was the first documented city record (Pat McCullough, ASH, †MWE, m. ob.). A spotted juv. Northern Mockingbird near Garberville 9 Aug provided the first evidence of breeding in *Humboldt* since the mid-1990s (Robert Sutherland). Wandering Sage Thrashers were in *Stanislaus* at Modesto W.T.P. 21 Sep (JHG, JLx, Harold Reeve) and Willms Road 25–29 Oct (Jean Hackmack, m. ob.). One was at Año Nuevo State Reserve, *San Mateo* 18–24 Oct (RSTh), while 6 at El. constituted a high annual count (P.R.B.O.). A Brown Thrasher was at El. 25–28 Oct (P.R.B.O.).

A Siberian invasion gave n. California its best pipit year since 1991. At least 32 Red-throated Pipits were recorded across eight counties 23 Sep–2 Nov, with 2 in *Humboldt*, 3 in *Mendocino*, 2 in *Sonoma*, 8 in *Marin*, 5 on El., one in *San Mateo*, and 5 in *Monterey*. More unusual was one inland 16 Oct at Ukiah W.T.P., *Mendocino* (ADeM). There is but a single prior record of Red-throated Pipit for *Santa Cruz*, where 5 were found 27 Sep–21 Oct (SGe, DLsu). Perhaps part of the same phenomenon, American Pipits of the *jaпонicus* race were well described from Manchester, *Mendocino* 15 Oct (ADeM, †JRW), n. of Moss Landing, *Monterey* 13–16 (†RyT, Olivier Barden, †MtB, †DVP) & 18 Oct (different bird; †DR), and Zmudowski S.B., *Monterey* 26 Oct (DR, R.C., RF).

WARBLERS THROUGH TANAGERS

A Tennessee Warbler at Grasslands Park, *Yolo* 3–9 Oct (SCH, JKn, JCS) was a rare inland; 20+ were along the coast, including 8–9 in *Humboldt*, well above the recent county average of 2.7 per year (*file* DFX, JCP). A Virginia's Warbler was at El. 31 Aug–4 Sep (P.R.B.O.); another was at Mt. Davidson, S.F. 12 Sep (Brian Fitch). Others were at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 15–16 Sep (†DT, †Dave Jensen), Arcata Marsh, *Humboldt* 27 Oct (RbF), and Nat-

SA This season's strange Pinyon Jay invasion, the Region's first since 1914, brought first records to several counties but involved only a handful of individuals. Just 19 birds were found in eight counties 30 Sep–25 Oct, none of them n. of *Contra Costa*. This year's incursion is in contrast to historical records: a flock over Berkeley 5 Oct 1911 contained 75 birds! Among this fall's sightings were 2 at Chews Ridge 28 Sep (*Monterey's* first since 1895; †MtB, †RyT, †DVP), 3 at Tar Canyon 30 Sep (King's first; †JLx), one at Chalk Mt. 5 Oct (*Santa Cruz's* first; †DLSu), one at Sibley R.P. 8 Oct (*Contra Costa's* first and *Alameda's* first since 1911; †JLx), one in San Antonio Valley 10 Oct (*Santa Clara's* first; †Matthew O'Brien), and one at San Benito Mt. 18–25 Oct (*San Benito's* first; †DLSH, Don Doolittle, v. LLU, CLU).



With fewer than 20 prior records for the state, any Hudsonian Godwit in California is a welcome surprise. Two together, however, were unprecedented. Up to 2 juvenile Hudsonians pleased throngs of birders at New Chicago Marsh in Alviso, Santa Clara County 27 August through 1 September (here, after a brief absence, 6 September). Photograph by Jean Myers.

ural Bridges S.B., Santa Cruz 15 Nov (SGe). A Lucy's Warbler was at Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey 10 Oct (Roger Wolfe). Ten Magnolia Warblers were along the coast, and one was at C.R.P. 30 Sep (JTr). Single Cape Mays were at El. 26 Sep (PR.B.O.) and Pt. Reyes, Marin 27 Sep–2 Oct (RS, m. ob.). Five Black-throated Blues included Mendocino's first documented record, at Pt. Arena 13 Oct (†JRW). The only Black-throated Green Warbler reported was a female returning to Laguna Grande Park, Monterey 11 Oct+ for a 2nd winter (TAm, RF). Two coastal Blackburnians were more expected than the one along the American R. Parkway, Sacramento 7 Sep (Dave Johnson, Barbara Mohr).

Reports of our more common migrant warblers included 21 Chestnut-sideds, 7 Prairies, 116 Palms, 30 Black-and-whites, 39 American Redstarts, and 19 Northern Waterthrushes. Three Bay-breasteds included one 29 Sep–1 Oct at C.R.P. (JTr). Among the 55 Blackpoll reports were firsts for Merced at O'Neill Forebay 28 Sep (KVV) and for Madera at Moen Ranch 7 Oct (†GWPo, Frank Gibson, Kay Barnes). Two Ovenbirds were at Pt. Reyes, Marin 15–16 Sep (Ken Wilson, Becky Olsen, Ian Morrison, EDG), and a 3rd was at El. 29 Sep (PR.B.O.). Single Kentucky and Connecticut Warblers were at El. 26 & 27 Sep, respectively (PR.B.O.). A Hooded Warbler was along Gazos Cr., San Mateo 8 Sep (Kurt Gentelen), and another was at Harkins Slough, Santa Cruz 21 Oct (RgW). An imm. Scarlet Tanager at Big Sur R. mouth 28 Oct–6 Nov set a late date for Monterey (†MtB, m. ob.); another was at El. 2 Nov (PR.B.O.).

SPARROWS THROUGH BUNTINGS

Green-tailed Towhees out of range included only the 2nd coastal sighting ever for Humboldt, one at Arcata Marsh 30 Aug (Brian Acord); migrants included singles at Pt. Reyes, Marin 25 Sep–1 Oct (ES, ph. MWE) and 4 Oct (LLu, CLu); 2–3 in Yolo 6–11 & 28 Sep (CCo, Kimya Lambert, m. ob.); and a visitor to Pescadero, San Mateo 12–26 Nov (Merry Haveman, GRH). American Tree Sparrows turned up near Orleans, Humboldt 30 Oct (EE), at El. 23 Nov (PR.B.O.), and at DeChambeau Ponds, Mono 29 Nov (†DS). Among the 35 Clay-colored Sparrows were 18 at El. (PR.B.O.) and a first for Stanislaus 13–15 Oct at Del Puerto Canyon (†MMR, JSL). A Black-throated Sparrow at El. 20 Sep–4 Oct (PR.B.O.) was upstaged by the sparrow of the season, a Baird's Sparrow there 28 Sep (PR.B.O., ph. KNN), only the 4th state record and the 3rd for the Region (the two previous records are also from El.).

A Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at the Carmel R. mouth, Monterey 17–18 Oct (JSsC, SRv, JCS). One in saltmarshes at South San Francisco, San Mateo 23 Nov may be the same one that wintered there last year (Kris Olson). Thirty-three Swamp Sparrows and 64 White-throated Sparrows were widely distributed. The only Harris's Sparrow reported was at St. Helena, Napa 23 Nov+ (Robert Frescura). The only McCown's Longspur was w. of Lincoln, Placer 13 Nov (TEa). Laplands were broadly reported, including Mendocino's first interior record, one at the Ukiah S.T.P. 4–5 Oct (CEV, RJK). Nine Chestnut-collared Longspurs were widely distributed 19 Oct–16 Nov. A Snow Bunting was

at El. 29 Oct (†Adam Brown, PR.B.O.), and another was at Sea Ranch, Sonoma 16 Nov (*vide* LLu).

Thirteen Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was below average; a Blue Grosbeak 2 Sep at Mt. Davidson, S.F. was unexpected (PSar). At least 4 Painted Buntings were found: 2 first-year birds at Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey 31 Aug–1 Sep (†Cho) may have lingered until 16 Sep (B.S.O.L., Jessica Griffiths, †MtB), although the 2 there on the latter date may have been different birds. Another was at El. 15–22 Sep (PR.B.O., ph. KNN), and Santa Cruz's 4th was a female type at San Lorenzo R. 1–4 Sep (SGe, DLsu). Six Dickcissels were along the coast from Humboldt to San Mateo 7 Sep–25 Oct.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

A dozen Bobolinks in Humboldt 22 Sep–16 Oct and 7 on El. were well above average. Single wandering Yellow-headed Blackbirds graced a variety of coastal locations, including Fort Miley, S.F. 13 Sep (HuC), while 13 in San Carlos 9 Sep comprised the largest flock ever recorded in San Mateo (RSTh). Two Rusty Blackbirds were reported, one from El. 25–28 Oct (†Adam Brown, PR.B.O.) and one from Yolo 16 Nov (†Gary Fregien). A Common Grackle at the Arcata Bottoms 28–30 Nov was Humboldt's 2nd (CLu, †RS, vt. LLu).

Four Orchard Orioles were coastal migrants, but an ad. male in Cole Valley, S.F. 9 Sep+ appeared to be wintering (PSar). Hooded Orioles continue to be widely reported, including a prolific pair in Ukiah, Mendocino that managed three broods by 1 Aug (Paul Hawks). The icterid of the season was our Region's first Streak-backed Oriole, a male at the Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey 24 Nov (†Jtz, Rebecca Green, †DR). A single Baltimore Oriole was at El. 25 Oct (PR.B.O.). A single Cassin's Finch was at Hayward R.S., Alameda 9 Nov (RJR). There was no major influx of crossbills, and no influx at all of skinks, this fall. Unusually, no Evening Grosbeaks were reported in the Region.

Exotics: A Pink-backed Pelican was at Harkins Slough, Santa Cruz 24 Oct–24 Nov (PEG et al.). The origin of this bird is uncertain, but it may be the same bird reported at El. (Oct 2000 and Nov 2002) and in Marin Oct 2001, as the timing of the occurrences is quite similar.

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David Shuford, Daniel Singer, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Modoc*), Tim Steurer (*Amador* and *El Dorado*), Emile Strauss, David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Richard Terrullo, Linda Terrill, Ryan Terrill, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz, Dorothy Tobkin, John Trochet, David Vander Pluym, Frank Vanslager, Kent Van Vuren (*Merced* and *San Benito*), Chuck E. Vaughn, Matt Wachs, Bruce Webb, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Brian D. Williams (*Nevada*), Roger Wolfe, Dave Woodward, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; it is very much appreciated. ☺

Southern Pacific Coast

The magnitude of migration of "normal" western migrants was considered poor by most observers, and there was virtually no movement of irruptive species such as Red-breasted Nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets, crossbills, or siskins. Highlights included a major movement of Red-throated Pipits, along with four individuals of the *japonicus* form of the American Pipit. Rareties included a Bulwer's Petrel and California's first Magnificent Hummingbird. Daily coverage of San Clemente Island yielded a host of rarities, including the southernmost Snow Bunting to be recorded along the West coast.

Only time and long-term study will reveal the impacts of late October's fires that burned an unprecedented amount of acreage of chaparral and forest; the montane areas of San Diego were especially hard hit. Although most scrub and woodland habitats in the Region are fire-adapted, the impacts of such abnormally intense conflagrations that follow decades of fire-suppression are likely to be severe and long-lasting. Happily, San Diego County had just completed a six-year breeding and winter bird atlas, underscoring the value of such endeavors as baseline information with which to compare changes over time; see <<http://www.sdnhm.org/research/birdatlas/>>.

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 National Park, Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park in extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara R. Estuary near Ventura, Ventura);



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S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, *Imperial*); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, *Kern*); V.A.F.B. (Vandenberg Air Force Base in nw. *Santa Barbara*); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, *Ventura*). Because virtually all rarities in s. California are seen by many observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are credited herein. 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 in Camarillo.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

Single Red-throated Loons, rare inland, were near *Imperial*, *Imperial* 19–21 & 25–28 Nov (TMcG). Reports of Pacific Loons inland included 5 in the Owens Valley, *Inyo* between 30 Oct and 25 Nov (T&JH) and singles on L. Perris, *Riverside* 1 Nov (TAB), at N.E.S.S. 15 Nov+ (TAB), and Weist L., *Imperial* 26 Oct (GMcC). A Red-necked Grebe at Bolsa Chica, *Orange* 15 Oct–2 Nov (CB) was early and far s., and single birds on Tinemaha Res., *Inyo* 16–19 Nov (JLD) and Quail L. near Gorman, *Los Angeles* 29 Nov (JFe) were inland, where considered casual.

Unprecedented numbers of starving Northern Fulmars arrived in coastal s. California waters in mid-Oct, with many found dead or dying on beaches s. to the Mexican boarder. A Bulwer's Petrel was reported 50 km s. of San Clemente I. 4 Sep (TMcG). Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters, rare in s. California waters, were near San Miguel I. 4 Oct (DMH) and San Clemente I. 15 Sep (MS) and 19 Oct (BLS). Single Manx Shearwaters were near Santa Cruz I. (JFe) and off *Ventura*, both 25 Oct (TMcG, MJSanM). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel, decidedly rarer off s. California than off cen., was off San Nicolas I. 6 Sep (DMH). A Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel s. of San Clemente I. 6 Sep (KLG) and one at La Jolla, *San Diego* 31 Oct (SW) were at the s. extreme of this species' pelagic range.

Red-billed Tropicbirds were present s. and w. of San Clemente I., with a high count of 10 there 6 Sep (KLG) and the latest from West Cove Pt. on San Clemente I. 5 Oct (BLS). Others near *Santa Barbara* I. 20 Sep (NAL) and sw. of *Anacapa* I. 25 Oct (MJSanM) were farther north. A Red-tailed Tropicbird far to the sw. of San Clemente I. 6 Sep (TMcG) was probably within the species' normal range but is still one of fewer than 20 *Regional* reports, all since 1979.

An ad. Masked Booby remained on San Clemente I. 10 Aug+ (ph. BLS), while single Brown Boobies were at *Anacapa* I. 25 Oct (TMcG, MJSanM) and San Clemente I. 1–3 Nov (ph. BLS). A dark-morph Red-footed Booby, the 15th in California waters, landed on a research vessel near *Anacapa* I. 17 Oct (CR) and remained with the vessel for three days. An Anhinga near *Seelye*, *Imperial* 8 Nov+ (JCS, GMcC) appeared to be a differ-



This Brown Booby on *Anacapa* Island, California 25 October 2003 was one of two reported in the Southern Pacific Coast region this season. Photograph by Phil Koken.

ent bird than the one at *Finney* L. last spring and was only the 5th to be found in California. An ad. male Magnificent Frigatebird near *Imperial* Dam, *Imperial* 27–28 Sep (JC, HD) was probably associated with Hurricane *Marty*, which had moved up the Gulf of California a few days earlier.

The Little Blue Heron found at *Bolsa Chica* 23 Jul remained through 17 Aug (DRW). The Tricolored Heron found at S.E.S.S. 9 Jul remained through 17 Aug (HBK). A Reddish Egret at *Whale Rock* Res. near *Cayucos* 5 Sep–27 Oct (AFS) was the first to be found in *San Luis Obispo*; others along the coast included 2–3 in *Ventura* (WW) and single birds at *Dana Pt.*, *Orange* 28 Sep–5 Oct (GM), *San Elijo* Lagoon, *San Diego* 16 Aug (WMcC), and s. *San Diego* Bay 17 Aug (MY). Additional birds were inland at N.E.S.S. 19 Oct (HBK) and at S.E.S.S. 9 Aug–14 Sep (KZK, JLD) and 8 Nov+ (D&PC). The Glossy Ibis at V.C.G.P. was last seen 31 Aug (DD).

A Tundra Swan at C.L. 27 Oct (SS) was very early, and at least 10 at S.E.S.S. 26–29 Nov (TMcG, AK) were unusually far south. A Common (Eurasian Green-winged) Teal

in *Goleta*, *Santa Barbara* 24 Nov (WTF) was believed to be the same bird present there last winter. A Harlequin Duck was near *Cayucos* 11–26 Nov (DK), and a male on *Mission* Bay in *San Diego* remained through the period. Single, inland Surf Scoters were found near *Big Pine*, *Inyo* 16 Oct (T&JH) and 30 Oct (T&JH), at N.E.S.S. 16 Nov (TAB), and at S.E.S.S. 22 Oct (HD). A Long-tailed Duck, very rare inland, was in *Barstow*, *San Bernardino* 27–30 Nov (WTF). Two *Barrow's Goldeneyes* at *Death Valley* Junction, *Inyo* 16 Nov (T & JH) were at an unexpected locality. A Hooded Merganser near *Seelye* 8 Nov (GMcC) established the earliest date for a fall migrant/wintering bird at the *Salton* Sink.

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

A Northern Goshawk at *Deep Springs*, *Inyo* 18 Oct (T&JH) was in an area where rare but probably regular. The only Broad-winged Hawk reported were single birds near *Arroyo Grande*, *San Luis Obispo* 7 Oct (BKS), the *Palos Verdes Peninsula*, *Los Angeles* 5 Oct (KGL), *Hansen Dam*, *Los Angeles* 1 Nov (KLG), *Pt. Loma*, *San Diego* 31 Oct (PAG), and inland near *Weldon*, *Kern* 30 Sep (TG). A Swainson's Hawk at *El Centro*, *Imperial* 7 Oct–7 Nov (KZK) was the latest this fall. A migrant Zone-tailed Hawk was near *Imperial Beach*, *San Diego* 19 Sep (JB); single birds in

Goleta 22 Oct+ (NAL), *Escondido*, *San Diego* 14 Oct+ (JRob), and *Brawley*, *Imperial* 3 Oct+ (GMcC) were the same individuals seen at these locations last winter.

Two Sandhills Cranes at *Desert Center*, *Riverside* 24 Sep (CMcG) were at an unusual locality. Single American Golden-Plovers were found along the coast near *Oxnard*, *Ventura* 12 Sep (DP), near *Imperial Beach* 30 Sep–7 Oct (GMcC) and 23–24 Oct (MS), and inland, where much rarer, at E.A.F.B. 4–8 Nov (TMcG) and S.E.S.S. 16 Oct (GMcC). Single Golden-Plovers in *Goleta* 25 Sep (MC), near *Oxnard* 21 Aug (TMcG) and 12 Sep (DP), at *Playa del Rey*, *Los Angeles* 25 Oct (DSC), and *San Elijo* Lagoon 23–24 Aug (GR) appeared to be migrants, but up to 2 at *Bolsa Chica* 6 Sep+ (BED) and one at *Imperial Beach* 7 Sep+ (GMcC) were believed to be wintering locally. Up to 6 Mountain Plovers near *Arroyo Grande* 17 Oct–8 Nov (BKS) and one near *Oxnard* 5 Oct (DD) were the only ones found along the coast.

A Wandering Tattler inland near *Calipatria*, *Imperial* 25 Nov+ (MJJ) appeared to be wintering locally. Single Ruddy Turn-

stones at C.L. 27 Aug (SSt), near Lancaster, Los Angeles 9–11 Aug (JFe), and at Blythe, Riverside 18 Sep (RH) were inland and away from the Salton Sea. Black Turnstones, rare inland, especially so in fall, were at S.E.S.S. 10–16 Aug (VL) and 19–21 Sep (KZK). The only Red Knots found inland away from the Salton Sea were single birds at Owens L., Inyo 20–21 Sep (MJP) and at C.L. 23 Aug (TEW) and 16–17 Sep (SSt), with up to 3 near Lancaster 8–9 Aug (TMcG). Semipalmated Sandpipers were far less numerous than usual, with only 5 inland and 8 more along the coast between 2 Aug and 12 Sep. Two Silt Sandpipers at Tinemaha Res., Inyo 21 Aug (JLD), one at C.L. 5 Sep (SSt), up to 3 near Lancaster 30 Aug–11 Sep (MSanM, JFe, KLG), and single birds at S.C.R.E. 30–31 Aug (BL), V.C.G.P. 4 Sep (DP), Paramount, Los Angeles 4–7 Sep (RB), Long Beach, Los Angeles 7 Sep (KGL), and Costa Mesa, Orange 3 Nov (JEP) were away from S.E.S.S. The only Buff-breasted Sandpipers were one near Oxnard 1–4 Oct (MSanM) and another on San Clemente I. 13–29 Sep (ph. BLS). Reports of Ruffs included one in Long Beach 20–27 Sep (KGL) and one inland near Calipatria 25 Nov+ (MJJ). Six Red Phalaropes in e. Kern between 20 Sep and 16 Nov (KeL, TMcG, SSt, TEW) and single birds near Lancaster 27 Sep (MSanM) and 4 Nov (TMcG) and at Desert Center

N.E.S.S. 15 Nov+ (KSN), Salton City, Imperial 21–27 Sep (GMcC), and S.E.S.S. 12 Sep (KZK), and ad. Long-taileds at E.A.F.B. 16 Sep (TMcG) and Salton City 20 Sep (BM). Laughing Gulls on the coast, where rare, were at Goleta 17 Sep (BW), Malibu, Los Angeles 27 Sep (KLG), and Ocean Beach, San Diego 20 Sep (CMcG). At least 10 Franklin's Gulls around S.E.S.S. 15 Sep–1 Nov (JLD, GMcC) was an expected number for this time of the year. Single Heermann's Gulls at C.L. 14 Oct and 30 Oct (SSt) and L. Perris 19 Nov (CMcG) were inland and away from the Salton Sea. A second-year Mew Gull inland at S.E.S.S. 6 Oct (TMcG, MSanM) was either an exceptionally early fall migrant or, more likely, summered locally. Reports of Sabine's Gulls inland included 9 at various places in Inyo between 24 Aug and 2 Nov (JLD, T & JH, BS, SSt), up to 5 at C.L. 16–29 Sep (BS), up to 4 near Lancaster 8–16 Sep (JFe, TMcG, MSanM), and single birds at E.A.F.B. 4 Oct (MSanM), Blythe 27 Sep (RH), and S.E.S.S. 20 Sep (BM). Least Terns continued around S.E.S.S. into Aug, with 2 ads. and a juv.

