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A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORD PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN BIRDING ASSOCIATION

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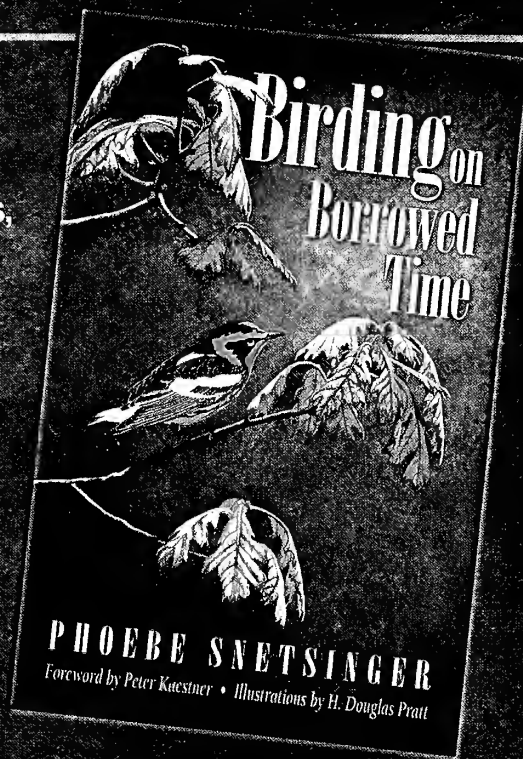
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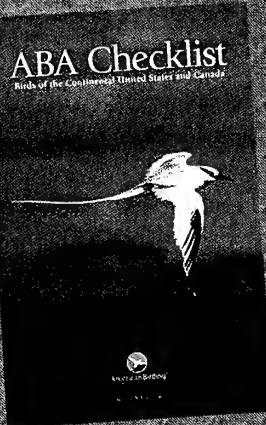
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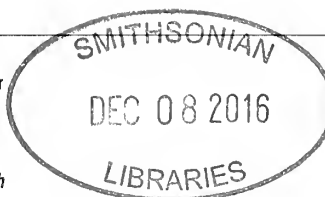
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ON THE COVER: A first-winter female Common Shelduck appearing at Quidi Vidi Lake at St. Johns, Newfoundland briefly on 17 November 2009 brought up the age old question of genuine vagrant or genuine escapee. Its occurrence was preceded by easterly winds blowing directly from Europe to Newfoundland. The species is rapidly increasing as a migrant and breeder in Iceland, the country believed to be the source of other regularly occurring European birds in Newfoundland such as Tufted Ducks, Eurasian Wigeons, Black-headed Gulls, and Redwings. *Photograph by Bruce Mactavish*



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Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks.
*Photograph by Rachel Cass.
See page 55.



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The mission of the journal is to provide a complete overview of the changing panorama of our continent's birdlife, including outstanding records, range extensions and contractions, population dynamics, and changes in migration patterns or seasonal occurrence. We welcome submission of papers in these areas; papers and other communication should be sent to *North American Birds*, 124 Peach Street, Cape Charles, VA 23310 or email to the address below. For correspondence on photographic material, contact the Photo Editor at the email address below.

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Jim Harris

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North American Birds (ISSN 1525-3708) (USPS 872-200) is published quarterly by the American Birding Association, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Colorado Springs, Colorado, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: return postage guaranteed; send address changes and POD forms 3579 to *North American Birds*, 4945 N. 30th Street, Suite 200, Colorado Springs, CO 80919-3151; (800) 850-2473. Subscription prices: \$30/year (US) and US\$35/year (Canada). Copyright © 2010 by the American Birding Association, Inc., all rights reserved. Printed by Publishers Printing, Shepherdsville, Kentucky. The views and opinions expressed in this magazine are those of each contributing writer and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the American Birding Association or its management. ABA is not responsible for the quality of products or services advertised in *North American Birds*, unless the products or services are being offered directly by the Association. GST Registration No. R135943454.

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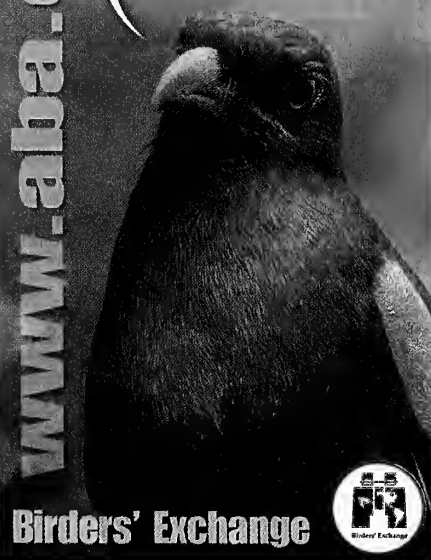
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The status of Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) in western North America

STEVEN G. MLODINOW • 4819 GARDNER AVENUE, EVERETT, WASHINGTON 98203 • (SGMLOD@AOL.COM)
MICHAEL T. SCHWITTERS • P. O. BOX 143, CHOTEAU, MONTANA 59422 • (SCHWIT@3RIVERS.NET)



Figure 1. These Tundra Swans in Skagit County, Washington on 19 January 2007 provide an example of swans that appear to be intermediate between Bewick's and Whistling subspecies. Evans and Sladen (1980) indicate that Whistling Swans may have a maximum of 15.8% yellow in the bill, measured in profile, although the mean is much lower, at 3.1%. They give 22.9% as the minimum amount of yellow in the bill of Bewick's Swan. In this image, the leftmost bird is a Whistling Swan with approximately 10% of its bill yellow in profile; the bird with its head farthest to the right has a bill profile showing approximately 20% yellow; and the bird between them shows roughly 18% yellow, not including the two orange spots near the nostrils. The rightmost two birds fall in the gap between Bewick's Swan and Whistling Swan and probably represent intergrades between the two taxa. These birds were photographed in an area that has produced seven records of Bewick's Swan since January 2004. See also Figures 8, 9. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

Abstract

Bewick's Swan, the *bewickii* subspecies of Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*), is found across Eurasia and was first reported in North America in February 1974. This paper reviews reports of more than 160 Bewick's in western North America (west of 100° W lon-

gitude), excluding records from Alaska, between 1974 and 2009. Most Bewick's Swans in the American West have been observed among flocks of Whistling Swans that breed in western Alaska from Kotzebue Sound to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and winter in California's Central Valley. Other Bewick's

have been noted with Whistlings that breed on the Alaska Peninsula and winter on the Pacific coast from southwestern British Columbia to northwestern California. The number of Bewick's Swan records in western North America has increased sharply since the 1980s, paralleling a population increase

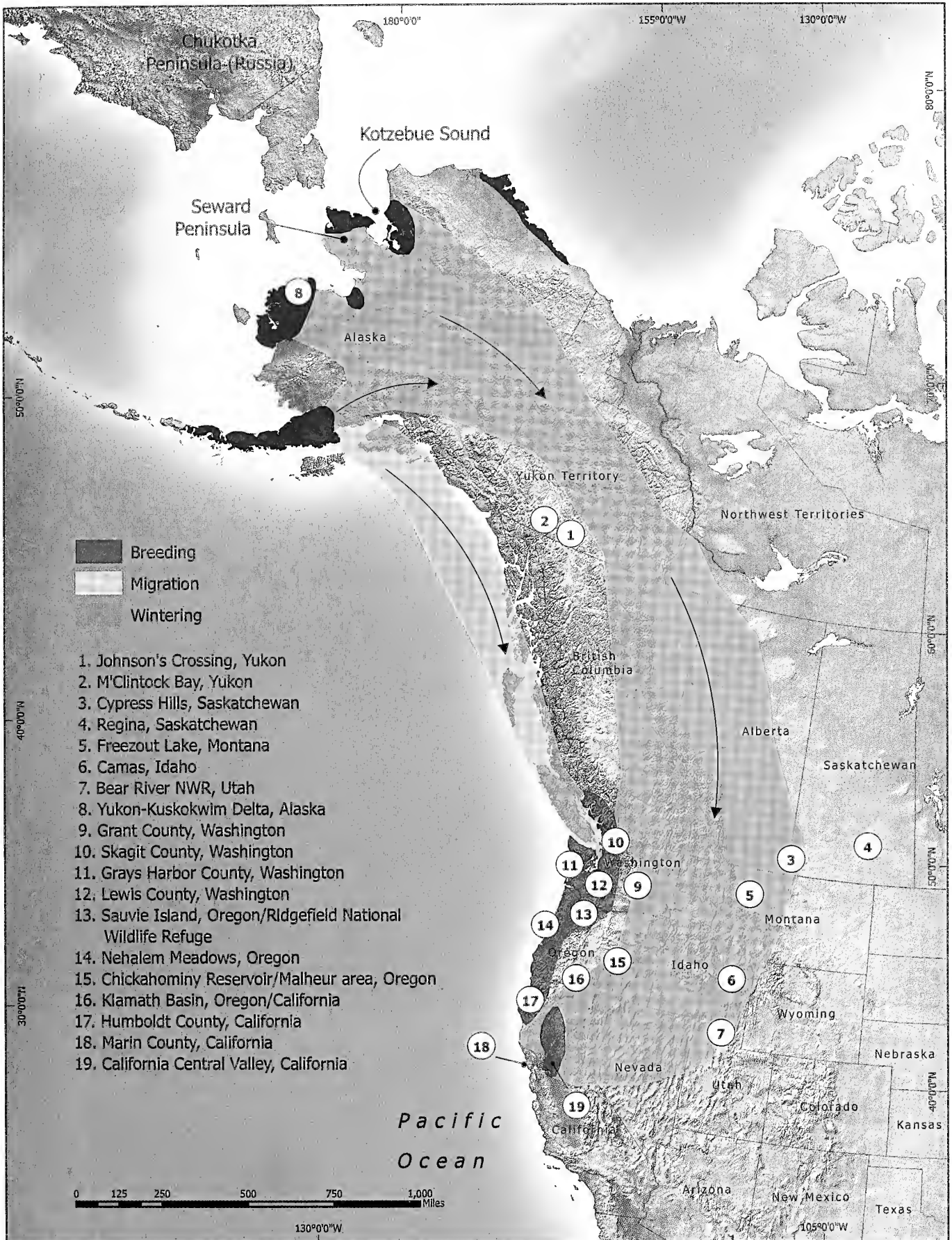


Figure 2. Map of western North America, showing locations mentioned in the present paper, major breeding and wintering areas of Whistling Swan, and general migratory pathways taken by western populations of Whistling Swan. (Some smaller wintering populations, as in Nevada, are not represented in this map.) Whistling Swans that nest in the North Slope region of Alaska follow migratory pathways toward the Atlantic coast states and winter mostly in the mid-Atlantic states. Map created by Kei Sochi.



Figure 3. This Bewick's Swan in Yuba County, California 4 December 2009 is a classic example of a Yellowneb type. With extensive yellow on the culmen connecting the yellow on the sides of the bill, this bird would be hard to mistake for a Whistling Swan, and indeed, confusion with Whooper Swan would be more likely. Photograph by Michael T. Schwitters.

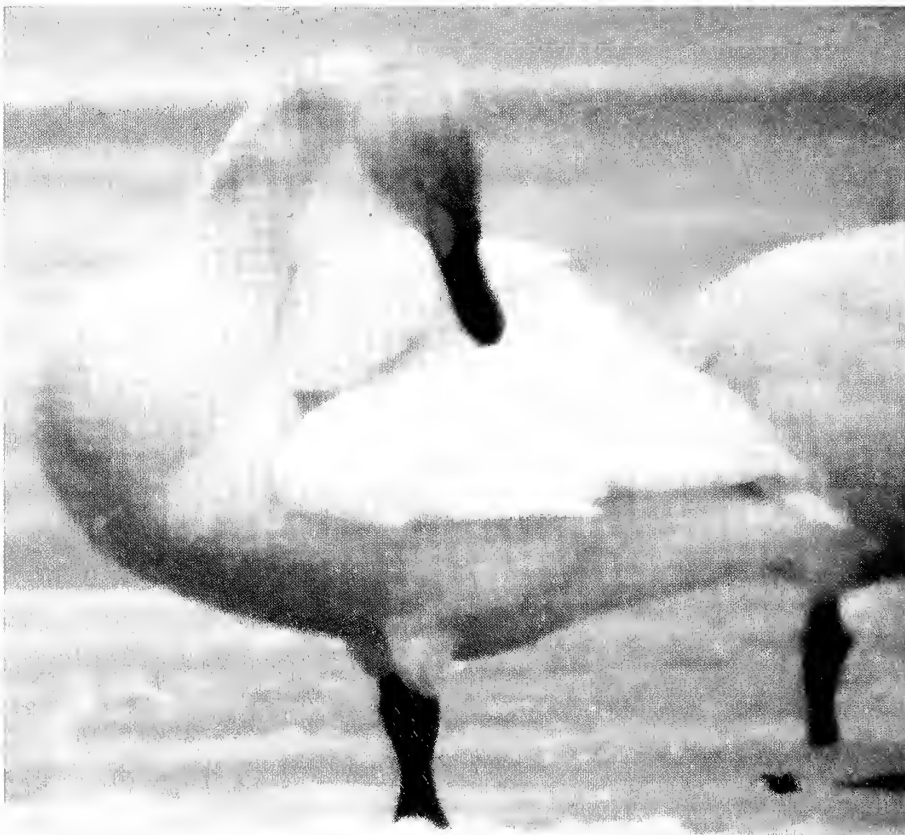


Figure 4. The Bewick's Swan above would fit into the Pennyface category of Bewick's Swan because of the small yellow spot on the culmen. It was photographed by at Freezout Lake, Montana on 8 April 2009. Photograph by Michael T. Schwitters.

and range expansion in Eurasia. A review of photographs and sketches of more than 100 well-documented Bewick's, employing the identification criteria provided Evans and Sladen (1980), indicates that the great major-

ity of reports are accurate, although a few records might pertain to intergrades between Bewick's and Whistling Swan (*C. c. columbianus*), the North American subspecies of Tundra Swan.

Background: Status, distribution, and migration of Bewick's and Whistling Swans

Bewick's Swan (*Cygnus columbianus bewickii*) is the Eurasian counterpart of Whistling Swan (*C. c. columbianus*); the two taxa are currently considered conspecific and collectively known as Tundra Swan (*C. columbianus*). Bewick's Swans breed in the Russian Arctic from Cheshskaya Bay, Arkhangelsk District in the west to Chaun Bay, Chukotka in the east (Rees 2006). North America's first Bewick's Swan was detected in February 1974, when one (paired with a Whistling and accompanied by two cygnets) was found at Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon (Evans and Sladen 1980). Subsequently, 163 additional Bewick's have been documented south of Alaska in western North America. About half of the records have been from California's Central Valley, with the remainder of sightings split between the western interior and the Pacific Coast (Table 1).

A review of the taxonomy, identification, and distribution of Bewick's Swan may be of benefit to readers unfamiliar with this subspecies. Though swan taxonomy has been debated for some time, Bewick's and Whistling Swans were generally listed as separate species (*C. bewickii* and *C. columbianus*, respectively) until 1982, when the American Ornithologists' Union combined the two under the name Tundra Swan (A.O.U. 1982; see also Brazil 2003, Rees 2006). In Britain, these taxa were considered separate species until 2004 (Sangster et al. 2004).

The reasons for considering Bewick's and Whistling Swans as conspecific are numerous. Their breeding behaviors are similar (Evans 1977, Scott 1977), and their vocalizations sound essentially identical (Evans and Sladen 1980). Although the amount of yellow on their bills is distinctively different (Evans and Sladen 1980), Bewick's and Whistling Swans are quite similar in most other physical characteristics, such as body weight, bill length, tarsus length, and wingspan, although Whistlings average marginally larger in most of these measurements (Evans and Kear 1978). Finally, interbreeding of Whistling and Bewick's in the wild was confirmed in the 1970s, when mixed pairs with young were found on the Asian breeding and wintering grounds; the frequency of intergradation is still unknown (Kishchinski et al. 1975, Mikami 1989, Rees 2006; see Figure 1). We are unaware of genetic studies of these taxa.

Bewick's Swan consists of two populations, with those nesting east of the Lena River wintering predominantly in Japan, China, and Korea, and those breeding west of the Lena River

Table 1. Records of Bewick's Swan in western North America, arranged by state and province.				
LOCATION	Date(s)	Bill Type(s) of adults (immatures noted, if observed)	Source	Notes
OREGON	10 adults	Total: 3 Yellowneb; 7 Unknown		
Lake Klamath N.W.R.	Feb-74	Unknown + 2 intergrade imms.	Evans and Sladen 1980	paired with Whistling
Sauvie Island	1/2/82	Y	Gilligan et al. 1994	
Nehalem Meadows	2/27/82	Unknown	Gilligan et al. 1994	
Sauvie Island	11/26/90-1/5/91	Unknown	D. Irons	
Malheur	12/21/97	Unknown	Marshall et al. 2003	
Wheeler County	3/10/02	Y	Marshall et al. 2003	
Lake Klamath N.W.R.	2/26/06	Unknown	O.B.R.C. files	
Lake Klamath N.W.R.	3/9/07	Unknown	N.A.B.	
Lake Klamath N.W.R.	3/2/08	Unknown	N.A.B.	
Chickahomony Reservoir	10/25/08	Y	N.A.B.	
WASHINGTON	11 adults	Total: 5 Yellowneb; 6 Blackneb		
Grant County	4/1/02	Y	Mlodinow and Aanerud 2006	
Skagit County	1/10-3/10/04	P	Mlodinow and Aanerud 2008	
Skagit County	1/13/-1/16/05	P	Mlodinow and Aanerud 2008	
Skagit County	2/5/05	B	Mlodinow and Aanerud 2008	
Skagit County	1/2/06	Y + imm.	N.A.B.	
Skagit County	2/25-3/23/06	B	N.A.B.	
Lewis County	2/26/06	B	N.A.B.	
Grays Harbor County	12/26-31/2006; 3/3-16/07	B	N.A.B.	
Grays Harbor County	1/18-2/27/08	B	N.A.B.	
Skagit County	2/24-3/8/08	B	N.A.B.	
Ridgefield, Clark County	11/1/08	Y	N.A.B.	
BRITISH COLUMBIA	7 adults	Total: 4 Yellowneb; 2 Blackneb; 1 Unknown		
Delta	11/11/90-2/16/91	Y	A.B.	
Harrison	12/1-12/2000	Y	N.A.B.	
Harrison	1/2/02	Y	N.A.B.	
Abbotsford	2/3-24/02	Y	N.A.B.	
Nicomien Island	1/12/03	Unknown	N.A.B.	
Delta	1/15-3/25/06	B	N.A.B.	
Chilliwack	2/9-10/06	B	D. Cecile	
IDAHO	1 adult	Total: 1 Unknown		
Camas	3/27/08	Unknown	N.A.B.	
YUKON	2 adults	Total: 1 Yellowneb; 1 Unknown		
Johnson's Crossing	4/19/05	Unknown	C. Eckert	
M'Clintock Bay	5/10-11/09	Y	C. Eckert	
SASKATCHEWAN		Total: 3 Blackneb; 1 Pennyface		
Regina	10/27-11/11/78	B	A.B.	paired with Whistling
Cypress Hills	11/24/99	B	Knapton 2000	
Regina	10/22-11/2/07	P; B + 2 imms.	N.A.B.	

Table 1 — Part 1 of 3

MONTANA	17 adults	Total: 8 Yellowneb; 4 Blackneb; 5 Unknown		
Freezout Lake	3/23/99	Unknown	M. T. Schwitters	
Freezout Lake	3/26/01	B; B	M. T. Schwitters	
Freezout Lake	3/17/05	Unknown	M. T. Schwitters	
Freezout Lake	3/25/05	B + 2 imms.	<i>N.A.B.</i>	
Freezout Lake	3/25/06	Y	<i>N.A.B.</i>	
Freezout Lake	10/31/07	Y	M. T. Schwitters	
Benton Lake	4/4/08	Y	<i>N.A.B.</i>	
Freezout Lake	3/28/09	Unknown; Unknown	M. T. Schwitters	
Freezout Lake	4/6/09	Y	M. T. Schwitters	
Freezout Lake	4/8/09	P	M. T. Schwitters	
Freezout Lake	4/10/09	B; Y	M. T. Schwitters	
Freezout Lake	11/1/09	Y	M. T. Schwitters	
Priest Butte Lake	11/19/09	Y	M. T. Schwitters	
UTAH	6 adults	Total: 2 Yellowneb; 2 Blackneb; 2 Unknown		
Bear River N.W.R.	11/26/07	Y; Y + 2 imms.	M. T. Schwitters	
Bear River N.W.R.	12/4/08	Unknown	M. T. Schwitters	
Bear River N.W.R.	11/26/09	B, Unknown	M. T. Schwitters	
Bear River Club	11/26/09	B	M. T. Schwitters	
CALIFORNIA (county)	95 adults	Total: 38 Yellowneb; 27 Blackneb; 30 Unknown		
Tehama	1/13-24/75	Unknown	Hamilton et al. 2007	
San Joaquin	12/13/75-1/4/76	Unknown	Hamilton et al. 2007	
San Joaquin	12/21-30/77	Unknown	Hamilton et al. 2007	
Butte	1/20/78	Y; Y	J. Snowden	
Butte	1/15/81	Y	J. Snowden	
Yolo	1/30-2/2/82	Unknown	<i>A.B.</i>	
Marin	12/12-13/82	Unknown	<i>A.B.</i>	
Butte	12/15/83	Y	J. Snowden	
Butte	1/18/85	Y	J. Snowden	
Modesto	11/9/85	Unknown	<i>A.B.</i>	
San Joaquin	1/20/87	Unknown	<i>A.B.</i>	
Siskiyou	2/20/88	Unknown	<i>A.B.</i>	
San Joaquin	11/19/90	Unknown	<i>A.B.</i>	
San Joaquin	1990-1	4 Unknown	<i>A.B.</i>	
Butte	1/13/92	Y	J. Snowden	
Siskiyou	2/6/93	Unknown	<i>N.A.S.F.N.</i>	
Butte	2/25/93	Unknown	<i>N.A.S.F.N.</i>	
Butte	1/28/94	Y	J. Snowden	
Yuba	2/3/94	Y; B + 2imms.	T. Manolis	
Clusa	1/24/95	Unknown	<i>N.A.S.F.N.</i>	
Butte	1/15/96	Y	J. Snowden	
Clusa	early Jan 96	Unknown	<i>N.A.S.F.N.</i>	
Sacramento	1/16-18/97	Unknown; Unknown	<i>N.A.S.F.N.</i>	
San Joaquin	1/24/99	Unknown; Unknown	<i>N.A.B.</i>	
Siskiyou	11/22/99	Unknown	<i>N.A.B.</i>	
Yuba	11/24/99	Y	B. Webb	

Table 1 — Part 2 of 3

San Joaquin	12/5/99	Unknown	N.A.B.	
Butte	12/15/00	Y	J. Snowden	
Yuba	12/24/02	B	B. Webb	
Humboldt	1/15-2/3/02	Unknown	Harris 2006	
Siskiyou	2/4-2/28/03	Unknown	N.A.B.	
Butte	1/10/04	Y	J. Snowden	
Humboldt	1/12/04	Unknown	N.A.B.	
Mono	11/7/04	Y	N.A.B.	
Yuba	11/10/06	Y; Y; B; B	J. Snowden	
Yuba	12/1/06	Y	N.A.B.	
Yuba	1/14/07	B + 3 intergrade imms.	J. Snowden	paired with Whistling
Yuba	2/6/07	B; B + imm.	J. Snowden	
Yuba	11/24/07	B	N.A.B.	
Butte	12/7/07	P	J. Snowden	
Glenn	12/12/07	Y	J. Snowden	
Yuba	12/20/07	Y; B	J. Snowden	
Butte	12/27/07	Y	J. Snowden	paired with Whistling
Modoc	1/12/08	Unknown; Unknown + 2 imms.	N.A.B.	
Butte	2/7/08	Y; B	J. Snowden	
Butte	2/7/08	B; B	J. Snowden	
Modoc	2/23/08	Y; Y; Y; Y	N.A.B.	Two pairs
Butte	11/15/08	Y; B	J. Snowden	
Yuba	11/18/08	Y	J. Snowden	
Butte	11/20/08	B	J. Snowden	
Butte	11/26/08	B	J. Snowden	
Butte	11/28/08	B	J. Snowden	
Butte	11/29/08	B; B; B; B	J. Snowden	
Mono	11/30/08-3/19/09	Y	N.A.B.	
Yuba	12/7/08	Y	M. T. Schwitters	
Yuba	12/10/08	Y	M. T. Schwitters	
Butte	12/10/08	Y	M. T. Schwitters	
Glenn	1/20/09	Y	J. Snowden	
Siskiyou	2/7/09	Unknown	N.A.B.	
Modoc	2/15/09	B	N.A.B.	
Modoc	2/17/09	Y; B	N.A.B.	
Butte	11/24/09	Y	J. Snowden	
Modoc	11/28/09	B; B	S. C. Rottenborn	
Yuba	12/1/09	Y	M. T. Schwitters	
Butte	12/2/09	B	J. Snowden	
Yuba	12/4/09	Y; Y	M. T. Schwitters	
Inyo	12/19/09	Unknown	N.A.B.	
Glenn	12/22/09	PF	J. Snowden	
Butte	12/28/09	B; B	J. Snowden	
Placer	12/29/09	B	B. Webb	
Key To Types		Key To Sources		
Y = Yellowneb		N.A.B. = North American Birds		
B = Blackneb		A.B. = American Birds		
PF = Pennyface		N.A.S.F.N. = National Audubon Society Field Notes		
Note: Some of the individuals listed as Yellowneb could have been Pennyface.				

Table 1 — Part 3 of 3

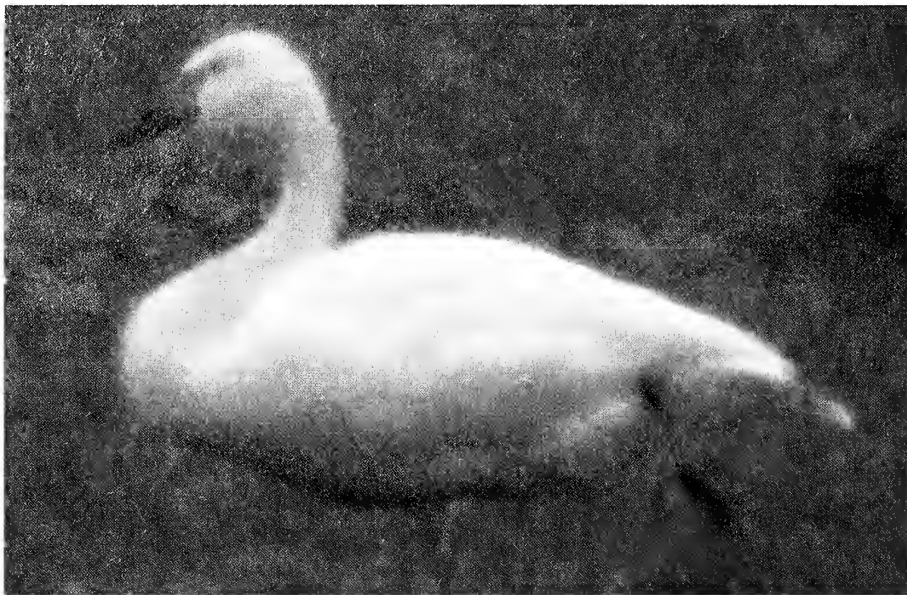


Figure 5. Among the different types of Bewick's Swans, those with the Blacknebb bill pattern (in which yellow on the sides of the bill does not connect across the top)—such as this one at Conway, Skagit County, Washington on 9 March 2008—are most similar to Whistling Swans. This swan has a bill profile measured at 31% yellow and thus is safely identifiable as a Bewick's. Similar swans showing less yellow on the bill, however might be hard if not impossible to distinguish from potential intergrades in the field (see Figure 1); photographs of such birds are especially useful, as they permit measurement of the extent of yellow. Photograph by Ryan Merrill.



Figure 6. This adult Bewick's Swan in Skagit County, Washington 2 January 2006 is a typical Yellownebb; the immature swan to the left had a Bewick's bill pattern as well (readily visible when the bird's head was not tucked but not well photographed). Photograph by Steven G. Mladinow.

wintering mostly in northwestern Europe, particularly the United Kingdom (Bowler 2005). Part of the western population winters on the Caspian and Aral Seas, but after dramatic declines, only about 1000 birds now winter there (Bowler 2005, Delaney and Scott 2006). In Japan, fall migrants arrive from mid-October through November and depart from mid-February into April (Brazil 1991, Brazil 2003). At the other end of their range, in Norfolk, England, the bulk of fall migrants arrive from late October into early December, and spring departure takes place largely in the month of March (Taylor et al. 2000). Within Bewick's Swan, there is clinal variation in size and in bill color from west to east, with eastern birds averaging larger and having less yellow on the bill than western ones (Bowler 2005, Rees 2006). In the past, this led to the subspecific designation of *C. c. jankowskyi* for the western population; however, there is near complete phenotypic overlap between the two populations, and *jankowskyi* is no longer recognized as valid (Bowler 2005, Rees 2006).

Bewick's Swan numbers declined substantially between the 1950s and 1970s, but due to conservation efforts, they rebounded markedly during the 1980s and 1990s (Syroechkovski 2002). In Japan, perhaps most relevant for vagrancy to western North America, annual January surveys found 542 Bewick's Swans in 1970, 1954 in 1980, and 31,198 in 1996 (Rees 2006). From 2001 through 2005, the Japanese wintering population stabilized around 40,000 individuals (Rees 2006). Concurrently, the breeding range of Bewick's Swan expanded eastward, with 6000-7000 birds breeding as far east as Chaun Bay on the Chukotka Peninsula, an area that may not have been regularly occupied prior to the 1980s (Rees 2006).

During the same period, Whistling Swans colonized the Russian Far East. They were first noted on the Chukotka Peninsula at Kolyuchin Bay in 1974 (one pair and five other adults; Kishchinski et al. 1975), and by the early 2000s, 600-1000 Whistling Swans were thought to summer on the Chukotka Peninsula, some as far west as Chaun Bay (Syroechkovski 2002, Rees 2006). Perhaps reflecting this range expansion, Japan witnessed a sharp increase in Whistling Swan reports. Japan's first record was in 1968, and there were only four records in the 1970s, and about 20 during the 1980s (Brazil 1991). Between 1990 and 1998, however, 10 to 29 Whistling Swans were detected annually in Japan (Environmental Agency of Japan 1998).

The distribution of Bewick's Swan in western North America is best understood in the context of Whistling Swan migratory routes

(Figure 2). Whistling Swans that breed in western Alaska from Kotzebue Sound to the Yukon–Kuskokwim Delta winter mostly in California's Central Valley, reaching that destination via an interior route that passes through the southern Yukon, Alberta, central Montana, and the Great Salt Lake, and then turns westward over the northern Sierra Mountains to the Central Valley; northbound migration is largely a reversal of this path (Limpert and Earnst 1994, Moermond and Spindler 1997; C. Ely, unpubl. data). The Siberian Whistlings also likely take this route, as their breeding grounds are a natural extension of the spring route taken by Whistlings that nest on the Seward Peninsula and along Kotzebue Sound. Many of the Whistling Swans that breed on the western half of the Alaska Peninsula do not migrate but disperse locally, but many also migrate southward to winter along the Pacific Coast from northwestern Washington to northwestern California (Dau and Sarvis 2002). Whistling Swans that breed on the eastern portion of the Alaska Peninsula are more variable in their migration route: some move southward along the coast to winter from southwestern British Columbia to northwestern California; others winter in California's Central Valley, reaching that destination by flying southeastward through northern and then eastern British Columbia before turning southward through western Idaho, eastern Washington, and eastern Oregon, and then heading southwestward to the Klamath Basin and finally the Central Valley (Bellrose 1978, Harris 2006; C. Ely, unpubl. data).

A few of the Whistling Swans that breed in western Alaska winter in eastern North America (Moermond and Spindler 1997, Dau and Sarvis 2002), and nearly all of Whistlings breeding on Alaska's North Slope winter in eastern North America (Bellrose 1978); thus any Bewick's Swan found among Whistlings in eastern North America may well have originated from Asia rather than Europe. Notably, a search for verifiable records of Bewick's Swans in eastern North America turned up none. Ontario has two records of Bewick's, both by competent observers: two adults on the Niagara River at Chippawa 6 November 1971, and one adult in the Dover marshes 31 March 1972 (A. Wormington, pers. comm.). An observation of an apparent Bewick's Swan at Ocean City, Maryland in February 1982 was assumed at the time to pertain to an abnormal Whistling Swan and has not been accepted by the state's committee as a valid record (M. J. Iliff, pers. comm.); similarly, none of the handful of other sightings from mid-Atlantic states have been endorsed by state records committees (Feldstein 1997). Remarkably, Iceland has

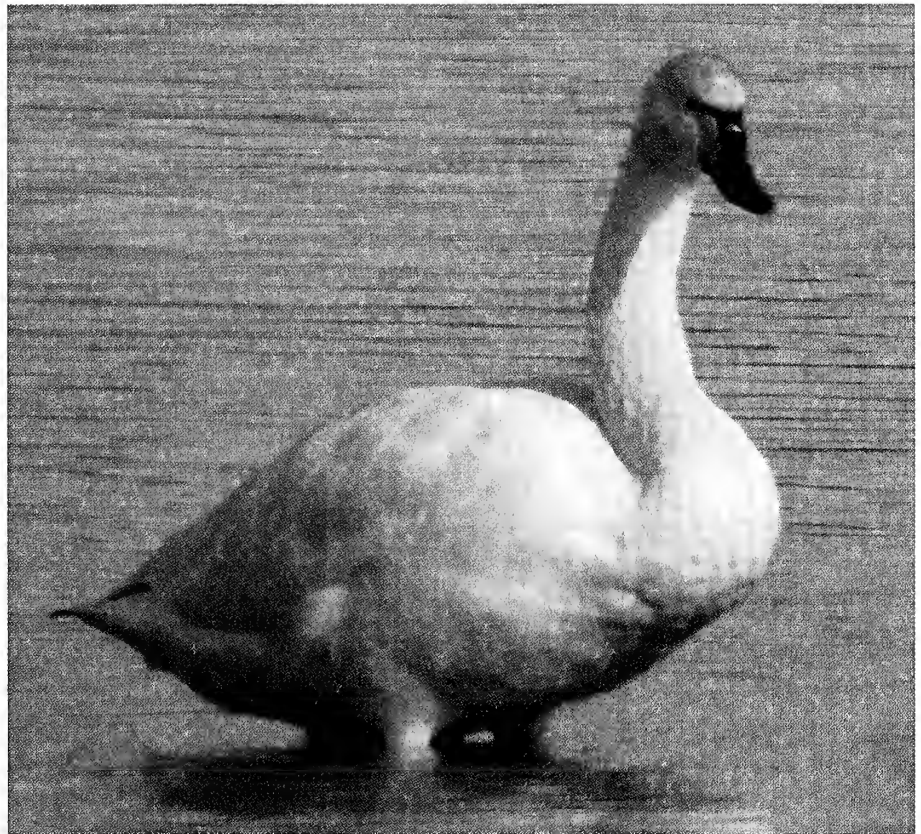
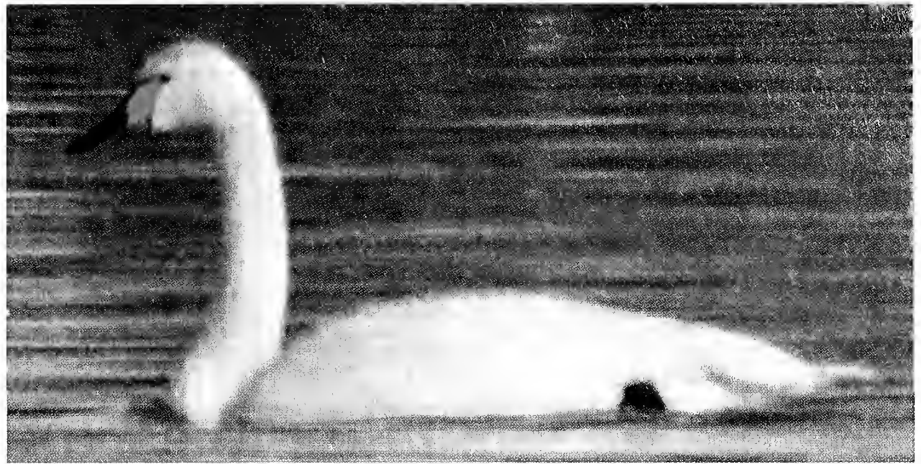


Figure 7. This Bewick's Swan near Alturas, Modoc County, California 28 November 2009 has a bill profile measured at approximately 35% yellow, well within the range of Bewick's and typical of the Blackneb type (note that the black of the culmen is continuous to the base). Photographs by Stephen C. Rotterborn.

recorded few Bewick's Swans, just 23 between 1978 and 2007, many of which were immatures (Y. Kolbeinsson, pers. comm.).

Identification

Adult Bewick's Swans are distinguished from Whistling Swans solely by the amount of yellow on the bill (Evans and Sladen 1980). Most adult Bewick's have yellow on or across the culmen (Figure 3), and these birds are unlikely to be mistaken for Whistlings, though they could be confused with adult Whooper

Swans (*Cygnus cygnus*), a topic that is well covered by most current field guides (e.g., Mullarney et al. 2009, Sibley 2000). Note that the Whooper Swan is a Eurasian species that has bred in the Aleutian Islands (Gibson and Byrd 2007) and occurred twenty or more times away from Alaska in western North America, with most of those records thought to pertain to birds of wild provenance (McEneaney 2004).

The greater challenge is separating a Bewick's Swan without yellow on the culmen



Figure 8. The appearances of Bewick's Swan x Whistling Swan intergrades have rarely been discussed in the literature or carefully documented. Distinguishing such birds from Blacknebe Bewick's Swans may not be possible on current knowledge. This pair—a Whistling (bill less than 10% yellow in profile) and a Yellownebe Bewick's—formed an apparent family group with an immature swan (Figure 9) at Freezout Lake, Montana, 15 March 2010. Photograph by Michael T. Schwitters.



Figure 9. This immature Tundra Swan (left) remained close to a mixed pair of adult Tundra Swans (Bewick's and Whistling) at Freezout Lake, Montana, 15 March 2010 and was assumed to be their offspring. Few suspected intergrade immatures have been documented in spring, when the bill pattern more closely resembles that of an adult. This apparent intergrade shows none of its presumed Yellownebe Bewick's parentage (i.e., no yellow on the culmen) but has a bill that is approximately 26% yellowish in profile, well within the range of Darknebe Bewick's per Evans and Sladen (1980). Such birds, when seen as adults, would probably be indistinguishable from Blacknebe Bewick's. Photograph by Michael T. Schwitters.

from Whistling Swans and from Bewick's Swan x Whistling Swan intergrades. In the discussion that follows, we will follow the classification of Bewick's Swan bill types used by Evans and Sladen (1980):

1) Yellownebe: The yellow on these birds' bills is reminiscent of that on Whooper Swans, with the yellow crossing over the culmen (Figures 3, 6).

2) Pennyface: On these individuals, the yellow is confined mostly to the sides of the bill, but there is yellow spotting on the culmen (Figure 4).

3) Blacknebe: Blacknebes have yellow only on the sides of the bill and lack yellow on the culmen (Figures 5, 7).

Evans and Sladen (1980) compared the bills of 300 adult Whistling (from Maryland,

North Carolina, and Alaska) and 104 adult Blacknebe Bewick's Swans (from Slimbridge, England) by measuring the amount of yellow visible on the bill in strict profile from photographs. This comparison showed a distinctly bimodal distribution, with Whistlings averaging 3.1% yellow and Blacknebe Bewick's averaging 31.5% yellow in profile. Whistling Swans ranged from 0 to 15.8% yellow, with greater than 90% of birds showing less than 8%. Among Blacknebe Bewick's, the amount of yellow varied from 22.9% to 42%. These numbers (15.8% and 22.9% yellow) should not be considered absolute boundaries; the numbers studied by Evans and Sladen (1980) is small compared to the populations of both taxa, and it is to be expected that a small number of birds will fall just outside the described limits. It is also worth noting that the yellow on a Whistling Swan's bill tends to extend somewhat linearly forward and downward from the lores, regardless of the extent of yellow; by contrast, the yellow on a Bewick's Swan's bill, even when relatively limited, tends to follow the feather contour straight downwards from the lores initially, creating a more globular look in the yellow patch when viewed in profile (M. T. Schwitters, pers. obs.). This apparent qualitative difference deserves closer scrutiny and may prove useful for observers scanning through flocks of swans for vagrants. Roberson (1980) suggested that a yellowish stripe on the underside of the mandible distinguishes adult Bewick's from Whistling Swans. Though this mark is present on most Bewick's, rare Whistling Swans have been found showing yellowish to reddish (Limpert and Earnst 1994), and rare immature Whistlings show an orange stripe here as well (S. G. Mlodinow, pers. obs.).

The plumage of immature Bewick's Swan is described as similar to that of immature Whistling (Rees 2006). (The term "immature" as used herein refers to Basic I plumage, which commences in autumn with the Prebasic I molt and follows Juvenal plumage [Limpert and Earnst 1994]; most young swans observed in the Lower 48 states have begun Prebasic I molt.) Therefore, as with adults, the main differences between these taxa are in bill pattern. The color on the bill of immature Bewick's Swans recalls that of adults, but with an ivory, yellow, or pinkish patch at base of bill that is paler than the orange on young Whistlings, which often forms a saddle on the bill, not mirroring the adult pattern (Madge and Burn 1988, Patten and Heindel 1994; M. Ogilvie, pers. comm.). Useful illustrations or photographs of immature Bewick's Swans are published in Harris et al. (1990), Kanouchi et al. (1998), and Brazil (2003). As far as mainland

Table 2. Number of records of Bewick's Swan by region and season.

Region Number	1	2	3	4
early Oct	0	0	0	0
mid Oct	0	0	0	0
late Oct	6	1	0	0
early Nov	5	0	5	1
mid Nov	2	0	5	1
late Nov	2	8	10	2
early Dec	0	1	9	3
mid Dec	0	0	7	4
late Dec	0	1	6	3
early Jan	0	0	7	7
mid Jan	0	0	13	8
late Jan	0	0	6	5
early Feb	0	3	12	8
mid Feb	0	1	3	5
late Feb	0	3	5	8
early Mar	0	3	0	5
mid Mar	1	0	0	3
late Mar	10	0	0	2
early Apr	6	0	0	0
mid Apr	0	0	0	0
late Apr	0	0	0	0

KEY TO REGIONS
 Region 1 = Northern Interior (Saskatchewan, Montana, Idaho, eastern Washington)
 Region 2 = Central Interior (Northeastern California, eastern Oregon, Utah)
 Region 3 = Southern Interior (California's Central Valley)
 Region 4 = Coastal (southwestern British Columbia to coastal northwestern California)

North American records are concerned, we are unaware of any report of an immature Bewick's Swan that was not in the company of an adult.

Evans and Sladen (1980) indicate that an adult Tundra Swan with its bill seen well in profile should be reliably identifiable as either Bewick's or Whistling, especially if photographed, which allows for precise measurement of the amount of yellow (rather difficult to assess in the field). However, there are seven records of family groups with at least one Bewick's Swan parent. In five instances, both parents were Bewick's, but twice the Bewick's was apparently paired with a Whistling Swan. Given that there were young in tow, it is not surprising that there have been reports of apparent adult Bewick's Swan × Whistling Swan intergrades.

The presumed intergrade immatures have bill patterns that seem intermediate between those of their parents (M. T. Schwitters, pers. obs., S. G. Mlodinow, pers. obs.). However, bill patterns in adult intergrades are undescribed. Obviously, intergrades might simply have the extent of yellow fall between 15.8% and 22.9%, and one such bird was noted by Evans and Sladen (1980)—an individual in Regina, Saskatchewan that showed 17.8% yellow on its bill in profile. However, it is conceivable that intergrades might have bill patterns that fall within the range of either parent, even if the Bewick's involved is a Blackneeb. Backcrosses would seem even more likely to fall within the typical phenotype of Bewick's or Whistling. Because of intergradation, even photographed birds with a bill profile showing less than 30% (or 35%?) yellow might be best considered not identifiable as Bewick's with reasonable certainty (Figures 1, 8, 9).

Records of Bewick's Swan in western North America

By contacting *North American Birds* regional and subregional editors, state and provincial bird records committees, and swan researchers, we were able to locate reports involving 153 adult and 12 immature Bewick's Swans from western North America (west of 100° W longitude) away from Alaska through the end of 2009. The true number of individual Bewick's Swans involved in these reports is impossible to discern. First, it is highly probable that some birds were tallied more than once, either because they changed location

during a given year or because they returned to a site for multiple years. We felt that we had no reliable method by which to separate returning birds from "new" birds and thus chose to treat all sightings separately. Additionally, though all sightings were vetted in some manner, and many of the birds were photographed, some may still have been misidentified (and if so, these birds were more likely intergrades than Whistling Swans; see below). Finally, we discovered no instances of known escapee Bewick's Swans in western North America, and unlike Whooper Swans, Bewick's are very scarce in captivity in North America (M. Axelson, A. Schouten, in litt.).

Absent in Table 1 are records of Bewick's Swans from Alaska and Alberta. Though there are five sightings of Bewick's Swan from Alberta (plus three more listed as possible/probable) reported in *North American Birds* and predecessor journals, the Alberta Bird Records Committee has chosen not to accept any of these due to the difficulties in separating Bewick's and Whistling Swans (B. Ritchie, J. Hudon, in litt.). Similarly, identification challenges, plus scant documentation, has led to few published records of Bewick's Swan from Alaska; current

data suggest that this taxon is rare, but not annual, during spring and fall migration in Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and accidental on the Alaska mainland (Alaska Checklist Committee, in litt.). One Bewick's was photographed in April at King Salmon on the Alaska Peninsula (Alaska Checklist Committee, in litt.), and there are two specimen records from the Aleutian Islands: a bird found dead on Adak Island in December 1977 that had been banded at Chaun Bay (Evans and Sladen 1980), and one on Buldir Island, first seen on 28 May 2004 and then found dead at the end of July (Gibson and Byrd 2007). Other physically documented Alaskan records include an immature Bewick's photographed on Shemya Island, at the western end of the Aleutians, in October 2005, and two adult Blacknebs photographed there in October 2007 (Schwitters 2008). An immature Yellowneeb was photographed with a likely Blackneeb Bewick's Swan (also an immature) on St. Paul Island 7 June 2006 (A. Keaveney; posted on <www.surfbirds.com>).

Excluding those from Alaska, records of 164 Bewick's Swans were located in the literature, in records committees' archives, or reported to us with written details and/or photographs by swan researchers: 99 in California, 19 in Montana, 12 in Washington, 10 in Oregon, eight in Utah, seven in British Columbia, six in Saskatchewan, two in the Yukon, and one in Idaho. All Bewick's Swans in western North America south of Alaska have been found in the company of Whistling Swans. Only 24 of these birds were observed along the migratory paths used by Whistling Swans that breed on the Alaska Peninsula. The majority of Bewick's Swans were along, or near, the interior flyway used by the Whistling Swans that breed in western Alaska from Kotzebue Sound to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. This pattern suggests that these Bewick's Swans mostly joined their Whistling companions in the Russian Far East or in western Alaska north of the Alaska Peninsula.

Of the 153 adult Bewick's reported in North America south of Alaska, we were able to determine the bill pattern of 108 birds, through direct analysis of photographs, other documentary material, or correspondence with observers. Of these, 44 (40%) were Blacknebs and 62 (60%) were either Yellowneeb or Pennyface. Scott (1981) noted that 36% of the Bewick's wintering in Japan were

Blacknebs, 51% were Yellownebs, and 13% were Pennyface. The proportion of Blacknebs in Japan is thus notably similar to that in the western North American record. By contrast, Evans and Sladen (1980) found that Blacknebs comprised only 18% of the Bewick's wintering at Slimbridge, United Kingdom. This difference between birds wintering in Japan and England is consistent with the range-wide clinal difference in bill patterns, with birds in the eastern parts of the range showing more yellow on average than those in the western parts of the range (Bowler 2005, Rees 2006).

Seasonal distribution

For this summary, records were separated into those from coastal versus interior migration routes (Table 2). The interior pathway records were further separated into northern (eastern Washington, Montana, Idaho, Saskatchewan), central (eastern Oregon, California's portion of Klamath Basin, and Utah), and southern (California's Central Valley). Note that adults and immatures (as long as not from mixed pairing) were included, and individuals were tallied during every time period from which they were known to be present. The Inyo County, California records and Yukon records were not included in above groups or in Table 2, as they are not easily categorized.

Bewick's Swan records from the northern interior region cluster nicely into fall and spring migration periods. The eleven fall records span 22 October and 24 November, while the 17 spring records are entirely from 17 March through 10 April. Central interior records are also clustered into fall and spring migration periods, plus one late December record from southeastern Oregon that might represent a late southbound bird. The six fall records cover 25 October through 4 December. Northbound birds total nine, all between 4 February and 9 March. As expected, sightings from California's Central Valley do not show any seasonal peaks; records are spread from 9 November through 25 February and suggest that birds are wintering in this region.

The above data tentatively indicate that southbound migration (south of approximately 50° N) occurs mostly from late October through late November or early December, with birds first arriving on wintering grounds in early November. Northbound movement starts in early February but seems more staggered based on latitude, quite possibly due to foraging limitations caused by snow and ice. Accordingly, northbound Bewick's Swans do not generally reach Montana until mid- or late March, with records farther north (e.g., in the

Yukon) coming from April and May.

Coastal Bewick's Swan records (south of Alaska) do not show any migratory peaks. This is to be expected, as coastal Whistling Swans are winter residents from southwestern British Columbia to northwestern California. Records span 1 November through 25 March, with an apparent peak during January and February.

Occurrence by decade and the question of observer bias

Bewick's Swan sightings in western North America increased sharply after the 1980s. Seven Bewick's were documented in western North America south of Alaska in the 1970s, and eight were noted during the 1980s. In the 1990s, however, 28 were detected, and 121 have been reported since 2000. It is probably not coincidental that this increase was concurrent with a dramatic rise in Bewick's Swan populations worldwide, their expansion eastward in the Russian Far East, and the colonization of easternmost Russia by Whistling Swans. Any of these factors could well contribute to an increase in western North American Bewick's Swan records. However, other reasons for this change may well exist, including better optics, increased observer awareness, and a greater number of observers.

It is important to note that field guides may have hindered rather than helped birders' awareness of Bewick's Swan variation. Although Blackneb Bewick's are shown in Madge and Burn (1988) and discussed in Paton and Heindel (1994), Sibley (2000) depicts only a Yellowneb and makes no mention of Blackneb; furthermore, that guide's depiction of a Whistling Swan with "maximum yellow" shows a swan with a bill profile that is approximately 19% yellow—beyond the upper limit for Whistling indicated by Evans and Sladen (1980). More recently, the *National Geographic Complete Birds of North America* (Alderfer 2006) also does not note the existence of Blacknebs and states that Bewick's Swan has yellow covering more than a third of the bill—again, inconsistent with Evans and Sladen (1980).

Conclusions

Bewick's Swan has become a regular, albeit very rare, visitor to western North America. Approximately 82% of western North America's Bewick's Swans have been found with Whistling Swans that breed in western Alaska (from the Yukon–Kuskokwim Delta north to the Kotzebue Sound), winter in California's Central Valley, and traverse the southern Yukon, western Canadian prairies, Montana, and Utah during migration. The remaining

Bewick's have been found with Whistling Swans that breed on the Alaska Peninsula and winter from southwestern British Columbia to northwestern California. Fall migration from the latitude of Regina, Saskatchewan southward occurs mostly from late October into early December, and northbound migration likely starts by early February and continues into early April at these latitudes.

The increase in records of Bewick's Swans in the West parallels an overall increase in the Bewick's Swan population as well as range expansion eastward in the Russian Far East, where breeding Bewick's Swans have been in contact with Whistling Swans for over thirty years. This combination of events undoubtedly has led to more Bewick's Swans wandering to, and reported from, western North America during the past twenty years. However, quite probably, some of the Bewick's Swan reports that meet the bill criteria set out by Evans and Sladen (1980) have in fact been Bewick's Swan × Whistling Swan intergrades. The similar proportion of Blackneb Bewick's wintering in Japan and occurring in western North America, however, is an indication that intergrades probably do not represent a substantial proportion of North American Bewick's Swan reports at present.

Acknowledgments

For information about records of Bewick's Swans considered herein, we thank Jim Snowden, Michael Rogers, Steven Rottenborn, Donald Cecile, Thede Tobish, Rudolf Koes, David Irons, Harry Nehls, Brian Ritchie, Jocelyn Hudon, Marshall J. Iloff, Yann Kolbeinson, Cameron Eckert, Tim Manolis, Alan Wormington, Arla Eckert, Eileen Rees, and Bruce Webb. For detailed information on the migratory habits of Whistling Swans, we are indebted to Craig Ely for sharing extensive unpublished information with us. We would also like to thank Maynard Axelson and Arnold Schouten for their insights on captive waterfowl. Finally, we heartily thank Craig Ely and Carl Mitchell for carefully reviewing an earlier version of this manuscript.

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Birding Journal

Barrow, Alaska: The Flight of Ross's Gulls



The view from the tip of Point Barrow, Alaska, during the peak of the Ross's Gull flight 8 October 2009 at about 1:30 p.m.: at least 500 Ross's Gulls were in view at one time, and observers estimated about 10,000 for the day (about 70 in this image). A first-cycle Glaucous Gull (subspecies *barrovianus*) rests on the beach.

Text and photographs by John Puschock, Zugunruhe Birding Tours, 9542 32nd Avenue NE, Seattle, Washington 98115 (info@zbirdtours.com)

I arrived at Barrow, Alaska on the evening of October 5. Denny Hodsdon picked me up at the airport and said he had seen about 25 Ross's Gulls earlier that day, a relief to hear.

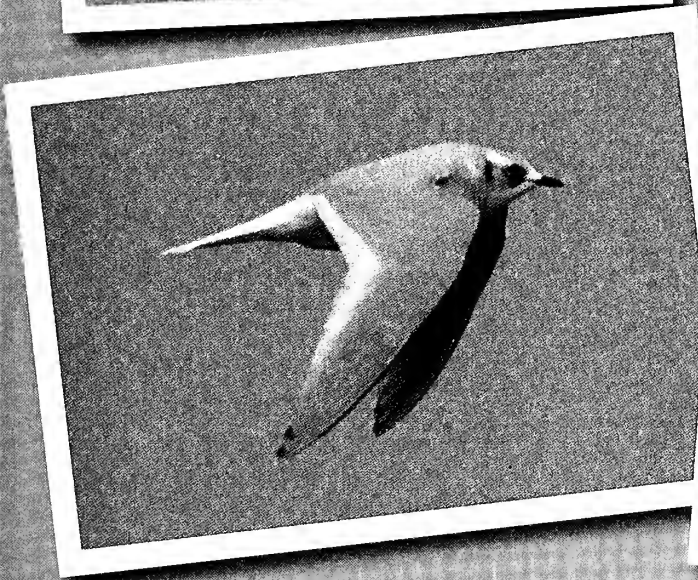
While I was mostly confident our timing was good—the Ross's Gull migration here usually begins in the latter half of September—I had a nagging worry that maybe they'd be late this year.

The next morning, we started birding at the old runway beyond the old U. S. Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (the main building is now Ilisagvik College). Several whales had been harvested and then butchered at this site. The carcasses were stored in dumpsters here before transport to Point Barrow. We figured this was the most likely location for an Ivory Gull to appear. As we started birding, we began to notice several flocks of Ross's Gulls flying fairly high, coming in from the Chukchi Sea and then flying east-northeastward across some of the inland lakes, presumably taking a shortcut to the Beaufort Sea. Most flocks had from 20 to 40 in-

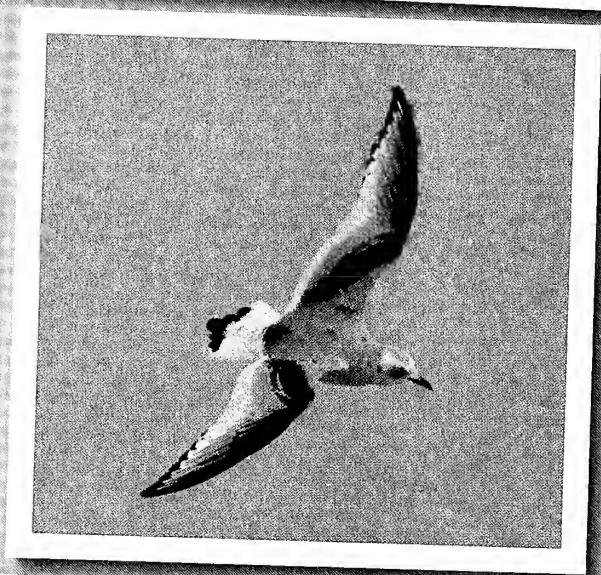
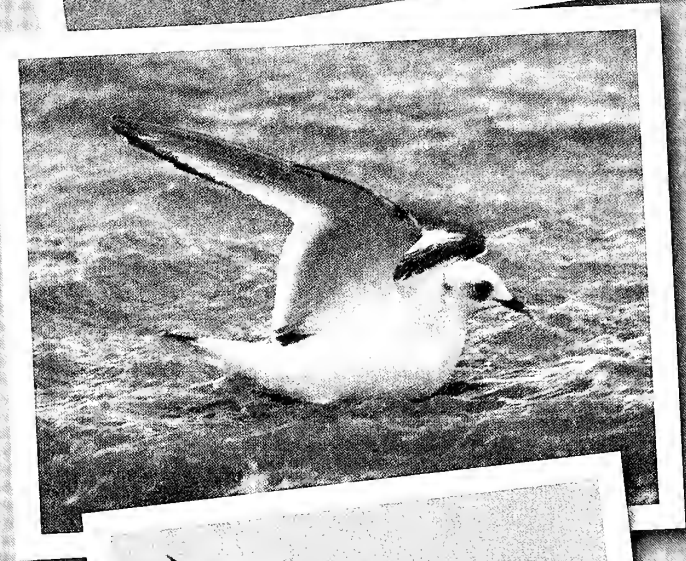
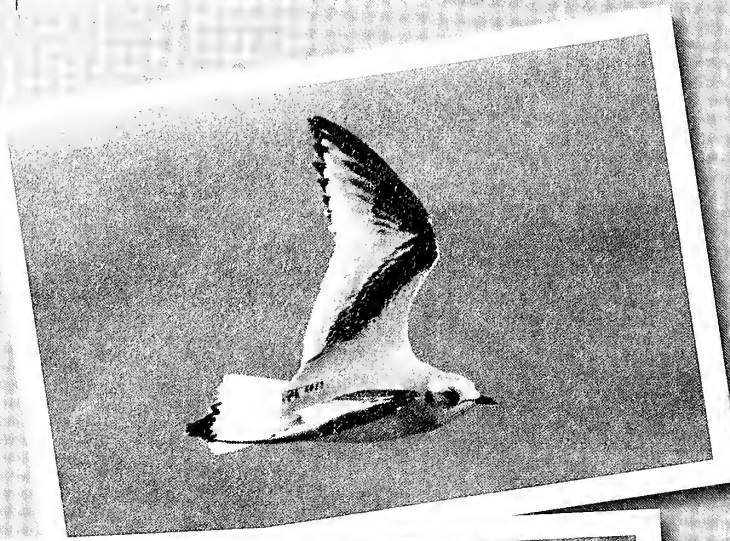
dividuals, but one had about 100. By the end of the day, we had seen about 250.

This following day, we saw similar flocks overhead, though some Ross's Gulls were seen flying over the sea and following the coastline as well, some fairly far offshore. One such flock, flying fairly quickly and low over the water, contained an adult Ivory Gull. A few Ross's also stopped briefly on the frozen lake next to the runway. Though the passage had not yet approached the mega-flights recorded in some years, we saw about 300 Ross's on October 7.

During my discussions with some of the local biologists, I learned that high winds bring the gulls close to shore, as these winds create breakers at the coast, and the gulls feed in the turbulent water. (The direction of the wind is apparently not critical, as wind from several directions can create breakers.) Up to this point, the weather had been mild.



The adult Ross's Gulls observed 6-9 October 2009 at Barrow showed relatively little variation in their plumages. The pink tint in the white areas of plumage varied among individuals but also with ambient lighting conditions: the heavily overcast conditions of 8 October gave many birds a deep rose-pink glow in all white areas of plumage, even in the head, the secondaries, and in the white shaft of the outermost primary (top row). There was also some variation in tail shape, with some showing the graduated tail shape depicted in the field guides (middle row), others showing markedly longer central rectrices and even undertail coverts (cf. image at upper left). Several individuals that appeared to be in definitive (adult) plumage showed a few dark tips to outer primaries (lower left) or dusky marks in the lesser upperwing coverts or alulas (lower right); such birds could well be second-cycle individuals, which are little known. All the birds we observed were in basic plumage; we saw very few adults with neck collars, a trait of alternate plumage, and those we did see had very thin, partial collars that did not connect across the throat.



Although there are very few records of first-cycle Ross's Gulls in the Lower 48 states, our group at Barrow observed several thousand, and among these there was some variation, mostly in the dorsal pattern. We saw none in true juvenal plumage, in which the back, sides of breast, and crown are rich brown in color. By October, most birds hatched that year have completed their partial preformative molt and are thus in formative plumage: the plumage of the head and back resembles that of the adult (top row). Compared to Little Gull, Ross's in any plumage shows a different head shape and a shorter, less pointed bill. First-cycle Ross's in formative plumage might resemble Little Gull from a distance, but Ross's wing pattern is bolder, more like that of a Sabine's Gull or a kittiwake, with strongly contrasting, bright white trailing edge to the wing (middle right), clearly visible from below and contrasting with a gray underwing (middle left), which is whitish in Little Gull of the same age. In first-cycle birds, the tips of inner rectrices are still blackish, which makes the graduated tail shape readily apparent, even at great distances (bottom row)—another distinction from first-cycle Little Gull, in which the tail is more square-shaped.

As luck would have it, we awoke to howling easterly winds and relatively large breakers on the morning of October 8. A few other birders had joined us this day, and as we were getting gas, a few flocks of Ross's Gulls could be seen flying along the shoreline in the predawn light. We raced down the road to get ahead of a flock so the new arrivals could get their lifer looks at the gulls, then proceeded back to our usual spot at the old runway. Some other birders and biologists also soon arrived.

Ross's Gulls began to pour by, flying right along the shoreline and feeding in the surf. Many were rocketing by in the high winds, making photography difficult. Some passed by no more than five feet above our heads. Over the next hour or so, my companions made three one-minute counts that indicated the gulls were passing at a rate over 7000 per hour. Of course, a more rigorous protocol should have been followed to obtain a more reliable estimate, but there were obviously thousands of Ross's Gulls. For several hours, they flew by us at seemingly the same rate.

Later in the morning, there seemed to be fewer gulls, but they may have just been more spread out. We made a trip to the point in the afternoon, and Ross's Gulls were still flying by the point in a continuous stream, though the point appeared to be a bottleneck. A group of about 500 were continuously in view, with apparently equal numbers flying into the west end and out of the east end of the flock. Given our counting methodology, we were not able to arrive at a reliable estimate of the number of gulls we saw that day, but it may well have been over 10,000, with a much higher proportion of first-cycle Ross's than we had seen in the previous two days.

The next day, winds had calmed again, and the gulls had resumed the behavior we witnessed during the earlier days of our visit, flying by at higher elevations in discrete flocks. Numbers may have been higher though, with about 200 seen in 20 minutes, but we departed that morning, so we don't know if that rate continued throughout the day. It had been a spectacular experience.

Researchers began to put together what was happening with Ross's Gulls at Point Barrow as early as 1970, though the first major flight there was seen by John Murdoch in 1881 (Densley 1999). A landmark paper by George Divoky and colleagues (1988) distilled what was then known about the flight, including at-sea records, results of aerial surveys, and data from seawatches at Point Barrow and vicinity in 1976, 1984, 1986, and 1987. Divoky and co-authors note that the flight begins in about mid-September, with Ross's Gulls moving from the Chukchi region toward Barrow and into the Beaufort Sea. The counts of eastbound birds topped 16,000 individuals for the 1984 season.

But the interesting part of this flight, which he found peaked between 29 September and 1 October in the mid-1980s, was that it was swiftly followed by a westbound flight, 14-19 October, during the study. Ross's Gulls descend upon the Beaufort Sea waters during this brief period each year, probably in order to feed on rich stocks of zooplankton here (Divoky 1984), though in some years, the birds are farther offshore and not seen in large numbers at Barrow. The wintering grounds of this enigmatic gull are not known but are thought to be at the edge of pack ice in the Bering Sea (Divoky et al. 1988).

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The Changing Seasons:

EDWARD S. BRINKLEY • 124 PEACH STREET, CAPE CHARLES, VIRGINIA 23310 • (THALASSOICA@GMAIL.COM)



In Bermuda, this Purple Swamphen spent 26 (here 30) October through 6 November 2009 at Bernard Park. Images of the bird were circulated to rail experts abroad, who felt the bird a good match for the subspecies *madagascariensis*, sometimes split as African Swamphen. Some hailed it as the New World's first record of a wild swamphen, as an earlier record from Delaware was widely considered to be of an individual that had escaped from captivity. And what of a similar Purple Swamphen found five days earlier in Tattnall County, Georgia—also a bird that lacked the grayish head typical of most Florida individuals? Photograph by Andrew Dobson.

The Chicken and the Egg

As the above image and our cover image suggest, we will again raise that vexing question of “provenance” in avian vagrancy—what we used to call questions of “origin,” until a previous journal editor wryly pointed out that the origin of a bird is technically a fertilized egg. In an effort not to rehearse a narrative we already know, perhaps we should consider a new position in this old debate: anti-conservatism. After all, if there is a legitimate reason to speculate about avian vagrancy, in general as well as in particular cases, then a fresh look at the “Hey, it has wings...” stance may be in order.

For decades, conservatism has ruled our collective view (and records committees' views) of many potential vagrants that are not embraced as potentially wild birds; many of

these remain as “records” only in scattered locations, often just in newsletters, newspapers, personal notes, and occasionally in print in this journal, when a particular region's editor sees fit. Lately, we also find them in odd places online, sometimes on sites that have little or no connection to what we might call “the birding community.” We are not considering here the galloping Emu in California or the skulking Banded Pitta in Florida—birds known to have jumped the fence or otherwise flown the coop, and in any case unlikely to appear as wild birds in North America—but migratory Old World or South American species that are also fancied by zoos, theme parks, and private collectors in North America.

One marvels at the consistency of the discussion over the past three decades, which of-

ten seems stalemated between “Hey, it could be a wild bird, you know—this is the time of year they migrate!” and “Well, they're common in captivity; unless you can prove it's wild, the default position is that it's not.” Of course, absent any evidence that a bird was once held captive, the default position should probably be a suspension of judgment in many cases, but our culture favors a verdict, a vote, a decision. Perhaps because of concerns about the purity of ornithological databases, perhaps because of some worry about “countability,” birds of uncertain provenance reveal a Manichaean tension with an implicit choice: the reserve of the ever-skeptical Brahmin, or the rush of the Unwashed to christen a legitimate vagrant.

Like most American “debates” that tend to-

Provenance

ward polarization, this one often misses subtleties but also too often misses the most obvious point: that the basis for well-founded judgment is usually lacking. And surely, though this set of extremes represents a caricature of some memorable, careful discussions of individual birds in the past, it is on the mark for other exchanges. Certainly, the conservatives' (or conservativists'?) position has enjoyed favor for some good reasons: for instance, if a pattern of vagrancy develops, then a report can always be reconsidered and re-evaluated later on: non-acceptance of a record does not mean that it will be barred from consideration permanently, merely that it is considered likely to be a bird with a history of captivity at the time of review.

The problem with this argument, historically, has been that birders tend to submit data on birds when they believe the information will be taken seriously—in other words, they often do not bother reporting or even collecting information if they anticipate its rejection or dismissal, on whatever grounds. My impression in the past decade has been that we have been crossing into a more neutral period with such records that once seemed problematic. Aging records of rare seabirds once considered “possibly ship-assisted” have appeared on state and continental checklists. Barnacle Geese, Pink-footed Geese, and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have been taken seriously as potentially wild, and rare geese in city parks once considered untouchable because of their association with tame park birds have become recognized as wild, even if they fail to migrate (and some have even become whistle-stops on birding tours!). Several subtropical raptors, too, from Crested Caracara to Harris's Hawk, have come to “count” as potentially legitimate wanderers. Some of these changes have come about because of strengthening patterns; others have occurred more because of a change in perspective. Records of potentially vagrant species whose populations are in decline (e.g., Lesser White-fronted Goose), and whose presence in North America has concomitantly gone from slim to none, have not been similarly re-evaluated.

Clearly, though, the old conservatism is still very much alive. Take, for instance, Delaware's report of a Common Shelduck at Prime Hook 19 September through 3 October 2009. I inquired about documentation on this bird—inasmuch as others were reported in Massachusetts, Ontario, and Newfoundland in the two months after it—and came up dry. As the finder, Bruce Peterjohn, writes: “At the time, the report of the bird was met with collective indifference from the birding community. I'm not sure that anybody made a serious attempt to look for the bird after I reported it. In light of the other records from eastern North America in the autumn, this report is gaining greater significance, so it's too bad that the record did not receive more interest.”

So... I remember reports of Common Shelducks from the Atlantic coast in the 1970s. How would I locate those and other reports, in case I wanted to look for a pattern in the historical record to compare to the 2009 records? It turns out that some of the ones I remember reading about are in *American Birds* but are not treated in the state-level monographs, with the exception of Veit and Petersen (1993). State and provincial records committees have little on the species in their archives, with the exception of Florida and Québec, which track of all bird species observed in the wild,

Table 1. Reports of Common Shelduck in North America. County names are italicized.

Date	No., Plumage	Location	Source or observer(s)
5 Oct 1921	1. imm. female	Essex R., Ipswich, MA	Veit and Petersen (1993)
late Nov 1964	1	Martha's Vineyard, MA	Veit and Petersen (1993)
16-17 Jul 1970	3	Bombay Hook N.W.R., DE	N. E. Holgerson
13 Aug 1971	3	Bombay Hook N.W.R., DE ¹	<i>American Birds</i> 26: 42
22 Jul 1972	2	Bombay Hook N.W.R., DE ²	<i>American Birds</i> 26: 842
6 Jul–24 Sep 1973	4 ads.	Bombay Hook N.W.R., DE	N. E. Holgerson
19 Jul 1974	3 ads.	Bombay Hook N.W.R., DE	<i>American Birds</i> 28: 886
29 Jul 1975	1	Bombay Hook N.W.R., DE ³	<i>American Birds</i> 29: 951
16 Aug 1980	1	Bombay Hook N.W.R., DE	R. Ringler, eBird
18 Sep 1982	2	Cap Saint-Ignace, QU	<i>American Birds</i> 37: 159
22 Aug 1984	3 juvs.	Québec City, QU	<i>American Birds</i> 39: 30
17 Jan 1987	1 ad. male	Westport, CT ⁴	<i>Connecticut Warbler</i> 7: 37
30 Jul 1988	1 molting male	Edwards Air Force Base, Los Angeles, CA	J. L. Dunn
8 May 1989	1	Piney Run Park, MD	R. Ringler, eBird
Apr 1992	1 ad.	Prettyboy Res., MD	M. J. Iliiff, J. L. Stasz
30 Aug 1993	1	Notre-Dame-de-Pierreville	<i>QuébecOiseaux</i> 5 (4): 26
2 Jun 1993	1	Lac des Pins, QU	<i>L'Ornithologie</i> 6 (4): 29
7-21 Jul 1993	1	Baie-du-Février, QU	<i>QuébecOiseaux</i> 5 (3): 26
1993	1	Clermont, Lake, FL	observer unknown
3 Mar 1994	1	w. of Homeland, Palk, FL	P. Fellers
27 Aug 1994	1	Île du Moine, QU	<i>QuébecOiseaux</i> 6 (4): 24
12-24 Nov 1996	1	Rimouski, QU	<i>QuébecOiseaux</i> 8 (4): 30
25 Aug 1998	1	ICI Settling Ponds, Lambton, ON	B. Mann, M. Bouman
26 Sep 1999	1 female/imm.	Belle Isle Marsh, Suffolk, MA	B. Mayer, eBird
17 Feb 2002	1	Sarnia, Lambton, ON	B. Mann et al.
30 Oct 2004	1	Dunham, QU ⁵	ornitho-qu listserve
24 Jan 2004	1 ad.	Bass R., Dennis, MA	B. Nikula (ph.)
31 Jul 2004	1	Blenheim S.T.P., Chatham-Kent, ON	B. Mann et al.
4 Aug 2005	1 ad. male	Scarborough Marsh, Cumberland, ME	P. Vickery
19 May 2007	1	Royal Botanical Gardens, Spring Road, ON	N. Feagans, eBird
28 Jul 2007	2	Everglades Agricult. Area, Palm Beach, FL	<i>N. American Birds</i> 61: 578
11 May 2008	1	Jefferson-Davis Parish, LA	D. Bosler, eBird
6 Sep 2008	1 male	north of Fargo, Cass, ND	D. Riemer (ph.)
29-30 Jul 2008	4	Viera Wetlands, Brevard, FL	A. Bankert
30 Apr 2009	1	Miami Springs, Miami-Dade, FL	L. Manfredi (ph.)
19 Sep 2009	1	Prime Hook N.W.R., DE	B. Peterjohn
17 Nov 2009	1	Quidi Vidi Lake, St. John's, NF	B. Mactavish (ph.)
6-7 Dec 2009	1 imm.	Essex, MA	J. Malone (ph.)
29 Dec 2009	1 male	Hamilton Bridge, ON ⁶	P. Armishaw et al. (ph.)
23 Jan 2010	1 ad. female	John Bunker Sands Wetlands, Kaufman, TX	G. Cook

¹ Two birds were seen at Bombay Hook as late as 16 August, and one remained through 15 September (*vide* N. E. Holgerson). Members of this group (and possibly offspring) apparently returned in late summer through early fall for four more years (with another, possibly from that group, making an appearance in 1980); where they spent the remainder of the year is not known. The American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-list of North American Birds* indicates that this group was seen through 1976, but I cannot locate confirmation of that in the literature.

² These birds remained through 4 October 1972 (*American Birds* 27: 37). In 1973, the one individual showed up on 6 July, with 3 more found 14 July; the 4 birds remained through 24 September (*vide* N. E. Holgerson).

³ The Bombay Hook birds continued at least through 17-21 August 1975 (R. Ringler, eBird).

⁴ This bird remained through 17 May 1987; *Connecticut Warbler* 7: 51, 53; B. Nikula (ph.)

⁵ This bird remained through 2 November 2004.

⁶ This bird's bill and plumage suggest a male; images posted: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/sprint8/4225748433/>

NOTE: A record of a shelduck at Tilton, NH 27 Dec 1975 (*NH Audubon Quarterly* 29: 60) surfaced at press time.



Figure 1. Towering over a nearby juvenile Common Moorhen was this Purple Swamphen in Tattnall County, Georgia on 21 November 2009, the first for the state. Another swamphen, possibly a vagrant from the Old World, was found on Bermuda five days later. Making sense of the provenance of these birds is complicated by the proliferation of breeding swamphens in Florida—and by incompletely documented variation in Florida's birds. Though we may never be able to determine where the Georgia and Bermuda birds came from, we do ornithological posterity a disservice if we fail to document them in ways that allow future students of birdlife to learn about them. Photograph by Gene Wilkinson.

not just those assumed *a priori* to be wild. With the help of Marshall Iliff, Harry Armistead, and an army of record-hunters, I set out to gather up what information I would on Common Shelduck in North America; the result is Table 1, which may represent a minority of observations.

Certainly, some of the records in Table 1 refer to escaped birds. For instance, the Clermont, Florida bird seems likely to have come from the nearby Animal Kingdom Lodge, where guests can watch Common Shelducks and a great variety of Old World birds from the lodge balconies at this Disney resort (*Orlando Sentinel*, 29 July 2004). Florida has subsequent shelduck reports; mostly, their locations and numbers suggest escapees rather than vagrants from Iceland or elsewhere in Europe, including one near the Miami airport in April 2009. Delaware's records between 1970 and 1980 were assumed to have been of birds from a farm or a theme park, perhaps New Jersey's Great Adventure (50 miles away)—but that park was not opened until 1974. The regularity of the Bombay Hook group's appearance in July/August led the Region's editors, P. A. Buckley, Robert O. Paxton, and David A. Cutler, to ask: "Is this a molt-migration? If so, where have they been coming from?" Norman E. Holgerson, who originally found the Bombay Hook birds in 1970 while doing an aerial survey of waterfowl on the refuge, recalls that they were all "very wary birds," with flush distances of between 100 and 200 meters. He consulted his exten-

sive notes on the birds and indicated that he saw most of the birds' legs well (e.g., 13 August 1971, 25 July 1972) and recorded that they did not have bands. Plumage and size of one of the birds suggested an adult female, according to Holgerson, but the others looked like adult males, though none had a fully developed knob at the base of the maxilla, typical of breeding males (the earliest arriving bird he observed, a male 6 July 1973, did show some swelling in this part of the bill).