PIGEONS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Band-tailed Pigeons were more widespread than usual, with individuals at unexpected localities such as Avalon on Santa Catalina I. 7 Oct (BED), near Cantil, Kern 30 Sep (TMcG), G.H.P. 25–29 Oct (T&JH), Niland, Imperial 20 Nov (GMcC), and at nearby



A large invasion of Red-throated Pipits occurred along the Pacific Coast during fall 2003. This bird on San Clemente Island 25 October was one of at least 17 noted there this season, part of the largest invasion of this species into southern California since 1991. This flight shot nicely illustrates the species' short and square-tipped wing shape and short-tailed flight profile. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

Calipatria 26–28 Nov (TMcG, MB). Ruddy Ground-Loaves remained near Calipatria, with at least 10 present at the end of the period (GMcC); in addition, up to 3 were at F.C.R. 14 Oct–11 Nov (T&JH) and a male was at Desert Center 1–30 Nov (DG). An ad. and a fledgling Yellow-billed Cuckoo remained at S.F.K.R.P. through the very late date of 28 Sep (AT). A well-photographed Magnificent Hummingbird in Pacific Beach, San Diego 11 Oct–29 Nov (NS) provided the first documented record for California.

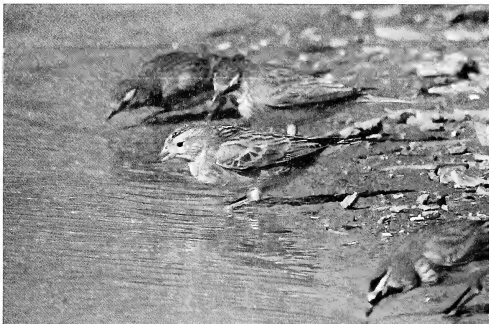
Greater-than-average numbers of Lewis's Woodpeckers were found throughout the Region, as indicated by 30 at F.C.R. 26 Nov (CC), 12–20 at G.H.P. 13 Sep–12 Oct (TEW), and individuals reaching such unexpected places as Santa Maria, Santa Barbara 16 Oct (JMC), San Clemente I. 18–19 Oct (BLS), Desert Center 24 Sep–26 Oct (CMcG), and Holtville, Imperial 19 Oct (AK). A movement of Acorn Woodpeckers was probably precipitated by widespread acorn-crop failure, with individuals reported from many locations along the s. coast, 8–10 found in e. Kern 6 Sep–29 Oct (TEW), and individuals far from areas of normal occurrence in the Cuyama Valley in e. Santa Barbara 11 Nov (GT), F.C.R. 20 Oct (CMcF), Desert Center 26 Oct (JFG), near Niland 6 Oct (MSanM), and in Brawley 25 Oct (BM). A Gila Woodpecker at Borrego Springs 22 Sep+ (PJ) was the first to be found in San Diego. Single Williamson's Sapsuckers in Bishop, Inyo 15 Nov (J&DP), F.C.R. 26 Nov (CC), and at G.H.P. 21–28 Sep (TEW)



On 25 October 2003, Heather Carlisle found this first-fall female Black-throated Green Warbler foraging on nightshade berries at Wilson Cove, San Clemente Island, a site that hosted hundreds of migrants in its native plantings this season. This bird represents a first record for San Clemente Island. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

1–4 Nov (DG) were inland, where rare. As expected, a handful of jaegers was found inland, including a Pomarine Jaeger with a broken wing near Palm Springs, Riverside 24 Oct (KuL), single Parasitics at

together 23 Aug (GMcC) being the latest; one at Zzyzx, San Bernardino 3 Sep (LN) and another at C.L. 20 Sep (TEW) were inland and away from the Salton Sea, the latter remarkably late.



This male McCown's Longspur present 22 through (here) 23 November 2003 on San Clemente Island, California was one of two found there this fall. San Clemente's two previous records come the past two fall seasons. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

were in areas where considered casual.

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher studied well at Pt. Loma 28 Sep–1 Oct (GMcC, MS) was the first for San Diego. Five Least Flycatchers were found in coastal counties 17 Sep–19 Oct, with additional birds in the interior at Ridgecrest, Kern 5–7 Sep (JS) and n. of Bishop, Inyo 10 Nov (J&DP). A Pacific-slope Flycatcher n. of Bishop 21 Oct–7 Dec (J&DP) was extremely late for the n. interior. Returning wintering Eastern Phoebe

coast 21 Sep–24 Nov; far fewer were found inland, as is typical, with one near Niland 15–16 Sep (JLD, GMcC) and another near Seelye 8 Nov (GMcC) being the only ones reported. Eastern Kingbirds were in Goleta 15 (JRS) & 21 Sep (DMC), near Lancaster 30 Aug (MSanM), at Pt. Loma 4 Sep (TMcG), and at Desert Center 7 Sep (CMcG). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in Buena Park, Orange 29 Nov–1 Dec (JRo, ph BED).



Remarkable was the Southern Pacific Coast region's third-ever Snow Bunting, which appeared 15 November 2003 on San Clemente Island (here 22 November) and remained through the winter, the southernmost record of the species on the Pacific Coast. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

were in Encino, Los Angeles 23 Oct+ (BED) and near Calipatria 25 Nov+ (MJJ). An Ash-throated Flycatcher in Bakersfield 2–5 Nov (MMcQ) was the latest ever for Kern. Up to 21 Tropical Kingbirds were found along the

VIREOS THROUGH PIPITS

A White-eyed Vireo at G.H.P. 30 Sep (AH) was one of the few to be found in fall in the Region. Birds in the "Solitary" Vireo complex are scarce fall migrants in the Region,

with Cassin's only slightly outnumbering Plumbeous; some 19 of the latter were reported, with the earliest being one in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara 16 Sep (PG). Additionally, a Blue-headed Vireo was well studied on Pt. Loma 4 Oct (JZ, GMcC). A Bell's Vireo, likely *pusillus*, was on the Palos Verdes Peninsula 25 Oct+ (JFe, MJB). A Warbling Vireo in Los Angeles 21 Nov (RBa) was quite late. Two Philadelphia Vireos were found, with one in Goleta 28 Sep (DMC) and another at G.H.P. 26–28 Oct (LA). The 9 Red-eyed Vireos (all but 2 coastal) during the fall just barely eclipsed the Yellow-green Vireo total; the latter species was found at Goleta 26–28 Oct (MAH), Long Beach 13–14 Oct (KSG), Palos Verdes Peninsula 13 Oct (GCH), Westminster, Orange 9–10 Oct (DRW), Huntington Beach 10 Oct (JEP), Pt. Loma 20 (GMcC) & 21 Sep (MB), and inland at G. H. P. 28–30 Oct (AH).

Some movement of Pinyon Jays in the Region was suggested by the appearance of a few birds on the Kern desert 5–27 Sep (JCW), a large flock on the Blue Ridge in the San Gabriel Mts., Los Angeles 27 Sep (RBe), and one in coastal San Luis Obispo near Arroyo Grande 2 Oct (BKS). Up to 10 American Crows were in Avalon, Santa Catalina 1. 6–12 Oct (BED, JIE), this species is generally absent from the Channel Islands. A Bank Swallow at Tinemaha Res. 18 Sep (JLD) was very late for the n. interior.

A Mountain Chickadee at 4205 m (14,018 feet) on the summit of Mt. Tyndall, Inyo in Aug (RG) was a Regional elevation record for the species (as well as an impressive elevation for a birder!). A Verdin in Redlands, San Bernardino 27–29 Nov (MP, AEK) was coastward of the species' normal range. A Pygmy Nuthatch in Manhattan Beach, Los Angeles 31 Aug (KGL) was exceptional, considering the normal absence of other montane species in the lowlands. An early Winter Wren was at Huntington Beach 19 Sep–15 Nov (SM); one near Calipatria 15 Nov (GMcC, PAG) was in an area where casual. The late Oct fires burned most of the remaining California Gnatcatcher habitat around Moorpark, Ventura, at the nw. edge of the species' range (WW). At least 23 Western Bluebirds near Calipatria 25–29 Nov (MJJ et al.) were unusual for the Salton Sink. A Swainson's Thrush in Independence 1 Nov (RAH) was the latest to be found in Inyo. A Wood Thrush at Desert Center 19 Oct (CMcG) was the 12th for the Region. A Varied Thrush in Cambria 19 Sep (BAB) was one of the earliest to be found in the Region. A Rufous-backed Robin at Cactus City, e. of Indio, Riverside 23 Nov (CMcG) was only the 13th to be found in California. Single Gray Catbirds were at Deep Springs 19 Oct (BS, SS0) and G. H. P. 27–29 Oct (JFJ). The only Brown

Thrasher reported was near Santa Margarita, *San Luis Obispo* 14 Nov (RBo). A Bendire's Thrasher at Aliso Viejo, *Orange* 16-24 Aug (GM) was along the coast, where casual.

An impressive variety of motacillids was recorded in the Region this fall. The first Black-backed Gnatcatcher for *Los Angeles* (and the Region's 4th) was along the Los Angeles R. on the Paramount/Compton border 10 Sep-3 Oct (RBA); another bird of the "White/Black-backed" complex was seen at S.C.R.E. 1 Sep (MT, DP), but documentation has not yet been received. This was a banner year in the Region for Red-throated Pipits, with birds in all coastal counties between 27 Sep and 25 Nov; the amazing 41+ coastal birds included a minimum of 17 on San Clemente I. 2 Oct-14 Nov (ph. BLS). On the deserts, up to 2 were in Palmdale, *Los Angeles* 30 Sep-4 Oct (TMcG, MSanM), and one was at G.H.P. 26-27 Sep (SSu). At least 4 American Pipits showing the characters of the Asian subspecies *japonicus* were found, with one near Imperial Beach 11-13 Oct (GMCC), one at Pt. Hueneme, *Ventura* 13-16 Oct (with 2 on the last date; DF, TMcG, DD), and one in Pacific Beach 23-20 Nov (GMCC, ph. BLS). A Sprague's Pipit was at E.C.R. 19 Oct (CMC PC), and up to 5 near Calipatria 29 Nov+ were wintering (HBK).

WARBLERS

Seventeen Tennessee Warblers were found along the coast in the period 6 Sep-8 Nov, with additional birds in the interior at Barstow 7 Sep (HBK) and G.H.P. 27 Sep (AH). Virginia's Warblers were found, as expected, in small numbers, mainly along the coast, in late Aug and Sep; one at Playa del Rey, *Los Angeles* 11 Oct (JFe, JIE) was rather late. Seventeen Lucy's Warblers along the coast 2 Aug-6 Nov were more than normal, with others at Bishop 7-9 Aug (J&DP) and near Cantill, *Kern* 3 Sep (TMcG). Only 5 Northern Parulas were found, with the earliest 24 Aug at S.C.R.E. (LSa, SSu) and the latest at G.H.P. 26 Oct-4 Nov (JCW). Seventeen Chestnut-sided Warblers were found 20 Sep-30 Nov, with all but 2 along the coast. Similarly, 16 of the 21 Magnolia Warblers found 8 Sep-9 Nov were coastal. A Cape May Warbler, a species quite rare in recent years in the Region, was at Pt. Loma 1-14 Nov (MTH). Only 5 Black-throated Blue Warblers (all males) were found, 6-30 Oct. An apparent Yellow-rumped x Townsend's Warbler was in Westminister, *Orange* 11 Oct (M&LC). The only Black-throated Green Warblers were on Pt. Loma 20 Sep (SES), in Goleta 2 Oct (MAH), and on San Clemente I. 27-30 Oct (HAC, ph. BLS). The 12 Blackburnian Warblers found 16 Sep-8 Nov were all coastal, with half on San Clemente I. A Grace's Warbler was on

Figueroa Mt., *Santa Barbara* 5 Oct (MAH), and a returning wintering female on Pt. Loma 11 Sep (MS) was joined by at least one imm. on 14 Sep (MS). A Pine Warbler at Oceano, *San Luis Obispo* 22 Oct (JMC) was the only one reported. Seven Prairie Warblers, all coastal, were found between 11 Sep and 11 Oct. Of 43 Palm Warblers found along the coast 4 Oct+, 24 were in *Santa Barbara*; this species is far scarcer on the deserts, with birds at G.H.P. 25 Oct (KeL) and in *Imperial* 18 Nov (KZK) being the only ones reported there. Thirty-five Black-poll Warblers were along the coast 11 Sep-1 Nov, along with an exceptionally late bird in Oceanside, *San Diego* 2 Dec (PAG); 5 more were on the deserts 27 Sep-13 Oct. Bay-breasted Warblers were found only in Ridgecrest 3 Oct (SSu) and on Santa Catalina I. 7 Oct (BED).

Twenty-nine coastal Black-and-white Warblers 2 Sep+ were augmented by 6 on the deserts 24 Aug-8 Nov. There were 31 American Redstarts reported on the coastal slope 6 Sep+, along with at least 12 migrants on the deserts 12 Sep-29 Oct and up to 6 at S.E.S.S. (where the species winters) 11 Sep+. Prothonotary Warblers were found at San Geromino Cr. Mouth, *San Luis Obispo* 23 Nov-2 Dec (MN, JD), Santa Maria, *Santa Barbara* 4-10 Oct (DMC), Goleta 22 Oct (WTF, NAL), Huntington Beach 28 Sep (JG), Lemon Grove, *San Diego* 25 Sep-5 Oct, G.H.P. 27 Sep (TEW), and Deep Springs 28 Oct (T&JH). A Worm-eating Warbler at G.H.P. 12-28 Oct (DSC) was the first to be found in fall in Kern. The 26 Northern Waterthrushes were equally divided between the coast 30 Aug-19 Oct and the deserts 30 Aug-7 Nov. A Kentucky Warbler, casual in the Region, was on San Nicolas I. 11 Oct (SH). Imm. male Mourning Warblers were on Pt. Loma 19 Sep (SES) and San Clemente I. 13 Oct (BLS). A long-staying Hooded Warbler entertained visitors to G.H.P. 3 Sep-28 Oct (TMcG). Canada Warblers were in Newport Beach 27 Sep (PCo), on Santa Catalina I. 6 Oct (BED), on Pt. Loma 11-13 Oct (PAG), and near Anaheim 15-18 Oct (JEP). A Yellow-breasted Chat at Stovepipe Wells 13 Oct (T&JH) established the latest fall record for *Inyo*.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

An above-average 5 Scarlet Tanagers included birds at Newport Beach 3 Oct (DRW), Wilmington 24 Oct (KGL), Arroyo Grande 30-31 Oct (JMC), Pt. Loma 2-15 Nov (GMCC), and Westchester, *Los Angeles* 29 Nov (DSC). An injured female Western Tanager near Brawley 29 Nov (LSc) provided the latest fall record for the Salton Sink. American Tree Sparrows at E.C.R. 1 Nov (AH, VH) and Deep Springs 3 Nov (T&JH) were in an area where regular, but

one at Playa del Rey 8-9 Nov (RBA) was one of the few ever found on the s. coast. Some 24 Clay-colored Sparrows were reported beginning 7 Sep. A Brewer's Sparrow in Big Pine 1 Nov (T&JH) was exceptionally late for *Inyo*. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows were found during high tides at Morro Bay 24 Oct (with 3 there on 24 Nov; KAH) and Seal Beach, *Orange* 26 Oct (2; JFI). Five Lark Buntings were found along the coast 10 Sep-12 Oct, with another in Bishop 15-16 Sep (J&DP). The earliest Swamp Sparrow was in Goleta 11 Oct (WTF). An *Oriantia* White-crowned Sparrow near Calipatria 15 Sep (JLD) established the earliest fall record for the Salton Sink, while one at G.H.P. 29 Oct (JCW) was the latest to be found in fall in Kern. Small numbers of Lapland Longspurs were found after 4 Oct, with an impressive 19 on San Clemente I. 11 Oct-27 Nov (ph. BLS). Chestnut-collared Longspurs were more numerous than usual this fall, with high counts of 30+ w. of Lancaster 9-16 Nov (KLG) and 100+ near Calipatria 26 Nov+ (TMcG et al.). McCown's Longspurs were found at Pt. Hueneme 3-13 Oct (with 2 on 4 Oct; MJI, DD) and on San Clemente I. 11 Oct and 22-23 Nov (ph. BLS). A Snow Bunting on San Clemente I. 15-27 Nov and sporadically through the winter (ph. BLS) was only the 3rd for the Region and the southernmost ever for the Pacific Coast of North America.

Eight Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were along the coast 16 Sep-29 Nov, with another 4 on the deserts 20 Sep-27 Nov. Only 7 Indigo Buntings were reported along the coast 7 Aug-11 Oct, with additional birds in Big Pine 25 Aug (T&JH) and Baker, *San Bernardino* 18 Oct (KuL). Female or imm. Painted Buntings thought to be natural vagrants were on San Clemente I. 22 Aug (HAC) and at Huntington Beach 29 Aug-6 Sep (with a 2nd bird present on the last date; BED, JEP), Manhattan Beach 27 Sep (JFe), Big Pine 18 Aug (T&JH), and Deep Springs 7 Sep (CH, RBe); another female near Imperial Beach 22 Nov (GMCC) was with exotic White-collared Seedeaters and Nutmeg Mannikins and thought to be an escapee. Dickcissels were in Shell Beach, *San Luis Obispo* 20 Nov-3 Dec (SMi), in Goleta 28-29 Sep (NAL) and 5 Oct (RC), and on Santa Catalina I. 7 Oct (BED); up to 5 were on San Clemente I. 29 Sep-14 Oct (BLS). The 48+ Bobolinks found 6 Sep-19 Oct included up to 18 in *Santa Barbara* (DMC) and 21+ on San Clemente I. (ph. BLS); an earlier bird was in Carpinteria 19 Aug (PG).

An ad. male Common Grackle, a species now annual in the Region, was in Independence 13 Nov (RAH). A juv. Bronzed Cowbird on San Clemente I. 31 Aug (BLS, RK) was the first to be found on the Channel Islands. Orchard Orioles were in San

Simeon, *San Luis Obispo* 19 Sep (BAB), on San Clemente I. 30 Sep (BLS, RK), on the Palos Verdes Peninsula 1-2 Nov (KGL), and in San Pedro 28 Nov (KGL). Seven Baltimore Orioles were found along the coast 30 Aug., and an ad. male was at G.H.P. 17 Sep (JLD). A Lawrence's Goldfinch in Independence 16 Nov (A&LK) was the 2nd latest ever found in *Inyo*, and an American Goldfinch in Big Pine 8 Oct was the first fall arrival for *Inyo*.

EXOTICS

A rufous-morph Eastern Screech-Owl found on or just prior to 14 Oct at a train station in Industry, *Los Angeles* (*fide* GAS) and subsequently brought to a rehabilitation facility was certainly artificially transported to California: the nearest record comes from e. New Mexico. Yet another escaped Great Tit was reported, this time in Long Beach 15 Sep (KSG).

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Observer coverage was excellent this season, particularly in the northeast and along the Pacific slope south to the Vizcaíno Peninsula. An influx of Red-throated Pipits had observers plying the fields with extra enthusiasm, yielding the Region's first records of American Pipit of the *japonicus* race and of McCown's Longspur. Firsts were also notched for Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Blue-headed Vireo. Migrant numbers were generally low; however, particularly for the more expected western species.

TUBENOSES THROUGH SKIMMER

Northern Fulmars made news along much of the Pacific coast of North America; the numbers here appear to be the highest on record for the Region. The first report was from the mouth of Estero Punta Banda, where 40+ were present 18 Oct (SGM et al.). The most significant subsequent observations included 250+ off El Socorro 5 Nov (RSAK et al.), 550 off Punta Banda 8 Nov, including several "thermaling" high into the air with Western Gulls (RAH, RAE), one over the estuary at Guerrero Negro 1 Nov (MSM et al.), and up to 35 offshore w. and s. of Cabo San Lucas 4-7 Nov (MWL). Other boat-based observations of seabirds included 1000+ Least Storm-Petrels off Bahía de Los Angeles 25 Aug (MSM, TMcG) and a Cook's Petrel ca. 85 km w. of Punta Eugenia 8 Nov (MWL).

Unexpected ardeids at El Rosario included an American Bittern 29 Sep and up to 2 Little Blue Herons 29 Sep-18 Oct (JEP). Reddish Egrets were found n. of their usual haunts, with up to 3 imm. ranging between the Rto Guadalupe estuary and La Salina 11 Sep-8 Nov (MJI, MSM et al.). The Black-bellied Whistling-Duck high count at Lagunas de Chameila this season was 14 on 20 Aug (RC, DS). Other than Brant, the only geese reported were Snows at El Rosario 18-30 Oct (JEP et al.), El Socorro 5 Nov (BLS et al.), 2 at Bahía de San Quintín 5 Nov (MJI et al.), Cerro Prieto 24 Nov (MJI), and a probable Ross's at Cerro Prieto 24 Nov (MJI). Notable

SA Hurricanes *Ignacio* and *Marty* hit the Region's s. portions in Aug and Sep, and at the n. edge of influence, they brought 9 Magnificent Frigatebirds over the Cataviña area 23 Sep (DSC, MSM). Heavy rains filled the normally dry Laguna Chapala, which yielded an impressive 28 waterbird species 24 Sep-23 Oct. Highlights there included an American White Pelican 13 Oct (KAR et al.), Reddish Egret 28 Sep (RAE et al.), 5 Mountain Plovers 22 Oct (KLG, KCAN), 90 Greater Yellowlegs 24 Sep (DSC, MSM), up to 5 Lesser Yellowlegs 28 Sep-18 Oct (PAG et al.), Solitary Sandpiper 19 Sep (JEP), 30 Baird's Sandpipers 28 Sep (RAH et al.), one of 2 Pectoral Sandpipers 2 Oct (JEP), 2 Heermann's Gulls 23 Oct (JEP), and 3 Black Terns 24 Sep (DSC, MSM).