Even if we discount these records from Florida and from Bombay Hook, what of the 1921, 1964, and 1987 records? And what of the fall and early winter records from 2009? Could there be a chance that some of these birds arrived in North America under their

cause they were not maintained in any consistent way. State-level experts sometimes knew of published or archived records but often did not. Second lesson: even when records were uncovered, supporting documentation or photographs were mostly not findable, and in most cases even information on plumage (age, sex, etc.), the presence of bands (used by many collections), and condition of toes (halluces clipped or not) had not been preserved. Third lesson, and probably the most important one: several new records came to light because of eBird. This might sound trivial, but it is not: the more data eBird gets, the more complete our understanding of bird distribution becomes—including species that may not be interesting to us right now, such as presumed escapees. In a few years, we may become interested in high counts of Cattle Egret in the Northeast (as the species continues to decline) or in records of Summer Tanager in Canada (as the species marches northward). Whatever the bird, eBird offers a way to register the information and to track trends, free from the limitations of other media or other methods. It may seem incomprehensible, but eBird registers *up to two million observations per month* now. And, yes, you can add your old records into eBird, just as you log your new ones. And for the first time, you



Figures 2, 3. This adult male Common Shelduck dropped into a field full of large gulls just north of the Fargo, North Dakota landfill 6 September 2008. It remained there for the morning but was not relocated in the afternoon or subsequently. Photographs show that it was not banded, and its hind toes (halluces) were not clipped. A search for records of this species indicates that most come from sites well east of the Mississippi River, though this bird was an exception. Photographs by Dean W. Riemer.

own steam? It would be unwise to advocate here for any particular record; the disposition of individual records is best left to committees, which can gather and sift through details. Instead, this exercise is a learning experience, with several potential lessons. First lesson: it was inordinately time-consuming to gather a list of shelduck reports, largely be-

can use eBird to record birds seen anywhere on the planet, an impressive expansion!

So if you see a Banded Pitta, or a White-faced Whistling-Duck, or a Purple Swamphen (Figure 1) in your neck of the woods, or anywhere on earth, you have a neutral, efficient way of recording it and of sharing it with anyone who might be curious about the history

1920	1
1930	0
1940	0
1950	0
1960	1
1970	1
1980	6
1990	10
2000	16

Table 2. Reports of Common Shelduck from Table 1 (those with known month of discovery only), shown by decade; Delaware records from 1970-1980 are listed as one record, in the 1970s.

of bird distribution. Reconstructing the historical record 40-50 years later is almost an exercise in futility: it is much better to keep track of everything we see now, and let current and future committees and authorities decide how best to interpret what we have seen. As the legions of active birders and eBirders grow, eBird is becoming indispensable for a clear understanding of bird distribution. Indeed, there is nothing that holds a candle to its ability to digest and display information on bird sightings. We will never be able to know in advance what might be interesting to birders and ornithologists of the future, so keeping tabs on *everything* is the best way to pass what we witness down to future generations.

Does the argument above have a sententious ring, the suspicious righteousness of the reformed sinner? Perhaps it masks some past missteps? Well, before a blogger reports it: I confess. I remember standing on Oden's Dock in eastern North Carolina on a rainy Memorial Day Monday in May 1992 (before the Internet was widely used) as a huddled, hushed group of birders heard word of not just a Little Egret at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge to the north but also of a male Garganey in the same pond, a great rarity anywhere in North America. I offered the buzz-kill bad news: "I heard from someone in the game department that a shipment of Garganeys was just lost in transit." I had heard this, but I had failed to fact-check the information, which, as it turned out, was unfounded: the source could not produce support for the claim. And I also later learned that Garganeys are rarely held in waterfowl collections (the males hold their fancy plumage for such a brief time that they are not prized by collectors) and that almost all records of the species from our reporting regions fall into neat patterns that fit their peak periods of movement in their core range. Had I been a more careful reader of this journal (Paxton et al. 1976, Spear et al. 1988), I would have known both of Garganey's rarity

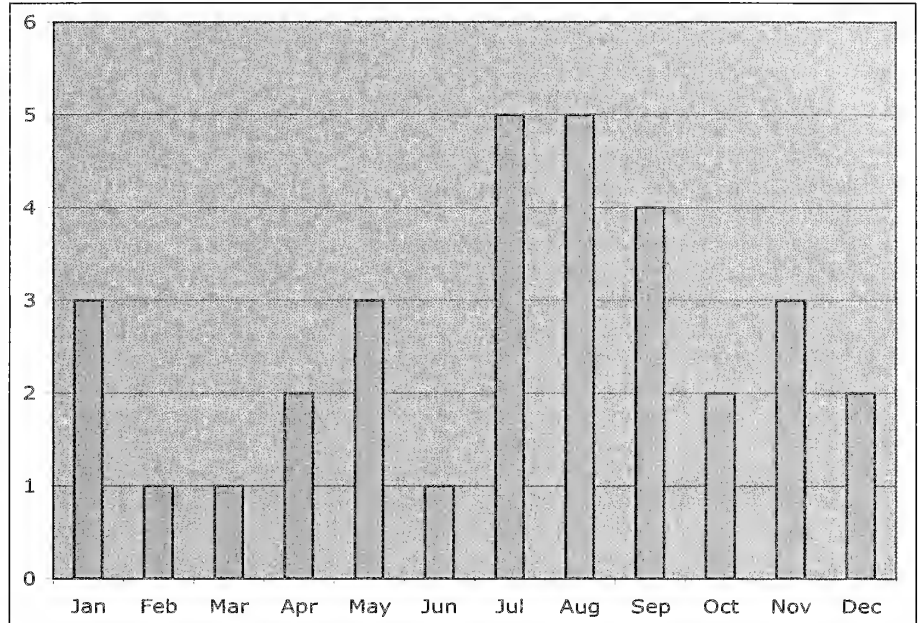


Figure 4. Reports of Common Shelduck from Table 1 (those with known month of discovery only), shown by month of discovery. Bombay Hook, Delaware records (1970-1980) are treated together, as a single record in July.

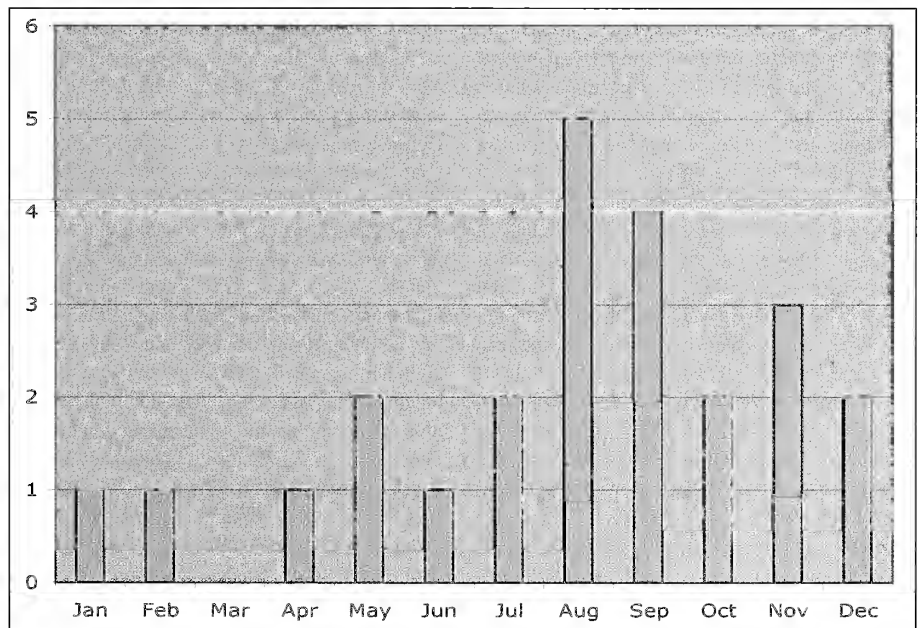


Figure 5. Reports of Common Shelduck from Table 1 (those with known month of discovery only), shown by month, excluding records from Delaware (1970-1980) and the southern-tier states (California, Texas, Louisiana, Florida), where records have been treated as referring to escapees.

in collections and of its pattern of occurrence in North America. The Virginia record was part of that neat pattern. I had done something that is very common in birding circles—to pass on duff gen (U.K. parlance for bad information)—and had also fallen into the “suspicious until proven wild” trap. As a consequence of this sort of dynamic around this striking duck, none of those who observed it

took a photograph of it. And the state lacks a verified record of the species to this day.

One does not have to look very far on the chat groups to find evidence that this incautious narrative continues. One commentator on the most recent shelduck opined: “There are multiple Common Shelduck reports from around the continent yearly.” This seems to be false but is an understandable statement,

given that most field guides to North American birds segregate shelducks on the "exotics" page, which suggests that they are not worth reporting no matter where they're observed in North America. With the exception of a few records among California, Texas, Louisiana, and North Dakota (Figures 2, 3), American records of this species are restricted to sites well east of the Mississippi River: the Northeast and Québec have about eight records each; Ontario has about five; the Middle Atlantic has about four (given the returning birds in Delaware); the Southeast has six. Although there is no evidence available that they were escapees, the Bombay Hook group and the southern-tier states' records have all been treated as such. So if one takes those out of the equation for a moment, that leaves a pattern of occurrence in the northeastern reaches of the continent that might be predicted for wild wanderers (Figures 4, 5).

The paucity of reports in the West is noteworthy. The Edwards Air Force Base, California bird (Table 1) remained for some time at Piute Ponds, then left the area after molting and was later seen in November at the nearby Lancaster sewage ponds. The species has also been seen at the Salton Sea, according to Kimball Garrett and Guy McCaskie, and at Bodega Bay, according to Scott Terrill. Waterfowl enthusiast Steve Mlodinow indicates that his birding travels in western North America "have never turned up a Common Shelduck, though I have seen, sometimes on multiple occasions, Bar-headed Goose, Egyptian Goose, Red-crested Pochard, a hybrid involving White-cheeked Pintail, Ruddy Shelduck, Mandarin Duck, Silver Teal, Black Swan, Mute Swan (well away from established populations), and even a Barnacle Goose in Washington state." Of course, the species may simply be more common in collections in the East than in the West, but there are many eastern North American records of the other species Mlodinow mentions as well. One would expect—inasmuch as Common Shelduck is either absent or not widespread in easternmost Russia, China, Korea, or Japan—that records would be far fewer in the West than the East, if at least some of the birds observed in North America have been wild.

The temporal distribution of these reports (see Figures 4, 5) is also roughly what one might expect if birds were moving southwestward from European breeding grounds. Common Shelduck is sedentary in some parts of its range but in others undertakes an early migration (usually in July) to favored sites for molting; the birds become flightless for sever-

al weeks during this period and can often be seen in very large flocks at such locations. Afterward, later in the fall, most mainland European shelducks then move on to wintering grounds at subtropical latitudes. When it became clear to those of us who visited Iceland annually in the 1990s and 2000s that the numbers of Common Shelduck were exploding in that country's west, we wondered what sorts of strategies (molt migration and autumn migration) would develop in this group—and whether North American reports would begin to increase. Although there has been no banding return to indicate that an Icelandic bird has made it to North America, the reports of the species on this continent have increased sharply over the same period of time (Table 2; cf. Figure 5; note that the small "peak" of records in spring involves birds treated by the finders as escapees).

So if one were looking for patterns in the very uneven, mostly unvetted information available, there is arguably a crude pattern similar to that seen in records of several other western Eurasian waterfowl species: records clustered mostly in the Northeast, from times of the year that correspond to periods of regular movement in the Old World. Could some of these birds be escapees from Florida that wander northward? Or could some of the Florida shelducks be wild birds that have sought winter quarters in subtropical climes, like those that migrate to northern Africa in autumn? Either scenario is plausible. Even though we may perceive a strengthening pattern in shelduck records, we cannot know the past history of each individual. This is one reason that some states' committees have a separate category for birds whose identification is not in question but whose provenance is unknown—the documentation is maintained on file, and the documenters receive a letter of appreciation for taking the time to tender the record. In this way, the work of documentation is acknowledged (and the work of documentation reinforced positively), and potentially useful information is not lost.

One could say that this increase in shelduck records is simply a product better communication among birders. And there is little that can be said to disprove that; however, records of many other species, of all stripes, have declined in the past decade or so, despite all our new technology. Perhaps, as with other increasing Palearctic waterfowl (Pink-footed Goose, Barnacle Goose, Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose, Baikal Teal), we will take a second look at Common Shelducks in

the field and in the review process. At the very least, we should photograph and document them as we do other species—and report them dutifully to eBird and our local committees and *North American Birds* regional editors. Without well-documented records in accessible archives and databases to aid in assessing "provenance," it's difficult to have our ducks in a row.

Weather (and birds)

A controversy older even than exotic fowl, the alleged associations between weather events and the appearances of birds well out of range will probably provide this journal with fodder for speculation for as long as the journal persists. Fall 2009 had little low-hanging fruit in the birds-and-storms department, with the exception of a White-tailed Tropicbird found in Carlisle, Massachusetts 23 August, the same day Hurricane *Bill* hit easternmost Canada—remarkably, birders in Newfoundland found no seabirds of note, and observers in the West Indies found mostly grounded shorebirds. In fact, it was an uneventful season for tropical weather, with *Claudette* and *Ida* meriting only brief mentions in the Gulf coast's regional reports and in the Middle Atlantic region's report.

Likewise, weather patterns for the fall season across the continent were uneven and difficult to characterize. August in North America wasn't as hot as we've become accustomed to; overall, it was about half a degree Fahrenheit below the twentieth-century average, though the Northeast, Southwest, and Pacific Northwest were above long-term temperature averages, according to the National Climatic Data Center. September turned warmer, averaging a degree Fahrenheit warmer than average for that month, and September in the West overall was the warmest ever recorded, with Nevada breaking its record and California's September tying 1984 numbers. Strong, slow-moving storms, however, meant that the Southern Great Plains had much cooler averages, as in August. The continent's average temperature in October was shockingly (4° F) cooler than average—the third coolest October on record. Unseasonably cold air plunged southward several times in the month, bringing several memorable fallouts of migrants to the Gulf coast, and only Florida ended the month with above-normal temperatures. In November, the pendulum swung back, with the continent averaging 4° F warmer than average, with balmy weather and little snow across much of the northern tier and especially the Northeast down to Delaware. In fact, all



Figure 6. This Clark's Nutcracker at Laguna Hanson, Baja California on 24 October 2009 was one of two noted there; the Baja California Peninsula region had not recorded the species since 1997. Interestingly, in a season in which many corvids were widespread in lowland settings in the Southwest, Clark's Nutcracker had a very limited, spotty pattern of dispersal, mostly in the Pacific Northwest. *Photograph by Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos.*

fifty states recorded above-average November numbers (but wait for the winter season summary...).

Precipitation patterns across the continent were variable, as usual. Overall, August was dry, about the twenty-eighth driest August since 1895; the northern tier was wetter than average, the southern two-thirds drier. September's precipitation average exactly matched the long-term average in the Lower 48 states, though the South got soaked and the reverse was true in the Midwest and Northeast. October, by contrast, was the nation's wettest in 115 years of record-keeping—nearly twice the long-term average—and much the eastern half of the country was especially wet, with Iowa, Arkansas, and Louisiana had their wettest Octobers ever. Only Florida, Arizona, and Utah had below-normal precipitation for the month. Again in November, the pendulum returned to the dry side, with the month ranking eighteenth driest out of 115 Novembers on record, though Virginia and the Carolinas had very high precipitation totals that month. The western mountains continued dry, which was probably the source of a fair scattering of mountain birds in lowland settings.

Western mountain birds

The fall of 2009 distinguished itself in most places as an unusually quiet one: irruptive birds from the north, such as finches, owls, and Red-breasted Nuthatches, were seen in notable numbers nowhere, and many tundra-breeding species, including waterfowl, loons,

shorebirds, jaegers, and Sabine's Gulls (see the S.A. box in the Colorado & Wyoming report), were said to be in extremely low numbers across most of the continent, though there were exceptional counts of 40,000 Pacific Loons off La Jolla, California 28 November and a count of 3294 Sabine's Gulls well off the Oregon coast 22 September. From the Rockies to the Pacific coast, most totals of eastern warblers were called "lackluster" (with a few exceptional records noted), and the Baja California Peninsula region called it the worst warbler season since regular reporting began in 2000. Alaska's remarkable offshore outposts had some notable birds in early September, but then winds switched to

unfavorable, at least for birders watching for Asian species. Though the central Gulf coast had some amazing fallout days, much of the Atlantic coast found shorebirds in short supply and passerines average or below.

In other words, much of the bread and butter of our autumn migration was missing in 2009—which gives us the dubious luxury of expending four pages of copy on Common Shelduck. However, in the Southwest, a few species were on the move into the lowlands, though most of these did not make it onto the Great Plains, into the Great Basin, or east of the Pecos River in Texas. Among the wanderers were corvids, bluebirds, woodpeckers, plus lesser numbers locally of finches, nuthatches, Bushtits, Brown Creepers, Mountain Chickadees, and Golden-crowned Kinglets. Although the counts of individual species broke no major records, their presence enlivened lowland and other areas where they are uncommon or genuinely rare. These irruptions often correspond to regional drought conditions, and 2009's small flights were probably no exception in that regard. Monsoon rains were spotty at best in the Southwest this season, and Tucson's August was the driest since 1976 and third driest since 1948.

The greatest diversity of mountain birds on the move was recorded in southern Arizona, where the irruption of jays, particularly Steller's Jays and Western Scrub-Jays, commenced in September. In addition, a few Pinyon Jays, Mexican Jays, and American Crows were seen in southeastern Arizona through

the season; Mexican Jays around Tucson were particularly noteworthy, as the species is almost never seen away from breeding areas. Arizonans also found high numbers of Western and Mountain Bluebirds in the lowlands, along with Cassin's Finches, Red Crossbills, and Pine Siskins. Scattered lowland reports of Lewis's and Acorn Woodpeckers, plus a few more Williamson's Sapsuckers than usual, indicated a modest flight of woodpeckers out of the mountains as well. Lawrence's Goldfinch, which has often been in the autumn news in the past decade, was widespread in southeastern Arizona but also had an "amazing" presence in Nevada, with 21 birds recorded, 15 of those in one flock that stayed in Kyle Canyon 1-10 October.

To the east of Arizona, in New Mexico, "the season was characterized by conspicuous incursions of woodpeckers, jays, chickadees, and other montane groups," according to Sandy Williams, and this spilled over the border into El Paso, Texas and the Big Bend area as well. As in Arizona, jays dominated the movement, with about a dozen Steller's Jays and nearly that many Western Scrub-Jays in lowland settings, plus three Steller's and "excellent numbers" of scrub-jays in westernmost Texas. As in Arizona, Pinyon Jays moved in New Mexico, where three groups of transients totaling 35 birds were noted. New Mexico had six reports each of wandering Acorn and Lewis's Woodpeckers, while western Texas had four Lewis's—the most in many years for the state. (Probably the outlier in the season's western woodpecker dispersal, the Midwest had its first Acorn Woodpecker ever, an adult male at Crow Wing State Park in central Minnesota 9 November.) In October, a single Western Bluebird in Texas at Palo Duro Canyon and two at Lubbock defined the eastern edge of that species' movement in fall, and the flight of Golden-crowned Kinglets also spanned New Mexico, reaching just into western Texas.

To the west, in southern California, Guy McCaskie and Kimball Garrett write that "there was very little irruptive movement of passerines into or within the Region; only Golden-crowned Kinglets and, particularly, Western Bluebirds made incursions of note." Corvids, woodpeckers, and smaller species (other than the kinglets) observed in Arizona were not detected in southern California. Western Bluebirds on the California deserts included up to 20 at Zzyzx in November, several dozen around the Salton Sea, and even a half-dozen offshore on San Clemente Island by the season's end—making the first record

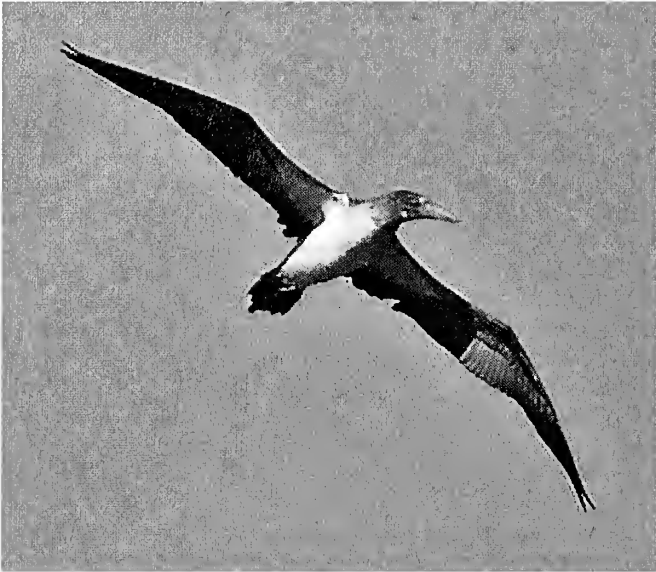


Figure 7. A New Mexico first, this Blue-footed Booby entertained birders from many states at Conchas Lake, San Miguel County 15 (here 16) August through 10 September 2009. Although the record at first seemed outlandish, it had context in the form of a Blue-footed in Arizona and at least 14 in southern California, the highest count of the species there since 1977. Interestingly, New Mexico's Blue-footed turned up earlier than the Arizona and all the California birds. Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

for the Channel Islands. In northern California, Southeast Farallon Island had its third Western Bluebird ever at the end of October. Mountain Bluebirds were reported in "greater-than-average numbers" on southern California's coastal slope, but northern California had a small avalanche of them: flocks totaling nearly 1000 birds in San Benito County, plus rare records for Monterey County and Santa Cruz County. Among the few California hints of the Arizona flights were a Red Crossbill at Bellflower, Los Angeles County and a few coastal Cassin's Finches, with notable singles at Desert Center, at Santa Cruz, in San Francisco County, and offshore on San Clemente Island.

To the north, in the Pacific Northwest, single Western Scrub-Jays were seen near Harts Pass in Washington's Cascade Mountains (where the species is "all but unknown") and continuing in Maple Ridge, British Columbia. These birds are pioneers in the range expansion of the species, rather than part of the lowland irruption of birds in the Southwest. As in Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas (but not California), Lewis's Woodpeckers descended into lowland areas in Washington, where 10 were reported, and high counts of eight and nine came from Skagit County; Oregon boasted over 100 notable Lewis's, far more than usual. A Williamson's Sapsucker in western Washington at Carnation 25 November was locally

this season. Four in Lincoln County at Swanson Lake were in shrub-steppe habitat, "far from known populations." There was essentially no other mention of the species elsewhere in the West—except in Baja California, where two nutcrackers reached Laguna Hanson 24 October (Figure 6), the first in that state since the flight of 1996-1997. One has to wonder where these birds came from.

North of normal: the tropical, the lingering, and the misoriented

Although the autumn season has become known birds that are found well north of typical areas late in the season, among them migratory birds whose urges have taken them northward rather than southward, we still have far more puzzles than compelling explanations, and our habits of categorizing birds according to hunches about their patterns of vagrancy should always be questioned.

Among very scarce species that stray northward from Mexico, Mangrove Cuckoo is an especial enigma. Single birds with richly colored underparts, similar to the subspecies *continentalis* of eastern Mexico, appeared in southern Texas at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge 1 September and in Alabama at Fort Morgan 17 September. Greg Jackson provides much food for thought in his S.A. box on Alabama's first record, which joins single records of Mangrove Cuckoos from Louisiana and western Florida, plus about ten other records

very rare, but the real wanderer was an obliging female that visited a cemetery in Finney County, Kansas in October, furnishing one of very few records for the Southern Great Plains.

There was also a modest movement of Clark's Nutcrackers in the Northwest. In British Columbia, 30 nutcrackers on Grouse Mountain, North Vancouver was a high count, and one on Vancouver Island at the famed Carmanah Point Lighthouse 4 November was certainly out of place, as was one at Rocky Point, Lincoln County, Oregon 8 October, the only one reported west of the Cascades

from Texas, as the only ones of this type from the United States. Not only is the taxonomy of Mangrove Cuckoo in a tangle, but there are apparently also different morphs within some populations of this little-studied species, so it is difficult to say where these cuckoos were hatched exactly. And how many of these unobtrusive birds have gone undetected on the Gulf coast over the years? Another Mexican stray to Texas, a northerly Northern Jaçana found in Choke Canyon State Park 1 November, was the first in some years for the state (and accordingly visited by thousands of birders during its long stay) and was also the first of a royal flush of Mexican species in southern Texas, including a Bare-throated Tiger-Heron and an Amazon Kingfisher, both new for the United States. Not to be overlooked among five-star finds, a hatch-year Thick-billed Kingbird at Calf Canyon, Utah 20 October was that state's first and one of the northernmost ever recorded in the West.

If you're a fan of boobies, you're probably pleased with the current historical moment, in which the smaller boobies—Brown, Red-footed, and Blue-footed—have been turning heads through much of the West. In California in fall 2009, the largest flight of Blue-footeds since the late 1970s included two on the coast and at least a dozen at the Salton Sea. This flight kept going: Arizona had its first Blue-footed since 1996, at Martinez Lake in September, and New Mexico had its first ever at Conchas Lake in August and September, a bird that was enjoyed by hundreds of birders during its stay (Figure 7). Not to be outdone, 15 Brown Boobies were reported in southern California waters in autumn; one was on Southeast Farallon Island; Oregon had its third, a long-staying cooperative bird last seen 10 December; and another was found dead in Washington near Long Beach in January. The cherry atop the booby sundae was a subadult Red-footed Booby that perched on a research vessel near Anacapa Island and rode it into Los Angeles County waters. Another Red-footed found on Miami Beach in late September and was rehabilitated and released but returned to the area of its release for several months, to be ogled by many.

In the Midwest and East, it was not a remarkable "southern birds north" season, despite the dozens of ibis and handful of spoonbills, pelicans, storks, and sundry waders seen north of usual places. Although few individuals appeared to be involved, the summer's flight of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks into the lower Midwest continued into September (Figure 8). As is probably the case with many

species that inhabit ephemeral wetlands, whistling-ducks' dispersal is probably driven by breeding success and especially by changing water regimes; worldwide, the distribution of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks shows many irregular patterns over many decades and large areas. Some flights occur during the summer months, but there are plenty of examples of late-autumn flights that stretch into December and later. Nonetheless, we don't think of whistling-ducks as "reverse migrants" at any season, and indeed that label is applied to relatively few waterbirds at all. When we think of small influxes of boobies or jaçanas (or, lately, Least Grebes or Neotropical Cormorants), which we don't consider long-

birds lingering and late, or could they have been part of a movement of reverse migrants, moving north-northeastward rather than south-southwestward, as hypothesized of similarly diverse groups of Neotropical migrant birds found in coastal areas from Cape May to St. John's?

In some cases, assemblages of birds such as this have been thought to be blown by southerly winds offshore back to these coastal locations; and certainly, contrary winds encountered offshore do account for some fall-outs of birds in extreme settings, as birds fly downwind to conserve energy reserves that would be expended with a strong headwind (e.g. in fall, McLaren et al. 2000; in spring,

McLaren and McLaren 2009; or in autumn hurricanes, e.g. Dinsmore and Farnsworth 2006). But, as noted in past autumn migrations' Changing Seasons essays, the appearances of "reverse migrants" do not neatly correspond with storms or southerly/southwesterly winds, and those that typically do (Cave Swallows and Ash-throated Flycatchers in the East come to mind) remind us that these species are hardly transported passively from their core range to eastern North America as birds caught by changing winds offshore may

be—these are birds migrating over land, apparently having some urge to disperse toward the east/northeast in autumn. Granted, there is some evidence that some of these birds begin to move southward with the onset of cold weather, but there is also evidence of onward migration in a northeasterly direction in others. Why, after all, would a Neotropical migrant strike out over open ocean toward Newfoundland in the autumn? If displacement by weather were involved, such a bird would be far more likely to fall out along the coast of the continent.

The interesting Atlanta, Georgia assemblage appears to be unique because of its inland location, an island of greenery in an artificially warm landscape. It is tempting to think that something in this urban environment caused illness or misorientation, or that

the birds gathered here were already unfit in some way, or perhaps that they were lingering to take advantage of food supplies and warmth. But in fact some of the birds observed were surely passing through, seen only on one or a few days (the park can easily be searched thoroughly). So were the birds continuing their migration—and, if so, did they head southward or northward? All of these questions are worthy of study, and new technologies for studying migratory movements will hopefully unlock some of these mysteries in years to come.

Probably because they represent among the most extreme cases, the rare appearances of South American species in North America are routinely called reverse migrants, among them long-distance austral migrants such as Fork-tailed Flycatcher of the nominate subspecies, observed this season in Québec 13 August, New Brunswick 12-23 October (its stay ended by a cat), Minnesota 18-25 November, and Illinois 25 November (Figure 10). In recent seasons, Brown-chested Martins of the highly migratory subspecies *fusca* have been documented, and this season boasted singles at Sweet Lake, Louisiana in September and at Middleborough, Massachusetts in October (Figure 11). Perhaps rarer still, a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in Ontario 7 November, the province's second, could have come from the American Southwest, but more likely it came from farther south in the species' breeding range, which extends to Costa Rica.

It is conceivable, even very probable that many birds breeding in the United States engage in similar behaviors during migration but that their familiarity leads us to label them "lingering" instead of reverse migrants. Extreme cases within North America, such as Alaska's second Great Crested Flycatcher 29 September 2009 at Juneau, seem to fit well with concept of reverse migrants from South America, as does Delaware's first Tropical Kingbird at Prime Hook 13 October this year; but are those November warblers, vireos, tanagers, and grosbeaks in northerly areas also largely reverse migrants? Sullivan (2004) writes:

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 mi-



Figure 8. The summer's small Fulvous Whistling-Duck flight of was sustained through the beginning of September. These two visited Goose Pond in Greene County, Indiana (here 13 June 2009). After several decades of lull, extralimital records of this species have been increasing, at least east of the Mississippi River. Photograph by Dan H. Kaiser.

distance migrants, we generally don't call them misoriented, as we might the Thick-billed Kingbird or even the Mangrove Cuckoos, both species whose movements in Mexico and elsewhere are likewise little understood. All border-crossings are not the same, surely, but we should bear in mind that we still don't understand what drives the majority of them. What sort of record clearly counts as referring to a reverse migrant? Québec's first Seaside Sparrow, a molting juvenile found near the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula 20 September 2009, appears to fit the bill (Figure 9); at this time of year, most Seasides at the north end of their range have begun to repair southward. But what, say, of the many record-late passerines found in Atlanta's Constitution Park (see Ken Blankenship's S. A. box in the Southern Atlantic report)? Were all these



Figure 9. Completely unexpected in Québec was this Seaside Sparrow at Port-Daniel, near the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula, 20-22 (here 22) September 2009, about 1000 kilometers from the nearest breeding location. The bird appeared to be in active post-juvinal molt. Photographs by Albini Couture.



Figure 10. Like many species engaged in active “reverse migration,” Fork-tailed Flycatchers are often one-day wonders, and some have even been found to the north or northeast a few days later. This adult was seen in Rock Island County, Illinois 25 November 2009 by Mabe Wassell but did not tarry there long and was not seen afterward. There are just two prior records of the species in Illinois. Photograph by Kevin Wassell.

grants 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 numbers of migrant and vagrant birds, but interior sites—espe-



Figure 11. This Brown-chested Martin of subspecies *fusca* was discovered at Cumberland Farms, Middleborough, Plymouth County, Massachusetts on 12 October 2009 (here) and remained for two more days. Its flight style with bowed wings and depressed tail was typical of the species, and the strong breast band with spotting down the center of the breast allowed identification to subspecies. Photograph by Jeremiah Trimble.

cially 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.

If the Atlanta park turns out to be productive for such birds on a regular or an irregular basis, perhaps we should add “urban green-spaces” to Sullivan’s list of interior sites that concentrate these putative reverse migrants. The phenomenon of reverse migration is usually invoked to explain late/northerly land-birds, but could some “late” shorebirds that are Neotropical migrants be misoriented in some way (Figure 12)?

West & East

One of the pleasures of autumn migration, whether you’re on Key West or St. Lawrence Island, on St. Pierre or San Clemente Island, or in the center of the continent near Rugby, North Dakota, is the chance encounter with what might be called a longitudinal vagrant, a bird that typically migrates well to the east or west of wherever you happen to be. Even a bird a few miles east or west of normal can make a memorable morning. I have seen but three Olive-sided Flycatchers on the Atlantic coast during fall migration, even though the species is not a rare migrant west of the coastal plain, but I enjoyed those three immensely.



Figure 12. This juvenile Baird’s Sandpiper that appeared in Elkhart County, Indiana 20 November 2009 would typically be called a “late” bird, one that had yet to move south of this location, and this is probably accurate, based on the rapidly increasing number of record-late departure dates set among shorebird species through most of the continent. (Illness or lack of fitness for migration probably explains some “late” departures; and many birds surely expire before completing their first migration.) But could at least some of these “late” shorebirds be misoriented migrants? Photograph by Leland Shaum.

Coastal areas tend to enjoy a great deal of birding attention in autumn, in part because of their diverse birdlife and proven productivity during migration, in part because so many people live near the American coasts. In fall 2009, the Pacific coastal states produced an interesting array of eastern birds—and not just on the coast. A flight of elegant Hudsonian Godwits (Figure 13) in California kept shorebirders busy in August and September, a time

when most Hudsonians are flying nonstop over the Atlantic Ocean from northern Canada to southern South America. Also in California, a Baird’s Sparrow at Desert Center 5 September (Figure 14) was well off course—the nearest known wintering areas are in southeastern Arizona—but this species is more seldom seen than the godwit in the state, probably because it is such a skulker. New Mexico’s first Golden-cheeked Warbler was just “one state over” as well, but it makes a truly remarkable record; California has a vagrant record from Southeast Farallon Island 9 September 1971 (Lewis et al. 1974), and Florida has one from Sawgrass Lake, Pinellas County 24 August 1964 (Woolfend-

en 1967). A bird associated with migration corridors much farther east, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, was documented in the West at southeastern Washington's Windust State Park 30 August, the state's first (Figure 15), and at La Bufadora, Baja California 5 September, the state's third. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher nests west to Alaska (at least in small numbers), but its migration takes it through eastern North America in fall, and even California has scarcely more than a dozen records of the species. These birds were all observed on dates that are typical for the species' passage through these latitudes in their usual haunts, and so—unlike some late-autumn vagrants—their misorientation does not lead us to consider them reverse migrants.

East of the Rockies, western birds included the typical fall fare: a small number of western warblers, mostly Townsend's, a few Townsend's Solitaires, a smattering of Spotted Towhees, scattered Say's Phoebes, and widespread Western Tanagers and Black-headed Grosbeaks. (It speaks volumes that we consider Allen's Hummingbirds in the East and Midwest to be no great shakes; Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts recorded the species this season.) Alabama logged some subtle western species this season, among their single Dusky Flycatchers at Fort Morgan 17 and 19 October, and Louisiana had a Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher and a Cassin's Vireo—both at Johnsons Bayou 3 October. These dates could indicate some degree of misorientation, but they seem more likely to indicate eastward displacement during southward migration by those unusually strong October cold fronts. In other words, the birds "missed" Mexico and ended up a bit east of their trajectory. However, the Western Warbling Vireo (subspecies *swainsonii*) banded in November in Ontario (and possibly another Warbling seen in November in Virginia) raise the red flag of reverse migration: this birds were both far north of normal, and at least the Ontario bird was east of normal. Michigan's fifth Green Violetear, which turned up in late September, could also be considered late, as northbound birds typically show up earlier in the year.

With several species, categorization as reverse migrants is problematic, as their extralimital appearances seem to be "off" in nearly equal measures latitudinally and longitudinally. Ash-throated Flycatchers east of typical range make a good case in point. We may think of autumn birds on the western Gulf coast, such as five together in Louisiana this season, as mostly longitudinally dis-

placed, whereas birds found in the Northeast in November—such as Newfoundland's first (at Ferryland 14 November 2009)—seem to conform more to patterns we associate with so-called reverse migrants.

The Northern Canada & Greenland region also had its first Ash-throated ever, on the first day of September, at Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories. Although it is possible that all these birds were simply "misoriented" in different ways, it is also possible that we can see in them different facets of a dynamic that is becoming more and more familiar: dispersal that gradually leads to new migratory patterns and new wintering attempts, even new wintering areas.

Hummingbirds provide the most familiar, if still bewildering example of northward/eastward dispersal, often late in the season, and of expanding winter ranges. But more and more we see orioles, tanagers, warblers, and Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks, among others, in extralimital settings that recall the early days of the hummingbird revolution. So it may be with Ash-throated Flycatcher. The Northwest Territories bird could well be a reverse migrant, but the others could be as well: if much of the population flies in a southerly or south-southwesterly direction in autumn, the birds in the East could be reverse migrants that were *additionally* displaced further eastward by storms that come up rapidly from the southern Great Plains toward the Great Lakes or the Northeast. And the Louisiana Five? Could they be the latest evidence for winter pioneers in the southernmost parts of the Southeast, a pattern that often follows late-autumn dispersal? One thinks of Western Kingbird in the East or Tropical Kingbird in the West: after decades of reverse dispersal in autumn, we now often see wintering birds in southern Florida and southern California. Wintering *Myiarchus* appear to be following that trend in some cases, with Ash-throated by far the most widespread of the genus in the East.

As Sullivan (2004) noted, too, vagrants usually associated with the coast are being detected more and more often inland, and Ash-throated records of fall 2009 surely seemed part of that trend, with singles in interior Pennsylvania (Figure 16) and Tennessee's third, also in November. Among many minor possible trends that bear watching, Sage Thrasher (Figure 17) appears to have shown an uptick in extralimital records in recent seasons, despite populations said to be in decline. In short: many birds that we consider longitudinal vagrants may well be examples

of reverse migrants, but their trajectories are almost certainly altered by weather conditions. Because most nontropical autumn storms track in an easterly direction, we would expect their common displacement to be eastward. And from all this wandering, particularly in a warming climate, we see birds that find suitable wintering grounds thousands of kilometers from their species' usual winter range. But I think the main reason we struggle with the concept of reverse migration in so many cases is probably not related to weather but to *provenance*: in order to say with any confidence that a bird has flown a course reversed from its conspecifics', we would need to know its point of departure and its bearing. Birds with extensive ranges both in the breeding and nonbreeding seasons surely have variable courses during migration. It would be interesting to see if an Ash-throated Flycatcher from New Jersey in November would show an urge to fly in a northerly or northeasterly direction if it were placed in an Emlen funnel!

An even more difficult question regularly raised in this journal: What drives bird species from the Old World to appear on our shores? Alaska offers by far the best opportunities to see a variety of Eurasian species, and fall migration now rivals (surpasses?) the spring season for birding coverage on Alaska's offshore islands. In addition to gems such as Broad-billed Sandpiper and Taiga Flycatcher on St. Paul Island this season, birders at Gambell found Pallas's, Yellow-breasted, and Little Buntings in September, and two Rustic Buntings were at a feeder in Ketchikan in November. A sight record of a Yellow-breasted Bunting on Southeast Farallon Island, California 10 October is under review and would be North America's first away from Alaska, which has six records now. That amazing California island also found the state's third (and island's second!) Brown Shrike 24-25 September, a species not often recorded in Alaska.

The phenomenon of Asian vagrants in Alaska and California was considered most recently in depth by Sullivan (2004), in the essay on the fall of 2003. In most discussions, Asian birds in Alaska have been considered either reverse migrants or migrants displaced by storms moving rapidly off the Asian coast toward Alaska (for spring birds at Attu, for instance, see Hadeed et al. 2009). The rather mixed bag of birds recorded in the West each year suggests that storms are critical elements in the appearances of Asian birds in North America: without the storms, we get



Figure 13. This juvenile Hudsonian Godwit, eyeing a Common Raven at Arcata Marsh, Humboldt County 4 August 2009, was the earliest ever found in California and the first of up to a dozen recorded in the Northern California region in fall 2009. Another at Paramount, California 22 August was a first for the fall season in Los Angeles County. Photograph by Sean McAllister.



Figure 14. Totally unexpected was this Baird's Sparrow at Desert Center, Riverside County 5 September 2009; only one had previously been found in Southern California, on the coast in October 1981. Photograph by Chet McGaugh.



Figure 15. A first for Washington, this Yellow-bellied Flycatcher found its way to Windust State Park, Franklin County 30 August 2009. This is the same site that hosted a Variegated Flycatcher in September 2008—a remarkable pair of records for a location so far from the Pacific coast, where most vagrant flycatchers in the West are found. Photograph by Michael Woodruff.

far fewer birds and less diversity overall (Sullivan 2004). Arguably, if some proportion of a population of Asian birds is predisposed to reverse migration—such as our American *Tyrannus* flycatchers—then it stands to reason that we would detect at least a few

each season or every few years. But most Asian taxa are highly variable in their Alaskan appearances. Sullivan (2004) considered a dizzying number of variables that might influence numbers of Red-throated Pipits that reach Alaska and the Pacific coast states each autumn and concluded tentatively that the variable track of the jet stream, which steers storms from Asia to North America, is the key factor in flights of this species and others to the West. (Remarkable, in a poor season for the species' passage in both Alaska and California, was a Red-throated Pipit in Las Vegas, Nevada 24 September, potentially the state's first!) Misoriented migrants would surely be among Asian birds that turn up in Alaska, but in this scenario, they would probably be outnumbered by unlucky birds caught up by storms while migrating southward over water. But Alaskan records of Lesser Whitethroat and Spotted Flycatcher, species that do not nest in easternmost Russia and certainly don't migrate down the western North Pacific coasts, indicate that at least some birds that reach Alaska are not simply storm-borne (Brinkley and Lehman 2003).

Eurasian species in the continent's interior and along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts are understandably fewer, and many—such as Ontario's first Black-tailed Gull and Virginia's first Lesser Sand-Plover (in the mountains!)—are probably rightly assumed to have "ridden" the jet stream winds eastward from the Pacific basin, much as Michigan's Ancient Murrelet (Figure 18) probably did this season. Old World birds from Europe or Africa are among the rarest of the rare, and explaining their appearances amounts to reading tea leaves. We will conclude with two examples from the autumn season. On the heels of Maine's record in 2008, a European Golden-Plover turned up near Bombay Hook



Figure 16. Pennsylvania's fourth Ash-throated Flycatcher was present 20-28 (here 22) November 2009 near Mount Gretna, Lebanon County, where it delighted dozens of birders. This species has been a staple of Atlantic coastal birding for several decades and is beginning to be found more often away from the coast in recent years. An Ash-throated at the Tip of Point Pelee on 6 November 2009, for instance, was only the second ever for that intensely birded location—the first was in 1962! Photograph by Geoff Malosh.



Figure 17. This Sage Thrasher was found at Chicago's Northerly Island on 10 November 2009 by Karen Mansfield. The species is exceedingly rare in the Illinois and Indiana region. The most recent record was a bird in 2004 in Indiana, but none have been noted in Illinois in the last 35 years. Another Sage Thrasher turned up 20 October 2009 at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, that state's fifth ever. Photograph by Greg Neise.



Figure 18. Berrien County's first, and Michigan's seventh, this very cooperative Ancient Murrelet put on a show for observers at Tiscornia Park 14 (here) through 25 November 2009; on occasions, it was even heard vocalizing! It was one of three alcid species found in the Western Great Lakes region in the fall season. Photograph by Andy Johnson.



Figure 19. This striking shorebird, found 27 August 2009 on the Delta Beach mudflats of southern San Diego Bay, California, bears strong resemblance to a Great Knot (never recorded in California) but has a rather short bill for that species and showed a very white underwing. Together with several other features, these have suggested to shorebird experts that the bird is very likely a hybrid between Great Knot and Surfbird, the first of its kind ever identified. The bird was seen through 31 August. Photograph by Matt Sadowski.

National Wildlife Refuge, Delaware 14-15 September 2009. In Barbados, an unidentified pratincole, probably a Collared, appeared at Woodbourne Shorebird Reserve 21 August. How did these birds get there? Well, isn't it obvious? The golden-plover was storm-blown by easterlies in April, while crossing from Africa to Iceland, then summered somewhere in Canada, and later began southward migration with American Golden-Plovers. The pratincole moved off the coast of Africa on the easterly trade winds and was then catapulted by Hurricane Bill's ferocious winds to Barbados.

Now, wasn't that simple?

The Practiced Eye

Kenn Kaufman's nifty column name, "The Practiced Eye," from past issues of this journal, and similar subsequent intertitles, such as "Sharp Eyes" in Dinsmore and Farnsworth (2006), gave rise to the thought one day: Why not give out an award every season for subtlety, for detection of a rare plumage, or a hybrid, or a vagrant subspecies, or discovery of a new field mark?

Chance may favor the prepared mind; but most of the subtle birds we publish in this journal are found by people who also live "close to it," as Pete Dunne wrote of Richard Miller in *Season at the Point*—people who spend much of their lives in the field, who know how to interpret owl excrement like some people know how to program a remote control. I know birders who have seen Cory's Least Bittern in life, who have found nests of Austral Rail, who have recorded the nocturnal flight call-note of Henslow's Sparrow. Their common thread? They are dogged, indefatigable field people, folks who know sweat, insects, and the sweet earth like few among us.

The inaugural Practiced Eye Award goes to Brennan Mulrooney, Matt Farley, and Matt Sadowski for discovering and documenting a shorebird that no one has ever reported before: an apparent hybrid between Surfbird and Great Knot (Figure 19), the latter species an almost mythical bird in North America. Look for an article on this remarkable shorebird in *Western Birds* in the near future. Good on ya, guys.

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Editors' Notebook



This Cackling Goose, apparently of the subspecies *minima*, was found on Staten Island, New York 16 (here 21) October 2009 and remained into November. Very few such individuals have been found in the East, where most birders are just coming to grips with the complexity of identifying subspecies in this recently split goose. Photograph by Seth Wollney.

Manna

How fortunate can we get? Once again, *North American Birds* was blessed with very generous donations to our "Friends" fund, and we thank all of you kindly. Many of our Friends have given annually since the fund was launched in 2003. All of the donated money goes to support recent improvements in the journal, particularly our expanded color offerings, which in this issue includes *Birding Journal*, a new feature that lies somewhere between our Photo Salon and a full-fledged article. The idea is to give readers a snapshot of a birding experience in North America that is remarkable in some way. Our inaugural *Journal* features photographs of Ross's Gull from the migration spectacle at Barrow, Alaska. Though naturalists have known about this phenomenon for over a century, few have witnessed it, and in these days of declining counts of so many species, it is uplifting to read that large numbers of this handsome gull still pass Barrow in the autumn. If you see one of our staunch Friends in the field, be sure to say "Hey, thanks for those Ross's Gulls!"—and consider a small (tax-deductible, yes!) donation some time in

near future. We have a nice wish list of changes still to come.

Another sort of manna, in the form of dozens of interesting manuscripts, has been flooding our offices of late, on topics ranging from crossbills to kingbirds, tiger-herons to hybrid hawks (and, yes, tubenoses and waterfowl, two groups that continue to fascinate many of us). We are busily reviewing and editing these and look forward to bringing you more grist for thought and discussion. In the past few years, we have had the pleasure of publishing articles that garner not just your emailed comments, of correction and praise, but also occasion a closer look at birds

in the field. Steve Mlodinow and a cadre of waterfowl biologists and birders sent us a long manuscript on Cackling Goose subspecies, and though it took us a few years to process the manuscript, the resulting article (*North American Birds* 62: 344-360) has produced more discussion on the Internet than most any article we have published, particularly about individual Cackling Geese in the East that seem not to be of the expected nominate subspecies (see the image above), but also about individuals in the West that do not appear to conform decisively to any of the taxa as described in that article. The article has been posted on websites and circulated extensively, and we hope that after several more field seasons, we might be able to publish a summary of problematic birds (or populations). Research on Cackling and Canada Geese on Alaska's North Slope continues to shed light on that frontier, and we will keep readers posted on those developments as well. In the mean time, please enjoy the latest waterfowl offering from the West—the occurrence of Bewick's Swan, another subspecies whose status has needed attention for some time! ☺

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Since its inception, the fund has allowed for many improvements to the journal's look and feel. The journal is now mailed in a protective wrapper to insure its delivery in one piece. The content has benefited from an increase in page count which has allowed for additional articles with even more detailed analysis. The amount of color pages has increased which has allowed for expanded Pictorial Highlights and an occasional Photo Salon.

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There are more plans in the works for future issues but the fund does need your continued support. To become a "Friend of NAB", simply donate \$50 or more. Each "Friend of NAB" will be recognized annually in the first issue of each volume of *North American Birds*.

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STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE REGIONAL REPORTS

*	specimen collected
+	bird(s) seen through end of period
†	written details on file
A.F.B.	Air Force Base
acc.	accepted by records committee
A.R.C.	Avian Records Committee
b.	banded
B.B.S.	Breeding Bird Survey
B.O.	Bird Observatory
B.R.C.	Bird Records Committee
C.A.	Conservation Area
C.B.C.	Christmas Bird Count
C.P.	County Park
cm	centimeter(s)
Cr.	Creek
Ft.	Fort
G.C.	Golf Course
G.P.	Game Preserve
Hwy.	Highway
I. (Is.)	Island(s), Isle(s)
imm. (imms.)	immature(s)
Jct.	Junction
juv. (juvs.)	juv. [plumage]; juvenile(s)
km	kilometer(s)
L.	Lake
mm	millimeter(s)
m.ob.	many (or multiple) observers
Mt. (Mts.)	Mount/Mountain (Mountains)
N.A.	Nature Area, Natural Area
N.F.	National Forest
N.M.	National Monument
N.P.	National Park
N.S.	National Seashore
N.W.R.	National Wildlife Refuge
p.a.	pending acceptance
P.P.	Provincial Park
Pen.	Peninsula
ph.	photographed (by + initials)
Pt.	Point (not Port)
R.	River
R.A.	Recreation(al) Area
R.B.A.	Rare Bird Alert
R.P.	Regional Park
R.S.	Regional Shoreline
Res.	Reservoir
Rte.	Route
S.B.	State Beach
S.F.	State Forest
S.G.A.	State Game Area
S.P.	State Park
S.R.A.	State Recreation Area
S.R.	State Reserve
S.W.A.	State Wildlife Area
S.T.P.	Sewage Treatment Plant/Pond
subad. (subads.)	subadult(s)
Twp.	Township
v.r.	voice recording (by + initials)
vt.	videotape (by + initials)
W.A.	Wildlife Area
W.M.A.	Wildlife Management Area
W.T.P.	(Waste)water Treatment Plant/Pond

Italics indicate name of county, parish, or municipality.

Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon



Bruce Mactavish

Autumn is a protracted season full of fascinating occurrences and dotted with finds of rare birds. While there was no single weather episode that sparked a memorable avian event in fall 2009, there was an excellent variety of rarities—among seabirds, waterfowl, hawks, shorebirds, gulls, terns, doves, flycatchers, warblers, and sparrows.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

A flock of Canada Geese at Truro, NS held a Greater White-fronted Goose and a Cackling Goose 27 Nov (MK); another Greater White-fronted Goose was at Harris Pond, Kings, NS 6 Oct (JT). Eurasian Wigeon totals were relatively high: 2 in Prince Edward I., 5 in Nova Scotia, 3 in St. Pierre, and at least 10 in Newfoundland. Three Canvasbacks, one imm. male and 2 females, were at Port Clyde, NS 10 Sep (SH)—a relatively high count for the Region. Two Redheads were far e. at Glace Bay, NS in Nov (JM). The annual wintering flock of Tufted Ducks at St. John's, NF built up to a record-high 30 by late Nov; there were no other reports in the Region.

SA A first-winter female **Common Shelduck** was observed at Quidi Vidi L., St. John's, NL 17 Nov (BMT, KK). The bird was unbanded and had intact halluces (the hind toes; the hallux is sometimes clipped on captive birds). It was among American Black Ducks and Northern Pintails at a lake where dabbling ducks are habituated to handouts; however, it swam away from the other ducks when bread was offered. After 25 minutes, it flew southward and was never relocated, despite extensive searching and a quarter-page "Most Wanted" photograph posted in the local newspaper. At the time, no Common Shelducks were known to be in captivity in Newfoundland.

In w. Iceland, particularly around the mouth of the Borgarfjörður where nesting was first documented in 1990, the species has been increasing annually for several decades, with over 50 pairs and a minimum population of 665 counted in Sep 2009. These shelducks migrate out of Iceland in autumn, though in recent years, a few have attempted to winter (*vide* Yann Kolbeinsson). Five days prior to the Newfoundland sighting, easterly winds blew directly across the Atlantic from Europe to Newfoundland. While there is a strong case for this duck being a genuine trans-Atlantic vagrant, the species is widely kept in captivity in North America, and the provenance of this particular individual is not known. Later in the season, on 9 Dec, a first-winter male Common Shelduck turned up in Massachusetts.

SA The widespread use of digital cameras among the general population was responsible for superb documentation of **3 Black-browed Albatrosses** in the Region. All were seen only by fishermen among large number of seabirds attracted to their boat. As reported in the spring summary, there was an ad. around a fishing boat for two days about 120 km e. of Cape Bonavista, NF in mid-Jun (*vide* BMT). An ad. was photographed at arm's length among Northern Fulmars feeding around a fishing boat about 160 km e. of Hopedale, Labrador 5 Aug (Juliana Coffey), and an imm. was photographed around a fishing boat 120 km sw. of Cape Sable I., NS 29 Aug (*vide* EM). These records document the first for Nova Scotia and Labrador and 2nd for the island of Newfoundland. There are other sight records in the Region, also mostly by fishermen!

There has been a noticeable increase in sightings of Black-browed Albatrosses on both sides of the North Atlantic in the past three years. It may be that only a few individuals have produced multiple sightings in different areas, or there may be a real increase in the numbers of Black-broweds in the North Atlantic. Observers are urged to obtain good series of photographs, which may permit identification of individuals.

Cory's Shearwaters occur regularly in small number in s. reaches of the Region not often visited by birders, so most sightings are considered noteworthy; singles were seen 40 km s. of Halifax, NS 7 Sep (*vide* EM) and over the continental shelf edge s. of Halifax 30 Sep (DF).

Higher-than-usual numbers of Sooty Shearwaters were present off Brier I., NS early in the season: exceptional counts included 14,000 in two hours 25 Aug (LL) and 5000+ in three hours 19 Sep (EM). One hundred Sooty Shearwaters and a Manx Shearwater flew past Cape Race, NF 31 Oct, late for both species (BMT); a Manx was off Brier I., NS 6 Nov (EM). Two Audubon's Shearwaters were very nicely described on the continental shelf edge s. of Halifax, NS 30 Sep (DF). The species is probably regular in small numbers in the s. extremities of offshore Nova Scotia. Three major nor'easters in the period 9-16 Oct in e. Newfoundland drove countless thousands of Leach's Storm-Petrels inshore on the Avalon Pen.; mortality

on roads was less than has been detected in past wrecks (BMT et al.).

A Least Bittern in exhausted condition photographed at St. Pierre was a 3rd local record (Frédéric Detchevery). An ad. Little



One of very few Black-browed Albatrosses ever photographed in North American waters was this near-adult studied from a fishing boat about 160 km east of Hopedale, Labrador 5 August 2009. Photograph by Juliana Coffey.

Blue Heron visited Frenchman's Cove, Burin Pen., NL 3-5 Sep (Allan Nolan). There was the usual scattering of Great, Snowy, and Cattle Egrets across the Region. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in the e. part of the Region were at St. Pierre 22 Aug and 8 Sep (PA et al.) and in e. Newfoundland 10 Aug, 25 Aug-16 Oct, and 31 Aug (*vide* BMT).

VULTURES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Two Black Vultures seen circling together over Brier I., NS 16 Sep provide the first multiple sighting of the species in the Region (BF). A Cooper's Hawk carefully identified at East Pt., Prince Edward I. 14 Nov furnished a rare provincial sighting (DO). A spectacular flock of 600+ Broad-winged Hawks was over Brier I., NS 17 Sep (EM). Suspiciously more Gyrfalcons are reported during peak Peregrine Falcon migration in Oct than any other month in the Region. Happily, one at Bear Cove, NF 6 Oct was photographed, thus pro-



Newfoundland's long-anticipated first Ash-throated Flycatcher was found at Ferryland 14 November 2009, a typical date for this species to appear in the East. Photograph by Jared Clarke.

viding one of the very few documented Oct records s. of the breeding range in the Region (DB). Photographs of a Peregrine Falcon eating another hawk on the ground in New Brunswick in mid-Oct were amazing enough—but were made all the more remarkable when the pictures were circulated, and the unfortunate hawk was easily identifiable as an imm. Swainson's Hawk, the 2nd provincial record (Clarence Nowlan). Single Sandhill Cranes were at Cape Bonavista, NF 3 Sep (Rod Cox) and Corner Brook, NF 6 Sep (*vide* BMt).

A juv. plover photographed well near Cape Race, NF 15 Sep (DB) showed the field marks of a Common Ringed Plover—the 6th documented in Newfoundland in the past five years. Another candidate at Conrad's Beach, NS 4 Sep was not confirmable from photographs. A pair and 3 juv. American Oystercatchers were seen 6 Aug at Cape Sable I., NS (BS, SS), the only breeding location in the Region. A Eurasian Whimbrel (either *phaeopus* or *variegatus*, most likely the former) was well observed at the airport at Sydney, NS 6-12 Sep (AM, CM). The annual huge bed of rotting kelp on the beach at Eddie Cove East, NF attracted an exceptional but not unprecedented 2500-3000 White-rumped Sandpipers 10 Aug (John & Ivy Gibbons). There was a good supply of Baird's Sandpipers across the Region. Every fall seems to be a good one for Buff-breasted Sandpiper lately, which indicates it is

actually increasing as a migrant through the Region. There were numerous locations reporting one to 3 individuals, with the largest flocks being 12 at Hartlen Pt., NS 16 Sep (HT) and 20 at the sod farm at St. Shotts, NF 4-7 Sep (JC et al.). Long-billed Dowitcher remains scarce in the Region; 4 at Cape Sable I., NS 28-31 Oct (JN et al.) made a nice count. An American Woodcock made a rare e. Newfoundland appearance at Cape Race 6 Oct (CD).

Two Great Skuas were photographed on pelagic trips off Halifax, NS 7 & 26 Sep (*vide* EM). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger photographed off Grand Manan I., NB 27 Aug provided one of few substantiated provincial records (DI). A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger was photographed near Canso, NS 2 Sep (TK). Three other juvs. were seen on land during nice weather on the s. Avalon Pen., NF in the period 3-5 Sep; they are sometimes observed feeding on insect and berries in coastal Newfoundland and Labra-

dor. Single Laughing Gulls in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland made for a below-average total compared to recent years. Always rare in the Region, an ad. Franklin's Gull was at Eastern Passage, NS 2-3 Oct (IM et al.). An ad. Mew Gull at Belleville Beach, NF in early Sep (BMt) was probably an individual that regularly shows up in late summer or perhaps even summers at this location. Four others were in St. John's for various time periods beginning 20 Oct (DB, BMt). In St. John's, NF 4 ad. Yellow-legged Gulls, identifiable as distinct individuals in photographs, were present, with the first found 18 Aug and peak activity in Oct-Nov. Usually one bird stays for the winter. Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to be noticeably more numerous each fall in the Region, with a new record high single location count of 35 at the St. John's landfill 27 Oct (BMt). An early ad. Slaty-backed Gull photographed at St. John's 24-27 Oct (DB, BMt) showed features similar to a bird that spent the three previous winters in St. John's, but it was not seen after-

wards. Surprisingly rare in the Region, 2 Sabine's Gulls were photographed from a tour boat s. of Halifax, NS 12 Sep (Art Gaetan). Newfoundland has its 3rd and 4th records of Least Tern, with singles at Grand Bank 24 Aug (DB et al.) and near Cape Race 15 Sep (DB). Nova Scotia had a Least Tern at Eastern Passage 23-26 Aug (MK, FL et al.). A Gull-billed Tern was photographed at Melbourne Sanctuary, Yarmouth, NS 2-3 Aug (Barbara Ruff et al.).

A White-winged Dove feeding among domestic ducks at a city pond in St. John's, NF 5-7 Sep was the 3rd in Newfoundland in 2009 and about the 10th for the province (DB et al.). Nova Scotia's 2nd Eurasian Collared-Dove was at a feeder in Canso, NS 6 Oct (TK). Surely there is something significant about a remarkably low total of 2 Yellow-billed Cuckoos reported in the Region: singles in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland were observed in the period 4-6 Oct. Two Snowy Owls summered at Malpeque Bay, Prince Edward I. (*vide* DS). A hatch-year Boreal Owl was banded at Fairmont, Antigonish, NS 11 Nov (RL). Vagrant Common Nighthawks were at Cape Race, NF 6 Sep (JW) and St. Pierre 10 Oct (*vide* RE). An ad.



Newfoundland's fourteenth Townsend's Warbler was this one-hour wonder in St. John's on 7 November 2009. Photograph by Bruce Mactavish.

male Rufous Hummingbird photographed at a feeder in Rothesay, NB 22-23 Aug (Carol Wipple) might have been the same male noted 10 km away at a feeder on Kingston Pen., NB 24-27 Aug (Kelly Baxter). Rare at any time, a late hummingbird at Cape Race, NF 6 Oct was not identified to species (DB). An equally late hummingbird at St. Pierre, SPM 30 Sep and 5 Oct was identified at Ruby-throated Hummingbird (LJ, MB). In contrast to recent falls, there was no obvious influx of Red-bellied Woodpeckers into the s. parts of the Region.

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**AMERICAN BIRD
CONSERVANCY**

PASSERINES

Single Western Kingbirds were at St. Pierre 22 Sep (LJ), Halifax, NS 25 Sep (Ian Marshall), and Cape Sable I., NS 30 Nov (JN). Newfoundland's first Ash-throated Flycatcher was well photographed at Ferryland 14 Nov (DB, JC). A Say's Phoebe was Castalia Marsh, Grand Manan I., NB 31 Aug (DS), and it or another individual was there 21 Oct (*fide* JW). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was at Tracadie-Sheila, NB 12-23 Oct and enjoyed by many until killed by a cat. (*fide* JW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was well photographed at Bayview, Prince Edward I. 15-24 Nov for a 2nd provincial record (Charlotte & Archie Stewart). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Bear Cove, NF 21 Sep (DB, JC) and a White-eyed Vireo at Halifax, NS 2 Oct (IM) were the only ones of their species reported. A late Purple Martin was at Cape Sable I., NS 14 Oct (JN). A Carolina Wren was singing at Chester, NS 22 Sep (Ann Lambert). Newfoundland's 10th Marsh Wren was near Cape Race 24 Oct (BMT). There were 3 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers reported in Nova Scotia and one in Newfoundland. Single Northern Wheatears in Nova Scotia were at Rose Bay 26 Sep (David Walmark) and LaHave 1 Oct (John Lloyd), while 3 others were found on the Avalon Pen., NF in Oct. A male Eastern Bluebird at St. Pierre 18 & 21 Aug was thought to be the same individual observed several times since late May (LJ et al.).

It was a fairly good season for warblers: 36 species were reported. A Blue-winged Warbler was at Duncan's Cove, NS 6 Oct (ED), and a female Golden-winged Warbler was at Hartlen Pt., NS 21 Sep (FL et al.). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was picked up dead on at Lower Woods Harbor, NS 18 Sep (*; *fide* IM), and another was enjoyed by many in Halifax, NS 9-24 Nov (IM et al.). Newfoundland's 14th Townsend's Warbler photographed at St. John's 7 Nov (BMT) was not seen after it swallowed a large purple spider. Yellow-throated Warbler reports included singles at Dartmouth, NS 7-8 Nov (DC), at Antigonish, NS 10 Nov (RL et al.), and at Portugal Cove South 10 Oct (BMT). Prairie Warbler numbers were barely average, with totals of 5 in Nova Scotia and 3 in Newfoundland. On the other hand, it was a good fall for Prothonotary Warblers—3 in Nova Scotia and 2 in Newfoundland 24 Aug–17 Sep. Newfoundland's 4th ever Worm-eating Warbler was at Bear Cove Pt. 15 Sep (Jenn Harding). New Brunswick's first MacGillivray's Warbler was identifiably photographed on Grand Manan I. 1 Nov (DI). Late Kentucky Warblers in Newfoundland were at Bear Cove Pt. 4 Oct (JW) and 16 Oct near Cape Race (DB). There were

2 Hooded Warblers in Nova Scotia and 3 in Newfoundland, all between 11 Sep and 10 Oct. There were ten or so reports of Yellow-breasted Chat across the Region.

The Region's only Summer Tanager was at Cape Race, NF 2 Oct (CD). Scarlet Tanagers at the e. edge of the Region were singles at St. Pierre 15 Oct (*fide* RE), Cape Race, NF 4 Oct (DB, JC), and Trepassy, NF 4 Oct (BMT). Nova Scotia's 2nd Spotted Towhee began a several-month stay at a feeder near Halifax 6 Nov (G. & V. Hawkins et al.). There were typical fall totals of Clay-colored Sparrows, with 3 in Nova Scotia and 2 in Newfoundland. A Field Sparrow photographed at Bear Cove Pt., NF 2 Nov was only the 5th for Newfoundland (DB, JC). Lark Sparrows were present in good numbers, with at least 9 in Nova Scotia, 4 in Newfoundland, and one in St. Pierre et Miquelon. The only Grasshopper Sparrow reported was at Cape Race, NF 4 Oct (DB, JC). A Northern Cardinal at a feeder in Montague, Prince Edward I. in Nov provided the only record for the year (*fide* DS). There were typical totals of Blue Grosbeaks, with 6 in Nova Scotia and one in Newfoundland, all between 28 Sep–17 Oct. A good flight of Dickcissels saw at least 10 in both Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Antigonish, NS in early Aug (*fide* IM), and 4 were in e. Newfoundland between late Aug and mid-Oct (*fide* BMT). A widespread good cone crop induced White-winged Crossbills to sing at various locations in Nov, but overall finch numbers were generally mundane across the Region.

Corrigendum: Discovery of the Northern Lapwing at Portugal Cove South, NF 27 Nov–6 Dec reported in the winter issue (*North American Birds* 63: 222) should have been attributed to Richard Thomas, rather than to David Shepherd.

Contributors (subregional editors in bold-face): Pascal Asselin, Dave Brown, Jared Clarke, David Currie, Cliff Doran, Elizabeth Doull, Roger Etcheberry, David Fifield, Bernard Forsythe, Sandy Hiltz, Laurent Jackman, Terry Kavanagh, Michael King, Ken Knowles, Randy Lauff, Fulton Lavender, Lance Laviolette, Bruce Mactavish, Blake Maybank, Junior Metcalfe, Allan & Cathy Murrant, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Johnnie Nickerson, Dwaine Oakley, David Seeler, Betty June Smith, Sid Smith, Hans Toom, Judy Tufts, John Wells. ☺

Bruce Mactavish, 37 Waterford Bridge Road
St. John's Newfoundland A1E 1C5
(bruce.mactavish1@nf.sympatico.ca)



**Pierre Bannon
Olivier Barden
Normand David
Samuel Denault**

Most of the Region enjoyed temperatures above or near normal, accompanied by below-normal precipitation, during the period. The area around James Bay and Hudson Bay showed the greatest departures above the normal. In southern Québec, August and September were mostly sunny and warm, with below-normal precipitation—a welcome change from the poor weather of June and July. October was chilly and rainy, while November saw a return to above-normal temperatures by as much as 3° to 5° C, associated with record amount of sunshine, low precipitation, and almost no snow on the ground. This balmy weather encouraged several stray species from the south and west to linger into December. Two species were recorded for the first time in the Region: a Common House-Martin, unfortunately not photographed, and a well-documented Seaside Sparrow.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CRANES

Ross's Geese were widely reported, mostly as single birds, but a peak of 6 at Saint-Louis-de-Gonzague 12 Oct was notable (M. Dennis). Two Barnacle Geese on a golf course at Longueuil 23 Aug were certainly locally released birds (C. Laporte, *vide* J. Laporte). Two imm. Trumpeter Swans visited Saint-Gérard-des-Laurentides 10-14 Aug (M. Sokolyk, A. Gélinas, L.G. Gélinas), while 2 banded birds were discovered at Joutel 13-14 Aug (MAM). One of them had a wing tag that was set in Feb 2009 near Hamilton, Ontario. Another Trumpeter was located at L. Anticagamac (La Mauricie N.P.) 1-10 Sep (A. van Dijk, ph. S. Désilets). This species has now been recorded

annually for the past six years. Only one Canvasback was reported, at Sainte-Angèle-de-Laval 1-4 Nov (E. & P. Brassard et al.). This once fairly common migrant has suffered a strong decline since the 1970s in s. Québec. On the other hand, Hooded Mergansers are doing extremely well, as shown by the count of 500 at Mont-Laurier 6 Nov (MAM). A Red-legged Partridge, an exotic species recorded for the 2nd time in the Region, was photographed at Sainte-Anne-du-Lac 14 Oct (ph. N. Lapointe, *vide* R. Lebrun). A female Wild Turkey with 2 half-grown young at Magog 4 Oct provided a very late breeding record for the Region (BT). Four Pacific Loons were reported, but only one was described fully, a juv. at Saint-Fulgence 29 Oct (CC). Manx Shearwaters were well in evidence on the North Shore, especially in Aug, e.g., 4 at Cap-de-Bon-Désir 17 Aug (S. Belleau). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel in the ne. corner of the Gulf of St. Lawrence 11 Nov was one day short of a record late date (OB).

Six single American White Pelicans were noted during the period 3-15 Aug: 2 in Abitibi and 4 in s. Québec. Great Egret made a strong showing e. of its breeding range, with unprecedented local high counts of 8 at Lévis 3 Aug (G. Lord) and 7 at Saint-Anselme 14 Sep (R. Gingras, J. Forgues). Most of these stray birds probably originated from the three colonies located in extreme sw. Québec.

Hérons and allies from the south were scarce and included a juv. Little Blue Heron at Irlande 12-24 Aug (A. Boucher, ph. C. Leclerc), a Tricolored Heron at Port Saint-François 6 Sep (J. Brunelle et al.), and a Glossy Ibis at Longue-Rive 22 Sep (Y. Fabe). Single Black Vultures were identified at Baie-Saint-Paul 22 Aug (I. Deschênes), at Cap Tourmente 14 Oct (JPO), and at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 18 Oct (BB, M. McIntosh). Over the past

30 years, Turkey Vulture has become a familiar feature in the s. Québec landscape and is still continuing to expand northward. After nesting for the first time in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region in 2008, a pair nested in 2009 in the Abitibi region, where a nest with young was found at Mount Kekeko, near Rouyn-Noranda 1-2 Aug (L. Vigneault, M. Lessard, LI). Some notable concentrations involved 110 birds at Mont-Laurier 15 Aug (A. Boisclair)

and 35 at Saint-Fulgence, Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean 8 Aug (CC, GS). A very weak Swainson's Hawk was picked up at Gaspé on the record late date of 18 Nov (*vide* D. Jalbert); the bird died a few hours after it was found. Sandhill Crane is appearing more and more regularly during migration in s. Québec, where some of them are also local breeders, e.g., 25 at Saint-Narcisse 9 Sep (L. Dumas), 9 at Dundee 18 Sep (A. Pelletier, P. Laniel), and 11 at Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes 5 Oct (A. Sheinck).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH CUCKOOS

Single Marbled Godwits were spotted at Sainte-Flavie 11-23 Aug (R. St-Laurent, G. Samson) and at Sainte-Luce 25 Aug-1 Sep (R. Pelletier). A concentration of 10 Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Portneuf-sur-mer 5 Sep was very unusual (S. Guimond). A juv. Ruff was at Yamachiche 14 Sep (J. Gélinas). Long-billed Dowitchers, totaling about two dozen individuals, were reported from seven sites in s. Québec between 11 Sep and 19 Oct. Red Phalaropes were reported mainly on the Upper North Shore, with a maximum of 11 at Bergeronnes 28 Sep (SD et al.).

Several Sabine's Gulls brightened the Upper North Shore between 10 Sep and 25 Oct, but the species was notably less numerous than in the past two years. Little Gulls were also regular on the Upper North Shore, with a maximum of 5 at Godbout 1 Nov (SR, FG).



Even though Manx Shearwater is seen every year in Québec, the first good photographs of the species were obtained only in 2009. These two were photographed off Bergeronnes 11 August 2009. Photograph by Renaud Pintiaux.

Dovekies were reported mainly on the North Shore starting 12 Oct, with maxima of 283 at Pointe-des-Monts 3 Nov (SR, FG) and 1039 off La Romaine 12 Nov (OB). All land-based Thick-billed Murre sightings were made from Pointe-des-Monts, where totals of 12 and 13 were reported 4 & 12 Nov, respectively (SR).

A Eurasian Collared-Dove at La Pocatière 29 Aug-2 Nov represented the 7th Regional record (ph. CA, C. Girard), while a White-

winged Dove at Québec City 30 Nov–17 Dec was the 24th record, all since 1988 (ph. L. Laflamme, N. Barden, m.ob.). Numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoo were very few, with single birds at Cap Tourmente 18 Sep (JPO) and at Québec City 2 Oct (C. Gauvreau).

OWLS THROUGH THRUSHES

Following last year's invasion, a total of 16 Northern Hawk Owls reported s. of their breeding range, including from *Montérégie* and *Estrée*, was more than expected. The ad. Red-headed Woodpecker at Saint-Malachie 12 Oct (B. Lacroix, L. Giguère et al.) provided the fall's only report. Single Red-bellied Woodpeckers were reported at Aylmer 6 Sep (D. Morin), Saint-Ignace-de-Loyola 14 Oct (L. Lemoyne), l'Anse-au-Griffon 9 Nov+ (C. Côté), and Ahuntsic 16 Nov (C. Champagne).

Four Western Kingbirds were found throughout the season: at Cap Tourmente 2 Sep (SR, OB), Saint-Fulgence 17 Sep (CC), Tadoussac 26 Sep (SD et al.), and again at Tadoussac 3-6 Nov (G. Olsen, SD et al.). Although nearly an annual vagrant in the province, no more than one Western Kingbird had been reported per year since 1992. A worn ad. Fork-tailed Flycatcher stopped by Cap Tourmente all too briefly on the evening of 13 Aug (ph. J. Normandeau, C. Leclerc, R. Paquet). A juv. Loggerhead Shrike at Plaisance 23 Oct may have been one of the local captive-raised releases (R. Schryer). Northern Shrikes rarely show up as early as late Sep, so one at Lac-Saint-Paul (Outaouais) 6 Sep was astonishing (G. & G. Normandin). A White-eyed Vireo paused by Burbank Pond 30 Oct (S. Kohl, K. Adams). An unfamiliar swallow at a suspicious date and location paused on a wire for a short while at Pointe-des-Monts 22 Oct. Although not formally identified in the field, the description fits Common House-Martin (FG). The only other report for e. North America is a bird photographed at St. Pierre et Miquelon 26 May 1989.

Notable Carolina Wren records include one at Saint-Isidore late Aug+ (2nd record for Beauce-Appalaches; G. Blais, M. Verville), Baie-Saint-Paul Sep–4 Oct (N. Burgdorfer, L.

Rousseau), Lac Opasatica, *Abitibi* 24 Oct (M. Grandbois), Saint-Honoré-de-Chicoutimi 27 Oct+ (R. Gagnon), and La Pocatière 30 Oct (CA). A total of 8 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was reported from the e. half of the Region, with late birds at l'Anse-au-Griffon 13 Nov (DJ) and Rimouski 20 Nov (R. Pitre). A Northern Wheatear at Saint-Basile-le-Grand 26 Sep–10 Oct (R. Belhumeur, m.ob.) provided an extremely rare opportunity for Montréal-area birders to chase this species a stone's throw from home. The fall's only Townsend's Solitaire was at Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue 29 Oct–18 Nov (BB, S. Duval). Two Bicknell's Thrushes were still on their breeding grounds at Massif du Sud as late as 1 Oct (Y. Aubry).

WARBLERS THROUGH ORIOLES

A Yellow-throated Warbler at the Mount-Royal Cemetery (Montréal) 4 Sep (E. Samson) provided the earliest fall record ever, followed by a first area record at Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce 26 Nov+, a more typical time for this species to appear in the Region (R. Maheu, J. Deneau, m.ob.). A female-type Prairie Warbler was at Lacolle 11 Oct (R. & G. Boulet), furnishing a rare fall record for sw. Québec. A Worm-eating Warbler glimpsed at Beauport 20 Sep (R. Bélanger) was the earliest ever in fall. The fall's only migrant Connecticut Warbler was seen at Aylmer 22 Sep (G. McNulty, RLD). Always casual in fall, a hatch-year female Hooded Warbler at Percé 1 Oct was the 3rd for the Gaspé Pen. (PP, G. Roy). A Yellow-breasted Chat skulked in Mont-Joli 14 Nov–6 Dec (B. Sainte-Marie, AM. Clément). Six Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from three localities with an astonishing "concentration" of 3 at Godbout 18 Oct (FG, SR). Lark Sparrows were noted at Longue-Rive 23 Aug (R. Lepage, R. Jones, *fide* M. Robert) and Cap Tourmente 20-21 Sep (A. Côté). An imm. Lark Bunting frequented a feeder at Pointe Lebel 17-23 Oct (ph. D. Dorais). Rarely recorded in Outaouais, a migrant Nelson's Sparrow was at Notre-Dame-de-Pontmain 18 Sep (RLD). A messy-looking Seaside Sparrow in active post-juvénal molt hung out with some Savannah Sparrows on the shoreline at Port-Daniel 20-22 Sep, representing a

first Regional record (DJ et al., ph. AC).

Summer Tanagers were documented at Saint-Romuald 7 Nov (B. Casault, C. Jeffrey) and Sherbrooke 28 Nov+ (BT, ph. C. Dufresne). A hatch-year female Black-headed Grosbeak hung on at a feeder at Cap Tourmente 21 Nov–1 Dec (André Couture, D. Campeau, m.ob.)—the 3rd consecutive year for the species in the province but only the 6th overall record. An Indigo Bunting at Chibougamau 10 Aug (M. MacKinnon) was well n. of its typical range. A most excellent harvest of 18 Dickcissels came from throughout e. Québec; 2 at Pointe-au-Père 24 Aug (A. Brisson) were unusually early. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Danville 5 Aug (A. Maire), while a young male ended up in a far-fetched location*at the 50th parallel, some 20 km ne. of Lac Péribonka, *Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean* 9 Sep (C. Bourgeois et al., ph. C. Harvey). A Brewer's Blackbird at Bergeronnes 7-11 Oct provided a first record for the North Shore and one of a handful of documented observations of the species in Québec (ph. SD, OB et al.). October was a strong month for Baltimore Orioles in e. Québec, with a single-day maximum of 4 at Tadoussac 15 Oct (RP).

Contributors (subregional editors in boiface): C. Auchu, P. Bannon (Montréal), B. Barnhurst, A. Beauchamp (Beauce-Appalaches), C. Cormier, Al. Couture, C. Douville (Lower St. Lawrence), RL. Dubois, F. Gallant, L. Imbeau (Abitibi), D. Jalbert, MA. Montpetit, JP. Ouellet, R. Pintiaux, P. Poulin (Gaspésie), A. Richard (Magdalen Is.), S. Rioux, JF. Rousseau (Québec City), C. Roy (Bois-Francis), G. Savard (Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean), D. Toussaint (Outaouais), B. Turgeon. 🌐

Pierre Bannon, 1517 Leprohon
Montréal, Québec H4E 1P1, (pbannon@videotron.ca)

Olivier Barden, 955 Liénard, Apt. 5
Québec, Québec G1V 2W6, (iridosornis@gmail.com)

Normand David, 10385A rue Clark
Montréal, Québec H3L 2S3, (normanddavid@videotron.ca)

Samuel Denault, 75 Beauchemin
Saint-Basile-le-Grand, Québec J3N 1J6
(samuel.denault@videotron.ca)

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Walter G. Ellison
Nancy L. Martin

New England weather featured book-end warmer-than-average months in August and November; September was average to a little cool; and October temperatures were below normal. Rainfall was below average, except for a wet October due to coastal nor'easters that did not greatly impact the northern Champlain Valley. The storms led to some good sea duck flights and fallouts inland, particularly during a prolonged gray rainy spell 16-17 October, and during frontal passage on 23-24 October and 4 November. Highlights of the season were generally not mass phenomena—boreal irruptives did not materialize in notable numbers, shorebirding was mostly mundane, and the songbird migration had no major Region-wide flights. Nonetheless, a few migration watches had good days locally, e.g., 25 September at Cousin's Island, Falmouth, Maine.

Pelagic seabirds were numerous inshore, including excellent numbers of Cory's Shearwaters well north in the Gulf of Maine, and the one trip to the canyons on the continental shelf edge had excellent numbers of Gulf Stream seabirds. Again this year, two pairs of Mississippi Kites nested successfully in the Region. And at long last, a Manx Shearwater was confirmed breeding in Maine, at Matinicus Rock. Among the season's other highlights were Maine's first Pink-footed Geese, Vermont's first Eurasian Collared-Dove, and in Massachusetts, a lost and sickly White-tailed Tropicbird inland and the state's second Brown-chested Martin.

Abbreviations: A.P. (Andrew's Pt., Rockport, Essex, MA); Block I. (Washington, RI); Bluff Pt. (Groton, New London, CT); Charlotte (on L. Champlain shore, Charlotte, Chittenden, VT); Cousin's I. (Sandy Pt. Beach, Yarmouth,

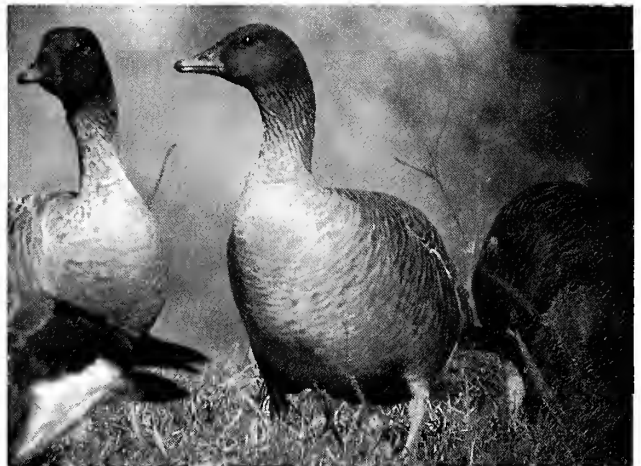
Cumberland, ME); Cumberland Farms (Cumberland Farms, Middleboro, Plymouth, MA); D.C.W.M.A. (Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison and Panton, Addison, VT); Hammonasset (Hammonasset S.P., Madison, New Haven, CT); Lighthouse Pt. (at New Haven, New Haven, CT); Monhegan (Monhegan I., Lincoln, ME); Plum I. (at Newbury/Rowley, Essex, MA); Quaker Ridge (Quaker Ridge hawkwatch, Greenwich, Fairfield, CT); Race Pt. (at Provincetown, Barnstable, MA); S. Beach (South Beach I., Chatham, Barnstable, MA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORK

Geese continue to make ornithological headlines. Of greatest interest were the 3 long-staying Pink-footed Geese in North Yarmouth, Cumberland, ME from 14 Oct+. These well-documented birds were Maine's first and also the first in New England in the autumn, following five reports from winter and early spring. Fifteen Greater White-fronted Geese were observed, in five of the Region's six states. The first of the season and highest count, 4 were in Fort Fairfield, Aroostook, ME 2 Oct (BS), with one additional bird in Maine in Nov; 5 others were found in Connecticut, 2 in Middletown, Newport, RI 5-18 Nov (Jst.J et al.), and singles in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Reports of Ross's Goose were confined to D.C.W.M.A., where at least 5 were found 19 Oct-14 Nov (m.ob.); a Snow Goose x Ross's Goose hybrid was there 31 Oct (TGM). The only Barnacle Goose of the season was at Durham, Middlesex, CT 11 Oct (M. Barriger). Reports of Cackling Goose continue climb, as observers become more experienced in identifying them. At least 30, apparently all nominate *hutchinsii*, were reported in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont, including a new Regional high count of 8 in Ipswich and on Plum I., MA 7-14 Nov (TW, JB, m.ob.). Brant were well reported inland, including an excellent flight on L. Champlain that included a record-high count of 2140 at Charlotte 12 Oct (TGM et al.). Up to 2 Brant of the Gray-bellied type, presumably from a cen. Canadian Arctic population, were documented from Norwalk, Fairfield, CT 21 Oct-5 Nov (ph. NB). Three reports of Tundra Swans were better than average; a flock of 8 graced Lower

Kimball Pond in Fryeburg, Oxford, ME and adjacent Chatham, Carroll, NH 9 Nov (BC et al.); 2 were on Middle Res., Killingly, Windham, CT 21-23 Nov (PR); and one was on Bantam L., Litchfield, CT 22 Nov (L. Fischer). A Ruddy Shelduck was observed with a Canada Goose flock in Pittsford, Rutland, VT 5 Nov (†A. Burke).

Ten Eurasian Wigeons were found in all states, save Vermont and Maine, including an impressive 3 at Plymouth, MA 7 Nov (ID). Numbers of Northern Shoveler were higher than average for recent autumns; maxima were 33 at Plum I. 1 Nov (TW) and 12 at Fort Kittery, York, ME 15 Nov (DL). Numbers of Canvasback and Redhead continued low, with about 36 of the former and about 20 of the latter reported in two and three Regional states, respectively. After being missed in four of the past five autumns, Tufted Ducks were seen twice: a rare Maine sighting involved a drake at Sabbathus Pond, Androscogin 12-30 Nov (†MaF et al.), and a female frequented Trustom Pond N.W.R., Washington, RI 12-17 Nov (Jst.J). It is not generally appreciated how many ducks stage on n. L. Champlain; a mixed scaup flock of 10,600 birds at S. Hero, Grand Isle 8-12 Nov (TGM, DJH) was careful-



This trio of Pink-footed Geese was discovered at Maine's rare goose hot-spot, Thornhurst Farm in North Yarmouth, Cumberland County 14 October 2009; the three remained through the end of the season (here 1 November). All prior New England records have been from winter or spring. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

ly documented photographically. Ten King Eiders included summering birds at A.P. 13 Aug (ph. K. Bourinot) and at Hammonasset through 9 Sep (m.ob.). Common Eider numbers in Long Island Sound were impressive, with a maximum of 168 at Stonington Pt., New London 24 Oct (GW). A male Harlequin Duck was well inland on Mesalonskee Stream, Waterville, Kennebec, ME 28 Oct (J. Silver). A fine scoter flight observed from Charlotte on L. Champlain 23 Oct produced counts of 101 Surf, 546 White-winged, and



The Brookline Bird Club's "Extreme Pelagic Trip" to the edge of the continental shelf off New England found high numbers of several pelagic species on 3-4 September 2009. This White-faced Storm-Petrel, the first of six for the trip, was at Hydrographer Canyon, about 154 kilometers southeast of Nantucket Island, Massachusetts on 3 September. There were also eight Band-rumped Storm-Petrels and five Bridled Terns documented over the two days. Photograph by Ian Davies.

4500 Black Scoters (TGM et al.). The big scoter flight on the coast fell 16 Oct and produced a massive count of 19,500 Surfs at Corporation Beach, Dennis, *Barnstable*, MA (BN). An inland sea duck fallout in s. New England 4 Nov produced counts of 916 Black Scoters and 42 Long-tailed Ducks on Wachusett Res., *Worcester*, MA (MJI). A half-grown Ruddy Duck accompanied a female at the Sanford Sewage Lagoons, *York*, ME 27 Aug, making it one of very few New England breeding locations (ph. AA, M.A.R.B.A.).

Well-supported reports of Pacific Loon included up to 2 at Charlotte 23 Oct–1 Nov, including one identifiably photographed (TGM et al.); 3 on Cape Cod at Provincetown, N. Truro, and Orleans from 3-16 Oct (BN); one at Marblehead, *Essex*, MA 13-15 Oct (D. Noble et al.); and one on L. Quassapaug, *Middlebury*, *New Haven*, CT 10-26 Nov (GH, m.ob.). A good inland count of 126 Horned Grebes was tallied at Charlotte 15 Nov (TGM), and the best count of Red-necked Grebe was 124 at Southwest Harbor, *Hancock*, ME 13 Nov (CM). The only Eared Grebe of the season was a summering bird continuing from Jul at the Sanford Sewage Lagoons, seen until 15 Sep (m.ob.). Large numbers of Northern Fulmars were driven inshore during a late Oct nor'easter, producing counts of 222 at A.P. 28 Oct (RH) and 380 the following day at Provincetown (BN). Cory's Shearwater occurred inshore and well to the n. in the Gulf of Maine in late summer and autumn. Record-high counts for New Hampshire and Maine, respectively, were 280 on Jeffreys Ledge 16 Aug (E. Masterson et al.) and 59 off Portland 15 Sep (DL et al.). Sooty Shearwater numbers were also impressive for late summer and autumn:

2400 over Jeffreys Ledge off New Hampshire 6 Aug (LK) and 350 off Bar Harbor, *Hancock*, ME 3 Oct, including one leucistic bird (EH et al.). Also numerous were Manx Shearwaters: a New Hampshire record 58 were tallied over Jeffreys Ledge 8 Sep (SM et al.), and 115 were counted from shore at A.P. 29 Aug (RH). Biologists checking nesting burrows on Matinicus Rock 8 Sep were delighted to discover a fledgling-age Manx Shearwater (S. Hall et al.), the first known successful nesting of the species in the United States since a pair raised a chick on

Penikese I., Buzzard's Bay, MA in 1973. Although now expected annually on the handful of trips to the continental shelf edge, Audubon's Shearwaters were seen in unexpected numbers this season, with record counts of 26 at Block Canyon off Rhode Island 19 Aug (m.ob.) and 28 at Hydrographer and Veatch Canyons 3-4 Sep (RH, B.B.C.). Seven White-faced Storm-Petrels were recorded this season: one 24 km ssw. of Nantucket 28 Aug (P. Trimble, VL) and counts of 3 each at Hydrographer Canyon 3 Sep and Veatch Canyon 4 Sep (RH, B.B.C.). Less often reported in New England waters, 4 Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were at Hydrographer Canyon 3 Sep and another 4 at Veatch Canyon 4 Sep (RH, B.B.C.). Almost certainly associated with the passage of Hurricane *Bill*, which made landfall in Newfoundland 23 Aug, was an emaciated White-tailed Tropicbird found in Carlisle, *Middlesex*, MA 23 Aug (*vide* RH). There were six inland reports of Great Cormorants, the most landlocked of which was an early imm. at L. St. Catherine, Wells, *Rutland*, VT 1-2 Sep (ph., †C. Seaver).

A Great White Heron at Fairhaven, *Bristol*, MA continued from Jul through 9 Sep (CL et al.). A Snowy Egret was seen in several places in se. Vermont 17 Aug–22 Sep (m.ob.), and a Little Blue Heron was at Keene, *Cheshire*, NH 9 Sep (B. Miller). Tricolored Herons have become increasingly scarce over the past decade; only 3 were reported this season: at Scarborough Marsh, *Cumberland*, ME in late Aug (M.A.R.B.A.), at Fairhaven, MA 2-9 Sep (CL et al.), and at Hammonasset 28 Sep–4 Oct (C. Myers et al.). There were scattered reports of Cattle Egrets from four states, with the high count of 9 from Shelburne, *Chitten-*

den, VT 13 Sep (J. Phillips) adjacent to this heron's L. Champlain colony; the latest was on Nantucket 18-26 Nov (KB). Good counts of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were both from roosts, with 20 at Eastham, *Barnstable*, MA 9 Sep (BN) and 44 in Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT 29 Sep (D. Varza). A White-faced Ibis accompanied a flock of Glossy Ibis at Silver Sands S.P., Milford, *New Haven*, CT 30 Jul–6 Aug (F. Gallo, ph. F. Mantlik). Also a very good find, a Wood Stork was photographed at Duxbury, *Plymouth*, MA 3 Nov (J. Carnuccio).

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Black Vultures continue to spread northward, with at least three reports from n. New England, including 4 at Brattleboro, *Windham*, VT 20-28 Sep (ph. H. Breder, m.ob.), 3 over Winooski, *Chittenden*, VT 9 Oct (B. Holton), and at least one in Newmarket, *Rockingham*, NH 10 Oct–3 Nov (PB, LK, LM et al.). The high count for Massachusetts was 15 at Sheffield, *Berkshire* 12 Oct (J. Drucker). Mississippi Kites nested for a 2nd season in New England: at Newmarket, NH, where the pair attended at least one youngster in the nest 1 Aug and remained until 31 Aug (m.ob.), and in Simsbury, *Hartford*, CT, where a begging juv. was out of the nest 21 Aug (J. Weeks) and an ad. still present 9 Sep (JC). Two migrating Mississippi Kites were seen at Quaker Ridge, Greenwich, *Fairfield*, CT 14 Oct (BO'T). Emblematic of the improved fortunes of Bald Eagles in New England was a one-day migration count of 26 from Mt. Philo, Charlotte, *Chittenden*, VT 16 Sep (TGM et al.). A good *Accipiter* flight day at Lighthouse Pt. 5 Oct saw the passage of 355 Sharp-shinned and 97 Cooper's Hawks (GH, BB). The Broad-winged Hawk migration peaked in mid-Sep, with high counts of 2758 at Mt. Philo 16 Sep (TGM et al.) and 3498 at Quaker Ridge 19 Sep (J. Rugeri, F. Guida). Three Swainson's Hawks were spotted in Connecticut: a dark morph at Windsor, *Hartford* 17 Sep (J. Wojtanowski), a light morph at Torrington, *Litchfield* 18 Sep (R. Belding), and another light morph at Johnnycake Mt., Burlington, *Hartford* 25 Sep (P. Carrier). A dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk was reported at E. Creek, Orwell, *Addison*, VT 19 Nov (R. Pilcher). Golden Eagles continue to be well reported, with 38 birds noted, including some early migrants 12 Sep at Mt. Philo (TGM, S. Elliot et al.) and 13 Sep at Quaker Ridge (BO'T, m.ob.).

Yellow Rails were briefly seen but reasonably described in Maine, including one flushed at Scarborough Marsh 17 Sep (*vide* PV) and another seen under similar circumstances the next day along the Weskeag R. in S. Thomaston, *Knox* (D. Reimer). The rarest

rail of the season in Maine was the ad. Purple Gallinule seen and photographed at the Sanford Sewage Lagoons 6 Aug (D. Hitchcox, N. Schwarzel). About one fourth of the season's 40 Common Moorhens were from the Champlain Valley; in Maine, a family including 6 young birds was at Sanford Sewage Lagoons 1 Aug–21 Sep (AA et al.), while an imm. at Eastern Pt., Gloucester, Essex, MA 9–30 Nov was very late (PB, S. Hurley et al.). Over 40 Sandhill Cranes were reported, with almost half of these at or near nesting areas in Maine, including 6 ads. and 2 colts at Belgrade, Kennebec and Smithfield, Somerset 22 Aug (EH, B. Nickerson et al.). Among the cranes seen in four other states, 5 frequented a cranberry bog at Wareham, Plymouth, MA from 15 Sep through the morning of 29 Oct (R. Conway et al.); almost certainly the same birds were subsequently seen migrating in Portsmouth, Newport, RI (P. Champlin) and at Quaker Ridge (BO'T et al.) later that day, with subsequent sightings outside of the Region in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Over 150 American Golden-Plovers were reported, above recent averages; double-digit maxima came from three sites 29–30 Aug, with up to 33 at Eastham, Barnstable, MA 29 Aug (BN). Single American Avocets were noted 19 Aug at Milford Pt., New Haven, CT (BB et al.), 22 Aug at Katama, Dukes, MA (R. Stanton), and 11 Oct at Plum I. (TW et al.). Late were 2 Solitary Sandpipers at Ponemah Bog, Amherst, Hillsborough, NH 27 Oct (C. Sheridan) and a Spotted Sandpiper at Sherwood Island S.P., Westport, Fairfield, CT 29 Nov+ (T. Green). A total of 19 Upland Sandpipers was reported from all states except Connecticut. Most Regional high counts of Whimbrel occur in Jul, so a report of 97 at Eastham, MA 17 Aug was noteworthy (D. Clapp et al.). Sixty-two Hudsonian Godwits were seen at sea 160 km se. of Nantucket 4 Sep (RH, B.B.C.), and a New Hampshire record 65 were at Odiorne S.P., Rye, Rockingham 12 Sep (SM, JM, LM); far inland, one was late at D.C.W.M.A. 18 Oct (TGM et al.). Over 30 Marbled Godwits were reported, including at least 7 in Maine and 3 in New Hampshire and up to 7 during Aug at their Regional stronghold of South Beach (BN et al.). Red Knots peaked at 750 at South Beach 8 Aug (BN). The 60 Baird's Sandpipers reported made a good tally, although short of some recent autumn counts; only one was reported from the Champlain Valley, and most were encountered in ones and twos. The 53 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was also a good total but below some recent seasons, e.g., 69 in 2007. High counts were 4 each on 7 Sep at Sprague's Neck, Cutler, Washington, ME (B. Southard) and S. Monomoy, Barnstable, MA (VL et al.). Just 4

Wilson's Phalaropes were found, single birds seen 17 Aug at Scarborough Marsh, ME (DL, E. Hess), 21–22 Aug in Stratford, CT (NB, L. Flynn), 24 Aug at Manomet, Plymouth, MA (ID), and 6 Sep at South Beach (MaF et al.). A Red-necked Phalarope was found far inland at Fryeburg, ME 26 Aug (ph. P. & D. Albert, *vide* BC). Also well inland was a Red Phalarope at S. Windsor, Hartford, CT 4 Oct (S. Zagorski, D. Jernigan).

SKUAS THROUGH ALCIDS

Just a single skua was reported in autumn 2009, a bird of unknown species seen at Nantucket 5 Sep (E. Ray). Only one Parasitic Jaeger was reported from L. Champlain, on 16 Sep at Charlotte (RBL, *vide* TGM); 3 were found on Long I. Sound, where they are rare: at Stamford, Fairfield 11 Sep (P. Dugan), at Mystic, New London 12 Sep (PR, GW), and off Fairfield 28 Sep (J. Randall). It was a banner year for Long-tailed Jaeger on the coast and offshore: about 23 were reported, including a count of 6 on Nantucket Shoals 3 Sep (RH, B.B.C.); at least 5 were reported off New Hampshire 15 Aug–8 Sep (ph. LM, SM et al.); all prior accepted New Hampshire reports were of inland birds; and a remarkable 11 were seen from shore vantage points at A.P. and on Cape Cod between 23 Aug and 10 Oct (RH, BN et al.). The only Franklin's Gull of the season was seen at the Rochester W.T.P., Strafford, NH 24–25 Aug (M. Harvey, ph. SM et al.). Little Gulls numbered 25, with at least 10 on L. Champlain 8 Sep–8 Nov (TGM, DJH et al.); 7 were reported in Maine, with most in Aug in the Eastport, Washington tidal rips; an ad. was at Seabrook, Rockingham, NH 27 Sep (SM); and seven were seen in coastal Massachusetts 8 Aug–18 Nov. Twelve Black-headed Gulls were reported from Massachusetts northward, including an inland bird on L. Champlain at Grand Isle 25 Oct (DJH). The season's only Mew Gull was found in Gloucester Harbor, MA 26 Nov+ (ph. RH et al.). Noteworthy reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull were 2 on the Connecticut R. at Turners Falls, Franklin, MA 8 Nov (B. Zajada) and an impressive count of 174 on Nantucket 29 Nov (KB et al.). Two gull hybrids, apparently Herring × Lesser Black-backed and Herring × Great Black-backed, graced Odiorne Point S.P., NH 12 Sep (ph. JT, ph. LM, SM et al.). Only 4 Sabine's



These Black Vultures, the young one on the right still showing down on its head, appeared in a Tiverton, Newport County, Rhode Island backyard on 14 October 2009. Vultures may travel some distance after fledging, but these clearly nested in Rhode Island or nearby. Photograph by Tom Molinski.

Gulls were reported, the fewest since 2003: a juv. at the (now demolished) Champlain Bridge at W. Addison, VT 30 Sep (RBL, *vide* TGM), and ads. at Eastport, ME 2 Sep (ph. C. Bartlett), First Encounter Beach, Eastham, MA 29 Aug (BN), and Race Pt., MA 30 Aug (J. Young). Only one Black-legged Kittiwake was seen on L. Champlain this autumn, a juv. at Grand Isle 12 Sep (DJH).

A Gull-billed Tern at First Encounter Beach 23 Aug (JT) was the 3rd autumn report in the past four years of this very scarce visitor. Just over 40 Caspian Terns were reported, the lowest tally since 2003. This attractive species has apparently begun nesting on Young I., Grand Isle, VT on L. Champlain, with young birds being fed there as late as early Aug (D. Capen). Coastal maxima were 6 each at Charlestown Breachway, Washington, RI 5 Sep (m.ob.), Biddeford Pool, York, ME 7 Sep (DL), and Plum I. 4 Oct (TW). Eight Royal Terns was a good total in a poor year for tropical storms; northerly singles were at Rye, NH 9 Aug (B. Griffith, LK) and North Haven harbor, Knox, ME 24 Aug (MaF). The highly successful pelagic trip run by the Brookline Bird Club 3–4 Sep recorded an impressive 5 Bridled Terns sw. of Atlantis Canyon on the latter date (ph. RH). Rather few alcids were recorded during late-season seawatches. A good late Oct count of 31 Dovekies came from Race Pt. 29 Oct (BN); 34 others were reported on later dates. Fewer than 20 Common Murres were reported, but a good count of 97 Thick-billed Murres was tallied at A.P. 15 Nov (RH). The top Razorbill count was 950 at Nantucket 23 Nov (W. Hutcheson).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Vermont's first Eurasian Collared-Dove appeared at a feeder in Norwich, Windsor about

15 Nov and remained until 7 Dec (J. & D. Dunn, S. & D. Hardy, m.ob.). The recent string of White-winged Dove records continued, with 2 photographed in the Bay State: in Manomet 6-12 Aug (I. Davies et al.) and in Eastham 25-26 Sep (MaF et al.). Monk Parakeet populations in Connecticut continue to grow, with counts of 30-50 from at least six locations in *Fairfield* and *New Haven*; farther afield, 2 were in E. Boston 20-22 Nov. Both cuckoos were notably scarce this season, although Massachusetts observers turned up tardy Black-billed in Cambridge, *Middlesex* 15 Nov (F. Bouchard et al.) and Duxbury, *Plymouth* 16 Nov (R. Bowes), and a Yellow-billed was photographed at Nahant, *Essex* 21 Nov (M.A.S., D. Larson). For the first time since 1994, there were no autumn reports of Snowy Owl in New England. The season's only Boreal Owl was photographed at Acadia N.P., *Hancock*, ME 22 Nov (B. Smith, *fide* EH). The first autumn Northern Hawk Owl since 2005 arrived in Derby, *Orleans*, VT 11 Nov and stayed through the winter (ph. M. Cosgrove, m.ob.). The Common Nighthawk migration peaked first on 23 Aug, with highest counts of 731 at Hatfield, *Hampshire*, MA (TG) and 800-1000 at New Hartford, *Litchfield*, CT (F. Zygmunt), and then again on 2-3 Sep, with tallies of 500+ in Keene, *Cheshire*, NH (L. McCracken, L. Tanino) and 900-1000 in Massachusetts at Northampton, *Hampshire* (TG), at Pittsfield, *Berkshire* (J. Robinson), and at Leicester, *Worcester* (ML et al.). Late nighthawks were recorded at Millennium Park, W. Roxbury, *Suffolk*, MA 22 Oct (MJI) and Stamford, *Fairfield*, CT 25 Oct (PD).

After the vagrant hummingbird variety of the past three autumns, New England observers had to be content with *Selasphorus* this season. New Hampshire had a well-documented imm. Rufous Hummingbird in Hollis, *Hillsborough* 30 Sep-30 Oct (ph. S. Michaels, m.ob.), and unidentified *Selasphorus* appeared at Cove I., Stamford, *Fairfield*, CT 14 Oct (PD) and in Charlestown, RI 17 Oct-16 Dec (B. Chaves). The stars of the season were 2 ad. female Allen's Hummingbirds in Massachusetts: one in Scituate, *Plymouth* 23 Oct-29 Dec (m.ob.) succumbed to the cold, while another banded on New Year's Day was reported to have been present since Oct in Harwich Port, *Barnstable* (C. Omar, SF); these represent the 2nd and 3rd records for the Bay State. Red-headed Woodpecker reports were limited to two states: Massachusetts had 6, including 4 in Dracut, *Middlesex* in Nov (m.ob.), and Connecticut had 10, half of which were tallied by hawkwatchers at Lighthouse Pt. The late Sep exodus of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers was marked by 21 at Cousin's I. 25 Sep (DL)

and 15 at Monhegan 30 Sep (SS). The high count of Northern Flicker of 106 also came from Cousin's I. 25 Sep (DL). A female Black-backed Woodpecker in Northfield, *Washington* 23 Nov (W. Barnard) was well away from the species' usual Northeast Kingdom haunts in Vermont, while singles on Monhegan 21 Sep (*fide* DL) and at Harpswell, *Cumberland* 26 Nov (B. Briggs) were similarly beyond their breeding range in Maine.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

An Eastern Wood-Pewee photographed at Plum I. 1 Nov (S. Sullivan) was among the latest on record in Massachusetts. An Acadian Flycatcher on Monhegan 1 Oct was likewise late (M.A.R.B.A.). Three of the season's 4 Say's Phoebes were also located on islands; the first at Trott I., Cape Porpoise, *York*, ME 6-7 Sep (ph. CR, L. DuPont) was followed closely by Vermont's 3rd state record from S. Royalton, *Windsor* 8 Sep (†K. Jones), one in Chilmark, *Dukes*, MA 13-14 Sep (ph. A. Keith et al.), and another in Maine on Manana I., near Monhegan 24 Sep (LS et al.). Western Kingbirds returned to their usual seasonal total this year, with 13+ well distributed along the coast from Monhegan to Lighthouse Pt. between 17 Aug and 22 Nov. Two long-staying individuals entertained birders at the Rochester, *Strafford*, NH W.T.P. 13-22 Nov (ph. P. Watts, ph. MJI, m.ob.) and at Hammonasset 24 Oct-16 Nov (m.ob.). Less cooperative was a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher observed on an island while the observer was taking a swim in the Kennebec R. in Richmond, *Sagadahoc*, ME 22 Aug (PV); another in Maine was photographed near the Unity/Freedom town line, *Waldo* 3 Nov (M.A.R.B.A.). Massachusetts also contributed a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Orange, *Franklin* 21-22 Oct (J. Johnstone et al.). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher graced Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Wellfleet, *Barnstable*, MA 29 Sep-5 Oct (ph. MaF, m.ob.). Northern Shrikes appeared on schedule in mid-Oct; only 2 of about 37 reported reached as far s. as Connecticut.

New Hampshire's 3rd Bell's Vireo at Odiorne Point S.P., Rye 1-4 Oct (ph., †SM, JM, ph. L. Medlock, m.ob.) continues a recent trend in autumn reports along the coast. The last of the usual handful of coastal White-eyed Vireos was located in Rockport, MA on the very late date of 30 Nov (B. Dwyer). For a 2nd year, migrant Blue-headed Vireos were detected in good numbers, with numerous double-digit counts capped by 29 in Westminster, *Worcester*, MA 3 Oct (T. Pirro). Twelve Warbling Vireos, a high number, were at Medford, *Middlesex*, MA 30 Aug (MR), and an impressive

60 Red-eyed Vireos were tallied at Cousin's I. 1 Sep (EH). Fish Crows were more numerous than expected in Connecticut, with a maximum of 150+ in Brookfield, *Fairfield* 23 Sep (P. Comins); singles reached inland New Hampshire in Marlow, *Cheshire* and Ossipee, *Carroll*. The Bay State's 2nd Brown-chested Martin was thoroughly documented at Cumberland Farms, MA 12 Oct (ph. MJI, ph. JT, M. Garvey, m.ob.); the bird was relocated that afternoon and stayed for two more days. The Plum I. high count of 100,000 Tree Swallows at the end of Aug was dwarfed by an estimate of 400,000 in an evening roost at Lord's Cove, on the Connecticut R. in Old Lyme, *New London*, CT 15 Sep (JC et al.). Notably late for their respective species were a Northern Rough-winged Swallow in N. Yarmouth, ME 21 Nov (T. Lenz et al.) and 2 Bank Swallows at Cumberland Farms 13 Oct (T. Johnson et al.). After last year's flight of nearly 200 Cave Swallows, this year was a let-down, with just 4 total, all in Connecticut. The first appeared at Cove I., Stamford, *Fairfield* 25 Oct (P. Dugan), followed by a single at Lighthouse Pt. 16 Nov (GH et al.) and 2 there the next day (N. Bonomo et al.). Seldom mentioned in these pages, a White-breasted Nuthatch in Fort Kent, *Aroostook* 14 Nov was well n. of the species' usual range in Maine (BS). A pair of Carolina Wrens at the n. edge of their current range, in Grand Isle, *Grand Isle*, VT, fledged their 3rd brood of the season (5 nestlings) 9 Sep (DJH), while the species was reported to eBird from at least 16 localities in Maine, with a maximum of 6 on Monhegan 27 Sep (SS). The season's three Sedge Wren reports were widely scattered, from Gray, *Cumberland*, ME 18 Sep (M.A.R.B.A.), Bolton Flats, *Worcester*, MA 26 Sep (B. Zajda et al.), and Narragansett, *Washington*, RI 1 & 8 Oct (M. Tucker, JStJ).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

The first of 5 Northern Wheatears was an ad. male photographed on Crane's Beach, Ipswich, *Essex*, MA 26 Aug (D. Jones); a female or imm. male appeared at Hammonasset 4 Sep (P. Fusco), followed by a lingering ad. male at Sikorsky Airport, Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT 5-14 Sep (M. Cavallero, P. Desjardins, m.ob.), one in Knox, *Waldo*, ME 9 Sep (M.A.R.B.A.), and finally the Nutmeg State's 3rd for the season at Bradley International Airport, Windsor Locks, *Hartford* 1-4 Oct (R. Tebbetts et al.). Good Eastern Bluebird counts of 63 and 66 were tallied at Litchfield, CT 18 Sep (DR) and Tyringham, *Berkshire*, MA 26 Sep (ML et al.), respectively. Maine birders estimated 450 Veeries overhead at Cousin's I. pre-dawn 5 Sep (LS, EH). Ongoing research on Bicknell's Thrushes found 12-15 still pres-

ent on Vermont's Mount Mansfield 9-10 Sep (CR, K. McFarland). Watchers at Lighthouse Pt. counted 10,500 American Robins passing 10 Nov (BB). After two irruption years, Bohemian Waxwings returned to their usual early Nov arrival dates and modest numbers across the n. tier of New England, the exception being an early bird in Orono, *Penobscot*, ME 22 Oct (D. Hitchcock). Cedar Waxwings were on the move in s. New England, with 1800 counted at Lighthouse Pt. 5 Oct and another 1000-1100 there 16-17 Nov (GH et al.).

Two Golden-winged Warblers in Rhode Island in Aug were followed by Sep singles in Connecticut and on Monhegan. A Brewster's Warbler beautifully photographed in Little Compton, RI 16 Sep (G. Dennis) was the sole *Vermivora* hybrid reported. Tennessee Warblers were mostly reported in ones and twos across the Region, the one exception being 5 at Cousin's I. 6 Sep (DL). Fewer than 40 Cape May Warblers were reported; two high counts of 5 came from Scott's Landing, Deer Isle, ME 6 Sep (CM) and Block I. 19 Sep (m.ob.). Bay-breasted Warbler, the other classic Spruce Budworm specialist, was reported in similar low numbers (43 total) across the Region. All of these species were once again outnumbered by Orange-crowned Warblers, with about 88 of the latter distributed across all six states and a maximum of 4 at Plum I. 20 Oct (TW). The best of several excellent coastal counts of Northern Parula was 143 at Cousin's I. 25 Sep, the best flight day of the season there, with a total of 2514 migrants tallied (DL). Other species represented in good numbers that day were 55 Black-throated Green and 72 Palm Warblers (DL); 75 Palms passed Lighthouse Pt. 5 Oct (GH et al.). Two other species were also counted in excellent numbers on earlier dates at Cousin's I.: 444 Blackpoll Warblers 19 Sep (DL et al.) and 500 American Redstarts 1 Sep (LS, EH). To the s., at Bluff Pt., CT, peak warbler flights were noted on 30 Sep (800, with 600 Blackpolls), 2 Oct (1000, with 750 Blackpolls), and 5 Oct (4000, mainly Yellow-rumped) (all CE, D. Provencher, GW). An imm. male Yellow Warbler at D.C.W.M.A. 2 Nov (ph. P. Manship) was very late for an inland location, while one in Boston 29 Nov-1 Dec was comparably late for the coast (RS et al.). Chestnut-sided Warbler migration peaks in late Aug, so one at Nepaug Res., *Hartford*, CT 25 Oct (D. Lawton) was considerably tardy. A male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Kittery, ME 13 Nov (ph. P. Augusta) exceeded by one day the latest Black-throated Green Warbler, in the Boston Public Garden (P. Peterson). Other late individuals away from the Bay State included a Prairie Warbler at Pine Pt., Scarborough, ME 27 Oct (M.A.R.B.A.) and

an American Redstart in Lisbon, *Androscoggin*, ME 27 Nov (A. & L. Seamans). Among vagrants and rare-but-regular migrants, the first autumn Regional Townsend's Warbler since 2005 was banded in Brewster, *Barnstable*, MA 7 Nov and remained in the area two more days (SF, G. Putonen et al.). A Yellow-throated Warbler on Block I. 28 Aug (T. Magarian) was followed by a white-lored bird on Barnes I., S. Harpswell, ME 6 Sep (M.A.R.B.A.) and another seen first at a Falmouth residence 8 Nov that later moved across the street to frequent Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farm Sanctuary through 29 Nov (C. & S. Kent, EH, DL, m.ob.). The only Cerulean Warbler reported was an imm. female in Cambridge, MA 29 Sep (JT et al.). Two Prothonotary Warblers in late Aug and one in early Nov were encountered in Massachusetts, and another appeared in late Aug in Rhode Island. Vermont's 9th Worm-eating Warbler was well described from Stratford, *Orange* 7 Sep (†J. Miller). Appledore I., York, ME and Eastern Pt., Gloucester, MA hosted Kentucky Warblers in late Aug (M.A.R.B.A.) and 6 Sep (S. Hedman et al.), respectively. A Regional total of 20 Connecticut Warblers was a little more than half the average total for the past four autumns. Two MacGillivray's Warblers were discovered late in the season and lingered into winter: the first in the Victory Gardens in Boston's Fenway neighborhood 17 Nov-16 Dec (P. Peterson, m.ob.), the other in Medford, *Middlesex* 21 Nov-14 Dec (A. Piccolo, m.ob.). In Massachusetts, a Hooded Warbler was banded at Manomet 5 Oct (ID et al.); dates of 3 others ranged from 5 Sep through 11 Oct. Only 34 Yellow-breasted Chats were reported—the lowest Regional total since 2004, although it is probably too early to attribute this to declines in the species' main range s. of New England.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Over 45 Clay-colored Sparrows were distributed across the Region, including 2 in Vermont and one in New Hampshire; along the coast, an impressive high count of 8 came from Monhegan 1 Oct (W. Russell, *vide* DL). As expected, most of the season's 27 Lark Sparrows were also on the coast, from Monhegan to Hammonasset, with the high count of 3 from Block I. 30 Sep (D. Finizia et al.); this was the best seasonal total since at least 1993. Cumberland Farms continued its reputation as a place to find rarities with the discovery of an imm. Lark Bunting 4 Nov, which remained until at least 12 Dec (J. Sweeney, m.ob.). There were few outstanding high counts of the common sparrows, although 300 Savannah Sparrows in Hadley, *Hampshire*, MA 25 Oct (J. Smith) was noteworthy, and a

migrant count at Bluff Pt., CT 6 Oct included 500 White-throated Sparrows and 200 Dark-eyed Juncos (CE et al.). A number of Ipswich Sparrows appeared inland from their usual haunts on the immediate coast this autumn, including one at the Exeter, NH W.T.P. 30 Oct-8 Nov (ph. LM et al.). Among the low-density migrants, observers reported 8-10 Grasshopper Sparrows, a good total for this hard-to-detect species. The single Henslow's Sparrow of the season spent 16-18 Nov at Allen's Pond, S. Dartmouth, *Bristol*, MA (P. Champlin et al.). Vermont's first fully documented Le Conte's Sparrow, after a 1988 single-observer sight record, was found at Pomainville W.M.A., Pittsford, *Rutland* 17 Oct (†TGM, ph. A. Strong, ph. C. Provost et al.); others appeared in Connecticut in S. Windsor, *Hartford* 9 Oct (B. Asteriades, R. Macsuga) and Tolland, *Tolland* 26 Nov (J. Taylor), and one lingered at Cumberland Farms 20 Oct-4 Nov (MJI, m.ob.). A Nelson's Sparrow found the same day as the Le Conte's at Pomainville W.M.A. accommodated searchers and photographers until 23 Oct (m.ob.); New Hampshire inland reports were of a single in Penacook, *Merrimack* 26 Sep (PH) and 2 at Horseshoe Pond, Concord 25 Oct (D. Howe). A Seaside Sparrow at Chapman's Landing, Stratham, *Rockingham*, NH 29 Sep was n. of the species' breeding range and farther inland than usual (P. Chamberlin).

An ad. male Summer Tanager was photographed in N. Falmouth, *Barnstable*, MA 27-31 Oct (A. Pellegrini), and a presumably different bird appeared farther out the Cape in Orleans 25 Nov, remaining to the end of Dec (A. & E. Hultin). Single Western Tanagers were at Lighthouse Pt. 30 Sep (D. Campbell) and in the Boston Public Garden 13-15 Nov (imm. female; T. Factor, ph. JT, ph. RS et al.). A good tally of 30 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks came from Dewey's Pond, Quechee, *Windsor*, VT 29 Aug (R. Payne). Three out of the excellent total of 28 Blue Grosbeaks showed similar timing late in the season: singles in Maine were a male in N. Bath, *Sagadahoc* 3 Nov (ph. MiF) and a female in Saco, *York* 7 Nov (F. Mitchell), with another at Cumberland Farms 5-7 Nov (MJI et al.). A thorough search of weedy fields in Penacook, NH turned up 80 Indigo Buntings 7 Sep (PH, R. Suomala). It was another very good season for Dickcissels, with 97 distributed among coastal states and several high counts of 3-4 at locations such as Cousin's I., Cumberland Farms, Block I., and Lighthouse Pt. Two respectable Bobolink high counts were 639 inland in Northampton, MA 27 Aug (TG) and 550 at Lighthouse Pt. 31 Aug (GH), while 28 Eastern Meadowlarks at Allen's Pond, S. Dart-

mouth, MA 22 Nov (E. Nielsen) was a good count for this less gregarious species. Massachusetts hosted the 2 Yellow-headed Blackbirds of the season, an imm. male at Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, *Middlesex* 9-14 Aug (C. Cook et al.) and another male on Nantucket 30 Sep (E. Andrews et al.). The best counts of the declining Rusty Blackbird came from an evening roost site at the Exeter, NH W.T.P. in mid-Oct (at least 70; SM) and at White Memorial Foundation, Litchfield, CT 9 Nov (85; DR). There was a late-season incursion of Baltimore Orioles into the Region; beyond the somewhat expected dozen in Massachusetts were 7 in Maine, including 4 in Portland 15 Nov, and one lingering through 29 Nov at Gilsland Farm Audubon Sanctuary, Falmouth (EH, P. McCormack, m.ob.). Northern finches were nearly nonexistent this

season, with only 2 single Pine Grosbeaks and two mid-Nov Common Redpoll reports from Vermont and New Hampshire. Small numbers of Red and White-winged Crossbills confined themselves to the n. tier, with the exception of 2 Reds at Quabbin Res., MA 20 Sep (L. Therrien). Some evidence that House Finch populations are recovering from declines caused by disease came with a count of 240 in Marshfield, Plymouth, MA 1 Nov (ID).

Subregional editors (boldface), contributors (italics), and observers: Andy Aldrich, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Bill Banks, *Jim Berry*, Bird Observer, Ken Blackshaw, Nick Bonomo, Brookline Bird Club, Phil Brown, Jan Collins, Bob Crowley, Ian Davies, Patrick Dugan, Chris Elphick, Mike Fahay (MiF), Mark Faherty (MaF), Rachel

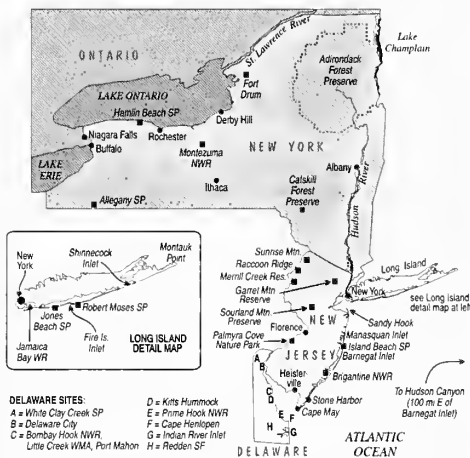
Farrell, Sue Finnegan, Tom Gagnon, Greg Hanisek, Rick Heil, *David J. Hoag*, Pam Hunt, Eric Hynes, *Marshall J. Iliff*, Lauren Kras, Vernon Laux, Richard B. Lavallee, Carolyn Longworth, *Derek Lovitch*, Mark Lynch, Maine Audubon Rare Bird Alert, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Len Medlock, Steve Mirick, Jane Mirick, Chip Moseley, *Ted G. Murin*, Blair Nikula, Brian O'Toole, Chris Rimmer, *Marj Rines*, Dave Rosgen, Phil Rusch, Luke Seitz, Bill Sheehan, Jean St. Jean, Robert Stymeist, Scott Sumner, Jeremiah Trimble, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, Peter Vickery, *Barbara Volkle*, Tom Wetmore, Glenn Williams. ☉

Walter G. Ellison

Nancy L. Martin

23460 Clarissa Road, Chestertown, Maryland 21620
(rossgull@baybroadband.net)

Hudson-Delaware



Richard R. Veit
Robert O. Paxton
Frank Rohrbacher

In many respects, the fall migration was unremarkable: there were few fallouts, and observers Regionwide noted relatively low numbers and low diversity of migrants. Several spectacular vagrants—including European Golden-Plover, Ivory Gull, Tropical Kingbird, and Sage Thrasher—made it nonetheless a memorable fall season. Following a truly unusually wet and cold summer, the autumn weather was not unusual. November was warm, but the rest of the season saw near-average temperatures and precipitation amounts in most areas, with the exception of a cold spell in mid-October.

Abbreviations: Avalon (Avalon Seawatch, Avalon, Cape May, NJ); Braddock Bay (Braddock Bay B.O., Rochester, NY); Brigantine (Forsyth N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Captree (Captree S.P., Suffolk, NY); Derby Hill (Derby Hill Hawkwatch, Oswego, NY); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., near Rochester, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway National Park, New York City); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., s. shore of Long I.); Moriches (Moriches Bay and inlet, Suffolk, Long I.); Long I. (Long I., NY); Montauk (Montauk Pt., Suffolk, Long I.); Montezuma (Montezuma N.W.R., Seneca, NY); Prime Hook (Prime Hook N.W.R., Sussex, DE); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit/Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ); South Cape May Meadows (William C. and Jane D. Blair Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge, Cape May, NJ); Tonawanda (Tonawanda W.M.A., Genesee and Niagara, NY).

WATERFOWL THROUGH PELICANS

The previously reported Black-bellied Whistling-Duck remained at Prime Hook until 19 Aug (MSG, m.ob.). A Pink-footed Goose at Sunken Meadow S.P., Suffolk, NY 3-11 Nov (K&SF) made the 6th New York record and the 4th for Long I. since 2007. About 20 Greater White-fronted Geese throughout the Region included 8 at Iroquois N.W.R., *Genesee/Orleans*, NY 26-28 Oct (Chris Newton, PY) and 6 at Waterport, *Orleans*, NY (MS). A Snow Goose summered at Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE, and others arrived there

early in Sep. A total of 7 Ross's Geese, a bit low for recent autumn seasons, included an early one at Brigantine 27 Sep (Frank Guida) and a rare blue morph in Sussex, DE 17 Oct (BGP, FR). A Snow Goose × Ross's Goose hybrid was identified at Chautauqua L., Chautauqua, NY 29 Nov (JP). Single Barnacle Geese were both likely returning birds, one at Califon, *Hunterdon*, NJ 27 Oct–5 Nov (LS, Melissa Fowler), the other at Sunken Meadow S.P., Suffolk, NY 3-25 Nov (SSM, m.ob.). Seventy Cackling Geese, about half the number reported last autumn, reflected the generally low waterfowl numbers; as usual, most were in upstate New York, but a group of 14 at Assiscong Res., *Hunterdon*, NJ 29 Nov (SG) made a large number for that locality. A Cackling Goose at Staten I., NY 16 Oct–Nov (SIW et al.) had the dark underparts and purplish chest typical of subspecies *minima* (sometimes called Ridgway's Goose), previously been reported in New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. About 50 Trumpeter Swans were found in upstate New York, with a predictable maximum of 36 at Montezuma 15 Nov (KCG). An ad. male Common Shelduck at Prime Hook 19 Sep–3 Oct (BGP et al.) may have been an escapee, but singles this year in Massachusetts (6 Dec) and Newfoundland (17 Nov) point to possible wild provenance. The species has been increasing annually in w. Iceland, the nearest nesting area to North America, for two decades. Large counts of Wood Ducks included 2106 at Bashakill, *Sullivan*, NY 1 Sep (MB, VF) and 910 at Three Mile Bay, *Jefferson*, NY



This Swallow-tailed Kite was present at Wallkill National Wildlife Refuge, Sussex County, New Jersey 26 (here 29) August–1 September 2009, feeding on large dragonflies in the area. Of over 70 records for the state, only about nine have occurred in the fall. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.

(BPu). While waterfowl were generally scarce, 638 Gadwalls at Brigantine 26 Nov (MH) and 2382 Northern Pintails flying past Derby Hill 7 Oct (BPu) were substantial counts. Eight of 11 Eurasian Wigeons were on Long I. and in coastal New Jersey. A young male Cinnamon Teal at Cape May 16 Sep–5 Oct (CJV, TL et al.) followed records of single birds in Delaware in 2006 and 2007; New Jersey has but three prior records. Larger flocks of Lesser Scaup were 3500 at Syracuse, *Onandaga*, NY 22 Nov (BPu) and 3000 at Piseco L., *Hamilton*, NY 14 Oct (BK, CM); the largest count of Greater Scaup was 5500 at Edith Read Wildlife Reserve, *Westchester*, NY 26 Nov (TWB). A near-average 11 King Eiders included a group of 5 at Montario Pt., *St. Lawrence*, NY 30 Nov (JSB), a flyby at Avalon 26 Oct (DG), and 2 singles at Sandy Hook and Cape May 7 Nov (RF, VE). A massive southward movement of Common Eiders during Nov coincided with a departure from s. New England; a record-breaking total of 227 came from Cape May 29 Nov (TBJ et al.), 200 were at Barnegat, *Ocean*, NJ 16 Nov (M. Britt), and 851 at Avalon for the season was the all-time high (since 1995). Some 830 Common Eiders at Montauk 17 Oct (AnW) was early for so many. In e. Long I., counts of 390 at Robert Moses S.P. 1 Nov (SSM, PJJ) and 200 at Jones Beach 11 Nov (Ardith Bondi) greatly exceeded previous maxima for these well-watched sites, whereas counts were higher for e. Long I. in 1996. The maximum count of Harlequin Ducks at Barnegat Inlet was 20 on 28 Nov (CJV); a sin-

gle bird was at Cape Henlopen S.P., *Sussex*, DE 29 Oct (FRw). Scoter totals at Avalon were well below the long-term average, and the total for White-wingeds (895) was the lowest since 1993. Counts of 4290 Black Scoters at Montauk 17 Oct (AnW) and 2000 at Robert Moses S.P. 21 Oct (RJK) were substantial. Strong counts of Long-tailed Ducks were 1600 at Sandy Pond, *Oswego*, NY 22 Nov (BPu) and 1200 at Montario Pt., *St. Lawrence*, NY 30 Nov (JSB). A Barrow's Goldeneye at Tomhannock Res., *Rensselaer*, NY 12 Nov (WY) was the only one reported.

In response to comments in the spring report about the scarcity of Ruffed Grouse, several subregional editors remarked on their presence, including Jeff Bolsinger's comment that they are still "common in the Adirondacks and in the Tug Hill region" of New York. The Red-throated Loon seasonal total of 63,066 at Avalon (DG et al.) was above the long-term mean of 58,000, which is encouraging, as Red-throateds have declined recently, mainly due to gillnet mortality. Four Pacific Loons were found: one at Merrill Creek Res., *Warren*, NJ 23 Oct–12 Nov (TV); one at Hamlin Beach 24–25 Oct (AG); one at Avalon 2 Nov (DG); and a juv. on Cayuga L. at Sheldrake, *Sullivan*, NY 5–12 Nov (Dave Nutter, Dave Nicosia, Wes Hochachka). Between 2 and 5 Eared Grebes were at Batavia W.T.P., *Genesee*, NY until 12 Nov (MM); another was at Irondequoit Bay, *Monroe*, NY 5 Oct (Charles Goulet). Western Grebes, increasing in the East, were reported three times: one at Piermont Pier, *Rockland*, NY 10–13 Nov (Carol Weiss et al.), one in Raritan Bay between Staten I. and New Jersey 15–30 Nov (Patrick Belardo, TBo), and one at Ausable Pt., *Clinton*, NY 30 Nov (Judith. F. Heintz).

Single Northern Fulmars were early at Easthampton 27 Sep and Montauk 24 Oct (AnW). Numbers of Cory's Shearwaters were farther n. than usual for the 2nd year in a row; 23 were counted from shore between Easthampton and Montauk 27 Sep (AnW), 18 were at Hudson Canyon 9 Aug (SL), and 10 were off Lewes, DE 15 Sep (ES). Eight Audubon's Shearwaters were seen at Hudson Canyon 9 Aug (M. Fritz et al.), and 10 were seen off Lewes, DE 15 Sep (ES et al.). Other groups of up to 10 were seen along the continental slope to Block Canyon, and 26 were

seen n. of Block Canyon 19 Aug (C. Pedro, m.ob.). A White-faced Storm-Petrel was off Lewes, DE 15 Sep (ES et al.), and one or 2 were s. of e. Long I. 16–17 Aug (J. Shemilt). The Avalon season total for Northern Gannets, 119,001, was more than double the long-term average of 48,000 and reflects the continued increase of gannets in the North Atlantic. Sixteen American White Pelicans this fall included a remarkable flock of 11 at Cape May 29 Nov (Nick Pulcinella) and 4 in n. Delaware in early Aug (FR, Bob Stahorn). Brown Pelicans also eclipsed their all-time high at Avalon, with 635 counted this fall (versus the long-term average of 170); otherwise the only substantial number was 28 at Brigantine 12 Aug (MH). Two ad. Great Cormorants at Hamlin Beach 11 Sep were unusual for that locality (DT, Diane Stout).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

The only Least Bittern found away from nesting locales was at Sandy Hook 22 Sep (Sharyn Magee), and it was also the last of the season. A Great White Heron at Bethany Beach, *Sussex*, DE 1–7 Nov (BGP) was a 2nd for Delaware and the 3rd Regional record since Sep 2001, when 2–3 appeared between Long I. and Delaware. High counts of the commoner herons included 335 Great Blues at Cape May 10 Oct (TL), 521 Great Egrets at Brigantine 6 Aug (AM, JM), and 364 Snowy Egrets at Brigantine 1 Oct (JM). Great Egrets continue to increase at inland localities; 126 at Tonawanda 3 Oct (WW) continue a recent trend, while 186 at Stockholm, *St. Lawrence*, NY set a new record for that region (RS). Twenty-five Little Blue Herons were counted at Cape May 18 Sep (TL), and one was late at Staten I. 22 Nov (SIW). Fourteen Tricolored Herons were at Nummy I., *Cape May* 10 Oct (ID). Sixty-one Cattle Egrets at Featherbed Lane, *Salem*, NJ 10 Aug (MW), near the nesting colony at Pea Patch I. on the Delaware R., was a large number for recent years; one at Wilson, *Niagara*, NY 3–10 Nov was brought to a rehabilitator (Jacalyn Perry). Six White Ibis at Fowler's Beach, *Sussex*, DE 30 Aug (APE) was an unusually large number; one was at Prime Hook 1 Sep (APE); and an imm. at Tonawanda 20 Sep–22 Oct (Mark Pearce, WW, m.ob.) was only the 2nd record ever for that area. Two Roseate Spoonbills that appeared in summer remained into fall: Delaware's first state record remained at Fenwick I., *Sussex* until 19 Aug (FR), and New Jersey's 3rd remained at Brigantine until 25 Oct LM, PBac). A Wood Stork was at the Ashland Nature Center, *New Castle*, DE 25 Oct (Bob Rufe, Jim Lewis) for about a 40th Regional record but the first since a single in 2005. Seven Black Vultures together in



At a time of year when shorebird enthusiasts check through groups of American Golden-Plovers for stray Pacific Golden-Plovers, this European Golden-Plover in Kent County, Delaware 14 September 2009 was an unexpected pleasure and just the second ever in the lower 48 states, following a record in Maine in October 2008. Photograph by Anthony Gonzon.

one group was a notable concentration at New Scotland, Albany, NY 23 Oct (WY).

Single Swallow-tailed Kites were at the Wallkill River N.W.R., Sussex, NJ 27-31 Aug (Ken Witkowski, Rob Scherr, m.ob.) and at Ashland, New Castle, DE 6 Sep (DS), the state's 9th. At the Fire Island hawkwatch, a total of 291 Sharp-shinned Hawks was 36% lower than the 20-year average, while 47 Cooper's Hawks was 70% above that average. A daily total of 587 Cooper's Hawks at Cape May 11 Oct was impressive but still well below the record daily total of 1231 on 26 Sep 2006. Away from hawkwatches, only about 26 Northern Goshawks were reported Regionwide. Several observers noted seeing more Red-shouldered Hawks than usual, and daily totals of 39 at Chimney Rock, Somerset, NJ 1 Nov (SL) and 143 at Cape May 6 Nov (DG et al.) support this impression of increased numbers (the record daily total at Cape May is 185). Single Swainson's Hawks were at Cape Henlopen, Sussex, DE 19 Sep (FRw), New Braintree, Greene, NY 3-14 Oct (RG, m.ob.), and Cape May 8-29 Nov (VE, LZ, m.ob.). The first of 5 Rough-legged Hawks in New Jersey was at Cape May 5 Oct (M. Goff). Notable Golden Eagle reports included 4 at Raccoon Ridge Hawkwatch, Warren, NJ 6 Nov (FG), plus 9 others in New Jersey, and 2 on Long I. in mid-Oct. A seasonal total of 518 American Kestrels at Fire Island Hawkwatch was 62% below the 20-year average and an all-time low (Drew Panko). An imm. gray-morph Gyrfalcon was spectacular-

ly photographed on the single day it was observed at Jones Beach 25 Oct (L. Ormond, JGI, GB et al.); this date seems remarkably early, but a search of the literature shows that at least four specimens were collected on Fisher's I., NY in the period 12-30 Oct, and there are other Oct reports from New England and Virginia, the latter 21 Oct. Finally, a seasonal total of 290 Peregrine Falcons at the Fire Island Hawkwatch is 61% above the 20-year average at that site (Drew Panko).

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

John Confer and his dog flushed a Yellow Rail in the town of Caroline, Tompkins, NY 17 Oct, and a Purple Gallinule at Mendon Ponds,

Monroe, NY 11-13 Oct (Pat Martin, BC) was found dying on the last date (*Cornell University). About 70 Sandhill Cranes were reported, mostly in upstate New York; 17 were at Husted Landing, Cumberland, NJ 29 Nov (VN). In general, counts of migrating shorebirds were low. However, a group of 3200 Black-bellied Plovers at Jones Beach 8 Nov (Christina Wilkinson) exceeds all fall maxima by a factor of three and appears to be a Regional high count. A European Golden-Plover in a field near Bombay Hook N.W.R., Kent, DE 14-15 Sep (Andy Urquhart, AGn et al.) furnishes the 2nd record for the e. United States after one in Maine in Oct 2008. Virtually all records for Atlantic Canada, where Europeans appear regularly, are from spring. About 210 American Golden-Plovers were found Regionwide; most observers mentioned their scarcity, but 100 were at Byron, Genesee 6 Sep (Joe Mitchell), and one at Raquette L., Hamilton, NY was the first local occurrence there in 20 years (GNL). A Piping Plover at Plum Beach, Brooklyn, NY 17 Oct (SBI) was late. Semipalmated Plovers peaked at 2000 at Brigantine 13-26 Aug (CJV); 171 Killdeers were at Franklin, Hunterdon, NY 20 Sep (FS). Peak counts of American Oystercatcher were 400 at Nummy I., Cape May 12 Oct (ID) and 450 at Jones Beach 12 Sep (PJL, SSM).

There was a substantial incursion of American Avocets, especially to w. New York: 5 were at Beaver Island S.P., Erie, NY 27 Sep (Debbie Sharon); 2 were at Dunkirk Harbor, Erie, NY 28 Sep (David Gordon); and singles

were at Montezuma 1-11 Sep (m.ob.) and Irondequoit Bay, Monroe, NY 27-28 Oct (Tom Nash et al.). In addition, there were 6 in s. New Jersey and 4 on Long I. until late Oct (m.ob.). Greater Yellowlegs peaked at 831 at Brigantine 5 Nov (JM, AM), and 6 Willets were at Moriches inlet 6 Sep (PJL, SSM), all Easterns. Seventy-five Western Willets were at Stone Harbor 4 Oct (KL) and 60 at Moriches inlet 13 Sep (PJL, SSM). Peak counts of Lesser Yellowlegs were 854 flying by Cape May 12 Sep (TL, DG et al.) and 500 at Brigantine the same day (VS). A Long-billed Curlew that flew past Hamlin Beach 12 Sep (AGu) provides the first upstate New York record since the nineteenth century, even though there has been an increase on the coast in recent years. About 12 Hudsonian Godwits were reported Regionwide, with a maximum of 5 at Brigantine 5 Sep (SB). Marbled Godwits continue to increase; about 45 were in New Jersey and Delaware, and one was n. to Jones Beach 12-13 Sep (SA). Peak counts of the declining Red Knot were 600 at Brigantine 22 Aug (VS), 460 at Wildwood, Cape May 12 Sep (DF), and 360 at Jones Beach 29 Oct-8 Nov (CW). Fifteen hundred Sanderlings were at Stone Harbor, Cape May 4 Oct (DF), and peaks counts of Semipalmated Sandpipers were 8000 at Brigantine 22 Aug (VS) and 3000 at Anderson Creek Marsh, Hudson, NJ (Neil Maruca). It was a big fall for Western Sandpipers (by recent standards): 400 and 500 were counted at Brigantine 26 Aug and 12 Sep (CJV, VS), respectively; 400 were at Stone Harbor, Cape May 22 Sep (J. Feenstra); 8 were on Long I. 22 Sep-7 Nov (SSM et al.); and singles were at Dunkirk Harbor, Erie, NY 10 Sep (DW) and Montezuma 11-12 Sep (KCG). An ad. Red-necked Stint at Brigantine 23 Aug (T. Bailey) would be a 3rd state and about a 12th Regional record. White-rumped Sandpipers totaled 120 at Brigantine 12 Sep (VS), and about 20 were found on Long I., for a below-average fall. Baird's Sandpipers were also scarce; there were about 5 in New Jersey, 2 on Long I., and 4 in upstate New York. Pectoral Sandpipers were exceptionally scarce, with fewer than 20 reported on Long Island. Dunlins peaked at 10,000 at Brigantine 24 Oct (WK) and 9950 at Jones Beach 29 Oct (TFI). Eighty-five Silt Sandpipers were at Brigantine 22 Aug (VS), 16 were at Jamaica Bay 14 Sep (SBI), and one was very late at Braddock Bay 18 Nov (DT). A below-average 35 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found throughout the Region. A Ruff was present for one day at Cape May 28 Aug (GD, CC), and another continued through 3 Aug at Taylor's Gut, Kent, DE (Judy Montgomery et al.). The peak of Short-billed Dowitchers was 3460 at Brigantine 22 Oct (MH),

and Long-billed Dowitchers were numerous and widespread: 150 were at Brigantine 10 Oct (MSG), up to 6 were at Tonawanda W.M.A. 25 Sep–16 Oct (MM et al.), one was at the Sullivan and Lenox Mucklands, *Madison*, NY 3-5 Sep (Tony Shrimpton, Kevin McGann), one was at the Coxsackie Grasslands, *Greene*, NY 24-30 Sep (RG), and finally one provided a local record late date at Darien Lakes S.P., *Genesee*, NY 26-28 Nov (Kyle Horton). There were about 10 Wilson's Phalaropes reported, including 4 at Brigantine 4 Sep (FS), 3 others in New Jersey, one at Taylor's Gut, *Kent*, DE 1 Aug (FR), and singles at Jamaica Bay 4-8 Sep (SA) and Montezuma 2-9 Sep (Dave Nutter). Fifteen Red-necked Phalaropes at Brigantine 11 Sep (W. Keim) was a large count on land; 10 were seen at sea off Lewes, DE 15 Sep (ES); and about 10 others were scattered through the Region. Single Red Phalaropes were seen at Buffalo, *Erie*, NY 28 Sep (Kurt Fox), at East Greenbush, *Rensselaer*, NY 15 Oct (Gordon Ellmers), and at Cole Creek S.P., *St. Lawrence*, NY 1 Nov (JSB).

There was an incursion of Black-legged Kittiwakes into the Region, mainly at the coast in late Nov, but these were preceded by several birds at inland locations. Along the s. shore of Long I., about 475 were counted 21-26 Nov (DFt, TWB, SA), and 8 were at Barnegat Inlet, *Ocean*, NJ 28 Nov (CJV). Two imm. were at Fort Niagara S.P. 5-9 Sep (DW et al.), and 2 were at Bogus Pt., *Monroe*, NY 9 Sep (DT). Four others flew by Derby Hill 28 Nov (BPU). An imm. Ivory Gull appeared at Cape May 27 Nov (Jim Dowdell, m.ob.) and lingered through 9 Dec; at the time, this was the southernmost record ever for the Atlantic coast and also the earliest one ever in fall s. of Newfoundland. The only previous records of Ivory Gull in New Jersey come from 3 Feb 1940, when Herb Cutler found a dead bird on the beach at Island Beach in *Ocean*; from 28 Jan–5 Feb 1955 at Manasquan Inlet; and from 10 Feb 1986 at L. Como, a bird that reappeared at Liberty S.P. 16 Feb. As many have suggested, the sudden recent increase in southerly records of Ivory Gulls is surely in some way related to the deterioration of their Arctic habitats. Single Sabine's Gulls were at Cape May 11 Oct (MO'B) and at Niagara Falls 31 Oct–1 Nov (WD'A, BP). Bonaparte's Gulls have declined substantially over the past 50 years; coastal wintering flocks have all but disappeared, and the maximum this fall at Niagara was a mere 6000 birds 28 Nov (Bruce DiLabio)—counts there 10 times higher than that used to be the norm. About 5 Black-headed Gulls and 8 Little Gulls were found Regionwide; these dwindling numbers may reflect cleanup of sewage outfalls, where the

biggest congregations in the Region once occurred. An aggregation of 1700 Laughing Gulls was at Montauk 17 Oct (SSM, PJJ), and a single imm. Laughing Gull was unusual inland at Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY 24 Oct (Anne Mitchell, Bob McGuire). An imm. Franklin's Gull at Hamlin Beach 30 Sep (RSp, R. Hartwig) was the only one reported. Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue their expansion to the n. and w. of their usual stronghold in the n. Philadelphia suburbs: 161 were on Merrill Creek Res., *Warren*, NJ 23 Sep (TV); 30 were on Long I. and Staten I. (SSM, SIW, SA); 5 or so were in the Niagara Falls area (MM); and 8 others were scattered across upstate New York. Two clearly different California Gulls were found around Niagara Falls: one ad. on 7 Oct (JP, WD'A) and another third-cycle bird 17 Oct (Joe Mitchell et al.). A Thayer's Gull was in the Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY area 6-10 Nov (TBJ, Carolyn Sedgwick). Seventeen Iceland and 5 Glaucous Gulls were reported in all.

Ten Bridled Terns were off Lewes, DE 15 Sep (ES et al.). Thirty-one Black Terns at Cape May 28 Aug (TL) was the only concentration reported. Roseate Terns have always been strikingly rare on the coast s. of e. Long I., but in recent years, they have been found seemingly more often s. to Cape May. Four were at Cape May 4 Aug–4 Sep (CJV, m.ob.), and 40 were seen from the beach at Easthampton, *Suffolk*, NY 12 Sep (AnW). An Arctic Tern was off Lewes, DE 20 Sep (ES). Post-breeding aggregations of Royal Terns included 181 at Cape May 12 Oct (TL) and 45 on Staten I. and Long I. in late Oct (SSM, SIW et al.). Six Sandwich Terns were at Cape May 6 Aug (CJV), and singles were at Cape Henlopen 1 Aug (FR) and Easthampton, Long I. 12 Sep (AnW). One thousand Black Skimmers at Great Egg Harbor, *Ocean*, NJ 18 Aug (DF), 750 at Nickerson Beach, *Nassau*, NY 2 Sep (BB), and 640 at Cape May 21 Sep (MO'B) were impressive flocks. Only 2 Pomarine Jaegers were reported: one at Montauk 8 Nov (SSM) and another at Hamlin Beach 25 Sep (RSp, WS). About 130 Parasitic Jaegers reported included 88 and 22 from the beach at Easthampton, Long I. 27 Sep and 3 Oct (AnW, HM), respectively; 12 off Cape May 8 Nov (PAG et al.); about 26 along the shores of L. Ontario; and about 12 from Cape Henlopen in Oct. Single Long-tailed Jaegers were seen at Cape May 12 Sep (CC) and off Lewes, DE 20 Sep (ES).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Two Eurasian Collared-Doves in Kingston, *Ulster*, NY 4 Oct (M. DeDea) were from a new locality, and 4 others were seen in their now

traditional haunts in Parma and Hamlin, *Monroe*, NY (DT et al.). The only White-winged Dove of the fall was one at Cape May 17-25 Sep (DF et al.). The strongholds of our Monk Parakeet population are in *Bergen*, NJ, where 26 were counted at their traditional spot 12 Oct (MB), and at Greenwood cemetery in Brooklyn, where 35 were present all fall. This was not a fall for Snowy Owls, but one was at Wappinger Falls, *Dutchess*, NY 15 Nov (Bonnie Fair), and another was banded at Hamlin Beach 27 Nov (T. McDonald). Thirteen Long-eared Owls were reported Regionwide, and 17 Short-eared Owls included 6-8 at Cape Vincent, *St. Lawrence*, NY in late Nov (JSB) and 8 at Genesee Community College 27 Sep (KCG). It was not a huge fall for Northern Saw-whet Owls, but 5 were heard calling (in response to tapes) at Cape May 6 Nov (MO'B), and 37 were banded in Wethersfield, *Wyoming*, NY 10 Oct–10 Nov (David Junkin). One hundred fifteen Common Nighthawks at Middle Run Natural Area, *New Castle*, DE 4 Oct (DS) were late for that many, and 1495 Chimney Swifts at the George Washington Middle School, *Bergen*, NJ 24 Sep (Kurt Muenz) seemed later than usual. Late Ruby-throated Hummingbirds included one female at Greece, *Monroe*, NY 22-27 Oct (KCG) and one captured at Fonda, *Montgomery*, NY 14 Nov (WY, RPY). An imm. male Rufous Hummingbird at Staten I., NY 4 Oct–28 Dec was captured to confirm the identification (HF, SIW, ETB, RRV). Additional Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds were at Cape May 28 Nov (SL, SG) and *Cumberland*, NJ 3 Nov (Carol Diamant). About 45 Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported Regionwide, and the peak of Northern Flicker migration appeared to be 825 at Cape May 25 Sep (TL). Three Black-backed Woodpeckers were seen on Masawepie L., *St. Lawrence*, NY 9 Sep (JSB), and 5 were found in the Adirondacks (GNL).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

An Eastern Wood-Pewee at Allegheny S.P., *Cattaraugus*, NY 1 Nov (TB) was a record late date for that area; the only later date for New York is a wood-pewee mist netted at Fire Island, *Suffolk* 15 Nov 1969. It seems worth pointing out when specifically identified Alder Flycatchers occur as migrants; 3 Alders were identified to species at Cape May 9 Sep (MO'B). A Least Flycatcher was very late at Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY 8 Nov (Mike Harvey). Two hundred Eastern Phoebes were estimated at Sandy Hook 25 Sep (Jin Schill), and 40 were at Liberty S.P., *Hudson*, NY the same day (SL). Only 2 Ash-throated Flycatchers appeared: one at Prime Hook 14-16 Nov for the 2nd Delaware record (Ken Bass et al.), the

other at Ozone Park, *Queens*, NY 14 Nov+ (R. Bedia, R. Aracil, H. Lopes, m.ob.). A Great Crested Flycatcher was carefully identified at Jones Beach 30 Oct (SA, KF, SSM). There were 11 Western Kingbirds this fall, all at the coast, with 6 on Long I., 4 in New Jersey, and one in Delaware. A peak of 840 Eastern Kingbirds was at Cape May 25 Aug (DF et al.). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen briefly at Sandy Hook 15 Sep (TR), and another was at Savanna, *Wayne*, NY 24-25 Oct (Doug Racine et al.) for a 3rd record for that area. A Loggerhead Shrike visited South Cape May Meadows 31 Aug-1 Sep (VE, TR), where coastal migrants have become extremely rare. Fewer than 20 Northern Shrikes were reported overall. Six Philadelphia Vireos at Prime Hook 20 Sep (BGP) was a large number for a single site/date, and the highest totals of Red-eyed Vireos were 50 at Cape May both 6 & 9 Sep (MO'B, MSG). Four Gray Jays were at Massawepie L., *St. Lawrence*, NY 19 Oct (JSB), and 9 others were reported in the Adirondacks (GNL). A Fish Crow at Greece, *Monroe*, NY 27 Nov (KCG) furnished a record late date for that recently colonized locality. Common Ravens continue to increase; about 17 were seen in New Jersey, and more significantly, about 10 on Staten I. and Long I.

An aggregation of 35,000 Purple Martins along the Maurice R., *Cumberland*, NJ 14 Aug (DF, Dave Lord) exceeds the maximum of 30,000 listed in *Birds of New Jersey* (1999), while counts of about 100,000 Tree Swallows at Brigantine 18 Sep (TR), Cape May 18 Oct (MSG), and Mauricetown 18 Aug (Cindy Ahearn) were more typical. An aggregation of 1290 Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Fort Niagara S.P. 7 Oct (JP, WW) appears to be a local record count, and 15 Cliff Swallows at Cape May 5 Oct (MO'B) and 2 at Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY 13 Oct (CLW, JHB) were late. There were fewer Cave Swallows reported than in previous falls; 4 unidentified *Petrochelidon* were at Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY 31 Oct (TBJ), 2 Caves were at Cape May 2-7 Nov (VE, MO'B), 73 were at Hamlin Beach 9 Nov (DT, MT), and 20 were at Cape May 21 Nov (DF). At least 9 Sedge Wrens were found away from nesting areas at Fort Drum (where they were last seen 9 Sep, JSB) 11 Sep-4 Nov, 5 of these in New Jersey, the rest in New York. A state record count of 2650 Golden-crowned Kinglets was made at Hamlin Beach 16 Oct (DT), and a backyard count of 241 Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Cape May 19 Oct was impressive (TL). One hundred and eighty-one Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Cape May 25 Aug was a large number (MO'B), and one at Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY 1 Nov (Chris Wiley, CLW) was late. A Northern Wheatear appeared at Richard W. DeKorte

Park, *Bergen*, NJ 16-17 Sep (John Workman, m.ob.), the only Regional occurrence this fall. A Townsend's Solitaire was at Merrill Creek Res., *Warren*, NJ 5 Nov (TV) for about a 10th state record and the 2nd one at that location in three years. Night monitoring of migrating thrushes produced several interesting counts this season. Veeries peaked at 1000 at Cape May 6 Sep (BF) and 55 at Tonawanda 12 Sep (Paul Hess). Thirty Gray-cheeked Thrushes passed over Cape May 30 Sep (MO'B) and 27 over Greece, *Monroe*, NY 4 Oct (RSp). Reports of calling Bicknell's Thrushes included 2 at Hamlin Beach 19 Sep (SSp), 2 at Greece, *Monroe*, NY 4 Oct, and 5 at Cape May 5 Oct (MO'B). A Bicknell's was banded at Braddock Bay 2 Oct. Swainson's Thrushes seemed scarce by comparison; the highest counts of were 25 at Cape May 30 Sep and 11 Oct (TR, MO'B) and 30 at Tonawanda 15 Sep (Paul Hess). The top count of Hermit Thrushes was 113 in Central Park, Manhattan 18 Oct (AF); a Wood Thrush at Central Park 22 Nov (DA et al.) was late. Indicative of the rather feeble passerine migration overall, numbers of American Robins were low, with the maximum from Cape May being just 12,000 on 4 Nov (DG) and the peak flight in *St. Lawrence*, NY occurring 21-25 Oct (JSB). A Sage Thrasher was found at Sandy Hook 20-21 Oct (Trailside Birding Club, SB) for the 5th New Jersey and 10th Regional record. At Cape May, 575 American Pipits were recorded at 25 Sep (GD). The peak of Cedar Waxwings was 2060 at Cape May 25 Sep (CC), and the only Bohemian Waxwings observed were 10 at Paul Smith's, *Franklin*, NY 5 Nov (Paul McAllister).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Five Golden-winged Warblers were seen in New Jersey, one in Delaware, and 2 on Long Island. A Lawrence's Warbler was in Prospect Park, Brooklyn 3 Sep (PD). Migrant Tennessee Warblers were more numerous than they have been recently; 12 were seen at Cape May 9 Oct (MO'B), 12 at Hofstra Park, *Passaic*, NJ 6 Oct (Stephen Brauning), and a late individual was at Pt. Lookout, *Nassau*, NY 22 Nov (JGI). About 55 Orange-crowned Warblers were found, and 20 Nashvilles at Lenoir Nature Preserve, *Westchester*, NY 25 Sep was a large count (TWB). A Yellow Warbler at Marshlands Conservancy, *Westchester*, NY 16 Nov (TWB et al.) was late, but there are three recent (since 2004) Dec records for New York. Cape May Warbler numbers appear to be elevated: reports of about 60 total included 20 on Long I., 10 in Delaware, and 17 at Cape May 14 Sep (CC). Black-throated Blue Warblers seem to be on the slow increase; 110 were in Cape May 14 Sep (CC). Some 20,000 Yellow-rumped War-

blers at Cape May 22 Oct (MO'B) was the unremarkable maximum for the fall. An Audubon's Warbler was well observed in Ithaca, *Tompkins*, NY 20 Oct (TBJ) for about a 20th state record. A Yellow-throated Warbler at Montauk 11 Oct (BR) was the only one n. of s. New Jersey. A Prairie Warbler at Westhampton, *Suffolk*, NY 22 Nov was late (Jim Clinton, Jr.), and 1000 Palm Warblers at Cape May 9 Oct made an impressive total (MO'B). Black-poll Warblers seemed disproportionately scarce relative to other warblers; the maximum count anywhere was 120 at Cape May 25 Sep (MO'B). Five Cerulean Warblers were found in New Jersey 8 Aug-1 Sep. Eleven Worm-eating Warblers at Cape May 13 Aug (CJV) was a large count. An Ovenbird in Central Park, Manhattan 22-24 Nov was late (DA). The only Kentucky Warbler was at Baldpate Mt., *Mercer*, NJ 31 Aug (Sharyn Magee). About 35 Connecticut Warblers were reported, with peaks of 6 and 4 at Cape May 14 Sep and 1 Oct (CC), respectively, while the Regional total for Mourning Warblers was about 23. North of New Jersey, about 10 Hooded Warblers were found on Long I.; of 2 in the Niagara region, one was late 25 Oct (MM).