Baja California Peninsula



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SA The Region claims only a few large reservoirs, which birders have covered only sporadically. Repeated visits this season to Presa Rodriguez near Tijuana by MJJ et al. produced high counts of species such as Mallard (225, 29 Sep), Cinnamon Teal (320, 29 Sep), Ruddy Duck (1045, 15 Oct), American Coot (1400, 15 Oct), Semipalmated Plover (15, 16 Sep), Black-necked Stilt (420, 11 Sep), Whimbrel (20, 11 Sep), and Marble Godwit (67, 29 Sep). Observations of less-expected species included up to 15 Lesser Yellowlegs 11 Sep–15 Oct, Red Knot 11 Sep, Baird's Sandpiper 11 Sep, up to 2 Pectoral Sandpipers 16–17 Sep, and up to 125 juv. Short-billed Dowitchers 11 Sep–15 Oct.

Northern Pintail concentrations included 1750 at Laguna Ojo de Liebre 28 Sep (RAE et al.) and 3000+ at nearby Guerrero Negro 22 Nov (RAH, PU). A male Harlequin Duck at Punta Banda 11 Oct (†SGM, †KAR) was only the Region's 2nd.

On 16 Nov, one of 12 Ospreys near San Evaristo, on the Gulf coast of Baja California Sur, was nest-building (RAH). Notable hawk observations included 2 juv. Harris's on the San Quintin Plain 5 Nov (ph. BLS et al.), a Swainson's at Catavina 13 Oct (KAR et al.), 2 Swainson's near Vizcaino 15 Oct (vt. SGM et al.), and 3 Zone-taileds at Laguna Chapala 13 Oct (KAR et al.).

A juv. Pacific Golden-Plover was at El Socorro 4 Nov (MJI, Ph.BLS et al.). Other notable plover sightings included 200 Snowies at Laguna Ojo de Liebre 28 Sep (PAG et al.), 5 Wilson's near the head of the Gulf at Punta Estrella 30–31 Aug (ph. MJJ), 350 Wilson's at Chametla 17 Sep (RC, DS), up to 60 Mountains at Mesa San Jacinto, n. of Camalu 29 Oct–30 Nov (MSM et al.), and 26 Mountains just s. of Camalu 5 Nov (MJI et al.). Four Solitary Sandpipers were found 15 Sep–2 Oct, all in Baja California (JEP et al.). Selected shorebird high counts included 450 Long-billed Curlews at Cerro Prieto 31 Aug (MJI) and 900 at Guerrero Negro 23 Oct (KLG, KCM); 100 Red Knots at Guerrero Negro 19 Sep (JEP); 15,000 Western Sandpipers at Guerrero Negro 23 Oct (KLG, KCM); 1000 Least Sandpipers at Lagunas de Chametla 27 Oct (KLG, KCM); 1200 Dunlins at Guerrero Negro 23 Oct (KLG, KCM); 2000+ Wilson's Phalaropes at Cerro Prieto 31 Aug (MJI); 2400 Red-necked Phalaropes at Cerro Prieto 27 Sep (KAR, CR), and 5000 at Guerrero Negro 23 Oct (KLG, KCM); and 1000+ Red Phalaropes at sea s. of Cabo San Lucas 4 Nov (MWL). The more unusual sandpipers reported included a juv. Semipalmated at Laguna Figueroa 25 Aug

(TMCG, MSM) and a juv. Stilt at El Rosario 30 Sep (RAH et al.).

A late South Polar Skua ca. 85 km w. of Punta Eugenia 8 Nov (MWL) was the first one reported since May 2001. Parasitic Jaeger high counts came from both coasts of Baja California, with 11 at Punta Estrella, s. of San Felipe 30 Aug (MJI), 19 at the mouth of Rio San Telmo 25 Sep (MSM, DSC), and 15 at the mouth of Estero Punta Banda 18 Oct (BT et al.). A Franklin's Gull was at El Centenario, BC5 26 Oct (KLG, KCM), and Western Gulls were found on the Gulf coast at Punta Estrella 30 Aug (ph. MJJ) and El Centenario (2) 21 Nov (RAH et al.). One ad. and 5 juv. Sabine's Gulls at Cerro Prieto 27 Sep (KAR, CR) were more than expected at an inland site; a juv. at the Rio Guadalupe estuary 25–29 Sep (DSC et al.) was unexpected onshore, and 5 were at sea s. of Cabo San Lucas 4 Nov (MWL).

Gull-billed Terns were found again at El Centenario: one on 20 Aug (RC, RV) and 4 on 30 Sep (RC, LS). Elegant Terns were present later than usual; examples included 75 at El Socorro 5 Nov (MJI et al.) and, in Baja California Sur, 2 at San Evaristo 16 Nov and one at El Centenario 21 Nov (RAH et al.). Also later than usual were 7 Least Terns at El Centenario 30 Sep (RC, RV) and singles at Guerrero Negro 1 Oct (JEP) and Estero San José, BC 13 Oct (BT et al.). Black Terns were found at Cerro Prieto (80, 31 Aug; MJJ), Punta Estrella (2, 30 Aug; MJJ), and Guerrero Negro

29–30 Aug (MJI). A Whip-poor-will found roosting near Santa Teresita 24 Sep (DSC, †MSM) was extraordinary; the only other Regional records are from the Cape mts., where the species was first discovered in 1963.

Only 3 Vaux's Swifts were reported, including 2 late ones at the Rio Guadalupe estuary 3 Nov (BLS et al.). Also at the Rio Guadalupe estuary, vagrant hummingbirds concentrated on 29 Sep (ph. †MJI): an imm. male Broad-billed represented the 2nd state record (and the first anywhere in the Region since 1998), and an imm. female Ruby-throated Hummingbird represented a Regional first.

Corresponding to a good flight in California, Lewis's Woodpeckers made their best showing in recent years. One at Catavina 13 Oct (†KAR, †BT, †SGM) was followed by up to 6 at Laguna Hanson 18 Nov–20 Dec (MJI et al.), while 4 at Mulege 29 Nov (†PK, TM) established only the 2nd record for Baja California Sur. Sapsuckers at Catavina provided the only other woodpecker highlights: a female Williamson's 3 Oct (JEP) and an ad. male Yellow-bellied 18 Oct–1 Nov (ph. JEP et al.). Five Red-naped Sapsuckers and a Red-naped x Red-breasted hybrid were reported Regionwide, but pure Red-breasted went unrecorded.

A late Western Wood-Pewee was at El Socorro 4–5 Nov (BLS et al.). The only confidently identified Least Flycatcher was in the n. Vizcaino Desert at Santa Cecilia 29 Sep (JEP). Late Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatchers were at La Bufadora 6–8 Nov (MJI et al.) and s. of Playas de Tijuana 24 Nov (RAE, RAH). An Eastern Phoebe apparently returned to El Rosario 17 Oct–4 Nov (BT et al.). Kingbirds of note included: at least 3 Tropicals at Bahía Tortugas, where routine in fall, 29 Sep–22 Oct (RAH et al.); the 3rd Cassin's for the Colorado Desert bioregion at San Felipe 29–31 Aug (ph. MJJ); Baja California Sur West-erns at Guerrero Negro 28 Sep (PAG et al.) and Santiago 26 Oct (KLG et al.); and an Eastern on the lower Rio Santo Tomas 28 Sep (ph. JEP). Loggerhead Shrikes proved to be thriving in the southeastern desert, with a count of 21 along the coast between San Juan de la Costa and San Evaristo 16 Nov (RAH, PU). A Plumbeous Vireo was near San Evaristo 19 Nov (RAH), where the species may winter sparingly; only 3 were reported elsewhere. A Blue-headed Vireo at Guerrero Negro 1 Oct (ph. JEP) furnished the first confirmed record for the Region (see N.A.B. 57: 261). The only Red-eyed Vireos were s. of Playas de Tijuana 2 Oct (RAH) and at Guerrero Negro 30 Sep (ph. JEP), and a Yellow-green Vireo turned



This juvenile Pacific Golden-Plover (below) at El Socorro 4 November 2003 (in flight with Black-bellied Plover) provided the only record for Baja California this fall. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

(6, 23 Oct; KLG, KCM), in addition to Laguna Chapala. Four hundred Black Skimmers at Bahía San Quintin 21 Oct (KLG, KCM) represented a record Regional count.

PIGEONS THROUGH PIPITS

A Band-tailed Pigeon at Bahía de Los Angeles 6 Nov (MF, GF) was the 2nd to be found in the Vizcaino Desert. Up to 5 Inca Pheasants were at the s. limit of their range at San Felipe

up s. of Playas de Tijuana 16 Oct (fJEP).

Two Bank Swallows at El Rosario 20 Sep (JEP) were the only ones reported. A Brown Creeper at La Bufadora 6 Nov (MJI, ph. BLS, RSAK) provided one of few Regional records. Catavína provides an oasis for all sorts of wanderers, including a Townsend's Solitaire 1 Nov (JE et al.) and a record-late Swainson's Thrush 4 Nov (MJI et al.). Varied Thrushes were at the Rio Guadalupe estuary 15 Oct (RAE, MJI) and El Rosario 29 Nov (TEW, LA). After just one previous Regional record, Gray Catbirds were found at La Bufadora (fKAR, vt., fSGM, fBT) and the Maneadero Plain (fSGM, KAR) 18 Oct, with a 3rd at El Rosario 29 Nov (fTEW, LA). Red-throated Pipits seemed to be everywhere, doubling the number of individuals previously recorded in the Region. At least 20 were in Baja California: 2–3 at Villa Jesus Maria 28–29 Sep (RAE et al.); one n. of Rosario 29 Sep (MJI); 5+ at Cantamar 15–16 Oct (MJI et al.); 8–10 n. of El Socorro 17 Oct–4 Nov (fKAR, vt. SGM et al.); one at Río del Rosario estuary 17–24 Oct (JEP); and singles at El Rosario 18 (JEP) & 25–30 Oct (JEP et al.). At least 9 were in Baja California Sur, including one at Enseñada Blanca, s. of Loreto 25 Oct (KLG) and 8–10 at Santa Teresita 31 Oct–1 Nov (JE et al.). The Eurasian invasion included the Region's first *Japonicus* American Pipit: singles n. of El Socorro 17 Oct (vt., fBT, fSGM, KAR), at the Río del Rosario estuary 25 Oct (fJEP), and at El Rosario 30 Oct (ph., fJE et al.).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Observers remarked on the general scarcity of warblers but through intensive coverage tallied a respectable 33 species. Most notable were the Region's 2nd Pine Warbler—an imm. male at El Rosario 17 Oct (ph. fJEP)—and 4th Bay-breasted Warbler—an imm. male in the Mexicali Valley 18 Nov (TMCg, ph., fMSM). Unusually high totals included 8 Lucy's Warblers 11 Sep–21 Nov (BC 7, BCS 1) and 23 Palm Warblers 4 Oct–23 Nov (21, 2). The following numbers were more typical: 4 Tennessees 29 Sep–21 Oct (1, 3); 2 Northern Parulas 28 Sep–3 Oct (1, 1); 5 Chestnut-sideds in Baja California 17 Sep–18 Oct, plus an imm. male collected near San Evaristo, BCS 17 Nov (RAH, PU; *SDNHM); 4 Magnolias 27 Sep–2 Nov (3, 1); a Cape May at the Santo Tomás Winery 23 Sep (fMJI, RAE); 4 Blackburnians 1–17 Oct (4, 0); 2 Prairies 17 Oct–2 Nov (2, 0); 15 Blackpolls 23 Sep–3 Nov (1, 1); 3 Prothonotaries 18–31 Oct (1, 2); 3 Ovenbirds 30 Sep–30 Oct (2, 1); and a Hooded at El Rosario 27 Sep (RAE et al.), plus the lingering female at La Salina to 1 Oct (PAG et al.). Warblers expected in larger

numbers included Virginia's (El Rosario 30 Sep, RAE et al.), Black-throated Blue (wintering at the Santo Tomás Winery 29 Oct+, TMCg et al.), and Black-throated Green (El Rosario 18 Oct, ph. JEP).

Sixteen Summer Tanagers were found s.



The incursion of Red-throated Pipits and American Pipits of the race *japonicus* into western North America this season included the first three *japonicus* to be recorded in Baja California. The bird in the foreground, photographed at El Rosario on 30 October 2003, shows white underparts with dense, thick, dark streaks; white wingbars and supercilium; and upperparts darker than local American Pipits, such as the background bird.

Photograph by Josh Engel.

to the Vizcaíno Peninsula 29 Sep–13 Nov, but the only Scarlet Tanager was at Catavína 23 Oct–1 Nov (ph. JEP et al.). Late Black-chinned Sparrows were recorded at the Santo Tomás Winery 23 Sep (MJI), along the lower Río Santo Tomás 28 Sep (JEP), and in the lower Valle San Telmo 20 Oct (KLG et al.). Mountain White-crowned Sparrows are generally uncommon to fairly common in Baja California Sur, and an estimated 1000—with 300–400 Lark Buntings—near Vizcaíno 15 Oct (SGM et al.) exceeded all previous



This Brown Creeper photographed at La Bufadora, Baja California 6 November 2003 provided one of few Regional records. Photograph by Brian L. Sullivan.

counts; shortly thereafter, on 31 Oct, 835 Lark Buntings materialized at nearby Santa Teresita (MSM et al.). In contrast to fall 2002, Fox Sparrows were quite scarce—

although a Red Fox Sparrow was found at La Bufadora 18 Oct (vt. fSGM, fBT, KAR)—and Golden-crowned Sparrows went unrecorded. On 28 Nov, single Pink-sided Juncos were encountered at Santo Tomás (fTEW, LA) and at Ejido Yucatan in the Mexicali Valley (DSC). Seemingly overdue, the Region's first McCown's Longspur was n. of El Socorro 17 Oct–2 Nov (fBT, ph., fKAR, vt., fSGM, fMSM et al.). A male Lapland Longspur was also there 17 Oct–2 Nov (fSGM, fKAR, ph. JE et al.), and 3+ more were n. of Laguna Figueroa 30 Nov (TEW, LA). Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found in record numbers: 25–30 n. of El Socorro 17 Oct–5 Nov (fSGM, fKAR et al.); 6 on the Maneadero Plain 31 Oct (RAE); one near the Mexicali airport 28 Nov (DSC); and in Baja California Sur, one at Santa Teresita 31 Oct (JE et al.). Four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found in coastal Baja California 11 Sep–12 Oct. The only Indigo Bunting was an imm. male at El Rosario 23 Sep (MSM, DSC), and a green Painted Bunting was on the Maneadero Plain 10 Oct (fKAR). Dickcissel numbers continue to impress, with 14–15 found 11 Sep–25 Oct, compared with just 6 Bobolinks 23 Sep–15 Oct.

Great-tailed Grackles visited the Vizcaíno Desert in record numbers this fall; highlights included up to 40+ at Bahía de Los Angeles 22 Oct–7 Nov (MF et al.), about 20 in the vicinity of Villa Jesus Maria 23 Oct (JEP), and 3 in Guerrero Negro 23 Oct (KLG, KCM et al.), the first recorded in Baja California Sur since 1998. Their colonization of the mid-peninsula agricultural region seems imminent. A Bronzed Cowbird at Bahía Ascunción 15 Oct (fKAR, fBT, SGM) was the first to be well documented in Baja California Sur, and another Pacific coast record came from the Maneadero Plain 31 Oct (fRAE). Rare to uncommon orioles included an Orchard at Catavína 30 Sep (RAE); 6 Bullock's in San Felipe 29 Aug (MJI) and 6 elsewhere 15 Sep–4 Nov (5 in BC, one in BCS); and a Baltimore at Villa Jesus Maria 13 Oct (vt. SGM, fKAR, BT).

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After a late onset of the rains this year in most of Mexico (see the Summer 2003 report), the rains were very strong and lasted until early November.

NORTHERN MEXICO



Cold spells starting in November may have driven individuals of some species that are not regular altitudinal migrants downslope of their usual elevations along the Sierra Madre Oriental.

LOONS THROUGH OWLS

A Red-throated Loon was at Puerto Peñasco 24 Nov (KK, RT). Both Western and Clark's Grebes were behind Presa Rodríguez Gómez in Hermosillo, Son. 8 Oct (DS, MS). Black Storm-Petrels were seen from shore at Huatabampo, Son. 7 Oct (DS, MS) and at Puerto Peñasco 11 Nov (JT). Three Brown Pelicans, 24 Neotropical Cormorants, and 3 Tricolored Herons were seen on the Francisco Zarco Dam upstream from Cañón de Fernández (SR). A Least Bittern was in marshes just s. of Culiacán, Sin. 28 Nov (MG). At least one ad. Boat-billed Heron was at the permanent roost on the Río Frio below Gómez Farias, Tamps. 12 Nov (JCA). A juv. Roseate Spoonbill was near the Río Frio 12 Nov (JCA). Eight Wood Storks were on the Río Yaqui n. of Ciudad Obregón,

Son. 8 Oct (DS, MS).

From 21 to 45 Wood Ducks were seen at six census spots at Cañón de Fernández, Dgo. Aug–Nov. A female with 10 ducklings was seen on the Nazas R. close to the Francisco Zarco Dam 6 Aug (SR). A Ross's

Goose was seen wading among Mexican Ducks on Puentes Cuates, downstream from Cañón de Fernández 23 Nov, a first record for the Torreón region. Five Canada Geese were around Puerto Peñasco, Son. 23 Nov (KK, RT). Several Muscovy Ducks—in pairs, singly, and in a group of 4—were seen in early and mid-Nov at marshes near the Río Sabinas highway bridge, at a marsh near Ciudad Mante, Tamps., and in Venustiano Carranza and Laguna La Soledad near Ocampo, Tamps. (JCA, HGDS). A female Surf Scoter was at Puerto Peñasco 11 Nov (JT).

An Osprey was seen by AVJ in the Cañón de Fernández 3 Aug, and one was at Francisco Zarco dam 6 Aug (SR). A Northern Goshawk was above Yécora, Son. 5 Oct (SG, LN). A Short-tailed Hawk was sighted along Highway 16 around 198 km e. of Hermosillo 5 Oct (SG, LN). Two Crane Hawks were displaying in flight near Ocampo 18 Nov (HGDS). AH reports that, as last year, the city of Monterrey, N.L. received an influx of raptors, particularly Red-tailed

Hawks, in late Nov. An ad. and up to 2 juv. Gray Hawks were present in Cañón de Fernández 10 Aug (AVJ, FVP, WB). Peregrine Falcons were noticed from early Sep+ hunting blackbirds and doves from the Canal 9 Antenna, Torreón (FVP). A Prairie Falcon was seen flying over Lerdo, Dgo. 23 Nov (FVP, WB). Fresh footprints of a flock of Wild Turkeys were seen near Ocampo 18 Nov (HGDS).

More than 50 Silt Sandpipers were photographed at Yávaros, Son. 7 Oct, the first documented record and by far the largest number for Son. (DS, MS). A first-year Sabine's Gull was at the inland location of Presa Rodríguez Gómez 8 Oct (DS, MS). A first-year Thayer's Gull, 2 first-year Glaucous-winged Gulls, and an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull were at the Puerto Peñasco sewage ponds 23 Nov. An ad. Western Gull was at Yávaros 7 Oct (SG, LN). There were many first-year Least Terns at both Yávaros and Estero Tobari 7–8 Oct (LN, SG).

Two Greater Roadrunners were near Ocampo 16 Nov (HGDS). Eurasian Collared-Doves were reportedly numerous along the highway n. of San Fernando, Tamps. 10 Nov but were not seen s. of there in the next few days (JCA). A flock of around 20 Green Parakeets 12 Nov at Rancho Cielito, Tamps., were formerly abundant, was the most seen there in recent years, while the only evidence that same morning of Red-crowned Parrots, also formerly abundant there, was a pair heard (JCA). A flock of at least 110 Green Parakeets was above Callejones near Ocampo 19 Nov (HGDS). A pair of Tamaulipas Pygmy-Owls that responded to whistled imitations at around 800 m on the road to Alta Cima 13 Nov (JCA) was at a low elevation.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES

A male Broad-billed Hummingbird at Alta Cima, Tamps. 15 Oct (HGDS) was e. of its normal range and unexpected in such a humid area. An Anna's Hummingbird was on the Mesa de Campanero above Yécora on the Son./Chih. border 7 Oct (SG, LN). One Amazon Kingfisher along an irrigation canal just s. of Ciudad Mante 14 Nov was the only report of a species that was formerly common n. to the Río Sabinas and Río Frio prior to a major flood in Aug 2000; the species is now rare in Tamps. (JCA). A Russet-crowned Motmot was along the Río Mayo near Alamos, Son. 6 Oct (SG, LN). Four Greater Pewees were as low as 280 m on the road between Gómez Farias and El Encino, Tamps. 16 Oct (HGDS). All Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds recorded around Ocampo in the 3rd week of Nov were Couch's (HGDS). At least 3 Hammond's Flycatchers at Venustiano Carranza 18 Nov

(HGdS) were at an unexpectedly low elevation for the Gulf slope.

In s. Tamps., numbers of Chihuahuan Ravens and the formerly abundant Tamaulipas Crows have been down substantially in recent years (*vide* JCA). On afternoon drives between Ciudad Victoria, Tamps. and Gómez Farías no crows or ravens were seen 11 Oct, and only one raven was seen 15 Nov (HGdS); the same drive in the morning of 20 Nov produced 9 Tamaulipas Crows and 2 Chihuahuan Ravens. About a dozen Tamaulipas Crows were noted around Ciudad Mante 14 Nov (JCA), and similar numbers were noted at and around Ocampo 16–20 Nov, in addition to two encounters with flocks of 100–200 individuals (HGdS). A pair of Common Ravens (a species not clearly mapped in Tamps. by Howell and Webb [1995]) was at Alta Cima during early Jun and mid-Oct visits (HGdS). Spotted Wrens were seen near El Platanito above El Naranjo, S.L.P. 14 Nov and at the crest of the road w. of Ocampo 15 Nov (JCA). Two Russet Nightingale-Thrushes were found on the Mesa de Campanero 7 Oct (SG, LN). One White-throated Thrush was low at 420 m between Gómez Farías and El Encino 16 Oct (HGdS). Blue Mockingbirds were at several places between 400 and 525 m elevation near Ocampo 18–19 Nov (HGdS).

A Black-and-white Warbler was at km 198 along Hwy 16, Son. 4 Oct (SG, LN). A Northern Waterthrush was in mangroves along the bay at Yávaros, Son. 7 Oct (DS, MS, LN, SG). A Painted Redstart was low at 450 m at Callejones, near Ocampo 19 Nov (HGdS). Small numbers of Blue-gray and Yellow-winged Tanagers were at Ocampo in mid-Nov (HGdS). A pair of Scrub Euphonias was above the landfill at Alamos 6 Oct (DS, MS). An evening roost of 30 or more Scrub Euphonias was found in mango trees at Bocatoma along the upper Río Frío 12 Nov (JCA). White-winged Tanagers were heard between Gómez Farías and El Encino 16 Oct (HGdS). At least 5 Dickcissels were in the Alamos area 5 Oct (DS, MS). Several pairs of Rusty Sparrows were seen 14 Nov near El Platanito, where regular, and a pair was seen near the crest w. of Ocampo 15 Nov (JCA). Large mixed flocks of blackbirds started appearing in Torreón by mid-Oct. However, for the first time since records began in 1984, no roosts formed on Calzada Colón, a wide downtown avenue full of tall trees where large flocks of 1.5 to 2.5 million birds

used to gather to roost. This season, instead, blackbirds are roosting in city parks and leafy suburbs. A Black-headed Siskin was at Callejones 19 Nov.

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CENTRAL MEXICO



September and October were very wet and warm (especially October). Some areas of Veracruz visited in October (e.g., Los Humeros and Las Minas) had experienced flooding or were under water. Localities are in Ver. unless otherwise stated.

HERONS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

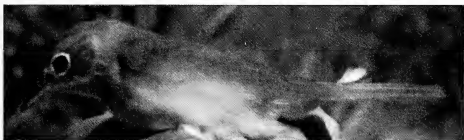
A Great Blue Heron was near San José Cacahuatpec, Gro. 3 Aug (HGdS). A juv. Tricolored Heron, 2 Least Bitterns, and 2 Black-crowned Night-Herons were at the Almolya del Río marsh 13 Sep (HGdS,

migrating s. with a flock of Broad-winged Hawks 1 Oct (JM, GC; Hawk Mountain tour). This species is very rare in Mexico anywhere. Singing Quail were calling at Las Minas 24 Sep.

Four Piping Plovers were with several Collared Plovers at M.A.R. 1 Oct. A Killdeer was heard near Instituto de Ecología, UNAM in the evening of 11 Nov. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at Las Barrancas 29 Sep. At least 2 Marbled Godwits were in the mouth of La Antigua R. 28 Sep. Several White-rumped Sandpipers were seen along the Limón R. in the heart of the Alvarado wetlands 12 Sep. Two Black Terns

and 2 Laughing Gulls were at Almolya del Río 13 Sep (DP, HGdS). One Eurasian Collared-Dove was seen along the cen. Veracruz coast by S.N.G. Howell early Oct (*vide* JM). A Barn Owl was heard in Coyoacán 16 Nov (MG).

Flocks of Black Swifts were seen 14 Sep near La Mancha and 4 Oct at Cafetal El Basurero. At least 4 Chestnut-collared Swifts were seen 14 Sep at Rancho El Mirador, and others were at Cafetal El Basurero 4 Oct. A Great Swallow-tailed Swift at Texelo waterfall 24 Sep appears to constitute only the 2nd Ver. record (another was in the same locality last year). Two Green-breasted Mangos near Tlaxotalpan 12 Oct were rather late for this summer resident. Green Violet-ears were present and singing at Parque Nacional Desierto de Los Leones, D.F. from late Jul at least through Aug (SA). Single Green



This Canada Warbler was banded at Yagui, Oaxaca, Mexico 9 September 2003. This species is a regular transient through the eastern lowlands of Mexico but casual in western and central Mexico.

The birdlife of the Oaxaca Valley features a mixture of species of western and central Mexico, with frequent "eastern" visitors as well. Photograph by Ramiro Aragón.

DP). A flock of around 15 Northern Pintails was at the marsh at Almolya del Río, Méx. 13 Sep (DP, HGdS). Two pairs of Muscovy Ducks were seen flying over La Mancha 23 Sep and Playa Juan Ángel 27 Sep, respectively. An Osprey was at Almolya del Río 13 Sep (HGdS, DP). An ad. light-morph Rough-legged Hawk at La Mancha was

Violet-ears, rarely reported in Ver., were at Los Humeros 25 Sep and 4 Oct, as was a male Lucifer Hummingbird. A Blue-throated Hummingbird nest was found in the Parque Nacional Desierto de Los Leones 30 Aug (SA). Several Rufous Hummingbirds were at Los Humeros through most of the period.

KINGFISHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Pygmy Kingfisher at La Mancha 23 Sep was n. of its normal range, while a calling Cordilleran Flycatcher at Rancho El Mirador 27 Sep was e. of normal range. Yellow-olive Flycatchers were n. of normal range at Rancho El Mirador 28 Sep and at Cafetal El Basurero 3 Oct. A Buff-breasted Flycatcher at La Joya (1700 m) on 4 Oct was e. of its mapped range. Gray-breasted Martins at La Mancha 1 Oct were late. A singing Cassin's Vireo was near Viveros de Coyoacán, D.F. 13 Nov (HGdS). Dozens of Violet-green Swallows were at Volcancillo (1800 m) and Las Minas in Sep and Oct, where regular in winter, though e. of mapped range. Bewick's Wrens at Los Humeros 25 Sep and 4 Oct were also e. of mapped range. A Gray-checked/Bicknell's Thrush was seen at P.M. 3 Oct, upslope and w. of its usual migration route.

Two Tropical Mockingbirds at La Piedra road 28 Sep were far n. of normal range (escaped cagebirds are conceivable here). Two to 3 European Starlings were encountered at a small park in Mexico City (Avenida Coyoacán and Viaducto) on several occasions from 29 Aug to 2 Nov (HGdS), 4 were seen at Metro Talismán, D.F. 2 Nov (HGdS), and 20 were seen at Temamata, Méx. 2 Nov (HGdS, MPV). During a migrant fallout at Mocambo Hotel 30 Sep, a Brewster's Warbler accompanied 2 Golden-winged Warblers. A Grace's Warbler, rarely recorded in Ver., was at Los Humeros 4 Oct. A Cerulean Warbler at 1200 m in Rancho El Mirador 2 Oct was at a high elevation. A Palm Warbler was at El Salado 1 Nov. A Yellow-breasted Chat was at Sierra de Guadalupe, D.F. 3 Sep (SA). A Rufous-capped Brushfinch was e. at Malpais (2300 m) 24 Sep.

A male Cinamon-bellied Flowerpiercer at P.M. 3 Oct was e. and downslope of normal. A Cinamon-bellied Flowerpiercer with nesting material was seen in the Parque Nacional Desierto de Los Leones 30 Aug (SA). One Lark Bunting in the grasslands at Playa Juan Ángel 26 Sep was a new record for Ver. A few Vesper and Clay-colored Sparrows, rare in Ver., were at Los Humeros 1 Nov. A few Black-headed Siskins were recorded at La Joya 4 Oct, e. and downslope of regular range. A Scott's Oriole was e. at Los Humeros 25 Sep and 1 Nov (JM). A Black-vented Oriole at Sierra de Guadalupe 3 Sep (SA) may represent the first D.F. record. Pine Siskins outnumbered Lesser Goldfinches in the weeds at Almoloya del Rio 13 Sep (HGdS, DP).

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SOUTHERN MEXICO



Abbreviations: S.J.G. (Río Salado near San Juan Guelavia, about 20 km e. of Oaxaca City, approx 1550 m), T.S.P. (Tlacolula sewage ponds), Yag. (Yagul archeological site and environs), S.F.E.P. (San Felipe Ecological Park), L.A.B. (Las Animas Bridge, km 8 on the Panamerican Highway, near Tapanatepec). All localities listed are in Oaxaca.

WOOD STORK THROUGH ORIOLES

33 Wood Storks were seen flying over S.J.G. 12 Nov; this sighting constitutes the first record for the Oaxaca Valley (Ra, KW). A Mexican Duck was at Piedra Azul Dam, near Teotitlán del Valle 6 Nov, perhaps the 2nd there ever (JF). A Long-tailed Wood-Partridge was seen at La Cumbre 7 Nov (RAR). A Hook-billed Kite was seen soaring over the L.A.B. 19 Nov (RAR, KW, AT). A Harris's Hawk was at S.J.G. 9 Nov (RAR, KW). One Zone-tailed Hawk was at Llano Grande 13 Sep, and another was reported at San Mateo Cajonos 15 Nov (JF). A Semipalmated Sandpiper and a Pectoral Sandpiper were at T.S.P. 20 Sep (JF).

A Whiskered Screech-Owl was seen at Santa María Yavesia, Sierra Norte de Oaxaca 27 Nov (KW, RAR); the species (including the rufous morph) is widely distributed in the highlands of the state. At least 4 Great Horned Owls were heard at Yag. 9 Sep (RAR). A Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl was heard at L.A.B. 19 Nov (JF, KW, RAR). A Berylline Hummingbird was mist-netted at a high elevation at Llano Grande 16 Nov (KW), where an Amethyst-throated Hummingbird was mist-netted 7 Nov (RAR, KW). Two Russet-crowned Motmots were seen at Tot. 19 Nov (JF, RAR, KW, AT). A Lineated Woodpecker was seen at L.A.B. 19 Nov (JF, RAR, KW, JK, AT). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen near Llano Grande 13 Sep, while an Alder Flycatcher banded at Yag 16 Sep, representing the first record from the Oaxaca Valley, was identified with greater than 95% confidence according to criteria of Pyle et al. (1997),

particularly p10-p5 = 5 (RAR). A Nutting's Flycatcher was banded at Yag 19 Sep (RAR). A Social Flycatcher was seen at the Instituto Tecnológico Agropecuario de Oaxaca 17 Oct, with a Scissor-tailed there the next day

(RAR, KW), and another Social was at km 15 e. of Oaxaca City on the Pan-American Highway 30 Oct (KW). Social Flycatchers are rather scarce in the Valley, though a pair is sometimes around the airport.

A Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo was seen at the productive El Jilguero arroyo above Teotitlán del Valle 6 Nov (JF). Single Gray-breasted Wood-Wrens were seen at El Jilguero Arroyo 6 Nov (KW) and at La Cumbre 10 Nov (KW). Two Golden-crowned Kinglets were seen at Llano Grande 13 Sep, a 3rd state record of what must be an irregular visitor. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen at S.M.V. 20 Sep, a record-early date for the subregion. An American Robin at S.J.G. 14 Nov was in disturbed tropical deciduous forest, an unusual habitat (KW). A Northern Parula was seen at the Instituto Tecnológico Agropecuario 16 Oct, apparently the first record for the Oaxaca Valley (KW, RAR). Two Yellow Warblers were banded at Yag. 11 & 18 Sep (RAR), 2 were at S.J.G. 13 Sep, and one was seen at Tot. 19 Nov (JF, RAR, KW, AT). Most unusual, a group of 5-10 Black-and-white Warblers on a single tree along the creek of S.F.E.P. 18 Nov was singing and showing territorial behavior (RAR, KW, AT). An American Redstart was banded at Yag. 19 Sep. An Ovenbird was at S.F.E.P. 29 Oct (RAR). A Canada Warbler was banded at Yag. 9 Sep.

A Botteri's Sparrow was heard at Yag. 19 Sep (RAR). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was mist-netted at the Instituto Tecnológico Agropecuario 18 Oct (RAR, KW). A Rose-bellied Bunting was seen 19 Nov in the foothills ne. of Tapanatepec at km 16 from the Pan-American Highway (JF, RAR, KW, JK, AT). A female Painted Bunting was banded at the Instituto Tecnológico Agropecuario 25 Oct (RAR, KW), and a male was banded at S.J.G. 14 Nov (RAR, KW). At the Instituto Tecnológico Agropecuario, one Orchard and several Streak-backed Orioles were seen 17 Oct (RAR).

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YUCATÁN PENINSULA



Abbreviations: H.Tz. (Hacienda Tzalamcab); H.Ti. (Hacienda Ticuch); H.S.J.T. (Hacienda San José Tecoh; all three within 10 km of Izamal, Yuc.); R.C.B.R. (Ria Celestún Biosphere Reserve, Yuc.); R.L.B.R. (Ria Lagartos Biosphere Reserve); R.L. (town of Rio Lagartos); R.S.M. (Rancho Santa María, n. Q. Roo); R.S.M. (Rancho



Increased reporting from different points in the subregion has provided an increasingly refined understanding of birds' migratory routes through the peninsula, and improved communication permits comparison of local data with those from offshore oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as from farther north on the Gulf Coast. For instance, the migratory fallout composed mostly of American Redstarts and Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, and Blackburnian Warblers that appeared during foul weather in the coastal region of El Cuyo on 29 September was also experienced to our north, in the Gulf Coast states of Mississippi, Alabama, and western Florida (see the Central Southern regional report). Another wave of the same species—plus Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Hooded Warbler, Least and Alder/Willow Flycatchers, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and vireos—was noted on 4 October nearby in a forested area 10 km north of Izamal; the birds were traveling in a north-northeasterly direction under a light rain. These and past data suggest that many massive fall migration fronts make landfall in the area of Celestún, or directly on the north coast of the peninsula, and that the birds either fly in parallel migration routes in an easterly direction or occupy the entire northern portion of the peninsula before heading southward into Central and South America.

Banding by coastal and inland researchers working on habitat selection of migratory birds and West Nile disease are contributing to still more precise information, including recaptures of individual birds in the same locations as in previous years. In addition, local guide training and the annual Yucatán Bird Festival, held the third week of November each year, provide additional data through the end of the migration period.

San Miguel, near Valladolid, Yuc.); S.F. (San Felipe, Yuc.); R.H. (Rancho Hobonil, s. Yuc.); S.K.B.R. (Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve); C.B.R. (Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, Camp.).

HERONS THROUGH TERNS

Large waterbirds seen during the Yucatán Bird Festival 20 Nov included a Pinnated Bittern in R.C.B.R., where never before reported (DB), an American Bittern in R.L.B.R. (MM), the first specific report for Yuc., and one of the 2 *Jabirus* that have been reported in the last year in R.L.B.R. at Petén Túcuh and at the local cemetery (DN). An American Wigeon was observed at Celestún with 9 American Coots in Oct (AD). During a birdathon, 7 Northern Shovelers and a male scaup were observed in the R.C.B.R. 16 Nov (BM, DB).

A King Vulture reported repeatedly throughout the period 10 km e. of Celestún (AD) was probably the same as one reported 20 Nov 15 km w. of Celestún over savannah (PW); another was reported at R.S.M. in Oct (PW). A nice surprise at H.Tz. was an ad. Hook-billed Kite 22 Nov (BM, BiM). A female Snail Kite was seen at Celestún 16 Nov (BM), while on 20 Nov an ad. White-tailed Hawk was seen at Petén Túcuh and an imm. was observed 20 km s. of R.L. along with 2 Red-tailed Hawks (BM, BiM). Two Collared Forest-Falcons were perched near the bridge at Celestún 16 Aug (DB), and a male Peregrine Falcon was perched in the coastal area of Celestún 16 Nov (BM).

An Ocellated Turkey was seen sunning itself near Chunchucmil 5 Oct (JD). Three teams participating in the Bird Festival reported a Rufous-necked Wood-Rail at Celestún 20 & 21 Nov (AD, DB, LC), while an ad. Spotted Rail was reported at Cobá, Q. Roo 23 Sep (MC), where first recorded in

1985 (BM). An American Golden-Plover was seen on a sandbar in the R.L.B.R. estuary 20 Nov (BM, BiM). A Piping Plover was at Celestún 6 Oct (JD). American Avocets were reported in Celestún in Oct (number unspecified; AD) and 16 Nov (5 birds; BM, BiM), and one was photographed on the Cozumel golf course 12 Sep (MC, RC). Forty-four Greater Yellowlegs were feeding in the estuary behind Chicxulub 10 Aug, along with 11 Willets and a Spotted Sandpiper (BM). A Solitary Sandpiper was seen 15 km s. of R.L. 20 Nov (BM, BiM). The first Cozumel record of Upland Sandpiper was of one photographed at the Cozumel golf course 11–12 Sep (HO, MC, RC). Two Marbled Godwits were on a sandbar in the R.L.B.R. estuary 20 Nov (BM, BiM), while one was reported on the Cozumel golf course 11 Sep (MC). Four Least Sandpipers showed up in Chicxulub estuary 10 Aug (BM), 2 Dunlins were at the Celestún harbor 5 Oct (JD), and another was on a sandbar in the R.L.B.R. 20 Nov (BiM). Around 25 Silt Sandpipers were reported in Celestún 5 Oct (JD), while one was there 16 Nov (BiM). Single Wilson's Snipe were observed 16 & 21 Nov in Celestún (AD), and another was on the road from S.F. to R.L. 20 Nov (BM).

A Parasitic Jaeger was reported in Celestún in Oct (VM). A Lesser Black-backed and a Kelp Gull, together, were close to the salt mines of Las Coloradas 16 Nov (JM, AM). A Ring-billed and a Kelp Gull were on a sandbar in the R.L.B.R. estuary 20 Nov (BM), and 2 ad. Sabine's Gulls were seen from the ferry crossing to Cozumel 13 Sep (JE, MC). Caspian Terns are found more and more frequently on the Yucatan coast, but 14 on the sandbar in R.L.B.R. estuary 20 Nov was a high count (BM).

DOVES THROUGH VIREOS

A Eurasian Collared-Dove was photographed at R.S.M. this fall (PW); this species has yet to be reported in Yuc. and Camp. A Black-billed Cuckoo was seen at H.Ti. 7 Sep (BM), and 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were recorded at H.S.J.T. 6 Sep, with singles nearby at H.Ti. 7 Sep (BM) and Yaxuná, Yuc. 20 Sep (AE, BM). Six Smooth-billed Anis were reported in the Puerto Morelos area 24 Sep (MC), where they were first recorded in the late 1980s. A Vermiculated Screech-Owl was heard predated at R.S.M. 21 Nov along with a Great Horned Owl (IC, BM), while another Vermiculated Screech-Owl was heard at H.Ti. 4 Oct (BM). A Mottled Owl was heard at Sayil 21 Nov (PW). Around 20 migrating Common Nighthawks were feeding over fields a few km n. of Izamal 7 Sep (BM). An unusual find during the Bird Festival was a Yucatán

Nightjar seen and heard at Uxmal 20 Nov (AD). Two juv. Green-breasted Mangos at Yaxuná 20 Sep provided data on breeding (AE, BM). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are common, but males are rarely reported; a male was seen 20 Nov at Celestun (PW), another was seen on same date on the road from S.F. to R.L. (BM), and an imm. male was seen at H.Tz. 22 Nov (BM, BiM).

A Tody Motmot delighted a group of birders in Calakmul 20 Sep (MC), while 2 Collared Aracaris were photographed in the forest behind El Cuyo, Yuc. 28 Sep (AC, JD). A report of a Greenish Elaenia at Sayil 21 Nov suggests that this species is not restricted to the forest on the e. side of the peninsula (PW). One of the few locations where such forest-dwelling birds are found in Yuc. is behind El Cuyo, on the border with Q. Roo, where a Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher was seen 1 Sep (JD, AC), another new species for the R.L.B.R. Around 20 Eastern Wood-Pewees were seen moving through the vegetation at H.Tz. 5 Oct (BM), while a single one was identified by song 20 Nov near Sayil. Ornithologists using nets in El Cuyo have been able to separate Alder and Willow Flycatchers and reported netting 3 imm. Willows 6 Sep, plus singles 11, 12, & 26 Sep and 17 Oct (JD, AC). Three Alder/Willow Flycatchers were seen migrating through woods at H.Ti. 4 Oct (BM), while a single imm. Alder was netted in coastal dune at El Cuyo 24 Oct (JD, AC), a new record for the R.L.B.R. Single Willow Flycatchers were identified on the S.F.-R.L. road 20 Nov (BM, BiM) and at H.Tz. 22 Nov (BiM). A Least Flycatcher was netted 8 Aug at Rancho Hobonil (LC); there were eight reports of one at H.S.J.T. 6 Sep, 6 at H.Ti. 4 Oct, and one at H.Tz. 5 Oct (BM).

One to 2 Eastern Phoeebes were recorded 25+26 Oct at R.S.M., one seen and the other netted (PW). A Great Crested Flycatcher was netted in mangroves at El Cuyo 24 Oct (JD, AC), and a Great Kiskadee at the Cozumel golf course 12 Sep furnished a new record for the island (MC, RC). Eastern Kingbirds come through the peninsula by the thousands—at least along the east coast—but inland sightings of individuals provide important distributional information, such as one at H.S.J.T. 6 Sep and another at H.Ti. the next day (BM). Two were seen at 2 Yaxuná 20 Sep (AE, BM). Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are not common on the peninsula, so all sightings are of interest. One was observed by several groups at the cenote along the Chunchucmil road s. of Celestun 20 Nov (AD, PW).

Among the migrants moving through H.Ti. 4 Oct was a Yellow-throated Vireo, while the less-common Philadelphia Vireo

was netted 17 Oct, an imm. at El Cuyo (JD, AC). A Red-eyed Vireo was at H.Tz. 5 Oct (BM), and an imm. Yucatan Vireo was netted at El Cuyo 17 Oct (JD, AC).

MARTINS THROUGH ORIOLES

A total of 20 Purple Martins was observed at Yaxuná 20 Sep (BM, AE), while 2 imm. Bank Swallows were netted at El Cuyo 4 Sep, in mangroves and coastal dune, respectively (JD, AC). An alternate-plumaged male White-lored Gnatcatcher was at H.Tz. 7 Sep, and a single basic-plumaged male was there 4 Oct (BM). A male was seen at Hacienda Petac, s. of Mérida 20 Oct (AE, BM), while 2 were observed at H.Tz. 22 Nov (BM, BiM). An imm. Swainson's Thrush was netted in the coastal dune vegetation at El Cuyo 26 Sep, and another imm. was in button mangrove at El Cuyo 3 Oct (JD, AC). Yet another was seen at H.Ti. 4 Oct (BM). Black Catbird, reported at H.Ti. in summer, was recorded there on only one of three fall visits (4 Oct; BM). A Cozumel Thrasher was reported near the Cozumel golf course 12 Sep at 5:30 in the evening (RC); this would amount to the rediscovery of a species thought extinct since 1999, so confirmation and immediate attention by conservationists are highly recommended.