A Summer Tanager at Ogden, *Monroe*, NY 28 Nov (Fran & David Colby) adds to the recently increasing list of late fall occurrences. A Scarlet Tanager at Prospect Park, Brooklyn 10 Nov (SBl, m.ob.) is not quite as unusual. Two Western Tanagers were found, both unusually early in fall compared to the historical record: one at Liberty Park, *Hudson*, NJ 5 Oct (SL) and the other at Jones Beach 26 Oct (Sam Jannazzo, Rob Jett). What was presumably the same Spotted Towhee that wintered last year returned to the feeder in Palmyra, NJ 28 Nov (WK, B. Filemyr et al.). About 40 Clay-colored Sparrows in the Region included about 25 on Long I. and 13 in New Jersey. Twenty-four Lark Sparrows included 9 on Long I. and Staten I. and 12 in New Jersey. By comparison, only 15 Vesper Sparrows were found on Long I. and in New Jersey, illustrating the substantial decline of this and other grassland-nesting species. The only Henslow's Sparrow reported this fall was one from the nesting grounds at Ft. Drum, *St. Lawrence*, NY 9 Sep (JSB). Two Le Conte's Sparrows were crisply photographed: one at Cape Henlopen 19 Oct (Chuck Fullmer), the other at Overpeck Creek, *Bergen*, NJ 27-28 Oct (A. Egan, RF, MB et al.). At least 6 Nelson's Sparrows appeared on Staten I. and Long I. 4-19 Oct, and 14 were found in the Genesee and Finger Lakes regions of New York in Oct. A single Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow was at Jacob Riis Park, *Queens*, NY 10 Oct (PJL, SSM).

Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were rather late: one at Mashomack Preserve, *Suffolk*, NY 15-28 Nov (Nick Hamblet) and another at Central Park, Manhattan 29 Nov+ (DA et al.). Four Blue Grosbeaks on Staten I. and Long I. 4-17 Oct made a low fall total. An Indigo Bunting at the Tift Nature Preserve, *Erie*, NY 8 Nov (WW) was record late for that locality. A Painted Bunting was at Prime Hook 22 Aug (Larry Riddle, ES), and another was at Huber Woods, *Monmouth*, NJ 12 Nov (Vincent Koczurik). About 22 Dickcissels appeared Regionwide in Sep and Oct.

A total of 4671 Bobolinks at Cape May 13 Sep (DG) is noteworthy, given the recent decline of this grassland species. Four Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in New Jersey 20 Aug-29 Nov and another at E. Quogue, *Suffolk*, NY 9 Oct (OB). It seems worth listing larger counts of Rusty Blackbirds, given their decline: 550 were at Livingston, *Columbia*, NY 26 Sep (WY); 330 were at India Creek Nature Center, *St. Lawrence*, NY the same day (JSB); 300 passed Hook Mt., *Rockland*, NY 9 Nov (Chad Whitko); and 225 were at Clay Marsh, *Onandaga*, NY 19 Oct (BPu). Winter finches were scarce this fall; only about 20 Purple Finches and 50 Pine Siskins were recorded on Long I., following the huge flight last fall. Reports of 13 Red Crossbills all came from upstate New York, and 2 White-winged Crossbills were noted: one at Mecklenberg, *Schuyler*, NY 3 Sep (Nancy Dickinson), the other at Fort Drum, *St. Lawrence*, NY 10 Nov (JSB). About 1023 American Goldfinches at Cape May 15 Nov (DG, TL) was still far below the vast numbers of last fall. Seventy Evening Grosbeaks were found in the Adirondacks, and singles were at Colden, *Erie*, NY 4 Nov (Jim & Karen Landau) and at Camden, *Oneida*, NY 11 Nov (BPu).

Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): Deborah Allen (Central Park, NY), Seth Ausubel, Scott Barnes (North Coast Region, NJ: Sandy Hook Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 553, Ft. Hancock, NJ 07732), Tim Baird, Jessie H. Barry, Gail Benson, Bob Berlingeri, Orhan Birol, Shane Blodgett, Michael Bochnik (Hudson-Delaware, NY: 86 Empire St., Yonkers, NY 10704), Jeffrey S. Bolsinger (St. Lawrence Region, 98 State St., Canton, NY 13617), Tom Boyle (TBo), Michael Britt, E. Thomas Brown, Thomas W. Burke, Barbara Butler (*Dutchess*, NY), Cameron Cox, Willie D'Anna, Ian Davies, Glen Davis, Peter Dorosh, Andrew P. Ednie, Vince Elia (South Coast & Delaware Bay Regions, NJ: CMBO R&E Center, 600 Rte 47 North, Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08120), Rob Fanning, Andrew Farnsworth, Ken & Sue Feustel, Howie

Fischer, Ted Floyd (TFL), Bob Fogg, Valerie Freer, Don Freiday (Cape May: CMBO R&E Center, 600 Rte. 47 North, Cape May Courthouse, NJ 08120), Doug Futuyma, Sam Galick, Mark S. Garland (Cape May, NJ), John Gluth (JGI), Doug Gochfeld, Anthony Gonzon, Kevin C. Griffith (Genesee Region, NY: 61 Grandview Lane, Rochester, NY 14612), Frank Guida, Paul A. Guris, Andy Guthrie, Rich Guthrie, Mary Harper, Tom B. Johnson (Finger Lakes Region, 150 Triphammer Road, Ithaca, NY 14850), William Keim, Bill Krueger, Robert J. Kurtz, Simon Lane, Laurie Larson (LLa; New Jersey), Gary N. Lee (Adirondack Region, NY; P.O. Box 302, 116 Limekiln Lake Road, Inlet, N.Y. 13360), Tony Leukering, Patricia J. Lindsay (Long Island and New York City: 28 Mystic Circle, Bay Shore, NY 11706), Al Martens, Hugh McGuinness (Eastern Long I., NY: P.O. Box 3005, Southampton, NY 11969), James Meyer, Charles Mitchell, Shaibal S. Mitra (Long Island and New York City: Biology Department, College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314), Mike Morgante (MM; Niagara Frontier region, NY: 59 Briar Hill Road, Orchard Park, NY 14127), Vince Nichnadowicz, Michael O'Brien, Jim Pawlicki, Bruce G. Peterjohn, John M. C. Peterson (Adirondack-Champlain Region, NY: 477 County Rte. 8, Elizabethtown, NY 12932), Betsy Potter, Bill Purcell (BPu; Oneida Lake Basin, NY: 281 Baum Road, Hastings, NY 13076), Rick Radis (NW New Jersey: 69 Ogden Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07866; isotria@verizon.net), Tom Reed, Forrest Rowland (FRw), Barbara Rubenstein, Larry Schachetti, Volker Schmidt, Micky Scilingo, Robert Scranton, Frank Sencher, Ed Sigda, Robert & Susan Spahn (RSp; Genesee Ornithological Society), Derek Stoner, W. Symonds, David Tetlow, Michael Tetlow, Christopher J. Vogel, Tom Vouglas, William Watson, Matt Webster, David Wheeler, Christina Wilkinson, Angus Wilson (AnW), Christopher L. Wood, Seth I. Woolney, Will Yandik (Hudson-Mohawk NY: 269 Schneider Road, Hudson, NY 12534), Peter Yoerg, Matthew A. Young (Susquehanna, NY: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850), Robert P. Yurnick, Louise Zemaitis. ☉

Richard R. Veit, Biology Department
CSI-CUNY, 2800 Victory Boulevard
Staten Island, New York 10314
(veitrr2003@yahoo.com)

Robert O. Paxton, 460 Riverside Drive, Apt. 72
New York, New York 10027, (rop1@columbia.edu)

Frank Rohrbacher, 5 Neva Court
Wilmington, Delaware 19810, (rohrbaf@aol.com)

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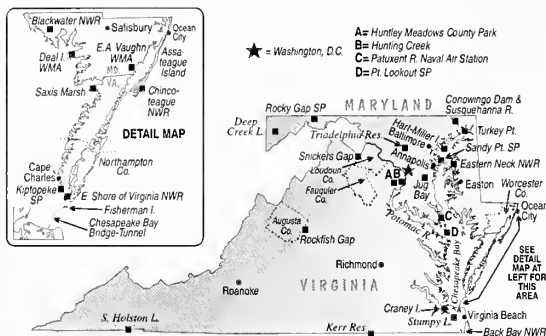
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**Mark T. Adams
Matt Hafner**

The Region experienced a warm fall with significant precipitation, especially in August and November. The Virginia coast, for example, received 30 cm of rain 12-14 August and another 8 cm on 22 August from Hurricane *Bill*, which passed 640 km to the east. By 1 October, the annual rainfall total was already 20 cm above normal at Norfolk. A memorable northeaster hammered the Region's already waterlogged coast 11-15 November. The remnants of Tropical Storm *Ida*, which underwent extratropical transition in the Gulf of Mexico just before making landfall near Dauphin Island, Alabama 10 November, moved eastward, and the energy from that storm then led to the formation of new low-pressure area over South Carolina, which moved off the coast of North Carolina the 11 November. Kept stationary off the mid-Atlantic states by a high-pressure system over New England, this storm delivered winds of up to 65 knots, up to 46 cm of rain, severe storm surge and flooding (exceeding in some areas that seen in Hurricane *Isabel* of 2003), wave heights up to 6 m along the coast, and extreme erosion in coastal areas. Several unusual mid-November observations, including a late Long-tailed Jaeger in Chesapeake Bay, were almost certainly connected to what the media dubbed "Nor'Ida."

Though migration of most birds along the coast was lackluster in the extreme, particularly Neotropical migrants and Arctic nesters (from shorebirds to sea ducks), the season held many other avian highlights: continuing Great White Heron and Roseate Spoonbill, a Wood Stork and a splendid Lesser Sandplover in the Shenandoah Valley, two Long-billed Curlews together, Maryland's second Say's Phoebe, and two Western Tanagers. A late martin in October, and a Warbling Vireo and Summer Tanager in November, raise interesting questions about possible vagrant species or subspecies. In addition to this report's many individual contributors, we thank

Adam D'Onofrio, YuLee Larner, Robert F. Ringler, and Bill Williams for their assistance in compiling and interpreting the season's records.

Abbreviations: Assat. (Assateague I., Worcester, MD); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); Craney (Craney I., Portsmouth, VA); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton, VA); Hart (Hart-Miller I., Baltimore, MD); Hog I. (Hog Island W.M.A., Surry, VA); Kipt. (Kiptopeke S.P., Northampton); Poplar (Poplar I., Talbot, MD).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A Greater White-fronted Goose at Willis Wharf, Northampton, VA 12 Oct (HTA) skirted the species' 11 Oct extreme early date; another visited Chestertown, Kent, MD 9-22 Nov (WEL, NM et al.). The first Snow Geese to arrive were at Eyre Hall, Northampton 20 Sep (one blue morph; NF), at E.S.V.N.W.R. 26 Sep (2; BW et al.), and at Chinc. 26 Sep (m.ob.). Single Ross's Geese were at Great Oak Pond, Kent 7 Oct-22 Nov (WEL, NM et al.), at Assat. 11 Oct (MH et al.), and at Worcester, MD 14 Nov (m.ob.). Seven Ross's Geese at Chinc. 7 Nov (AL) set a new Virginia peak count. Up to 9 Brant were recorded 7 Oct-8 Nov near Annapolis, MD (SA et al.), where the species rarely lingers in the Bay. A Brant at Piney Run, Carroll, MD 28 Oct-12 Nov (RFR et al.) established a 4th county record; one noted inland among several hundred Canada Geese at Hog I. 22 Nov (NF, EE) was unexpected. Noted nearly annually in late Sep and later, single Cackling Geese were at Western Regional Park, Howard, MD 25 Sep (RC et al.) and at Swoope, Augusta, VA 28 Oct (AL). A Canada Goose x Greater White-fronted Goose hybrid was at Dyke Marsh, Fairfax, VA 25 Oct (LM et al.). A flock of 11 Mute Swans passing over the E.S.V.N.W.R. at daybreak was an unexpected sight 26 Sep (RLAk et al.). A possible Trumpeter Swan was reported near Chincoteague, Accomack 28 Sep (*vide* ESB). The Tundra Swan that summered at Hart continued through 17 Aug (KGr et al.).

Single Eurasian Wigeon visited Kerr Res., Mecklenburg, VA 4 Nov (AD), Chinc. 7 Nov (AL), West Ocean City Pond, Worcester 7 Nov

(CBr), and Ridgeway Park, Hampton, VA 24-28 Nov (BC, NF, AF), the 13th consecutive year at the last location. An imm. male and a female Eurasian Wigeon were at Green Springs Greenway Trail, James City, VA 11 Oct (BW); an ad. male and female were at the same location 15 Nov (BW). A King Eider was at Ocean City Inlet, Worcester 29 Nov (JB et al.); an imm. male that summered at Poplar remained through 17 Aug (JR et al.). Common Eiders were at multiple locations beginning 1 Nov, hinting at the large numbers to come in the winter in Maryland. Notable counts included 17 at Ocean City Inlet, Worcester 29 Nov (m.ob.) and 10 at Fisherman Island N.W.R., Northampton 30 Nov (RLAk, CB). A female at Pt. Lookout S.P., St. Mary's, MD 29 Nov+ (JH), was extremely rare for the area. A Harlequin Duck was a nice find at Ocean City Inlet, Worcester 29 Oct+ (SD et al.). The 9 Surf Scoters summering at Poplar stayed through 14 Sep (JR et al.). Triadelphia Res., Howard/Montgomery, MD hosted 2 Surf, 2 White-winged, and 7 Black Scoters 29 Nov (JH et al.), and overall it was a good Nov for



A rare summer visitor to the mid-Atlantic states, this Wood Stork stayed at a farm pond near Woodstock, Virginia 20 (here 23) August through 7 September 2009. Photograph by Adam D'Onofrio.

inland scoter reports. Six Black Scoters at a private pond in Augusta 1 Nov (AL) established a first fall county record. Single Hooded Mergansers were at Amherst, VA 1 Aug (RB) and at Huntley Meadows, Fairfax 23 Aug (KG), probably local nesters rather than migrants from the north. Three Common

Mergansers were on the James R., Richmond, VA 30 Aug (JF); a lone female was at the same location 22 Sep (FE).

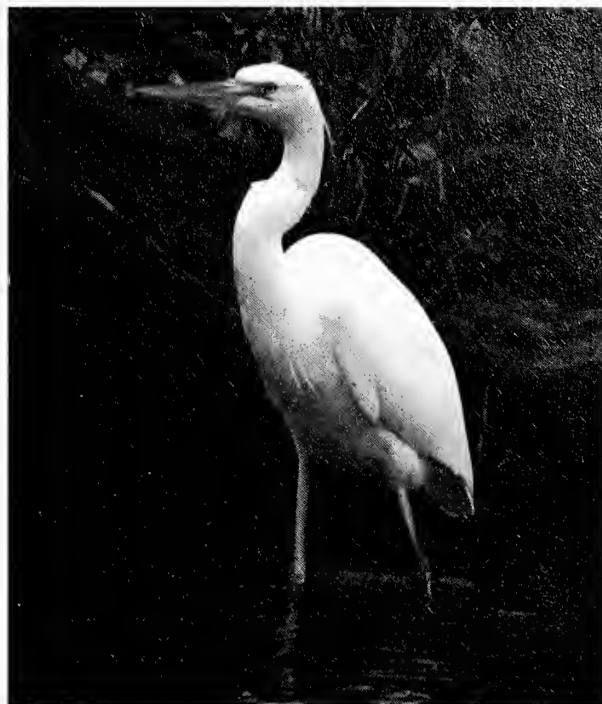
Inland, a Red-throated Loon was in Maryland at Triadelphia Res., *Howard/Montgomery* 11-24 Nov (JH et al.); singles in Virginia were at Willow L., *Rockbridge* 12 Nov (AMe), at L. Shenandoah, *Rockingham* 13 Nov (KH, ph. DW), and at Swoope, *Augusta* 12 Nov (AL). The sole Red-necked Grebe report came from Piscataway Park, *Prince George's*, MD 18 Nov (FF). Three Eared Grebes were at South Holston L., *Washington*, VA 14 Sep (WC) A single Eared Grebe was at Ocean City, *Worcester* 14-15 Nov (RFR et al.); another single visited a pond at Fisherville, *Augusta* 2-4 Oct (AL). A Western Grebe was an excellent find at Claytor L., *Pulaski*, VA 13 Nov (SBe et al.); reports of this species are on the increase in the Region, but documentation is often lacking, and because both Clark's Grebes and apparent hybrids have been recorded in the mid-Atlantic states, photographs are useful for confirming the identity of *Aechmophorus* in the Region. A Wilson's Storm-Petrel was seen on a Bay cruise near Wolf Trap Shoal lighthouse, *Mathews*, VA 16 Aug (GK&MAK); 15 were noted from shore at Scientists Cliffs, *Calvert*, MD 1 Sep (SHa, JM), rather far n. for this species in the Bay. A White-faced Storm-Petrel delighted birders on a *Worcester* pelagic 16 Aug (PG et al.). A Brown Booby was photographed on the beach at Assat. 3 Aug (ph. ND)—just two weeks after one had been photographed flying along the beach 14 km to the south.

Two American White Pelicans were at Craney 20 Aug–24 Sep (AM et al.; ph. BW); one at Blackwater N.W.R., *Dorchester*, MD continued from last winter and was joined by another 29 Nov (HTA). A Double-crested Cormorant near the Virginia/Kentucky border on the Levisa R., *Buchanan*, VA 20-22 Oct (ET, *fide* RM) provided a 2nd county record. Anhinga reports included 2 females at Stumpy L., Virginia Beach 22 Aug (AD) and one at Cavalier W.M.A., Chesapeake, VA 9 Nov (BK). An American Bittern settled into a pond behind a Wal-Mart in *Amherst* 23 Oct–2 Nov (MJ et al.). A Great White Heron visited a field near the confluence of the Clinch R. and Little R., *Russell*, VA 31 Oct (ph. TH); there are five previous records of this species from the Virginia Mountains & Valleys region, the last in Aug 2002. The black-billed Great Egret (called Great White Egret by area birders) was last seen at Chinc. 28 Aug (HTA, SH, WM). A late Great Egret was at Three Lakes Park, *Henrico*, VA 17 Nov (SR). Up to 4 Snowy Egrets, uncommon inland, were at Crewes Channel, *Henrico* 15 Aug–7 Sep (AB, AD, LBa); 6 were at Sutherlin

Mill Pond, *Pittsylvania*, VA 1 Aug (MF). A juv. Tricolored Heron visited Hog Island W.M.A. 1 Aug (AD, TT); 27 were still at Chinc. 21 Nov (DSt, *fide* AD). Single Cattle Egrets were noteworthy finds on the Piedmont at Triadelphia Res., *Montgomery* 20 Aug (BHi) and Hughes Hollow, *Montgomery* 25 Sep (AMa, JFi); another was on the seldom-birded Pamunkey Indian Reservation, *King William*, VA 9 Nov (FA). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Kipt. 12 Oct was getting late (HTA), as was a Green Heron at L. Biggins, Newport News, VA 25 Nov (DYo). The 428 White Ibis at Bull's Landing, *Northampton* 23 Sep (ZP) established a new high count for Virginia; the 32 White Ibis at Assat. 4 Sep (RG et al.) were unprecedented for Maryland. An imm. White Ibis at Little Seneca L., *Montgomery* 16-22 Aug (MS, m.ob.) was the only Maryland Piedmont record this year. A White-faced Ibis at Assat. 11 Oct (HH et al.) provided a first fall Maryland record and one of few Oct records for the East Coast. The Roseate Spoonbill discovered at Craney 28 Jul remained through 21 Sep (SM et al.). A rare summer visitor to the Region, an imm. Wood Stork stayed at a farm pond near Woodstock, *Shenandoah*, VA 20 Aug–7 Sep (ET, JL et al.).

RAPTORS THROUGH SKIMMER

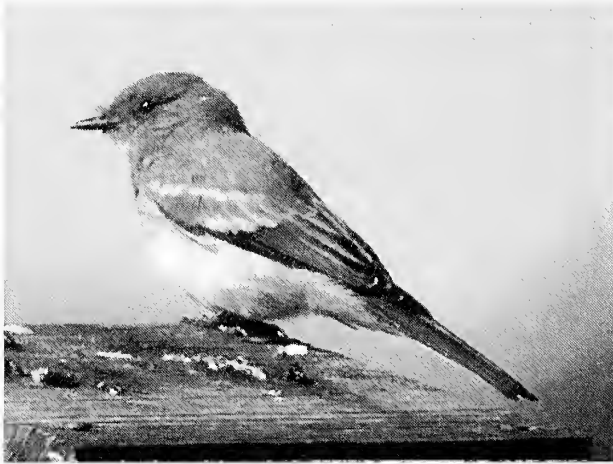
The 33rd Kipt. hawkwatch season total of 26,645 was the highest since 1999; highlights included new high counts for Red-shouldered Hawk (194) and for Bald Eagle (462), a late Broad-winged Hawk 21 Nov (CB, RLak), and a juv. light-morph Swainson's Hawk 5 Oct (CB et al.). A Swallow-tailed Kite soared over *Gloucester*, VA 22 Aug (JW); another was photographed at Hughes Hollow, *Montgomery* 4-5 Sep (AMa, LSc et al.). A Mississippi Kite



This Great White Heron along the Clinch River at Blackford in Russell County, Virginia 31 October 2009 was, remarkably, the sixth of its subspecies to be found in far southwestern Virginia. Photograph by Tom Hunter.

at Rockfish Gap, *Augusta* 29 Aug (BTe) furnished a 5th fall county record. Seven Northern Goshawks were recorded between the two hawkwatches in *Northampton* 7 Oct–22 Nov (ZP, CB, RLAn). Early Rough-legged Hawks were seen in *Northampton* 19 Oct (ZP) and the same day at Blackwalnut Pt., *Talbot*, MD (LR et al.). An early Golden Eagle at Taylor's I., *Dorchester* 19 Sep (AS, WB) was possibly the same bird as the one seen at Rigby's Folly, *Talbot* (LA) that day. More than half (894) of the 1654 Merlins recorded at Kipt. this season were sighted 17-26 Sep, with a high count of 311 birds on 25 Sep (CB, RLAn, HTA). A Merlin in *Amherst*, VA 16 Oct (MB, RB) was unexpected. A Sora was flushed from a flooded trail at Ragged Island W.M.A. 14 Nov (NF), and a mower flushed a Yellow Rail at Cambridge, *Dorchester* 16 Nov (ph. GJ). Two Sandhill Cranes flew over Brightwell Mill, s. *Amherst* 19 Sep (RB et al.); a flock of 25-30 crossed the Blue Ridge at Calf Mt., *Augusta* 1 Nov (RP) for a 2nd fall county record and the

SA The bird of the season was an apparent Lesser Sand-Plover that visited a small farm pond by a Days Inn in *Augusta*, VA 6-8 Sep (p.a.). Discovered by Allen Lerner and Ed and Nancy Lawler, the bird drew birders from across the Region and beyond. The Lesser Sand-Plover group breeds discontinuously across eastern Asia from the Himalayas to ne. Russia, rarely in Alaska. The taxonomy of this group is complex and unsettled, and identification of a vagrant can be challenging. Extensive discussion of Internet-circulated photographs indicated mostly support for Lesser as opposed to Greater, but the Virginia A.R.C. is still reviewing the record. Away from Alaska, the interior of the continent has records only from Alberta and Ontario, and the only confirmed coastal record e. of the Mississippi R. is from Louisiana.



Maryland's second Say's Phoebe spent just one afternoon at Chino Farms, Queen Anne's County on 5 October 2009. Photograph by Dan Small.

state's highest count. A single Sandhill Crane was at West Ocean City Pond, Worcester 11 Nov (KGr et al.).

Brisk northeasterly winds coupled with rain and drizzle were likely responsible for 1000 Black-bellied Plovers along Arlington Rd., Northampton 17-18 Oct (CB). Up to 5 Black-bellied Plovers were at locations around Montgomery 6 Aug-25 Oct (m.ob.); a single was at North Branch, Allegany, MD 18 Oct (JBC). Thirty American Golden-Plovers foraged in a freshly plowed field near Harrisonburg, Rockingham 17-18 Oct (MGi, *vide* WL); and 8 birds were seen 15 Nov in lower Northampton (BT), where very few were observed over the season. The latest golden-plovers were 7 at Eastern Neck N.W.R. 22 Nov (BH et al.). Rarely reported on the Bay side of Northampton in fall, a Piping Plover flew over Cape Charles 26 Sep (ESB); another was late at Assat. 7-14 Nov (ML et al.). Virginia's extensive coastal barrier island/lagoon system are home to large numbers of post-breeding American Oystercatchers. From 20 Aug-24 Oct, The Nature Conservancy and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries surveyed 85 roost sites from Chincoteague Bay, Accomack through Fisherman Island N.W.R.; the peak was 2175 on 18-24 Oct (AW, RBo). A single oystercatcher was a good find at Pt. Lookout, St. Mary's 11 Sep (ML). Three Black-necked Stilts were notable at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center, Queen Anne's, MD 1-3 Aug (TO et al.); the breeding pair at Craney was last seen with 4 fledged young 17 Sep (RBe, SD, BW). American Avocet numbers at Craney peaked at 55 birds 1 Oct (RBe, SD, BT); one was there 20 Nov (RBe, IC, SD, BT). Avocet numbers at Hart peaked at 10 on 24 Aug (EJS et al.), with sightings there through 19 Sep. Observers at Poplar recorded avocets through 13 Oct, with

a high count of 40 birds 17-27 Aug (JR et al.). Rare transients inland, 5 avocets were at Bell's Lane, Staunton, VA 8 Sep (MHo), and one was at Shirley Plantation, Charles City, VA 7 Sep (ph. LBa).

Two Solitary Sandpipers at Whittier Pond, Frederick, MD 31 Oct (AWi) were late. Reports of Upland Sandpiper in Virginia included one along Newby's Shop Rd., Culpeper, VA 7 Aug (TD), 3 at Woodward Turf Farm, Fauquier, VA 23 Aug (GK&MAK), and one at Craney 20 Aug (BW et al.). Maryland observers fared

better with this species, including a high Upland Sandpiper count of 15 birds in Dorchester 29 Aug (JB et al.). Two Long-billed Curlews were Elkins Marsh, Northampton 15 Sep (FS), a reliable site for one in recent years, but this is the first report of multiple birds in the Region in decades. One to 2 Hudsonian Godwits were reported from a half-dozen locations 3 Aug-26 Oct, almost all on the Coastal Plain; the most unexpected were 2 at Shirley Plantation, Charles City 18 Oct (ph. ABr). Marbled Godwits were reported in small numbers, one to 5 birds, at a half-dozen sites 3 Aug-14 Nov; one at Hog I. 9 Aug was locally rare (WL). Two Ruddy Turnstones at Hughlett Pt., Northumberland, VA 21 Aug (TS) were unusually far up the Bay.

Eight Red Knots were at Chinc 1 Oct (SB, *vide* AD), while in Maryland, one was at Poplar 3 Aug (JR) and one at Hart 24 Aug (KGr et al.), with multiple reports from Worcester: singles 1 Aug (BH) and 14 Nov (m.ob.), 3 on 21 Aug (JLS), and 5 on 10 Oct (JLS, EB). White-rumped Sandpiper reports came from Hog I. 29 Aug (AD, TT), Bell's Lane, Staunton 7 Sep (AL), Kipt. 14 Nov, and near Indiantown Park, Northampton 14 Nov (both AD, TT); the last reports in Maryland came from Worcester 14 Nov (m.ob.). Single Baird's Sandpipers were in Augusta 6 & 6-8 Sep (AL et al.), and one was at Chinc. 23-28 Aug (GB, LF, SHe, WM). Maryland had seven Baird's Sandpiper reports from five counties, with a high of 3 at North Branch, Allegany 28 Aug (BH). Four Dunlins were at Leonard's Pond, Rockingham 17 Oct; a single was there 2 Nov (WL). Another out-of-place Dunlin was in a Tazewell, VA pasture 11 Nov (TH). Stilt Sandpipers were at Shirley Plantation, Charles City 13 Sep (3; AB, ABr) and 18 Oct (one; ph. ABr); singles at Swoope, Augusta 24 Oct (AL) and at Leonard's Pond, Rockingham

1 Nov (WL) provided exceptionally late Piedmont records. Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at the Woodward Turf Farm, Fauquier 23 Aug (GK, MAK); another 2 visited Staunton View, Mecklenberg 6 Sep (PGI). Maryland Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports spanned 29 Aug-1 Oct, with a high of 4 at Murray Sod Farm, Worcester 7 Sep (MLH). A Short-billed Dowitcher at Fisherville, Augusta 1 Nov (AL) was very tardy. A Long-billed Dowitcher was a welcome find at a pond along Rte. 3, King George, VA 1 Nov (FA). A Wilson's Snipe arrived early at Crewes Channel, Henrico 27 Aug (AB). Peak Wilson's Phalarope counts included 5 at Craney 26 Aug (RBe et al.), with one remaining through 8 Oct, more than two weeks beyond their normal late date. Maryland's peak Wilson's Phalarope count of 5 came from Hart 3 Aug, and 3 remained through 7 Sep (EJS et al.). Red-necked Phalarope numbers at Craney peaked at an impressive 13 birds 3 Sep (AM et al.), with 5 birds as late as 17 Sep. A single Red-necked visited Chestertown, Kent 9-16 Oct (MH et al.), late for an inland record.

Four Pomarine Jaegers passed Ocean City Inlet 25 Oct (JLS), with one, plus an ad. Parasitic Jaeger, at Sinepuxent Bay, Worcester 14 Nov (JB, DS, MG). As the Nov northeaster began passing northward, a very late Long-tailed Jaeger was noted near Cape Charles harbor, Northampton 16 Nov (FS). Single Franklin's Gulls were reported in Maryland at Tyaskin, Wicomico 6 Oct (CBR), at Hydes, Baltimore 31 Oct (BH), at Upper Marlboro, Prince George's 4-6 Nov (FS et al.), and at Ocean City, Worcester 29 Nov (BH et al.). An imm. Little Gull was at the Salisbury Landfill, Wicomico 26 Oct (JLS); an ad. was at Kent Narrows, Queen Anne's 17 Nov (FM); and another ad. was nearby at Love Pt., Queen Anne's 29 Nov (JLS). The season's Black-headed Gulls included an ad. in D.C. on the Anacostia R. 20 Sep (PV); an imm. at Ocean City Inlet, Worcester 13 Nov (FJ et al.); and an ad. near Parramore I., Northampton 18 Nov (JR, FS). A second-cycle California Gull was at Great Oak, Kent 15 Nov (p.a., JLS, HH). A first-cycle Iceland Gull was at Oak Grove, Caroline, MD 22 Nov (GL). Some 280 Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Virginia Beach, VA 15 Sep (RLAk, *vide* GM) continued the trend of increasing numbers, now year-round. The Nov storm produced an unusual flight of gulls and terns moving northeastward (into the wind) over the town of Cape Charles 14 Nov, including a suprising juv. Black-legged Kittiwake with 32 Royal Terns (ESB). Royal Terns had been absent in the area for several weeks, and so the birds were likely displaced from farther s., as occurs during tropical cyclones

of similar intensity.

Six Caspian Terns were noted at Staunton View, *Mecklenberg* 6 Sep (PGL); another was on the Charlottesville Airport runway 15 Oct during heavy rain (ph. DSh). Scrutiny of excellent photographs of a medium-sized *Thalasseus* tern among 20 Sandwich Terns on the Virginia Beach oceanfront 9 Aug (ph. DW) indicated to most who viewed it that it was an ad. Elegant Tern (p.a.), though some dark markings in the bill and the bird's apparently small size in several photographs suggest hybrid derivation to others. A high count for recent seasons, 105 Black Terns visited Craney 3 Sep (RBe, SD, AM, BT, BW); 86 at Violette's Lock, *Montgomery* 21 Aug (DCz, R&MO) represented a very high inland count; and 50 at Staunton View, *Mecklenberg* 22 Aug (PGL) was a similarly impressive number. During Ake's surveys at Fisherman Island N.W.R., Black Skimmers peaked at 520 birds 16 Sep (RLAk); skimmers appear to stage here for a month or so, before migrating southward, usually in late Oct.

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

The season's only White-winged Dove stopped at a residential feeder for 15 minutes at Claytor L., *Pulaski* 27 Nov (ph. MM); the species is still quite rare in the Shenandoah Valley, though the coast reports the species annually now. The 16th consecutive Northern Saw-whet Owl research season in *Northampton* produced 30 birds 25 Oct–30 Nov (Center for Conservation Biology; SE), while 16 were netted in *Campbell*, VA 5–16 Nov (GS), including one banded in New Jersey 5 Nov 2006. Of the 247 owls netted by the *Campbell* station since fall 2002, 13 had already been banded. Of the 231 unbanded owls captured at *Campbell* prior to this fall, 9 have since been recovered elsewhere, including 2 owls recaptured at the Prince Edward Point B.O., Ontario. One banded at the *Campbell* station in fall 2007 was recovered in Alabama 27 Nov (GS). The Northern Virginia Teen Bird Club observed a leucistic Chimney Swift at Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax* 13 Sep (NN et al.) The last Chimney Swifts included a dozen birds over Williamsburg Landing, *James City* 30 Oct, tying the local late date (TA), and a lone bird the same day at Kipt. (CB). An *Archilochus* hummingbird was at Scientists Cliffs, *Calvert* 14 Nov (SS). A Rufous Hummingbird at Smithsburg, *Washington*, MD 18 Sep–29 Oct marked a first county record (*fide* DWe). A hatch-year male Rufous visited a private *Fairfax* feeder 17–23 Nov (PK, b. BPe). A *Selasphorus* hummingbird fed at a Lynchburg, VA feeder 25 Nov+ (TDa). Since 1995, the Lynchburg area has hosted 6 *Selasphorus*

hummingbirds, plus 10 unusual hummingbirds that could be identified to species: 8 Rufous, one Black-chinned, and one Calliope.

A rare but annual transient, at least a half-dozen Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen 5–15 Sep. Several observers commented that *Empidonax* flycatcher numbers were low. An ad. Acadian Flycatcher feeding 3 fledged young at Great North Mt., *Augusta* 1 Aug (AL) indicated late nesting there. A late Acadian Flycatcher was singing (!) along the Green Springs Greenway Trail, *James City* 27 Sep (BW). A Least Flycatcher at Dyke Marsh, *Fairfax* 8 Aug (PR, LC et al.) was very early and unusual at this location, while notably late Least Flycatchers were at Berlin, *Worcester* 14–16 Nov (JBC, DY et al.) and Foreman's Branch B.O., *Queen Anne's* 18 Nov (b. JG, DS, MG). A Say's Phoebe photographed at Chino Farms, *Queen Anne's* 7 Oct made just the 2nd Maryland record (DS et al.). An Ash-throated Flycatcher at Kipt. 1 Nov (CB, *fide* BT) was the only report of the season. Single Western Kingbirds were in s. *Northampton* 25 Sep (ESB; AD, TT), 14 Oct (CB), and 14 Nov (AD, TT et al.); others were at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, *Anne Arundel*, MD 29 Sep (TB) and at Assat. 15 Nov (TF, GKi). Daily counts of 34–58 Eastern Kingbirds over four mornings at Sunset Beach, *Northampton* 29 Aug–1 Sep (HTA) were much lower than in most Labor Day weekend watches here; 4 at the same location 25 Sep (ESB) were notable for the date. A molting Scissor-tailed Flycatcher stayed at Sudlersville, *Queen Anne's* 22 Aug–23 Sep (JR et al.)—sufficiently long to grow out its tail feathers!

At least 9 Loggerhead Shrikes were reported across the Region; one at Hagerstown, *Washington* 5 Aug–4 Sep was well observed (JGr et al.), while one at Stuart's Draft, *Augusta* 6–8 Nov (ph. BTe) was at the same location as in 2008. An ad. Northern Shrike returned for a 3rd year to Chino Farms, *Queen Anne's* 13 Oct+ (DS, MG et al.). A Warbling Vireo in Norfolk, VA 28 Nov was more than a month past the previous late date for this species on the Coastal Plain (DC); in such cases, photographs should be obtained, and w. subspecies should be carefully considered. A juv. Horned Lark in *James City* 23 Aug (BW) established a new local early date. A Purple Martin at Kipt. 25 Sep (RLAn, HTA, CB) exceeded that species' late date in Virginia by more than a week; an unidentified *Progne* martin was at E. A. Vaughn W.M.A., *Worcester* 16 Oct (SA). Though they typically vacate the Region by 10 Oct, Northern Rough-winged Swallows were reported into Nov at Kipt., the last on 20 Nov (CB). A Bank Swallow flying with Tree Swallows at Lyndhurst, *Augusta* 29 Sep (AL) established a

new late county fall date. One or 2 Cave Swallows were seen on the Coastal Plain on seven days 26 Sep+. Tardy Barn Swallows included 2 at Craney 29 Oct (RBe et al.); several at Kipt. 2 Nov (CB); and one there 22 Nov (CB, RLAK). The Red-breasted Nuthatch flight was anemic, with only scattered reports of one or 2 individuals. Two Brown-headed Nuthatches at Southern Park, *Charles*, MD 16 Aug (JHu et al.) provided a first documented county record. Four Brown-headed Nuthatches were notable at Smith Mountain L., *Bedford*, VA 25 Aug (TDa, RB). The Winter Wren at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., *Prince William*, VA 3 Oct (MR) was an early arrival. A Sedge Wren at Bell's Lane, Staunton 1 Oct (BTe) was just the 6th fall county record. A Marsh Wren in s. *Amherst* 27 Sep (RB et al.) marked the first county record since 1988. The 162 Ruby-crowned Kinglets banded at Foreman's Branch B.O., *Queen Anne's* 19 Oct (JG, DS, MG) made for an extraordinary day. Three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers lingered in Hopewell, VA 8 Nov, with at least one remaining until 28 Nov (ph. ABr). A Bicknell's Thrush at Finzel Swamp, *Garrett*, MD 19 Sep (JB et al.) was w. of presumed migratory pathways in the Coastal Plain. Two Bicknell's were banded at Kipt. 5 Oct (AG). An early Swainson's Thrush was detected as part of a strong thrush flight over Cape Charles, *Northampton* 1 Sep (ESB). Impressively large American Robin numbers wandered lower *Northampton* after mid-Oct, including up to 20,000 birds at Kipt. 26 Oct (CB).

The Foreman's Branch B.O. (JG, DS, MG) recorded a series of late warbler records including: a Yellow Warbler and a Chestnut-sided Warbler 20 Oct; a Blackpoll Warbler 4 Nov; and a Nashville Warbler 19 Nov. A very late Northern Parula was in Hopewell 22 Nov (ph. ABr). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler tarried at Monticello Park, Alexandria, VA 1–2 Nov (TAl). Three Palm Warblers were early at Skyland, Shenandoah N.P., *Page*, VA 6 Sep (SBa). Two late Blackpoll Warblers were in Hopewell 8 Nov (ph. ABr). A total of five Connecticut Warblers were seen Regionwide 14 Sep–6 Oct. A Summer Tanager at Weyanoke Sanctuary, Norfolk 3 Nov (NF) was more than a week beyond the previous extreme date, although there are winter records from feeders. A female Western Tanager was an excellent find at Shirley Plantation 8–15 Nov (ph. ABr); a Western Tanager at Kipt. 25 Nov (CB, BT) provided a first for well-birded *Northampton*.

An ad. Chipping Sparrow with 2 young at Stuart's Draft, *Augusta* 8–9 Sep (BTe) indicated unusually late breeding. Seven single Clay-colored Sparrows sightings spanned 5 Sep–14 Nov, including singles banded at E.S.V.N.W.R.



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8 & 11 Oct (JRu) and one that lingered at Meadowbrook Park, *Howard* 11-14 Nov (JWi et al.). Eight records of single Lark Sparrows were noted over the typical window of passage 30 Aug-4 Oct; one was w. of the Bay at St. Mary's City, *St. Mary's* 12 Sep (TB). A Grasshopper Sparrow at Sky Meadows S.P., *Fauquier* 1 Nov (SBa) was late, as was one banded at E.S.V.N.W.R. 7 Nov (JRu). The Center for Conservation Biology staff captured an impressive 32 Nelson's and 26 Saltmarsh Sparrows on Parramore I., *Northampton* 15 Nov (b. FS et al.). A Nelson's and 2 Saltmarsh Sparrows were at Ragged I., *Isle of Wight* 13 Oct (NF, EE); another Nelson's was there 14 Nov (NF). A White-throated Sparrow in nw. *Loudon*, VA 26 Sep (JC et al.) was quite early. A Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow at Assat. 7 Nov (ML et al.) was notable. Reports of Snow Bunting included 2 at Little Island City Park, Virginia Beach 31 Oct (EE, NF), one over Magotha Rd., *Northampton* 15 Nov (SB), and one at Kipt. 15-22 Nov (C&BF et al.; ph. BT).

An imm. Blue Grosbeak lingered at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., *Prince William* 25 Oct (MBo et al.). Dickcissels were recorded through Sep and into Oct in relatively small numbers, the latest at Assat. 23 Oct (RG et al.) and Occoquan Bay N.W.R. 25 Oct (MBo et al.). A Bobolink at Sky Meadows S.P., *Fauquier* 11 Oct (MR) was also getting late. An imm. male Yellow-headed Blackbird was trapped at Blairs Valley, *Washington*, MD 3-4 Aug (BE et al.); another imm. male was with 100+ Brown-headed Cowbirds at Craney 15 & 20 Aug (BW, BT et al.). Ad. male Yellow-heads were in *King George* 1 Nov (FA) and in *Culpeper* 26 Nov (TD). Flocks of about 250 Rusty Blackbirds were at the Rappahannock R., *King George* 14 Nov (FA) and at Great Dismal Swamp N.W.R., *Suffolk*, VA 25 Nov (NF). Excellent field notes and a sketch were submitted of a male Bullock's Oriole at Sycamore Landing, *Montgomery* 25 Nov (p.a., DCz). An ad. male and 3 female/imm. Red Crossbills were at George Washington N.F., *Augusta* 15 Aug and 28 Nov (ABr). Staff at a Wild Birds store in Midlothian, *Chesterfield*, VA enjoyed 4 White-winged Crossbills in nearby cedar trees 19 Nov (SEI, BB, LP), a remarkable record in a non-irruption year. Unlike last fall, only a few Pine Siskins were reported: "small numbers" visited Kipt. 6 Nov (RLAn, CB), and singles were at Claytor L., *Pulaski* 19 Nov (MM) and at feeders in the Blue Ridge, *Bote-tourt*, VA 26-27 Nov (NY).

Contributors: Robert L. Ake, Tom Albright (TAl), Robert L. Anderson, Henry T. Armistead, Liz Armistead, Tom Armour, Stan

Arnold, Fred Atwood, Lewis Barnett (LBa), Scott Barnes, Scott Baron (SBa), Bruce Bass, Ruth Beck (RBe), Tyler Bell, Wayne Bell, Stan Bentley (SBe), Mike Boatwright, Ruth Boettcher (RBo), Arun Bose, Mike Bowen (MBo), Ed Boyd, Calvin Brennan, Jim Brighton, Edward S. Brinkley, Carol Broderick (CBr), Rexanne Bruno, Allen Bryan (ABr), Greg Butcher, Larry Cartwright, J. B. Churchill, David Clark, Wallace Coffey, Joe Coleman, Ben Copeland, Ralph Cullison, Inge Curtis, Dave Czaplak (DCz), Thelma Dalmas (TDa), Todd Day, Shirley Devan, Nat Donkin, Adam D'Onofrio, Sam Dyke, Shannon Ehlers, Stephen Elliott (SEI), Walter Ellison (WEI), Elisa Enders, Frank Enders, Brian Eyler, Fred Fallon, Tom Feild, Jared Fisher (JFi), Alan Flanders, Nick Flanders, Chris & Betsy Foster, Mary Foster, Linda Fuller, Kurt Gaskill, Ann Gilmore, Maren Gimpel, Matt Gingerich (MGI), Paul Glass (PGL), Kevin Graff (KGr), Jim Green (JGr), Jim Gruber, Paul Guris, Ron Gutberlet, Matt Hafner, Sue Hamilton (SHa), Joe Hanfman, Sue Heath, Steve Hersey (SHe), Bill Hill (BHi), Ken Hinkle, Mark L. Hoffman, Hans Holbrook, Mae Houff (MHo), John Hubbell (JHu), Bill Hubick, Tom Hunter, Frode Jacobsen, George Jett, Mark Johnson, Bill Keith, Phil Kenny, Geraldine King (GKI), Glenn Koppel & Mary Alice Koeneke, Allen Lerner, Ed & Nancy Lawler, William Leigh, Jon Little, Jan Lockwood (JLo), Glen Lovelace, Mikey Lutmerding, Sam Maghee, Frank Marengi, Andy Martin (AMa), Nancy Martin, Roger Mayhorn, Tom McCary, Andy McGann (AMc), Will McPhail, Larry Meade, Alex Merritt (AMe), Joe Mihursky, Alex Minarik, GERALYN Mireles, Mark Mullins, Nicholas Newberry, Rob & Mike Ostrowski, Thomas Ostrowski, Bart Paxton, Bruce Peterjohn (BPe), Paul Pisano, Robert Plank, Leslie Pope, Zak Poulton, Jan Reese, Marc Ribauda, Sue Ridd, Robert F. Ringler, Les Roselund, Jethro Runco (JRo), Gene Sattler, Eugene J. Scarpulla, Lydia Schindler (LSc), Fred Shaffer (FSh), David Shoch (DSH), Dan Small, Fletcher Smith, Amanda Spears, James L. Stasz, Marty Stephens, Derek Stoner (DSt), Sherman Suter, Brian Taber, Ed Talbot II, Brenda Tekin (BTe), Ed Trelawny (ETr), Tina Trice, Peter Vankevich, Dave Wendelken, Dave Weesner (DWe), Alex Wilke, Jim Wilkinson (JWi), Bill Williams, Joyce Williams, Andy Wilson (AWi), David Yeany, Dave Youker (DYo). ☺

Mark T. Adams, 2300 Rocky Run
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901
(markadamsphd@yahoo.com)

Matt Hafner, 330 Orchis Road
St. Augustine, Florida 32086, (mh1920@aol.com)



Ken Blankenship Josh Southern

Deluge. Buckets. Cats and dogs. Call it whatever you like, precipitation in the Region this fall transcended “above average” and might be better described as “mind-boggling.” Portions of northern Georgia and western North Carolina were particularly affected: in mid-September, catastrophic 500-year flooding devastated metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, causing millions of dollars in damage and killing 10 people. By contrast, a patch of unusually dry conditions developed in the eastern Carolinas early in the season, but heavy rains associated with the remnants of Tropical Storm *Ida* in November erased the rainfall deficit there. Neither that system nor any hurricanes had a major impact on coastlines, pelagic waters, or their birdlife. Though the negative impacts of the heavy rains on the Region’s avifauna are not known, birds did respond to new “wetlands” that formed, especially in agricultural areas. Ponds and farm fields still recovering from years of drought were suddenly saturated, offering foraging grounds for many species, particularly shorebirds and waders; Georgia’s fifth Sabine’s Gull was a surprising visitor to a flooded sod farm.

Abbreviations: H.B.S.P. (Huntington Beach S.P., Georgetown, SC); M.N.W.R. (Mattamuskeet N.W.R., Hyde, NC); L.W.F.G. (Lake Walter F. George, Clay, GA); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC).

WATERFOWL THROUGH WADERS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were observed in several locations away from traditional strongholds, including evidence of breeding: up to 28 ads., juvs., and ducklings in Baker, GA 1 Aug–13 Sep (WS, m.ob.); 30+ in Jasper, SC 2 Oct (DF); and 2 ads. with 10 ducklings on Ossabaw I., GA 12 Oct (NF; ph. RC); not surprising but significant was a high count of 75 at Altamaha W.M.A., GA 10 Oct (BL). Single Snow Geese were unseasonable in Morgan, GA 23–27 Aug (PM, m.ob.) and Eagle

Springs, NC 28 Aug–10 Sep (MM), while 31 migrants were notable over Reed Bingham S.P., GA 7 Nov (WS). Among several reports of the species, a Ross’s Goose in Madison, GA 8 Sep (MMc) has remarkably been resident since Feb 1999. Only one Cackling Goose was reported, at Pocosin Lakes N.W.R., NC 29 Nov (RD). Three Mute Swans were present at the S.S.S. 7 Aug–13 Oct (SC, EC), and a Tundra Swan was early in Augusta, GA 21 Nov (LS). Among five sightings of Eurasian Wigeon from North Carolina was an early male in eclipse plumage at Pea Island N.W.R. 19 Sep (ph. JL). A male Ring-necked Duck at Vogel S.P., GA 3 Aug (ph. VD) may have spent the summer there. At Jekyll I., St. Simons I., and Sea I., GA, massive flotillas of diving ducks appeared mid-Nov+, including up to 1200 scaup (both Greater and Lesser) 27 Nov (BZ et al.) and 7500 Black Scoters 15 Nov (NF et al.). An influx of Common Eiders was first noted 6 Nov with an ad. male at Pea I., NC (RD) and 2 imms. at South Bald Head I., NC (MD), followed by 2–5 at Sea I., GA 7 Nov+ (BF, m.ob.); there were multiple records from four additional sites in the Carolinas through the end of the period. There were several inland reports of Surf, White-winged, and Black Scoters; one Long-tailed Duck was at Jordan L., NC 29 Nov (RM et al.). Four Red-breasted Mergansers at H.B.S.P. 1 Aug (ST) apparently spent the summer there.

A single Plain Chachalaca was seen briefly on Sapelo I., GA 5 Oct (LW), where a small introduced population persists. A keen kayaker took note of a vagrant Western Grebe on L. Oconee, GA 6 Nov (ph. WK), only the state’s 3rd well-documented record. Eared Grebes returned to the S.S.S., with up to 4 present 29 Nov+ (SC). Pelagic birding off Hatteras, NC was fairly productive, with several notable observations. A high count of 400+ Cory’s Shearwaters was recorded 21 Aug (BPI), while a Manx Shearwater 16 Aug was uncommon for early fall (BPI). A White-faced Storm-Petrel was an excellent observation 17 Aug, as was

an ad. White-tailed Tropicbird 6 Sep (BPI). Arriving ever earlier in fall, and increasing in winter, up to 8 American White Pelicans that apparently summered at M.N.W.R., NC (RD) were nonetheless remarkable; equally impressive, especially for the inland locale, were 90 flying over Cobb, GA 18 Oct (SZ), while 174 were at the S.S.S. 12 Nov (SC). Single inland Brown Pelicans were in Macon, GA 3 Aug (TM) and at L.W.F.G. 27 Aug (WC), with 3 at the latter location 21 Nov (KB et al.). Anhingas again lingered far inland: one in Clayton, GA 2 Aug (CL et al.), and 2 in Mecklenburg, NC 19–21 Sep (JSc, JB). A juv. Magnificent Frigatebird was spotted off Edisto Beach, SC 9 Oct (JGi). Two Great Egrets were still lingering in Greene, GA 29 Nov (PWS, BBL), and a flurry of Tricolored Herons appeared inland: one in Berrien, GA 2 Aug (WS); 10 at Jordan L., NC 22 Aug (TD et al.);



One of several indications of the species’ continued expansion was this family of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks on Ossabaw Island, Georgia 12 October 2009; this provides was the first breeding record for this location. Photograph by Rachel Cass.



The presence of up to three Mute Swans at South Carolina’s Savannah Spoil Site 7 August (here) through 13 October 2009 suggested possible expansion from established populations farther north. Photograph by Ellie Covington.

and up to 5 in Baker, GA 21 Aug–8 Sep (WS). Reports of Reddish Egrets were numerous, including one still as far n. as Carteret, NC through the end of the period (CA, PG et al.). A Green Heron was very late in Bartow, GA 15 Nov (ph. RC).

The pink tsunami rolled right into fall,



Providing one of the southernmost reports of Common Eiders in the Southeast in fall 2009 was a group at Sea Island, Georgia; a first-winter male and two females were present on 27 November (here). Photograph by Rachel Cass.



Smartly photographed by an observant kayaker on Lake Oconee, Georgia 6 November 2009 was this Western Grebe, making the state's third well-documented record. Photograph by Walter Knapp.



The unprecedented post-breeding expansion of Roseate Spoonbills showed no sign of abating in fall 2009, with multiple reports of over 100 individuals. Two juveniles graced Huntington Beach State Park, South Carolina on 14 October (here). Photograph by Jerry Kerschner.

with Roseate Spoonbills appearing all along the coast and at many inland locations; significant observations included: one far inland in *Catawba*, NC 11-12 Aug (MP, DM); 63 in *Colleton*, SC 15 Aug (*vide* ND); a new state high count of 103 in *Glynn*, GA 3 Sep (GW); an astounding 372 at the S.S.S. 9 Sep (SC); and the northernmost report of 2-3 at *Pea Island N.W.R.* 16 Sep–20 Oct (JR, LW). Though post-breeding dispersal of Wood Storks was average, there were several records of note: a juv. in *Person*, NC 12 Aug (DC); a high count of 414 at the S.S.S. 9 Sep (SC); 2 juvs. at *Pee Dee N.W.R.* 10 Sep (SCa); and 2 very late

birds in *Greene*, GA 25 Oct (PWS).

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

Independent "vulture watches" on 18 Oct produced 1500 Turkey Vultures over *Clarke*, GA (JM, RH) and 1030 over *Cobb*, GA (SZ); both counts surpass the previous state high count. An impressive 135 Swallow-tailed Kites foraged over *Long*, GA 2 Aug (GW, SW et al.); the high count of 43 Mississippi Kites came from *Newton*, GA 21 Aug (MF). A summering Northern Harrier was again seen at *Bodie I.*, NC 2 Aug (JL); the species occasionally nests on or near the coast in that state. Rare visitors to s. reaches of the Region were 2 imm. Golden Eagles: at *Lake Russell W.M.A.*, GA 7 Nov (VL) and at *Piedmont N.W.R.*, GA 29 Nov (MMc). A single Black Rail was viewed at close range at *Bear I.*, SC 31 Oct (MB), while at least 6 continued in *Greene*, GA through Aug (PWS); a Virginia Rail was an interesting find in the mts. of *Union*, GA 18 Oct (JFI). A Purple Swamphen was a most unexpected find at the *Glenville W.T.P.*, GA 21 Nov (ph. GW), hundreds of kilometers n. of established populations of this exotic species in s. Florida. As many as 40 Purple Gallinules of various ages were tallied at *Savannah N.W.R.*, SC 1 Sep (BBr, SB), while Common Moorhens again nested in *Clayton*, GA, with 5 ads. and 3 juvs. observed 11 Aug (CL); an extraordinary count for the piedmont was 47 at the latter location 17 Nov (CL). As expected, the vast majority of southbound Sandhill Crane reports came from nw. Georgia, with a maximum of 1300 over *Carter's L.* 26 Nov (MMe).

Among an above-average number of inland Black-bellied Plover sightings was an impressive count of 875 at *M.N.W.R.*, NC 25 Oct (RD) and a late individual inland in *Henderson*, NC 11 Nov (WF); likewise plentiful were American Golden-Plovers, with a maximum of 59 in *Henderson*, NC 20 Sep (WF). A Snowy Plover again appeared on *Ocracoke I.*, NC 15

Sep (SM); interestingly, one was in the same spot 17 Sep 2008. A count of 99 Wilson's Plovers was recorded on *Cumberland I.*, GA 22 Aug (D&PL), an important staging area for this declining species. Significant Piping Plover observations included 117 on *Portsmouth I.*, NC 18 Aug (DA) and 16 in *Pender*, NC 8 Nov (GG), 6 of which were banded members of the Great Lakes population. American Oystercatchers stacked up on *Wolf I.*, GA during migration, with cumulative counts of 300+ late Aug–Sep (BW); bands indicated that individuals were from breeding populations in Georgia, Massachusetts, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, and Virginia (BW). There were six inland sightings of American Avocets, while the high count was a staggering 1014 at the S.S.S. 30 Oct (SC, EC), almost certainly the most ever recorded in the Region at one site. A handful of Western Willets popped up inland, including a high count of 5 at *Carter's L.*, GA 2 Aug (MMc et al.). Upland Sandpipers were widely reported, with maxima of 20-40 again coming from the reliable sod farm in *Marshallville*, GA in mid-Aug (m.ob.). Single Long-billed Curlews appeared on *Portsmouth I.*, NC 18 Aug (DA) and *Little St. Simons I.*, GA 14 Sep (CM); the high count of 6 was at the latter location 27 Oct (TK). Quite surprising were 15 Hudsonian Godwits feeding in a deep rain pool in *Rodanthe*, NC 8 Sep (BP); the high count of 150 Marbled Godwits came from *Wolf Island N.W.R.*, GA 27 Oct (TK). There were four inland reports of Ruddy Turnstones.

The mouth of the *Altamaha R.* in coastal Georgia is likely one of the most critical staging areas on the s. Atlantic coast for migrating Red Knots, as attested by the 6000-8000 there 18 Sep (ph., tBW, TK); 5000 were observed feeding on *Wolf Bar* and *Little Egg Island Bar* the next day (BW). An inland flock of 104 Semipalmated Sandpipers was noteworthy at *Carter's L.*, GA 2 Aug (MMc et al.), as were 1100 Western Sandpipers on *St. Simons I.*, GA 31 Oct (JM). Among numerous White-rumped Sandpiper observations was a high count of 9 at *Falls L.*, NC 25 Aug (DL); a sought-after species generally only found in the Region in fall, Baird's Sandpiper was found in all three states, with a maximum of 4 in *Orangeburg*, SC 30 Aug (PS, JB et al.). A Sharp-tailed Sandpiper reported from *Craven*, NC 31 Aug (tRHo) would represent a first state record if accepted. The first Purple Sandpiper was noted at the reliable n. beach of *Tybee I.*, GA 13 Nov (NL et al.). Among many Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports were two sightings of this "grasspiper" on beaches: at *Topsail Beach*, NC 9 Sep (ph. AM) and at *Bird I.*, GA 12 Sep (CM et al.). A juv. Ruff was

SA There is continued concern that management changes recently implemented at Mattamuskeet N.W.R., North Carolina may effectively eliminate appropriate shorebird habitat at this site, which is known to be a critical staging area for thousands of migratory shorebirds. In an apparent move to appease local businesses and boaters, water levels will no longer be allowed to drop during periods of low precipitation, preventing mud flats from forming (*vide* RD). Years of data support the site's great importance for birds, including a wide array of species; typical of peak migration were these 25 Oct counts (RD): 10 American Golden-Plovers, 123 American Avocets, 450 Greater Yellowlegs, 4100 Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Whimbrels, 2 Hudsonian Godwits, 21 Marbled Godwits, 15 Red Knots, 17 White-rumped Sandpipers, 2 Baird's Sandpipers, 620 Pectoral Sandpipers, 3800 Dunlins, 340 Stilt Sandpipers, 280 Long-billed Dowitchers, and 275 Caspian Terns. Continued monitoring of the site may reveal the impact of higher water levels on these birds.

at M.N.W.R., NC 27-28 Aug (DL, ph. AI, m.ob.). Up to 22 Long-billed Dowitchers frequented Altamaha W.M.A., GA 10 Nov+ (KB et al., NF, m.ob.). A Wilson's Phalarope was in Baker, GA 2 Aug (JFI); a remarkable 32 were in Georgetown, SC 23 Aug (ND, WH); and 12 were at the S.S.S. 31 Aug (SC). Single Red-necked Phalaropes were at the Archie Elledge W.T.P., NC 24 Aug (CC, ph. JH) and in Forsyth, GA 22-23 Sep (JFI, m.ob.), while 2 inland Red Phalaropes were quite a surprise in Athens, GA 15 Oct (ph. RH).

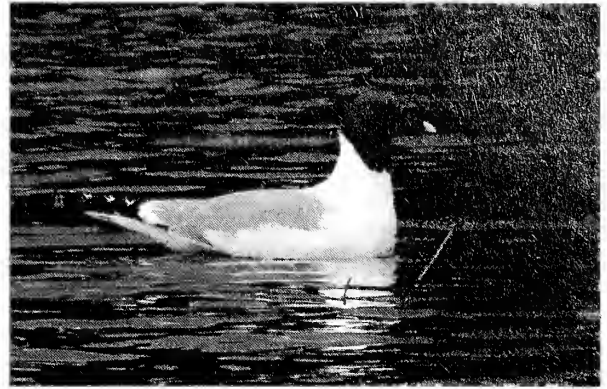
An ad Sabine's Gull foraging in a flooded sod farm field stunned observers in Murray, GA 22 Sep (JSp, m.ob.); it provided the state's 5th record. Three Black-headed Gulls were noted: in Sanderling, NC 29 Oct (BWA); at the S.S.S. 12 Nov (EC, ph. SC); and at M.N.W.R. 29 Nov (RD). Among eight inland Laughing Gull reports were matching high counts of 5 in Marshallville, GA 21 Sep (WC) and at Falls L., NC 12-29 Oct (BBo, m.ob.). An imm. Franklin's Gull was early at West Point L., GA 29 Sep (WC), while an ad. was at M.N.W.R., NC 25 Oct (RD). A total of 27 Lesser Black-backed Gulls provided an excellent tally at St. Simons I., GA 12 Oct (JS). Both Sooty and Bridled Terns were present in good numbers off Hatteras, NC in mid-Aug, including many ads. with juvs. in tow (BPI). A Least Tern was still at Surfside Beach, Horry, SC 23 Sep (PWS). Among 102 Gull-billed Terns in Carteret, NC 9 Aug, only 4 were juvs., a disturbing post-breeding ratio for this beleaguered species (JF). Tucked in amidst several dozen Common Terns on St. Simons I., GA was an Arctic Tern 6 Sep (+KB, JM et al.), providing the first onshore fall record for that state; a pressure

gradient producing stiff easterly and northeasterly winds for many hours previous was almost certainly related to the presence of this highly pelagic species.

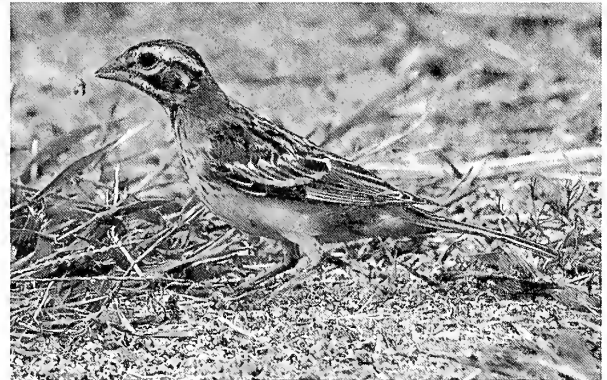
DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Single White-winged Doves were in Charleston, SC 29 Nov (ph. ND) and Glynn, GA 22-26 Nov (GK). A Short-eared Owl was a good find in Muscogee, GA 24 Oct (WC), while another was locally rare in the mts. of Graham, NC 1 Nov (TH). A nocturnal survey detected 34 Whip-poor-wills at Oconee W.M.A., GA 7 Sep (JFI), likely representing a new state high count. Two Chimney Swifts in Rocky Mount, NC 15 Nov (RD) were a peculiar sight for such a late date. As expected, winter hummingbirds popped up primarily later in the season: a Black-chinned Hummingbird on James I., SC 31 Oct+ (JW); a Calliope Hummingbird in Seven Lakes, NC 17-21 Nov (ph. D&LD, *vide* SuC); and among early Rufous Hummingbirds was a male returning for the 6th year to Carolina Shores, NC 2 Aug (JO, *vide* SuC).

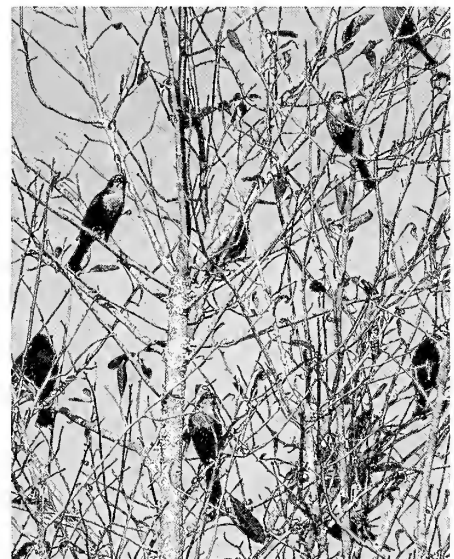
There were five sightings of Olive-sided Flycatcher, a species that is more often encountered in fall than in spring. An Alder Flycatcher mist-netted and subsequently identified in Charleston, SC in mid-Sep (CS) provided a long-anticipated first state record. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was photographed in Tattnall, GA 19 Oct (ph. GW), and another was in Carteret, NC 1 Nov (JFe, JF). Five records of Western Kingbirds was slightly above average, most of these photographically documented. An Eastern Kingbird was late in DeKalb, GA 20 Oct (DV). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a one-day wonder on Jekyll I., GA 8 Oct (ph. LT). Rare away from breeding areas, Warbling Vireos were detected in Habersham, GA 13 Sep (JFI) and Muscogee, GA 30 Sep (AC). Six sightings of Common Ravens at different sites in the w. piedmont of North Carolina attest to the species' continued expansion there. Two Northern Rough-winged Swallows were quite late at Sunset Beach, NC 28 Nov (TP). The annual eastward Cave Swallow pilgrimage began with one inland at Augusta, GA 24 Oct (AW, ph. LS);



A surprising one-day wonder was this striking adult Sabine's Gull, which was found foraging in flooded fields in Murray County, Georgia on 22 September 2009. It provided only the fifth record for the state. Photograph by Darlene Moore.



This early-arriving juvenile Lark Sparrow from the summer season remained in Cobb County, Georgia until 8 August 2009 (here). Photograph by Rachel Cass.



Spotted by keen field trip leaders on 11 October 2009 were three Yellow-headed Blackbirds in a large flock of blackbirds at the Altamaha Wildlife Management Area, Georgia. Photograph by Rachel Cass.

subsequently, more appeared on or near the coast: 13 on Cedar I., NC 27 Nov (SWi); one at Sunset Beach, NC 28 Nov (TP); and one in Washington, NC 29 Nov (RD). A count of 23

SA The "migrant trap": a phrase that conjures up the names of famous barrier islands, capes, points, and . . . tiny green spaces surrounded by skyscrapers. Such was the setting of a late fall event that unfolded in downtown Atlanta, Georgia. Beginning in late Oct, biologist Nathan Farnau of the Georgia Aquarium began monitoring the very limited habitat in adjacent Centennial Olympic Park (C.O.P): young maples, oaks, crape myrtles, holly bushes, fountains, and open lawns. Central Park, New York City this is not: the full extent of the habitat can easily be covered in less than an hour.

What first appeared to be an isolated anomaly of a few late warblers soon became a diverse array of species in the park (Table 1), with photographs indicating that some individuals lingered for many days, while others were one-day wonders, e.g., a Chestnut-sided Warbler 3 Nov; a Wood Thrush 7 Nov (KB); and a very surprising Black-throated Green Warbler on the very late date of 1 Dec. Other species remained for weeks in varying abundance, sometimes in considerable numbers: 3 Ovenbirds 6 Nov; 5 Common Yellowthroats and 5 Tennessee Warblers 29 Nov; and 3 each of Black-and-white and Hooded Warblers on several dates.

The late Nov and early Dec records exemplify an impressive yet puzzling phenomenon: one after another, species began to establish exceedingly late autumn departure dates for the entire state of Georgia. Such new records included: Ovenbird 29 Nov; Black-throated Green Warbler and Hooded Warbler 1 Dec; Nashville Warbler and Summer Tanager 6 Dec (GKo); and American Redstart 8 Dec. Several interesting non-passerines were also observed: on 4 Nov, an American Woodcock wobbled around under bushes between a picnicking family and a busy street, while on 14 Nov (JG, m.ob.), a slumbering Whip-poor-will perched just feet over the heads of hundreds of passing urbanites. Whatever the cause of this phenomenon, local birders will be keen to see if it occurs again in 2010!

Table 1. Records of late or otherwise unusual migrants in Centennial Olympic Park, Atlanta, Georgia, autumn 2009. Observations began 23 October and were last made on 12 December. High counts recorded on only one date are indicated parenthetically.

Species	First Date	Last Date	High Count
American Woodcock	4-Nov	4-Nov	1
Whip-poor-will	14-Nov	15-Nov	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3-Nov	3-Nov	1
Blue-headed Vireo	4-Nov	14-Nov	1
Hermit Thrush	23-Oct	8-Nov	4 (11 Nov)
Wood Thrush	7-Nov	7-Nov	1
Tennessee Warbler	1-Nov	4-Dec	5 (29 Nov)
Orange-crowned Warbler	8-Nov	20-Nov	1
Nashville Warbler	24-Nov	6-Dec	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3-Nov	3-Nov	1
Magnolia Warbler	1-Nov	29-Nov	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	7-Nov	14-Nov	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	19-Nov	19-Nov	2
Black-throated Green Warbler	1-Dec	1-Dec	1
Pine Warbler	12-Nov	16-Nov	1
Palm Warbler	23-Oct	18-Nov	3 (9 Nov)
Bay-breasted Warbler	7-Nov	25-Nov	1
Black-and-white Warbler	29-Oct	1-Dec	3
American Redstart	23-Oct	8-Dec	2
Ovenbird	22-Oct	29-Nov	3 (6 Nov)
Common Yellowthroat	22-Oct	4-Dec	5 (29 Nov)
Hooded Warbler	23-Oct	1-Dec	3
Wilson's Warbler	6-Nov	14-Nov	2
Summer Tanager	23-Oct	6-Dec	1
Savannah Sparrow	4-Nov	4-Nov	1
Swamp Sparrow	1-Nov	7-Nov	3
Dark-eyed Junco	28-Oct	20-Nov	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	29-Oct	7-Nov	1



Wilson's Warbler, 8 November 2009. Photograph by Darlene Moore.



Common Yellowthroat, 1 December 2009. Photograph by Gene Koziara.



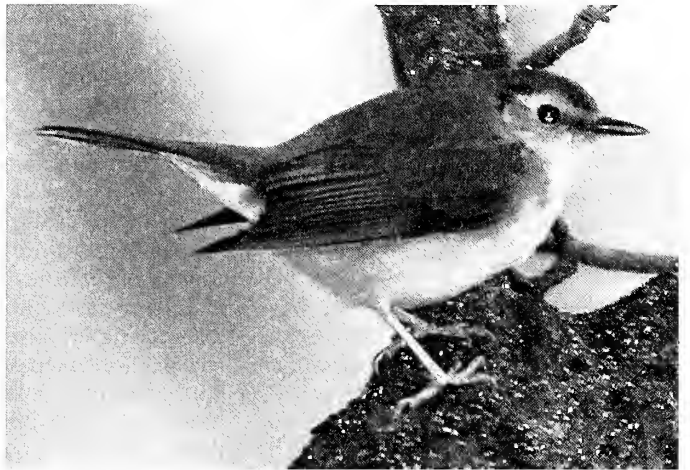
Magnolia Warbler, 29 November 2009. Photograph by Giff Beaton.



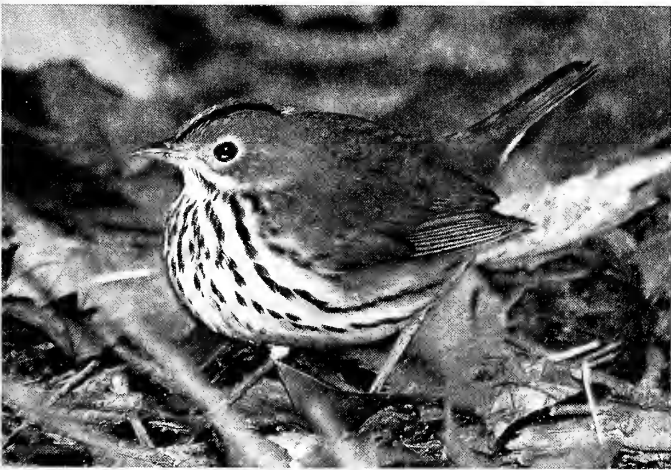
Black-throated Green Warbler, 1 December 2009. Photograph by Gene Koziara.



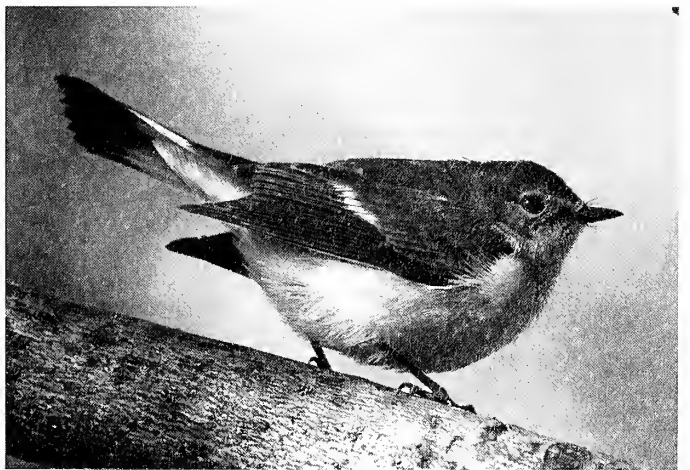
Black-throated Blue Warbler, 13 November 2009. Photograph by Darlene Moore.



Hooded Warbler, 29 November 2009. Photograph by Giff Beaton.



Ovenbird, 1 November 2009. Photograph by Rachel Cass.



American Redstart, 1 December 2009. Photograph by Gene Koziara.



This juvenile Baird's Sandpiper (left) with Least and Pectoral Sandpipers in Morgan County, Georgia 18 September 2009 provides fine documentation of a scarce fall migrant in the Southern Atlantic region, where virtually all records refer to juveniles. Photograph by Joel McNeal.

Winter Wrens along the Cook's Trail, *Clarke*, GA 21 Nov (JM) was impressive: it is over half the state high count, which was recorded on a C.B.C. Sedge Wrens were likewise numerous at Eufaula N.W.R., GA, as 15 revealed themselves 23 Nov (KB et al.).

Good news for the declining Golden-winged Warbler was final approval of a plan to restore open oak woodlands through selective logging, controlled burns, and herbicide use on Brawley Mt. in the Chattahoochee N.F., the only remaining breeding site in Georgia (NK); the project had been stalled for years due to negotiations over environmental concerns. Georgia had three records of Brewster's Warbler this season; this hybrid between Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers is emblematic of the deep challenges for Golden-winged conservation. A whopping 200+ Northern Parulas were tallied in just half a day's birding at M.N.W.R., NC 20 Sep (RD), while a count of 40+ Yellow Warblers on Wolf I., GA 18 Sep was surprising for the date (GB). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was superbly photographed in *Gilmer*, GA 9-12 Nov (ph. RB, m.ob.), the state's 5th record. A Yellow-throated Warbler was quite late at Carter's L., GA 17 Nov (MMe). Rare in fall, and even more so inland, a Blackpoll Warbler was a surprise in *DeKalb*, GA 10 Sep (JS, HG). A Black-and-white Warbler may have been a wintering bird in *Greene*, GA 29 Nov (PWS, BBl), while a Worm-eating Warbler must have been chilly, still lingering in the mts. of *Union*, GA 1 Nov (BB). A Northern Waterthrush at L. Phelps, NC 24 Nov (BBo) may have been a wintering bird. A Connecticut Warbler was quite a rare find at Henderson Park, *DeKalb*, GA 14 Sep (HG), and another was in *Buxton*, NC 6 Oct (H&EL); an

early Mourning Warbler turned up in *Winston-Salem*, NC 27 Aug (PD).

There were eight reports of Clay-colored Sparrow, an annual but elusive species that also winters locally in small numbers. Among five reports of Lark Sparrow, a very early bird in *Cobb*, GA was present until 8 Aug (SA, ph. RC). A migrant Henslow's Sparrow turned up at the Chattahoochee River N.R.A., *Cobb*, GA 25-29 Oct (PM et al., HG), while one was at the annual wintering site at Paulk's Pasture W.M.A., GA 16 Nov (NF). A transient Le Conte's Sparrow was a good find at Falls L., NC 31 Oct (BBo), while 2 were found in *Henry*, GA 19 Nov+ (JS, HG). Rarely observed inland, a juv. Nelson's Sparrow was a nice find in *Murray*, GA 6-20 Oct (JP). Still increasing in the Region are Lincoln's Sparrows, exemplified by 11 reports this season. A White-throated Sparrow heard singing in *Cobb*, GA since 4 Jul and finally spotted 1 Aug (Wsk) was quite unexpected. A Lapland Longspur was on Pea I., NC 7 Nov (RD), while 2 were in *Halifax*, NC 15 Nov (RD). A Summer Tanager was late in *Manteo*, NC 7-8 Nov (JL et al.). A Western Tanager was in *Charleston*, SC 1 Nov (ph. ND); a male Western at feeders in *Forsyth*, GA 5 Nov (RT) was perhaps the same individual seen there in Feb 2009. A significant count of 63 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks came from *Roan Mt.*, NC 23 Sep (RK). Dickcissels remained numerous at two breeding stations: 13 on Moss Rd., *Gordon*, GA 4 Aug (JSp) and 10 in *Carteret*, NC through late Aug (JF). A lone Bobolink was somewhat early in *Bartow*, GA 22 Aug (KB et al.), while 3000 had plenty of company in *Carteret*, NC 6 Sep (RMc et al.). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at a feeder in *Morehead City*, NC 8 Sep (ph. JM); 3 were picked out of a line-up of mixed blackbirds at *Altamaha W.M.A.*, GA 11 Oct (PWS, ph. RC,

m.ob.); and up to 2 were present in *Calhoun*, SC 26-29 Nov (ND, AN). Red Crossbills bred on Bald Ridge Knob, NC, where pairs were observed throughout the period, with a high count of 25-30 ads. and fledglings 30 Aug (MW et al.). Pine Siskins began to trickle into the Region Oct+, in stark contrast to the epic invasion of last fall.

Contributors: David F Abbott, Clyde Adkins, Sue Aughey, Sandy Beasley, Giff Beaton, Betty Belanger, Michael Bernard, Bill Blakeslee (BBl), Ken Blankenship, Brian Bockhahn (BBo), Brenda Brannen (BBr), Roy Brown, John Buckman, Steve

Calver, Susan Campbell (SuC), Rachel Cass, Walt Chambers, Ellie Covington, David Cox, Annie Crary, Carol Cunningham, Ricky Davis, Vicki DeLoach, Nathan Dias, Phil Dickinson, Dick & Lois Dole, Tom Driscoll, Maureen Dewire, Nathan Farnau, Jack Fennell (JFe), Bill Flatau, Jim Flynn (JFI), Wayne Forsythe, Mark Freeman, John Fussell, Hugh Garrett, Paula Gillikin, Jason Giovannone (JGi), Gilbert Grant, Johnnie Greene, John Haire, Richard Hall, Robert Holmes (RHO), Tom Howe, Willy Hutcheson, Ali Iyob, Gene Keferl, Tim Keyes, Nathan Klaus, Walter Knapp, Alan Kneidel, Rick Knight, Gene Koziara (GKo), Carol Lambert, Vanessa Lane, Doris & Patrick Leary, David Lenat, Jeff Lewis, Henry & Elizabeth Link, Nan Lloyd, Bill Lotz, Sidney Maddox, Angela Mangiameli, Dwayne Martin, Patty McLean, Michael McCloy, Trey McCuen, Ross McGregor (RMc), Joel McNeal, Mark McShane (MMc), Max Medley (MMe), Robert Meehan, Kathy Miller, Charlie Muise, Ann Nolte, Jo O'Keefe, Monroe Pannell, Johnny Parks, Brian Pateson/Brian Pateson, Inc. (BPI), Taylor Piephoff, Jay Ross, John Scavetto (JSc), Wayne Schaffner, Paul Serridge, Jeff Sewell, Wayne Skelton (Wsk), Chris Snook, Joshua Spence (JSp), Lois Stacey, Paul W. Sykes, Jr. (PWS), Stephen Thomas, Lydia Thompson, Rusty Trump, Dan Vickers, Linda Ward, Anne Waters, Ben Watkins (BWA), John Weinstein, Marilyn Westphal, Gene Wilkinson, Sean Williams (SWI), Sheila Willis, Brad Winn, Lorene Winter, Bob Zaremba, Stacey Zarpentine. 📍

Ken Blankenship, 3774 Tulip Tree Road
Marietta, Georgia 30066, (kenhblankenship@comcast.net)
Josh Southern, 4100-A Reavis Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27606
(joshsouthern79@gmail.com)



**Bruce H. Anderson
Andy Bankert**

Compared to recent hurricane seasons, Florida's fall was rather benign. August ushered early "cool" fronts into northern regions on the 13th and 23rd, bringing with them a few early migrants. In between those fronts, the first of our two tropical storms, *Claudette*, began as a stalled low-pressure area off the central Gulf coast, then traveled northwesterward, arriving at Pensacola on 17 August with 43-knot winds and without any reports of pelagic species. September brought mostly southerly winds to the Region, and Neotropical migrants were slow to arrive. On 30 September, a strong front swept across the Gulf, bringing thunderstorms and pushing trans-Gulf migrants into Florida's peninsula in numbers higher than usual. October began unremarkably, with continuing southerly winds; rainfall amounts and temperatures were near normal until the 16th, when frost and freezing temperatures extended into the northern regions, the result of an early cold front. This system brought some Neotropical migrants into the state and a large movement of hawks through the panhandle. Then, on 31 October, another strong "cool" front approached from the west, causing a wave of winter visitors to arrive as well as some western vagrants. The second of our tropical storms, *Ida*, traveled up the middle of the Gulf, making landfall near the Mississippi/Alabama border on 10 November with winds of about 43 knots. From there, *Ida* became a tropical depression and turned eastward, traversing the panhandle, big bend, and northern peninsula, and finally exiting into the Atlantic. Like *Claudette*, *Ida* had little observed effect on pelagic species. The best finds this season were Neotropical Cormorants,

Say's Phoebe, Tropical and Cassin's Kingbirds, Green-tailed Towhee, Lark Bunting, and Western Meadowlark.

Abbreviations/definitions: big bend (the part of Florida between the Apalachicola R. and Jefferson); FLMNH (Florida State Museum of Natural History, Gainesville); Fort Zachary Taylor (Fort Zachary Taylor Historic S.P., Key West, Monroe); L. Apopka (L. Apopka Restoration Area, Orange unless otherwise stated); panhandle (that part of Florida from the Apalachicola R. through *Escambia*); Paynes Prairie (Paynes Prairie Preserve S.P.,

Alachua); record (only those reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence); report (any observation); S.T.A. (Stormwater Treatment Area); S.T.F. (Spray Treatment Fields).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks showed no signs of stopping their expansion, with one at Ft. Walton Beach S.T.F., *Okaloosa* 19-20 Sep (DW) and 20 at Alligator Lake Park, Lake City, *Columbia* 1 Oct (BAh). Most Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were reported near L. Okeechobee at Harney Pond Canal, *Glades* (33 on 19 Sep; DS) and L. Apopka (730 on 15 Nov; HR), with 10 at T. M. Goodwin W.M.A., *Brevard* 6 Aug (Tye Anderson) and 4 at Myakka River S.P. 13 Nov (Mark Crawford). Geese were in low numbers, with 2 Greater White-fronteds at Southwood, *Leon* 23 Nov+ (m.ob.) and at least 15 Snows statewide, with a high count of 6 at Canaveral N.S., *Brevard* 6 Nov (DS, MH). Early waterfowl included a Gadwall at Pelican Island N.W.R., *Indian River* 17 Oct (AB); a Blue-winged Teal 7 Aug, a Northern Shoveler 28 Aug, and 2 Ring-necked Ducks at L. Apopka 25 Sep (HR); and 8 Lesser Scaup at Merritt I., *Brevard* 9 Aug (DF). One Eurasian Wigeon was at Merritt Island N.W.R. 14 Nov+ (PH), where the species is almost annual, whereas one at L. Seminole throughout the season was *Pinellas's* first (Steve Prevuznak, RoS). Strong northerly winds on the Atlantic were apparently responsible for the southward passage of 1800 Green-winged Teal off Canaveral N.S. 6 Nov (DS, MH). Rare were 2 Common Eiders at Ft. Clinch S.P., *Nassau* 6 Nov (JK). Two Surf Scoters remained at Bald Point S.P., *Franklin* throughout the summer through 2 Aug (JM), and 3 were s. to Boynton Beach Inlet, *Palm Beach* 7 Nov (BrH). A White-winged, Flori-

da's rarest scoter, visited Opal Beach, *Escambia* 28 Nov (L&RAD). Two Black Scoters were reported on the Gulf s. to at Honeymoon Island S.P., *Pinellas* 13 Nov (DG et al.); 2 on the Atlantic were s. to Biscayne Bay, *Miami-Dade* 25 Nov (RT), while an amazing 120 were as far s. as Boynton Beach Inlet 7 Nov (BrH). Eight Buffleheads in Biscayne Bay 30 Nov (RT) and a Common Goldeneye on the Halifax R., Port Orange, *Volusia* 11 Nov (MBr) were s. of their usual ranges.

A Common Loon was early at Caladesi Island S.P., *Pinellas* 1 Aug (Jim McGinity). Returning to Yamato Scrub Natural Area, Boca Raton, *Palm Beach*, where a Least Grebe pair made history in 2008 as Florida's first known breeders, was a loner 15-24 Sep (John Shelly, Nathaniel Stuart, m.ob.). Up to 11 American Flamingos were at Everglades N.P., *Monroe* 28 Sep at their usual Snake Bight haunts (BR). Of the Cory's Shearwaters reported, one found 69 km off St. Petersburg 24 Oct (Corey Allen et al.) was *Pinellas's* first, and 1200+ off *Volusia* 27 Sep (MBr, BW) were noteworthy. Also off *Volusia*, Brothers and Wallace tallied 75 Greater Shearwaters, 4 Audubon's Shearwaters, a Masked Booby, and 3 Brown Boobies 27 Sep. Other boobies included 24 Browns at Fowey Rocks Light, *Miami-Dade* 24 Sep (RT) and singles at the St. Johns County Pier 30 Oct (MH, Andrew Thornton), Canaveral N.S. 21 Oct (MH), and Stump Pass S.P., *Charlotte* 29 Nov (DGo, Wes Biggs). Two Brown Boobies and one Masked Booby were seen in *Okaloosa* as Tropical Storm *Ida* approached the coast 9 Nov (DW), and one Masked was at Cocoa Beach, *Brevard* 24 Sep (*vide Hyta Mederer*). Very rare on the Atlantic in the United States, an imm. Red-footed Booby was found at Miami Beach, *Miami-Dade* late Sep and taken to a rehabilitation facility (*vide RT*); after its release, the bird continued to return to roost at the site of its release, where it was seen by many. A Northern Gannet at Matanzas Inlet, *St. Johns* 9 Aug was early (MH et al.). Just two years after the first state record, Florida's 5th and 6th Neotropical Cormorants were at St. Marks N.W.R., *Wakulla* 7 Sep+ (CM, m.ob.) and Viera Wetlands, *Brevard* 30 Nov-3 Dec (Tom Dunkerton, DF, m.ob.). About 200 Great Blue Herons were noted heading s. over Tomoka S.P., *Volusia* 1 Sep in groups of 3-18 (MW). Birders visiting St. Marks N.W.R. were treated to up to 5 White-faced Ibis 7 Sep-15 Nov (CM, m.ob.), and one at Bartram Farms 11-12 Nov was *St. Johns's* first (MH et al.). Notable were high counts of 600 Roseate Spoonbills inland at Duda Farms, Belle Glade, *Palm Beach* 5 Sep (Br&JH) and 147 n. at Amelia R., *Nassau* 22

Aug and 19 Sep (PL). A Wood Stork at Ft. Pickens, Gulf Islands N.S., *Escambia* 4 Nov (L&RAD) was unusual that far west.

A Swallow-tailed Kite at L. Okeechobee, *Glades* 19 Sep was late (DS), as was a Mississippi Kite at Boca Chica Key, *Monroe* 24 Oct (CG). A rare White-tailed Kite at Bailey Tract, *Hillsborough* 13-16 Aug (DGo et al.) was w. of its breeding range. A Northern Harrier and an American Kestrel at Ft. De Soto Park, *Pinellas* 15 Aug (Don & Loraine Margeson) were early, as was a Sharp-shinned Hawk at L. Apopka 12-23 Aug (HR). A Harris's Hawk of unknown provenance was a one-day wonder at Cedar Key, *Levy* 20 Oct (Dale Henderson); a favorite of falconers, this species has been found in Florida before, but none have been considered to be of wild provenance. Broad-winged Hawks were rare in the cen. peninsula in migration; 2 were at Sebastian Inlet S.P., *Brevard* 17 Oct+ (AB), with singles at Ft. De Soto Park 22 Oct+ (RoS et al.), *Astatula*, *Lake* 1 Nov (ph. PH et al.), and Merritt I. 4 Nov (DF). Single Short-tailed Hawks were n. of their known breeding range in *Alachua* at San Felasco Hammock Preserve S.P. 11 Aug (Grace Kiltie) and Newnans L. 23 Aug (Philip Simmons et al.). Swainson's Hawks are regular only in the extreme se. peninsula and the keys, where 13 were reported this season; singles near Green Cove Springs, *Clay* 17-19 Oct (Lenore McCullagh) and at Gulf Breeze, *Santa Rosa* 18 Oct (L&RAD) were unexpected, as were 10 at the Ft. Walton Beach S.T.F. 18 Nov (AH et al.). A Golden Eagle at Viera Wetlands 27 Nov (MH et al.) was the only report of this rare but almost annual visitor.

RAILS THROUGH JAEGER

Heard only were 3 Black Rails at Marsh Restoration Project area, Tomoka S.P. 19 Sep (Laura Ostapko, MW) and one at Robinson Preserve, *Manatee* 17 Oct (Dan Irizarry). Six Limpkins, including 4 imms., at Jacksonville, *Duval* 5 Aug (JoH, DR) were n. of their known breeding range. Without strong easterly winds this season, the only American Golden-Plovers were one near Belle Glade 29-30 Aug (AB et al.), 2 near North Key, *Levy* 1 Oct (P&DL), and one at L. Apopka 8-11 Nov (HR). Rare and local along Florida's Atlantic coast, a Snowy Plover was found at Nassau Sound, *Duval* 11 Nov (PL) for the 10th consecutive year. A high count of 28 Piping Plovers was made at Talbot Island S.P., *Duval* 20 Sep (Laura Johannsen). A Solitary Sandpiper at Blue Cypress L., *Indian River* 4 Nov (DS) was late. A Western Willet and 26 Ruddy Turnstones were inland near Belle Glade 5 Sep, as was a Sanderling 29 Aug (AB et al.). Upland Sandpipers, Whimbrels, and Long-

billed Curlews were all reported in greater numbers than usual. At least 7 Long-billed Curlews were scattered along the Gulf coast, where only 2-3 are reported in most years. A Marbled Godwit at The Villages, *Sumter* 15 Nov was unusual inland (JD). The highest count of Red Knots along the Gulf coast was 690 at Shell Key, *Pinellas* 19 Sep (RoS, LS). Only 11 White-rumped Sandpipers visited four locations; 4 at the Ft. Walton Beach S.T.F. 9 Nov (DW) were the latest reported. Very few Baird's Sandpipers have ever been documented in Florida, and of four reports this season, one at Brough Road Sod Farm, *St. Johns* 3-8 Sep (MH) and another at Ft. Pickens 12 Oct (RAD) were well documented. Up to 4 Pectoral Sandpipers lingered at Paynes Prairie through 5 Nov (Caleb Gordon et al.), as did a Stilt Sandpiper at Ft. Walton Beach S.T.F. 24 Nov (RAD). Buff-breasted Sandpipers passed through in average numbers, with a high of 8 at Avon Park, *Polk* 21-26 Sep (DS et al.). A Ruff reported at Navarre Beach, *Santa Rosa* 12 Sep was the 2nd for the panhandle (RAD et al.), and another on Virginia Key 18-19 Sep (ph. RD) was the 2nd for *Miami-Dade*. Thirteen Wilson's Phalaropes were reported, with one late at S.T.A.5, *Hendry* 14 Nov (CE). Four Red-necked Phalaropes were off *Volusia* 27 Sep (MBr, BW), 3 off *Sarasota* 3 Oct (CF), and a juv. ventured inland to Brown's Farm Road, Belle Glade 5 Sep (AB et al.).

Single Sabine's Gulls were at Canaveral N.S. 19 Sep (MH), Ponce Inlet, *Volusia* 22 Oct (ph. MBr), and Virginia Key 5 Nov (RT). Franklin's Gulls were in higher numbers than usual, with 12 individuals recorded from 10 localities along both coasts; the earliest were 22 Oct at both Ponce Inlet (MBr) and Ft. Lauderdale Beach, *Broward* (RuT), the latest 27 Nov at Santa Rosa County Landfill (L&RAD). Both black-backed gulls are increasing on the Gulf, with reports of Lesser Black-backs from seven *Pinellas* locations (m.ob.), including 4 in *Collier* (Mark Johnston), and one at Boca Grande Key, *Monroe* (DS) and 6 Great Black-backs from *Escambia* to *Collier* (m.ob.). A pelagic trip off *Volusia* turned up 15 Bridled, 300 Sooty, 6 Roseate, and 1000 Common Terns, plus a Brown Noddy 27 Sep (MBr, BW). In the Gulf, a Bridled Tern was reported from Siesta Key, *Sarasota* 12 Nov (V. Ponzio, M. Heinlen), and a Sooty Tern was found moribund at Ft. Pickens 20 Sep (L&RAD, *FLMNH). A Gull-billed Tern at St. Augustine, *St. Johns* 25 Nov (MH) was late, as were 3 Black Terns at Tampa Bay, *Pinellas* 3 Nov (KT, MG). A flock of about 25,000 Common Terns at Anclote Bar, *Pasco* 10 Oct (KT, B. Pranty) was stunning. Inland in *Polk*, where they are almost annual, 2 Sandwich Terns

were at phosphate mines 23 Aug (L. Timmer, L. Albright), and one was at L. Alfred 28 Nov (L. Timmer). Also inland, an impressive total of 220 Black Skimmers was counted near Belle Glade 13 Sep (Br&JH). Jaegers were not in impressive numbers this season; high counts were 34 Pomarines off Miami 30 Oct (RuT, TM) and 2 ad. Long-taileds plus 8 Parasitics at Ft. Lauderdale Beach 22 Oct (RT). A imm. Long-tailed Jaeger was photographed off Miami 30 Oct (TM, RT).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

Single White-winged Doves at Hickory Mount Impoundment, *Taylor* 27 Oct, Cedar Key 6 Nov, and St. Marks N.W.R. 13 Nov (JoH et al.) may have been migrants from the w. population rather than Florida birds. Yellow-billed Cuckoos, occasionally found into Nov, were noted at St. Marks N.W.R. 2 Nov (JoH, Lloyd Davis) and Blue Cypress Lake 4 Nov (DS). Of 5 Black-billed Cuckoos reported, 3 were found in the first half of Oct, except singles seen 18 Oct at Paynes Prairie (Peter Polshek) and Genius Drive Preserve, Winter Park, *Orange* (BHA et al.). Rare but regular in the panhandle, a Groove-billed Ani remained at Ft. Pickens 30 Sep-10 Oct (L&RAD). There were no reports of Smooth-billed Ani, although the well-known Dania Beach, *Broward* birds were seen after the season's end. Casual on the keys, a Barn Owl at Fort Zachary Taylor 12 Nov (CG) was interesting. Short-eared Owls, presumably of the Caribbean population, have become almost annual near Everglades N.P., *Miami-Dade*, where 2 were at Frog Pond W.M.A. 28 Nov (La&PM). One other report of this species came from Viera Wetlands 24 Oct (PM). A Lesser Nighthawk found in a warehouse in Oldsmar 20-23 Nov became the 3rd for *Pinellas*, while "up to a dozen" were at their usual Eco Pond, Everglades N.P., *Monroe* haunt 31 Oct-2 Nov (BR). A late Chimney Swift was near Brooksville, *Hernando* 22 Oct (Clay Black); a *Chaetura* swift at Paynes Prairie 17 Nov was not identified to species (JoH). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird was banded at Niceville, *Okaloosa* 19 Nov, as was a Black-chinned Hummingbird (Fred Bassett). Casual outside the panhandle, a Buff-bellied was photographed at Lutz, *Hillsborough* 4-5 Oct (Joni Hartzler et al.). Of 8 *Selasphorus* reported throughout the state, a Rufous Hummingbird at Honeymoon Island S.P. 10-13 Aug (EK et al.) was the earliest. An imm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Tomoka S.P. 17 Aug (MW) was the earliest ever reported in Florida.

Single Olive-sided Flycatchers were at Crane Creek, *Brevard* 10 Sep (AB), Bald Point

S.P. 17 Sep (JM), and Ft. Pickens 23 Sep (L&RAD). Of seven reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, four were documented: singles at Ft. Pickens 21 Aug (L&RAD); at Guana-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, St. Johns 18 Oct (ph. MH, Dianne Reed); and at Wilton Manors, Broward 2 Oct, where the flycatcher was heard calling (RuT), as was the individual at Matheson Hammock Park, Miami-Dade 8-16 Oct (RT, ph. LaM). Alder Flycatcher is annual only in Miami-Dade, where at least 8 were identified by voice (m.ob.). Singles were also identified at Alligator Lake Park 1 Sep (JoH et al.) and Gulf Stream Estates, Key Largo, Monroe 17 Sep (LaM), and a Willow Flycatcher was banded at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., Miami-Dade 30 Sep (RD). Single Least Flycatchers were noted in Leon 4 Oct (R. Lengacher), in Lake 20 Oct (ph. LS), and in Orange at Winter Park 13 Sep and 25 Oct (BHA et al.); one was at L. Apopka 30 Aug, and an amazing 8 were there 25 Oct (HR). A Say's Phoebe at Astatula 29 Oct (LS et al.) was likely the same one as seen there during the past two winters. A Vermilion Flycatcher at the Ft. Walton Beach S.T.F. 1 Oct-24 Nov (DW et al.) was surprisingly the only one reported this season. Rare away from L. Apopka, where the earliest was found 30 Oct (HR), Ash-throated Flycatchers were identified at Gulf Breeze 29 Oct, Ft. Pickens 1 Nov (RAD et al.), and Bald Point S.P. 29 Nov (JM). Unprecedented n. of Miami-Dade/Monroe, up to 3 Brown-crested Flycatchers were discovered at West Delray Beach, Palm Beach 29 Nov+ (BrH). Rare were single Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds at "Dump Marsh," Miami-Dade 25 Oct (RT) and at Arcadia, DeSoto 24 Nov (DGo, Eric Haney); equally rare were up to 2 Cassin's Kingbirds at S.T.A.5 on 17 Oct and 14 Nov+ (ph. CE et al.). Local along the coasts of the cen. peninsula and big bend, Gray Kingbirds numbering 30 at Cedar Key 20 Aug (JoH et al.) and 29 at Honeymoon Island S.P. 21 Aug (DG, JW) were likely migrants. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were scattered mainly along the Gulf coast, with a maximum of 9 at Key West 25-28 Oct (CG).

Bell's Vireos winter very locally in the se. peninsula, where singles were reported this season in Broward at Woodmont Natural Area 26 Oct (John Hutchison, RuT) and West Miramar Environmentally Sensitive Lands site 23 Oct (ph. Ken Schneider), with 2 in Miami-Dade at Southern Glades Wildlife and Environmental Area 29 Sep (LaM); migrants at Ft. Pickens 24 Aug and 6 Oct (RAD et al.) and Honeymoon Island S.P. 1-7 Oct (Gail Deterra, m.ob.) were unexpected. A Yellow-throated Vireo was late at Lori Wilson Park, Brevard 23 Nov (PM et al.), and a Warbling Vireo at A.D.

(Doug) Barnes Park, Miami-Dade 3-4 Oct (RT et al.) was rare. Throughout the peninsula, 13 Philadelphia Vireos were found; all but one, at Merritt Island N.W.R. 28 Sep (MH), were in Oct. Tree Swallows are reported almost annually in Aug, and this year was no exception, with one at Holiday, Pasco 20 Aug (DG). Rare, but likely almost anywhere along Florida's coasts, lone pallida Cave Swallows visited Ft. Pickens 2-4 Nov (AH et al.) and Bald Point 31 Aug (MF), with up to 25 at Ft. Zachary Taylor 18-20 Oct (CG); up to 2 inland at L. Apopka 4 Oct-6 Nov (HR) were more unusual. A Winter Wren at Gainesville, Alachua 18 Oct (AK) was early. Rarest of the spotted thrushes in Florida, 13 Wood Thrushes were reported in the peninsula this fall, with a high count of 3 at Pelican Island N.W.R. 17 Oct (AB). Two early Cedar Waxwings were s. to Key West 12 Nov (CG).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

The strong cold fronts of 30 Sep and 16 & 31 Oct were largely responsible for high numbers of predominantly trans-Gulf migrants that occurred throughout the state. Twenty-nine Blue-winged Warblers were reported, with a majority in the late Sep and early Oct, and 16 Golden-winged Warblers were detected, with most in the first half of Oct. Hybrids between these species were noted at Paynes Prairie, Alachua 19 Sep (AK) and Worthington Springs, Union 29 Sep (JoH, DR). Large numbers of Tennessee Warblers were detected 30 Sep at Captiva I., Lee (100+; VM) and Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. (75; RD). Twelve Nashville Warblers were reported, with 5 coming from the se. peninsula. A count of 20 Chestnut-sided Warblers at Captiva I. 30 Sep (VM) was high, as were counts of 40 Magnolia Warblers at Paynes Prairie 18 Oct (Michael Meisenburg, Patty Orr) and 70 Black-throated Blue Warblers at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., Miami-Dade 30 Sep (RD). Cape May Warblers lingered into Nov at Melbourne Beach, Brevard 1 Nov (2; AB) and New Smyrna Beach, Volusia 2 Nov (one; MBr), as did 2 Black-throated Blue Warblers at Melbourne Beach 1 Nov (AB). An Audubon's Warbler at Tomoka S.P. 13 Nov (MW et al.) was banded; it is one of the few firmly documented in Florida. A Black-throated Gray Warbler at Columbia City, Columbia 12 Oct was also a rare vagrant (JK). All of the 30+ Bay-breasted Warblers reported were in Oct except for up to 2 at Turkey Creek, Brevard 20-21 Sep (Bill & Shirley Hills), one at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., Miami-Dade 30 Sep (RD), and one at Matheson Hammock Park 2 Nov (John Ogdin). There were more than 20 Cerulean Warblers reported, with one late at Rothen-

bach Park, Sarasota 25 Oct (Jeanne Dubi et al.). Six Swainson's Warblers and 12 Kentucky Warblers were reported, with one Swainson's remaining at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. until 26 Oct (RD). Fourteen Wilson's Warblers were seen, with one early at Pensacola, Escambia 24 Aug (Merilu & Rufus Rose). Ten Canada Warblers were detected; one was quite late at St. George Island S.P., Franklin 1 Nov (JM, Jim Cavanagh).

The pair of Western Spinalis that nested at Long Pine Key, E.N.P., Miami-Dade at the end of summer fledged 3 young by 1 Sep (LaM); this was the first breeding report of this species, indeed of any true tanager, for the United States. A Green-tailed Towhee, the 3rd for Florida, was identified at Ft. Pickens 1 Nov+ (ph. L&RAD). Single Chipping Sparrows wandered s. of their usual winter range in Florida to Mahogany Hammock, Everglades N.P., Miami-Dade 7 Nov (JHB) and Ft. Zachary Taylor 28-29 Oct (CG). Twelve Clay-colored Sparrows were reported at 11 sites from the panhandle (Okaloosa; Dave Chaffin) to Everglades N.P. (Miami-Dade; BR). A Vesper Sparrow was s. at Mahogany Hammock 26 Sep (BR). On 31 Aug, single Lark Sparrows were found at Ft. Walton Beach S.T.F. (Larry Goodman) and at Bald Point (MF), while one at Ft. Pickens remained 27 Sep+ (Patrick James et al.); other singles were at Homestead, Miami-Dade 5 Sep (RT) and Key West 26 & 28 Oct (CG). For a 2nd consecutive year, a Lark Bunting (this year a male) was a one-day wonder at Alligator Point, Franklin 29 Aug (ph. JM); this was Florida's 11th and the 4th at this location! Lone Le Conte's Sparrows were identified at Tate's Hell S.F., Franklin 30 Nov (JM) and Merritt Island N.W.R. 29 Nov (MH). Rarely encountered inland, a Nelson's Sparrow was not totally unexpected at the "celery fields," Sarasota 19 Oct (CF). A Seaside Sparrow was southerly at Merritt Island N.W.R., Volusia 1 Nov (ph. Danny Bales), as were a Song Sparrow at Boca Chica Key 15 Nov (CG), a Lincoln's Sparrow at Frog Pond W.M.A. 29 Nov (RT), and a White-crowned Sparrow at Boca Grande Key 29 Oct (Gina Zimmerman). Other Lincoln's Sparrows were singles at L. Apopka 15 Nov (HR) and Merritt Island N.W.R. 24 Nov (MH). This season's only Dark-eyed Juncos were 2 at Tallahassee, Leon 29 Nov (Rob Lengacher).

A Western Tanager was found at Gainesville 4 Oct (AK). Late Blue Grosbeaks paused at Tallahassee 2 Nov (Gail Menk), Pelican Island N.W.R. 7 Nov (AB), and Paynes Prairie 20 Nov (JoH). Single Lazuli Bunting males were identified at Ft. George I., Duval 29 Aug (Roger Clark) and at an Oviedo, Seminole

feeder 12 Nov+ (*vide* Mary Acken) for a 2nd year. The only Dickcissels reported were in *Palm Beach* at West Boca Raton 4 Oct (Br&JH) and *Monroe*, with singles at Coastal Prairie Trail, Everglades N.P. 18 Nov and at Fort Zachary Taylor 28 Oct and 5 Nov (and 2 there 18 Oct, CG). With only five accepted reports for Florida, a Western Meadowlark was identified at Gulf Breeze 14 Nov (p.a., RAD). Yellow-headed Blackbird reports included singles in *Pinellas* at St. Petersburg 2-6 Oct (D&LM), at Honeymoon Island S.P. 7 Oct (RoS et al.), and in *Orange* at L. Apopka 22 Nov+ (HR). The only Rusty Blackbirds reported were 2 at Alligator Lake Park 4 Nov (Patricia Burns). Boat-tailed Grackles appear to be increasing in the panhandle; in *Escambia*, 2 females were at Ft. Pickens 6 Oct-4 Nov (RAD); in *Santa Rosa*, 20 yellow-eyed males were at Floridatown 20 Nov (RAD); and in *Gulf* 14 Aug, 3 were at Jetty Park, Port St. Joe and one at Mexico Beach (DS). Along the Gulf coast, Shiny Cowbirds were reported at Pensacola 8 Aug (Ann & Dan Forster) and

Ben T. Davis Park, Tampa 3 Nov (MG, KT). Surprisingly, there were more Shynys inland, with singles at Gainesville 31 Oct (Bob Simons, John Martin), at L. Apopka 21 Aug, and at Homestead, where 14 were noted 18 Aug and 2 on 28 Nov (LaM). Bronzed Cowbirds are resident in *Miami-Dade* and *Broward*; this season, singles were n. at Hague, *Alachua* 18 Oct-6 Nov (Rex Rowan et al.) and at Leesburg, *Lake* 15-23 & 25 Sep (ph. LS), 3 were at Ben T. Davis Park 3 Nov (KT, MG), and 14 were at Clewiston, *Hendry* 5 Nov+ (EK). House Finches have only recently colonized the peninsula, and not much is known about their breeding habits, but it was surprising to find a late nest under construction on Cedar Key 14 Nov (David Johnston). After last winter's invasion of Pine Siskins, only one was reported this season, at a feeder in Seminole 28 Nov (Andrew Boyle).

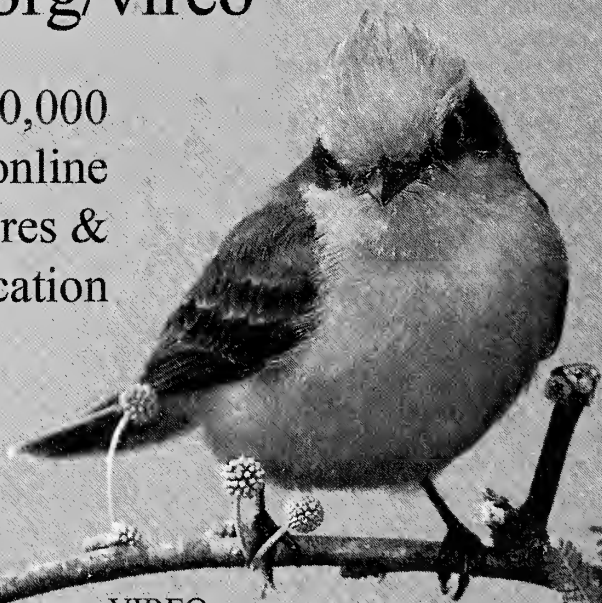
Contributors (and members of the Florida Ornithological Society Field Observations Committee, in boldface): Brian Ahern (BAh),

Bruce H. Anderson, Andy Bankert, John H. Boyd, Michael Brothers (MBr), Robin Diaz, James Dinsmore, **Lucy & Robert A. Duncan**, **Charlie Ewell**, Craig Faanes, Melissa Forehand, David Freeland, David Gagne, Murray Gardler, Carl Goodrich, Dave Goodwin (DGo), Matt Hafner, **Al & Bev Hansen**, Alex Harper, Mitchell Harris, John Hintermister (JoH), Brian & Joan Hope (Br&JH), Paul Hueber, Andy Kratter, John Krummrich, Ed Kwater, Patrick Leary, Larry & Philip Manfredi (La&PM), Phyllis Mansfield, Don & Lorraine Margeson, Chris Mason, Vince McGrath, Trey Mitchell, John **Murphy**, Peggy Powell, **Bill Pranty**, Dottie Robbins, Bryant Roberts, Harry Robinson, **David Simpson**, Ron Smith (RoS), Leann Streeper, Russ Titus (RuT), Roberto Torres, Ken Tracey, Bob Wallace, Don Ware, Jim Wells, Meret Wilson. 📧

Bruce H. Anderson, 2917 Scarlet Road
Winter Park, Florida 32792, (scizortail@aol.com)
Andy Bankert, 365 Spoonbill Lane
Melbourne Beach, Florida 32951, (abankert@ft.edu)

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Margaret J. C. Bain

A disappointingly cold, wet summer led to an exceptionally late breeding season across Ontario and hence delayed arrival of fall migrants in many areas. Early fall brought very welcome sunshine and warmer temperatures over much of the province. These above-average temperatures lingered well into November, with no significant strong weather systems to disturb the pleasant conditions. Much of November was exceptionally green in the extreme southwest of the province, with a wide variety of insects still on the wing. The north of the province had some light snowfall in mid-October, but it did not last. Algonquin Provincial Park reported no snow on the ground and all water open through the end of the period. In the south, the Greater Toronto Area was snow-free throughout October and November for the first time since weather records began in 1847.

Water levels in Lake Ontario and the Ottawa River remained somewhat high until late in the season, with most migrant shorebirds seeking suitable feeding areas elsewhere. Following the cool summer, avian botulism claimed fewer victims among ducks, loons, grebes, and cormorants on the Great Lakes than in the devastating fall of 2007. Poor breeding conditions in the eastern Arctic probably explain the fewer than usual reports of migrant Purple Sandpipers, Black-legged Kittiwakes, Sabine's Gulls, and jaegers in the south.

Mild weather and persistent flying insects allowed aerial foragers such as swifts and swallows to linger unusually late. Especially heartening were the higher numbers of Common Nighthawks reported after several years of marked decline.

In contrast to 2008, there was no large movement of winter finches through southern Ontario in the fall. Wild food crops throughout central and eastern Ontario were

very poor, and in Algonquin Park by the end of the season the forest seemed almost birdless at times, with American Goldfinch being the only finch present in any numbers. Even in the northwest of the province, where cone crops were better, most winter finches were still scarce by the end of the period.

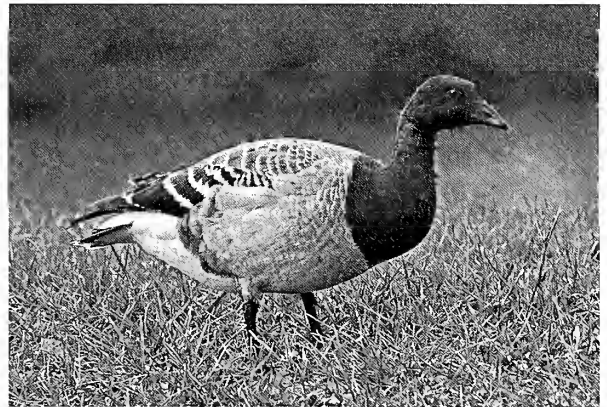
Noteworthy rarities included a young White Ibis, Ontario's second accepted Long-billed Curlew, Ontario's first Black-tailed Gull, an Ash-throated Flycatcher, a window-killed Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (the second for the province after 23 years), a banded provincial-first Western Warbling Vireo, a very obliging Phainopepla (the second for Ontario after 35 years), a Black-throated Sparrow, and a one-day Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.

Abbreviations: A.H.P. (Andrew Haydon Park, Nepean, *Ottawa*); H.B.M.O. (Holiday Beach Migration Observatory, Holiday Beach, *Essex*); H.C.H. (Hawk Cliff Hawkwatch, Port Stanley, *Elgin*); H.S.A. (Hamilton Study Area); K.F.N. (Kingston Field Naturalists); L.P.B.O. (Long Point B.O., Long Pt., *Norfolk*); Point Pelee (Point Pelee Birding Area); S.L. (sewage lagoons); T.C.B.O. (Thunder Cape B.O., Thunder Cape, *Thunder Bay*); V.W.B. (Van Wagners Beach, *Hamilton*). Place names in italics refer to counties, districts, and regional municipalities. Southern Ontario and Northern Ontario are divided by latitude 47° N.

WATERFOWL

Single ad. Greater White-fronted Geese appeared among flocks of migrating Canada Geese on Wolfe I., *Frontenac* 16-23 Sep (BRH, RWS), at the St. John Landfill, Thunder Bay 19 Sep (NGE), in the Moodie Dr. quarry pond, Nepean, *Ottawa* 19-21 Sep (RC, LS), and on Conestoga L., *Wellington* 2 Oct (MVAB); record early and rare for Point Pelee was an ad. at the Tip 2 Oct (MEC, LJN), *Ottawa* had reports of a further 4 single ads. 12 Oct-11 Nov

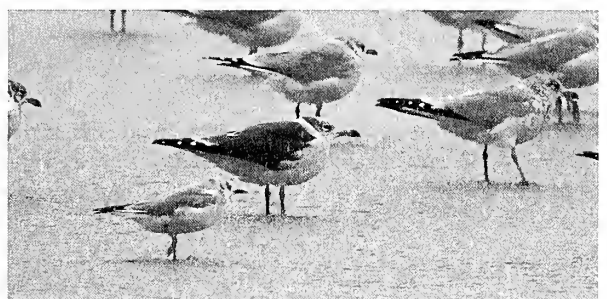
(m.ob.), and one was at Whittaker C.A., *Middlesex* 16 Oct (DAM, LW); there were 2 in a flooded field at Codrington, *Northumberland* 27 Oct (SAEP), one at Fish Point, Pelee I., *Essex* 27 Oct (ACP), and 8 at Binbrook, *Hamilton* 30 Nov (BRH). In e. Ontario, the first Greater Snow Geese were in scattered small flocks 25 Sep (m.ob.), but by 29 Oct, 10,000 had occupied a sod farm in *Stormont, Dundas*



In autumn 2009, not only was there a good flight of Brant in eastern Ontario, where numbers are expected, but there were more sightings than usual farther west in the province, including this bird on Lake Erie at Port Burwell, Elgin County 27 November 2009. Photograph by Alan Wormington.



This out-of-range adult American White Pelican was enjoyed by many birders as it loitered at Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham County, Ontario 25-30 (here 29) August 2009. Photograph by Bernie Monette.



This adult Black-tailed Gull, a sensational first for Ontario, was tantalizingly elusive after its discovery on Port Burwell beach, Elgin County 28 September 2009 (here). It was seen by a lucky few the next day, then not refound among the thousands of gulls on area beaches until 15 November, after which it appeared sporadically through the end of the period. Photograph by Brandon Holden.



One of only a few seen this fall in southern Ontario, this juvenile Western Sandpiper was at Tilbury, Essex County 8-11 (here 11) November 2009. Photograph by Robert Epstein.



American Avocets were widely reported in the south of Ontario in autumn 2009, with this elegant bird among six visiting the West Perth Wetlands in Mitchell, Perth County 26-29 (here 27) October 2009. Photograph by Mike Irwin.



Few Red Phalaropes were seen in Ontario in autumn 2009, probably due to poor breeding conditions in the Eastern Arctic. This juvenile was at Colchester, Essex County on 3 November 2009. Photograph by Alan Wormington.

& Glengarry near Casselman, remaining into Dec (BLM). Single ad. Ross's Geese were at Kingsville, Essex 26-27 Sep (RPC et al.), on Reesor Pond, York 8 Oct (SL), in Ottawa's Moodie Dr. pond 10 Oct (TFMB), and in Ajax, Durham 15 Oct (JES); there were 2 ads. near Navan, Ottawa 12-16 Oct (TAH, RW, m.ob.). A juv. Ross's Goose was at the mouth of Lynde Cr., Whitby, Durham 17 Oct (ALA)

and 9-19 Nov (JDL, m.ob.) and another in the flooded field at Codrington 20 Oct and 21 Nov (SAEP). A Brant lingered from summer through 1 Nov in A.H.P. (m.ob.), and another unseasonable individual visited Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland 22 Aug (GJDP). Eastern Ontario experienced a good Brant flight, with 700 over the city of Ottawa 12 Oct (m.ob.) and 1000 over Amherst I., Lennox & Addington 13 Oct (BMDL). A flock of 51 Brant at Conestoga L. 22 Oct (KGB, JGB) was very unusual for Wellington, a lone bird at the Point Pelee Tip 24 Oct was rare for the area (AW, RPC, BAM), as were 2 at Fish Pt., Pelee I. 26-31 Oct (ACP et al.), and a flock of 12 at Sheguiandah Bay 26 Oct (CTB) provided the first Manitoulin sighting in nine years; a juv. Brant frequented Oxtongue L., Muskoka 4-15 Nov (BWo, GS). Cackling Geese were widely reported in small numbers, and there were 10 at Country Glen, Markham, York 27 Sep (RBHS, WP), 18 at nearby Reesor Pond 6 Nov (SL), and 13 at Cranberry Marsh, Whitby 11 Nov (JDL).

Two ad. Trumpeter Swans in wild rice stands on the East Wabigoon R., Kenora had 4 cygnets 23 Sep (AMM, DJMS), and 2 ads. on Lower Steep Rock L., Atikokan, Rainy River had 2 young 22 Oct (DHE, DLY). Deerbrook, Essex hosted 1500 Tundra Swans 4 Nov (AW). The 112 Wood Ducks at Holland Landing S.L., York 26 Sep (WP, RBHS) made a good count. There were 2 male Eurasian Wigeons on the St. Lawrence R. beside the Long Sault Parkway, Stormont, Dundas, & Glengarry 30 Sep (KR), with one still there 4 Oct (JMB); another was at Constance Creek, Dunrobin, Ottawa 17 Oct (BMDL). Conestoga L. held 700 American Black Ducks 27 Nov+ (KGB, MVAB, JGB). A flock of 15 Northern Pintails on Radiant L. 3 Nov (JHS) was the largest observed in Algonquin P.P., Nipissing and set a new late date for the park. There were 1300 Green-winged Teal on Gi-

ardin Pond, Point Pelee 30 Oct (AW).

Photographed in Aug at Hearst S.L., Cochrane (DAS), three Canvasback broods were very unusual for the location. A drake Tufted Duck was off Wolfe I. 18 Nov (BRH, JP). A female King Eider was at V.W.B. 13 Nov (BSC), and 2 flew off the Point Pelee Tip 26 Nov (AW). A Harlequin Duck was noted at Thunder Cape 27 Sep (JMW), one was at Prince Edward Pt. 8 Nov (K.F.N.), another was on the Ottawa R. at the Deschênes Rapids, Ottawa 23 Nov (RJC), and an ad. male frequented Cobourg harbor, Northumberland 26-29 Nov (CEG, RWFP, m.ob.). A Surf Scoter at V.W.B. 28 Aug (KAM) was a record-early fall migrant for the H.S.A. A Black Scoter at Laurel Creek C.A., Waterloo 16-22 Oct (KGB) furnished only the 4th record for the region; there were 15+ Black Scoters at Fort Erie, Niagara 24 Oct (MLJ, TAS, PBE) and 32 in Sheguiandah Bay 3 Nov (CTB). Two very early Buffleheads appeared at Lake Pond, Point Pelee 18 Sep (STP). Barrow's Goldeneye reports included at least 2 males on the Ottawa R. and Rideau R., Ottawa 24 Oct-26 Nov (m.ob.), and one male was at the Stoney Creek lakeshore, Hamilton 21-30 Nov+ (BSC, m.ob.), with a male Barrow's Goldeneye x Common Goldeneye hybrid there 10-30 Nov+ (BRH, m.ob.) and 2 hybrids 30 Nov (BSC). In just three hours on 7 Nov, 54,000 Red-breasted Mergansers flew past the Point Pelee Tip (AW et al.). A Ruddy Duck was n. to Beaver Creek, Minnitaki, Kenora 13 Oct (CDE).

LOONS THROUGH RAPTORS

The Ottawa R. off A.H.P. held 48 Red-throated Loons 6 Nov (BMDL). An ad. Horned Grebe with one young at Pickerel L., Quetico P.P. 14-16 Aug (RF) provided a very rare breeding record for Rainy River. A late Red-necked Grebe lingered at Conestoga L. 27 Nov+ (KGB). An Eared Grebe frequented Grand Bend S.L., Lambton through 2 Sep (m.ob.), an ad. was off Rattray Marsh, Peel 8 Nov (JL), and singles were at Port Burwell, Elgin 16 Nov (YSA, SAM, AW), and Sturgeon Creek, Essex 23 Nov (AW). An *Aechmophorus* grebe was in Haviland Bay, Algoma 1 Nov (KWZ).

Away from the nw., single American White Pelicans were in Hamilton harbor 2-5 Aug (KAM, m.ob.), in Port Rowan, Norfolk 7-10 Aug (RR, SAM), at Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham 25-30 Aug (m.ob.) and then at Port Credit, Peel 31 Aug (BF), at Dundas Marsh, Hamilton 10-19 Sep and 10 Oct (DKD), at Wildwood L., Oxford 22 Sep-8 Oct (MJN, m.ob.), and at Shrewsbury, Chatham-Kent 16 Oct (TJ); 2 were observed by T.C.B.O. 25 Sep (JMW).

Two Great Egrets at Mac's Bay 18 Aug (CTB) were unusual for Manitoulin; there were 60 at the Muddy Creek roost, Essex 29 Aug (AW), while the roost at Luther Marsh, Wellington held 263 birds 31 Aug (DVCW, CF); 17 were at Fort Erie 29 Sep (BW). A juv. Snowy Egret was at Hillman Marsh, Essex 15 Aug (RHH). An ad. Cattle Egret visited a composting facility near Peters Corners, Hamilton 1-4 Aug (DM et al.), and another was near Malden Centre, Essex 11 Sep (AW), with singles at Erie Beach, Chatham-Kent 27 Oct (JTB) and near Port Royal, Norfolk 5 Nov (RWW, RDC).

On 3 Oct, a very photogenic juv. White Ibis visited Whitby harbor (DK, KJ et al.). A White Ibis had been discovered 20 Sep in the egret roost at Tonawanda W.M.A., NY, less than 50 km directly across L. Ontario from Whitby, still present there 29 Sep, and comparison of photographs taken at both locations suggested it was likely the same bird (fide DFS). A juv. White Ibis then flew past Prince Edward Pt. 6 Oct (BER), while on 21 Oct one was again found at Tonawanda (fide DFS); it remains unclear how many birds were involved in these sightings, but one energetic young bird could easily have made the round-trip within this timeframe. An ad. White-faced Ibis was photographed at Narrows Lock, Leeds & Grenville 26 Oct (JRW); an unidentified *Plegadis* ibis flew past Deerbrook 8 Oct (AW), and another was at the Blenheim S.L., Chatham-Kent 11 Oct (JTB).

Single Black Vultures were over the Burlington Beachstrip, Halton 3 Aug (BSC), over Port Burwell 22 Aug (AA), over Turkey Pt. Marsh, Norfolk 31 Aug (probably the same bird; GGB), over Soup Harbour, Prince Edward 13 Sep (TH), and at Turkey Pt. 29 Sep (JBF). Turkey Vulture numbers continued their steady rise, with a record-high season total of 43,841 at H.B.M.O. Bald Eagles were in good numbers: the 168 at H.B.M.O. was their 2nd highest season total ever. The fall's 942 Cooper's Hawks became the 4th highest season total for H.B.M.O. An unprecedented one-day total of 32 Northern Goshawks over Port Hope 14 Oct (REF) completely eclipsed *Northumberland's* previous high (6). The 1096 Red-shouldered Hawks was the highest season total for H.B.M.O. in 15 years (JEB et al.); an ad. Red-shouldered at Hawkesville, Waterloo 22 Nov (JGB) returned for its 7th consecutive winter at this location. A light-morph juv. Swainson's Hawk soared with Turkey Vultures over Holiday Beach 13 Oct (JEB), and an intermediate-morph juv. was at Thunder Bay 28 Sep (SJF et al.). An ad. Golden Eagle was record early and unexpected 19 Sep at H.C.H., where the season total was 158, bested only by

220 in 2008, with a high count of 29 on 6 Nov. A notable 122 Merlins at H.B.M.O. tied 2006's record-high total. A juv. Peregrine Falcon at Fort Erie 21 Nov (PBE, MLJ, TAS) had been banded in downtown Toronto 2 Jun 2009.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A juv. Purple Gallinule was picked up dead after hitting a park store window at Craighleith P.P., Grey 14 Oct (RDa; *Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, fide MKP). Common Moorhens bred successfully at Smithville S.L., Niagara for the first time since 1993, with 2 ads. and 6 downy young there 6 Aug (KAM, JMP, BW). The 115 American Coots in Lower Steep Rock L. 8 Oct (DHE) were an excellent fall count for Rainy River. Providing the first two confirmed breeding records of Sandhill Cranes in Algonquin P.P. were 2 ads. and 2 young at Hailstorm Creek 31 Aug (JH, SR) and 2 ads. and 2 young on White Trout L. 10 Sep (RGT, DCT, LAT, KF). On Manitoulin I., staging cranes arrived slightly earlier than usual, with the peak count 5208 on 8 Oct and the last 3 on 9 Nov (fide CTB). Ottawa had record-high counts of Sandhill Cranes 25 Oct-22 Nov (m.ob.), with the peak 90-100 birds, mostly ads., near Navan 14 Nov (RAB, RJC, CAL). Port Royal, Norfolk saw 250 cranes 27 Nov (AW, KRO et al.).

Sixty American Golden-Plovers flew offshore at Lighthouse Pt., Chatham-Kent 6 Sep (AW). A pair of Piping Plovers discovered at Carter Bay, Manitoulin I. mid-Jul had 4 chicks flying well 9 Aug (fide BT); by mid-Aug, the ad. male had left, but the 4 fledglings remained through 19 Aug, with one still there 26 Aug (CTB). In early Aug, 7 Piping Plovers had fledged from three nests at Sauble Beach, Bruce (BT). A juv. Piping Plover was at the Point Pelee Tip 27 Sep (RM et al.).

American Avocets were widely reported, with 10 breeding-plumaged birds at Columbia L. 18 Aug (MEM) providing only the 2nd record for Waterloo. An ad. female frequented the Durham shoreline from Whitby harbor to Duffin's Creek,



An injured female Barn Owl at Fifty Point Conservation Area, Hamilton/Niagara County, Ontario 8-13 (here 13) November 2009 was taken to a rehabilitation center. Photograph by Frank and Sandra Horvath.



This Western Kingbird sallied from roadside wires at Port Burwell, Norfolk County, Ontario 13-16 (here 14) November 2009. Photograph by Mike Irwin.



Ontario's eighth Ash-throated Flycatcher was this photogenic bird at the Tip of Point Pelee National Park on 6 November 2009. Photograph by Alan Wormington.

Ajax 22 Aug-6 Sep (RRP, m.ob.); on 6 Sep, it hit an overhead wire, dropped into the water but recovered and flew off, photographs



This handsome adult Black-throated Sparrow at Port Burwell, Elgin County, Ontario 29-31 (here 29) August 2009 was the second for Ontario but the first for the south of the province; the only previous record was at Silver Islet, Thunder Bay District 2-3 October 1992. Photograph by Alan Wormington.



At Moonbeam in Ontario's Cochrane District, this Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was a one-day sensation when it visited feeders 20 November 2009. Photograph by Ken Reed.

showing some blood around the bill, and it was not seen again. Holiday Beach was visited by 2 avocets 11 Oct (GTH, JEB, RCP), and one lingered there 14-18 Oct (JEB); Kettle Pt., Lambton had 6 on 24 Oct (PAR et al.) and one 29 Oct-1 Nov (AHR). Nine American Avocets flew in to Oshawa Second Marsh 25 Oct (DK), with 8 remaining through 3 Nov (m.ob.), and the West Perth Wetlands in Mitchell, Perth hosted 6 on 26-29 Oct (ST). There was a juv. Willet at Seacliff Beach, Essex 15 Aug (WGL, KAM). An amazing Long-billed Curlew was seen by a lucky few as it flew along V.W.B. 23 Aug (RZD, BNC, CEE); there is one previous accepted record for Ontario, though there are believed to be historical records from the nineteenth century. Single Hudsonian Godwits were reported from several locations, with 2 at Tilbury, Essex 1-10 Oct (RPC et al.). The juv. Marbled Godwit at Shirley's Bay, Ottawa 17 Sep-10 Oct (RAB, RJC, CAL, m.ob.) provided Ottawa's first fall record; another was at Sturgeon Creek 7-21 Oct (AW et al.). An ad. Western Sandpiper was at the Mitchell S.L., Perth 27 Aug (KGB);

singles were also at the West Perth Wetlands 3 Sep (ST) and the Ravenshoe Road floodlands, York 6 Sep (KRS), with juvs. at Kingston 6 Sep (RDW) and Tilbury 8-11 Sep (KAM et al.). Single juv. Baird's Sandpipers were late at Townsend S.L., Haldimand 1 Nov (JV), Dundas Marsh 2 Nov (RZD, CEE), and Point Pelee Tip 6 Nov (AW, KAM). Blenheim S.L. held a male Ruff 2-3 Aug (KGB, BRH). A strong flight of Long-billed Dowitchers included a season total 30 at Kingston 13-21 Sep (K.F.N.). Locally high counts of Red-necked Phalaropes included a flock of 15 on L. Ontario, seen from a boat off Stoney Creek 3 Sep (BRH, BSC, KAM), and 6 at West Bay S.L., Manitoulin 6 Sep (CTB). Single Red Phalaropes were at Point Pelee 2-3 Oct (DJM, m.ob.), Tilbury 3-5 Oct (m.ob.), Colchester, Essex 3 Nov (AW), and the Tip of Long Point 5 Nov (ALB, RWW, RDC).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS

In total, 15 Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen at V.W.B. 2-15 Sep (RZD et al.); a juv. was at Kettle Pt. 15 Sep (KGB, MVAB) and an ad. on the Ottawa R. off A.H.P. 28 Nov (MAG). The Sabine's Gull total at V.W.B. was 21 birds 28 Aug-26 Oct (RZD et al.); on 2 Sep, birders in a Zodiac were able to approach 2 ads. and 3 juvs. on L. Ontario (BSC, BRH, KGB) and even fed several! A juv. Sabine's Gull landed briefly at the Long Point Tip 27 Oct (ALB). A Black-headed Gull appeared at Niagara Falls 17 Nov (WCDA, BP), seen again there 24 Nov (BC). Point Pelee had 6 single Little Gulls 2 Aug-31 Oct (AW et al.), an imm. was on the Ottawa R. at Deschênes Rapids 2 Sep (RD), and 5 were on the Niagara R. 31 Oct (WCDA, BP); there were 29 in Prince Edward, 19 at East Lake, and 10 at West Lake 26 Nov (TH), plus 2 at Port Stanley, Elgin 27 Nov (m.ob.). A juv. Laughing Gull visited the Burlington Beachstrip 11 Aug (DM), one was at Breakwater, Long Point 7 Sep (ALB), and a first-cycle bird was at Turkey Pt. 26 Sep (MVAB, KGB, JGB). Seacliff Beach had an ad. Franklin's Gull 2 Oct (AW), and 2 first-cycle birds were at Wheatley Harbour 10 Oct (CAC). Ontario's first Black-tailed Gull, a basic-plumaged ad., was an immediate sensation

when discovered and photographed on the beach at Port Burwell P.P., Elgin 28 Sep (BRH), but it proved elusive to many: a few saw the gull 28-29 Sep, but subsequently there was much fruitless searching among the tens of thousands of gulls along the L. Erie beaches. It was refound 15 Nov (GVR), then seen intermittently through the end of the period, often following fishing boats into the harbors at Port Burwell and nearby Port Stanley. An ad. Mew Gull, reported as the larger, darker-mantled subspecies *kamtschatschensis*, was with Ring-billed Gulls in a field near Dracon, Wellington 19 Nov (BRH, JP). California Gulls included an ad. at Breakwater, Long Point 7 Sep (ALB) and a third-cycle bird on the Niagara R. 17-30 Nov+ (WCDA, BP et al.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls included one n. to Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma 14-30 Nov+ (KWZ), where it is still less than annual; 16 Lesser Black-backed of various ages were in Nepean 20 Oct (BMDL), 6 ads. including one darker-mantled *intermedius* at Port Stanley 16 Nov (AW), and 8+ at Niagara Falls 29 Nov (RGT, JI).

Rare in Ottawa, 2 Caspian Terns were on River Rd. 6 Aug (LS, RJC, RAB); single birds flew close to shore at Thunder Cape 20 & 30 Aug (JMW, MEW, SJC); and one at Kingsville 3 Nov was late (AW). Lake Pond, Point Pelee hosted a welcome 600 Black Terns 17 Aug (AW, WGL, KAM). The Port Burwell beaches held up to 5000 Common Terns 27 Aug (AA), whereas 3 Commons at Ragged L. 9 Sep (EH) were rare and late for Algonquin P.P. It was a poor fall for jaeger sightings. At V.W.B., only 4 Pomarine Jaegers were seen 6 Sep-23 Oct (RZD et al.), Parasitic Jaegers totaled 49 from 28 Aug-23 Oct, with a peak of 35 on 6 Sep (RZD, BSC et al.), and Long-tailed Jaegers were represented by a juv. 27 Aug (RZD et al.) and 3 ads. and 2 juvs. 28 Aug (BRH, RZD et al.); another 19 jaegers were unidentified to species 27 Aug-26 Oct (RZD, m.ob.). Otherwise, only a few scattered singles were reported across the province, including an ad. Parasitic Jaeger at Thunder Cape 10 Aug (JMW) and a juv. there 27 Sep (SHL).

Thunder Bay's 2nd Eurasian Collared-Dove was found and photographed in Devon Twp. 6 Sep (TV, MV, ERA). An imm. Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at T.C.B.O. 2-13 Aug (JMW, MEW, MAJ); one at Confederation Park 22 Nov (PG) was record late for H.S.A. A female Barn Owl at Fifty Point C.A., Hamilton/Niagara 8-13 Nov (JT et al.) was found injured and taken to the Owl Foundation in Vineland. There was a minor invasion of Northern Hawk Owls in Thunder Bay, with at least 13 seen 1 Oct-27 Nov (*vide* NGE); nearby ne. Minnesota experienced a similar influx between the Ontario border and Duluth.

Presqu'île P.P. held an unusual concentration of Barred Owls during Oct–Nov, with at least 10 birds, some perched at the roadsides and hence well photographed (m.ob.); 2 were found dead on the beach, likely depredated. At Hilliardton Marsh, *Timishaming*, a record 68 Boreal Owls were banded (BDM), but there was a light passage of Northern Saw-whet Owls, with 444 banded there (BDM) and only 520 at Prince Edward Pt. (DO).

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH PHAINOPEPLA

There was an encouraging flight of Common Nighthawks in many areas, with a one-day peak count of 1000+ near Kingston 22 Aug (TN); 83 were over Little Current, *Manitoulin* 2 Aug (CTB), Cobourg had 100+ near the lakeshore 23 Aug (CEG, MJCB et al.), and 46 congregated near the Thames R., London, *Middlesex* 2 Sep (JMG). Several nighthawks lingered well into Oct, with very late singles at Holiday Beach 29 Oct (JEB, OK) and the Cranberry Marsh Raptor Watch, Whitby 2 Nov (*vide* JDL). Chimney Swifts also had one of their best, and most delayed, fall movements in recent years; 30 swifts were in view at once at Holiday Beach 26 Oct (JEB), but only 2 the next day, and a very late bird flew over Point Pelee 3 Nov (KAM). For the 8th consecutive year, a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers bred successfully at Constance Bay, *Ottawa*, seen with 2 juvs. 3 Sep (BMDL); a season total of 17 migrating individuals at Holiday Beach was above average for recent years (JEB et al.). A male American Three-toed Woodpecker at the Algonquin Logging Museum 9 Aug (TD et al.) was very unusual for this date.

An imm. Ash-throated Flycatcher at the Tip 6 Nov (HTON et al.) was only the 2nd for Point Pelee; the first was in Nov 1962. Record late for the Rondeau Birding Area, a Great Crested Flycatcher was photographed 11 Oct in Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent* (PAW). An imm. Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, 2nd for the province, hit a residential window in Oakville, *Halton* 6 Nov (AF; *Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, *vide* MKP). A Western Kingbird was at Thunder Cape 15 Sep (JMW) and another at Pt. Petre, *Prince Edward* 14-24 Sep (NB, m.ob.), with another at nearby Conseccon 24-25 Sep (TH, m.ob.). A Western Kingbird sallied from roadside hydro wires near the hamlet of Houghton Centre, *Norfolk* 29 Sep–8 Oct (JRA, DLP, m.ob.), and perhaps the same bird was at nearby Port Burwell 13-16 Nov (AE, m.ob.). The sunset roost of Eastern Kingbirds at Hillman Marsh numbered 400 birds 23 Aug (AW).

A young banded Loggerhead Shrike, re-

leased on the Carden Alvar 2 Sep, feasted on grasshoppers at Houghton Centre 8-10 Oct (JS, m.ob.). An imm. Warbling Vireo of the *swainsonii* subspecies (Western Warbling Vireo) was banded at the Tip of Long Point 2 Nov (L.P.B.O.), a provincial first. The Blue Jay flight started early, with 900 birds over Holiday Beach 12 Sep (JEB); Blue Jays became the most numerous passerine migrants there, with an estimated 946,000+ passing the Hawk Tower 12 Sep–27 Oct (H.B.M.O.) and impressive single-day counts of 158,300 on 1 Oct (JEB) and 152,750 on 5 Oct (JEB). This large exodus was a response to poor acorn, beechnut, and hazelnut crops across the province. An estimated 218,200 American Crows passed the Hawk Tower 13 Oct–17 Nov (H.B.M.O.). Common Ravens continue to expand through Ontario, with one s. to Old Cut and the Tip of Long Point 17 Oct (L.P.B.O.).

The 253 Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Point Pelee 24 Oct (AW, RPC, BAM) provided an exceptional count for the late date; a very late bird flew past the Holiday Beach Hawk Tower 19 Nov (JEB). Small numbers of Cave Swallows moved along the n. shore of L. Erie and L. Ontario, with 4 at Bronte harbor, *Halton* 14 Nov (GWP), 2 spied from an office window at Burlington Beachstrip 17 Nov (RZD, JB), and 2 at Winona, *Hamilton* 20 Nov (KAM); there were 3 at the Tip of Point Pelee 16-17 Nov (SER et al.), and one flew past Thicket's Woods, Whitby 21 Nov (GC). Small numbers of Tufted Titmice were found in new locations, including one banded at the Long Point Tip Aug 22 (L.P.B.O.) and 2 other birds in the area 26 Oct (L.P.B.O.), one at Inglewood, *Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry* 29-30 Oct (HvdZ), 3 separate birds near Kingston 8-12 Nov (m.ob.), and several visiting feeders in London through Nov (PAR). A Carolina Wren was n. to Bracebridge, *Muskoka* 6-30 Nov+ (BLT et al.). A Sedge Wren at West Rose L. 4-7 Sep (RGT et al.) was the first fall record for Algonquin P.P. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was rare for *Ottawa* at the Britannia C.A. 22 Aug (BMDL, RJC, JMT). The Gray-cheeked Thrush at Rondeau P.P. 24 Aug (BAM) was a locally record-early fall migrant. A Swainson's Thrush lingered at Aldershot, *Halton* 16-19 Nov (RW et al.). Britannia C.A. held a Varied Thrush 19 Oct (RW). Small flocks of Bohemian Waxwings appeared here and there but did not stay long. The star of the season was the imm. male Phainopepla in a Brampton, *Peel* subdivision, Ontario's 2nd—the first was in 1975. It fed on berry bushes in small front yards from 9 Nov into Dec (DBo, m.ob.), viewed and photographed by hundreds of orderly birders.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Hundreds and hundreds of warblers, of at least 21 species, streamed westward low over the beach at Holiday Beach 24 Sep (RJM). A fallout of migrants in Rondeau P.P. 11 Oct included 30 Orange-crowned Warblers (JTB, BAM), and 27 were tallied at Point Pelee the following day (AW); a late, bright bird at Presqu'île P.P. 4 Nov appeared to be of the *lutescens* subspecies (CEG, JEG). An ad. male Black-throated Gray Warbler was in Rondeau P.P. 10 Oct (BAM), the 2nd record there in less than a year, and an imm. male was at Port Ryerse, *Norfolk* 11-12 Oct (SW, CW, m.ob.), providing a first record for the Long Point area. Fish Pt., Pelee I. held a Yellow-throated Warbler 5 Oct (SO, ACP, JF). Single Yellow Palm Warblers were at the Point Pelee Tip 12 Oct (AW), at Rondeau P.P. 18 Oct (BAM), and at Presqu'île P.P. 17 Nov (MJCB). Several warbler species lingered late in the clement conditions, including a Tennessee Warbler at Holiday Beach 11 Nov (JEB) and single Blackpoll Warblers at Lynde Shores C.A., Whitby 4 Nov (AGC) and Dick Bell Park, *Ottawa* 7-16 Nov (JHS, m.ob.). The male Prothonotary Warbler at Rondeau P.P. 10 Oct (BAM) was record late for Rondeau. A Worm-eating Warbler was a good find in Stratford, *Perth* 7 Sep (KAC). The Yellow-breasted Chat at Prince Edward Pt. 16 Oct (DO) was record late for the area.

An imm. male Summer Tanager was banded at Breakwater 7 Sep (L.P.B.O.), an ad. male was near Stratton, *Rainy River* 22 Oct (LBV, JDV), a female-type was at Terrace Bay, *Thunder Bay* 7 Nov (PJD), and an ad. female at Prince Edward Pt. 8 Nov (K.F.N.). An ad. male Western Tanager was at Val Therese, *Sudbury* 11-22 Nov (VMK, m.ob.). An Eastern Towhee visited feeders in Manitouwadge, *Thunder Bay* 17-19 Nov (MS, m.ob.). Two Clay-colored Sparrows photographed at the Old Airfield 10 Oct (LF) were record late for Algonquin P.P. by a month. A Lark Sparrow was at Balsam L., *Killarney P.P.* 18 Aug (PSB, EB, CDJ), and an imm. frequented V.W.B. 18-21 Oct (RZD, CEE, m.ob.). A handsome ad. Black-throated Sparrow was enjoyed by many at Port Burwell 29-31 Aug (AA, m.ob.), a 2nd record for Ontario but a first for Southern Ontario. Fox Sparrows were in good numbers, with high counts of 31 at Atikokan 9 Oct (DHE), 35 at Prince Edward Pt. 13 Oct (BMDL), and 24 at Brookbanks Ravine, *Toronto* 25 Oct (RJP). A Harris's Sparrow at Windsor, *Essex* 18 Nov (DMN) was the only one reported in the south. An Oregon Junco was photographed at a Minnitaki Feeder 12 Oct (CDE), and a male was banded at T.C.B.O. 19 Oct (SJC, m.ob.).

A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak with an injured wing stayed close to a feeder at Presqu'île P.P. 13-30 Nov+ (DB, m.ob.), and another was at a Burlington feeder 15-28 Nov (DRD). An ad. male Dickcissel was at Hillman Marsh 12 Aug (BMO), single imm. males were at Pt. Petre 14 Sep (BRH) and 6 Oct (BRH, JP), one was at the Tip of Long Point 30 Sep-2 Oct (L.P.B.O.), one flew past the Cranberry Marsh Hawkwatch 17 Oct (ALA), and another flew over the Holiday Beach Hawk Tower 26 Oct (JEB). A subad. male Yellow-headed Blackbird was at the base of Long Point 25 Sep (RR). Single Brewer's Blackbirds were on Manitoulin I. 23 Aug (CTB) and at Blenheim 18 Oct (JTB). A male Baltimore Oriole visited a feeder in Markham, York 23-30 Nov (BH).

A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch was a one-day wonder at a feeder in Moonbeam, Cochrane 20 Nov (CD, ph. KGR). A few Red Crossbills were reported from scattered locations, but in Southern Ontario, there were no reports of White-winged Crossbill at all. The only report of a sizeable number of Common Redpolls was 200 in old-growth pine near Eagle L., Kenora 15 Nov (AMM, DJMS). Pine Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks were very scarce. The only finches present in any numbers were American Goldfinches, with a protracted early Sep-late Nov migration bringing 61,950+ over Holiday Beach; among several large flights was a one-day count of 5330 on 8 Oct (JEB).

Subregional editors (boldface) and cited observers: Alfred L. Adamo, Jody R. Allair,

Aaron Allensen, Edward R. Armstrong, Yousif S. Attia, Margaret J. C. Bain, Avery L. Bartels, Gregor G. Beck, Tony F. M. Beck, Chris T. Bell, Dian Bogie (DBo), Peter BonEnfant, Jacques M. Bouvier, Robert A. Bracken, David Bree, Norma Broadbear, Jacob Bruxer, Jim T. Burk, Evan Burke, Peter S. Burke, James G. Burrell, Ken G. Burrell, Mike V. A. Burrell, Brad Carlson, Stacey J. Carnahan, A. Geoffrey Carpentier, Richard P. Carr, Robert J. Cermak, Barbara N. Charlton, Cherise A. Charron, Barry S. Cheriére, Mark E. Chojnacki, Kenneth A. Clarke, Glenn Coady, Richard Collins, Richard D. Cope, Willy C. D'Anna, Rov Davies (RDa), Connie Deblette, Paul J. Dennis, Bruce M. Di Labio, Rob Z. Dobos, David K. Donn, David R. Don, Rodolpe Dubois, Taylor Dungate, Carolle D. Eady, Justin Eby-Bosler, Cheryl E. Edgecombe, David H. Elder, Nicholas G. Escott, Andy Eveland, Susan J. Fagan, Janet Fairclough, Karla Falk, Anthony Ferrante, Bruce Ferry, Rob Foster, Lev Frid, Christian Friis, Roger E. Frost, J. Brett Fried, Mark A. Gawn, Clive E. Goodwin, Joy E. Goodwin, Peter Granka, Thomas A. Hanrahan, G. Tom Hince, Tyler Hoar, Brandon R. Holden, Randy H. Holland, Bill Hosking, Ethan Huner, Jean Iron, Marcia L. Jacklin, Anita M. Jacobsen, Karl Jennewein, Mike A. Jervios, Colin D. Jones, Timothy Joyce, Dan Kaczynski, Valerie M. Kirwan, Olga Klekner, Silvan H. Laan, John Lamey, William G. Lamond, Denis Lepage, Christina A. Lewis, J. Doug Lockrey, Stan Long, David Lyons (DLY), Stuart A. Mackenzie, Ross Mackintosh, Blake A. Mann, Doug Mannen, Dave A. Martin, Angela M. Massey, R. James McCoy, Jason

McGuire, Kevin A. McLaughlin, David McNorton, David J. Milsom, Brian L. Morin, Marion E. Muirhead, Bruce D. Murphy, Todd Norris, Michael J. Nelson, Linda J. Nuttall, David Okines, Henrietta T. O'Neill, Sumiko Onishi, Ontbirds (Listserve of the Ontario Field Ornithologists), Brad M. Ouellette, Karl R. Overman, Jim M. Pawlicki, Mark K. Peck, Sarah A. E. Petrasek, Robert C. Pettit, Gerard J. D. Phillips, Stephen T. Pike, Adam C. Pinch, Ron J. Pittaway, John Pleizier, Winnie Poon, Richard W. F. Pope, Betsy Potter, George W. Prieksaitis, Rayfield R. Pye, Peter A. Read, Kenneth G. Reed, Sean Rice, Alf H. Rider, Ron Ridout, Maureen Riggs, Garth V. Riley, Bruce E. Ripley, Ken Robinson, Sarah E. Rupert, Darlene J. M. Salter, Maggie Schut, Tim A. Seburn, Gary Schultz, Kevin R. Shackleton, Langis Sirois, Jim E. Skene, Jeff H. Skevington, Roy B. H. Smith, R. Terry Sprague, Robert W. Stamp, Joe Stephenson, David F. Suggs, Donald A. Sutherland, J. Michael Tate, Barbara L. Taylor, Jim Thomson, Steve Thorpe, Brendan Toews, Doug C. Tozer, Laura A. Tozer, Ronald G. Tozer, Marion Vaillant, Ted Vaillant, Josh Vandermeulen, Justin D. Vos, Lisa B. Vos, Richard Waters, Bill Watson, Ronald D. Weir, D.V. Chip Weseloh, Jeff R. Wimperis, Linda Wladarski, Chauncey Wood, Ross W. Wood, Sarah Wood, John M. Woodcock, Maureen E. Woodcock, Barb Woodfield (BWo), P. Allen Woodliffe, Alan Wormington, Kirk W. Zufelt, Hans van der Zweep.

Margaret J. C. Bain, 219 Albert Street Cobourg, Ontario K9A 2R6, (mjcbain@sympatico.ca)

Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley



Victor W. Fazio, III
Rick Wiltraut

We rarely report on breeding activity during the fall season, yet late nestings were the order of the day throughout the Region, perhaps a conse-

quence of the very cool summer. Both non-passerines, such as Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and passerines, such as Barn Swallow, were involved. Migration was generally a mixed bag for most groups, whether shorebirds or raptors or waterfowl. Probably a result of the relatively warm autumn temperatures, much of the waterfowl and crane flight was delayed into the winter period. American Avocets made a big move eastward, and Red Phalaropes continued a multi-year trend of good numbers. Despite sizeable concentrations of the more common sandpipers, the uncommon peep species were scarce this season. Late and lingering songbirds were many. Birders were kept busy with a good number of vagrants, highlighted by long-awaited first state

records of Allen's Hummingbird for both Ohio and Pennsylvania. And will we ever tire of the increasing numbers of White Ibis?

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of veteran Pennsylvania birder John C. Miller at age 72 on August 11, 2009. John birded Tinicum Marsh in Philadelphia, now the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, from the time he was a boy. Doris McGovern writes: "His birding skills were unique, and his knowledge of the area cannot be duplicated."

Abbreviations: Berlin L. (in Stark/Portage/Mahoning, OH); B.S.B.O. (Black Swamp B.O.); Buck Creek (Buck Creek S.P., Clark, OH); Byrd Dam (Robert C. Byrd Lock & Dam, Mason, WV); Caesar Creek (Caesar Creek S.P.,

Warren/Greene, OH); Conneaut (Conneaut Harbor, Ashtabula, OH); Deer Creek (Deer Creek W.M.A. and Deer Creek S.P., Fayette/Pickaway, OH); Funk Bottoms (Funk Bottoms W.M.A., Ashland/Wayne OH); Green Bottom (Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell, WV); H.M.S. (Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Schuylkill/Berks, PA); Headlands (Headlands Beach S.P., Headlands State Nature Preserve, and Mentor Marsh/Lagoons, Lake, OH); Hoover (Hoover Res., Delaware and Franklin, OH); J.H.N.W.R. (John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia/Delaware, PA); M.C.W.M. (Middle Creek W.M.A., Lancaster/Lebanon, PA); M.H. (Militia Hill hawkwatch, Montgomery, PA); Ottawa (Ottawa N.W.R., Lucas/Ottawa, OH); Pickerington Ponds (Pickerington Ponds, Franklin/Fairfield, OH); Presque Isle (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA); S.R.C.F. (Susquehanna R. at Conejohela Flats, Lancaster, PA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORK

A weak fall flight of Greater White-fronted Goose included a flock of 16 at Mercer W.M.A., Mercer, OH 20 Oct (LG). A Snow Goose at Pickerington Ponds 13 Oct (B. Sparks) was followed by a Ross's Goose there 16 Oct (DSr) for an early fall record from cen. Ohio; likely the same bird was present there 25 Oct (BWr). A Ross's Goose at Shenango Res., Mercer, PA 29 Nov was unusual for nw. Pennsylvania (MV). A flock of 5 Cackling Geese were seen at Alpine L., Preston, WV 27 Oct (D. Courtney); one was at Green Bottom 22 Nov (GR). An early flock of 5 Cackling Geese was noted 6 Oct at Conneaut (CH). Conneaut also hosted an early Brant 23 Sep–5 Oct (CH, S. Landes, m.ob.). This was a prelude to the passage of flocks of 8 on 17 Oct and 4 on 18 Oct through Lake, OH (JP). One made it to the Hannibal Locks, Wetzell, WV 17–21 Nov (W. Jarrell, MG, DP). Nice counts of Brant in Pennsylvania included 52 at Beltzville L., Carbon 24 Oct (DW), 80 at Harvey's L., Luzerne 28 Oct (KR), 105 at Penn Warner Tract, Bucks 1 Nov (DF), and 60 in Berks 3 Nov (K. Grim). The Tundra Swan flight was nicely documented over the West Virginia highlands, where 248 were on Cheat L., Monongalia 28 Nov (TB), 169 over the Canaan Valley, Tucker 11 Nov (C. Rucker), 150 on Sand Run L., Tucker 23 Nov (M. Crockett), and 140 over Laurel Mt., Barbour 16 Nov (D. Mitchell). Up to 723 Tundra Swans were at Greenlick Run L., Fayette, PA 30 Nov (M. Fialkovich).

A count of 2000 Wood Ducks at Tinker's Creek State Nature Preserve, Summit 24 Aug (R. Tressler, E. Hall) represented a healthy number for ne. Ohio. An impressive count of 872 Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal



A juvenile Brant spent a few weeks in November (here 8 November) 2009 at Conneaut Lake, Crawford County, Pennsylvania, where it was seen and photographed by many. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.



Rare in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, and probably only the fourth for the county ever, this first-winter male Black Scoter spent a week at Dashields Dam, 20–28 (here 20) November 2009. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

came from P.I.S.P. 28 Sep (JM). The 17 Greater Scaup at Beech Fork L., Wayne 27 Nov (MG, DP) was a good count for West Virginia. The normal Nov ratio of Black Scoter to Surf Scoter was reversed within the Central Basin of L. Erie, where there were 56 Blacks to 28 Surfs this season (JP, NA, m.ob.). Up to 12 Black Scoters were at Washington Res., Washington PA 8 Nov (MV, R. Gallardy), and 29 were on Schooley Pond, Susquehanna, PA 2 Nov (J. Skinner). Three Black Scoters at Berlin L. 30 Nov (CH) were rare for the Ohio interior in fall. A movement of Black Scoters through Pennsylvania 24 Oct included 9 at Beltzville L., Carbon, PA (DW), 30 at L. Wallenpau-

pack, Wayne (KR), and 40 at L. Scranton, Lackawanna (KR). In Pennsylvania that same day, 5 Surf Scoters were at Beltzville L., Carbon (DW), and 15 were on L. Wallenpaupack, Wayne (KR). Seven Surfs were on Harvey's L., Luzerne 2 Nov (KR). Reports of 7 White-winged Scoters and a single Long-tailed Duck surfaced for L. Erie. An early Long-tailed Duck appeared 19 Oct–2 Nov at Winfield Locks, Putnam, WV (K. Kazmierski, GR, R. Hardway). In Pennsylvania, the highest count of Long-tailed Duck was 34 at P.I.S.P. 21 Nov (JM). Up to 7 Surf and 3 Black Scoters could be found on the Shenandoah R., Jefferson, WV 11–12 Nov (MO, D. Myles, CD, JLe). A Buf-

flehead at Mercer W.M.A., Mercer, OH 6 Sep (C. Bowers) was decidedly early. A count of 120 Common Mergansers from Conneaut 5 Oct (JP) was early for a triple-digit tally. The observation of 27 birds at Conneaut 22 Aug (T. Lenz) was likely tied to breeding efforts in nearby estuaries of L. Erie within either Pennsylvania or New York.