Warblers received much attention this season. An imm. male Blue-winged Warbler was netted at Rancho Hobonil 19 Aug (LC), suggesting that this species also migrates along the n. coast of the peninsula. An ad. and 2 juv. male Golden-winged Warblers were sighted at El Cuyo 3 Aug (JD, AC), while at least a single male was among warblers at H.Tz. 5 Oct (BM). An exhausted imm. Tennessee Warbler was found at El Cuyo 7 Sep (JD, AC); at least 6 were among migrants at H.Tz. 5 Oct; and another was sighted 20 km of R.L. 20 Nov (BM). An imm. Orange-crowned Warbler was netted in the coastal region of El Cuyo 24 Oct (JD, AC), and one was reported at Peten Tichá 20 Nov (BM). The first reported Northern Parula was seen at El Cuyo 8 Aug (JD, AC); 2 males and a female were at H.Ti. 4 Oct and around 30 at H.Tz. next door 5 Oct (BM). Yellow Warbler was first seen 9 & 11 Aug at El Cuyo (JD, AC), while an imm. female was netted 20 Aug at Rancho Hobonil (LC). Chestnut-sided Warbler was recorded as early as 26 Aug at El Cuyo (JD, AC); 3 imm. were seen at H.Ti. 4 Oct, and around 100 were migrating through at adjoining H.Tz. 5 Oct (BM). A Magnolia Warbler was netted at El Cuyo 6 Sep (JD, AC); 4 were seen on the S.F.-R.L. road 20 Nov (BM). Two ad. male Black-throated Blue Warblers were netted in the coastal area of El Cuyo 3 Oct (JD, AC). A male Black-throated Green Warbler, a species reported less and less frequently, was

among migrants at H.Ti. 4 Oct (BM).

An imm. male Blackburnian Warbler was seen at El Cuyo on the early date of 3 Sep (JD, AC), while 2 were at H.Ti. 4 Oct and several were seen on the next day at adjoining H.Tz. (BM). A single Prairie Warbler netted at El Cuyo 8 Aug provides a slightly earlier date than previously recorded (JD, AC). The migration that passed through the coastal region of El Cuyo in early Oct brought a report of 7 Palm Warblers 4 Oct and of 11 on 6 Oct (JD, AC). An imm. Blackpoll Warbler was netted in the coastal area at El Cuyo 31 Oct (JD, AC), while one ad. male and 2 juv. Cerulean Warblers were netted there 4 Sep (JD, AC). Another early migrant was a Black-and-white Warbler netted at El Cuyo 9 Aug (JD, AC); 2 imm. females were netted 20 Aug at Rancho Hobonil (LC). The earliest sight record of American Redstart was one at El Cuyo 18 Aug; another was netted there 26 Aug (JD, AC). Two male Black-and-white Warblers were among migrants at H.Ti. 4 Oct, and a female was at H.Tz. 5 Oct (BM). An early Prothonotary Warbler was netted at El Cuyo 3 Aug (JD, AC), and 2 imm. males were at Hobonil 20 Aug (LC). A single Worm-eating Warbler was observed at El Cuyo 9 Aug (JD, AC) and a Swainson's Warbler in same area 4 Sep (JD, AC).

Northern Waterthrush was also reported early, with one seen 11 Aug and one netted 20 Aug at El Cuyo (JD, AC), while one imm. was netted 22 Aug at Rancho Hobonil (LC). On the road leading into H.S.J.T., 3 Northern were distinguished from 2 Louisiana Waterthrushes 6 Sep—and a total of 14 waterthrushes was seen on the 6-km return trip. A Louisiana Waterthrush was netted at Rancho Hobonil 22 (LC), and another was seen at El Cuyo 2 Sep (JD, AC). Kentucky Warbler is a regular but uncommon migrant to the peninsula and usually goes unnoticed; 7 were caught in nets in the El Cuyo area 12 Aug–12 Sep (JD, AC). Three imm. males were netted 19 Aug, along with an ad. male 20 Aug, at Rancho Hobonil (LC). Early reports for Hooded Warbler include 2 at Rancho Hobonil 19 Aug (LC), one at Yaxuná 20 Sep (AE, BM), and one at H.Ti., plus 6 heard there during the 4 Oct migration (BM). A female Gray-throated Chat was at Yaxuná 20 Sep (AE), and another was reported at Sayil 21 Nov (PW).

A male Rose-throated Tanager was seen at H.Tz. 22 Nov (BiM), while a male and 3 female Red-legged Honeycreepers were seen for the first time at El Cuyo 18 Aug (JD, AC). A Chipping and a Lark Sparrow showed up at R.S.M. this fall (no dates given; PW). An early Orchard Oriole was a female netted at Rancho Hobonil 5 Aug (LC). One male and 2 female Orchard Ori-

oles were at H.Ti. 7 Sep (BM), and an imm. male plus 8 others were at H.Ti. 4 Oct (BM). A Yellow-backed Oriole was observed feeding a juv. Bronzed Cowbird in a zapotilla tree at Majahual 30 Aug (BM). Two Tricolored Munias were seen at R.S.M. this fall (PW), while another was at the

savanna 12 km s. of Celestun 20 Nov (VM). The spread of this species, an agricultural pest in s. Asia, should be carefully watched in this country.

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For all we don't know about the resident avifauna of Central America, we know even less about seasonal patterns of occurrence. One index of how much accumulated knowledge we possess may be seen in the rate of diminishing returns. For example, as the number of species on a regional list increases, the number of new ones added each year should diminish proportionally as the list approaches (but never reaches) its maximum potential. It follows that the number of "country firsts" should diminish with each passing year, unless, of course, (1) the coverage increases accordingly (increasing numbers of birders afield), (2) the combined identification skills of the birders afield increases, or (3) there are so many potential new species to add that the "maximum potential" is still far off in the future. Looking back on the four fall migration seasons documented in this journal since 2000, we can pretty much rule out No. 1; No. 2 is always a factor; and it appears that No. 3 also holds true: for the "vagrant chaser" in all of us, there are still many, many rarities yet to be recorded in Central America.

Let's take a closer look. In fall 2000, 25 contributors recorded one country first. In fall 2001, 44 contributors recorded a remarkable seven country firsts; in fall 2002, 34 contributors recorded only one country first. But this past fall, 2003, one-third fewer contributors than in 2001 recorded no fewer than six country firsts (pending review): Great Frigatebird and Grayish Saltator in Panama, White-winged Scoter and Yellow-winged Cuckoo in Belize, Barred Parakeet in El Salvador, and Plain-breasted Ground-Dove in Honduras.

Country firsts do not mean much in the overall scheme of things; after all, they're the flukes. But they are an easy-to-define, and therefore easy-to-measure, indicator of the amount of new data (read: accumulating knowledge) flowing into the system, and indirectly, an indicator of how much more there still is to learn. So, for those who like to be on the cutting edge of discovery, Central America is still a great place to be.

FRIGATEBIRDS THROUGH RAILS

A male and female Great Frigatebird associating with a feeding flock over Spotted and

Central America



Spinner Dolphins at 5° 36.1' N, 82° 59.9' W (226 km ssw. of Isla Jicarón, Panama) on 12 Nov (ph. MF) represented the first photographic record from Central America and only the 4th documented American record away from the Islas Revillagigedos off Mexico, where the species breeds. It can be very difficult to differentiate the occasional Great Frigatebird from the abundant Magnificents in the field, and few people in North America are familiar with its distinguishing characteristics. To what extent may we be overlooking this wide-ranging species?

Rare in Panama were a Glossy Ibis 7 Sep (GA) and a male Cinnamon Teal 23 Sep (JT), both at Costa del Este near Panama City. One and possibly 2 Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures closely observed at Barra de Santiago, *Ahuachapán* 22 Oct (ph. TJ) were unexpected, as this species is rare in El Salvador. Absolutely astounding, if confirmed, was a White-winged Scoter seen and well described in Ladyville, *Belize* 10-15 Nov (TR). Unfortunately, it was seen by a single observer and not photographed and thus may not constitute an acceptable record. This species is unrecorded in the Caribbean s. of the U. S. Gulf Coast states.

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Eighteen Snail Kites at L. Güija, *Santa Ana* 30 Nov (NH) was the largest concentration yet observed in El Salvador. An imm. Solitary Eagle soaring over Llano del Muerto at Perquin, *Morazan* 25 Oct (ph. TJ) was only the 5th for El Salvador and the first documented with a photograph. Also in El Salvador, a flock of 40 Short-tailed Hawks mixed in with migrating Turkey Vultures 2 km sw. of Suchitoto, *Cuscatlán* 14 Nov (NH) illustrated a rare example of migration in this species. Just two years ago, Swainson's

Hawk was finally documented in Belize after nearly 30 years of unsubstantiated reports, many of which were likely based on misidentifications. On the morning of 21 Sep, JN (*file LJ*) reported seeing a rising ket-tle of about 100 large, long-winged, whitish hawks near his house in Punta Gorda. Based on this description and the time of year, LJ believed that they may have been Swainson's. Eight days later, just outside Punta Gorda, LJ observed a group of 26 juv. Swainson's Hawks migrating south with 9 juv. Mississippi Kites, another rare transient in Belize.

In Costa Rica, a light-morph ad. Crested Eagle was observed by several gondola-loads of visitors and guides (*file DT*) as it perched along the Rainforest Aerial Tram, lower Braulio Carrillo N.P., *Heredia*. Although reported sparingly from nearby La Selva and Rara Avis, this was the first report for the tram area. The first Paint-billed Crane reported in Costa Rica in about two years was one flushed from the margin of a recently harvested rice field at Zapote de Rio Frio 20 km e. of Puerto de Sarapiquí, *Heredia* 11 Oct (*JRZ*). Almost all previous reports have come from this area.

POLVERS THROUGH DOVES

An American Golden-Plover at the mouth of Rio Jiboa, *La Paz* 4 & 21 Oct (*TJ*) was the first fall report for El Salvador. One was also seen 26 Sep (*GA, JT*) at Costa del Este in Panama, where it is rare to very uncommon. Rare in Costa Rica was a Snowy Plover seen on the beach near Limón airport 11 Sep (*DM, AS, DS, AA*). Not rare, but present in an unusually large concentration, were 193 Wilson's Plovers near the mouth of Rio Jiboa 7 Sep (*TJ*). Also near the mouth of Rio Jiboa were an injured American Oystercatcher 12 Oct (*ph. TJ*), the first recorded in *La Paz*, and an American Avocet 7 Nov (*ph. TJ*). The latter, while not especially uncommon in El Salvador some years, now goes unrecorded most years and had not been reported since 1994. Long-billed Curlews were reported from El Salvador where one, possibly representing the first fall record, was present at Barra de Santiago, *Ahuachapán* 22–25 Oct (*TJ, OK*), and from Panama, where one was seen at Costa del Este 12 Sep (*GA, JT, RM, KK*). There are fewer than 10 records for this

species in Panama. Approximately 20 Marbled Godwits at Barra de Santiago 25 Oct (*OK*) represented the largest concentration on record for El Salvador. The rarest bird seen at the mouth of Rio Jiboa this season

America—and only the 2nd for North America as broadly conceived—were 2 Gray-hooded Gulls at Costa del Este 14 Aug (*ph. RM, VENT* tour led by *TN*). There are three previous sight records from Panama and a 26



This female Great Frigatebird and an accompanying male—seen 226 km out in the Pacific Ocean off Panama on 12 November 2003—were the first ever recorded in the Central American region. The record is remarkable, even though the pelagic avifauna of Central America is still quite poorly known. Photograph by Michael P. Forcé.

was a Baird's Sandpiper, only the 2nd recorded in El Salvador, on 21 Oct (*TJ*). The most unexpected bird recorded at Costa del Este this fall was a female Ruff on 11 & 21 Aug (*JT, DB*), the 3rd recorded in Panama



A Gray-hooded Gull, one of two present at Costa del Este near Panama City, Panama 14 August 2003, provided the first photographic record for the Central American region; there are two previous sight records for Panama. Photograph by Rosabel Miró.

and first since 1974. Less unusual, but still noteworthy, were 2 Wilson's Phalaropes, also at Costa del Este, on 14 Aug (*GA, JT, RM*).

Representing the first photographically documented record for Panama and Central

Dec 1998 photographically documented record from the Florida panhandle. Much less spectacular, but nevertheless noteworthy, were a Ring-billed Gull at Costa del Este 7 Sep (*GA, JT*) and 10 Black Skimmers there five days later (*GA, JT, RM, KK*). Two Mourning Doves seen on 19 Oct (*NH*) at Barra de Santiago, *Ahuachapán* were early. The long-awaited first documented Honduras record of Plain-breasted Ground Dove came 2–4 Aug, when 5 or more pairs were observed along the road to Catacamas, 5 km ene. of Juticalpa, *Olancho* (*ph. TJ, JF, MB*). There was an undocumented report from near Copán in early 2003.

PARROTS THROUGH JAYS

One or more Barred Parakeets were heard flying over Montecristo N.P., *Santa Ana* 26 Oct (*OK*). Although park guards indicated that the species was a regular visitor to the park, this represented the first specific record for El Salvador. In Costa Rica, a White-tipped Sicklebill mist-netted at the Pitilla Biological Station, *Guanacaste* 22 Aug (*ph. DC*) represented a slight northward range extension from its previously known northernmost occurrence at Rincón de la Vieja. A disjunct population of Wedge-tailed Sabrewing in *Olancho*, Honduras, last reported in 1962, is alive and well. On 3–4 Aug, *TJ* and *JF* recorded and photographed the species in several gorges in El Boquerón N.M. 20 km ene. of Juticalpa. In w. El Salvador, where the Green-breasted Mango is presumed to be a migrant, 2 females at Santa Rita forest, Municipio San Francisco Menéndez, *Ahuachapán* 12 Sep (*OK, MT*) represented an early fall record. The earliest previous record was 25 Oct. Two Long-billed Starthroats there on the same date (*OK, MT*) were also noteworthy, given the paucity of distribution and status information for this species in El Salvador.

Four drumming Hairy Woodpeckers at Montecristo N.P. 26 Oct (*OK*) were noteworthy, as this species was not recorded there on a breeding bird survey in 1999. Like the White-tipped Sicklebill, the Brown-billed Scythebill was thought to be at the n. end of its range at

Rincón de la Vieja, at least until one was mist-netted at the Pitilla Biological Station, *Guanaacaste* 24 Aug (ph. DC). A Mouse-colored Tyrannulet seen and heard 50 m above sea level at La Gamba de Gollito, *Puntarenas* 4 Sep (JRZ) was the first recorded in the coastal lowlands of Costa Rica. All previous records have been from interior valleys above 600 m. A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher at Caserío San Miguelito, *Ahuachapán* 13 Sep (OK, MT) was the latest recorded in El Salvador. Rare anywhere in Costa Rica, a Gray Kingbird at Palo Verde Lagoon, *Guanaacaste* 8 Nov (ph. JA, MM, IM, EC) may be the 2nd ever recorded on Costa Rica's Pacific slope. Seldom seen in Panama, a male Bare-throated Umbrellabird in the Fortuna Forest Reserve, Rio Hornito, *Chiriquí* 13 Aug (ML) is worth noting. A Blue-headed Vireo at the Rainforest Aerial Tram 23 Sep (AS) was s. o. its normal winter range and constituted an early fall record for Costa Rica. In El Salvador, 2 Red-eyed Vireos at Caserío San Miguelito 12-13 Sep (OK, MT) provided the 2nd and 3rd fall records for El Salvador and only the 4th and 5th records for the country. Two Black-chested Jays at the Rio Negro de Coto Brus, *Puntarenas* 1 Sep (JRZ) provided the 4th record for the Pacific slope of Costa Rica since the species was first reported there three years ago.

SWALLOWS THROUGH ESTRILID FINCHES

The Blue-and-white Swallow is a common resident at middle and higher elevations in Costa Rica, so birds seen at sea level are worthy of close scrutiny. Three ads. and 2 imms. seen at Chomes 29 Aug (JRZ) had notably different vocalizations, longer wings, and longer tails than seen in the resident subspecies, and the appearance of more white in the face, all indicative of the migratory South American subspecies *N. c. patagonica*, which is seldom reported as far n. as Costa Rica. Three Tennessee Warblers at Caserío San Miguelito 12-13 Sep (OK, MT) were considered to be early migrants in El Salvador. The Orange-crowned Warbler is exceptionally rare as far s. as Costa Rica, so one closely observed near Purisil on the road to Tapanti N.P., *Cartago* 21 Sep (DM and members of Asociación Ornitológica de Costa Rica) was especially noteworthy. A first-year male Black-throated Blue Warbler at the Biotopo Mario Dary Rivera (Quetzal Sanctuary), *Baja Verapaz* 20 Oct (TJ) provided only the 2nd record for Guatemala. Noteworthy were 2 ad. male Golden-checked Warblers 26 Oct at Montecristo N.P. (OK); there are only four previous reports for El Salvador, none fully documented. Rare in Panama was a Yellow-throated Warbler at Cerro Azul 1 Oct (JT). Nine Canada Warblers recorded at various points in El Imposible N.P., *Ahuachapán* 13 Sep (OK, MT) were indicative of a major

SA Tricolored Munia (*Lonchura malacca* [sensu *stricta*]), formerly lumped with other taxa as Chestnut Mannikin) was first reported in Central America in Costa Rica four years ago, when 3 ads. were found at the La Guinea sugar cane farms, *Guanaacaste*. At the time, concern was expressed that this small population could grow and expand into a nearby large rice producing area (this granivorous species is considered a major pest in its native Asia). It has now made that 6-km leap. On 6 Nov, JRZ flushed a group of 12 birds, mostly juvs., from a mature rice field at Pelón de la Bajura, the first reported occurrence away from the La Guinea sugar cane farms. It has also been recently reported in Honduras, Belize, and Mexico (N.A.B. 57: 553 & 555). These recent sightings may represent the beginning of a major multi-front invasion of Central America and the beginning of a significant agricultural nightmare.

wave of this species on that date.

An exhausted Lincoln's Sparrow was found resting on the beach at Adolfo Downs, Tortuguero, *Limón* 17 Oct (AD). A Grayish Saltator, the first record for Panama, was seen and tape-recorded on the outskirts of Changuinola, *Bocas del Toro* 13 Sep (GB, VV). The species may be spreading southward from Costa Rica as a result of deforestation. Two Bobolinks, a seldom-reported species in Costa Rica, were flushed from a grassy area at 1450 m at Las Concavas, Paraiso de Cartago 30 Sep (DM, AS). A female Baltimore Oriole at Caserío San Miguelito 13 Sep (OK, MT) was an early migrant. Hard to explain was a well-described Yellow-winged Cacique well out of range near Gales Point, Belize on 6 Oct (MG et al.). If of wild origin, this would be the first record for Belize. A similar bird, thought to be of the same species, was seen briefly by LJ about 25 km n. of Gales Pt. as it darted low across the road in front of his vehicle 19 Sep. A group of 5 Red Crossbills present at Montecristo N.P. 26 Oct (OK) were the first reported from *Santa Ana* and only the 3rd reported from El Salvador.

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The 2003 season of tropical storms was relatively active, although observations of birds in this context were few. Hurricane *Fabian*, the worst to strike Bermuda in nearly a century, did tremendous damage to property and to wildlife sanctuaries during its direct hit on the island 5 September but produced little in the way of noteworthy birds. *Isabel* later in the month blocked arrivals of migrants to Bermuda, as high pressure that developed for most of September resulted in easterly winds there. Tropical Storm *Mindy* formed north of the Dominican Republic 10–11 October and moved north through the Turks and Caicos, producing interesting sightings at Trou Caiman, a shallow lake northeast of Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

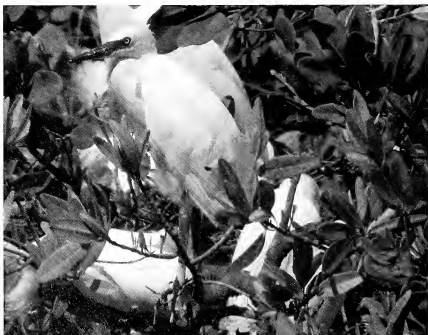
Other weather systems' effects were less pronounced, although on Bermuda, a rain-bearing front that arrived in early October produced one of the best fallouts of migrants in recent years. The variety of warbler species was noteworthy, with at least 33 species recorded in the first

five days of the month. By contrast, the Bahamas had a storm-free season, and warbler migration was late and sparse, except on the northern islands. The Bahamas' first documented Long-billed Dowitcher was the outstanding rarity of the season, and the fifth new species for the country in 2003; a Sandhill Crane on Andros in November was the sixth. From Cuba, we received confir-

mation that the critically Endangered Cuban Kite continues to be observed in a forested region of Santiago in the eastern part of the island, the first confirmed observations known to us in several years.

SHEARWATERS THROUGH TERNS

Two Cory's Shearwaters landed on a Bermuda-bound cruise ship 27 Aug and were released (JM). Neotropical Cormorants numbered 54 at Paradise I. Golf Course and Lakeview Ponds, New Providence, Bahamas 6 Oct (SB, LG, DM, TW). One was reported from Trou Caiman, Haiti 11 Oct, the first record from that location (JRC). An American Bittern was at Pembroke Marsh, Bermuda 4 Nov (SR), while the first of the season's Least Bitterns was at the same location 8 Nov (AD). A downy Little Egret chick was photographed at Graeme Hall Swamp, Barbados 23 Oct, a rather late date (RH). A juv. Reddish Egret was noted at Reef Golf Course, Grand Bahama 28 Sep (BH). At Trou Caiman, Haiti, 80+



This Little Egret nestling was photographed at Graeme Hall Swamp Sanctuary, Barbados 23 November 2003. The New World status of this species is documented in a recent article in *Birding* magazine (36: 52-62). Photograph by Rachel Hopper.