A strong Common Loon flight saw local w. concentrations of 200 each at Buck Creek 20 Nov (MVC) and at Hoover 19 Nov (RTh). Farther e., 165 were at L. Arthur, Butler, PA 27 Nov (MV), and 346 Common Loons passed P.I.S.P 27 Nov (JM). Equally modest was the Nov passage of 6 Red-throated Loons and 3 Red-necked Grebes within the Central Basin. A short distance to the e., a remarkable 123 Red-throated Loons were tallied at P.I.S.P 19-30 Nov, with a high of 49 on 21 Nov (JM). Single Red-throated Loons within the Ohio interior were in Allen 22 Nov (RA), Holmes 27 Nov (RHR), Richland 25-28 Nov (J. McGowan, GCo), and Caesar Creek 19 Nov (Jason Cade). The latter was seen among 400+ Common Loons. A modest flight of loons in West Virginia included 78 Commons on Cheat L., Monongalia 28 Nov (TBn), where there was also a Red-throated 23-28 Nov (TBn). The e. Panhandle hosted 3 Red-throated Loons 17-26 Nov (MO, CD, m.ob.). Away from L. Erie, 35+ Red-throated Loons were in 15 counties in Pennsylvania 17 Oct-30 Nov (m.ob.), mostly 22-30 Nov. Two Red-necked Grebes at Harvey's L., Luzerne, PA 4 Nov (KR) represented a meager high count for Pennsylvania. Two Eared Grebes were at Bresler Res., Allen 18 Oct-22 Nov (RA). An Eared Grebe was in Lebanon, PA 3-5 Oct (R. Miller et al.). A Horned Grebe was in Washington, PA on the early date of 22 Aug (A. Berchin). The only report of American White Pelicans was of 2 holdovers from the summer season at Mercer W.M.A., Mercer, OH through 29 Aug (J. Bowers, RRs). A Brown Pelican on the Susquehanna R. at Peach Bottom, Lancaster, PA 3 Aug (BS, m.ob.) made a 5th record for the state. An ad. Great Cormorant at Peach Bottom, Lancaster, PA 3 Nov was unusual for the lower Susquehanna R. (C. Chalfant), and one was very early on the Delaware R., Bucks, PA 7 Aug (DF).

A Cattle Egret at Englewood Reserve, Montgomery, OH 26 Sep (E. Neubauer) was



This immature White Ibis at Picture Rocks, Lycoming County, Pennsylvania 7 August was one of several that invaded Pennsylvania in July and August 2009 and was especially unusual in north-central Pennsylvania. Photograph by Dave Ferry.

unexpected, as was one was in Bucks, PA 7 Aug (DF). Waifs appear annually in Nov, often after a gap of four+ weeks in records; this year's birds were in Richland, OH 9-11 Nov (J. Nisely, ph. SS) and in Holmes, OH 20 Nov (P. Hershberger, noted in *The Bobolink*). Another was in Harrison, OH 29 Oct (ph. K. Benish). A count of 800 Great Egrets at Ottawa 11 Aug (TB et al.) attests to the health of the West Sister I. population, as does a tally of 35 Snowy Egrets in Ottawa 11-12 Aug (TB et al.). Snowy Egrets dispersed to Hamilton, OH 27 Sep, where 2 were at Winton Woods (JMn) and one at Shawnee Lookout (J. Kappa). The Tricolored Heron in Berkeley, WV continued through 2 Aug (JLe). Ohio Little Blue Herons were well reported away from the Western Basin. One to 2 imms. were at L. Logan, Hocking, OH 12 Aug-12 Sep (J. Fry, D. Horn, m.ob.). Another imm. at Three Creeks Metropark, Franklin, OH 29 Aug (RTh) was followed by an ad. there 13 Sep (K. Adelson); one was also in Delaware at the n. end of Hoover 11 Sep (CBo). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at S.R.C.F 1 Aug was a first ever there for a veteran birder (BS). White Ibis in Pennsylvania included single imms. at Picture Rocks, Lycoming 7 Aug (W. Egli et al.; ph. D. Ferry) and Shenango Res., Mercer 1 Sep (ph. T. Moeller). Another White Ibis for West Virginia in 2009 was an ad. seen from the Gauley Bridge above the Kanawha

Falls, Fayette 7 Oct (D. Pollard, B. Hinton, Jr.). A Wood Stork flew over M.H. 25 Oct (B. Filemyr et al.; ph. J. Stewart).

VULTURES THROUGH PHALAROPES

The flock of 10 Black Vultures at Yellow Springs, Greene 17 Nov (N. Boutis) made a high count so far n. in w. Ohio. In e. Ohio, the species was reported as far n. as Lucas, Richland 7 Oct (GCo), where 4 were present. Mississippi Kites in Pennsylvania included singles at H.M.S. 15 Aug (LG) and Lansdale, Montgomery 18 Sep (K. Reiker). A Swallow-tailed Kite was at M.H. 27 Aug-5 Sep (N. Murphy, m.ob.; ph. T. Fellenbaum). Another Swallow-tailed Kite in Pennsylvania was reported at Cornwall, Lebanon 20 Sep (*vide* SK). A Northern Goshawk at Conneaut 14 Nov (ES et al.) was a rare find. A close encounter with 2 fledgling Northern Goshawks in the Cranberry Wilderness Area, WV 11 Aug (D. Wood et al.) was

very exciting and indicates that the species persists as a local breeder. The 371 Bald Eagles tallied at Waggoner's Gap hawkwatch, Cumberland/Perry, PA (D. Grove et al.) was exceptional. A count of 7525 Broad-winged Hawks at M.H. 19 Sep (B. Murphy et al.) led Regional counts. A Swainson's Hawk was noted at Rose Tree hawkwatch, Delaware, PA 25 Sep (B. Kelly, J. Lockyer et al.). The 68 Peregrine Falcons at H.M.S. during the season made a new high there (LG). A Merlin had returned to a cen. Ohio wintering site by 23 Aug (DSr, BWr); an early migrant was in Grant, WV 18 Aug (F. Atwood).

A Common Moorhen was unexpected at Green Bottom 10 Oct (GR). A late start to the fall Sandhill Crane migration through the w. part of the Region saw fewer than 300 during 27-28 Nov, with the highest count 207 over Middleton, Butler 27 Nov (B. Britton). A flock of 5 was over Calhoun, WV 30 Nov (T. Fox). An annual fall migrant, the season's Yellow Rail was an injured bird in Holmes, OH 19 Oct (*vide* G. Miller), also seen 21 Oct. Two King Rails persisted at Winous Pt., Sandusky, OH 12-19 Aug (TB et al.).

Single Piping Plovers appeared at Conneaut 1 (MV) & 23 Aug (M. Studebaker, L. Keene). Over 500+ Killdeer were at Englewood Reserve, Montgomery 16 Aug (RA), and 1000+ were at Funk Bottoms 15 Sep (James F. Yoder), on 20 Nov, Deer Creek hosted 378,

rather late for so many (RR). Best counts of American Golden-Plovers in Pennsylvania were 16 in Bath, *Northampton* 28 Oct (M. Schall) and 25 near Limestoneville, *Northumberland* 30 Oct (L. Shaffer). A strong flight of American Avocets through Ohio involved at least 47 birds. Five at Conneaut in Aug presaged a flock of 18 there 7 Sep (C. Pierce). Inland, 3 were at Clear Fork Res., *Ashland/Richland*, OH 3 Aug (GC et al.), 3-4 in were at Columbus 25-27 Sep (D. Whitley, G. Stauffer), and singles were in *Delaware* 28 Sep (RTh), *Warren* 21-22 Sep (RA), and *Auglaize* 7 Sep (RRs). American Avocet sightings were up in Pennsylvania, with singles at Colyer L., *Centre* 18 Aug (M. Donnell, GG), L. Redman, *York* 28 Aug (D. Cleary), *Shenango Res., Mercer* 29 Aug (MV), *Smithfield, Huntingdon* 9-12 Sep (D. & T. Kyler), *S.R.C.F* 13-17 Sep (BS et al.), *Bird-in-Hand, Lancaster* 14-17 Sep (D. Weber et al.), and Kahle L., *Venango/Clarion* 22-29 Nov (G. Edwards et al.). A late flight brought 2-3 to Pickerington Ponds 25-31 Oct (M. Smith, T. Slemmer), 2 to Mosquito L., *Trumbull*, OH 25 Oct-2 Nov (CH, m.ob.), and one to Lakeshore Metropark, *Lake*, OH 26 Oct (JP), while 2 were at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana* 8 Oct (M. Higbee et al.) and 2 in *Somerset* 25 Sep (ph J. McCullom, *vide* JM). Two were unusual for Byrd Dam 19 Aug (WA).

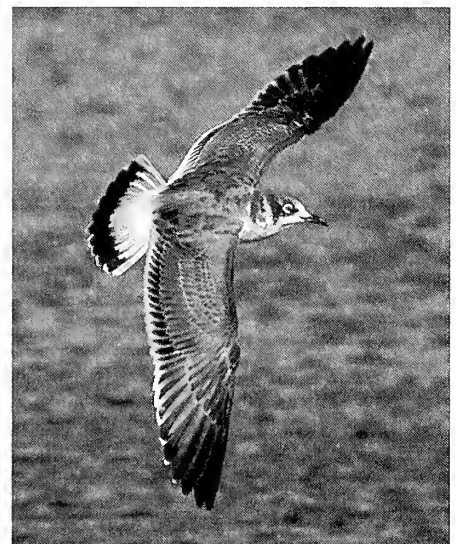
About 6 Whimbrels appeared at Conneaut through 11 Sep (RR, CW, m.ob.); adjacent P.I.S.P. hosted one 23 & 28 Aug (*vide* JM, M. Weible). One was inland to Buck Creek 5 Aug (RA); one in *Philadelphia* 22 Aug (F. Windfelder) was locally rare. A late passage was marked by singles in *Erie* and *Ottawa*, OH, both 20 Sep (BWr, CW). Six Ohio Hudsonian Godwits included one in *Sandusky* 18-24 Aug (C. Caldwell, SY, m.ob.), 2 at *Ottawa* 11 Sep (TB et al.), 2 in *Auglaize* 27 Oct (RRs), 2 in *Lake* 26 Oct (JP), and one at *Ottawa* 31 Oct (*vide* Rebecca Hinkle). Four Ohio Marbled Godwits included 2 at Hoover 5 Oct (CBO), up to 2 in *Sandusky* 22 Aug-2 Sep (K. Ostermiller, SY, m.ob.), and one in *Ottawa* 21-23 Sep (TB et al.). *Ottawa* led the Region in counts of Lesser Yellowlegs, with 1193 counted 10 Aug (B.S.B.O.). McClure Marsh, *Sandusky*, OH hosted 15 Greater and 35 Lesser Yellowlegs 2 Nov (TB et al.), large numbers for so late in the season. A single Willet was at Byrd Dam 19-20 Aug (GR, J. Tharp II). Up to 6 Willets were encountered for the season at Conneaut 2 Aug-7 Sep (m.ob.), with another 7 in the Western Basin (m.ob.); one in *Hancock* 4 Aug (RSs) was the only inland report. Only 5-6 Red Knots were detected on the L. Erie shoreline 24 Aug-10 Sep (KK, G. Seholzer, m.ob.); in Pennsylvania, 2 were on the S.R.C.F 23 Aug (EW, T. Garner) and one at

Shenango Res., Mercer 21 Sep (MV, Dave & Debra Darney). *Ottawa* hosted 2081 Least Sandpipers 3 Aug (B.S.B.O.), and at least 39 remained in Ohio in Nov, led by 15 at McClure Marsh, *Sandusky* 2 Nov (TB et al.). Hardy individuals included one in *Ottawa* 24 Nov (KK), 3 at Buck Creek 30 Nov (DO), and 6 in *Wayne* 28 Nov (SS), while 3 at *Riverside, Butler* 29 Nov (C. Saunders) remained into the winter period. The Semipalmated Sandpiper migration fared well; a flock at *Ottawa* 10 Aug numbered 1532 (B.S.B.O.), and 400 were at *Winous Pt., Ottawa* 13 Aug (TB et al.). A yellow-tagged individual at Conneaut 1 Aug (MV) had been marked in Peru. Conspicuous by their absence, virtually nothing of the passage of White-rumped and Western Sandpipers was detected in Ohio. Single Western Sandpipers in Pennsylvania were at S.R.C.F 3 & 13 Sep (BS et al.) and P.I.S.P 28 Aug (MV); seasonal totals were little more than 25% of the average for the past decade. An average Baird's Sandpiper flight in the w. part of the Region was led by a flock of 45 at *Ottawa* 23 Sep (B.S.B.O.). The best count of Baird's Sandpipers in Pennsylvania was 3 at P.I.S.P 28 Aug (MV). The passage of 688 Dunlins in *Lake* 26 Oct (JP) was followed by a flock of 922 at *Ottawa* 1 Nov (A. Bartley, m.ob.), which grew to a seasonal peak of 3800 on the late date of 9 Nov (B.S.B.O.). The 450 present at McClure Marsh, *Sandusky*, OH 2 Nov (TB et al.) were noteworthy for this new shorebird site, while 356 remained at *Ottawa* 28 Nov (B.S.B.O.). A single Purple Sandpiper was found along the Cleveland lakefront, *Cuyahoga* 15 Nov (KK, m.ob.). There were but 15 Buff-breasted Sandpipers detected in Ohio 29 Aug-24 Sep (BMo, C. Williams, CH, TB et al.), just half the average for the past decade. In the e. part of the Region, where rarer, one was at Byrd Dam 28-29 Sep (WA, DP), 2 were in *Bucks*, PA 12 Sep (AM), 2 were at *Forty Fort, Luzerne* 8-9 Sep (KR), and singles were at S.R.C.F 9 Sep (BS et al.) and *Mud Level Rd., Cumberland*, PA 22 Sep (A. Markel).

The 11 Wilson's Phalaropes from Ohio included a late bird 18-20 Oct in *Auglaize* (N. Keller, LG) and 5 at *Ottawa* 11 Sep (TB). One appeared at Byrd Dam 11 Sep (WA). An impressive flight of Red Phalaropes was led by 6 at Conneaut 2 Oct (R. Lane); singles were at *Ottawa* 11 Sep (TB et al.), somewhat early, at *Lakeview Cemetery, Cuyahoga*, OH 3-12 Oct (R. & J. Hoffman), and at *Apple Grove Fish Hatchery, Mason*, WV 28-29 Oct (ph. WA)—the latter marking the 3rd fall season in a row for the species in the Mountain State. In



A rarity at autumn hawkwatches anywhere in the East, this Swallow-tailed Kite favored Militia Hill Hawkwatch, Pennsylvania with an extended visit, 27 (here 31) August-5 September 2009. Photograph by Todd Fellenbaum.



This fearless juvenile Franklin's Gull appeared at the Py-matuning Reservoir spillway, Pennsylvania 31 August (here) through 3 September 2009; it often approached observers to within a few meters. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

Pennsylvania, Red Phalaropes were at S.R.C.F 3 (BS, C. Chalfant, T. Amico) & 16 Oct (J. Heller). Eleven Ohio Red-necked Phalaropes included one inland at Pleasant Hill Res., *Ashland* 2 Oct (LD) and 2 at Clear Fork Res. 29 Sep (JH), for a 2nd county record for *Richland*. In Pennsylvania, Red-necked Phalarope reports included 2 in *Northumberland* 16 Oct (L. Shaffer), 3 in *Delaware* 11 Sep (A. Guarente), one in *Lehigh* 14-15 Sep (P. Saenger), and one in *Cumberland* 1-4 Sep (V. Gauthier).

GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Black-legged Kittiwakes in Ohio were along

the Cleveland lakefront 8 Nov (KK, C. Harner, m.ob.), at Conneaut 14 Nov (ES et al.), and inland to Caesar Creek 10-13 Oct (ph. R. Meetei, m.ob.). Single Ohio Laughing Gulls were at Pleasant Hill L., *Ashland* 21-24 Sep (JH) and at East Fork L., *Clermont* 13 Oct (R. Edelen, V. Fantetti). An above-average flight of Franklin's Gulls saw flocks of 10 at Hoover 28 Sep (DSr et al.) and 20 at Alum Creek Res., *Delaware* 29 Sep (J. Davis, T. Bain). A scattering of another 19 birds was reported across the w. third of Ohio through 29 Nov, while one was e. to Pymatuning L., *Crawford* 31 Aug-2 Sep (S. Kinzey et al.). A Black-headed Gull at Easton, PA 18-21 Nov was a first for *Northampton* (ph. D. DeReamus). Remarkably early Sabine's Gulls included one at Laurel Hill S.P., *Somerset* 18 Aug (S. Tucker) and at Lakeshore Metropark, *Lake*, OH 30 Aug (JP). More typical was one at Huron, *Erie*, OH 17 Oct (G. Leidy). Huron also hosted a California Gull 21 Nov (JP). An average number (16) of Lesser Black-backed Gulls was reported for the L. Erie shoreline in Ohio. The arrival of several in the Western Basin 11 Sep (KK et al.) was three weeks earlier than normal. Notable inland was a bird at Evans L., *Mahoning* 20 Oct-13 Nov (CH). A large gathering of 1700 gulls at Findlay Res., *Hancock*, OH 27-28 Oct included an astonishing 650+ Herring Gulls (LH et al.). In addition, a remarkable 6-8 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found there 16-28 Oct, matching an Ohio record tally for an interior site (D. Vander Pluym et al.); 3 remained 29 Nov (B. Sparks et al.). Fall 2009 saw perhaps the weakest jaeger flight on L. Erie in a decade. Nonetheless, a prized Long-tailed was detected 30 Aug in *Lake* (JP). Otherwise, a single Parasitic Jaeger was reported 8 Nov from the Cleveland lakefront (JP m.ob.), and a Pomarine Jaeger was there 15 Nov (JP m.ob.), while in the Eastern Basin, 2 Parasitics were at P.I.S.P. 29 Sep (JM) and one there 31 Oct (R. Eakin). Rare in the e. Panhandle, 2 Black Terns were discovered in *Berkeley*, WV 14 Aug (MO).

Up to 11 Eurasian Collared-Doves were reported from Celina, *Mercer* 29 Sep (D. Sanders). An impressive 1700 Common Nighthawks were counted at M.H. 23 Aug (fide SK), and 2826 were tallied at Haverford College, *Delaware*, PA 21 Aug-14 Sep (fide DE). There were 1800 Chimney Swifts within a Gahanna, *Franklin*, OH roost as late as 4 Oct (RTh). In *Allegheny*, PA, eggs in a Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest hatched on the late date of 18 Aug (D. Bauman). The 71 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds passing H.M.S. 25 Aug furnished a new high for that location (LG). A late male Ruby-throated

Hummingbird was still in Palmer Twp., *Northampton*, PA 10 Nov (fide A. Koch). In Pennsylvania, banded Rufous Hummingbirds included 3 in *Berks* 16 Sep-30 Nov (SW, H. Lebo, T. Leckey, L. Simpson), and singles were in Zionsville, *Lehigh* 16 Nov (SW), Roxbury, *Somerset* 30 Sep-11 Oct (B. Mulvihill), Ephrata, *Lancaster* 21-30 Nov (EW, SW), Avondale, *Chester* 18 Oct-11 Nov (NP), Pottstown, *Montgomery* 30 Oct-5 Nov (fide SW), and East Earl Twp., *Lancaster* 16 Oct-30 Nov (SW). A male Rufous Hummingbird seen in Jul at Mt. Lebanon, *Allegheny*, PA was still present 13 Aug (fide R. Protz). Ohio Rufous Hummingbirds included an ad. female in Loudonville, *Ashland/Holmes* mid-Sep-1 Nov (T. Sage, fide SS), one in Butler, *Richland* 14-18 Oct (J. Nisley), and an ad. male near Shreve, *Wayne* 24 Oct-9 Nov (J. Kanagy, fide SS). A Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird was at Harborcreek, *Erie*, PA 15-30 Nov (S. Brandt), and another was in Ephrata, *Lancaster* 24 Oct-3 Nov (EW). An Allen's Hummingbird, apparently present since Aug, was caught and banded in Dec at Leola, *Lancaster*, PA (ph. SW, m.ob.). This represents a first state record. Another state first, an Allen's Hummingbird at the residence of Mae Miller near Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, OH first noted in late Sep/early Oct (fide SS) was banded by Allen Chartier 11 Dec, when it was identified as an imm. male; it was last seen 27 Dec.

SHRIKES THROUGH THRUSHES

The presence of a Loggerhead Shrike near Greenbank, *Pocahontas*, WV 28 Aug made welcome news (W. Tolin). Two Acadian Flycatchers seen through 24 Oct in *Holmes*, OH (K. Kline) represent the latest satisfactory fall record for Ohio. Ohio's 4th Vermilion Flycatcher, a one-day wonder, was discovered at Headlands 2 Oct (BMo, K. Miller, m.ob.). Ohio's 5th Say's Phoebe was present in *Greene*, OH 28-29 Nov (DO, BWr et al.). An Ash-throated Flycatcher near Mt. Gretna, *Lebanon*, PA 20-28 Nov was a 4th for the state (R. Miller, ph. D. Weber et al.). A Western Kingbird on the Marblehead Pen., *Ottawa*, OH 18 Sep (C. Wood) was rare for the L. Erie shoreline; another was in *Hamilton*, OH 29 Aug (N. Keller, A. Brunner et al.). Late White-eyed Vireos were in Pennsylvania at Hibernia Park, *Chester* 2 Nov (R. Robinson) and Shelocta, *Indiana* 4 Nov (MH). An impressive 215 Blue-headed Vireos were tallied at H.M.S. 1-11 Oct (LG). A group of 18 Common Ravens at H.M.S. 18 Aug must have been quite a sight (LG). A well-described Common Raven in *Holmes*, OH 26 Nov (RHr) proved to be the first modern-day record for the county

and represents the westernmost report in the expansion of the Allegheny population thus far. A single-observer sighting from the Harrison County airport, OH 21 Nov was intriguing but lacked details.

Demonstrating some local recovery, the 15,000 Purple Martins staging at L. Nimisilla, *Summit*, OH in late Aug represented a healthy total (fide LD). Astonishing was the formation of a roost in late Jul in Huntington, *Mason*, WV, which grew over the next two weeks to an estimated 40,000 birds 10 Aug (MG, DP). Of 2 present in *Wayne*, OH 1 Nov (Atlee Yoder), one remained into the winter period. A Cave Swallow was observed 14 Nov at Conneaut (ES et al.). Absolutely extraordinary was a late nesting of a Barn Swallow near Bunker Hill, *Holmes*, OH (D. Wengerd), where a recently fledged young with parents were observed 7 Nov (M. Hershberger). The last seen of the young birds was noted 11 Nov (D. Wengerd, published in *The Bobolink*). A Barn Swallow lingered through 25 Nov in *Hamilton*, OH (KW) and a Northern Rough-winged Swallow through 21 Nov at Hoover (A. La Sala). In Pennsylvania, up to 1300 Northern Rough-winged Swallows gathered at Lower Makefield Memorial Park, *Bucks* in late Sep (B. Keim).

A Sedge Wren in *Hamilton*, OH 28 Oct (KW) was late, but 12 at Funk Bottoms 3 Oct (RH et al.) marked the peak of migration through Ohio. A kinglet fallout on Kelleys I., *Erie*, OH 17 Oct numbered 700+ birds comprised of 75% Golden-crowned and 25% Ruby-crowned (TB et al.). A Townsend's Solitaire at H.M.S. 20 Sep represented a 3rd record for that location (J. Vinosky, D. Barber et al.). Ohio's 3rd Northern Wheatear was in *Holmes* 12-16 Sep (R. and S. Harlan, m.ob.), and another was well described at L. Caroline, *Bucks* 4 Oct (D. Pevear).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

An early Orange-crowned Warbler turned up at Green Bottom 20 Sep (WA). An ad. male Kirtland's Warbler was a rare fall find at East Harbor S.P., *Ottawa*, OH 18 Sep (E. Kistler, m.ob.). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was at Big Spring Creek, *Cumberland*, PA 20-26 Oct (V. Gauthier et al., ph. A. Markel). Few warblers lingered into the season. Some Ohio examples included a Nashville Warbler in *Holmes* 29 Nov (RHr), a Hooded Warbler in *Cuyahoga* 24 Oct (NA), a Northern Parula at Buck Creek 17 Oct (DO), a Black-throated Blue Warbler in *Auglaize* 27 Oct (D. Knox), single Blackpoll Warblers in *Franklin* (DSr) and *Cuyahoga* (NA) 1 Nov, a Connecticut Warbler in *Hamilton* 11 Oct (A. Scruggs, T. Kopp), and a Kentucky Warbler in *Wayne* 11

Oct (A. M. Troyer). An Ovenbird in *Kanawha*, WV 15 Nov (B. Smith) was late, as was a Northern Parula in *Hancock*, WV 18 Oct (GR, MG, WA). In Pennsylvania, a late American Redstart was at *Swissdale*, *Clinton*, PA 7 Nov (W. Laubscher).

A pair of Blue Grosbeaks with 2 fledglings at Grand Central landfill, *Northampton* 3 Sep (ph. RW) represented the northernmost breeding record of this species in e. Pennsylvania. Single Clay-colored Sparrows in Ohio were found on *Kelleys I.*, *Erie* 18 Sep (TB), at *Headlands* 3 Oct (E. Bruder), and in *Mahoning* 18 Oct (W. Jones), while 2 were in *Butler* 27 Sep (M. Busam). A Clay-colored Sparrow was at *Chicora*, *Butler*, PA 2 Oct (Debra Darney). Two Henslow's Sparrows at *Ottawa* 14 Aug (TB et al.) were unexpected; one continued at *Runnymede Farm*, *Chester*, PA through at least 26 Aug (H. Merker). Lark Sparrows away from known breeding sites in Ohio are unpredictable in fall and may turn up anywhere. Two were noted in ne. Ohio this season, one at *Headlands* 4 Sep (M. Rohr et al.) and one a bit farther w. along the L. Erie shoreline in *Cuyahoga* 5 Sep (ph. NA). Another was in *Huntfield*, *Jefferson*, WV 29 Oct (MO). A species now regularly detected in the Region in autumn migration, 25 Nelson's Sparrows nevertheless made an above-par total for the season in Ohio; 5 were at *Mentor Marsh* 3 Oct (A. Jones, m.ob.), 6-8 at *Funk Bottoms* 3 Oct (RHr, ES, m.ob.), and 3 were at *Pickerington Ponds* 30 Sep (BWr). Two at a wetland restoration in *Hancock* 3 Oct (LH et al.) and 2 at *Big Island W.M.A.*, *Marion* (S. Williams, Jack Stenger) were also noteworthy. One appeared at the *Ashton Swamp*, *Mason*, WV 4 Oct (DP). An impressive 13 Nelson's Sparrows were in *Bucks*, PA 11-25 Oct (m.ob, *fide* AM), and one at *Pennypack Trust*, *Montgomery*, PA 10 Oct (P. Driver) was unusual for that location. In Ohio, 5 Le Conte's Sparrows were detected 3-27 Oct, with records from *Hancock* (D. Vander Pluym), *Pickerington Ponds* (BWr, DSr), *Marion* (RR), and *Tuscarawas* (R. Schlabach). A Golden-crowned Sparrow, sporting a U.S.F.W.S. band, returned 17 Nov to the same *Hancock*, OH feeder where the state's first record made a brief appearance in Apr 2009 (when it obtained its federal jewelry). It was noted the bird departed in Apr with the departure of migrant juncos and returned in Nov with juncos (*fide* TB). The bird remained for the winter. Single Oregon Juncos were in *York*, PA (ph. B. Moul) and *Adams*, PA 22 Nov (M. O'Brien).

A Summer Tanager was at *John Heinz N.W.R.*, *Philadelphia* 14 Aug (D. McGovern). An imm. Dickcissel found at *Pickerington*

Ponds 25 Oct (BWr) was late. A Bobolink lingered through 24 Oct in *Holmes*, OH (James F. Yoder). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at *Prince Gallitzin S.P.*, *Cambria*, PA 19 Sep (G. & S. Young). A Brewer's Blackbird was reported from *Hamilton*, OH 4 Oct (JMn). A Baltimore Oriole remained in *Hocking*, OH 31 Oct (J. Campbell). An errant Red Crossbill appeared 25 Oct in *Hancock*, OH (LH). Some 15-20 White-winged Crossbills were at *Brown's Run*, *Warren*, PA 8 Sep (J. Fedak), and a Pine Siskin was near *Bath*, *Northampton*, PA 19 Aug (DW). An indication of the absence of winter finches this fall was the 35 Pine Siskins recorded at H.M.S. during the season, compared to 13,165 in fall 2008 (LG).

Addendum: A Pine Siskin banded in *Bangor*, *Northampton*, PA 15 Mar 2009 was found s. of *Edmonton*, *Alberta* 27 Jul 2009—about 3200 km distant (P. Karner).

Initialed Observers (subregional compilers in boldface type): OHIO: Nancy Anderson (NA), Rick Asamoto (RA), Tom Bartlett (TB), Charlie Bombaci (CBo), Gary Cowell (GCo), Laura Dorman (LD), Larry Gara (LG), Lauren Harter (LH), John Herman (JH), Robert Hershberger (RHr), Craig Holt (CH), Kenn Kaufman (KK), John Marvin (JMn), Ben Morrison (BMo), Doug Overacker (DO), John Pogacnik (JP), Russell Reynolds (RRs), Robert Royle (RR), Robert Sams (RSs), Ed Schlabach (ES), Dave Slager (DSr), Su Snyder (SS), Rob Thorn (RTh), Matt Valencic (MVC), Ben Warner (BWr), Kirk Westendorf (KW), Clyde Witt (CW), Sheryl Young (SY). PENNSYLVANIA: Justin Bosler (JB), Chuck Chalfant (CC), David Eberly (DE), Devich Farbotnik (DF), Greg Grove (GG), Laurie Goodrich (LG), Paul Hess (PH), Margaret Higbee (MH), Rudy Keller (RK), Mark McConaughy (MM; Central Pennsylvania Birdline), Jerry McWilliams (JM), August Mirabella (AM), Judy Mirabella (JM), Nick Pulcinella (NP), Kevin Ripka (KR), Bob Schutsky (BS), Amy Taracido (AT; Rare Bird Alert, w. Pennsylvania), Mark Vass (MV), Scott Weidensaul (SW), Dustin Welch (DW), Rick Wiltraut (RW), Eric Witmer (EW). WEST VIRGINIA: Wendell Argabrite (WA), Terry Bronson (TBn), Carol Del-Colle (CD), Mike Griffith (MG), Jon Little (JLe), Matt Orsie (MO), David Patick (DP), Gary Rankin (GR). ☺

Victor W. Fazio, III, 18722 Newell Road, Floor 2
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44122, (bcvireo@sbcglobal.net)

Rick Wiltraut

Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
835 Jacobsburg Road, Wind Gap, Pennsylvania 18091
(rwiltraut@state.pa.us)

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Illinois & Indiana



James D. Hengeveld
Keith A. McMullen
Geoffrey A. Williamson

The cool, wet summer in the Region bled into a cool, wet August. Though September provided some respite from the wet weather, it's been nearly 70 years since the Region experienced an October with the amount of rainfall it received this year. The cool temperatures persisted until November, which on average was more than 2.8° C above normal, and the rain finally slacked off, with November experiencing below-normal precipitation. The distinct lack of strong cold fronts moving through the Region resulted in low totals for a number of aquatic species.

Unusual sightings included lingering individuals of both whistling-duck species, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbills, an out-of-range Mississippi Kite, two Green Violetears, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Sage Thrasher, and Lark Bunting.

Abbreviations: Carlyle (Carlyle L., s. Illinois); Dunes (Dunes S.P., Porter, IN); FP. (Forest Preserve); F.W.A. (Fish and Wildlife Area); Goose Pond (Goose Pond F.W.A., Greene, IN); Miller (Miller Beach, Lake, IN); Monroe (L. Monroe, Monroe, IN); Montrose (Montrose Pt. in Chicago's Lincoln Park); Pine Creek (Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area, Benton, IN); West Beach (West Beach, Porter, IN).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GREBES

At Goose Pond, a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was seen 6 Aug (DRW) and at least 2 of the summering Fulvous Whistling-Ducks remained through 6 Sep (GD). A record Illinois fall count of 18 Trumpeter Swans at Spring L., Carroll (DTW) reflected a continuing increase in numbers, while an astounding 1036 Tundra Swans migrating past the Illinois Beach S.P. hawkwatch 29 Nov (PWS, JRRS et al.) provided an all-time Illinois high count. The 780 Green-winged Teal at Goose Pond 27 Oct

(BF, LWS) constituted Indiana's highest fall count since 1989. The Mottled Duck at Santa Fe Bottoms, Clinton, IL from summer remained through 5 Aug (DMK, MSS). A record-early male Greater Scaup flew past Miller 30 Aug (JJM, JCK, BH). A count of 13,500 Lesser Scaup on the Mississippi R. in Hancock, IL 14 Nov (AGD) was notably large.

A female Harlequin Duck was observed 28 Nov at Candlewick L., Boone, IL (EWW). Illinois's highest Surf Scoter tally was away from L. Michigan, with 6 at Carlyle 31 Oct (DMK, MSS), whereas 5 of the 10 inland Surf Scoters reported in Indiana were found at Fiddler's Pond in Goshen, Elkhart 28 Oct (DS, LSh, RT). Among 5 inland White-winged Scoters in Indiana were 2 at Hardy L., Scott 19 Nov (TB, CB) and one at Summit Lake S.P., Henry 21 Nov (SAP). The peak Black Scoter count of 13 at Monroe 16 Nov (MC) constituted Indiana's 2nd highest inland count ever. In Illinois, 5 Black Scoters each were seen at Illinois Beach S.P. 24 Nov (MJW) and inland at Shabbona Lake S.P. 8-28 Nov (DJS, m.ob.), while a female at Prairie Creek Res. 17 Oct (ph. BG) furnished the first record for Delaware, IN.

A fine flight of Red-throated Loons included 28 at various Indiana lakefront locations 21 Nov (KJB, SRB, JKC, JJM et al.), and several inland sightings included 2 at Carlyle 8 Nov (JRRS) and an ad. at Patoka L., Orange, IN 28 Nov (AK, NK). The Region's 4 Pacific Loons included one at Carlyle 6-14 Nov (JS, PAM, DMK, MSS, m.ob.), one at Beverly Shores, Porter, IN 12 Nov (JJM, JKC, KJB), one at Prairie Creek Res., Delaware, IN 21 Nov (JAH, SAP, FH, SS, MW), and one on Monroe 27 Nov (DRW). A strong count of 251 Common Loons was made at East Fork L., Richland, IL 17 Nov (CLH). It was a good season for grebes, with 9 Red-necked, 15 Eared, and 10 Western Grebes reported. Among these were 2 Red-neckeds at Beverly Shores, Porter, IN 7 Nov (BJG, JJM), 3 Eareds in Monmouth, IL 23-25 Sep (DJM, MJB, KAM), and 2 Westerns at L. Shelbyville, Moultrie, IL 28-29 Nov (TAM, DMK, MSS et al.), while the summering Western at Carlyle continued through 6 Aug (DMK, MSS et al.).

CORMORANTS THROUGH RAILS

An Indiana record, 5650 Double-crested Cormorants were at Miller 1 Aug (JJM, SRB, JKC, MT, KJB). American White Pelican numbers in Illinois keep increasing, with 18,071 counted in Mason between Lake Chautauqua N.W.R. and nearby Clear L. 10 Oct (RGB, SNB). In Indiana, where American White Pelicans are much scarcer, the 21-24 at Goose Pond remaining through 30 Sep (LWS et al.) were notable, as was the one at Wolf L., Lake

28 Aug (CAM). Summer rarities lingering into fall included the Brown Pelican at Two Rivers N.W.R., Calhoun, IL through 29 Aug (ph. DMK, ph. JRRS, MSS, KAM) and single Neotropical Cormorants at Carlyle until 5 Sep (ph. DMK, MSS, KAM et al.) and in Lake, IL until 2 Aug (CBT).

Goose Pond hosted 11 American Bitterns 1 Sep and 5 Least Bitterns 31 Aug (LWS). A Least Bittern at Muscatatuck N.W.R., Jennings, IN 18 Oct (TB) was late. A count of 397 Great Blue Herons, Indiana's 2nd highest ever, was made at Goose Pond 1 Aug (LWS). Indiana's three all-time highest tallies of Great Egrets, all at Goose Pond this fall, were topped by 1324 there 1 Sep (BF, LWS). An imm. Tricolored Heron 23 Aug-6 Sep at Carlyle (DMK, MSS, CA, m.ob.) provided Illinois's first fall record in eight years. Late Cattle Egrets included one at West Beach 1 Nov (AV, BH) and 3 at Clinton L., DeWitt, IL 15 Nov (TH). Goose Pond hosted a notable 47 Black-crowned Night-Herons 12 Aug (DRW).

High summer numbers of White Ibis spilled into fall, with 4 at Goose Pond 2 Aug (LWS), one in Columbus, IN 11-12 Aug (DA, DHK), and a late juv. at Patoka River N.W.R., Pike, IN 4 Sep (S&RV). An ad. White-faced Ibis at Pine Creek 19 Aug (JBD, EMH, MLPR, MCH) provided Indiana's first Aug record, while an amazing tally of 15 unidentified *Plegadis* ibis at Cane Ridge W.M.A., Gibson 30 Sep (ph. BM) furnished Indiana's maximum count for any *Plegadis* species. The long-staying Roseate Spoonbill that provided Indiana's first documented record remained at Goose Pond until 6 Sep (LWS, TBG, DH et al.), while one 22 Sep-3 Oct near Vandalia (MAH, DMK, ph. MSS, m.ob.) provided the 4th Illinois record.

An excellent tally of 297 Turkey Vultures came from the Greene Valley FP hawkwatch, DuPage, IL 11 Oct (REF et al.). A juv. Mississippi Kite at Miller 20 Aug (ph. JCK) furnished Indiana's first fall record. At Rockford, IL, a satellite breeding locale, a juv. Mississippi Kite lingered through 16 Sep (JBe). In Indiana, the 360 Bald Eagles reported constituted the highest fall total ever, but just one Northern Goshawk, an imm. at Pine Creek 24 Oct (EMH), was reported from the state. Five Swainson's Hawks were located near the McHenry, IL breeding sites 23 Aug (RAM, ALM), while 2 at the Illinois Beach S.P. hawkwatch 10 Oct (PWS et al.) and one 30 Oct in Mason, IL (ph. KAM, MSS) were unexpected. On 15 Aug at Dunes, 214 Red-tailed Hawks were tallied (SRB, JKC, RJP, MT, KJB), the largest fall total ever for Indiana. A Rough-legged Hawk at the Greene Valley FP hawkwatch, DuPage, IL 31 Aug (REF et al.) was six weeks ahead of schedule. Eighteen Golden

Eagles were reported in the Region. A Prairie Falcon was seen at L. Shelbyville, *Moultrie*, IL 22 Sep (KAM, MSS, REF, KDF).

Among 4 Yellow Rails were one at Goose Pond 13 Oct (DW), a disoriented bird rescued in downtown Indianapolis 25 Oct (DG, WH et al.), one at Stirtz, IL 1 Nov (LS), and another at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, IL 4 Nov (RES). Two Black Rails were reported from s. Illinois: at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area 24 Aug (CLH, RES) and at Rend L. 28 Aug (LS). The Region tallied 9 King Rails; one heard 7 Nov at Goose Pond (LWS) was late. Excellent American Coot counts included 25,000 at Emiquon N.W.R. 8 Nov (JRRS) and 13,000 at Willow Slough F.W.A., *Newton* 10 Oct (EMH), the latter a record for Indiana.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

The Region's 8 Piping Plovers included 2 at Horseshoe L., *Madison*, IL 19 Aug (WMR, FRH) and Indiana's first Nov sighting, an apparent juv. photographed at L. Gibson, *Gibson* 8 Nov (G&LB) that lingered through 28 Nov (CEM). The 30 Black-necked Stilts at Big L., *Brown* 9 Aug (MJB, KBR) provided Illinois's largest fall tally ever. Widespread reports of numerous American Avocets included 28 at Two Rivers N.W.R., *Calhoun*, IL 21 Aug (MJW) and 15 at LaSalle L., *LaSalle*, IL 11 Aug (JDM, CKM). A count of 150 Solitary Sandpipers made at Pine Creek 2 Aug (MLPR) was Indiana's highest ever. Willets were relatively scarce in Illinois, aside from 8 in Chicago 17 Aug (DFS), while the 62 at Michigan City, *LaPorte*, IN 17 Aug (JCK) provided a fine total. The best among the Region's few reports of Upland Sandpiper were 4 at Santa Fe Bottoms, *Clinton*, IL 5 Aug (DMK, MSS) and 3 in s. *Rock Island*, IL 9 Aug (SMF). Eight Whimbrels were reported along L. Michigan this season, but notably away from there were singles at LaSalle L., *LaSalle*, IL 27 Aug (JS) and at Carlyle 1-20 Sep (CA, ph. DMK, MSS, ph. KAM et al.). Among the Region's 12 Hudsonian Godwits were 3 at Rend L., IL 6 Sep (TJD, LS, DMu, PT), 4 at L. Shelbyville, *Moultrie*, IL 19-20 Sep (JRRS, GN, KMn), and 2 at Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis 30 Sep (SAP, LP et al.). Three Marbled Godwits that passed Miller 1 Aug (JJM, JKC, MT, KJB) were among the total of 9 reported in the Region. It was a good season for Red Knots in Illinois, with 9 reported, including 2 at Montrose 17 Aug (DBJ, APS). Three Sanderlings at Muscatatuck N.W.R., *Jackson* 24 Nov and 2 the following day (DCr) provided the all-time latest reports for s. Indiana. A tardy juv. Baird's Sandpiper was found at Wakarusa W.T.F., *Elkhart*, IN 20 Nov (NM, ph. LSh, DS, HK). Indiana's highest fall count of

Pectoral Sandpipers on record was made at Pine Creek 2 Aug, with 1600 (MLPR). The Purple Sandpiper at Waukegan, IL 17 Oct (AFS, ph. JRRS, ph. KAM) was the 2nd earliest on record for Illinois. A highlight of the shorebird season was a Ruff at L. Shelbyville, *Moultrie*, IL 21-22 Sep (TDF, ph. RDF, EWW). At least 15 Red-necked Phalaropes were reported in the Region, among them a flyby at Miller 29 Aug (JKC, MJ, RH, RJP, KJB et al.) and 4 off Montrose 5 Sep (JRRS). Single Red Phalaropes were observed in *Coles*, IL 6 Aug (DMo, ph. RDF, TAM, SDB), at Carlyle 13-19 Sep (DMK, MSS et al.), and 31 Oct at both Carlyle (DMK) and Miller (KJB, SRB, JKC, JCK, JJM et al.).

A juv. Black-legged Kittiwake at Miller 31 Aug (MR) furnished Indiana's 3rd Aug record. Also strikingly early, and unusual away from L. Michigan, was another juv. at Dresden Lock & Dam, *Grundy*, IL 11-12 Sep (JRG, ph. BA, m.ob.). Two were seen on L. Michigan in Wilmette, IL 16 Nov (REF, MAM, RE, APS), and another was inland at Clinton L., *DeWitt*, IL 29 Nov+ (MEF, MM-L). No Sabine's Gulls were seen in Indiana for the first time since 1986, while in Illinois, they arrived early, with one at Carlyle 8 Sep (DMK, MSS); numbers peaked 4 Oct, with 3 at Carlyle (DMK, MSS, CLH); and the last was rather late, in *Sangamon* 1 Nov (HDB). Little Gulls included a juv. flying past Miller 29 Aug (JKC, JJM, PBG, EMH, KJB et al.), an ad. at Carlyle 31 Oct and 21 Nov (DMK), and 2 ads. at Beverly Shores, *Porter*, IN 21 Nov (BJG). At least 12 Laughing Gulls were scattered throughout the Region. Most interesting was a possible Laughing Gull × Ring-billed Gull hybrid noted at Winthrop Harbor, IL 4 Aug (ph. EWW). The Region's 3 California Gulls included an ad. at Port of Indiana, *Porter*, IN 26 Nov (JJM) that was the county's first, a first-cycle individual 27 Aug-22 Sep at L. Shelbyville, *Moultrie*, IL (TAM, ph. TDF, m.ob.), and an ad. at Winthrop Harbor, IL 28 Oct-17 Nov (ph. TBL, JRRS, ph. EWW et al.). An Iceland Gull at Port of Indiana, *Porter*, IN 26 Nov (JJM) represented the first fall Indiana record in eight years. At least 20 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were present along the L. Michigan shoreline this season, with 8 at Winthrop Harbor 14 Nov (GAW). An ad. Glaucous-winged Gull was a fantastic find at Winthrop Harbor, IL 17 Oct (ph. GN, JRRS, KAM, m.ob.).

A Common Tern identified at Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis 18 Nov (SAP) represented the 2nd latest record ever away from the Indiana lakefront. Two Forster's Terns lingered until 29 Nov at Carlyle (DMK, MSS). A fine total of 12 jaegers was logged on the Indiana lakefront in Aug, but the lack of subsequent strong fronts meant few jaegers, so the season

total of 17 was well below average. Ad. Long-tailed Jaegers were at Miller 22 Aug (JRG, JJM, BJG, SRB, JKB et al.) and 29 Aug (JKC, JJM, RJP, MJ, KJB et al.), and a juv. was at Carlyle 3 Oct (DMK, KAM).

A Barn Owl was at Carlyle 30 Aug (DMK, MSS), and one was reported in Waukegan 1 Nov (EWW). With few Oct records of Northern Saw-whet Owl for the Indiana lakefront, the 2 females banded at Dunes 18 Oct (BB) were notable. A single Chimney Swift seen flying along the shore at West Beach 1 Nov (AV) provided the 3rd latest record for the Indiana lakefront. The Region's first Green Violetears were a bird photographed at a feeder in Mascoutah, *St. Clair*, IL 10 Aug (ph. R&LS) and another in rural *Perry*, IN 2-3 Oct (ph. T&AA). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis 26 Aug (RL-S, *fide* LP) provided a first Aug record for cen. Indiana.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH TANAGERS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher in *Sangamon* 11 Oct (HDB) tied the 2nd latest departure date for Illinois. Two Eastern Wood-Pewees at Pine Creek 1 Nov (EMH) provided the 3rd latest Indiana record; one in Chicago 30 Oct (CLW) was very late, as were an Acadian Flycatcher at Monroe 27 Sep (DRW) and a Least Flycatcher at Montrose 13 Oct (KH). A notable 16 Eastern Phoeebes were tallied 7 Sep at Carlyle (DMK, MSS). A Say's Phoebe in *Sangamon* 1 Oct (HDB) joined fewer than 15 records for Illinois. A Western Kingbird found at the Great Miami Oxbow 29 Aug (AWB, NdK et al.) provided a first record for *Dearborn*, IN. Exceptionally late Eastern Kingbirds were observed 28 Oct in *Spencer*, IN (DAy) and 30 Oct at Spring L., *Tazewell*, IL (KAM). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Bloomington 31 Oct-1 Nov (JB, JF, JDH, ph. SEH, ph. PK et al.) provided Indiana's first Nov record, while one in s. *Jasper* 5 Nov (†CLH, †RES) was Illinois's 2nd latest ever. A Fork-tailed Flycatcher in *Rock Island* 25 Nov (MWa, ph. KW) was Illinois's 3rd.

Part of an excellent Northern Shrike flight in Indiana were early birds at Goose Pond 6 Nov (DRW, LW, CS) and Chinook Mine, *Vigo* 8 Nov (ph. JSu). In *Sangamon*, IL, a White-eyed Vireo 14 Nov (HDB) was quite late. A fine tally of 16 Bell's Vireos at Hawthorn Mine, *Sullivan*, IN 26 Aug (DRW) highlighted an impressive fall total for the species. A Warbling Vireo in *Sangamon*, IL 15 Nov (HDB) surpassed the prior Illinois late date by a month. A Red-eyed Vireo in Chicago 28 Oct (PRC) was also late. A fine flight of Tree Swallows featured 100,000 at Carlyle 3, 4, & 12 Oct (DMK, KAM, MSS) and 8000 at Hovey L., *Posey*, IN 14 Oct (DC); one in El Paso, IL 27 Nov (MLPR) was notably late. Two Northern Rough-winged Swallows in

Kankakee 18 Nov (JBH) were tardy. Two Barn Swallows at Miller 6 Nov (MT) furnished the 2nd latest Indiana lakefront record. With Bewick's Wrens quite scarce in the Region, one in *McDonough*, IL 3 Sep (†MJB) was notable. A House Wren at Carlyle 27 Nov (ph. DMK) was very late, as was a Marsh Wren at Hovey L., Posey, IN 3 Nov (CC).

Counts of 80 Ruby-crowned Kinglets 12 Oct at Carlyle (DMK) and 90 Eastern Bluebirds in *Woodford*, IL 31 Oct (MJW) were superior. Indiana's earliest Townsend's Solitaire ever flew past Dunes 16 Oct (BJG); an ad. was at West Beach 31 Oct (KM, JCI, m.ob.) and 1 Nov (C&DM), with presumably the same bird at Burns Ditch, *Porter* 10 Nov (KJB). A late Veery was at Monroe 19 Oct (DRW). Quite a find was the Sage Thrasher in Chicago 10 Nov (KMn, ph. JRRS, ph. GN, m.ob.); Illinois has no more than three prior valid records, with none in the past 35 years. Another rarity was a *Sprague's* Pipit at Greene Valley F.P., *DuPage*, IL 27-28 Oct (REF, ph. JS).

Indiana experienced a record flight of Orange-crowned Warblers (107 reported). Nashville Warbler also had an impressive flight, highlighted by 25 at Franke Park, *Allen* 25 Sep (JBr), which tied Indiana's highest count. A Northern Parula at Fabyan F.P., *Kane*, IL 7 Nov (DJS) was late. A Yellow Warbler at Dunes 7 Nov (StS, JAH, ph. HM, BB et al.) remained through 10 Nov (BB), providing Indiana's first Nov record. A Magnolia Warbler in Chicago 27 Oct (BW) was late, while a female Cape May Warbler at Pigeon River F.W.A., *LaGrange*, IN 15 Aug (SS) was early. Quite tardy was a Yellow-throated Warbler at Lake Chautauqua N.W.R., *Mason*, IL 16 Oct (TH). Notably late Palm Warblers included the Indiana lakefront's latest ever at Forsythe Park, *Lake* 5 Nov (MT) and a later one at Montrose 30 Nov (GAW). Also late was a Bay-breasted Warbler at Illinois Beach S.P. 3 Nov (ph. EWW, m.ob.). Cerulean Warblers are scarcely detected in fall, with typically only singles reported, so 2 at Loud Thunder F.P., *Rock Island*, IL 27 Aug (MJB) were notable. A Worm-eating Warbler found at Dunes 1 Sep (BB) yielded the first fall lakefront record in Indiana since 1992. At Miller, the female Wilson's Warbler found 1 Aug (SRB) represented Indiana's earliest ever fall record. Summer Tanagers 23 Oct in *Sangamon* (HDB) and 12 Oct at Dunes (BB) were late, the latter the latest ever for the Indiana lakefront.

SPARROWS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

Exceptional tallies of 132 and 100+ Chipping Sparrows were made 13 Oct at Mazonia-Braidwood State F.W.A., *Will*, IL (JBH) and 19 Oct in Rockford, IL (BCW), respectively. Three

Clay-colored and 6 Vesper Sparrows at West Beach 24 Oct (KJB, SRB, MB, JKC, KN et al.) were noteworthy. The Lark Sparrow at Montrose 29 Oct (ABB) provided a record late date for Illinois. An ad. male Lark Bunting at Montrose 10 Aug (RDH, ph. KH, ph. GAW, m.ob.) was Illinois's first since 2004. Nelson's Sparrows peaked with 7 at Springbrook Prairie F.P., *DuPage*, IL 8 Oct (AB) and 6 at McCool Basin, *Porter*, IN 3 Oct (BB, JCK, m.ob.). Two Le Conte's Sparrows were at Goose Pond on both 20 (AK, JC) & 21 Oct (DRW). A tally of 75 Fox Sparrows at Mackinaw Bluffs, *Woodford* 31 Oct (MJW) set a new fall high count for Illinois. At Montrose, a Lincoln's Sparrow 30 Aug (WSS) and Lapland Longspur 19 Sep (FM, LGM) were early. A Smith's Longspur, unusual in fall, was noted at L. Shelbyville, *Moultrie*, IL 22 Sep (†TAM, KAM, MSS). An impressive Snow Bunting flight occurred along the Indiana lakefront 28 Nov, with 787 along the e. lakefront (JKC, SRB, KJB, CM, JJM et al.) and another 450 at Miller (MT).

A notable total of 40 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was logged at the Bill Zimmerman Preserve, *Brown*, IN 27 Sep (JR, JDH, SEH, AM). A first-year male Blue Grosbeak at Eagle Marsh in Ft. Wayne, IN 16 Aug (JAH) provided *Allen's* 3rd record. Bobolink counts of 170 at Rollins Savanna, *Lake* 8 Aug (EWW) and 120 at Big L., *Brown* 9 Aug (KAM) were Illinois's 2nd and 3rd highest totals ever for fall. The 72 Eastern Meadowlarks in *Jasper*, IL 24 Nov (RES) and 165 Brewer's Blackbirds on sod fields in *McHenry*, IL 12 Sep (DBJ) were both notably large fall tallies. A Purple Finch seen in Beaubien Woods F.P., *Cook* 12 Aug (DFS) is apparently the earliest fall migrant on record for Illinois. The lone Red Crossbill reports were of single birds 31 Oct at Miller (JJM, JKC, KJB, JCK et al.) and 29 Nov in *Cook*, IL (DFS). Though Pine Siskin reports in the Region were few, with Indiana's total of 8 the lowest since 1996, 12 were at the Morton Arboretum, *DuPage*, IL 22 Nov (DFS). Unusual in being away from the Mississippi and Illinois R. corridors were single Eurasian Tree Sparrows in Champaign, IL 16-25 Oct (DLT, GSL) and at Carlyle 28 Nov (ph. DMK, MSS).

Contributors cited (subregional editors in boldface): Todd & Angela Albin, Connie Alwood, Bill Anderson, David Atkinson, David Ayer (DAy), Susan R. Bagby, Steven D. Bailey, Jonathan Bauer, Michael J. Baum, Colleen Becker, Mike Becker, Tom Becker, John Bergstrom (JBe), Richard G. Bjorklund, Sigurd N. Bjorklund, Alex B. Bloss, H. David Bohlen, Aaron Boone, Gary & Lisa Bowman, Kenneth J. Brock (Indiana), Jerry Brown (JBr), Alan W. Bruner, Brad Bumgardner, John K. Cassady,

John Castrale, Mike Clarke, Jamie Claus (JCI), Paul R. Clyne, Dan Collins, Charles Crawford, David Crouch (DCr), Tim J. Dever, Alfred G. Dierkes, Gary Dorman, J. Barny Dunning, Robert Erickson, Brad Feaster, Julia Ferguson, Karen D. Fisher, Robert E. Fisher, Matthew E. Fraker, Steven M. Freed, Richard D. Funk, Tyler D. Funk, Don Gorney, Joel R. Greenberg, Terri B. Greene, Brendan J. Grube, Peter B. Grube, Bill Grummer, Matthew C. Hale, C. Leroy Harrison, Ted Harzler, James A. Haw, Fran Headings, Ray Helmuth, James D. Hengeveld, Susan E. Hengeveld, Jed B. Hertz, Dawn Hewitt, Kanāe Hirabayashi, Mary Ann Hoeffliger, Frank R. Holmes, Wes Homoya, Edward M. Hopkins, Robert D. Hughes, Bob Huguenard, David B. Johnson, Marty Jones, Dan H. Kaiser, Dan M. Kassebaum, Howard Kauffman, Amy Kearns, Noah Kearns, Ned Keller (NdK), Phil Kelly, John C. Kendall, Thomas B. Lally, Gregory S. Lambeth, Rebecca Lomax-Sumner, Clint & Dana Maddox, Michael A. Madsen, Travis A. Mahan, Karen Mansfield (KMn), Carolyn A. Marsh, Ann Maxwell, Bill McCoy, Jeffrey J. McCoy, Cynthia K. McKee, John D. McKee, Matt Mckim-Louder, Keith A. McMullen, Cathy Meyer, Holly Meyers, Kip Miller, Neil Miller, Chuck E. Mills, Fran Morel, Anita L. Morgan, Robert A. Morgan, David Mott (DMo), D. James Mountjoy, Pete A. Moxon, Don Mullison (DMu), Luis G. Muñoz, Greg Neise, Kevin Nevers, Randy J. Pals, Steve A. Pancel, Larry Peavler, Mike Resch, Michael L. P. Retter, Kevin B. Richmond, Jeff Riegel, William M. Rudden, Steve Sarratore (StS), Sandy Schacht, Leland Shaum (LSH), Rick & Linda Scheibel, Mark S. Seiffert, Wesley S. Serafin, Darrell J. Shambaugh, Robert E. Shelby, Andrew P. Sigler, Jeffrey R. R. Skrentny, Jeff Smith, Caroline Snow, Leonard Stanley, Lee W. Sterrenburg, Alan F. Stokie, Dan Stoltzfus, Douglas F. Stotz (Illinois), Jim Sullivan (JSu), Paul W. Sweet, Craig B. Thayer, David L. Thomas, Perry Thoms, Michael Topp, Ray Troyer, Sue & Richard Vernier, Alison Vilag, Eric W. Walters, Kevin Wassel, Mabe Wassel (MWa), Lorna West, Donald R. Whitehead, Barbara C. Williams, Daniel T. Williams, Jr., Christine L. Williamson, Geoffrey A. Williamson, Ben Winger, Marisa Windell, Matthew J. Winks, Dennis Workman. Many others submitted observations but could not be personally acknowledged; all have our thanks for their contributions. 🌐

James D. Hengeveld, 6354 Southshore Drive Unionville, Indiana 47468, (jhengeve@indiana.edu)

Keith A. McMullen, 1405 DeSoto O'Fallon, Illinois 62269, (warbler7@sbcglobal.net)

Geoffrey A. Williamson, 4046 North Clark Street, Unit K Chicago, Illinois 60613, (geoffrey.williamson@comcast.net)



Peder H. Svingen

September and November were much warmer and drier than normal, while August and October were cooler and wetter than usual. Highlights included the Region's first Black Guillemot and Acorn Woodpecker.

Abbreviations: Hawk Ridge (Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve, Duluth, MN); Horicon (Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area, Dodge, WI); Muskegon (Muskegon Wastewater System, Muskegon, MI); North Shore (North Shore of L. Superior, ne. Minnesota); Pte. Mouillee (Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, Monroe, MI); Shiawassee (Shiawassee N.W.R., Saginaw, MI); U.P. (Upper Peninsula, MI); Whitefish Pt. (Whitefish Point B.O., Chippewa, MI).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GREBES

Michigan hosted a Ross's Goose in *Macomb* 21 Oct–11 Nov (JFa, BMC, m.ob.). Wisconsin's only reports were in *Ozaukee* 31 Oct (NC) and *Brown* 24 Nov (T&IB), while Ross's in five Minnesota counties was less than half the number recorded last fall. Three Brant (p.a., SH) were followed by one at Big Bay Lighthouse, *Marquette*, MI (SH). A high count of 3562 Greater Scaup was obtained at Pte. Mouillee 27 Nov (AMB). The Michigan B.R.C. accepted an imm. male King Eider in *Chippewa* 6-7 Nov (CN, ph. KZ) and will review an eider photographed in flight 27 Oct (CN). A total of 7 Harlequin Ducks was the most ever recorded at Whitefish Pt. Four additional Harlequins in three Michigan locations included a record-early arrival in *Berrien* 7 Oct

(TB, MH). Female or imm. Harlequin Ducks visited two Minnesota and two Wisconsin locations on the Great Lakes. Unusual were "inland" reports in Minnesota of 2 on L. Osakis, *Todd* 15 Nov (BWF) and on L. Mille Lacs 28 Nov (male; PEB, JPM, JLO). Above-average numbers of Surf Scoters surfaced in 14 Wisconsin counties for the 2nd consecutive fall, but only 173 were tallied this season at Whitefish Pt. Above the seasonal average were 3163 White-winged Scoters at Whitefish Pt. Black Scoter is usually the scarcest of the scoter species, but they showed up in 11 inland Minnesota counties and 11 Wisconsin counties, including a high count of 57 at Milwaukee 31 Oct (AS). In Michigan, a high count of 86+ Black Scoters was obtained at *Marquette* 23 Oct (SH), and Whitefish Pt. had its 2nd best season with 255. Whitefish Pt. also had its 2nd best total of 32,841 Long-tailed Ducks, with a peak of 10,782 on 27 Oct. A drake Barrow's Goldeneye at Duluth 17-27 Nov+ (PHS, ph. DD, ph. EB) may be the same individual that wintered last year.

More than usual, Northern Bobwhite was reported from five Wisconsin counties. Normally a very rare fall migrant in Minnesota, but continuing its recent increase, were up to

Pacific Loons transited five Minnesota and four Wisconsin locations. Eight Western Grebes was an exceptional total for Wisconsin. Five Western Grebes made an unprecedented number for Michigan; one provided the 2nd Whitefish Pt. record 31 Oct–1 Nov (ph. CN, ph. JBo).

HERONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Continuing from summer was a Little Blue Heron in *Monroe*, MI through 2 Aug (TW, DO). Another visited Pte. Mouillee 25 Aug (ATC). In Wisconsin, a Little Blue Heron moved back and forth between *Dane* and *Columbia* 10-16 Aug (CHe, AH). Most unusual of 2 Little Blue Herons in the Twin Cities area was a long-staying imm. in *Ramsey*, MN 24 Aug–21 Sep (EC, m.ob.). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron visited *Columbia*, WI 24-30 Aug (JO, MB). In Minnesota, an ad. Yellow-crowned from summer lingered in *Hennepin* through 3 Aug, while a juv. strayed w. to *Lyon* 18 Aug (ph. MO). Wisconsin reported White-faced Ibis in *Dodge* 16-18 Aug (AH, JS). Unidentified *Plegadis* ibis were found in all three states; record late for Minnesota was one in *Blue Earth* 30 Nov–1 Dec (RK, ph. RMD).

The Detroit River Hawkwatch (formerly Southeast Michigan Raptor Research, *Wayne*, MI) and Hawk Ridge both reported low numbers for most diurnal raptors. Cedar Grove Banding Station documented Swallow-tailed Kite in *Sheboygan*, WI 19 Aug (NG, HM). Michigan had the Region's only Mississippi Kite at Lake Erie Metropark 20 Sep (SC, GN, ph. DF, ph. JMT). Record late was a Broad-winged Hawk at Hawk Ridge 15 Nov (KJB). Nicoletti trapped and banded a hatch-year female Gyrfalcon in *St. Louis*, MN 9 Oct (FJN, ph. ABL). Michigan's only Gyrfalcon was found near Sault Ste. Marie 3 Nov (HD, CRo). A Gyrfalcon in *Ashland*, WI 28 Nov+ (RSB) was probably a returning individual. Three Prairie Falcons in Minnesota equaled last fall's total. Wisconsin's only King Rail was in *Waukesha* 1 Sep (DG). An injured Purple Gallinule was turned in for rehabilitation in *Milwaukee*, WI 21 Oct (SD).

American Avocets in 11 Michigan counties included a high count of 24 at Ludington S.P.,



This juvenile Arctic Tern, present at the Three Oaks Wastewater Treatment Ponds, Berrien County, Michigan from 27 (here 28) November into early December 2009, was the latest ever recorded in the Western Great Lakes region. Photograph by Darlene Friedman.

7 Red-throated Loons at Duluth. Wisconsin had five reports of Red-throated Loons from three se. counties. Red-throated Loon migration started with 6 at Whitefish Pt. 7 Sep and peaked at 86 there 23 Sep. Michigan had single Pacific Loons at Whitefish Pt. 25 Sep (p.a., TP) and St. Joseph, *Berrien* 4 Nov (MH, TB).

Mason 17 Aug (DCD). Wisconsin hosted avocets in five counties, including 12 in *Columbia* 9 Aug (JRo). Sixty-six Spotted Sandpipers teetered at Muskegon 2 Aug (CW). Normally a rare fall migrant, 18 reports of Whimbrel in Michigan was extraordinary; the largest group was 10 in *Berrien* 31 Aug (MH). Unusual for Wisconsin was a flock of 25 Hudsonian Godwits in *Columbia* 17 Aug (JRo). Michigan reported one to 3 Marbled Godwits at five locations. Wisconsin's only Marbled Godwit showed up in *Dodge* 1



Providing Michigan's first record since 1939, and third overall, was this Dovekie found dead at South Haven, Van Buren County 21 November 2009. Photograph by Allen T. Chartier.

Aug (KK). Michigan welcomed more Red Knots than usual. Multiple reports from Pte. Mouillee included a high count of 18 on 6 Sep (AMB). Elsewhere were 3 in *Bay* 2 Sep (DJ), 8 at Lake Erie Metropark 6 Sep (GN), and an injured bird in *Monroe* 19 Oct (WGP). Minnesota's only Red Knot visited *Cass* 6 Sep (AB, BAW). A well-documented Western Sandpiper was last seen in *Manitowoc*, WI 30 Oct (CS). At least 6 Purple Sandpipers were found in Michigan in Nov. Wisconsin's only Purple Sandpiper visited *Kewaunee* 8 Nov (RA). Anich tallied 2400 Dunlins in *Ashland*, WI 26 Oct (NA). Wisconsin reported another good Buff-breasted Sandpiper migration, with 17 reports from eight counties, but the Minnesota statewide total of 51 birds was relatively low for the 7th consecutive fall. Michigan recorded a total of 6 Buff-breasteds in four locations. Michigan hosted Ruffs at Pte. Mouillee 6 Sep (AMB, JD, BMu) and Tawas Point S.P., *Iosco* 20 Sep (DJ). Minnesota's statewide total of 401 Red-necked Phalaropes included 145 at Warroad, *Roseau* 6 Sep (KRE et al.). Michigan attracted single Red Phalaropes at Whitefish Pt. 8 Oct (p.a., ph. CN, TP, SH), *Ottawa* 1 Nov (RBr), and *Mason* 7 Nov (ph. DCD, TG). Establishing the first Sibley record was a Red Phalarope at Gaylord W.T.P., MN 17 Oct (RBW, RMD, PEB, DAB, ph. CHO).

GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

All three states recorded Black-legged Kittiwake. Michigan had 3, including an ad. in *Berrien* 16 Oct (AVi) and first-cycles in *Berrien* (AVi, JLa, DLa) and at Whitefish Pt. (TP), both

15 Nov. Wisconsin had one in *Ozaukee* 24 Oct (p.a., DT), and Minnesota had one at the Superior Entry, *St. Louis* 31 Oct (MLH, PHS). Scarce compared to recent fall migrations, Minnesota reported single Sabine's Gulls in *Crow Wing* 19 Sep (ph. J&SB) and *Rice* 27 Sep (DAB, JWH), while Michigan's only Sabine's passed Whitefish Pt. 9 Oct (TP). Above average were at least 12 Little Gulls in six Michigan locations, starting with 2 in *Berrien* 26 Aug (TB) and ending with one in *Mason* 25-29 Nov (PF, DCD, JLi); along the way was a first *Marquette* record at L. Independence 24 Oct (SH, DPa). In contrast, Wisconsin's only Little Gull visited *Sheboygan* 13 Aug (JO), and Minnesota had none. Twelve Franklin's Gulls in six Michigan locations were more than usual. A first-cycle California Gull on the Minnesota side of the Superior Entry 21 Nov+ (MLH, PHS, ph. KJB) was the 4th for *St. Louis*; it flew across the state line into Wisconsin on the 25th (p.a., KJB). A high count of 8 Thayer's Gulls at *Marquette*, MI 29 Oct (SH) punctuated an above-average season for the Wolverine

State. More consistent coverage at the Superior Entry resulted in record-high counts for Minnesota of 16 Thayer's Gulls 31 Oct (MLH, PHS) and 4 Iceland Gulls 28 Nov (PHS); most of these birds were also seen on the Wisconsin side of the Entry. Nine Iceland Gulls in Michigan included an early arrival at *Marquette* 21-22 Oct (SH). Minnesota's 6th Slaty-backed Gull since 2006 was a third-cycle bird at the Superior Entry 28 Oct+ (ph. KJB et al.). It flew across the Entry and into Wisconsin 14 Nov (ph. EB) and was

subsequently refound and photographed by many at Canal Park, Duluth. Record late for Michigan was a juv. Arctic Tern at Three Oaks 27 Nov+ (KM, AVi, ph. DF, ph. JFo, ph. JM). An imm. Pomarine Jaeger was at Port Huron, *St. Clair*, MI 17 Nov (ph. KO). At least 6 Parasitic Jaegers were documented at Wisconsin Pt. 17 Sep-7 Oct (m.ob.), most of which were among the 7 identified at Duluth, MN this fall. The highlight of this year's "Jaegerfest" at Wisconsin Pt. was a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger 18 Sep (p.a., TRS, ph. SF). Another juv. Long-tailed was photographed at Whitefish Pt. 22 Sep (p.a., ph. CN, DF, TP).

Minnesota's 10th Band-tailed Pigeon frequented a feeder in *Hubbard* 27-29 Oct (p.a., ph. RAl). Single White-winged Doves at Duluth, MN 24 Aug (CRu) and 4-10 Oct (CRu, ph. PHS, m.ob.) were probably different individuals; 15 of Minnesota's 17 records have occurred since 2003. Furnishing the 2nd *Cass*, MI record was a Barn Owl in Penn Twp. 7 Sep (JTW, MS). Five Northern Hawk Owls in Michigan and 27 in Minnesota were harbin-

SA Alcids made headlines in the Region this fall. Providing Michigan's 3rd record and its first since 1939 was an emaciated male Dovekie found dead at South Haven, *Van Buren* 21 Nov (p.a., G&BS, *University of Michigan Museum of Zoology). In Minnesota, the Region's first Black Guillemot was found alive at Taconite Harbor, *Cook* 7 Nov (CL, ph. KRE, ph. SBM, m.ob.) but died the next morning (*British Museum of Natural History). Necropsy of this first-year female did not reveal cause of death, as there were no obvious signs of injury and the bird was not emaciated. Recently publicized and providing Wisconsin's first record since 1975 was a juv. Ancient Murrelet found moribund in *Outagamie* 2 Nov 2007 (PH, *University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire). Conventional wisdom predicts that alcids are likely to starve to death on the Great Lakes. This was certainly not true of Michigan's 7th Ancient Murrelet at Tiscornia Park, *Berrien* 14-25 Nov (TB, ph. MH, ph. AJ, m.ob.), probably the most "chaseable" alcid ever found in the Region. It was observed feeding on minnows and even vocalized at times.

gers of a winter irruption, but Great Gray Owls were scarce. The summering Chuck-will's-widow in *Berrien*, MI broke its vow of silence 1 Aug (SAJ). Michigan's 5th Green Violetear visited Grand Rapids, *Kent* 26 Sep (ph. RBo). All three states recorded Rufous Hummingbird. In Wisconsin, males were photographed at feeders in *Bayfield* 5 Aug (TO) and *Rock* 4-10 Oct (EH). In Michigan, beginning in late Sep, ad. females were photographed in *Genesee* (KB, ph. ATC, JBu) and *Van Buren* (KH, ph. ATC, JTW). Furnishing Minnesota's first confirmed record since 1999 was an ad. male Rufous in *Lyon* 2-28 Aug (BM, ph. BS).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FINCHES

Another Regional first was an ad. male Acorn Woodpecker serendipitously photographed at Crow Wing S.P. in cen. Minnesota 9 Nov (ph. DB). A coordinated walking survey of Park Point, Duluth, MN produced a record-high count of 144 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers 23 Sep (CRu, PHS). Black-backed Woodpeckers in three Wisconsin and 10 Minnesota counties were typical numbers. Michigan had above-average numbers of Black-backeds in nine U.P. counties, including 16 at the Black River Falls burn in *Marquette* 5 Sep (SH). Wisconsin's 3rd Say's Phoebe did not linger at Horicon 27 Oct (p.a., DT). Michigan attracted Western Kingbirds in *Baraga* 8 Sep (ph. JY) and *Alger* 13 Sep (SH, C&MH). In Minnesota, late Jul's Scissor-tailed Flycatcher lingered in *Dodge* through 3 Aug. Michigan welcomed Scissor-taileds at Whitefish Pt. 8 Oct (ph. CN, TP, SH) and *Monroe* 29 Oct (ph. AVa). Though not seen by anyone except the landowners, Minnesota's 3rd Fork-tailed Flycatcher was artfully photographed in *Pine* 18-25 Nov (CE, ph. HE). Encouraging for Wisconsin was an ad. Loggerhead Shrike with 2 fledged young in *Dunn* 16 Aug (JP).

One or more Fish Crows were last reported in *Berrien*, MI 16 Oct (AVi) and 28 Oct (MH). Two Cave Swallows were well seen in flight at Wisconsin Pt. 14 Nov (NA). Whitefish Pt. recorded its first Tufted Titmouse 16 Oct (ph. CN, TP, JH et al.). Unusually far n. in Michigan was a Carolina Wren on Manitou I., *Keweenaw* 5 Oct (GC). Mountain Bluebird was not reported in Minnesota this fall, and Townsend's Solitaire was relatively scarce in all three states. Wood Thrushes lingered in *Freeborn*, MN 28 Oct (D&BM) and *Saginaw*, MI 27 Nov (DJP). It must have been challenging to count 28,178 American Robins roosting in *Livingston*, MI 25 Oct (RAW)! Michigan and Wisconsin each reported 6 Northern Mockingbirds, while Minnesota had half as many. Record early in Minnesota was an American Pipit in *Carver* 6 Aug (RBW, CMB).

Warblers surviving the cold of Oct established record or near-record late dates during balmy Nov, including a Nashville Warbler in *St. Louis*, MN 13 Nov (KJB) and a Northern Parula in *Lake*, MN 12-13 Nov (CRu, KJB). Furnishing the 3rd Michigan record of Audubon's Warbler were 2 in *Delta* 18 Nov; one lingered through the period (p.a., ph. JK, AMB). Less unusual farther w. but still noteworthy was an Audubon's in *Lake*, MN 12 Nov (CRu). Also late were a Yellow-throated Warbler in *LaCrosse*, WI 10 Oct-28 Nov (BG), a Pine Warbler in *Keweenaw*, MI 9 Nov (JY) and another in *Hennepin*, MN 19 Nov (SLC), single American Redstarts in *Manitowoc*, WI 31 Oct (BD) and *Hennepin*, MN 2 Nov (SLC), a Prothonotary Warbler in *Hennepin*, MN 27 Oct-1 Nov (RH, DWK, m.ob.), and an Ovenbird in *Hennepin*, MN 28 Nov+ (SLC).

Wisconsin reported Summer Tanagers in *Winnebago* 26 Aug (DT) and *Waukesha* 4 Oct (AS). In Minnesota, late fall Summer Tanagers typically show up along the North Shore, making one in *Otter Tail* 21 Nov (ph. SJ) and one in *Hennepin* 29 Nov (ph. CBA) even more unusual. In Michigan, a tardy female Scarlet Tanager visited a feeder in *Midland* 20 Nov (ph. JZR, JaL, JZ). Easterly was a Western Tanager in *Burnett*, WI 8 Aug (WM); this species is rarely found anywhere in the Region during fall migration. Tardy sparrows in Michigan included a Clay-colored Sparrow in *Marquette* 4-17 Nov (SH, JH), 2 Grasshopper Sparrows in *Berrien* 14 Oct (MH, TB), and a Henslow's Sparrow in *Berrien*, MI 14 Oct (MH, TB). Both Michigan and Wisconsin reported above-average numbers of Le Conte's Sparrow. Six reports of Neison's Sparrow in five Wisconsin counties was a good showing for the Badger State. Four reports of *Ammodramus* sp. in Michigan included single Nelson's/Saltmarsh Sparrows at Pte. Mouillee 4 Oct (AMB, CP) and *Huron* 5 Oct (p.a., BR, JV). Lincoln's Sparrows lingered in *Wayne*, MI 24 Nov+ (ph. KO) and *Milwaukee*, WI 29 Nov (TWO). Late and far from its usual haunts was a Chestnut-collared Longspur at Au Sable Lighthouse, *Alger*, MI 29 Oct (p.a., ph. CBR).

A Western Meadowlark strayed eastward to Presque Isle Park, *Marquette*, MI 7 Nov (ph. SH). Encouraging in light of its recent decline were 1500 Rusty Blackbirds at Shiawassee 10 Nov (LMA). Record-high counts in ne. Minnesota of 829 Purple Finches in *Cook* 4 Oct and 757 in *Lake* 5 Oct (mostly moving northeastward, CRu) were soon eclipsed by 2035 in *St. Louis* 12 Oct (mostly southbound, CRu). The only significant count of Evening Grosbeaks was 116+ in *Marquette*, MI 22 Nov (VB).