Glossy Ibis were noted 28 Sep (JRC). A Glossy Ibis at Saint François Aerodrome, Guadeloupe 17 Oct–2 Nov (AL) was the island's 2nd. Thirty-five White Ibis counted at Cable Beach Golf Course, New Providence, Bahamas 1 Sep (CW) included 20 imm.

At Fosters, St. Lucy, Barbados, 2 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were seen 16 Oct (EM, MF). West Indian Whistling-Ducks numbered 70+ at Codrington, Barbuda 19 Aug (RSBP). To add to the island's long-staying ad., 6 Snow Geese arrived at Bermuda 16 Nov (AD, PW, ESB, m. ob.). An imm. Tundra Swan 16–30 Nov at Cloverdale Pond (AD) was only the 4th recorded in Bermuda. Some 25 American Wigeon flew

over Spittal Pond, Bermuda 11 Nov, a record-high count (DBW). At Trou Caiman, White-cheeked Pintail numbered about 20 on 28 Sep (JRC); at Grog Pond, Great Exuma, Bahamas, 20 were counted 29 Oct (LG, BM), where some 80–100 Blue-winged Teal had been noted 6 Sep (BM). At Parham Bay, Antigua, RSPB members counted 50+ White-cheeked Pintail 21 Aug. At Boqueron refuge, Puerto Rico, 450 Blue-winged Teal were tallied 29 Oct (RR). Three Northern Shovelers were also seen at Grog Pond, GE 12 Nov (BM), while one was at Lakeview Ponds, New Providence, Bahamas 6 Oct (SB, LG, DM). Thirty Ruddy Ducks counted 29 Oct at Grog Pond (LG, BM) was a high count: are Ruddies staging a comeback in the area?

A Northern Harrier flew over Heydon Trust, Bermuda 16 Oct (R&KL), and one was at Grog Pond 16 Nov (BM). At Walker's Cay, Bahamas, 2 Peregrine Falcons were seen 1–4 Oct (TW); 3 were together over Port Royal Golf Course, Bermuda 24 Oct (DW, PH et al.); and singles were seen 17 Nov at La Pointe des Chateaux, Guadeloupe (AL) and at Trou Caiman, Haiti in Oct (JRC).

For the first time, multiple Corn Crakes were reported in the Region. One was seen and photographed very well at the Nature Reserve at Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe from 28 Sep–2 Oct (AL), a first for that island and for the Lesser Antilles. A dead Corn Crake found at Bermuda Airport 5 Oct (DH) provided the 7th record for that island. An imm. Purple Gallinule was at Parsons Road Pond, Bermuda 4–17 Nov (SR, PW, ESB). At

Ranch Monctel, Haiti (elev. 1567 m), JRC noted the locally Threatened Limpkin 2–3 Aug. A Sandhill Crane was reported from a Mennonite farm on Andros in Nov, representing a new record for the Bahamas (KSS).



A Glossy Ibis at Saint-François Aerodrome, Guadeloupe 13-19 October (here 17 October) 2003 provided that island's second record; the species is very scarce in the Lesser Antilles. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

Tropical Storm *Mindy* apparently grounded shorebirds at Haiti, where JRC counted 37 American Golden-Plovers 11 Oct, with one remaining there until 1 Nov along with 15–20 Black-bellied Plovers. A probable Pacific Golden-Plover was at the Bermuda Airport 26–27 Aug (PW); photographs and descriptions are under review. The island has but one previous record. Two



Bermuda's fourth record of Tundra Swan was furnished by this immature 16 (here) through 30 November 2003 at Cloverdale Pond and vicinity. Photograph by Andrew Dobson.

Snowy Plovers were noted at La Pointe des Chateaux, Guadeloupe 4 Sep (AL). A Dipping Plover remained at Nature Reserve of Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe from 7–30 Aug (AL), another was at Cooper's I., Bermuda 25 Sep (JM), where the species is increasingly rare.

Numbers in the Bahamas are consistently higher, e.g., 8 from High Rock to Pelican Pt., Grand Bahama 28 Sep (BH), 8 at Green Turtle Cay flats, Abaco 27 Oct (RP), and 7 at Winding Bay, Eleuthera 12 Oct (DC). An unusually high number of American Oystercatchers (12) was noted at Rolle Town, Bahamas 4 Oct (BM); 2 were seen 16 Nov at Clifton Bay, New Providence (NS).

A Common Greenshank seen 1 Nov at Hannays, St. Lucy Parish, Barbados constituted the 5th island record; a single Hudsonian Godwit there 1–2 Nov was also a fine find (EM, MF). At Green Turtle Cay, Abaco, Bahamas, RP counted 15 Red Knots 27 Oct. A Semipalmated Sandpiper seen 25 Oct at Wilson's Pond, New Providence, Bahamas (BH, EH) was considered late. From Montserrat comes a report of Little Suint seen 17 Aug at Belham River Mouth and carefully compared to Semipalmated Sandpipers by RSBP members (ph. EM; <<http://www.wow.net/ttfnsc/SCBA/2003-27.html>>). A juv. White-rumped Sandpiper was noted 22–24 Oct at Ruby Golf Course, Grand Bahama (BH, EH). A Baird's Sandpiper, rare on Bermuda, was at the National Sports Stadium 27 Aug (AD, PH), and a Dunlin was found at East End Dairy, Bermuda 4 Oct (AD). Guadeloupe's first Curlew Sandpiper was reported there 2–14 Sep (AL); other records for the Antilles come from Antigua and Barbados. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was at the Bermuda Airport 21 Sep (AD), and another was reported from Trou Caiman, Haiti after the passage of

Mindy 11 Oct (JRC). The first confirmed Bahamian record of Long-billed Dowitcher was photographed and sound-recorded 25 Oct at Wilson's Pond, New Providence, Bahamas (BH, EH). A Wilson's Phalarope arrived at Jubilee Road, Bermuda 21 Sep (SR). A Red-necked Phalarope, a first for Guadeloupe and for the Lesser Antilles, was found at La Pointe des Chateaux 21–24 Sep and joined by 2 Wilson's Phalaropes on the first day of its visit (AL). A Lesser Black-backed Gull was reported at Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Is. 6 Aug (fide FH). A Black Tern was noted at Ruby Golf Course, Grand Bahama 20–22 Sep, and 3 were at Emerald Golf Course 22–27 Sep (EG, ph. BH).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WAXBILL

A Black-billed Cuckoo at Hog Bay Park,

Bermuda 18 Oct (AD, SR et al.) was the only one of the season. Yellow-billed Cuckoos staged a moderate invasion in the Lesser Antilles, with 11 counted at Nature Reserve at Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe 20 Oct (AL). 13 total on Barbados 18–26 Oct (MF, EM), and a single reported from Grenada 25 Oct (AJ); 2 were at Walker's Cay, Bahamas 1 Oct (TW). Burrowing Owls were seen at four different locations on Eleuthera from Oct and Nov (JW, DC, ZM, IM), with singles seen on New Providence at the Retreat 3 Oct (ph. SB) and Lyford Cay 25 Oct (BH, EH). A Short-eared Owl on Cooper's I. 16 Nov (AD) was the first of at least three fall and winter records.

An Antillean Nighthawk seen at Belle-Plaine on 15 Oct was considered late at Guadeloupe (AL). A Chuck-will's-widow was heard calling, somewhat unusual for fall, 6 & 10 Sep and 1 Oct at Coral Harbour, New Providence, Bahamas (CW). JRC witnessed a "huge" flight of 70–80 White-collared Swifts near Port-au-Prince, Haiti 23 Aug. About 12 Chimney Swifts were seen in Somerset, Bermuda as *Fabian* strengthened about mid-day 5 Sep (WF). An unidentified hummingbird was reported in St. David's, Bermuda 5 Oct (*vide* EA). A Northern Flicker was seen at the A.B. Smith Reserve, Bermuda 5 Oct (EA); another was at Port Royal Golf Course for much of Nov (AD et al.).

Two Eastern Wood-Pewees were noted at Dover Sound, Grand Bahama 28 Sep (BH), and another was seen at Walker's Cay 3–4 Oct (TW). (Perhaps, to be conservative, most silent wood-pewees should be left unidentified, especially the late birds.) The latest-ever *Empidonax* recorded from Bermuda was an apparent Alder/Willow Flycatcher at Heydon Trust 23 Nov (DBW). Two apparently different Acadian Flycatchers were noted at Walker's Cay, Bahamas 2 & 4 Oct (TW). A Great Crested Flycatcher was at East End Dairy, Bermuda 8 Sep (PH). At the Treasure Cay dump, Abaco, RP found a very late Great Crested Flycatcher 23 Oct. An above-average number of Eastern Kingbirds arrived after *Fabian*, including a flock of 5 at Mid-Ocean Golf Course, Bermuda 10 Sep

Table 1. Warbler migration in the northern Bahama Islands, fall 2003.

SPECIES	GRAND BAHAMA 26-29 Sep (BH)	WALKER'S CAY 1-4 Oct (TW)	GRAND BAHAMA 22-24 Oct (BH, EH)	GRAND BAHAMA 27-29 Oct (BH, EH)
Tennessee Warbler	2-1		5-2	1-1
Nashville Warbler				1-1
Northern Parula	3-3	3-4	6-3	15-3
Yellow Warbler	2-1	1-3		
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1-1			
Magnolia Warbler	4-4	4-4	2-3	5-2
Cape May Warbler	15-4	10-4	15-3	10-3
Black-throated Blue Warbler	10-4	80-4	7-3	4-3
Black-throated Green Warbler			1-1	4-2
Blackburnian Warbler	1-1			
Yellow-throated Warbler	2-1	1-4	6-3	15-3
Prairie Warbler	10-4	4-4	10-3	25-3
Palm Warbler	15-3	30-4	50-3	75-3
Bay-breasted Warbler			1-1	
Blackpoll Warbler			1-1	
Black-and-white Warbler	5-4	30-4	4-3	40-3
American Redstart	25-4	50-4	20-3	25-3
Prothonotary Warbler	1-2	1-2	1-1	
Worm-eating Warbler	4-3	1-1	1-1	8-1
Swainson's Warbler				2-1
Ovenbird	20-4	40-4	12-3	25-3
Northern Waterthrush	8-4	7-4	4-3	12-2
Louisiana Waterthrush		1-2		
Kentucky Warbler	1-1		2-1	
Mourning Warbler	1-1			
Common Yellowthroat	6-4	20-4	10-3	35-3
Hooded Warbler	5-1	2-4	4-2	1-1

N.B.: The first number represents the highest daily count; the second indicates the number of days on which the species was seen.

(AD); some 20 were recorded a little more than a week later at Reef Golf Course, Grand Bahama 20 Sep (EG), with 6 there 22 Sep (EG, BH) and 2 at Walker's Cay 1–4 Oct (TW). A Gray Kingbird was on St. George's Golf Course, Bermuda 4–11 Oct (AD). The first Scissor-tailed Flycatcher for Bermuda was discovered at Port Royal Golf Course 24 Oct (PH, DW).

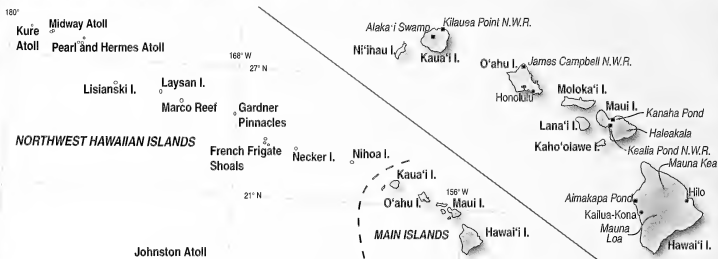
Warbling and Philadelphia Vireos were found at both ends of Bermuda in Oct (m. ob.). Single Red-eyed Vireos were noted at Barbados on 5, 11, & 26 Oct (MF, EM). Hispaniolan Palm Crows (25+) outnumbered

White-necked Crow (one) 2–3 Aug at Ranch Moncel, Haiti (JRC). Some 30 or 40 Bahama Swallows noted 7 & 9 Sep over Eastern Road, New Providence, Bahamas (LR, SB) seemed a high number for that island's population and may have included migrants (TW). Three Northern Rough-winged Swallows were noted at Reef Golf Course, Grand Bahama 11 Sep (EG). A House Wren and 3 Winter Wrens were amongst eight species of migrant passerines on board a cruise ship when it arrived in Hamilton, Bermuda 14 Oct (GLA). A Gray-cheeked Thrush was noted at Walker's Cay 4 Oct, along with a Swainson's Thrush 3–4 Oct (TW); a Swainson's was at Old Bahama Bay Club, Grand Bahama 28 Oct (BH, EH). A Hermit Thrush was netted and photographed 27 Nov at s. Eleuthera (DC, IM, ZM). Brown Thrasher is rarely reported in the Bahamas, but BH found one 28 Oct at Old Bahama Bay Club, Grand Bahama.

Thirty-six species of warblers were recorded this fall at Bermuda, with highlights being single Golden-winged Warblers in Salt Kettle 1 Oct (WF) and Wreck Road 2 Oct (WF), a Brewster's Warbler at Hog Bay Park 5 Oct (EA), and a Cerulean Warbler at Tudor Hill 5 Oct (EA). Twenty-seven migrant warbler species were seen in the extreme n. Bahamas during the last week of Sep and throughout Oct (Table 1). Researchers with the Kirtland's Warbler Training and Research Project, funded by the U. S. Forest Service

(<http://birdlife.org/news/features/2004/01/kirtlands.html>), have seen at least 30 birds (70% of which are color-banded) across seven monitoring sites in s. Eleuthera. The project members are exploring other sites recently discovered and expect to band more warblers in winter 2003–2004 (*vide* DC). A Magnolia and 2 Prothonotary Warblers were found at Westerhall Pt., Grenada 24 Oct (AJ), representing some of the southernmost observations for these species in the Lesser Antilles. An Audubon's Warbler was seen at St. Georges Golf Course, Bermuda 26 Oct (SR). Twenty-four Blackpoll Warblers fell out at Petite-Terre, Guadeloupe 20 Oct (AL); 4 were seen 1

Hawaiian Islands



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Full 2003 produced a bumper crop of rare birds. The arrival of these rarities may have been associated with some unusual weather systems. On September 1, Hurricane *Jimena* passed just south of the Big Island of Hawaii. *Jimena* produced heavy rain on the Big Island, and the strong easterly winds on the north side of the hurricane may have assisted some unusual species from western North America in reaching the islands. From 18 to 20 November, a long fetch of north-northeasterly winds was aimed at the islands, which may have brought in birds from Alaska and the far North Pacific.

Abbreviations: E. (Endangered Species); H. (Hawaii Island); Hakalau (Hakalau N.W.R., Hawaii Island); Hanalei (Hanalei N.W.R., Kauai); Honouliuli (Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu); K. (Kauai); Kanaha (Kanaha Pond, Maui); Kealia (Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui); Kii (Kii Unit of James Campbell N.W.R., Oahu); Kokee (Kokee S.P., Kauai); K.P. (Kilauea Pt. N.W.R., Kauai); M. (Maui); O. (Oahu); T. (Threatened Species); Waiawa (Waiawa Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu); Waikamoi (Waikamoi Preserve, Maui).

PETRELS THROUGH IBISES

We received reports from an unusual number and variety of fall pelagic trips. Gadfly petrels can be difficult to identify, so we were fortunate to get photographs or good descriptions of some species. Four or 5 Mottled Petrels were observed on a cetacean study off Hawaii I. (RB). Single Hawaiian Petrels (E.) were observed s. of Maui 5 Aug (EV), w. of Hawaii I. 6 Sep (DL), and off Hawaii I. in mid-Oct (RB). One Black-winged Petrel was also photographed off Hawaii I. in mid-Oct (ph. RB). A gadfly petrel that landed on a cruise ship near Maui 29 Sep was turned over to Fern Duvall after the ship docked at Kahului. The bird was

carefully examined, photographed, and released 30 Sep. The photographs and description clearly show that the bird was a Stejneger's Petrel, the Region's 2nd. The only previous record was a Bishop Museum specimen, originally identified as a Bonin Petrel and later recognized as a Stejneger's. Eric VanderWerf observed 75 Bulwer's Petrels off Maui 5 Aug, one of the highest counts ever reported in the Region. Bulwer's Petrels were also seen on two boat trips near Kauai: 7 birds 1 Aug and 2 on 19 Aug (DK). Two Newell's Shearwaters (T.) were observed off Hawaii I. in mid-Oct (RB) and spotted on two trips off Kauai: 2 birds 1 Aug and a single bird 16 Sep (DK). The same observers reported Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, some 3 off Hawaii I. in mid-Oct (RB), 16 off Kauai 1 Aug, and 2 off Kauai 19 Aug (DK).

As many as 10 juv. *Plegadis* ibis were at Hanalei this fall. First spotted 16 Sep, when 5 were noted (ph. BZ), 8 birds were counted 6 Oct (RD) and 10 on 15 Oct (RD). The birds were presumed to be White-faced Ibis, the only species that has been previously documented in the Region (about six previous records), but Glossy could not be ruled out. The previous high count was of 3 at Kanaha Pond on Maui in 1937.

SA A female Surf Scoter was discovered at Kawaiaele, K. 22 Nov (vt. JD) and was seen once more 23 Nov (DK). There is only one previous record, of an emaciated female found in the Waikiki surf 24 Dec 1959. A Sora was seen briefly but well at Kii 20 Nov (PD, KP). There are only two previous reports of Sora, a bird seen briefly on Oahu 10 Feb 1952 and one videotaped on Hawaii I. Sep 2000. A small alcid picked up along the beach at Ko'olaha, O. 27 Nov was taken to Sea Life Park for rehabilitation. The bird died the next day and was turned over to Bishop Museum as a specimen (*BPBM 184589). Peter Pyle examined the bird and was about 99% sure that it was a juv. Ancient Murrelet (a Regional first); the short bill and deep gonydeal angle appear to rule out first-year Crested Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus wumizusume*). Efforts continue to obtain a definitive identification.

It may be no more than a coincidence that these very rare species turned up in the islands in late Nov, but it seems more likely that they were brought there at least partly by powerful winds. Between 20 and 23 Nov, the ne. shores of the main Hawaiian Islands were battered by waves as high as 13 m. These waves were produced by a fetch of north-northeasterly winds between a strong high-pressure system and a deep low. The fetch was over 1700 km long, persisted over three days, and contained winds as strong as 61 knots (70 m.p.h.). It is quite conceivable that the Surf Scoter, Sora, and Ancient Murrelet could have been pushed from the nw. coast of North America toward the Hawaiian Islands by these winds.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Three Canada Geese were observed grazing on seaweed on Moloka'i 3 Nov (AD). A Brant was seen at Kealia 28 Nov (LT). Three juv. Tundra Swans were found near Kahului Airport, M. 28 Oct (ph. U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services), for a 3rd Regional record. Because the swans were thought to present a danger to aircraft, 2 were shot and one captured. The captured bird was released on O'ahu 7 Nov (EV), but has not been seen since. Photographs of the birds provoked a lively discussion as to whether the swans were Tundras or Trumpeters; one of the dead birds was brought to Bishop Museum, where it was positively identified at a Tundra Swan (CK, PP) and preserved (*BPBM 184564).

This fall, as last fall, migrant waterfowl were scarce until late Oct, when numbers started to build. More Eurasian Wigeons than American Wigeons were reported Oct+. Three Eurasians were on Moloka'i 13 Oct (AD), and up to 4 were on O'ahu 16 Nov (PD, RM). Single American Wigeons were observed at Hanaelei 10 Oct (BZ) and Kii 1 Nov (PD, MO). Both species are regular, but American Wigeon is usually more common. A count of 111 Northern Shovelers at Kealia 20 Nov (MN) is the highest fall count in the past three years, but numbers of most other migrant ducks remained low. The high count for Northern Pintails, 35 birds at Kii 20 Nov (PD, KP), was quite low. Numbers of bay ducks were exceptionally low, with high counts of 3 Ring-necked Ducks at Kii 30 Oct (PD, KP), 2 Lesser Scaup at Kaulakakai, Moloka'i 3 Nov (AD), and single Buffleheads at Honolulu 16 Nov (PD, RM) and at Kulima S.T.P. 22 Nov (PD). Unusually, we received no reports of migrant hawks this fall; there are usually at least one or two reports of Osprey or Peregrine Falcon.

FRANCOLINS THROUGH GULLS

The Gray Francolin continues to expand its range on O'ahu and is now being seen regularly in residential neighborhoods in cen. O'ahu (DB, MS). Birds reported as Spotted Sandpipers were at Kealia 14 Oct (MN) and at Kiholo Bay, H. (JH). Both birds were reasonably well described, but the descriptions did not rule out the similar Common Sandpiper, which is known to occur in the Region. The *hudsonicus* Whimbrel that had appeared at Kii each fall during 1997-2002 did not return this year (PD). Up to 4 Bristle-thighed Curlews were reported on Moloka'i Aug+ (AD), and one was reported at Kiholo Bay, H. 26 Nov (JH). As usual, the highest counts of Bristle-thighed Curlews were at Kii, where 25 were counted 23 Oct (KP, PD). The only peep reported was a juv. Least Sandpiper at Waiawa 20 Aug (PD, RM). Sharp-tailed Sand-



This female Surf Scoter was found in a water-filled sand mine at Kawaiele on Kaua'i 22 November 2003 after a period of strong north-northeasterly winds. Digital videograph by Jim Denny.



These three juvenile swans were spotted near Kahului Airport on Maui 28 October 2003. No birders ever got to see these swans in life: since it was feared the birds would be a danger to aircraft, two were shot and one captured. Some who examined the photographs thought these were Tundra Swans; others thought they were Trumpeters. Peter Pyle and Carla Kishinami examined one of the dead birds at Bishop Museum and determined it to be a Tundra Swan. This represents only the third Regional record of the species. Photograph by the United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services.



This bird landed on a cruise ship off Maui 29 September 2003 and was sent to Dr. Fern Duvall 30 September. The underlying pattern narrows down the possibilities to Cook's, Pycroft's, and Stejneger's Petrels; the contrast between the dark head and paler mantle and the small amount of white in the tail indicate Stejneger's Petrel (see Pictorial Highlights). This bird represents only the second Regional record. Digital photograph by Fern Duvall, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaii.

pipers were reported at several locations with a high count of 10 at Kii 25 Oct (PD, A&DW). We have been anxious to study snipe in the islands since the Common and Wilson's Snipe were split. A snipe at Kii 15 Nov+ proved to be a Wilson's (MO, ph. PD, m. ob.).

A Bonaparte's Gull was observed in a small pen in s. Maui Nov+ (MN, LT). Although Bonaparte's Gulls are regular in the islands, this was only the 2nd report in the past four years.

DOVES THROUGH PASSERINES

Mourning Doves were reported near Honokahau Boat Harbor, H. (H.F.T.) and in the Pu'uuanahulu, H. area 24 (DL) & 28 Nov (H.F.T.) Although uncommon in the Region, they have been reported more regularly in the past few years. Populations of introduced parrots on O'ahu I. are increasing. As many as 23 Rose-ringed Parakeets have been frequenting a residential neighborhood in Waipahu, O. (ph RME). Red-masked Parakeets were seen regularly in e. Honolulu, O. in Sep and Oct (NK, MO), with a high count of 50 birds 17 Oct (MO). At least 7 juvs. were counted that day. Nearly 200 Red-crowned Amazons were counted coming to roost in Pearl City, O. through Aug (NK). The flock included many juv birds. A Barn Owl apparently tried to attack a flock of Hawaiian Geese (E.) in a pen on Moloka'i 13 Oct. The owl was battered to death by the geese (AD).

We received regular reports from two groups about some of the Endangered native forest birds on Hawai'i I., but we received few reports for any of the other islands. We received only one report of a Puaohi (E.)—a bird heard singing on a steep cliff face in Kokee 25 Aug (DK). Good numbers of Palila (E.) were observed at Pu'u La'au, H. Aug+ (H.F.T.) and 22 Sep and 13 Oct (DL). One Maui Parrotbill (E.) was reported: a bird seen from the boardwalk at Waikamoi 16 Nov (JC, BF, RT, ST). As usual, small numbers of 'Akiapolaau (E.) were reported on Pu'u 'O'o ranch, H. and Hakalau Aug+ (H.F.T.). 'Akepa (E.) were spotted regularly at Hakalau Aug+ and at Pu'u 'O'o Ranch 26 Nov (H.F.T.). Efforts continue to capture the last remaining Po'ouli (E.) on Maui for captive breeding, but the birds remain elusive: the one remaining male was observed regularly in his home range Oct+ (EV).

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West Indian Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*) at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Virginia

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ABSTRACT

This article documents the appearance of a West Indian Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*) of unknown provenance at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in the City of Suffolk, Virginia, on 29 April 2003, as well as summarizing the status of the species and reported occurrences on the United States mainland.

FIELD ENCOUNTERS

Suomala first located the West Indian Whistling-Duck while guiding Marjorie and Bill Israel of New Hampshire on a private tour of the Great Dismal Swamp. Notes on the encounter were taken as follows. "We had driven in on the Railroad Ditch with a day-pass from the headquarters. On our return trip from Lake Drummond, along the West Ditch, and near the intersection with the Railroad Ditch [at 36° 37.214' N, 76° 31.487' W] in the southwestern portion of the refuge in Virginia, we spotted a duck close to the road, swimming and dabbling in the shallow water. I drove closer to it at a very slow rate, and it watched us carefully but did not flush. I carefully picked up my camera and, by moving very slowly, was able

to shoot about a dozen pictures before it swam farther away and into the grasses and shrubs. It was about 1230 EST and a sunny day, so I had hopes that I would get good photographs. My first take on identification was Fulvous Whistling-Duck [*Dendrocygna bicolor*], but I knew that something wasn't quite right and was particularly puzzled by the black and white pattern on the flanks. I took out my National Geographic field guide but could find no match. Not being familiar with Caribbean ducks, I thought that perhaps this was another race of Fulvous Whistling-Duck that was not pictured. We headed on our way, it now being lunchtime. I stopped at the headquarters and checked other field guides, but no revelations were forthcoming. That evening I called my wife in New Hampshire to check other resources but still had no answers. The next day, we returned to the same area, hoping to relocate the bird. Along the Railroad Ditch, we encountered another birder on bicycle, and we stopped to chat. "Did you see the duck?" he asked. "What duck?" I asked. "The West Indian Whistling-Duck!" he said emphatically. "Oh yes, I photographed it yesterday," I said happily, as I realized that the puzzle was solved. Shortly thereafter, I encountered Schwab and party, also searching for the duck, from whom I learned more about its rarity and its current common name. Unfortunately, it could not be relocated 30 April."

Schwab first encountered the West Indian Whistling-Duck while conducting field work to record voices of amphibians and to capture odonates for voucher specimens. Field notes from the first encounter with the duck follow. "1430 hrs. As I swung the net [to capture a *Traema carolina*], I just about stepped into the ditch and in the process flushed a large bird that I first thought was a bittern (long legs and neck), when catching [sight of] it out of the corner of my eye. After placing the dragonfly in an envelope, I turned my attention back to the bittern, which turned out to be a whistling-duck. On general appearance, I thought that it was

a Fulvous Whistling-Duck, but something about it did not jive: the duck had speckles in the flanks with a dark band down the back of the neck, back and top of head were similar in color to the FUWD, maybe a bit darker. The bill was black [though in the first photos the bill appears light in color], legs dark gray, w/ dark eyes, cheeks, throat and sides of neck light gray. [After taking] some photographs (digital), [I] went to call Tom Gwynn. Cell phone was dead, so had to drive to point outside swamp to call. After talking with Tom, I went home, downloaded photos, and emailed everyone in my address book who might be interested. Immediate reply that this was a West Indian Whistling-Duck [*D. arborea*]. Went back to check on bird, which was roosting on a log in West Ditch just south of Railroad Ditch. The duck allowed relatively close approach 10–15 m. Took a few more digital images and using my scope looked for missing hind-toe (all toes present and accounted for), and there were no bands [on the legs]. Watched bird for a total of 1.5 hrs 1830 to 2000 using 8x binoculars and 32x scope."

Field-verifiable distinctions from the similar Spotted Whistling-Duck (*D. guttata*) of the East Indies and New Guinea include the larger size, pale lores, pale upwearing coverts, lack of ruddy tones in the soft parts, and lack of white in the uppertail coverts of the Dismal Swamp bird. The condition of plumage, as illustrated in Figures 1–4, shows possible slight wear in the coverts and flank feathers. It may not be possible to age this bird conclusively, inasmuch as breeding of the species occurs year-round, but the plumage of the Dismal Swamp bird is less richly colored and contrastingly marked in the head than is that of most breeding adults, which suggests a young bird (Madge and Burn 1988, Stattersfield and Capper 2000), but the flank pattern is well developed, more so than in a younger juvenile (Madge and Burn 1988). It may be safe to say only that this bird is probably under one year of age.

DISCUSSION

In researching the habits and habitats of West Indian Whistling-Duck, we find its appearance and behavior in the Dismal Swamp to be in keeping with habitat selection and behavior in core range (cf. Staus 1998a, 1998b). This species inhabits all manner of watercourses throughout its range, including lagoons, swamps, mangroves, rice fields, and palm savannas (Raffaele et al. 1998, Stattersfield and Capper 2000), in both freshwater, brackish, and salt environments. On Puerto Rico, even golf course developments and airport ponds attract small numbers (E. S. Brinkley, pers. comm.). The beaver pond at the intersection of Railroad and West Ditches is similar to the scirpaceous swamps in which this species is often found in its Caribbean range. The habitat where the duck was observed is a seasonally flooded open marsh. The dominant vegetative cover is herbaceous and includes Beggar Tick (*Torilis arvensis*), cat-tail (*Typha* sp.), Woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), panic-grasses (*Panicum* sp.), woody shrubs such as Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) and willow (*Salix* sp.), and scattered sapling Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). The marsh is separated from West Ditch Road on the east side by ditch 7 m

across. The ditch varies in depth, but averages 1.3 m and in most years maintains open water. The marsh adjoins Railroad Ditch Road on the north side, with a mature forest of Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*)—Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) on the south and west boundaries of the marsh. Both Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) and Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), along with prescribed burns, maintain this area as open wetlands.

West Indian Whistling-Ducks feed mostly at night and are most often observed at dusk when flying to foraging areas (Raffaele et al. 1998). Except where exceptionally approachable—as on Jamaica at the Upper Morass of the Black River near Elim, or as on Grand Cayman Island, where they attend feeding stations daily (on the famous Willie Ebanks hog farm), or on various military installations or retirement communities where hunting does not occur—these ducks usually pass the daylight hours concealed in the vegetation at variable distances from foraging areas. In areas where not regularly hunted, they can often be closely approached while on the day roost (A. Haynes Sutton, pers. comm.).

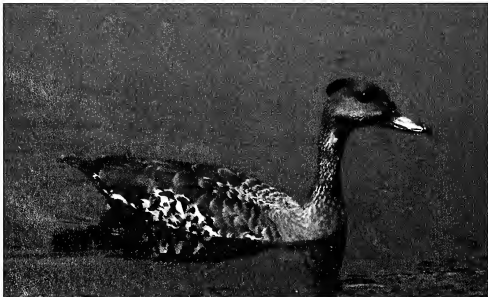
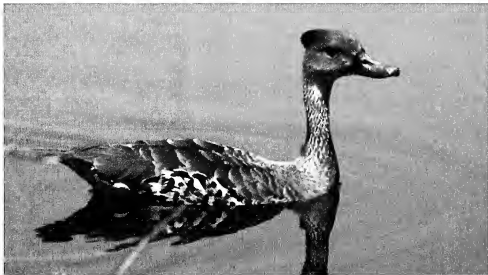
The breeding season appears to be quite variable across the range, as for many tropical species, and we can find no evidence of

pronounced post-breeding dispersal such as is often seen in Fulvous Whistling-Duck in the United States. Almost nothing is known about the species' dispersal or inter-island movements in the Caribbean. Stockton de Dod (1978) noted that in the Dominican Republic, the species occasionally "disappears," "usually only for short periods in January, February, or March." As for other species in the genus *Dendrocygna*, periodic dispersals away from typical range would be expected and are presumed to be driven in part by habitat shortages, as during droughts. The spring of 2003 saw a strong flight of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks (*D. autumnalis*) north of typical range and a lesser flight of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks (Brinkley 2003).

Distribution, conservation, and extralimital records

The West Indian Whistling-Duck is distributed through most of the Caribbean islands from the Bahamas, Greater Antilles, and adjacent islands, as well as in many of the smaller archipelagos east to the Lesser Antilles (Leeward Islands only), specifically the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, Cuba, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Antigua,





Figures 1-4. West Indian Whistling-Duck at the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Suffolk, Virginia 29 April 2003. These images show clearly the distinctions from Fulvous Whistling-Duck, which would show much more rufous coloration overall and no spotting in the flanks, as well as from the more similar but smaller Spotted Whistling-Duck, which would show darker lores and ruddy tones in the bill. Photographs by Donald Schwob (Figure 1, upper left), and Frontispiece) and Mark Suomolo (Figures 2, 3, 4).

and Barbuda, where the world population is conservatively estimated at between 10,000 and 12,000 birds (Stattersfield and Capper 2003). There are few recent confirmed reports from the British Virgin Islands, United States Virgin Islands, St. Croix, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Barbados, Martinique, or Guadeloupe, and the species may be considered casual or extirpated on these islands (Sorenson and Bradley 1999; L. G. Sorenson, pers. comm.). The nearest nesters to the United States are on Great Abaco Island, Bahamas (K. Radamaker, pers. comm.), which is less than 100 km from Florida. Some sources suggest that the Cuba population alone may be as high as 20,000 birds (Bradley 2000) and that Cubans refrain from hunting this whistling-duck because its call is interpreted as "*Cuba libre!*" (Raffaele et al. 1998). Because the species is known to be declining over some or most of the inhabited range, the West Indian Whistling-Duck Working Group was convened in 1997 to gather data on this species (Sorenson 1997, Staus 1997, Sorenson and Bradley 1999; <<http://www.whistlingduck.org>>, which is now listed as "Vulnerable" by Birdlife International (Stattersfield and Capper 2000). Data currently available do not permit a precise evaluation of its status, but researchers believe that populations on the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, and Cuba are stable and possibly increasing (Sorenson et al., in press). In other locations, the species is presumed to be declining owing to pressure from illegal hunting, egg-collection, capture for use as household pets, disturbance by introduced predators (mongooses, rats, cats, dogs, etc.), and loss of habitat for many reasons: intensive industrial development, expansion of agriculture, cutting of mangrove for charcoal, construction of landfills on former wetlands, and excessive drainage and the diversion of watercourses (Kear and Williams 1978, Stockton de Dod 1978, Scott and Carbonell 1986, Stattersfield and Capper 2000). The use of pesticides in agriculture is another factor that has caused massive mortality in this species, and application of fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides has clearly contributed to the degradation of wetlands in the Caribbean (Garrido 1985, Scott and Carbonell 1986). Species in decline sometimes show extralimital wandering or "escape flights," as birds search farther afield for appropriate habitat (e.g., Renfrow 2003), but in many cases, wanderers are just as likely to be from expanding populations (Veit 2000).

Previous appearances in the continental United States and on Bermuda

As is the case for many species of waterfowl, there is considerable uncertainty surrounding the number of West Indian Whistling-

Ducks recorded in the United States and their provenance. An unknown number of records of West Indian Whistling-Duck exists for Florida (Stevenson and Anderson 1994), and none of the records and reports of the species have been evaluated by the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee (per B. Pranty). Free-flying single birds have been reported at Virginia Key 2 August 1969 (Ogden 1969) and at Duda Farms in the Belle Glade farming district southeast of Lake Okeechobee 27 July 1980 (Edscorn 1980). The latter record was in an area that held up to 830 Fulvous and two (then rare) Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks (P. W. Sykes, Jr., pers. comm.). Stevenson and Anderson (1994) note that the source of some of these birds could have been the Crandon Park Zoo on Key Biscayne in the 1960s and 1970s, which failed to pinion West Indian Whistling-Ducks "held captive" there. Their reference to a "Gold Coast" record of the species is apparently a misreading of Edscorn (1980). Owre (1973) suggests that a small feral population may have developed in Florida. Such a population would have been difficult to detect, given the retiring habits of this species and the extensive mangrove habitat available at that time in southern Florida.

Texas also has several records or reports for the species. Data on file in the Royal Ontario Museum, Ottawa, Canada credits J. H. Fleming for the remark on a specimen of West Indian Whistling-Duck: "original label lost, came with other *Dendrocygna* from Brownsville, Texas, that were taken from 1891-1894; this is an Armstrong skin and is no doubt a Texas record" (ROM electronic database, per N. Collar). An adult West Indian Whistling-Duck discovered in Austin, Travis County in April 1992 remained in the area until 1995; it was determined to have come from a local collection. This record was reviewed by the Texas Bird Records Committee and rejected on grounds of provenance (M. Lockwood, pers. comm.). In southern Corpus Christi, a West Indian Whistling-Duck of unknown provenance showed up in 1995, and another of unknown provenance was documented there on 4 February 2001. These records have not been reviewed by the Texas Bird Records Committee (G. Lasley, pers. comm.).

There is a specimen record of one West Indian Whistling-Duck from Bermuda in November 1907 (Bond 1956), which is strongly suggestive of natural vagrancy as far north as the latitude of the Carolinas. Moreover, November is the peak month for autumn irruptions of Fulvous Whistling-Duck in the eastern United States. Although there is no official list of Bermuda's avifauna, all published references maintain this bird as a wild vagrant to Bermuda, including the

American Ornithologists' Union in its *Check-list* (1998).

In an investigation of all zoos and collections known to keep West Indian Whistling-Ducks in 2003—involving 10 institutions and 42 whistling-ducks, most of which are held in Texas and Florida—we were able to ascertain that no registered collection reports having lost an individual. As Edscorn (1980) writes, "This is a 'nearby foreign' species able to fly over to Florida in two hours but one which, alas, is already here in collections from which escapes seem inevitable." The American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-List* (1998) allows that "sight reports from Florida may be of natural vagrants." Although the provenance of the Virginia individual cannot be determined at this time, we feel that this record, the first to be documented with physical evidence away from Bermuda and the Caribbean, should be considered at least as a potential wild vagrant in light of (1) the northward irruption of congeners in spring 2003, (2) the appearance, habitat selection, and behavior of the bird, and (3) the lack of evidence of escapees in North America in recent years. It is our hope that observers of this species will archive documentation on this species with respective records committees so that a clearer picture of this species' extralimital distribution might emerge in the future.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank Paul W. Sykes, Jr. for discussion of the Duda Farms, Florida record, and Kurt Rademaker for discussion of the Abaco nesting records. Greg Lasley, Mark Lockwood, Lisa Sorenson, and Ann Haynes Sutton also supplied useful information on Texas and Caribbean records and status.

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Eurasian Kestrel in Florida: First record for the southeastern United States, with a review of its status in North America

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ABSTRACT

This article documents the occurrence and identification of a female-plumaged Eurasian Kestrel at Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, Orange County, Florida 26 February through 22 March 2003. The kestrel furnished a first for the state and for the southeastern United States. The status and distribution of the species elsewhere in the New World is also discussed.

FIELD ENCOUNTER

On 26 February 2003, Robinson discovered a female-plumaged Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) at Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, northwest of Orlando in Orange County, Florida. The kestrel remained at the site through 22 March and was documented by photographs and videotapes. The following description is based on field notes written by Kwate and Pranty during and immediately after viewing the bird (at times within 100 m) for more than two hours (0830–1030, 1130–1135 EST) on 1 March 2003. We also examined digiscoped

photographs taken by Weatherman (e.g., Figure 1) on 5 and 14 March. In direct comparison, the Eurasian Kestrel was noticeably (20–30%) larger than the male American Kestrel (*F. sparverius*) with which it often associated. The Eurasian Kestrel appeared approximately intermediate in size between a Merlin (*F. columbarius*) and a Peregrine Falcon (*F. peregrinus*), although neither of these species was available for direct comparison. The plumage was rusty-brown above with black barring on the upperparts (Figure 1). The forehead was grayish-white, finely streaked with black. The crown was browner and also was finely streaked with black. Each side of the face had a single bold blackish stripe that extended downward from the eye and curved slightly toward the nape. The cere was yellow, the upper mandible was dark gray with a black tip, and the lower mandible was gray with a yellow base. The tail was rusty-brown, narrowly barred black, with a much wider black subterminal band and a narrow whitish tip (Figure 1). The underparts were whitish-buff, heavily streaked with dark brown. The legs and feet were bright yellow, and the claws were black.

In flight, the Eurasian Kestrel showed blackish outer primary tips and whitish wing coverts spotted with black. The upper surface of the primaries was dark brown and contrasted sharply with the rusty coverts. The undersides of the flight feathers were lightly barred. At rest, the flight feathers showed narrow pale fringes, and the folded primary tips did not reach the subterminal tail band (Figure 1). This short primary projection, together with the black claws, distinguish the Eurasian Kestrel from the longer-winged, pale-clawed Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*; Porter et al. 1981, Flood 2002), which has not been reported in North America (A.O.U. 1998). Plumage patterns such as the barred crown and tail ruled out an adult male Eurasian Kestrel, but the separation in the field of adult females, juvenile females, and juvenile males is difficult (Cramp et al. 1980, Porter et al. 1981, Wheeler and Clark 1995).

The kestrel frequented the southeastern portion of Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area. It foraged during early morning and late afternoon in fields recently plowed for weed control, and spent mid-day roosting on favored perches in a shrubby field closer to Lake Apopka. The flight was direct, with deep wingbeats. Most of us never saw the kestrel hover, but Weatherman observed hovering on one or two occasions. When hunting, the kestrel generally perched on low stubble in the fields, and

made short, low, foraging flights to the ground. Most of these flights appeared to be successful forays for invertebrates and perhaps other small prey. The kestrel displayed no jesses, bands, or other signs of having escaped from captivity.

DISPOSITION OF RECORD

According to the database of the International Species Information System in October 2003 (ISIS 2003), only one Eurasian Kestrel was held captive in a registered facility in the Western Hemisphere during the time of our sighting—a female at Zoo Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia. The bird curator of Zoo Atlanta confirmed the continued presence of their Eurasian Kestrel at that facility (J. Ballance, pers. comm.). The Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee accepted our report (FOSRC 03-512) as the first verifiable record of the Eurasian Kestrel in Florida (R. Bowman, pers. comm.). This record was preceded by an undocumented report of a female at Cape Canaveral, Brevard County, on 1 January 1995 (Pranty 1995).

DISCUSSION

The Eurasian Kestrel is a casual vagrant to North America (A.O.U. 1998), with a fairly well-defined pattern of occurrence (Table 1). There are 11 reports from the western Aleutian Islands and the Bering Sea region of Alaska, four in spring (May–June) and seven in fall (September–October). Seven other reports have occurred outside of Alaska: singles from interior British Columbia and along the Washington coast (October–December), four from the Atlantic coast (New Brunswick to New Jersey; September and January–May), and the interior Florida individual (February–March). The Florida record falls within these temporal patterns of distribution but is considerably farther south (by 1300 km) than the southernmost prior United States observation. It also furnishes only the second inland occurrence in the New World; Lake Apopka is 93 km from the Atlantic Ocean.