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Larry M. Abraham, Roselyn Albers (RAI), Nick Anich, Ryan Atwater, Carolyn Bachman (CBA), Doug Backlund, Tim Baerwald, Karl J. Bardon, David A. Bartkey, Ty & Ida Baumann, Karen Bennett, Vicki Bennon, Andrew Binek, Jo & Steve Blanich, Jason Bojczyk (JBo), Marilyn Bontly, Ray Bowers (RBo), Ryan S. Brady, Cynthia Bridge (CBr), Rick Brigham (RBr), Eric Bruhnke, Conny M. Brunell, Paul E. Budde (Minnesota), Jeff Buecking (JBU), Adam M. Byrne (eBird Michigan), Steve L. Carlson, Allen T. Chartier (Michigan), Greg Cleary, Erik Collins, Noel Cutright, Seth Cutright, Jim Dawe, Scott Diehl, David C. Dister, Bob Domagalski, Heidi Doman, Diana Doyle, Robert M. Dunlap, Kim R. Eckert, Chris Eichert, Heidi Eichert, Joseph Faggan (JFa), Bruce A. Fall (eBird Minnesota), James Fox (JFo), Scott Franke, Darlene Friedman, Ben W. Frichtman, Nancy Gibson, Tim Granger, Brian Gray, Dennis Gustafson, Karen Harmon, Skye Haas, Chuck Heikkinen (CH), Michael L. Hendrickson, Carl & Mary Henshcn, Patrick Hietpas, Ruth Hiland (RH), Chris Hockema (CHo), John W. Hockema, Randy Hoffman (Wisconsin), Aaron Holschbach, Eric Howe, Joanie Hubinger, Matt Hysell, Doug Jackson, Steve Janssen, Scott A. Jennex, Andy Johnson, Joe Kaplan, Robert Kaul, Kay Kavanagh, Doug W. Kieser, David Lautenbach (DLA), Jonathan Lautenbach (JLa), Jana Lind (JaL), Joe Lipar (JLi), Andrew B. Longtin, Cyndi Lubecke, Dennis & Barbara Martin, James P. Mattsson, Bruce McGee (BMc), Bob Meyer, Scott B. Meyer, Kip Miller, Jeff Moore, Helmut Mueiler, William Mueller, Brad Murphy (BMu), Gary Nelkie, Chris Neri, Frank J. Nicoletti, Darrin O'Brien, Tim Oksuita, Mike Osmond, James L. Otto, Jim Otto, Karl Overman, Andy Paulios (eBird Wisconsin), David Pavlik (DPA), Walter G. Pawloski, David J. Peters, Janine Polk, Tom Prestby (eBird Wisconsin), Caleb Putnam, Bruce Robertson, Craig Robinson (CRo), John Romano (JRo), Cameron Rutt (CRu), Joe Schaufenbuel, Thomas R. Schultz, Bill Schuna, Mike Smith, Charles Sontag, Gail & Bill Stewart, Peder H. Svingen, Andrea Szymczak, Daryl Tessen, Joan M. Tisdale, Jim VanAllen, Al VanDaele (AVa), Alison Village (AVI), Tex Wells, Carolyn Weng, Ben A. Wieland, Robert B. Williams, Richard A. Wolinski, Tom Wood (TWO), Jonathan T. Wuepper, Joseph Youngman, Jan Zender-Romick (JZR), Jerry Ziarno, Kirk Zufelt. We offer sincere thanks to the hundreds of contributors who could not be cited here individually. ☺

Peder H. Svingen, 2602 East 4th Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55812, (psvingen@d.umn.edu)

Iowa & Missouri



Walter Wehtje

Full 2009 continued the trend of extreme weather experienced by both states during the summer. In Iowa, August was cool and wet, with widespread flooding in the southeast and record monthly precipitation totals at some locations. By contrast, September was mild and the driest one on record. In Missouri, August was significantly cooler than normal, with much of northern Missouri receiving record amounts of rain during the month. September was a little warmer, but the rainfall pattern changed, with the northern portion of Missouri being relatively dry, and the southern parts much wetter.

The earlier weather patterns were amplified in October. It was Iowa's third coldest and second wettest October on record and the fifth coldest and second wettest October on record for Missouri. The first two weeks of the month were extraordinarily chilly, with record-low temperatures noted in the northwestern two-thirds of Missouri and throughout Iowa. Underwood, in southwestern Iowa, received nearly 18 cm of snow on 10 October. This coincided with record-setting precipitation in southern Missouri, where much of the area received two to three times the average rainfall. This pattern abruptly ended in November, when another shift in weather patterns ended the fall season on a warm and dry note. The extremely wet conditions in August, aggravated further in October, filled wetlands, swelled rivers, and flooded fields. As a result, shorebirds and waterfowl had plenty of habitat, making their movements widespread, slow, and difficult to track. The warm November also seemed to delay the tail end of the migration, especially for migrant geese, as plenty of open water remained to our north and west.

Few observers reported good birding for

fall migrants. The passerine migration was described by many as light. Despite these wide shifts in the weather, there were several highlights. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and Mottled Ducks showed up in both states, while Missouri also had records of Clark's Grebe, California Gull, and Common Poorwill. Another species of note for Iowa was Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Abbreviations: B.B. (Bob Brown C.A., Holt, MO); B.K.L. (B. K. Leach C.A., Lincoln, MO); C.B. (Columbia Bottoms C.A., St. Louis, MO); C.C.L. (Creve Coeur L., St. Louis, MO); C.C.P. (Caruthersville Catfish Ponds Pemiscot, MO); C.C.R. (Clarence Cannon N.W.R., Pike, MO); E.B. (Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone, MO); F.G. (Fountain Grove C.A., Linn/Livingston, MO); Hitchcock (Hitchcock W.M.A. hawkwatch, Pottawattamie, IA); KMOS (KMOS TV Tower, Morgan, MO); Mingo (Mingo N.W.R. Bollinger/Stoddard, MO); M.W.S.U. (Missouri Western State University Buchanan, MO); O.S. (Otter Slough C.A., Stoddard, MO); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); P.S.P. (Prairie S.P., Barton, MO); Saylorville (Saylorville Res., Polk, IA); S.C.R. (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO.); S.L.R. (Swan Lake N.W.R., Chariton, MO); S.R. (Smithville Res., Clay, MO); S.S. (St. Stanislaus C.A., St. Louis, MO).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at F.G. 12 Aug made Missouri's 13th record (SK); 2 that visited Iowa near Fort Madison, Lee were shot 23 Sep (+GZ, ph. EVA). In se. Missouri, Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were at C.C.P. 9 (one; JWE), 13 (4; ph. DB), & 30 Aug (2; JWE). Ross's Geese were early, with 7 birds at R.M.B.S. 17 Oct (BR). Trumpeter Swan sightings continue to increase. The earliest Missouri sightings this season were of 6 at R.M.B.S. 2 Nov (PB). Missouri's duck of the season was undoubtedly the state's 2nd Mottled Duck, a male shot at B.B. 20 Nov (*NG). Based upon this record, and the presence of 2 Mottled Ducks found during summer that continued at Saylorville through 5 Aug (SJD, JG), birders should give dark, female-type Mallards a closer look. It may well be that this species is more common than we think. A possibly summering Northern Shoveler was at O.S. 9 Aug (JWE); 19 shovelers at O.S. and 18 near C.C.P., both 30 Aug, were undoubtedly migrants (JWE). In Iowa, a Long-tailed Duck visited Saylorville 10-11 Nov (SJD, AB). In Iowa, all three species of scoter showed up in typical numbers. In Missouri, they arrived later and in lower numbers. Single Surf Scoters were found at C.C.L. and Binder L., Cole 1

Nov (JWE, BJ). White-winged Scoter was seen at R.M.B.S. 6 Nov. Black Scoters were at Little Dixie Lake C.A., Callaway 1 Nov (BJ), at S.R. 7 Nov (SK), and at R.M.B.S. 25 Nov (JWE). Ruddy Ducks peaked at 900 in late Oct at Saylorville (AB, SJD), and as many as 1000 were at S.R. 2 Nov (SK). There were no reports of Greater Prairie-Chicken for the 2009 fall season.

Common Loons peaked in Iowa 15 Nov, when 283 were counted at Saylorville (CG); a count of 133 at Stockton L., Cedar 11 Nov (BJ, AF) may be an all-time high for Missouri, and 67 birds were still present there 29 Nov (JWE). Missouri's 5th Clark's Grebe showed up at S.R. 4 Nov (DW, ph. AS), associating with 2 Western Grebes, with all 3 present at least until 25 Nov. Migrating Double-crested Cormorants peaked in Oct with 500 at R.M.B.S. 13 Oct (JWE). More unexpected was an Anhinga in Shell Knob, Barry 4 Sep (NR): if confirmed, this record would only be the 3rd report of this species away from its former stronghold in the Mississippi Lowlands. Two American Bitterns seen during the St. Louis Audubon Society's Yellow Rail Walk at B.K.L. 3 Oct were noteworthy; one at Saylorville 27 Nov (JO) tied the record-late date for Iowa. Also in Iowa, at least one family group of Least Bitterns was discovered at Union Slough N.W.R., Kossuth in Aug (MCK), confirming breeding there for the 2nd year in a row. The only migrant Least Bittern reported was a tower-killed bird at KMOS 15 Sep (WW). At S.L.R., more than 300 Great Egrets were present 4 Aug (SK), with a single bird at S.C.R. 28 Nov (LL). A Cattle Egret at Grimes, Polk 22 Nov was the 2nd latest on record for Iowa (ph. JB). Iowa waders of note included 4 Snowy Egrets at Blue Wing Marsh, Palo Alto 29 Aug (LAS) and 3 Little Blue Herons at Adel, Dallas 13 Sep (TLA). Five *Plegadis* ibis at R.M.B.S. 17 Oct (JWE, BR) and 6 at E.B.C.A. 23 Oct (SM) were most likely White-faced; 2 were still present at E.B.C.A. 2 Nov (BJ). Farther w., 2 ibis at S.C.R. 1 Nov (*vide* JWE) were equally late.

RAPTORS THROUGH TERNS

Both of Iowa's annual hawkwatches had average seasons, but Hitchcock did record several record flights. On 23 Oct, during a prolonged break between rain bands, 138 Northern Harriers, 237 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 4 Northern Goshawks, 933 Red-tailed Hawks, and 19 Merlins were counted, all single-day records. On the other hand, only 248 Swainson's Hawks were counted there during the season, the 2nd lowest total in 10 years (MO). A late Black Vulture at Bagnell Dam, L. of the Ozarks, Camden 27 Nov (JWE) was farther n. than expected. Very impressive were the 50

Northern Harriers at P.S.P. 29 Nov (DR). The latest Sharp-shinned Hawks were 2 birds in St. Charles 21 Nov (JWE). An imm. Northern Goshawk at S.C.R. 15 Oct (LL) was the only Missouri bird reported. Six Red-shouldered Hawks at S.L.R. 19 Sep (SK) were notable. A late bird was also seen in St. Joseph, Buchanan 19 Nov (ph. JM). An imm. Swainson's Hawk s. of St. Joseph, Buchanan 31 Oct (ph. MN) provided one of the latest records for Missouri. A Golden Eagle at Hitchcock 1 Sep was record early for the fall (MO). In Missouri, 3 imm. Golden Eagles were reported—singles in Macon 31 Oct (RJB), in Clinton 3 Nov (SK), and a bird suffering from lead poisoning at Shelbina, Shelby 15 Oct that was taken in for treatment (KK). The first Merlin was seen at S.L.R. 7 Sep (BJ) and the last at R.M.B.S. 31 Oct (BR). In Iowa, Prairie Falcons were reported from Neal Smith N.W.R., Jasper (JN) and Hitchcock Pottawattamie (MO) on the same day, 24 Oct. Both Missouri Prairie Falcon observations came from the w. tier of counties: single birds were seen near B.B. 1 Nov (JWE) and at P.S.P. 27 Nov (LH).

Migrant Yellow Rails were reported from six different locations in Iowa between 11 Sep and 9 Oct, including 3 flushed from in front of a mower in Marshall 3 Oct (KKu). A family group of King Rails was found in n. Polk 6 Aug (†DK). The high count of Soras was a staggering 125 at S.L.R. 14 Sep (SK). The only report of Common Moorhen was from Buchanan, where 2 ads. were observed at Horseshoe L. 31 Aug (LL). Iowa reports of Sandhill Cranes spanned the period and came from eight counties. In Missouri, a pair that enjoyed E.B.C.A. for much of the summer stayed until the end of Oct (SM). In Iowa, 5 Piping Plovers were at four locations (JG, JF, JS, RC, SJD), while the single Missouri record was from S.C.R. 10 Aug (SK). Very late was a Killdeer chick found in Stoddard 13 Nov (ph. CB). The latest American Avocet was at R.M.B.S. through 14 Nov (BR). A total of 67 Black-necked Stilts were counted at the C.C.P. 9 Aug (JWE). A Whimbrel was at Hawkeye W.A., Johnson 23 Aug (†JP). Other fine Iowa sightings included a Hudsonian Godwit at Hawkeye 11 Aug (JF) and a Red Knot at Saylorville 23 Aug (SJD). Red Rock Res., Marion hosted 496 Lesser Yellowlegs 1 Aug (SJD); only 22 were counted in the entire state after that, a testament to the impact of heavy rains in Aug and Sep. Ten Ruddy Turnstones at S.L.R. 10 Aug was noteworthy (SK). Three reports of Western Sandpiper included 2 along the Des Moines R. in mid-Aug (SJD, JG, TJ), 2 at the C.C.P. 9 Aug (JWE), and one at E.B.C.A. 16 Aug (BJ). Five Pectoral Sandpipers at S.C.R. 1 Nov (JWE) were the latest

reported in the Region. Late Stilt Sandpipers included 2 in Chariton 25 Oct (SK).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The faithful Black-headed Gull continued at Spirit L., Dickinson, IA, last seen there 25 Oct (JG). A single Laughing Gull at R.M.B.S. 24 Oct (JWE) was a fairly late sighting. Single Franklin's Gulls at R.M.B.S. 7 Nov (MT) and C.C.L. 26 Nov (JWE) were notable. Iowa reported 4 Sabine's Gulls: one at Saylorville 29 Sep (SJD), one at Blackhawk L., Sac 1 Oct (JR), and 2 at Red Rock Res., Marion 18 Oct (JG, AJ, MP, CE). With fewer than 15 records of the species in Missouri, a first-cycle California Gull at R.M.B.S. 25 Oct (†JWE) was remarkable. An ad. Herring Gull at R.M.B.S. 23 Aug was early, as were 2 (ad. and juv.) there 31 Aug (JWE). A third-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull was at R.M.B.S. 12 & 24 Oct (JWE). In Iowa, single Lesser Black-backed were at Coralville L., Johnson 10 Oct (JF) and at Cedar L., Linn 1 Nov (BS). A first-cycle Glaucous Gull remained at R.M.B.S. 24 Nov+ (BJ, JWE). At least 20 Least Terns were on breeding barges at R.M.B.S. 1 Aug (JPU, m.ob.).

The last Yellow-billed Cuckoo reported was an imm. at C.C.R. 11 Oct (MT). The only Barn Owl reported in Missouri was at Bois D'Arc C.A., Greene 8 & 22 Nov (ChB, fide DR). Five Long-eared Owls were found roosting in a private pine grove in Livingston 10 Nov (SK), while a single Short-eared Owl was on a private prairie in Newton 14 Nov (JC). In Iowa, a single Snowy Owl was found in Story 30 Nov (HZ). At Hitchcock, banders netted an impressive total of 39 Northern Saw-whet Owls, the first on 15 Oct (MO, JT). A strong movement of Common Nighthawks occurred over Mason City 12 Sep, with 790 counted in about one hour (PH). The last nighthawks reported were 2 birds over Des Moines, Polk on 21 Oct (KVS)—the 4th latest date for Iowa. More unexpected was Missouri's 2nd Common Poorwill, hit by a car n. of Maitland, Holt, MO 21 Nov (†BSh, DAE, ph.). The bird was kept overnight and released the following day.

Iowa's last Chimney Swifts were single birds in Burlington, Des Moines (CF) and the city of Des Moines Des Moines (RC), both on 21 Oct. A late bird was in University City, St. Louis 24 Oct (MT). An imm. male Ruby-throated Hummingbird in New Haven Franklin 1-6 Nov (ph. PC) was very late. Three Rufous Hummingbirds were present in sw. Missouri. An imm. male was in Greene until 8 Nov (ZE), while another or possibly the same male was at a different feeder in Greene until the end of the period (BN, CN). Another male arrived at a feeder in Christian 5 Oct and stayed until the end of the period (KT). A new seasonal record to-

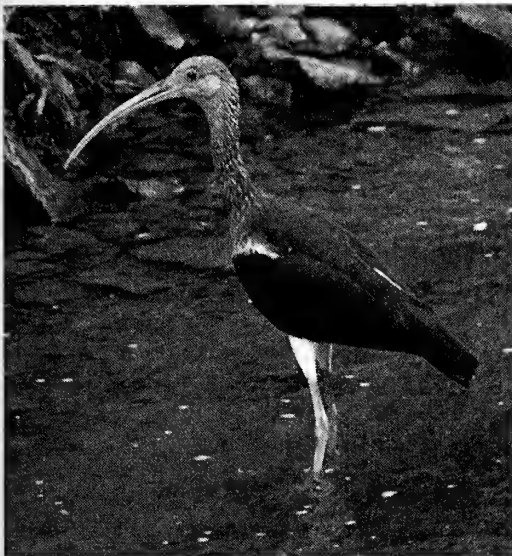
tal of 1860 Red-headed Woodpeckers migrated past the Hitchcock hawkwatch tower, with 521 counted 6 Sep (MO).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

An Alder Flycatcher was both seen and heard at S.S. 30 Aug (BR). Several Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were captured at M.W.S.U. during the season; the earliest one was banded 30 Aug, the last on 26 Sep (JH). A Western Kingbird along Hwy. 94, St. Charles 6 Aug (DF) was almost at the Mississippi River. A male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at C.B. 24 Oct (BR). In Iowa, one was in Woodbury 25-26 Oct (TLu, BH, GV), the 3rd latest date for the state. Continuing the trend of the past two years, multiple Northern Shrikes were reported. In Missouri, singles were observed in Dade, in w. Livingston, and near Wah-Sha-She Prairie C.A., Jasper (ChB, fide DR, SK, †JWE)—the latter may be the southernmost ever in Missouri (JWE). An extremely late Blue-headed Vireo was at S.C.R. 1 Nov (DW). A single Black-billed Magpie was found in Pottawattamie, IA 19 Oct (†MO), considerably s. of the traditional site in Plymouth. In Iowa, a Purple Martin at Red Rock, Marion 29 Oct (NM) was a 2nd latest on record for the state. Other late swallows included a Tree Swallow at Little Dixie L., Callaway 17 Nov (BJ), 10 Northern Rough-winged Swallows at C.C.R. 11 Oct (MT), 5 Barn Swallows at M.S.L. 23 Oct (DAE), and a Cliff Swallow at O.S.1 Nov (ph. CB). A Red-breasted Nuthatch in nw. Livingston on 1 Sep (SK) was early. A Golden-crowned Kinglet 19 Aug in Jefferson was 2nd earliest for Iowa (DP); a late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at O.S. 14 Oct (*CB) was possibly the first Oct record for Missouri. The season's only Townsend's Solitaire turned up in Lansing, Allamakee, IA 26 Nov (JG). A very late catbird was at Pershing S.P., Linn 23 Nov (SK). Another late mimid in n. Missouri was a Brown Thrasher that lingered in Country Club, Andrew 11-26 Nov (†LG). A high count of more than 250 American Pipit birds near S.C.R. 14 Nov was noteworthy (SK, LL). The only Sprague's Pipit reported was one at Dunn Ranch, Harrison 4 Oct (SK). A single Nashville Warbler at S.S. 31 Oct (BR) was late. There were 9 Black-throated Blue Warblers found in Iowa this fall, all females. Two were reported from Missouri: one at T.G.P. 2 Sep (m.ob.) and a first-year male at M.W.S.U. 11 Oct (b. JH). A Prairie Warbler at O.S.15 Aug (ph. CB) was the first of the season. Two Kentucky Warblers salvaged at KMOS 24 Sep (*WW) were quite late. A Connecticut Warbler at George Wyth S.P., Black Hawk 23 Sep (DE) was quite rare for the fall season. A Common Yellowthroat at KMOS 12 Nov (*WW) was a very late migrant.



Part of a long-term increasing trend, in which more Glossy Ibis are found well inland and later in the late summer/autumn season, this immature was in Anderson County, Tennessee 14-15 (here 14) September 2009. Photograph by Ron Myers.



Three juvenile White Ibis were found in Kentucky during the fall 2009 season. This one was found along a small creek in Taylor County 26-27 (here 27) August. Photograph by John McDermond.

N.W.R., Henry, TN); Pickwick (Pickwick Lake/Dam, Hardin, TN); Radnor (Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Nashville, TN); Rankin (Rankin Bottoms, Cocke, TN); Sauerheber (Sauerheber Unit Sloughs W.M.A., Henderson, KY); Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, Hamilton, TN).

WATERFOWL THROUGH WADERS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued at Ensley through 6 Sep, and on that date 24 ads. and 4 young were present (ph. JRW); 3 ads. were also at Mud L., Shelby, TN that day (JRW). A Greater White-fronted Goose in Jefferson, KY 1 Oct (EH, TBe et al.) and one at Austin Springs, Washington, TN 12 Oct (RK) were relatively early, and the latter was very uncommon for e. Tennessee. Approximately 5000 Greater White-fronteds at Sauerheber 18 Nov (CC) represented an early season

peak count. An ad. Ross's Goose at the Falls of the Ohio 26 Aug (ph. BPa, ph. EH) represented an early date for Kentucky by two months. Two Cackling Geese were at Britton Ford, Tennessee N.W.R., Henry, TN 25 Nov (JRW). The first of Sauerheber's wintering flock of Tundra Swans to be seen were 5 there 1 Nov (CC). There was only one report from Tennessee: 2 ads. at Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Henry, TN (ph. MT, N.T.O.S.).

Waterfowl migration was relatively unspectacular, with the following modest peak counts reported: ca. 350 Hooded Mergansers on Honker Bay, Land Between the Lakes, Lyon, KY 30 Nov (DR), and 463 Red-breasted Mergansers on L. Cumberland, Russell, KY 24 Nov (RD). An injured Gadwall pair remained in sw. Shelby through the season (JRW). There were five reports of one to 4 Surf Scoters in Kentucky, while Tennessee had three reports of one to 2, all spanning 17 Oct-27 Nov. There were only two reports of Black Scoter in Kentucky, both on the Ohio R. at Louisville: a female/imm. 4-6 Nov (EH et al.; TBe) and an ad. male 11 Nov (DSt). In Tennessee, single female/inms. were reported at Steele Creek Park, Sullivan 12 Nov (ph. LMcD), on Reelfoot L., Lake 21 Nov (JRW), and at Chester Frost Park, Hamilton 23-25 Nov (DJ et al.). The only White-winged Scoters reported were 8 at S.

Holston L., Sullivan, TN (RK) and a female at Booker T. Washington S.P., Hamilton, TN 23 Nov (KAC). The only report of Long-tailed Duck was of 2 on Kentucky L., Marshall, KY 28 Nov (ph. JK).

Single Pacific Loons were present on Barren River L. 13-17 Oct (ph. DR, DB et al.) and in Henry, TN 26 Nov (ph. JRW). Single Red-throated Loons were found at three Tennessee locations: on Pickwick 2 Nov (MT), and in Henry 25 Nov (juv.; JRW) and 26 Nov (ad.; JRW). Two Common Loons on Green River L., Adair, KY 21 Aug (RD) and 3 on L. Cumberland, Russell, KY 3 Sep (RD) were presumably very early migrants; 103 at Reelfoot L., Lake/Obion, TN 27 Nov (JRW) may be the highest count ever there. In Ken-

tucky, single Eared Grebes were in s. Jefferson 10 Oct (†EH), on Kentucky L., Marshall 21 Nov (HC), and on the Ohio R. at Louisville 24 Nov (EH, †BPa et al.). In Tennessee, up to 3 returned to S. Holston L., Sullivan 14 Sep+ (WC, RK, m.ob.) for the 16th consecutive fall, and there were three other reports: one on the Mississippi R., Shelby 26 Sep (JRW), 2 at Ensley 18-29 Oct (ph. JRW), and 2 on Pickwick 24-31 Oct (ph. JRW et al.). A Red-necked Grebe was in Henry, TN 26-28 Nov (ph. JRW, ph. CS, N.T.O.S.). A well-described Clark's Grebe at Reelfoot L., Lake, TN 21 Nov (†JRW) furnished Tennessee's and the Region's 3rd record.

Nine American White Pelicans on an Ohio R. floodplain slough in w. Henderson, KY 1 Aug (CC) made quite an unusual record, especially for late summer; at least 1000 were on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY by 7 Oct (PW). The fall flight along the Mississippi R. corridor peaked with 1719 in Dyer and Lake, TN 10 Oct (JRW). An imm. Brown Pelican found 30 Jul flying southward along I-81 n. of Bristol, VA (TH) was likely the same individual later found at Boone L., Sullivan, TN 2-3 Aug (RK, LMcD, BPo). Approximately 4000 Double-crested Cormorants were on L. Barkley, Trigg, KY by 2 Nov (BLI). Anhingas continue to be regular in small numbers along the Mississippi R. in Tennessee, and this fall one to 2 were in sw. Shelby 31 Aug-15 Sep (JRW), and one was at Phillippy, Lake 7 Aug (DT, AT).

American Bitterns were reported in w. Fulton, KY 11 Aug (NM), in s. Jefferson, KY 25 Aug (EH), at Sauerheber 14 Oct (BPa, EH,



Records of White-faced Ibis are increasing in the Tennessee and Kentucky region; this adult entering basic plumage was present in western Henderson County, Kentucky 10-15 (here 12) October 2009. Photograph by Eddie Huber.

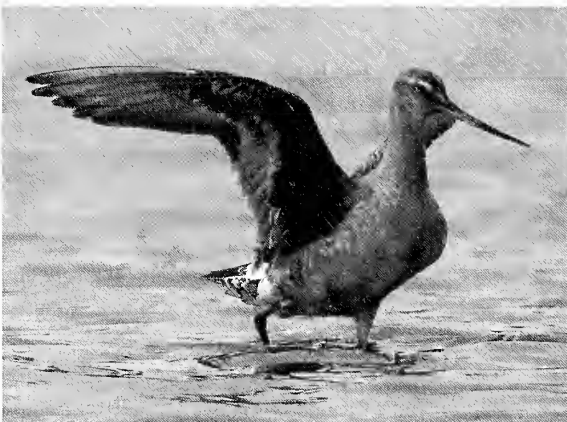
MM), and at Kyker Bottoms, Blount, TN 8 Nov (DT et al.), the last rather late. There were only three reports of Least Bittern: singles in Putnam, TN (BS) and at Sauerheber 26 Sep (CC) and 10 Oct (DR, KOS). Seven hundred Great Egrets at Moss Island W.M.A., Dyer, TN



Roseate Spoonbills are vagrants to Tennessee, typically individuals involved in post-breeding dispersal. These immatures were at Moss Island Wildlife Management Area, Dyer County 23 August 2009. One was still present 1 September, and another turned up at Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge, Humphreys County 6 September. Photograph by Mike Todd.



White-rumped Sandpipers are expected in Tennessee in spring but are very rare in fall. This individual photographed at Island 13, Lake County 28 August 2009 was one of two reported in Tennessee during the season. Photograph by Mike Todd.



This molting adult Hudsonian Godwit was present in Ballard County, Kentucky 17 (here) through 21 September 2009. Photograph by Don Martin.

1 Sep (MT) was a noteworthy high count; 340 at Rankin 5 Sep (MSI) was a new high count there and among the highest for e. Tennessee. A Snowy Egret at Lick Creek Bottoms W.M.A., Greene, TN 25 Oct (DMi) was rare for e. Tennessee. Four juv. Little Blue Herons at Austin Springs, Washington, TN 27 Sep (RK) fur-

nished a new late date for ne. Tennessee. A Tricolored Heron at Edgar Evins S.P., DeKalb, TN 29 Aug (JF, MHa) established the 2nd record for the Upper Cumberland region. A tally of 2381 Cattle Egrets at Little Elder Isle, Woods Res., Franklin, TN 22 Aug (DSw, JSw, SSo et al.) represents a new high count for Tennessee. A Green Heron in Greene, TN 8 Nov (DMi) was late.

In Kentucky, juv. White Ibis appeared in s. Jefferson 21-22 Aug (ph. BPa, ph. EH et al.), n. of Campbellsville, Taylor 26-27 Aug (RK, ph. JMc et al.), and at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan 11-21 Nov (JW, ph. RJ). The last was about two months later than one had ever been reported in the state. In Tennessee, juv. White Ibis were reported in above-average numbers: up to 7 remained at Rankin through 5 Sep (MSI); one was in Sullivan 24 Aug-2 Sep (WC, m.ob.); 2 were at Little Elder Isle, Woods Res., DeKalb 22 Aug (DSw, JSw, SSo et al.); 2 were at Tigrett W.M.A., Dyer 16 Aug (GC); and one was at Moss Island W.M.A., Dyer 8 Sep (KW). Single Glossy Ibis, always rare in the Region, were at Eagle Bend, Anderson, TN 14-15 Sep (ph. RH, DMY) and in Sullivan, TN 16-17 Sep (ph. WC, RK), and another *Plegadis* ibis was at Rankin 11 Sep (EL). An ad. White-faced Ibis, the rarest ibis species in the Region, was at and near Sauerheber 10-15 Oct (ph. DR, KOS, ph. EH et al.). Two imm. Roseate Spoonbills were at Moss Island W.M.A., Dyer TN 23 Aug (ph. JRW), and at least one remained in the area through 1 Sep (MT); another was at Tennessee N.W.R., Humphreys, TN 6 Sep (EG). Wood Storks made their now expected post-breeding incursion into Shelby TN, with 3-37 at various locations 31 Aug-18 Sep (ph. JRW); 9 were in Lauderdale, TN 29 Aug (ph. JRW).

RAPTORS THROUGH JAEGERS

An Osprey in Shelby, TN 28 Nov (JRW) was late. Single Swallow-tailed Kites, always unexpected in the Region, were in Coche, TN 8 Aug (DE) and in Carroll, TN 27 Aug (HW et

al.). Of the Mississippi Kites reported, one over Louisville 27 Aug (MY) was the farthest from traditional breeding areas; a first-year bird in w. Fulton, KY 17 Oct (fHC) represented a new late departure date for the state by more than three weeks. An ad. light-morph Harlan's Hawk returned to s. Warren, KY for the 9th consecutive winter (DR); an ad. dark morph returned to Crockett, TN 30 Nov for the 7th consecutive winter (GS, fide MG). Northern Goshawks are very rare in the Region, so reports of 4 ads. in Tennessee were remarkable: 2 at Ripshin L., Carter 26 Sep (FA) and singles at Steele Creek Park, Sullivan 12 Nov (LMcD) and in Knox 27 Nov (†PS). A juv. Golden Eagle at Honker Bay, Land Between the Lakes, Lyon 30 Nov (DR) was the only one reported in Kentucky. In Tennessee, an early ad. was at Steele Creek Park, Sullivan 24 Sep and 1 Oct (LMcD), one was at Hatchie N.W.R., Haywood mid-Nov-mid-Dec (MCh), and a juv. was in Robertson 26 Nov (TL).

A Merlin in w. Jefferson, KY 16 Aug (†JBe, PB et al.) represented a new early arrival date for the state; later in the season, singles were reported at six additional Kentucky locales 27 Sep-20 Oct. In Tennessee, a Merlin in Lake 1 Sep (MT) was early; elsewhere, singles were reported on 18 occasions 27 Sep-21 Oct. There were only six Kentucky reports of migrant Peregrine Falcons 23 Aug-24 Oct. In Tennessee, Peregrines sightings are increasing, with as many as 17 individuals reported 2 Aug-11 Oct.

Virginia Rails were present throughout the period at Standifer Gap, with a high count of 5 on 24 Oct (TR). Elsewhere in the Region, there were only four reports: singles in different parts of Jefferson, KY 17 (MA) & 29 Oct (BPa) and 2 in Shady Valley, Johnson, TN 26 Sep and 28 Nov (GE, RK). It was another below-average season for Soras, with the only reports originating from Sauerheber, where one to 4 were seen 7-13 Oct (CC, DR et al.), and from Standifer Gap, with a high of 4 on 24 Oct (TR). There were only three reports of Common Moorhen: 2 juvs. in Union, KY 8 Sep (BPa), one to 2 at Sauerheber 26 Sep-7 Oct (CC), and an imm. in Hawkins, TN 16-22 Oct and 20 Nov (SH), the latter a particularly rare find for e. Tennessee. The season's peak count for Sandhill Cranes in Kentucky was about 5000 in numerous flocks over sw. Jefferson 27 Nov (BN, CL).

Shorebird migration was relatively un spectacular, with only relatively small numbers of most fairly common to uncommon species reported at traditional locales. Five Black-bellied Plovers at Green River L., Adair, KY 14 Oct (RD) and one nearby 31 Oct (RD) were local firsts. A Semipalmated Plover at Green

River L., *Adair*, KY 24 Oct (RD) was late. The only Kentucky Piping Plover reported was one at the Falls of the Ohio 18-19 Aug (BPa et al.). In Tennessee, 6 total were reported from three locations along the Mississippi R. in *Shelby* and *Lake* 22 Aug-1 Sep (JRW, MT), and one was at Gallatin Steam Plant, *Sumner* 22 Aug (BI, ph. DK). A few lingering/migrant Black-necked Stilts were found in w. *Fulton*, KY as late as 29 Aug. American Avocets were found in Kentucky four times: one along the Ohio R., *Boone* 23 Aug (LMcN); 3 in n. *Nelson* 29 Aug (JBe, PB); one in s. *Warren* 13 Oct (DB, ph. DR); and 5 at Barren River L. 24 Oct (TD, DR et al.). American Avocets were reported in above-average numbers from e. Tennessee 21 Aug-18 Nov, with the latter being late; elsewhere, 2 were along the Mississippi R., *Shelby* 17-20 Sep (ph. JRW), and another was in *Lake* 3 Oct (NM). A Solitary Sandpiper in *Sullivan*, TN 24 Oct (RK) was late. The only Willet reported was one at Rankin 30 Aug-6 Sep (MSI, m.ob.). The only Upland Sandpipers reported were an ad. at Ensley 1 Aug (JRW) and a juv. at Island 13, *Lake*, TN 23 Aug (ph. JRW). An ad. Hudsonian Godwit was present at Ballard W.M.A., *Ballard*, KY 17-21 Sep (ph. DMa et al.). A Marbled Godwit was at Nickajack L., *Marion*, TN 21 Aug (TR et al.). An ad. Ruddy Turnstone at the Falls of the Ohio 18 Aug (BPa et al.) was the only one reported in Kentucky. Four were reported from w. Tennessee: an ad. male at Ensley 1-4 Aug (ph. JRW), one at Island 13, *Lake* 24 Aug (MT), a female at Ensley 26 Aug (JRW), and one at Pace Pt. 21 Sep (MT).

Sanderlings passed through the Region in unusually small numbers. Single White-rumped Sandpipers, always rare during fall, were reported at three Kentucky and two Tennessee locales 20 Aug-5 Sep. One to 2 Western Sandpipers at Austin Springs, *Washington*, TN 25 Oct-1 Nov (RK) were late. One to 2 Baird's Sandpipers were found on about ten occasions each at traditional Kentucky and Tennessee locales 1 Aug-3 Oct. Dunlins passed through in above-average numbers, mostly in the e. part of the Region, with a peak of 160 at Rankin 27 Oct (MSI). Stilt Sandpipers were not numerous; a modest peak count of about 35 came from Ballard W.M.A., *Ballard*, KY 18 Sep (DR), while one in *Sullivan*, TN 18-19 Oct (WC, RK) was relatively late. One to 5 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were found on about a dozen occasions at traditional Kentucky and Tennessee locales 23 Aug-14 Sep. One at over 1500 m elevation on Big Bald Mt., *Unicoi*, TN 7 Sep (RM) was highly unexpected, and 2 at Standifer Gap 21 Sep (LW et al.) were rare for se. Tennessee. It was an especially poor season for Short-billed

Dowitchers, with very few birds reported 1 Aug-18 Sep. One to 2 Long-billed Dowitchers were reported at three Kentucky locales 8 Sep-28 Oct; in Tennessee, 19 were along Great River Rd., *Dyer*, TN 10 Oct (JRW), and one was at Rankin 29 Oct (MSI), a rare occurrence for e. Tennessee. A Wilson's Phalarope at Ensley 1 Aug, one at Gallatin Steam Plant, *Sumner*, TN 15 Aug (DK), and 2 at Ballard W.M.A., *Ballard*, KY 29 Aug (BY, MY, EH) were the only ones reported. A juv. Red-necked Phalarope was at the Falls of the Ohio 21-27 Sep (ph. BPa et al.). A juv. Red Phalarope was on a flood retention basin in s. *Jefferson*, KY 1-2 Oct (MAU, ph. EH et al.).

It was a good season for rare gulls in the Region. Four Sabine's Gulls were reported: a juv. in *Union*, KY 8 Sep (ph. BPa), an ad. along the Mississippi R., *Shelby*, TN 13 Sep (JRW), and 2 juvs. at Pickwick 25 Sep (RJM, ph. SM). An imm. Bonaparte's Gull at Rankin 6 Sep (RK, MSI, DMi) established a new early date for e. Tennessee. There were two Kentucky and four Tennessee reports of Laughing Gull: a second-cycle bird at Pace Pt. 11 & 30 Sep (MT); one on Kentucky L., *Calhoun*, KY 22 Sep (HC); 3 on the Mississippi R., *Lake*, TN 10 Oct (JRW); 2 on Kentucky L., *Marshall*, KY 13 Oct (HC, ME); and a first-cycle bird at Pickwick 24 Oct (JRW). One to 6 Franklin's Gulls were found at several w. Kentucky sites 12 Aug-11 Nov (DR et al.); one to 3 were present at Barren River L. 28 Sep-1 Nov, with a high count of 5 there on the latter date (DR et al.). Franklin's Gulls were reported in small numbers from large bodies of water on a dozen different dates in w. Tennessee 23 Aug-27 Nov, with a high count of 15 at Pickwick 15 Nov (JRW). An ad. and an imm. Little Gull were at Reelfoot L., *Lake*, TN 21 Nov (ph. JRW); the imm. was last seen 27 Nov (JRW), but the ad. lingered through mid-Dec (MT, m.ob.). Another imm. was at Lick Creek W.M.A., *Benton*, TN 19 Nov (ph. MT, DK). An ad. Mew Gull at Barren River L. 18 Oct (ph. DR et al.) was a long-awaited first for the Region.



Although annual visitors to the Tennessee and Kentucky region, Red Phalaropes are certainly the rarest of the three phalaropes there. This nicely photographed juvenile was present in southern Jefferson County, Kentucky 1 (here) and 2 October 2009. Photograph by Eddie Huber.

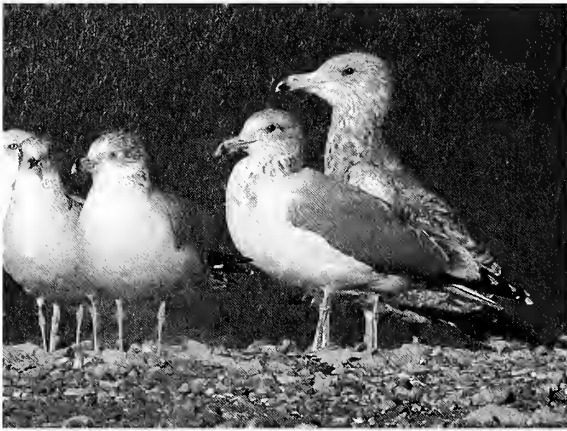


The first ever recorded in the Tennessee and Kentucky region, this adult Mew Gull was noted 18 October 2009 at Barren River Lake, Allen/Barren Counties, Kentucky. Photograph by David Roemer.

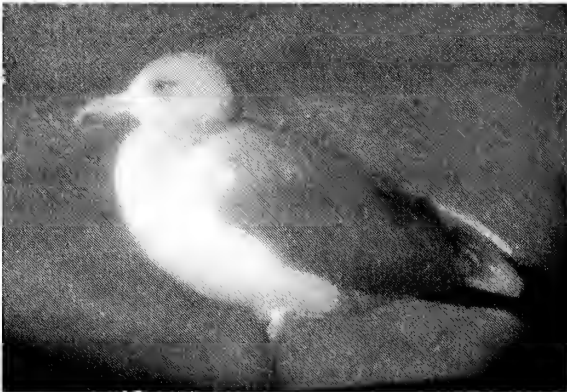


This first-cycle Little Gull was at Lick Creek Wildlife Management Area, Benton County, Tennessee 19 November 2009. Not far away, two (a first-cycle and an adult) were at Reelfoot Lake in Lake County 21 November, with the immature remaining through 27 November and the adult through mid-December. Photograph by Mike Todd.

An ad. California Gull was at Barren River L. 19 Oct-2 Nov (ph. DR et al.), and an ad. and a first-cycle bird were at Pickwick 31 Oct (ph. JRW, ph. DK, ph. MT), with the ad. still present 2 Nov (ph. MT). An ad. Thayer's Gull was at Kentucky Dam 9 Nov (DR); perhaps



California Gulls have become annual in the Tennessee and Kentucky region. This nicely photographed adult lingered at Barren River Lake, Allen/Barren Counties, Kentucky, 19 (here 22) October–2 November 2009. Photograph by David Roemer.



This adult California Gull was at Pickwick Dam in Hardin County 31 October (here) through 2 November 2009; more rarely reported in extralimital settings, a first-cycle bird was identified at this location on the first date. Photograph by Jeff R. Wilson.



This juvenile Sabine's Gull was one of two found on Pickwick Lake, Hardin County, Tennessee 25 September 2009; an adult was found on the Mississippi River in Shelby County, Tennessee 13 September. Photograph by Steve McConnell.

the same bird was at Barkley Dam 30 Nov (DR, HC). An ad. and 2 first-cycle birds were at Pickwick on the extraordinarily early date of 24 Oct (ph. JRW); 2 first-cycle birds were still present 31 Oct (JRW, DK), with one was still present 2 Nov (†MT). A Lesser Black-backed Gull (probably a second-cycle bird)

above Barkley Dam 12 Aug (DR) represented a new early arrival date for Kentucky by two weeks or possibly a bird that summered somewhere in the area, a first-cycle bird at Barren River L. 16-31 Oct (ph. DR et al.) represented only the 2nd record for s-cen. Kentucky. At least 11 different individuals were present at various locations along the Tennessee R. from Paris Landing S.P., Henry, TN s. to Pickwick 9 Sep–25 Nov. An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at Woods Res., Franklin, TN 30 Nov (DSw, JSw) was likely the same bird returning for a 3rd consecutive winter. A first-cycle Great Black-backed Gull was at the Falls of the Ohio 21-26 Nov (MAu, ph. EH, ph. BY et al.).

An imm. Least Tern, always rare in the Region away from the Mississippi R. and Ohio R., was at Eagle Bend Anderson, TN 21 Aug (RH, DMY); it had been banded as a chick on 14 Jul along the Platte R. in Nebraska (*fide* JSt). Up to 300 Caspian Terns were present on L. Barkley, Lyon, KY during late Aug (DR et al.). It was a good season for Black Terns in Kentucky, with one to 35 at 15 Kentucky sites 5 Aug–early Sep; ne. Tennessee also recorded higher numbers than usual, with one to 32 at five locations 18 Aug–9 Sep, and an exceptional count of 75 at Nickajack L., Marion 20 Aug (JH et al.). There were nine reports of Common Tern in Kentucky, but only two of more than one or 2 birds: 60+—an extraordinary count for the Region—on L. Barkley and Kentucky L., KY 25 Sep (DR), and 8 on a small lake in Pulaski, KY 15 Oct (RD). In Tennessee, there were a few reports of one to 2 birds, as expected, and one unusual high count of 35 at S. Holston L., Sullivan 14 Oct (RK). Peak counts of Forster's Tern included at least 200 at the Jonathan Cr. embayment of Kentucky L., Marshall, KY 14 Sep (ME); most of 200-250 *Sterna* terns in the vicinity of Kentucky Dam 25 Sep (BPa, EH, CB); and at least 120 on Kentucky L. above the dam 9 Nov (DR). An imm. Long-tailed Jaeger at Eagle Bend, Anderson, TN 14 Oct (ph. MN) was the

first for e. Tennessee and one of only a handful ever recorded in the Region.

DOVES THROUGH WAXWING

A White-winged Dove was reported in a yard at Independence, Kenton, KY 23 Aug (†DMA). A Common Ground-Dove was in Maury, TN 7 Nov (MW, JN). There were only three Kentucky and three Tennessee reports of single Black-billed Cuckoos 23 Aug–10 Oct. Two Short-eared Owls w. of White Plains, Hopkins, KY 11 Nov (EW) and 2 at Ft. Campbell, Montgomery, TN 12 Nov (DMo) were the only ones reported. A Northern Saw-whet Owl in e. Shelby, KY 17 Oct (†TBr, JBr, MCr) was the earliest to be reported in the Region; 13 were captured/banded in ne. Jefferson, KY 18 Oct–12 Nov (MM, BPa et al.), with some additional birds heard, including a tooting male 3 Nov, and two foreign recaptures of birds previously banded in Ontario. A bird banded at the ne. Jefferson, KY station as a hatch-year female 2 Nov 2007 was recaptured at Lincoln, MA 25-26 Oct 2009 (KS, *fide* MM) and again at Northbridge, MA 6 Nov 2009 (PMi, *fide* MM), both locations in the Boston area. Six were banded 3 & 12 Nov in Seymour, Sevier, TN (MAR), and another 6 had been banded by late Nov at Big Bald Mt., Unicoi, TN (MHo). These records further establish that this tiny raptor is far more abundant as a transient through the Region than the number of non-capture records would suggest. Numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in n. Kentucky were much lower than normal, with peak counts of only a few individuals at any location through Sep; in contrast, it appeared that near-normal numbers were present elsewhere in the Region. A few birds lingered in Kentucky into early Nov, with one n. of Stanford, Lincoln, KY 15-25 Nov (ph. JE) being the latest. By the end of the season, it was apparent that this fall and winter would be another down year for wintering hummingbirds in the Region. A very locally distributed hard mast crop was likely responsible for a paucity of reports of Red-headed Woodpeckers after summer residents dispersed.

A very early Olive-sided Flycatcher was found in w. Fulton, KY 7 Aug (†EL, DT, AT et al.); a typically small number of scattered individuals was reported during Sep. An Eastern Wood-Pewee in Pulaski, KY 27 Oct (RD) was the latest reported. There were only four Kentucky and two Tennessee reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 22 Aug–26 Sep. An early migrant Least Flycatcher was found at Louisville 12 Aug (JBe, PB). Two Say's Phoebes were found in Kentucky: one at Land Between the Lakes, Lyon 26 Sep (†KCo, MCo, KOS) and one in Union 11 Oct (ph. BPa, ph. EH). A Great Crested Flycatcher in Adair, KY

4 Oct (RD) was relatively tardy. A well-photographed Ash-throated Flycatcher at Woods Res., Franklin, TN 14 Nov (CW, SJS, ph. DAD et al.) represents Tennessee's 3rd record and the Region's 4th. A juv. female Vermilion Flycatcher was at Tigrett W.M.A., Dyer, TN 21 Nov (GC). The only Western Kingbirds reported were from Shelby, TN, where the species is now an annual breeder; the latest was an ad. 15 Aug (JRW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in Rutherford, TN 5 Sep (ES).

A Blue-headed Vireo in Fayette, KY 4 Nov (LT) was late. Continuing a recent trend, several Common Ravens were reported in ne. Tennessee and e. Kentucky away from the mts., where they are resident (*vide* RK). Significant Purple Martin roosts were monitored at Lexington, Fayette, KY (as many as 25,000 birds?) (JW) and at Campbellsville, Taylor, KY (ca. 8000 birds) (BPa, EH) during early Aug; at least one along the Ohio R., Crittenden 25 Sep (RD) was the latest reported. Two Tree Swallows at Henry, TN 26 Nov (JRW) were late. A tally of ca. 2500 Cliff Swallows in s. Todd, KY 21 Aug (MB, DR) represented a new state high count away from breeding colonies; 2000 Bank Swallows at Island 13, Lake, TN 28 Aug (MT) was an exceptional high count. Red-breasted Nuthatches in ne. Jefferson, KY 26 Aug (BPa), in Pulaski, KY 14 Sep (RD), and in w. Jefferson, KY 15 Sep (JBe, PB, CB) were the earliest to be reported; by mid-Oct, it appeared that most had passed through. In Tennessee, only 3 were reported away from the mts. where they breed, and all of those were in the e. part of the state. A Sedge Wren in Adair, KY 1 Aug (DC) was probably a breeder; only a few migrants were reported during Oct. Eight Sedge Wrens and 15 Marsh Wrens were in the same field at Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., Henry, TN 30 Sep (MT). Elsewhere in Tennessee, 10 Marsh Wrens were at Standifer Gap 5 Oct (KAC), and 2 were at University School of Nashville Wetland in Nashville 18 Oct (DK); one to 5 were reported at eight Kentucky sites 10 Sep–3 Nov. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Louisville 10 Nov (RA) was late, and one at Pace Pt. 28 Nov (DK, N.T.O.S.) was even later. Cedar Waxwings were quite conspicuous across Kentucky from mid-Sep well into Nov.

THRUSHES THROUGH PINE SISKIN

A Wood Thrush at City L., Putnam, TN 20 Nov+ (SJS, BS) was extraordinarily late and did not appear injured. A late Gray Catbird was in Dyer, TN 27 Nov (GC). Overall, warbler migration was unremarkable. Unusually early warblers included a Magnolia at Shelby Bottoms, Davidson, TN 12 Aug (PC); a Tennessee at Wilber L., Carter, TN 13 Aug (BPo,

JPo); a Chestnut-sided in Jefferson, KY 21 Aug (JBe, PB, CB); a Black-throated Green in Jefferson, KY 22 Aug (JBe, PB, CB, BW); and a Golden-winged at Louisville 23 Aug (JBe, PB, CB). Unusually late warblers included a Swainson's in McCreary, KY 12 Sep (RD), a Yellow at Sauerheber 14 Oct (†BPa, EH, MM), a Yellow-breasted Chat at Radnor 9 Nov (FF), a Yellow-throated Warbler at Russellville, Logan, KY 26 Nov (†MB) that represented a new late departure date for the state by two weeks, and American Redstarts in Johnson, TN 2 Nov (JSh) and in Sullivan, TN 27 Nov (MSa). It was an excellent season for Golden-winged Warblers in Kentucky, with one to 2 reported on nearly 30 dates at more than 20 sites. Single Orange-crowned Warblers were at Pace Pt. 14 Oct (MT), Harpeth River Greenway, Nashville 31 Oct (FF), and Shelby Park, Nashville 4 Nov (PC). It was a good fall for migrant Black-throated Blue Warblers in cen.

Kentucky, where reports spanned 23 Aug–27 Sep; a male was at Radnor 9 Oct (FF). Two Yellow Palm Warblers were reported at different locales in Barren, KY 12 (DR) & 13 Oct (DR). Four Black-poll Warblers were reported: one each at different sites in Jefferson, KY 16 (BPa, JBe, PB, CB) & 17 Sep (JBe, PB); Scott, KY 18 Sep (DL, BLA); and at Radnor 10 Oct (FF). A Mourning Warbler at Louisville 29 Sep (DDu) was remarkably the only one reported. There were only 2 Connecticut Warblers reported: an extraordinarily early one at Greeneville, Greene, TN 1 Aug (DMi), and one banded in Hamilton, TN 11 Sep (DA).

Breeding Lark Sparrows continued along McDonald Landing Rd., w. Henderson, KY into Aug; at least 3 were seen there 14 Aug (CC). An imm. Lark Sparrow in Sullivan, TN 20 Sep (RK, WC) was just the 5th for ne. Tennessee. A Bachman's Sparrow was still at Ft. Campbell, Stewart, TN 6 Aug (DMo). A Clay-colored Sparrow in DeKalb, TN 16 Oct (SJS, ph. JF) was the only one reported. Three Grasshopper Sparrows were found in Fayette, KY 10 Oct (DL, ASK); singles at Sauerheber 14 Oct (BPa, EH, MM) and in ne. Jefferson, KY 2 Nov (BPa, JBe, PB) were the latest to be reported. A Henslow's Sparrow in se. Muhlenberg, KY 3 Nov (DR) was the latest to be reported from a breeding area; one at Brainerd Levee, Hamilton, TN 10 Nov (KAC, DJ) was the latest transient;



Present for just one day, this Ash-throated Flycatcher at Woods Reservoir, Franklin County, Tennessee 14 November 2009 furnished the state's third record. Photograph by Judy Fuson.



This Say's Phoebe, present in Union County, Kentucky 11 October 2009, was one of two found in Kentucky within a three-week period! Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

the only other report away from breeding areas was one at Austin Springs, Washington, TN 8 Oct (RK), only the 9th for ne. Tennessee. Two Le Conte's Sparrows and a Nelson's Sparrow at Sauerheber 10 Oct (DR, KOS) were the only ones reported in Kentucky. A Le Conte's Sparrow at Great Smoky Mountains N.P., TN 1 Nov (BZ) made a 2nd Park record, and one at Brainerd Levee, Hamilton, TN 8 Nov (KAC, DJ) was a 2nd county record. Tennessee's only other report was from the Savannah Bottoms, Hardin 2 Nov (MT). In Tennessee, single Nelson's Sparrows were at Austin Springs, Washington 5 Oct (RK) and at Pace Pt. 30 Sep (MT). A Lapland Longspur in s. Warren, KY 13 Oct (DR, DB) was quite early.

A first-year male Black-headed Grosbeak was along the Mississippi R. levee, Lake, TN 10 Oct (†JRW). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Knox, TN 7 Nov (MAu) was late. A tardy In-

digo Bunting was present at Louisville 5 Nov (†DDu). Single Dickcissels at Ft. Campbell, *Stewart/Montgomery*, TN 21 Oct (DMo) and at Sauerheber 26 Oct (CC) were late. Bobolink reports of interest included ca. 30 in *Fayette*, KY 2 Aug (JPu) and 23 near Rochester, *Butler*, KY 24 Sep (RD). In Kentucky, a flock of at least 50 Brewer's Blackbird e. of Cadiz, *Trigg* 22 Nov (BLi) was noteworthy, while 4 in *Fayette* 30 Nov (†BPa, KH) were relatively far east. An unidentified oriole, possibly a female Orchard, was in *Knox*, TN 8 Nov (KR). A Purple Finch in e. *Jefferson*, KY 15 Oct (JBe, PB) was the earliest to be reported; by mid-Nov, it was apparent that this year's flight was going to be very light. Very few Pine Siskins were reported this fall; the earliest were 2 in *Putnam*, TN 7 Aug (SJS, BS, JF; possibly resulting from a breeding effort or summering?), 5 at South Williamson, *Pike*, KY 1 Oct (JC), one at Bardstown, *Nelson*, KY 18 Oct (PG), and one at Kingsport, TN 20 Oct (JMo).

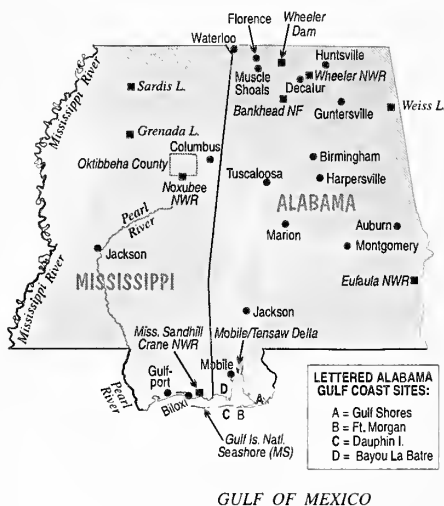
Cited contributors (subregional editors in boldface): David Aborn, Fred Alsop, Ryan Ankeny, Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Mark Armstrong (MAR), Michael Autin

(MAu), Tom Becker (TBe), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell, Mark Bennett, Carol Besse, David Brown, John Brown (JBr), Todd Brown (TBr), Kevin A. Calhoun (KAC) (se. Tennessee), Joan Carr, Phillip Casteel (middle Tennessee), Hap Chambers, Mike Chouinard (MCh), Wallace Coffey, Kathy Cohen (KCo), Michael Cohen (MCo), Derek Coomer, Charlie Crawford, Glen Criswell, Mike Crouch (MCr), Roseanna Denton, Douglas A. Downs (DAD), Diana Dubbeld (DDu), Tom Durbin, Melissa Easley, Dee Eiklor, Glen Eller, Jackie Elmore, Frank Fekel, Judy Fuson, Evan Gaskin, Paula Geis, Mark Greene, Kathy Gunther, Michael Hawkins (MHa), John Henderson, Kate Heyden, Ron Hoff, Mark Hopey (MHo), Eddie Huber, Susan Hubley, Tom Hunter, Bob Ingle, Daniel Jacobson, Rachel Jenkins, Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), David Kirschke, Rick Knight (ne. Tennessee), June Koon, Tony Lance, Betsy Lang (BLa), David Lang, Celia Lawrence, Ed LeGrand, Bill Lisowky (BLi), Don Martin (DMa), Rad Mayfield, Steve McConnell, Larry McDaniel (LMcD), John McDermond (JMc), Lee McNeely (LMcN), Paul Milke, Don Miller (DMi), Mark Monroe, Nancy Moore, R.J. Moore, Daniel Moss (DMo),

John Moyle (JMo), Dollyann Myers (DMy), Nashville Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society (N.T.O.S.), Mike Nelson, Barry Nichols, John Noel, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPa), Brookie Potter (BPo), Jean Potter (JPo), Dick Preston (w. Tennessee), Joe Pulliam (JPu), David Roemer, Tommie Rogers, Kelly Roy, Mike Sanders (MSa), Ed Schneider, Kathy Seymour, John Shumate (JSh), Michael Sledjeski (MSi), Chris Sloan, Scott Somershoe (SSo), Glenn Stanley, Barbara Stedman, Stephen J. Stedman (SJS), Del Striegel (DS), Jennifer Stuckey (JSt), Dale Swant (DSw), Jeannie Swant (JSw), Paul Sykes, Laurie Thomas, Mike Todd, Allan Trently, David Trently, Ken Webster, Melinda Welton, Penny West, Heather Wilkins, Carol Williams, Eric Williams, Jim Williams (JW), Jeff R. Wilson (JRW), Barbara Woerner, Libby Wolfe, Ben Yandell, Mary Yandell, Benjamin Zank. 🌐

Chris Sloan, 224 Hicks Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37221, (chris.sloan@comcast.net)
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.
Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission
801 Schenel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
(brainard.palmer-ball@ky.gov)

Alabama & Mississippi



warded field work this season; Alabama was bestowed a new species in the process.

Weather was cooler and wetter than usual in most areas in September and October, particularly inland. Two tropical systems entered the Region this fall. Tropical Storm *Claudette* made landfall in the Florida Panhandle 17 August with maximum winds of about 40 knots (74 km/hour), weakening rapidly as it traversed southwestern Alabama; few reports of avian effects were received. More productive ornithologically was Hurricane *Ida*. This late-season cyclone was a Category 1 hurricane in parts of the northwestern Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico but weakened and became extratropical upon landfall on the Alabama coast 10 November. Though inland birding was moderately good in September, despite much gloom and rain, much of that month was rather poor on the coast; the outstanding coastal bounty in October and November was more than compensation. Fronts associated with significant bird movements included 29 September and 16 (especially), 23, and 31 October; the October fronts were conveniently aligned with weekends, to the delight of many.

Abbreviations: Dauphin (Dauphin I., *Mobile*, AL); Delta (Mississippi Delta of nw. and w.-cen. Mississippi); Ft. Morgan (Ft. Morgan State Historical Park, *Baldwin*, AL); G.C. (Gulf Coast Region, *Mobile/Baldwin*, AL); I.C.P. (Inland Coastal Plain Region of s.-cen. Alabama); M.R. (Mountain Region of n. Alabama); Noxubee (Noxubee N.W.R., *Noxubee/Oktibbeha/Winston*, MS); T.V. (Tennessee Valley Region of n. Alabama); Wheeler (Wheeler N.W.R., *Limestone/Morgan/Madison*, AL).

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck continues to increase in our Region. Present from spring through autumn this year at Blakeley I., *Mobile*, Black-bellieds set an Alabama maximum there with 17 on 15 Oct (ECS et al.); the state's first nesting was established by the observation of flightless young 18 Oct (CH). Fulvous Whistling-Duck has become quite scarce in our area, so 3 at Arkabutla L., *DeSoto*, MS 21 Aug (ph. QBG) made a surprise. Cinnamon Teal is only occasional, with about eight prior Mississippi coastal records; a brilliant male was at Seaman Road lagoons, *Jackson* 5-12 Nov (NB, HM, m.ob., ph., p.a.) A

Greg D. Jackson

Autumn 2009 was one of the most exciting on record in our Region, especially in Alabama. Migrants were plentiful inland and on the coast. Rarities of all levels, from excellent numbers of expected low-level visitors to stunning surprises, re-



Alabama's tenth Audubon's Shearwater showed well 106 kilometers south of Orange Beach, Baldwin County on 20 September 2009. Photograph by Sean McConnell.

Northern Pintail was ahead of the pack in *Sunflower*, MS 21 Aug (DB). Rare inland scoters included 3 Surfs in *Oktibbeha*, MS 5 Nov (TLS), 2 Surfs in *Lee*, MS 7 Nov (ph. WRP), and 2 White-wingeds at *Wheeler* 21 Nov+ (HHK, RJK et al.). Though Mississippi has three known breeding records, 21 Ruddy Ducks in *Sunflower* 21 Aug (DB) likely were just rare summering birds.

Four Eared Grebes, rare away from the coast, were in *Marshall* 21 Nov (SWM), setting an inland fall maximum for Alabama; another was in *Madison*, MS 27 Nov (GCK, SGK). Occasional in the Region, a Western Grebe was photographed at *Arkabutla Dam*, *DeSoto/Tate*, MS 29 Nov (JRW, p.a.). A productive pelagic venture to 129 km s. of Orange Beach, *Baldwin*, AL 20 Sep (SWM, HEH, JNW et al.) yielded such prizes as 6 Cory's Shearwaters (rare but regular offshore, ph.), an Audubon's Shearwater (10th Alabama record, ph., p.a.), and a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (10th Alabama record, p.a.). A lone Northern Gannet in *Mississippi Sound*, *Mobile*, AL 6 Aug (ph. BS, RC) was rare at that season. Furnishing a maximum for inland Alabama, 900 American White Pelicans must have been a spectacular sight at *Wheeler* 14 Nov (KW, m.ob.). Non-coastal Brown Pelicans, though still scarce, have appeared more often in recent years; singles at *Columbus L.*, *Clay/Lowndes*, MS 5-10 Oct (TLS, MHS) and at *Guntersville Dam*, *Marshall*, AL 22 Oct (ph. JB) both established 7th local area records. Rare but appearing more frequently in the Delta, up to 5 Neotropic Cormorants were located 5 Aug and 2 Sep at *St. Catherine Creek N.W.R.*, *Adams*, MS (ph. DB). Noteworthy for the M.R. was the count of 290 Double-crested Cormorants at *Neely Henry L.*, *Etowah/Calhoun* 8 Nov (GDJ, DGJ).

A maximum for n. Alabama, 279 Great Egrets were tallied in *Colbert* 30 Aug (SWM, DJS, JTG). Groups of 9 Black-crowned Night-Herons, providing fall M.R. maxima, were at *Logan Martin Dam*, *St. Clair/Talladega* 17 Aug and *Neely Henry Dam*, *St. Clair/Calhoun* 8 Nov (both GDJ, DGJ). White Ibis is rare but regular in late summer and early fall in n. Alabama; of five reports, most notable were 12 imms. in *Colbert* 29 Aug (KW, m.ob.) and 5 imms. in *Shelby* 1 Sep (HHK, MS, SH, AGM). Any *Plegadis* is a rare find inland, so a Glossy Ibis in *Oktibbeha*, MS 19 Oct (7th area record, TLS) and an unidentified dark ibis 25 Oct in *Colbert*, AL (ph./vt. JW, JP) were sig-



At *Guntersville*, *Marshall County*, Alabama, which has hosted California Gulls in late October in each of the past three years, this adult (left) found 17 October 2009 provided the ninth state record. Photograph by Steve W. McConnell.

nificant. Roseate Spoonbill, a species prominent in the Delta the past two fall seasons, was reported in much smaller numbers this autumn; the highest count was of 6 in *Humphreys* on the late date of 27 Nov (ph. WRP). More unusual farther e. in Mississippi, up to 5 spoonbills were in *Lowndes* 14 & 26 Aug (FD et al.), and 6 were at *Noxubee* 18-19 Sep (TLS et al.). Rare but increasing in Alabama, 3 of these spatula-fronted curiosities were in *Baldwin* 17 Aug-1 Sep (CL, m.ob., ph.), one was in *Hale* 19-25 Aug (BM, *fide* ECS), up to 4 were at *Blakeley I.*, *Mobile* 13 Sep-15 Oct (CH et al.), and a late individual appeared 10 Nov at *Dauphin* (JNW, DM). Four Wood Storks, rare but increasing in the G.C., were noted 17 Oct in *Baldwin* (ph. KH).

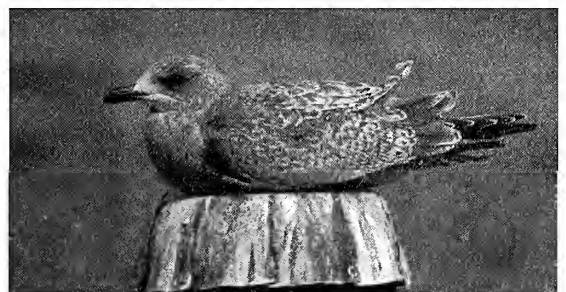
RAPTORS THROUGH DOVES

A late Swallow-tailed Kite, rare in n. Mississippi, was reported in *DeSoto* 16 Sep (RB). Local departure records were established by 2 Mississippi Kites in *Oktibbeha*, MS 19 Sep (TLS, MHS) and a Broad-winged Hawk at *Noxubee* 13 Oct (TLS). Swainson's Hawk is rare but regular in recent years on the Alabama

coast; this season, up to 2 were noted daily at *Ft. Morgan* 17-19 Oct (CH, SWM et al., ph.), and another was there 7 Nov (SWM, m.ob.). The sought-after Yellow Rail was flushed while mowing a field near *Leeds*, *Jefferson* 8 Sep (GCC), providing a 5th for the M.R. and 19th overall Alabama record. Though Sandhill Crane has increased markedly in winter, an imm. at *Wheeler* beginning 11 Aug (CDC et al.) was only the 3rd for the "summer" season in Alabama since 1960. Another crane in *Monroe*, AL 2 Oct (KC) was locally rare.

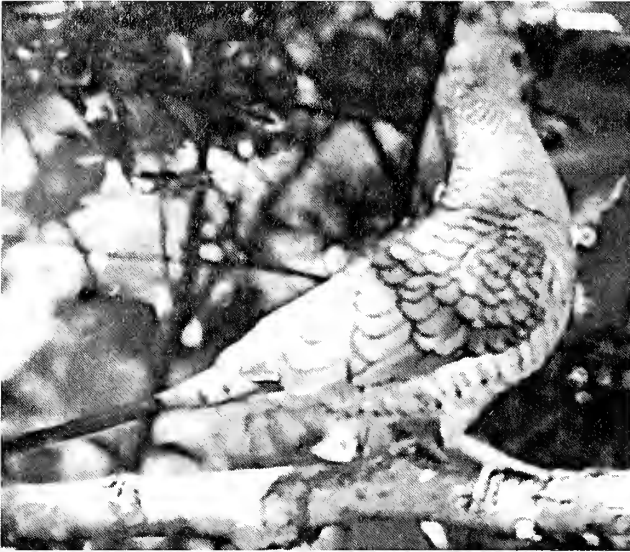
Two Black-bellied Plovers, rare but regular inland, were spotted 21 Aug in *Sunflower*, MS, and 64 Semipalmated Plovers at that site the same day were unusually abundant (both DB). Piping Plover is rare away from the coast; one was in *Sunflower*, MS 24 Aug (ph. DB). Scarce inland, an American Avocet was found 26 Sep in *Marshall*, AL (NC, m.ob.), 2 were in *Pearl River*, MS 27 Oct (NB), and 11 avocets were discovered in *Humphreys*, MS 27 Oct (WRP). Behind schedule, a Spotted Sandpiper was in *Oktibbeha*, MS 24 Nov+ (TLS). Two Ruddy Turnstones, rare inland, were in *Lauderdale*, AL 16 Aug (SWM), and another was photographed in *Sunflower*, MS 13 Sep (DB). Establishing an early area arrival

record, a Baird's Sandpiper visited *Oktibbeha*, MS 4-5 Aug (TLS, MHS, HMi et al.). Rare but regular fall migrants in the T.V. and G.C. regions of Alabama, up to 2 Baird's were in *Lauderdale* 23-30 Aug (SWM et al.), and another was on *Dauphin* 11 Oct (ECS, JAT et al., ph.). A late Pectoral Sandpiper was seen in *St. Clair*, AL through 11 Nov (HHW, ASC, MS). Tying a departure record for inland Alabama, a Stilt



Alabama's seventh Thayer's Gull was this juvenile that appeared 29 November 2009 at *Guntersville*, *Marshall County*. Photograph by Steve W. McConnell.

Sandpiper was in *Hale* 3-5 Nov (ph. JAT). Dowitchers are rare in the I.C.P.; a Short-billed appeared in *Montgomery* 24 Aug (LFG), and 3 Long-billeds were in *Hale* 3-5 Nov (ph. JAT). Though regular in migration in the Delta, tallies of 15 Wilson's Phalaropes 21 Aug in *Sun-*



Inca Dove is slowly becoming an expected species in Mississippi; this one was noted 11 August 2009 in Jackson County. Photograph by A. Gail Young.



This Northern Wheatear, only the fifth for Alabama, was spotted 18 October 2009 at Gulf State Park, Baldwin County. Photograph by Larry Mensi.



In a good year in Alabama for the rare Western Tanager, this striking male was banded 15 October 2009 at Fort Morgan, Baldwin County. Photograph by Fred Bassett.

flower, and 16 in Adams 2 Sep (both DB), were notable. Rare inland in Alabama, a Wilson's was observed 30 Aug in Lauderdale (SWM, DJS, JTG). Two groups totaling 28+ unidenti-

Gulls were at Wheeler Dam, Lauderdale/Lawrence 30 Aug and 25 Sep (SWM et al.), and another was spotted at W. F. George Dam, Henry 4 Oct (SWM). A Laughing Gull in

SA

It is The Vague and Elusive.
Meet it and you will not see its head.
Follow it and you will not see its back.

—The Way of Lao-tzu,
Lao-tzu

Alabama's first **Mangrove Cuckoo** was a jaw-dropper 17 Sep in the nets of the University of Southern Mississippi banding station at Ft. Morgan (JS et al., b., ph., p.a.). This slender beauty was captured twice that morning but was not seen subsequently.

Mangrove Cuckoo breeds from w.-cen. Florida through much of the Caribbean, on both coasts from n. Mexico to lower Central America, and in n. coastal South America. Florida birds formerly were considered migratory, but multiple winter records throughout the Florida range indicate at least some, and perhaps all, may be resident there; other populations are believed to be non-migratory.

Up to 14 subspecies have been described based on morphometry and coloration of underparts. More recent work, particularly that by Banks and Hole (1991, *Caribbean Journal of Science* 27: 54-62) citing small previous sample sizes, has led most modern authors to regard the species as likely monotypic; at least three broad groupings, possibly subspecies, were suggested by Hughes (1997, *The Birds of North America*, No. 299). Further study is needed to resolve this dilemma.

On the n. and w. Gulf Coast, Texas has at least 10 accepted records, Louisiana had a documented occurrence in Dec 2006, and a credible sight record exists from Nov 1981 in the e. Panhandle of Florida. All these wandering birds had richly colored underparts atypical of the Florida population (sometimes designated *Coccyzus minor maynardi*), more suggestive of birds found along the Mexican Atlantic coast as far n. as Tamaulipas (*C. m. continentalis*). Assessment is complicated by the reported presence in some breeding areas of light and dark morphs; populations usually exhibiting richer ventral color also include paler individuals, though the converse appears to be less frequent.

The Ft. Morgan cuckoo was richly colored below, including the lower face and breast-sides. The pattern is that expected of e. Mexican birds, fitting with the other Gulf Coast vagrants; the appearance of the underparts in examined photographs is not typical of individuals found in Florida (S. Cardiff, A. Kratter, B. Pranty, pers. comm.). In the week preceding 17 Sep, a gradually strengthening low-pressure center slowly progressed from Texas to Louisiana, with resultant moderate sw. winds over the Gulf throughout this period. Likely this wayward individual originated in Mexico (or farther s.) rather than nearby Florida. However, given so much apparent variation within populations, with current uncertainties over taxonomy, a definitive answer may be as elusive as a silent cuckoo deep in the mangrove shadows.

fied phalaropes (Red-necked/Red) were rare-but-expected finds off the coast of Baldwin, AL 20 Sep (SWM et al.).

A juv Sabine's Gull, representing the 11th for Mississippi and 6th inland, appeared 12 Sep at Enid L., Yalobusha (GCK, SGK, p.a.), mimicking a record there last fall. Another juv Sabine's was discovered 23 Oct at Ross Barnett Dam, Rankin/Madison, MS (NW, p.a.). Rare but expected at these inland Alabama sites, up to 3 Laughing

Madison, MS 27 Nov (GCK, SGK) was unusual. Franklin's Gull is rare but regular in the TV and G.C. in autumn, of seven reports, most notable were 4 Franklin's in Lauderdale 25 Sep (SWM) and up to 8 in Baldwin 26-31 Oct (SWM et al.). Alabama's 8th California Gull was discovered at Guntersville, Marshall 17 Oct (ph. SWM, p.a.), at a site hosting half the known records for the state (annual in late Oct since 2007). At the same spot in Marshall 29 Nov, a juv. Thayer's Gull was a treat, furnishing the 7th Alabama record (ph. SWM, p.a.). Lesser Black-backed Gull is now expected in small numbers in our Region, I received three reports of singles from Mississippi and five reports of 7 birds in Alabama. Most notable was an ad. beginning 30 Aug at Wheeler Dam, Lauderdale/Lawrence (DJS, SWM, JTG), setting an early arrival date for Alabama. Though rare, Great Black-backed Gull has become regular at Dauphin in fall and winter; up to 2 were noted there this autumn, with a sec-



Another stunning bird at Fort Morgan, Baldwin County, Alabama in fall 2009 was this adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird on 2 November 2009. Photograph by Larry Goodman.

ond-cycle bird 6 Aug (ph. BS, RC) representing either an early record for Alabama or an unprecedented summering individual.

The Baldwin, AL pelagic trip 20 Sep (SWM et al.) found 9 Sooty and 6 Bridled Terns, both expected in small numbers offshore at that season. A count of 64 Least Terns was unusual as late as 14 Sep in Sunflower, MS (DB). A rare Parasitic Jaeger was spotted with the passage of *Ida* 10 Nov at Dauphin (JNW, DM), and an unidentified jaeger was at Dauphin 9 Oct (SWM). Continuing a gradual upward trend in Mississippi, an Inca Dove appeared in Jackson 11 Aug (ph. AGY, p.a.). Common Ground-Dove is rare in the M.R. but has become regular near Harpersville, Shelby, where up to 3 birds were noted 4 Aug–26 Sep (MS, HHK, AGM, SH). Locally rare, 8+ White-winged Doves were in Pearl River, MS 29 Oct (NB).

ANI THROUGH WRENS

Almost annual on the Mississippi coast, 2 Groove-billed Anis were located 19 Oct in Hancock (NB). A Short-eared Owl, rare and erratic in Alabama, was found injured in Elmore 18 Nov (*vide* TRP, ph.) and was transported to a raptor rehabilitation center. At Clay, Jefferson, AL, 12 Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded 1–28 Nov (RRS, MBS, ph.), beginning the 3rd season of sleepless nights and outstanding results at the “Owl Farm”; another captured there 27 Nov had been banded in Virginia in 2007. Alabama’s 6th Lesser Nighthawk was unanticipated in conjunction with *Ida* on Dauphin 10 Nov (HEH et al., ph., p.a.). Eight Chuck-will’s-widows

seen at Dauphin 2 Sep (BCG) set a new Alabama autumn maximum. Rare but regular in the G.C., Buff-bellied Hummingbirds were in Mobile 28 Sep (4th year return, FB, SK) and on Dauphin 29 Oct (DWD). A rare Calliope Hummingbird was present in Morgan, AL 29 Oct–7 Nov (RRS, MBS, CLa et al., b., ph.).

Single rare-but-regular Olive-sided Flycatchers were spotted 24 & 30 Aug at two sites in Colbert, AL (DJS et al.) and 5 Sep at Dauphin (KC). Scarce but expected in small numbers, there were 13 reports of 16+ Yellow-bellied Flycatchers 23 Aug–10 Oct, all but one from Alabama. Acadian Flycatchers were unusually abundant for fall in Elmore, AL, with 12 recorded 26 Sep (LFG). It was a good season for identification of Alder Flycatcher, a species with 16 prior Alabama records; vocalizing individuals were noted 30 Aug in Lauderdale (DJS, SWM, JTG), 13 Sep and 7–8 Oct in Montgomery (LFG), and 10 Oct in Mobile (CH). An early Least Flycatcher was in Colbert, AL 23 Aug (SWM). Exciting discoveries undergoing review, Alabama’s potential 3rd and 4th Dusky Flycatchers were banded 17 & 19 Oct at Ft. Morgan (RRS, MBS et al., ph., p.a.). Continuing the rare flycatcher parade, Alabama’s 5th Say’s Phoebe put in a brief appearance on the Mobile Causeway, Baldwin 18 Oct (JBo, p.a.). Ash-throated Flycatcher is a rare treat in our area; in addition to several *Myiarchus* reports very likely of this species, unequivocal identifications were made 24 Oct of different individuals at Dauphin (VBF, BB, SF, m.ob., ph.) and Ft. Morgan (ph. MJJ). Rare Vermilion Flycatchers were seen only in Mississippi this autumn, with a surprising 3 birds discovered 10 Nov at two sites in Hancock (NB). Sightings of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in unexpected locations were of singles 9 Oct in Clay, MS (D&JP, TLS et al.) and 24 Oct in Winston, AL (LB).