There are few other reports of the species from elsewhere in the New World or its margins. In the Caribbean Basin, the only records of the species are of a first-winter female at Carli Bay, Trinidad from 17 December 2003 through 1 January 2004 (M. Keneffick, ph. C. Hull et al.), and an emancipated bird from the west coast of Martinique in 1959. There is a report from Bermuda at Ferry Point 4 February 1968 (D. B. Wingate, pers. comm.), and there is mention of a report from French Guiana (A.O.U. 1998). The database of the journal *Sea*

Swallow contains at least 171 reports of Eurasian Kestrels coming aboard ships in the Atlantic through 2003. An additional record of this kind from off Kap Farvel, Greenland dates from late September or early October 1820 (Sabine 1823). We cannot rule out the possibility of ship assistance in the case of the Florida kestrel or indeed most other Atlantic coast records.

Acknowledgments

We thank Gian Basili of the St. Johns River Water Management District for facilitating access into Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area; Dan Gibson for graciously providing information about all the Alaskan reports; James Ballance of Zoo Atlanta for providing information on their captive kestrel; and Jeff Bouton, Andrew Dobson, Terry Doyle, Maryn Kenefick, Steve Mlodinow, and David B. Wingate for other assistance.

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Figure 1. Female-plumaged Eurasian Kestrel at Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, Orange County, Florida 14 March 2003. The single facial stripe rules out American Kestrel, the barred upperparts rule out Merlin, and the dark claws (visible in other photographs) and shorter primary extension rule out Lesser Kestrel.

This individual represents the first record of the Eurasian Kestrel in the southeastern United States, and perhaps only the tenth verifiably documented record in North America. *Digitized photograph by Harold Weatherman.*

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Table 1. Verifiable records (documented by specimen or photographic evidence) and reports of the Eurasian Kestrel in North America, arranged chronologically within each state or province. All observations refer to single individuals. Non-specimen designations of females may be better considered as birds in female plumage, because juvenile males and females are difficult to distinguish in the field from adult females. Specimens are archived at the British Columbia Provincial Museum (BCPM) and University of Alaska Museum (UAM).

Location	Date(s)	Documentation / Plumage	References
Alaska, Shemya Island	5–9 Sep 1978	specimen; juvenile female (UAM 3683)	Gibson (1981), Gibson and Kessel (1992)
Alaska, Shemya Island	2–6 Oct 1978	report; female	Gibson (1981), Gibson and Kessel (1992)
Alaska, Attu Island	4–7 May 1981	report; male	Gibson and Kessel (1992)
Alaska, Navarin Basin, 175 km wsw. of St. Matthew Island	12–14 Sep 1983	photograph; female	Gibson and Kessel (1992)
Alaska, Attu Island	17 Oct 1983	report; female	Gibson and Kessel (1992)
Alaska, Attu Island	3–4 Jun 1984	report; male	Gibson and Kessel (1992)
Alaska, w. Bering Sea (57° 11' N 165° 40' W)	4–7 Oct 1991	photograph; female	Gibson and Kessel (1992)
Alaska, Buldir	May 1992	report; female	Gibson and Byrd (unpubl. data)
Alaska, Attu	22 May 1997	report; female	Tobish (1997)
Alaska, Little Diomedes Island	salvaged in spring 1996; presumably died in fall 1997	specimen; adult female (UAM 8398)	Gibson and Byrd (unpubl. data)
Alaska, Shemya	17–18 Oct 2001	report; female-plumaged	Tobish (2002), D. Gibson (<i>in litt.</i>)
British Columbia, Alkali Lake	10 Dec 1946	specimen; female (BCPM 15934)	Campbell (1985), AOU (1998), ABA (2002)
Washington, Bow	31 Oct–11 Nov 1999	photographs; juvenile, "probably male"	Mlodinow and Tweit (2000), S. Mlodinow, <i>in litt.</i>
New Brunswick, Fort Beauséjour	(late Dec 1987?; 18 Jan–mid-Mar 1988	report; female	Mactavish (1988), Nikula (1988), A.O.U. (1998)
Nova Scotia, Mimodie			
Massachusetts, Nastasket Beach	29 Sep 1887 ^a	specimen; female	Cory (1888), A.O.U. (1998)
Massachusetts, Cape Cod	14 Apr–5 May 2002	photographs; adult male	Perkins (2002)
New Jersey, Cape May Point	23 Sep 1972	photographs; juvenile female	Clark (1974), AOU (1998)
Florida, Lake Apopka	26 Feb–22 Mar 2003	photographs; female-plumaged	this paper

^aA.B.A. (2002) incorrectly lists this date as 23 Sep 1887.

First dark-morph Hook-Billed Kite fledged in the United States

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The first known nesting of a dark-morph Hook-billed Kite (*Chondroierax unicinctus*) in the United States occurred in the Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park in 2002 (Clark 2002). While leading the field trip in the same park for a World Birding Center raptor identification workshop on the morning of 6 October 2002, I located a dark-morph juvenile (Figures 1 and 2) that was attended by a dark-morph adult female, presumably the same female as reported earlier (cf. Clark 2002).

In the course of the workshop, I had shown my group the tree where this dark female had placed her first nest. This nest had not been added to and consisted still of just a few sticks. We walked to another area where I had previously seen flying and perched Hook-billed Kites, as there was a high density of tree snails (*Euglandina*), the kites' preferred food. When we had walked about 300 m from the first nest, we heard an alarm call, a typical call given by adult Hook-billed Kites when they have fledged youngsters. I led the group off the road

about 30 m into the woods toward the vocalizations, where we located the perched dark-morph adult female. The adult was easy to find, as she was calling loudly and often. After the female saw that we could see her, she flew back a short distance out of sight. I alerted the group that she may have juveniles and asked all to look for them. Several of my group spotted two perched youngsters, one of which was a dark morph. We observed the dark bird through our telescopes and noted that it differed from the adult female by having brownish eyes (Figure 2). The other chick was a typical light-morph juvenile. We left this area and hoped that they would fly so that we could see them better. After a while, the juvenile dark morph flew directly over us and circled. I was able to get a photograph of it in flight (Figure 1).

Note that the juvenile differs from the adult female by having several rows of white spots in the flight feathers; the flight feathers of the adult female are mostly uniformly dark, with a few white spots on the primaries (cf. Clark 2002). We also had better looks through our telescopes at the dark adult female and the light juvenile perched together in a mesquite tree.

I saw the dark juvenile several times in the same area for two months after that. I was able to take a digiscoped photograph of it perched (Figure 2). I have not seen this bird in the area since that time; presumably it has dispersed to another area.

These observations constitute the first record of the fledging of a dark-morph Hook-billed Kite in the United States. This is also the first

time that Hook-billed Kites have been reported to nest twice (double brood) during a breeding season. The pair presumably used a different nest for the second brood. The adult male paired with this dark female is clearly heterozygous, as the dark-morph gene is recessive (Clark 2002). The light-morph chick is thus also heterozygous.

Acknowledgments

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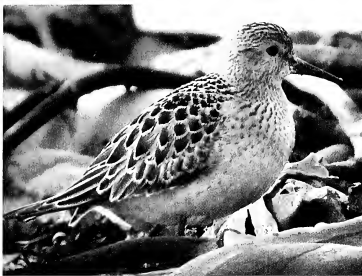


Figure 1. Dark-morph juvenile Hook-billed Kite. Note the rows of pale spotting on the undersides of the flight feathers. Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park. October 2002. Photograph by William S. Clark.



Figure 2. Dark-morph juvenile Hook-billed Kite. Note the brownish eyes. Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park. November 2002. Photograph by William S. Clark.

Pictorial Highlights



This apparent Buff-breasted Sandpiper x White-rumped Sandpiper hybrid was studied carefully at Bear Cove, Avalon Peninsula, Newfoundland on 8 November 2003. The bird's yellow legs, buffy underparts, small-headed appearance, and general structure strongly suggested Buff-breasted Sandpiper, whereas the streaking extending across the breast and down to the upper flanks and small white patch in center of lower rump suggest White-rumped. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.*



This Henslow's Sparrow provided the first confirmed New Mexico record. It was found east of Conchas Dam along the Canadian River on the Clabber Hill Ranch, San Miguel County, where present 10-22 October 2003 (here 10 October). *Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.*



Discovered by Gavin Bieber at the Avra Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant west of Tucson on 7 October 2003 (here) and remaining until the next day, this Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow provided a first Arizona record. New Mexico's first record of the species was a specimen taken at Albuquerque 22 September 2003. *Photograph by Chris D. Benesh.*



This vireo, banded on 20 September 2003 (here) at Holiday Beach Migration Observatory in southwestern Essex County, Ontario was thought to be a Philadelphia Vireo x Red-eyed Vireo hybrid. *Photograph by Allen Chartier.*



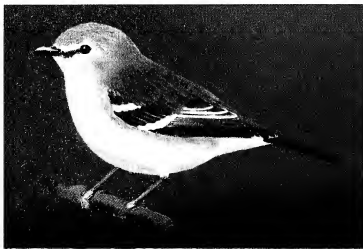
This apparent hybrid Couch's Kingbird x Scissor-tailed Flycatcher—a combination never before documented—was found in the Town of Leicester, Livingston County, New York 9 November 2003 (here 27 November), where it remained for close study through 2 December. Individuals such as this one underscore the need for extreme caution when identifying extralimital birds. *Photograph by Willie D'Anno.*



This *Zonotrichia* banded at Chino Farms, Queen Anne's County, Maryland 9 November 2003 (here) appears to be a White-crowned Sparrow x White-throated Sparrow hybrid. Intermediate characteristics shown include the pink bill, traces of black in the head stripes, and grayish breast of White-crowned; and the rich black, brown in head stripes, and trace of a white throat patch of White-throated. *Photograph by Jared Parks.*



This Yellow-green Vireo, probably a "reverse migrant," was banded 10 October 2003 (here) by Duane Berger of the Hummer/Bird Study Group at Fort Morgan, Alabama, one of several firsts for Alabama this season. *Photograph by David Dortch.*



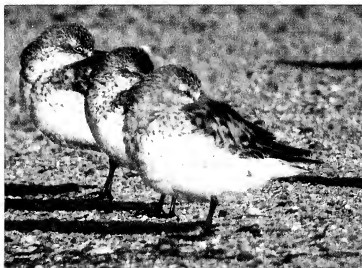
The fourth Cassin's Vireo for Québec appeared at Cap Tourmente 1 October 2003 and was copiously documented—and nicely rendered in this painting.
Painting by Jean-Marc Giroux.



Baja California's first acceptable Blue-headed Vireo record came from Guerrero Negro 1 October 2003. Note here the bright white throat and breast, fairly clean division between throat and auricular, yellowish-green sides and flanks, greenish-yellow wash across the vent, deeply gray head, olive-green upperparts, and broad, white wingbars.
Cassin's Vireos resident in the Cape District mountains (subspecies *lucasanus*) can approach this bird's appearance, but the date and location here strongly favor identification as Blue-headed. *Photograph by James E. Pike.*



The first Clapper Rail ever seen in the province of Québec took up residence in a marsh at Maria, Gaspésie 11 to 25 October 2003. This image was taken 13 October as the bird was walking on a pile of logs near a house adjacent to its marsh. *Photograph by Christianne Pitre.*



This adult Red-necked Stint spent 14-19 August 2003 (here 18 August) at North Monomoy and South Beach, Chatham, Massachusetts. As this species has been seen there in four of the last five autumns, one wonders if the same bird has been making annual visits. *Photograph by Blair Nikula.*



Rye, New Hampshire hosted the state's first Cave Swallows 26 (here) to 27 November 2003. Four birds, part of the third Cave Swallow incursion into New England for the month of November, fed along the beach near Concord Point and roosted on nearby rocks and houses. Their relatively pale throats, auriculars, and rumps indicated origin from southwestern rather than Caribbean populations. *Photograph by Phil Brown.*



New Hampshire's first Little Stint proved cooperative for visitors from across the New England region for four days after its discovery near Odime Point in Rye 7 August 2003 (here). The bird was an adult molting into basic plumage (note the single gray lower scapular) and confined its activities to a fairly short stretch of beach. *Photograph by Phil Brown.*



A first state record, this Western Wood-Pewee was banded 12 October 2003 (here) at Little Island Park in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This species is almost unknown in the East as a vagrant, probably because as silent birds usually cannot be distinguished from Eastern Wood-Pewees in the field. Photograph by Rob and Ann Simpson.



The fall of 2003 was tremendous for the passage of jaegers in the continent's eastern interior, perhaps the best year since 1996, and the Great Lakes in particular saw record counts of Parasitic Jaeger at several sites. This juvenile Parasitic Jaeger was beautifully photographed at Van Wagners Beach, Ontario on 3 September. Photograph by Eric Holden.



This Grace's Warbler was found in the Chicago lakefront's famous Magic Hedge at Montrose, Illinois 8 September 2003 (here) by Clara Coen and John Purcell and enjoyed by other local birders that day. Previously known only as a short-distance vagrant to coastal California, northern Colorado, and western Texas, this species has apparently never before been recorded east of the Mississippi River. Digiscoped photograph by Kanae Hirabayashi.



Two second state records for two states found just three days apart, these juvenile Sharp-tailed Sandpipers delighted birders in Indiana and Illinois. The bird at right was found by Dan Stoltzfus 25 September 2003 at the Wakarusa Sewage Ponds, Elkhart County, Indiana, where a half-dozen other birders studied it before departed. The bird at left was discovered by Scott Cohrs 28 September at Blackhawk Forest Preserve, Kane County, Illinois, where it lingered through 6 October (here 2 October). Digiscoped photographs by Travis Mahan (right) and John K. Cassidy (left).



This Sage Thrasher discovered by Susan Hoyle in Knoxville on 8 November 2003 (here 10 November) was an unexpected first for Tennessee, much to the delight of hundreds of birders throughout the state. It appeared to be content to feed on privet berries and spent the winter at this location. Photograph by Ron Hoff.



Thanks to Jan Shaw's keen eyes, hundreds of birders enjoyed this male MacGillivray's Warbler, a Tennessee first, at Radnor Lake State Natural Area in Nashville. Discovered 25 October 2003 (here 27 October), it remained through 19 November, generally staying within 60 m or so of the bush in which it was first found. Photograph by Michael O'Malley.



Only the second record ever for the fall season in North Dakota, this Summer Tanager was in Grand Forks 9 November 2003, perhaps associated with the southwesterly winds preceding the passage of a strong cold front. Digital photograph by Bob Freeberg.



Providing unequivocal documentation of a westward-straying Eastern Screech-Owl, this vocal rufous-morph individual at Portales, New Mexico 18 November 2003 provided a striking first for the state. It remained in the area into at least February. Photograph by Julian D. Avery.



Buff-bellied Hummingbirds on the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico have almost become expected winter visitors. This male photographed 24 November 2003 at Fairhope in Baldwin County, Alabama was one of three that appeared in the Central Southern Region before the end of the period. Photograph by David Dorch.



Without question the bird of the season in Texas was an adult or nearly adult (Atlantic) Yellow-nosed Albatross found about 90 km east of Port Isabel, Cameron County on 26 September 2003 (here), the fourth documented state record for the species. Photograph by Brad McKinney.



The discovery of Montana's first Siberian Accentor in the Paradise Valley 22 November 2003 (here 5 December) was cause for celebration. Found by Sue Williams at her feeders and confirmed by Eric Henderson, the bird was visited by scores of birders. Away from Alaska, other North American records come from British Columbia, Washington, and Idaho. Photograph by Michael Hamilton.



Colorado was the site of the season's most remarkable gull record: this Kelp Gull, first found at Jackson Reservoir 17 September 2003, remained there 10 days and was later refound at Donah Reservoir in Larimer County 19 (here 26) October, where it remained until at least 2 November. The species is known otherwise in the United States only from several Gulf Coast states, Maryland, and Indiana. Photograph by Bill Maynard.



This Chert-collared Longspur 26 October 2003 was one of many migrants observed during the fall at Miller's Rest Stop along Highway 95/6, in Esmeralda County, Nevada, a well-known "trap" for migrants in the state. Photograph by Martin Meyers.



Certainly unexpected in northern New Mexico, this state-first Royal Tern was present for a single day at Cochiti Lake, Sandoval County on 12 October 2003 (here). Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.



New Mexico's second Piratic Flycatcher attracted many birders to Bosque Redondo near Fort Sumner, DeBaca County 12-16 September 2003 (here 14 September).

Photograph by Gary K. Froehlich.



This Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler frequented one of the boneyards at Gambell, Alaska on 5 September 2003, the second or third fall record there. This species breeds no farther north than Kamchatka and has now occurred eight times in western Alaska, with a majority of the birds having been found in autumn. *Photograph from videotape by Paul E. Lehman.*



A second-year Crested Auklet at Rocky Point Bird Observatory, Victoria, British Columbia was present 5 September (here 23 September) through 3 October 2003. This bird furnished both a second provincial record and a second for Canada overall: the first was in 1832! *Photograph by Jukka Jantunen.*



This Eurasian Wryneck was found by Paul Lehman and Jim Zamos at Gambell, Alaska 2 (here) through 5 September 2003. Its favored perch, a decaying whale carcass, provided a feast of flies and larvae. This is the first record of a living wryneck in North America; a dead bird found on the edge of the Bering Strait in Wales, Alaska on 8 September 1945 constitutes the only other New World record. *Photograph by Phil Davis.*



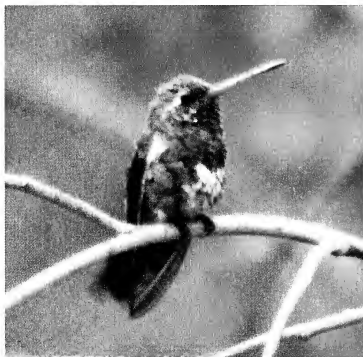
This Red-flanked Bluetail, probably an immature male, furnished the second fall record for St. Paul Island, Alaska 5 October 2003. *Photograph by Derek Lovitch.*



This Cory's Shearwater near Cordell Bank 9 August 2003 represented the first documented California and Pacific Ocean record. Remarkably, this occurrence was followed by a second observation of the species to the south at Monterey Bay 22-23 August. *Photograph by Debra L. Shearwater.*



California's first documented Magnificent Hummingbird frequented a park in Pacific Beach, San Diego County. This photograph, taken 14 October 2003, shows that the bird was in primary molt. Photograph by Matt Sadowski



This first-fall male Broad-billed Hummingbird, found at the Rio Guadalupe estuary, Baja California on 29 September 2003, furnished the first photographic (and second overall) state record. Photograph by Marshall J. Hoff.



This gadfly petrel that landed on a cruise ship off Maui 29 (here 30) September 2003 provided a second Hawaiian Islands record of Stejneger's Petrel; after examination, it was released in apparently good condition. Digital photograph by Fern Duvall, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hawaii.



The fall of 2003 saw a major passage of Red-throated Pipits in the Southern Pacific Coast region. This bird at Irvine, Orange County 3 November 2003 was one of minimally 44 in southern California between 27 September and 25 November.

Photograph by Larry Sansone.



A first for Guadeloupe, this Curlew Sandpiper at Pointe des Chateaux 2 September 2003 provided one of few records from the West Indies. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.



Le Conte's Sparrow has been long anticipated on Bermuda. This bird, found by Margaret Bain, Ned Brinkley, and party at Pembroke Marsh 17 November 2003, proved elusive but stayed to be counted on the island's C.B.C. in December!

Photograph by Edward S. Brinkley.

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The trip begins in Cozumel with several insular endemics, goes south through the Maya Riviera to the famed Sian Ka'an refuge, then heads west across the peninsula to the new Calakmul Biosphere Reserve which is on a high plateau that extends into Guatemala and, finally we bird near the west coast on the Gulf of Campeche. More than 25 endemics may be encountered and 150 other species. Leader is David Bacab. Contact: Bob Odear. observtours@bellsouth.net (615) 292-2739.

February 7 - 13, 2005

Bahamas Endemics

Abaco and Andros islands are visited to get all the species found only in the Bahamas. Cuba, and Cayman as there is no one island in the Bahamas which offers them all. There are 11 such species and the trip usually sees about 50 total species. The trip is led by Paul Dean of Nassau. Contact: Bob Odear. observtours@bellsouth.net (615) 292-2739.

February 14 - 20, 2005

Jamaica Endemics

The interior of Jamaica is ruggedly beautiful and the birds are fabulous. There are 28 endemics from Mandeville to Cockpit Country to Hardwar Gap to Ecclesdown. All are usually seen along with 60 other species. The trip is led by Ann Sutton and/or Brandon Hay. Contact: Bob Odear. observtours@bellsouth.net (615) 292-2739.

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Cayman Islands

This short trip to a tourist haven targets two endemic species and a visit to the largest rookery of Red-footed Boobies in the Americas. Visit all three islands for differing species. Led by Brandon Hay. Contact: Bob Odear. observtours@bellsouth.net (615) 292-2739.

February 17 - March 1, 2005

March 3 - 12, 2005

2 trips for Cuban Endemics

Trip to Cuba with U.S. Treasury approval in search of Cuban bird endemics visiting Zapata Marsh and other birdy locations with Gary Markowski, Arturo Kirkconnell and Dr. William Suarez, and Nancy Norman. Gary Markowski; Cubirds@aol.com (860) 354-6752.

March 3 - 19, 2005

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Morocco boasts the richest bird life in North Africa, and along with its endemic, rare and specialty birds, its Moorish and Berber culture and stunning scenery make this trip truly memorable. Led by Adrian Binns. Contact: *Jaeger Tours*. (215) 364-4407; binns@jaegertours.net

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Beginning in coastal Veracruz we head immediately to Xalapa, Capital of the state. Birding from there we explore various elevations and rainfall zones. There are 18 endemics in this area, a place of great civility and beauty. Bob Odear and Bob Straub lead. Contact: Bob Odear. observtours@bellsouth.net (615) 292-2739

March 8-18, 2005

Birding in Wild Hawaii

The islands of Kauai, the archipelago's oldest island, Maui, with the Haleakala Crater, and the Big Island will be visited to search for Hawaiian endemics and introduced species. Join Hawaii resident, Rob Pacheco to explore Waimea Canyon, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Mount Haleakala, and other exciting destinations. Contact: *Siemer & Hand Travel*, 750 Battery St. Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94111 (800) 451-4321; (415) 788-4000; fax (415) 788-4133; travel@siemerhand.com

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