Lagging well behind, a White-eyed Vireo was in Covington, AL 29 Nov (TS). Rare Bell’s Vireos were banded at Ft. Morgan 9 & 19 Oct (MA, RRS et al.) and observed at Dauphin 10 Oct (SWM, BS, m.ob., ph.). Also notable were Warbling Vireos 30 Aug on Dauphin (HEH) and 26 Sep at Ft. Morgan (SWM). Fish Crow continues to increase in the T.V., where now rare but regular. A maximum count for that region was provided by a flock of 26 calling birds in Morgan 19 Aug (CAB); another declared its identity 30 Aug in Lauderdale (SWM, DJS, JTG). Occasional in recent years in the I.C.P., with only one known (and now destroyed) breeding site, 12 Horned Larks counted 6 Sep unveiled a possible new nesting area in Autauga (TRP). Setting a new local departure date, a Tree Swallow

was spotted 18 Nov in Oktibbeha (TLS). The 3 Bank Swallows 17 Oct in Marshall (SWM) established a late fall date for inland Alabama. As in 2008, Cave Swallow bucked the usual spring trend in our coastal areas, with a late appearance 16 Nov in Hancock (NB, p.a.) furnishing a 12th Mississippi record. Behind schedule, 2 House Wrens were in Shelby 14 Nov (GDJ). Rare but regular in the M.R., up to 3 Sedge Wrens were in n. Shelby 3 Oct and 1 & 7 Nov (ph. GDJ et al.); this paled in comparison to the 15 found at a single site in s. Shelby 14 Nov (ph. GDJ), setting a new maximum for n. Alabama. More scarce in the M.R., a Marsh Wren was in n. Shelby 3 Oct (ph. GDJ), and 2 were spotted in s. Shelby 14 Nov (ph. GDJ).

THRUSHES THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

Among other thrilling birds that weekend, a Northern Wheatear was a one-day wonder at Gulf S.P., Baldwin 18 Oct (ph. LM, p.a.), providing a 5th Alabama record. Tardy Tennessee Warblers were in Lee, MS 22 Nov (WRP) and Baldwin, AL 23 Nov (KC). Rare in the M.R., lone Nashville Warblers were observed 27 Sep in Winston (LB) and 11 Oct in Jefferson (GDJ); one in Montgomery 24 Oct (LFG) was unusual for the I.C.P. On Dauphin, a Nashville 16 Nov and a Northern Parula 15 Nov (both SWM) were late. Early Magnolia Warblers appeared at Wheeler 29 Aug (SWM) and in Colbert, AL 30 Aug (SWM, DJS, JTG). Rare inland, Black-throated Blue Warblers were in Lee, AL 13 Sep (LW) and in Jefferson, AL 27 Sep (RS&DCH); a late individual was spotted in Pearl River, MS 30 Oct (NB). Black-throated Green Warbler is not confirmed as a breeder in the T.V., so 3 in



Alabama’s fifteenth Bronzed Cowbird appeared on Dauphin Island, Mobile County 25 October 2009. Photograph by Steve W. McConnell.

Colbert 1 Aug (SWM) provided a new arrival date for that area. Furnishing a record early date for the M.R., a Blackburnian Warbler was spotted in Birmingham, Jefferson 20 Aug (GJH). Two Palm Warblers were running late 14 Nov in Shelby, AL (GDJ), as was a Bay-breasted Warbler 13 Nov in Lee (LW).



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Photo © Thomas Moore

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generous support of this publication.

Blackpoll Warbler is only occasionally documented in autumn in our Region, especially away from the coast; representing the 7th inland fall Alabama record, and the first since 1976, a Blackpoll was studied in Birmingham, Jefferson 13 Oct (GDJ). Late Black-and-white Warblers were on Dauphin 14-15 Nov (SWM, CK) and in Baldwin, AL 21 Nov (MJJ); 2 were particularly delinquent inland in Covington, AL 27 Nov (TS). Also late was an American Redstart at Dauphin 15 Nov (KC). Rare in the T.V., a singing Swainson's Warbler was in Colbert 1 & 30 Aug (SWM et al.). Tying a departure record for Alabama, an Ovenbird was noted at Dauphin 14 Nov (SWM). A Louisiana Waterthrush, which usually vacates our area early in the season, provided a local late date 18 Sep at Noxubee (TLS). Rare but regular in fall in Alabama, but particularly plentiful this season, 6 Mourning Warblers were detected 5 Sep-4 Oct in Lee (JH et al.), Colbert (DJS et al.), Montgomery (LFG), Mobile (JNW), and at two sites in Jefferson (RRS, GDJ et al.). Three Common Yellowthroats were unusual in Shelby, AL at the late date of 14 Nov (GDJ). A Wilson's Warbler at Noxubee 1 Sep (TLS) was early, singles at two locales in Jefferson 28 Aug (TK) and 28 Sep (DGJ, GDJ) were rare in the M.R., and another was tardy 1 Nov in Monroe, MS (ph. WRP). Tying a local arrival date, a Canada Warbler appeared at Noxubee 14 Aug (TLS).

Rare but expected in fall on the outer coast of Alabama, 4 Clay-colored Sparrows were noted 10 Oct-7 Nov at Dauphin and Ft. Morgan (BS, SWM, JNW, m.ob.). Infrequently spotted in the M.R., a Lark Sparrow was discovered in Jefferson 26 Sep (DPG, SSH). A straggling Grasshopper Sparrow was in Shelby, AL 14 Nov (ph. GDJ). Henslow's Sparrow is a regular, though local, wintering bird in the s. portions of our Region. This skulker is only occasionally detected in n. Alabama, so one in Shelby 1 Nov (ph. GDJ) was a surprise; the following day, a Henslow's was notable at the s. edge of the M.R. in Lee (JH), and another was spotted at the unusual site of Ft. Morgan (RAD, LRD, BT). The 10th M.R. record, and first in Nov, of Le Conte's Sparrow came 14 Nov, when a single bird popped into view in Shelby (ph. GDJ). Rare in both the M.R. and I.C.P., single Lincoln's Sparrows were observed 2 Nov in Lee (JH) and 8 Nov in Montgomery (LFG).

The Summer Tanager in Montgomery 6 Nov (LFG) set a late record for the I.C.P., and excepting a few winter occurrences, also a departure date for inland Alabama; late coastal birds were found at Ft. Morgan 15 Nov (MJJ) and at Dauphin 29 Nov (J&TS). Occasional in Alabama, an ad. male Western Tanager provided a rush at Ft. Morgan 15 Oct (FB et al., b., ph.). A lone Blue Grosbeak in Oktibbeha,

MS 23 Oct (TLS) furnished a local departure record, and another 14 Nov on Dauphin (SWM) was also behind schedule. If not a rare wintering bird, the Dickcissel 18 Nov in Mobile, AL (ECS, JAT) was late. Rare but regular in autumn in the G.C., single Bobolinks appeared 6 Sep in Mobile (RCa), 18 Oct at Ft. Morgan (SWM et al.), and 10 Nov on Dauphin (JNW, HEH, DM et al.). Yellow-headed Blackbird is rare and not quite annual in Alabama, so four reports this fall were extraordinary. Individuals were enjoyed 10 Oct on Dauphin (J&TS et al.), 2 Nov at Ft. Morgan (ph. LG, RAD, LRD, BT), 6 Nov at Dauphin (EC et al., ph.), and 7 Nov in s. Baldwin (CH et al.). Representing an early record for the M.R. of this declining species, 12 Rusty Blackbirds were located 17 Oct in Lee (JH). Bronzed Cowbird continues a slow increase in incidence; Alabama's 15th and 16th reports came 25-26 Oct on Dauphin (ph. SWM et al.) and 3-4 Nov at Ft. Morgan (2 birds, ph. BS). If not a rare winterer, the Baltimore Oriole 6 Nov in Montgomery, AL (LFG) was tardy.

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Mark Armstrong, Larry Barkey, Fred Bassett, Jerry Bevis, Devin Bosler, Jeff Bouton (JBo), Ned Boyajian, Robert Brisco, Craig A. Brown, Barbara Byrd, Eugenia Carey, Rodney Cassidy (RCa), Karen Chiasson, Alice S. Christenson, Roger Clay, C. Dwight Cooley, Neill Cowles, George C. Cusick, Frank Dailey, David W. Dortch, Lucy R. Duncan, Robert A. Duncan, Venetia B. Friend, Sylvia Fullerton, Lawrence F. Gardella, Ben C. Garmon, Jeff T. Garner, David P. George, Larry Goodman, Q. B. Gray, R. Stan & Dana C. Hamilton, Greg J. Harber, Chazz Hesselein, Kathy Hicks, Jim Holmes, Howard E. Horne, Sharon S. Hudgins, Sue Hutchinson, Debra G. Jackson, Greg D. Jackson (Alabama), Michael J. Jordan, Ty Keith, Christine Kelley, Sandra Kerr, Helen H. Kittinger, Ronald J. Kittinger, Gene C. Knight, Shannon G. Knight, Caila Lamont (CLa), Craig Litteken, Henry Maddin, Bill Mason, Steve W. McConnell, Don McKee, Larry Mensi, Anne G. Miller, Hal Mitchell (HMi), Diane & Jim Patterson, Wayne R. Patterson, John Phillips, Tommy R. Pratt, Martha B. Sargent, Robert R. Sargent, Thomas Savage, Marion H. Schiefer, Terence L. Schiefer (Mississippi), Maureen Shaffer, Joan & Tom Siegwald, Damien J. Simbeck, Jaclyn Smolinsky, Eric C. Soehren, Bill Summerour, Betsy Tetlow, John A. Trent, Jacob N. Walker, Ken Ward, Jimmy Wells, Lorna West, Jeff R. Wilson, Nick Winstead, Harriett H. Wright. ☺

Greg D. Jackson, 2220 Baneberry Drive
Birmingham, Alabama 35244
(g_d_jackson@bellsouth.net)



Steven W. Cardiff

Following last year's battering by two hurricanes, the fall 2009 season was quiet, with zero tropical cyclone impacts in the Region. There was good coverage of both coastal and interior migrant traps, and the usual amazing array of rarities and other notable occurrences were reported, at least moderately dominated by western and southern vagrants. On the other hand, there were relatively few dramatic pulses of passerine migrants, and passerine migration in the interior seemed generally lackluster. The weather also cooperated for the first organized pelagic trip in several years, out of Venice on 27 September, and participants were rewarded with several notable birds. Reports of northern invasive species such as Red-breasted Nuthatch and cardueline finches were almost non-existent.

Abbreviations: A.F.F. (Anderson's Fish Farm, Lonoke, AR); B.K.N.W.R. (Bald Knob N.W.R., White, AR); B.S.N.W.R. (Bayou Sauvage N.W.R., Orleans, LA); C.F.H. (Craig Fish Hatchery, near Centerton, Benton, AR); C.N.F. (Camp Nine Farm, Desha, AR); C.F.P. (Craighead Forest Park near Jonesboro, Craighead, AR); C.P.S.N.A. (Chesney Prairie State Natural Area, Benton, AR); L.F. (L. Fayetteville, Fayetteville, Washington, AR); L.S.U.M.N.S. (Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science); M.L. (Millwood Lake, AR); M.S.F. (Morganza Spillway Forebay, Pointe Coupee, LA); N.F.U./S.F.U. (Sherburne W.M.A. "North Farm Unit" or "South Farm Unit," n. of Ramah, Iberville, LA); S.F.F. (Sauls' Fish

Farm near Des Arc, Prairie, AR); T.F.F. (Treadway's Fish Farm, near Hickory Plains, Prairie, AR); W.W.P. (Woolsey Wet Prairie, Fayetteville, Washington, AR). Counties/parishes are indicated only for the initial mention of a specific locality, and states are indicated only for the initial mention of counties/parishes, except to avoid confusion. For records of "review list" species, documentation has been received and records have either been accepted by, or acceptance is pending by, the respective state bird records committee. Significance for Arkansas records is based on *Arkansas Birds, their distribution and abundance* (James and Neal 1986), and the Arkansas Audubon Society (AAS) online bird record database (for records since 1986). Significance for Louisiana records is based on the bird record card file database and the Louisiana Bird Records Committee archives at the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, as well as the most recent draft of the forthcoming *Birds of Louisiana* (Remsen, Cardiff, Dittmann, and Dickson).

WATERFOWL

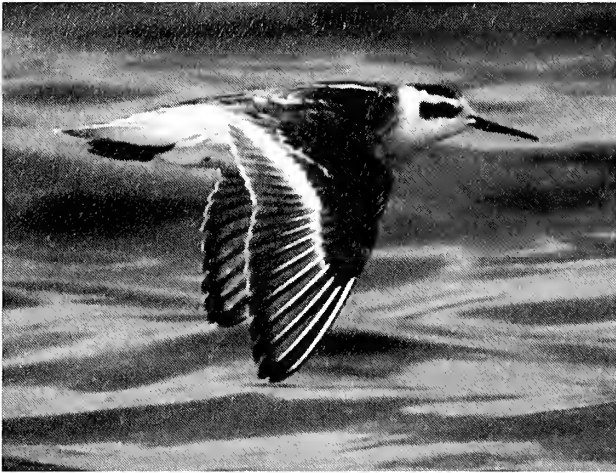
Following the first reports from Crawford, AR in May–June 2009, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks quickly proliferated, with 34 (three family groups, including 28 juvs.) counted at Alma 9 Aug (KH, DS, SH, A&KM, JiD), 32 (including a pair with 8 half-grown chicks) there 29 Aug (B&TB), a peak of 75 (62 ads., 13 juvs.; 2nd highest count for Arkansas) 17 Sep, and an ad. with 4 large young 21 Oct (all B&TB); 45 at C.N.F. 10 Oct (DB) were fewer than found there fall 2008 but still a very high number for the state. In Louisiana, 2 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Tensas 26 Aug, 5 in Madison 17 Sep, 6 in Concordia 20 Sep (all DBo), plus a whopping 310 at M.S.F. 21 Nov (ph. BL), emphasized that the species continues to spread northeastward, into areas of the state previously unoccupied. Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were again confirmed breeding at C.N.F., where several broods of 7–10 young were observed 30 Aug–30 Sep (DS, SH, ph. DB), and a peak of 26 (9 ads., 17 young) was counted 4 Sep (DB); up to 20 lingered through 20 Oct (DB). Nine Fulvous Whistling-Ducks in Concordia 20 Sep (DBo) were noteworthy away from sw. Louisiana. An ad. blue-morph Snow Goose with resident Canada Geese near Grubbs, Jackson, AR 8 Sep (DBo)

had most likely summered in the area, but a Ross's Goose at C.F.H. 11 Oct (MAM, JoP) was considered a legitimate migrant and earliest ever for the state. Twenty Cackling Geese at C.F.H. 31 Oct (MAM, JoP) set a relatively early arrival date for the Region. A presumed wild Canada Goose, flying with Greater White-fronteds near Thornwell, Jefferson Davis, LA 6 Nov (ph. DLD, SWC), was unexpected; there are few if any recent well-documented records of non-feral individuals, and the species was recently added to the Louisiana Bird Records Committee "Review List." A Gadwall at Sherburne W.M.A., Iberville, LA 7 Aug (DBo) was most likely an unhealthy summering bird. Mottled Ducks have been reported with increasing frequency in s.-cen. Louisiana, especially at M.S.F., but 150 there 18 Sep (ph. BL) easily surpassed previous counts for the area. Assuming that they had not summered in the area, 4 Northern Shovelers and 3 Northern Pintails at B.K.N.W.R. 16 Aug (DBo) were very early for fall migrants; another pintail at L. Caliborne, Claiborne, LA 30 Aug (JoD) was thought to have summered, and another shoveler at Sherburne W.M.A. 7 Aug (DBo) was also most likely a summering individual. Adding to Louisiana's relatively few fall occurrences, a



Although Harris's Hawks are very popular with falconers, and a number of Louisiana sightings have been treated as possible escapees, this individual near Rayne, Acadia Parish 2 November 2009 (here) was considered a wild vagrant and becomes Louisiana's fourth accepted occurrence. It remained into December. Photograph by Dave Patton.

record-early ad. male Cinnamon Teal (molting into definitive basic plumage) was well described at Elm Gove, Bossier 27 Sep (TD), and 2 more molting males, one molting ad. male and the other possibly a molting first-year male, were found near Thornwell 6 Nov (ph. DFL). A "very early" Redhead at Catahoula Lake R.A., LaSalle, LA 19 Sep (ph. DBo) and an even "earlier" Ring-necked Duck at L. Claiborne 16 Aug (JoD) had both probably summered at those sites. A rare Long-tailed Duck visited L. Maumelle, Pulaski, AR 15 Nov (JiD). A White-winged Scoter at L.F. 8 Oct (DOU,



One of the pelagic species found during a Gulf of Mexico boat trip off the mouth of the Mississippi River 27 September 2009 was this Red-necked Phalarope, one of two about 55 kilometers southwest of Southwest Pass. Photograph by Dave Patton.



About the tenth for Arkansas, and the first since 1988, this Red Phalarope delighted observers at Mallard Lake, Big Lake Wildlife Management Area, Mississippi County, Arkansas 4-5 (here 5) October 2009. Photograph by Mike Todd.

JoP), and the same or possibly a different bird there 27-29 Oct (HDC, MAM, ph. JCN), set a new early arrival record for Arkansas. Eight Ruddy Ducks were at C.N.F 30 Aug (DS, SH), and two pairs reportedly nested there during the summer/early fall (DB, *vide* DS, SH); up to 8 summering at T.F.F. through 10 Aug (JiD, Samantha Dixon), and another 6 in breeding

imm.) at M.S.F. 21 Oct (JVR, BL). A Least Bittern flushed from a rice field near Thornwell during the late harvest 1 Nov (m ob.) was relatively late.

Inland dispersal of modest numbers of Roseate Spoonbills in late summer and early fall has become fairly routine, and this fall was no exception, with at least 10 reports from

SA *Plegadis ibis* were fairly widely reported across the interior, once again stimulating debate about identification and whether this late summer/early fall pattern represents northward post-breeding dispersal or actual fall migration through the Region, or both. A few obvious ad. White-faced Ibis were observed, including one at T.F.F. 5 Aug and 2 (among a larger flock of 38 unidentified *Plegadis*) at Grand L., Chicot, AR (both K&LN). Most reports involved imm. and were (probably wisely) left as "*Plegadis* sp.," the largest concentration involving 70 individuals in Concordia, LA 20 Sep (ph. DBo). However, there were also reports of pure flocks of up to 30 "Glossy Ibis." When considering these reports, it is important to bear in mind: 1) imm. White-faced are largely indistinguishable from imm. Glossy; 2) imm. White-faced are also in some ways superficially similar to ad. Glossy; 3) the traditional view has been that White-faced is the "default" species in the interior; and 4) hybrids have been documented in at least a dozen states and appear to be increasing. Thus, inland reports of Glossy Ibis, although not unprecedented, warrant much more intense scrutiny and better verification until such time that we have a better understanding of status. Suspected pure flocks of Glossy Ibis are especially in need of confirmation, as this situation is seldom if ever encountered even in se. Louisiana, the center of the species' abundance in the Region. Hopefully, these questions will be the subject of scientific inquiries in the near future.

plumage at A.F.F. 15 Aug (DBo), were also suggestive of local nesting.

LOONS THROUGH STORK

Arkansas once again claimed the only Pacific Loon of the season (still no accepted Louisiana records), at L. Maumelle, Pulaski 29 Nov (JiD), and the only Western Grebe as well, at Beaver L., Benton 30 Nov (ph. JCN); interestingly, the grebe was at the same site where one was present the previous winter. One of the better birds found 27 Sep, during Louisiana's first Gulf of Mexico pelagic trip in several years, was a Cory's Shearwater about 55 km sw. of the Southwest Pass channel of the Mississippi R., Plaquemines (DBo, ph. JPS, ph. DP, DPM). A subad. Northern Gannet just off the Calcasieu R. mouth near Cameron, Cameron 16 Aug (BMM, ph. DP) was obviously summering in the Gulf of Mexico. The conventional wisdom that Brown Pelicans don't venture inland unless blown there by hurricanes was once again disproven, as evidenced by 4 (one ad., 3

imm.) at M.S.F. 21 Oct (JVR, BL). A Least Bittern flushed from a rice field near Thornwell during the late harvest 1 Nov (m ob.) was relatively late. Inland dispersal of modest numbers of Roseate Spoonbills in late summer and early fall has become fairly routine, and this fall was no exception, with at least 10 reports from sites n. or e. of the normal distribution. Perhaps most interesting were one near Mandeville, St. Tammany, LA 27 Sep (Stefan Wolman) and 16 at Guste I., St. Tammany 31 Oct (JVR et al.; few records for n. shore of L. Pontchartrain), and maxima of 28 at C.N.F. 9 Oct (DB) and 54 at Cotile L., Rapides 8 Nov (smaller numbers recorded there 12 Oct-25 Nov, including as many as 20-30 into the last week of Nov, JVH). A leucistic Roseate Spoonbill was near Welsh, Jefferson Davis 1 Nov (ph. PEC). Reports of late Wood Storks were more than normal, including 5 in Desha, AR 9 Oct (DB), up to 2 through much of Oct at Cotile L., with one lingering through 22 Oct (JVH), one at Madisonville, St. Tammany, LA 15 Nov (Meredith Faye Bodi), and one over Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge, LA 29 Nov (vt. JH).

RAPTORS THROUGH RAILS

Presumed migrant Swallow-tailed Kites thrilled observers near St. Gabriel, Iberville, LA 1 Aug (fresh juv.; DLD, SWC), at Sheppard I., Jefferson, AR 15 Aug (3; DMCC, Hazel McCauley), at Two Rivers Park, Pulaski 23 Aug (JiD), and at Golden Meadow, Lafourche, LA 23 Aug (PAW, DPM). An imm. Bald Eagle in Baton Rouge 29 Aug (DLD) was difficult to classify as summering or early migrant; 7+ in the vicinity of Thornwell 1-13 Nov (Michael A. Seymour, SWC, DLD, m ob.) was an unprecedented concentration in a sw. Louisiana rice agriculture situation. An imm. Broad-winged Hawk near Rutherford Beach, Cameron, LA 14 Nov (DFL) was probably a late migrant, but 5 in lower Plaquemines, LA 29 Nov (vt. PAW, DPM, RDP) were almost certainly wintering birds. A family group of Swainson's Hawks, including an ad. and 3 large fledglings at Vaughn, Benton 16 Aug (JCN, ph. JiD et al.), provided additional confirmation of breeding in the area. Noteworthy migrant Swainson's Hawks included one at W.W.P. 7 Oct (JCN, Lyndal York) and one at Grand Isle, Jefferson, LA 24 Oct (JCo, ph. JH et al.); 5 soaring with Turkey Vultures at Boothville, lower Plaquemines 29 Nov (vt. PAW, DPM, RDP) were probably wintering birds. A Harris's Hawk just e. of Rayne, Acadia 2 Nov+ (Bill Hoffpauir, ph. DP, PEC, ph. TF, ph. DLD, ph. Rosemary Seidler, m.ob.) would represent only the 4th accepted Louisiana record. A pair of Golden Eagles soaring over Mt. Sequoyah, Fayetteville, Washington, AR 27 Oct (Douglas James) made the only report of the species. Although Crested Caracaras are now increasingly widespread and expected in sw. Louisiana, 2 near Cameron 31 Oct (ph. SLP, Joan Brown) were along the Gulf shoreline, where seldom reported. Exceptionally dark-plumaged Merlins at Rutherford Beach

27 Sep (SWC, DLD, PEC, BMM) and at Eagle Hill, *Sabine*, LA 9 Oct (Jim E. Johnson, Willis Sylvest) were suggestive of the Pacific Northwest subspecies *suckleyi* but, unfortunately, were not photographed; there are no well-documented records of *suckleyi* in the Region.

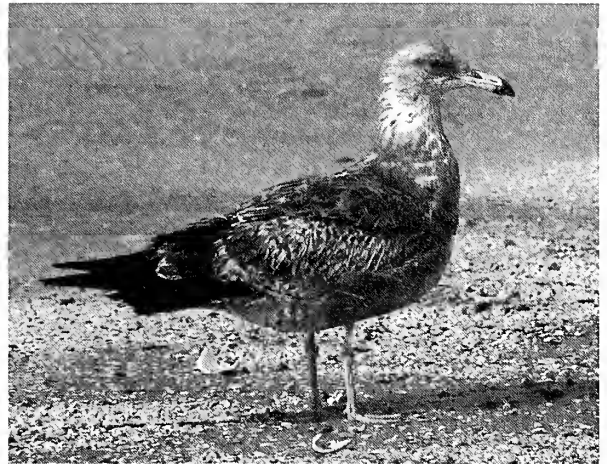
About 100 Yellow Rails were tallied during monitoring of late rice-harvesting activity in the Thornwell area 1-13 Nov (SWC, DLD, DP, BMM, PEC, m.ob.), and a late imm. Purple Gallinule was flushed from a rice field there 6 Nov (SWC, DLD). High numbers of Common Moorhens remained at C.N.F. through the summer and presumably bred there, with 100 mixed ads. and juvs. present through Aug (DS, SH, DB). Signaling a dramatic late Oct influx, 8000 American Coots at C.N.F. 25 Oct (DB) ranked among the highest fall counts for Arkansas, and 2000 at L.F. 27 Oct (HDC) was a new high for nw. Arkansas. In Louisiana, a coot at Fontainebleau S.P., *St. Tammany* 10 Aug (Janine Robin, Mary Mehaffey, TT) and 12 at Sherburne W.M.A. 31 Aug (DBo) were probable summering birds or rare and local breeders; singles at Baton Rouge 6 Sep (JVR, JCo, CSF) and near Sorrento, *Ascension*, LA 11 Sep (JVH) also could have summered but may have been early migrants.

SHOREBIRDS

American Golden-Plovers are rare fall migrants through the Region, so five reports was above average: one at S.F.F. 29 Aug (A&KM, KH, D&DB, JiD), 9 at C.N.F. 7 Sep (DB), 4 at Upper Ouachita N.W.R., *Morehouse*, LA 7 Sep (ph. SLP), one near Fairview, *Chicot*, AR 16 Sep (DBo), and one fairly late near Thornwell 31 Oct (SWC, ph. DLD). Migrant Piping Plovers in the Region's interior are always worth a mention; all sightings this fall were made at T.F.F., where 2 were present 7 Aug and one was seen 20 & 22 Aug (all K&LN). Three banded Pippings were well studied at Holly Beach: an ad. 9 Aug had been banded as a chick in 2005 at Dryboro L., s. Saskatchewan and had nested in 2006 at L. Diefenbacher, SK; one observed 3 Oct was banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore near Empire, MI (no further banding information received); and an imm. 17 Oct had been banded in summer 2009 at Lewis and Clark L., SD (BMM, vt. DP, PEC). A Semipalmated Plover near Thornwell 13 Nov (DFL) was late for an inland location, but winter records have been on the rise in the sw. rice-growing region. There were no fewer than 13 reports of American Avocets away from the immediate coast, highlighted by 24 in *Newton* 7 Oct (excellent fall count for Arkansas Ozarks; ph. Bob Barber), 20 at M.S.F. 21 Oct (good for Baton Rouge area; JVR, BL), one at Alma 21 Oct (possible first fall occur-

rence for *Crawford*; B&TB), 3 at C.F.H. 31 Oct (rare in nw. Arkansas; JoP, MAM), 12 at Guste I. 31 Oct (rare on n. shore of L. Pontchartrain; JVR et al.), 26 at Gilbert, *Franklin*, LA 19 Nov (large number and late for n. Louisiana; ph. SLP), and one at C.N.F. 28 Nov (very late; DB).

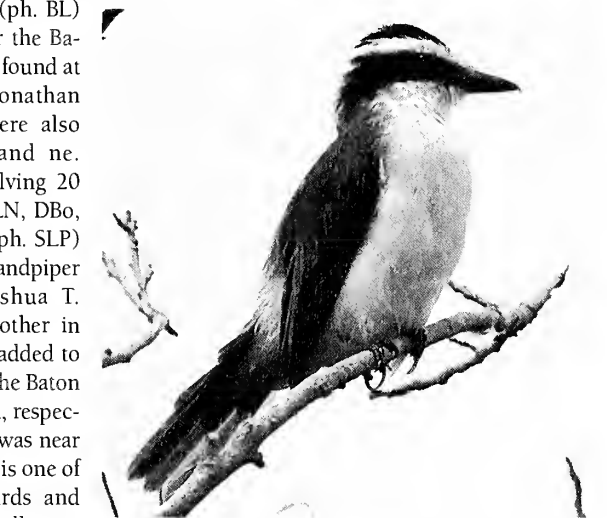
There were five inland reports of Willets, presumably Westerns, which is about average; four sightings involved one to 2 individuals each from expected areas of e.-cen. Arkansas 5-20 Aug (K&LN, ph. DBo), and the 5th was of a single bird at Catahoula N.W.R., *LaSalle*, LA 19 Sep (DBo). Rare inland Marbled Godwits included 2 found at A.F.F. 31 Jul-5 Aug (JiD, Craig Provost, Dale Provost, DMcC, K&LN) and one near Thornwell 27 Sep (ph. DLD). An Upland Sandpiper in a yard at Jonesboro, *Craighead* 20 Oct (Joseph Sellers) would apparently establish a new late fall date for the species in Arkansas. It was a good fall for Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings, both scarce inland migrants in the Region. There were about six reports involving about a dozen turnstones at the *Lonoke-Prairie* fish farm ponds 5 Aug-24 Sep (K&LN); in Louisiana, 5 at M.S.F. 2 Aug (ph. BL) was only the 5th occurrence for the Baton Rouge area, and another was found at Catahoula N.W.R. 19 Aug (Jonathan Clark). Inland Sanderlings were also mainly detected in e.-cen. and ne. Arkansas, with 10 reports involving 20 individuals 3 Aug-27 Sep (K&LN, DBo, KH et al.); 3 at Gilbert 23 Sep (ph. SLP) were also of interest. A Baird's Sandpiper at S.F.U. 13-16 Aug (ph. Joshua T. Sylvest, JVR, ph. CSF) and another in *Franklin*, LA 27 Aug (ph. DBo) added to the surprisingly few records for the Baton Rouge area and for ne. Louisiana, respectively. A late Pectoral Sandpiper was near Thornwell 7 Nov (DFL). Dunlin is one of our rarest summering shorebirds and among smaller *Calidris* is typically our latest to arrive in fall, not showing up in appreciable numbers until mid- or late Oct. One in basic plumage w. of Grand



California Gull has become almost annual in fall on the southwestern Louisiana coast since first recorded in 1985, but surprisingly few records have involved first-cycle birds; this obliging bird at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish 20 September (here) through 3 October 2009 was also one of the earliest to be found in the state. Photograph by Paul E. Conover.



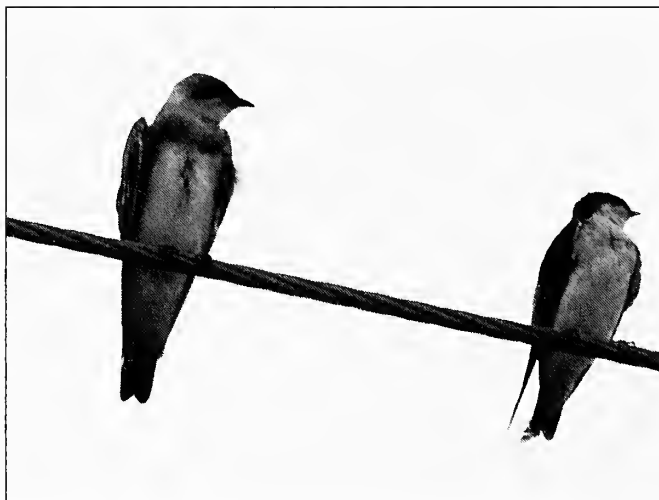
This scruffy adult Great Black-backed Gull was a surprise at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish 21 August 2009 and represented the first Louisiana occurrence between mid-June and mid-September. Photograph by Tom Finnie.



One of a territorial pair that made two failed nesting attempts during the late spring and summer, this Great Kiskadee at Grand Chenier, Cameron Parish, Louisiana was well into its post-breeding pre-basic molt on 9 September 2009. Photograph by Tom Finnie.



This Tropical/Couch's Kingbird at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish, Louisiana 12 October 2009 possessed worn, outer primaries and rectrices and was never heard calling. Photograph by Tom Finnie.



Arguably the most remarkable bird of the fall 2009 season for Louisiana, this Brown-chested Martin was a "needle in a haystack" among large numbers of other migrant swallows near Sweet Lake, Cameron Parish 6 September 2009. Note the line of dark blotches down the center of the breast, confirming the subspecies *fusca*, an austral migrant in the Southern Hemisphere. Photograph by Paul E. Conover

Isle at Elmer's I., Jefferson 6 Sep (vt. PAW, DPM, RDP), a bird in worn alternate plumage at Holly Beach 19-20 Sep (DPM, PEC et al.), and a basic-plumaged bird there 20 Sep (PEC) were all intriguing. Sixty-three Dunlins at C.F.H. 31 Oct (MAM, JoP) established a new fall high count for nw. Arkansas. Another excellent find during the 27 Sep pelagic trip out of Venice, LA were 2 Red-necked Phalaropes, also at 55 km sw. of Southwest Pass (ph. DBo,

ph. JPS, DPM). The species is slightly more regular in Arkansas, but 4 separate individuals found there during the season was extraordinary and included one at S.F.F. 29 Aug (KH, A&KM, D&DB, JiD), another there 10-13 Sep (K&LN), one at Arkadelphia, Clark 19 Sep (Don & Dolores Harrington, Glenn & Evelyn Good), and a fairly late bird at C.F.H. 16 Oct (MAM, JoP). A Red Phalarope at Mallard L., Big Lake W.M.A., Mississippi 4-5 Oct (ph. JRW, DS, SH, AM, ph. JiD, ph. Mike Todd) furnished about the 10th occurrence for Arkansas and the first since 1988. Rounding out the phalarope department, a Wilson's at Gilbert 19 Sep (DBo) and 3 there 23 Sep (ph. SLP) were relatively late, but one at C.N.F. 25 Oct (DB, Sarah Baxter) tied the late record for Arkansas.

GULLS THROUGH SKIMMER

As almost expected nowadays, a few Laughing Gulls ventured into the interior, including juvs. at B.K.N.W.R. 20 Aug and Dardanelle Lock and Dam, Yell, AR 3-4 Oct, and an ad. and a first-basic bird at the latter location 31 Oct (all K&LN). Exceptionally early Franklin's Gulls included singles at L.F. 29 Aug (HDC) and at S.F.F. 30 Aug (K&LN, Dennis Braddy); such anomalous early records possibly pertain to individuals that summered s. of the breeding grounds. Two Franklin's Gulls at Bob Kidd L., Washington 17 Nov (MAM, JCN) were relatively late, especially for the Ozarks region of Arkansas. Completely unprecedented for the sw. Louisiana rice growing region were hundreds of Franklin's in the Thornwell area 1-8 Nov, with a peak of 1200 on 8 Nov (ph. DLD, SWC, PEC, DFL); this would be about the 3rd highest count ever for Louisiana, but, interestingly, the other large fall concentrations from the Region have also been inland and during late Oct-early Nov. Excluding a few anomalous Jul, Aug, and Sep records, a Bonaparte's Gull at L.F. 9 Oct (HDC) represented one of the earliest fall arrival dates for Arkansas. A first-cycle Califor-

nia Gull was noted at Holly Beach 20 Sep-3 Oct (ph. PEC, ph. DP, MJM, BMM), and an ad. was at Rutherford Beach 27 Sep (SWC, DLD, PEC, BMM). At least 25-30 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported along the Louisiana coast 3 Sep-8 Nov (m.ob.). A worn ad. Great Black-backed Gull at Holly Beach 21 Aug (ph. TF) represented the first Louisiana occurrence between mid-Jun and mid-Sep. A second-cycle Glaucous Gull at Elmer's I. 18 Oct (ph. PAW, DPM) became Louisiana's earliest well-documented fall occurrence, and a probable first-cycle Glaucous at M.L., Hempstead 1 Nov (DS, SH, CM) was also a new early fall record for Arkansas and about the 10th state occurrence.

At least 15 Bridled Terns were observed sw. of Southwest Pass on the 27 Sep pelagic trip (DBo, DPM et al.). Several large concentrations of Least Terns were found in Arkansas, including new all-time highs of 400 (about 15% hatch-year birds) at A.F.F. 7 Aug (K&LN) and 500 carefully estimated w. of Lake Village, Chicot 20 Aug (DBo); counts of 295 near Paragould, Greene 12 Aug and another 150 at a separate location in Chicot 16 Sep (both DBo) were also impressive and would bring the cumulative total to over 1300 individuals! About 1200 at Elmer's I. 6 Sep (PAW, DPM, RDP) was also a nice pre-migratory aggregation for the coast. A flock of about 20 Common Terns at L.F. 13 Sep (MAM, JoP, HDC, Neil Nodleman) was an exciting event, as only a few individuals had previously been found during fall in nw. Arkansas. An estimated 200 Black Terns over a farm field at Hagarville, Johnson 6 Sep (LA) was one of the largest counts ever reported in Arkansas; 2 at Cameron 21 Oct (CSF, Harriet Pooler) were late. A slightly inland Black Skimmer was at Bonnet Carré Spillway, St. Charles, LA 17 Aug (MW).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Suggestive of local breeding, 2 White-winged Doves were at Grand Isle 23 Aug (PAW, DPM), and 15-20 were present near Lacombe, St. Tammany 26 Aug-1 Sep (TT et al.). The only Groove-billed Ani reports came from two of the remaining semi-reliable spots for that species in Louisiana: 2 in extreme sw. Cameron at Johnsons Bayou 17-25 Oct (MW, ph. TF, BMM et al.) and 6 in extreme s. *Plaquemines* near Venice 29 Nov (vt. PAW, DPM, RDP). Two exceptionally late Common Nighthawks at Baton Rouge 30 Nov-3 Dec (JCo, DFL, ph. Michael Hilferty, ph. DLD, SWC) may have been attempting to winter. A rare Lesser Nighthawk was documented at Oak Grove, Cameron 17 Oct (ph. PEC, BMM, ph. Lainie LaHaye).

Louisiana's first Green-breasted Mango

was a one-day wonder at Greenwood, *Caddo* 20 Aug (Kathy & Steve Johnson, ph. JT, Paul M. Dickson, TD); the new addition is the 13th hummingbird species to be found in the state. Late-lingering Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Arkansas included an ad. male at L.F. 2 Nov (HDC) and an imm. male at Cabot, *Lonoke* 4 Nov (K&LN). An ad. male Calliope Hummingbird at Mandeville, *St. Tammany* 3-5 Aug (ph. Claire D. Thomas) represented the 2nd earliest arrival date for Louisiana; typically, such early ads. are banded returnees, but, unfortunately, the bird did not stick around long enough to be captured and examined. The only "western" hummingbirds reported from the n. interior of the Region were an ad. male Rufous at Farmington, *Washington*, AR 20 Nov+ (Ann Johnson, JCN et al.; said to have been present "through the summer," which would be unprecedented for the Region or anywhere in the se. United States, but corroborating evidence was not available) and a probable female Rufous at Fayetteville 16 Nov+ (Sara & Bob Caulk). A "free-range" Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird was noted at Johnsons Bayou 19 Sep (vt. PAW). Monitoring of the South Pt. "bottleneck" (se. shore of L. Pontchartrain at e. end of B.S.N.W.R.) after passage of early cold fronts produced more impressive counts of migrant species, this year including some not normally seen in large numbers—e.g., 53 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and 37 Northern Flickers 17 Oct (DPM); the next day, relatively large numbers (19 sapsuckers, 13 flickers) were also found at Grand Isle (PAW, DPM).

FLYCATCHERS

Six Olive-sided Flycatchers between Johnsons Bayou and Oak Grove 23 Aug (BMM, PEC) tied the previous fall high count for Louisiana; always notable away from the sw. Louisiana coast, another was near St. Gabriel 30 Aug (ph. DLD, SWC). Rather late Eastern Wood-Pewees were encountered near Ft. Jackson, lower *Plaquemines* 1 Nov (vt. PAW) and at Baton Rouge 9-10 Nov (SWC, DLD, ph. DFL). An accumulation of 27 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers in coastal w. *Cameron* 23 Aug (BMM, PEC) erased the previous state high count, and 5 Least Flycatchers at L.F. 13 Sep (MAM, JoP) may have established a new fall high count for Arkansas. Belatedly, additional convincing evidence was received of up to 7 breeding ad. Willow Flycatchers at three locations along the Red R. in the Shreveport-Bossier City area, *Caddo-Bossier* 25 Jun-1 Aug (TD). No nests were found, but some fledged juvs. were also thought to be present, and a few lingering individuals or possible migrants were noted through 16 Aug (TD). Pending acceptance and

identification to species, a Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher at Johnsons Bayou 3 Oct (*L.S.U.M.N.S., ph. PEC, BMM, ph. MTP) would be only the 6th well-documented Louisiana occurrence for the complex (and only the 2nd from fall). Two Eastern Phoebes near Thornwell 27 Sep (SWC, DLD, BMM) were early for s. Louisiana. Unprecedented for Arkansas, a Say's Phoebe returned for its 3rd consecutive winter in ne. *Boone* 24 Oct+ (ph. Esta Lee & Joe Pattie, Sally Jo Gibson, SR, DS, SH, Jack & Pam Stewart); the bird had reportedly first shown up several weeks earlier. Another Say's was located n. of Ramah near N.F.U. 3 Oct (ph. Richard Temple), interestingly, at the exact spot where one visited in fall 2007, and a few km from a fall 2006 sighting at S.F.U. Single Vermilion Flycatchers at Johnsons Bayou 19 Sep (vt. PAW, DPM, RDR, Curt Sorrells) and near Sweet Lake, *Cameron*, LA 20 Sep (PEC, MJM, DP) were quite early.

A Great Crested Flycatcher at Baton Rouge 19 Oct (vt. JH) represented one of the latest well-documented occurrences for Louisiana. Ash-throated Flycatcher is a rare but regular fall and winter visitor in s. Louisiana. This fall's selection included the normal fare of probable migrants near *Cameron* 18 Oct (JS, ph. EIJ, Phred M. Benham, JCa) and at Johnsons Bayou 19-23 Oct (ph. TF, JVH, Robby Bacon), as well as a possible wintering bird at L. Martin 28 Nov (Danny M. Dobbs), possibly a returnee that spent the previous winter there. Definitely not usual were 5 Ash-throateds associating with each other at B.S.N.W.R. 27 Nov (vt. PAW). A pair of Great Kiskadees first found nest-building near Rockefeller Refuge headquarters, Grand Chenier, *Cameron*, LA in early May remained in the area through at least 9 Sep; after the first nest was abandoned during Jun or early Jul, another, nearly complete nest was located in late Jul, but it too was found damaged and abandoned 3 Sep (ph. DLD, SWC, BMM, ph. TF), and by that date the birds had initiated their post-breeding molt. One or both of another apparent pair of Great Kiskadees were seen off and on about 30 km to the w. at Oak Grove 27 Sep-7 Nov (SWC, DLD, vr. DFL); one was also seen there the previous Apr and, in hindsight, may have been a member of this pair. A Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was an excellent find at Holly Beach 12 Oct (ph. MTP, Gary Pontiff, ph. TF). Standing out among a num-



A casual fall migrant in Louisiana, this Cape May Warbler was one of two at Johnsons Bayou, *Cameron* Parish 3 October 2009. Photograph by Matthew T. Pontiff.

ber of Louisiana reports of Western Kingbirds were very late birds at Cypremort Pt., *St. Mary* 18 Nov (ph. EIJ), Grand Isle 21 Nov (ph. DPM), and near Vinton, *Calcasieu* 22 Nov (2; ph. TF); 3 at Alliance, *Plaquemines* 29 Nov were in the area where a flock has spent the past couple of winters. Most notable among several Arkansas reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were an ad. male near Lake Chicot S.P., *Chicot* 8 Aug (rare in extreme se. Arkansas), and a very late bird at Cabot 25 Nov (both K&LN); the species was also widely reported across se. Louisiana (33 individuals at 12 locations; m.ob.).

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

Reports of rare Bell's Vireos involved a cluster of early migrants at Peveto Beach Woods, Johnsons Bayou, including one 30 Aug (ph. PEC), 2 together 12 Sep (possibly the first fall occurrence involving multiple birds together; PEC, ph. James Beck), and one 25 Sep (DBo, EJR), and another cluster of late, possibly wintering individuals at three separate locations in *Orleans* 15-22 Nov (RDR, GO, PAW). A Cassin's Vireo at Johnsons Bayou 3 Oct (*L.S.U.M.N.S., PEC, BMM, ph. MTP) made only the 2nd confirmed Louisiana occurrence. An estimated 4500 Fish Crows in *Lafayette* 18 Nov (EIJ) obliterated the previous state high count. A Horned Lark near S.F.U. 7 Aug (DBo) was suggestive of local breeding activity, which is undocumented this far se. in Louisiana. A juv. Purple Martin at T.F.F. 13 Sep was quite late, but an ad. male at Cabot 10 Oct (both K&LN) and a female-plumaged individual 15 km s. of Lydia, *St. Mary*, LA 17 Oct (EIJ, JCa) were exceptionally so. A Cave Swallow near Sweet Lake 12 Sep (ph. PEC) was, surprisingly, the only report.

Three Brown-headed Nuthatches near Tilly 25 Aug (LA) were noteworthy for being about 40 km n. of the species' known distribution in

SA A **Brown-chested Martin** discovered near Sweet Lake 6 Sep (*L.S.U.M.N.S.; PEC) was another first record for Louisiana and, amazingly, the 11th species added to the state list in less than two years (including older specimen records of Smooth-billed Ani and Western Gull). As for the few other well-documented United States records, the 2009 Cameron specimen is identifiable as the more southerly and migratory subspecies *Phaeoprogne tapera fusca*. Interestingly, the bird was an imm. male completing wing and tail molt and was associating with southbound transient swallows, mainly Tree Swallows. So, whether it represented a "wrong way" northbound migrant (should be moving southward during the austral spring) or had actually spent the summer somewhere farther north in North America and was moving back southward towards the South American austral breeding grounds, or was just plain lost, is anyone's guess.

Pope, AR. Yet another Rock Wren, about the 10th area occurrence (all since 1996), was discovered at the Little River end of the M.L. dam 21 Oct+ (CM, DS, SH). Two Sedge Wrens at C.P.S.N.A. 2 Aug (JCN) were suspected of making a late breeding attempt. A very early Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Grand Chenier, Cameron 16 Sep (EIJ); interestingly, eight of the top 10 earliest Louisiana records are from the coastal zone. A very late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was spotted at C.N.F. 28 Nov (DB), and a Gray Catbird was also relatively late at Fayetteville 9 Nov (MAM).

Setting a new Arkansas fall high count, an impressive 5 Golden-winged Warblers appeared at C.F.P. 20 Sep (RH); singles at L. Atalanta, Benton (JoP, MAM) and near Jonesboro, Craighead (Cheryl & Norman Lavers), both 29 Aug, tied the early date for Arkansas. A Brewster's Warbler at C.F.P. 21 Sep (RH) was apparently only about the 4th occurrence for Arkansas and the first from fall. Nashville Warblers invaded L.F. 4 Oct (HDC), where a count of 15 approached the record fall high for Arkansas; another in Fayetteville 1 Nov (MAM) was quite late for anywhere in the n. interior. A Northern Parula in sw. Lafayette 7 Nov (DFL) was fairly late, as were 2 Yellow Warblers at the Pool Unit of Lacassine N.W.R. 1 Nov (vt. Jane Patterson, David Ringer, Melanie Driscoll) and a Magnolia Warbler at Grand Isle 21 Nov (DPM). Cape May Warblers are much rarer in the Region in fall versus spring, so 2 found at Johnsons Bayou 3 Oct (ph. PEC, BMM) were cause for excitement. Black-throated Blue Warbler is another eastern flyway species that is relatively scarce in the Region, but they tend to be more frequently encountered in fall than in spring. Only 3 were reported this fall, all males: at C.F.P. 25 Sep (ph. RH; relatively early; there are only about a dozen previous fall records for Arkansas); at Johnsons Bayou 17 Oct (BMM, PEC); and at Grand Isle 18 Oct (DPM, PAW). Spectacular movements of Yellow-rumped Warblers were witnessed at South Point 1 Nov (500; DPM) and near Weeks I., St. Mary, LA 18 Nov (5000; EIJ). An Audubon's Warbler was a nice find at Buras, lower Plaquemines 25 Nov (DPM). Rare for the Baton Rouge area, a yellow-lored Yellow-

throated Warbler was also very late at Baton Rouge 10 Nov–3 Dec (DFL, ph. DLD, SWC). A late Prairie Warbler was spotted at B.S.N.W.R. 22 Nov (vt. PAW). A Palm Warbler at Johnsons Bayou 25 Sep (DBo) was relatively early, and one at Holla Bend N.W.R., Pope, AR 21 Nov (K&LN et al.) was very late or possibly wintering. Also very late or possibly wintering was a Black-and-white Warbler sighted near Milton, Lafayette 22 Nov (EIJ). An American Redstart at L.F. 16 Oct (HDC) was very late for nw. Arkansas, and one at Kincaid L., Rapides 9 Nov (JVH) was also very late for cen. Louisiana. Tying the late date for Louisiana's s. interior was a Kentucky Warbler near St. Gabriel 16 Oct (DLD). A Wilson's Warbler at Grand Isle 30 Aug (PAW) was very early, especially for the se. coast.

TANAGERS THROUGH FINCHES

A late ad. male Summer Tanager at Metairie 20 Nov (GO, Dan & Betty Carroll) may have been attempting to winter in the area. Rare Western Tanagers were documented at Johnsons Bayou 28 Sep (ph. TF), with possibly the same bird there 2 Oct (JVH, MTP) and at Grand Isle 21 Nov (surprisingly few previous island records; ph. DPM). A Spotted Towhee at Johnsons Bayou 7 Nov (ph. Gary Broussard) provided the only report. Vesper Sparrows in the Fayetteville area 5 Oct and 30 Nov (MAM) were very early for Arkansas and very late for n. Arkansas, respectively. A Lark Sparrow at Grand Isle 12 Aug (SWC, DLD) was one of the earliest ever for the coast, and one near Milton 1 Sep (EIJ) was also an interesting early migrant for the s. interior. A singing male and 2 juv. Grasshopper Sparrows in the vicinity of a turf farm near Frog Bayou W.M.A. 9 Aug (JCN, JBr, DOa) provided strong evidence for breeding in Crawford, AR. Always of interest inland, single Nelson's Sparrows were located at W.W.P. 27 Oct (Andrew Scaboo) and C.P.S.N.A. 31 Oct (JCN, Shane Woolbright), and for the 3rd consecutive late fall/winter, 2 were found in rice fields near Thornwell 13 Nov (SWC, DLD, DFL). An ad. male Oregon Junco at Cabot 16 Nov (K&LN) was the only report of this rare fall/winter visitor. Three flyover probable Lapland Longspurs at C.F.H. 31 Oct and 2 defi-

nites at Fayetteville 1 Nov (both MAM) were just short of being record early for Arkansas.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks at L. Atalanta 12 Sep (MAM, JoP) and Mt. Sequoyah, Fayetteville 15 Sep (MAM) were relatively early, whereas one at Little Rock, Pulaski 17 Nov (Doris Boyles) apparently set a new late fall record for Arkansas. A good showing of Black-headed Grosbeaks, all imm. males, included birds at Grand Isle 18 Oct (DPM, PAW), Johnsons Bayou 24 Oct (ph. BMM, PEC), and near Cyremort Pt. 1 Nov (ph. EIJ). An ad. female Blue Grosbeak feeding an apparent juv. at L.F. 13 Sep (MAM, JoP) represented an exceptionally late breeding attempt; a late migrant visited Baton Rouge 10 Nov (DFL). A flyover Dickcissel was unexpectedly late near St. Gabriel 18 Nov (JVR). Yellow-headed Blackbirds near C.P.S.N.A. (JCN, JBr, DOa) and at Venice, lower Plaquemines (DBo), both 26 Sep, and another at Ft. Jackson 25 Oct (PAW, DPM, RDP), were the only ones reported away from sw. Louisiana (where the species occurs with increasing regularity). Twenty Boat-tailed Grackles at M.S.F. 21 Oct (JVR, BL) were unusual for the s.-cen. Louisiana interior, although a territorial male had been reported there the previous spring. Ninety-five Bronzed Cowbirds at Venice 26 Sep (DBo, EJr) was an ominously high number. A very late Baltimore Oriole was briefly observed near St. Gabriel 29 Nov (ph. DLD). A Purple Finch n. of Harrison, Boone 6 Nov (SR) was relatively early, at least by recent standards.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Leif Anderson, Dick Baxter, Bill and Toka Beall, Devin Bosler (DBo), Dottie and Doris Boyles, Jacque Brown (JBr), Steven W. Cardiff (Louisiana), Jonathan Carpenter (JCa), H. David Chapman, Paul E. Conover, Jacob Cooper (JCo), Terry Davis, John Dillon (JoD), Donna L. Dittmann, Jim Dixon (JiD), Tom Finnie, Carol S. Foil, Jeff Harris, Karen Holliday, Samantha Holschbach, Ron Howard, Jay V. Huner, Erik I. Johnson, Brennan Landry, Daniel F. Lane, Delos McCauley (DMcC), Charles Mills, Michael A. Mlodinow, Allan and Kathleen Mueller, David P. Muth, B. Mac Myers, Joseph C. Neal (Arkansas), Kenny Nichols, LaDonna Nichols, David Oakley (DOa), Donald Ouellette (DOu), Glenn Ousset, Stephen L. Pagans, Joanie Patterson (JoP), Dave Patton, Matthew T. Pontiff, R. D. Purrington, E. J. Raynor, J. V. Remsen, Sheree Rogers, Dan Scheiman, John P. Sevenair, Jeff Trahan, Tom Trenchard, Phillip A. Wallace, Melvin Weber. ☺

Steven W. Cardiff, 435 Pecan Drive
St. Gabriel, Louisiana 70776, (scardif@gmail.com)



Cameron D. Eckert

Relatively mild conditions prevailed this fall, without any of the cold snaps that often grip southern parts of the Region late in the season. It's not clear whether a lackluster fall shorebird season in southern Yukon was due to high water levels at the local shorebirding hotspot or to poor nesting success in the far north this past summer. Vagrants always add to the excitement of a birding season, and it was Northwest Territories that produced the "bird of the season" this time around, with a new species for their checklist. Yukon birders did some checklist housekeeping, returning a previously "lost" species to the territory's checklist. The two Yukon bird observatories, at Albert Creek and Teslin Lake, again collected a wealth of interesting observations, and we were fortunate to get further interesting reports from the area around Zackenberg Research Station in northeastern Greenland, about 25 kilometers northwest of Daneborg.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A pair of Barnacle Geese was reported from Zackenberg, Greenland 1 Aug (JH). A flock of about 1000 Canada Geese was at Shallow Bay, s. Yukon 18 Sep (BD, HG, YS). An impressive flight of waterfowl over Ft. Simpson, NWT on the evening of 28 Sep included 58 Tundra Swans and an estimated 4500 Snow Geese (DT, MH), the majority of which went over in one nearly continuous series. Documentation of staging locations for migrating swans in the Yukon's Southern Lakes is always of interest; an aerial survey 20 Oct recorded 25 swans at Rose L., 48 at Primrose L., and 44 at Judas Cr. (JM). A flock of 195 King Eiders was at Arctic Bay, Nunavut 8 Aug (ph. CK), while 30, rare fall migrants along the Yukon's North Coast, were recorded at Herschel I. 17 Aug (CE). A

female White-winged Scoter with 15 ducklings (which had some growing to do before freeze-up) were at Shell L., NWT 15 Aug (CE). A survey of Pauline Cove and Workboat Passage off the Yukon's North Coast recorded 900 Surf Scoters and 450 Long-tailed Ducks 19 Aug (CE). The annual late fall movement of Willow Ptarmigan into the cen. and s. Mackenzie Valley, NWT brought widespread reports of increased numbers this Nov in Saitu and Dehcho regions, which encompasses Norman Wells, Wrigley, Ft. Simpson, and Nahanni Butte (RP;

AM; PR; DB). Conversely, numbers of Sharp-tailed Grouse were reported to be low in Saitu this fall (RP). A female Rock Ptarmigan with 5 large chicks was noted near Kamelen, Greenland 1 Aug (GV). A lone White-tailed Ptarmigan, uncommon in sw. Yukon but rarely reported in fall, was seen at 1200 m off the Aishihik Rd. 27 Oct (TS). A male Dusky Grouse was an unexpected visitor to a Whitehorse backyard 25 Sep (ph. GW, MW); while this species is uncommon at treeline in s. Yukon, there are very few lowland records.

Notable movements of Pacific Loons were seen at Teslin Lake B.O., s. Yukon, with counts of 215 and 100 on 23 & 24 Sep, respectively (JJa, JJo, SM). As concern for Horned Grebe populations mounts, so too does the interest in counts of migrants: a flock of 70 was recorded at Tagish Narrows, s. Yukon 3 Sep (JJa). High counts for Red-necked Grebes this season were 210 at Tagish Narrows 3 Sep and 397 at Marsh L., s. Yukon 27 Sep (JJa). In Nunavut, Northern Fulmar counts included 200 near Resolute 3 Aug, 96 at Baffin Bay 3 Aug, 40 at Prince Leopold I. 4 Aug, and 35 at Beechey I. 13 Aug (JSe). A pair of Osprey that nested in Inuvik, NWT this summer (RG) was at the n. edge of the species' range; at least 2 were still lingering near the nest 15 Aug (CE). An Osprey nest atop an old crane along Highet Cr., near Mayo, cen. Yukon produced 2 chicks this summer (LB); the nearest body of water with fish is Minto L., about 5 km from the nest. A tardy ad. Bald Eagle was seen at Jungle Ridge near Norman Wells, NWT 14 Nov (RP, PSp). Watches at the Teslin Lake B.O. yielded impressive raptor totals, includ-

ing 50 Ospreys, 105 Bald Eagles, 271 Northern Harriers, 411 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 20 Northern Goshawks, 21 Swainson's Hawks, 404 Red-tailed Hawks, 179 Rough-legged Hawks, 109 Golden Eagles, 85 American Kestrels, 47 Merlins, a Gyrfalcon, and 34 Peregrine Falcons (JJa et al.). The tally of 21 Swainson's Hawks, with a one-day high count of 13 on 5 Sep (JJa), is especially noteworthy, as this species remains enigmatic in the North, where its only known nesting area is Eagle Plains, cen. Yukon and little is known about the timing or pattern of migration. Farther east, a dark-morph Swainson's Hawk was seen at Watson L., se Yukon 1 Sep (ph. JJo). A Peregrine Falcon tried unsuccessfully to make lunch of a Common Raven at Arctic Bay, Nunavut 15 Sep (CK).

A flock of 30 Sandhill Cranes, part of the regular fall migration through the Yukon, was noted over Ft. Selkirk 26 Aug (GW, MW). Although Wandering Tattler is an uncommon breeder in the Yukon, there are very few fall records; a migrant juv. was seen at Teslin L., s. Yukon 20 Aug (ph. JJa). A juv. Western Sandpiper at Watson L. 28 Aug (ph. JJo) provided a rare record for se. Yukon. Two juv. Western Sandpipers and an ad. White-rumped Sandpiper, both casual along the Yukon's North



Monitoring of migration at two southern Yukon bird observatories is helping to clarify the timing and movement patterns of several rare northern breeders such as Swainson's Hawk. This dark-morph individual was photographed at Watson Lake 1 September 2009. Photograph by Jillian Johnston.

Coast, were at Herschel I. 16 & 17 Aug, respectively (ph. CE).

GULLS THROUGH FINCHES

A trip through the ice flows of Wellington Channel, Nunavut 13 Aug recorded 19 Pomarine Jaegers (JSe). Parasitic Jaegers were seen at the Teslin Lake B.O., s. Yukon on 11 days over the period 24 Aug–25 Sep, with a high count of 3 on 30 Aug (JJa). Two Sabine's Gulls, a rare s. Yukon migrant, were seen at



A reward for tossing out a bit of bird seed to see what it attracts was this immature Clay-colored Sparrow in Whitehorse 5-6 (here 6) October 2009, which established the Yukon's first fall record. Photograph by Cameron Eckert.

Teslin L., s. Yukon 27 & 29 Aug (JJa). Prince Leopold I., Nunavut hosts tremendous numbers of nesting seabirds; counts of 15,000 Black-legged Kittiwakes and 10,000 Thick-billed Murres were recorded there 4 Aug (JSe). Other high counts of kittiwakes in the area included 600 at Dundas Harbour 11 Aug and 400 at Beechey I. 13 Aug (JSe). A Sabine's Gull and Ivory Gull were seen at Baffin Bay, Nunavut 10 Aug (JSe). A count of 250 Dovekies was made at Baffin Bay, Nunavut 7 Aug (JSe). This year's annual monitoring of the Black Guillemot colony at Herschel I., n. Yukon recorded a total of 59 ad. guillemots, along with 17 nests with 31 chicks (CE, RG); this is the highest nesting productivity recorded since the late 1990s.

A Eurasian Collared-Dove, the Yukon's 3rd, first reported in Whitehorse 22 Aug, was seen by local residents through the season (LC; ph. CE; ph. DH; ph. CW). A lone Mourning Dove, a rare wanderer to the Region, was seen at Ft. Resolution 11 Sep (ph. RH); another died in a window-strike at a ranch n. of Whitehorse, s. Yukon 7 Oct (ph. VL). Northern Hawk Owl reports included one in Whitehorse, s. Yukon 21 Oct (LC) and another, being mobbed by a flock of redpolls, in a burn at Oscar Cr., NWT 7 Nov (RP, JSa). A near fully grown Short-eared Owl chick literally walked into a cabin at Allavik, Nunavut 16 Aug (ph. JE); singles were at the Ft. Simpson Flats, NWT 28 Oct (ph. DT), near Pelly Crossing and again near Stewart Crossing, both cen. Yukon 17 Nov (MOD), and at Shallow Bay, s. Yukon through 26 Nov (MB, PB). A female-type Rufous Hummingbird seen 5 Aug at Nahanni Butte (vt. WM) provided a rare record for Northwest Territories. A relatively high number of Rufous Hummingbirds, all but one being female

types, were reported this season from s. Yukon, including singles at Wolf Creek 1-21 Aug (ph. SR), Tagish 4 Sep (ph. JD, PD), Whitehorse 5-7 Sep (RM), Pineridge 5-7 Sep (SL), Haines Junction 11 Sep (ad. male; CD), and Riverdale through 25 Sep (DJa, ph. CE, ph. HG).

Alder Flycatcher was again recorded in very high numbers (631 banded) at the Teslin Lake B.O. this fall (JJa et al.); other *Empidonax* banded there were 8 Yellow-bellied, one Least, 12 Hammond's, and 6 Dusky Flycatchers. Albert Creek B.O. in se. Yukon banded 6 Yellow-bellied, 92 Alder, 7 Least, 4 Hammond's, and 2

Dusky (JJo et al.). The Region's first Ash-throated Flycatcher, an exciting find in Ft. Simpson, NWT 1 Sep (†DT), was the bird of the season. Steller's Jays have once again become scarce in s. Yukon since their grand invasion in 2006; one was at Tagish 12 Nov (CT). American Crows appeared to have had another successful nesting season in Whitehorse, s. Yukon, where a flock of up to 16 was seen through early Oct (CE; HG). Nine American Crows were at Albert Creek, se. Yukon 8 Sep (JJo). An evening flight of 50 American Crows in Ft. Simpson 4 Sep (DT) was a large number for anywhere in Northwest Territories. A mixed flock of swallows at McClintock Bay, s. Yukon 11 Aug was comprised of 300 Bank, 100 Cliff, and 20 Barn Swallows (JJa, IP). Single Tree and Bank Swallows at Herschel I., n. Yukon 15 Aug (ph. CE) were beyond their range.

In fall 2009, the Teslin Lake B.O. recorded dazzling numbers of chickadees, and this year, the banding totals were equally impressive, with 831 Boreals (all but one being hatch-year), 26 Black-capped, and 11 Mountain (JJa et al.); these numbers are indicative of a significant post-breeding movement of hatch-year chickadees in the North. A Brown Creeper, perhaps annual in sw. Yukon but very rare in the Yukon's Southern Lakes, was seen in Porter Creek 19 Oct (CE, MSE, NSE, RSE).

A Northern Wheatear carrying insects was noted w. of Aucellaely, Greenland 1 Aug (JH). A flock of about 50 Mountain Bluebirds was

on the rodeo grounds n. of Whitehorse, s. Yukon 18 Sep (HG et al.). A late Varied Thrush was observed feeding on Saskatoon berries in Whitehorse, s. Yukon 19 Nov (LC). A flock of about 200 Bohemian Waxwings was seen in Haines Junction, sw. Yukon 10 Nov (WR). Cedar Waxwing is sporadic in s. Yukon, with notable incursions in some years; a flock of 12 was recorded at Albert Cr., se. Yukon 13 Aug (JJo), and a flock of 17 (a mix of ads. and juvs.) was at Teslin L., s. Yukon 18-19 Aug (JJa). At Albert Creek B.O., the seasonal total of 137 Tennessee Warblers included an amazing one-net catch of 37 on 11 Aug (TMK)—a bit of a mind-bender, considering that a "flock" of Tennessee Warblers had never before been reported in the Yukon. An imm. Clay-colored Sparrow seen with American Tree Sparrows in Whitehorse 5-6 Oct (ph. CE) established the first fall record for the territory. A hatch-year Brewer's Sparrow, only rarely seen in the lowlands, was banded at the Teslin Lake B.O. 26 Aug (ph. JJa). A White-throated Sparrow, a first for sw. Yukon, was at a Haines Junction feeder 11 Nov+ (ph. WR). An imm. Golden-crowned Sparrow lingered at a Whitehorse feeder 28 Oct-8 Nov (ph. KW). Smith's Longspur is rarely reported during fall migration, and so a flyby at Teslin L., s. Yukon 27 Aug (JJa) was noteworthy. A pair of Snow Buntings was feeding 7 juvs. somewhat late at Husblokken, Greenland 1 Aug (JH).

This fall, Rusty Blackbirds color-banded as



This photograph of a brilliant male American Goldfinch at Marsh Lake, southern Yukon 20 September 2009 marks the return of this species to the territory's checklist. Photograph by Cameron Eckert.

part of the ongoing monitoring of their populations included 121 birds in Whitehorse (PSi), 30 at Teslin L. (*vide* BS), and 10 at Albert Cr. (*vide* TMK). A hatch-year Rusty Blackbird banded 2 Sep 2008 in Whitehorse was found dead in North Dakota 2 Nov this season (*vide* PSi). The high count of Rusties at the Whitehorse banding site was 150 in early Sep (PSi); a flock of 37 attended a feeder at Marsh L., s. Yukon 19 Sep (JK). A House Finch, casual in s. Yukon, was heard singing

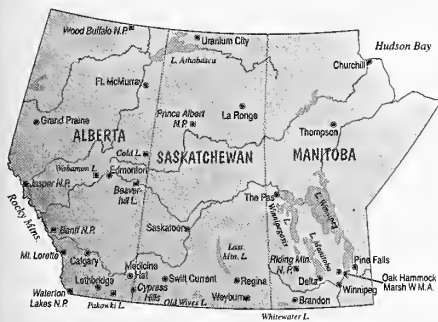
in Whitehorse 18 Sep (SC). American Goldfinch, removed from the Yukon Checklist after photographs of a male from the early 1990s were lost, was added to the territory's checklist 22 Jun, when a male turned up at Tagish (DJo, LJ) and again nearby at a Marsh Lake feeder 20-21 Sep, probably the same individual (JK, BB, ph. CE, BD, HG). A female-type Evening Grosbeak, rare in the Whitehorse area, was seen in Hillcrest 10 Sep (GW, MW). The Yukon's only population of House Sparrows, first established in Whitehorse in 2007, continues to grow; a high count of 40 was recorded 6 Oct (CE).

Observers (subregional editors in boldface): Mary Beattie, Pete Beattie, Bruce Beaton, Darrell Betsaka, Lowell Bleiler, Linda Cameron, Syd Cannings, Judy Dabbs, Paul Dabbs, Boris Dobrowsky, Claude Dulac, Cameron Eckert, Joe Enook, Richard Gordon, Helmut Grünberg, Mary-Ann Hannaford, Jannik Hansen, Debbie Higgins, Reid Hildebrandt, Donna Jager (DJa), Jukka Jantunen (JJJa), Jillian Johnston (JJJo), Darci Johnstone (DJo), Larry Johnstone, Jean Kapala, Virginia LaPrairie, Clare Kines, Sherry Lindley, Robbie Mackay, Wesley Marcellais, Sergio Marrocoli, John Meikle, Albert Moses, Ted Mur-

phy-Kelly, Mark O'Donoghue, Ingrid Pollet, Richard Popko, Sandra Richardson, Wolf Riedl, Pat Rowe, Jason Salter (JSa), Ben Schonewille, John Sevenair (JSe), Phil Spencer (PSP), Pam Sinclair (PSi), Maren Sinclair-Eckert, Nigel Sinclair-Eckert, Rory Sinclair-Eckert, Terry Skjonsberg, Yammy Stote, Douglas Tate (Northwest Territories), Cathy Turner, Gergely Varkonyi, Christopher Wheeler, Gerry Whitley, Mary Whitley, Keith Williams. 🌐

Cameron D. Eckert, 1402 Elm Street
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 4B6, (cdeckert@northwestel.net)

Prairie Provinces



Rudolf F. Koes
Peter Taylor

The cold and damp summer lasted through August in Saskatchewan and Manitoba and was reflected in reports of month-old Swainson's Hawk chicks dead in the nest on 6 August in the former province (DZ) and several passerine species still feeding young in mid-September at Hecla Provincial Park in the latter province (RS). In sharp contrast, September brought record warm temperatures, while October was cool, followed by a very mild November, particularly in the east of the region. Conditions in Alberta were more moderate throughout. Migration on the whole was perceived as being rather poor, with diving duck, shorebird, nighthawk, flycatcher, *Catharus* thrush, warbler, and sparrow numbers being mentioned as below par in various areas.

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

Notable waterfowl concentrations included a flock of 650+ Cackling Geese at East Shoal L., MB 5 Nov (KG), 5000 Tundra Swans e. of Calgary, AB 29 Oct (IH, CH), and 4000 Ruddy Ducks at Clear L., AB 20 Sep (TK). An

American Black Duck at Taber, AB 13 Oct was rare (LB), as were the following hybrids: Mallard × Northern Pintail and Mallard × Gadwall at Chestermere L., AB 11 Oct and an apparent Blue-winged Teal × Northern Shoveler near Blackie, AB 14 Oct (all TK). Two juv. Harlequin Ducks were at Regina Beach, SK 15-29 Sep (*vide* DS; RDo, ph.), and 2 more were at Victoria Beach, MB 20 Nov–1 Dec (RP). Scoters were scarce, with no reports of Surf or Black in s. Manitoba and few elsewhere. The highest counts reported were 11 Surfs at Regina Beach 12 Oct (BL), single Blacks at Buena Vista, SK 3 Oct (BL) and at Cold Lake, AB about 30 Oct (RK), and 3 Blacks at Trestle Bay, SK 8 Nov (BL). Lone Barrow's Goldeneyes visited Regina Beach 11 Oct–24 Nov (BL) and Wascana L., SK 21 Oct (BL).

Lone Red-throated Loons were at Chain Lakes, AB 18 Oct (TK) and at Regina Beach 7 Nov (BL). A Pacific Loon lingered at Calgary 10 Oct–7 Nov (BWi, m.ob.), another was at Seebe, AB 25 Oct (M&JM), one was at Blackstrap L., SK 31 Oct (NS, GW, RDU, ph.), and up to 2 were at Regina Beach 2-6 Nov (BL). Probable Yellow-billed Loons were at Seebe 25 Oct (J&MM) and at Genesee, AB in early Nov (*vide* GR). Noteworthy grebe concentrations were 214 Westerns (plus one Clark's) at Natalie L., MB 12 Oct (PT), 800+ Westerns at Regina Beach 15-16 Oct (BL), and 400 Horneds at Pine Coulee, AB 18 Oct (TK). Great Egret numbers built up to a peak of 72+ at Shoal Lakes 21 Aug; Manitoba's 2nd breeding colony of Great Egret was discovered there on the same date (RKO, PT, DW, RZ). Besides numerous reports of smaller numbers elsewhere in Manitoba, there was one Great Egret report from Tyvan, SK 13 Aug (*vide* BL). The only Snowy Egret reports

came from Whitewater L., MB 6 & 18 Aug (m.ob.). A Little Blue Heron at Banff N.P., AB 8 Sep could not be confirmed (KB). Two tardy Cattle Egrets were at Libau, MB 8 Nov (JC), and one was photographed near Lac du Bonnet, MB 14 Nov (D&CJ). The peak *Plegadis* (presumed White-faced) ibis count in the Whitewater L. area was 22+ on 6 Aug (DF, RKO, PT).

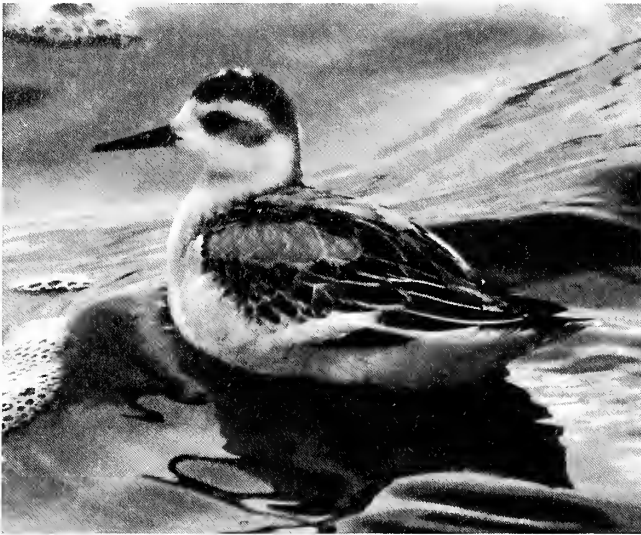
RAPTORS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The Whytefold, MB hawkwatch tallied 282 Sharp-shinned Hawks 10 Oct, a high number for the late date (MQ, CM). A dark-morph



Mild conditions allowed this Cattle Egret to survive until at least 14 November 2009, when it briefly appeared at Pinawa Channel, Manitoba. Photograph by Doug and Carol Jordan.

Broad-winged Hawk was a good find in Winnipeg 25 Aug (TK). Rough-legged Hawks were prominent in s. Alberta and s. Manitoba. Eight Golden Eagles, more than the usual number, were noted in s. Manitoba between



This very cooperative Red Phalarope, Saskatchewan's seventh, lingered at Regina Beach on Last Mountain Lake from 30 September through at least 17 October 2009 (here). Photograph by Greg Krätzig.



Although the species had been reported before in the province, there were no fully documented sightings of Northern Wheatear in Saskatchewan until this bird was found at Last Mountain Lake Wildlife Management Area on 6 October 2009. Photograph by Lois Vanthuyne.

12 Sep and 15 Nov (m.ob.). A tally of 9 Peregrine Falcons in a few hours at Windygates, MB 20 Sep was remarkable (A&DS). A Whooping Crane at Chaplin L., SK 24-28 Aug had apparently summered there (J&MP), while another near Coulter, MB in late Sep was a good find (J&JM, m.ob.). Two American Avocets at Delta, MB 26 Oct were late (*vide* CA). Uncommon or rare shorebirds included 28 Hudsonian Godwits at Shepard, AB 1 Aug (BW), a Sanderling at Calgary 17 Oct (TK et al.), 6 Purple Sandpipers at Gordon Pt. near Churchill, MB 16-18 Oct (BC), and a Ruff at Didsbury, AB 6 Sep (RW). A Red-necked Phalarope at Delta 26 Oct was tardy (*vide* CA). Saskatchewan tallied its 7th Red

Phalarope, a bird at Regina Beach 30 Sep-17 Oct (BL, m.ob., ph.).

Rare gulls often enliven the fall birding scene on the Prairies, and this fall was no exception. Highlights included an Ivory Gull at Gordon Pt. 8 Nov (*vide* BC); single Sabine's Gulls at Gimli, MB 28 Aug (TK), Calgary 13 Sep (BWi), and Regina Beach 19 Sep (BL, RDo); Iceland Gulls at Calgary 4 & 7 Nov (TK); and Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Calgary 18-25 Oct (HV, m.ob.) and 8-11 Nov (Nature Calgary, m.ob.). Glaucous Gulls were widely observed in Alberta, with sightings across the south and at Cold L., while s. Manitoba and Saskatchewan had at least 2 each. Reports of Herring Gull x Glaucous Gull hybrids came from Cold L. 6-28 Nov (RK, BBr, m.ob.) and Calgary 21 Nov (TK); also at the latter location was an apparent Herring Gull x Glaucous-winged Gull hybrid 15-17 Oct (TK). The only jaegers reported were an unidentified bird at Langdon Res., AB 25 Sep (IH) and a Parasitic at Buffalo Pt., MB 28 Oct (VR).

A Mourning Dove at Gordon Pt., MB 10 Oct-8 Nov was out of range and late (RT, m.ob.). Snowy

Owls started a modest incursion in mid-Oct. A Burrowing Owl at Kyle, SK 16 Oct was tardy (DZ). A late Belted Kingfisher was at Cold L., AB 14 Nov (RK). Alberta had single Anna's Hummingbirds near Gibbons 26 Sep-31 Oct (*vide* THi, ph.) and at Jasper 5-15 Oct (*vide* JR). A Pileated Woodpecker at Oak Hammock Marsh, MB 19 Nov was a first for the well-birded area but is in keeping with recent records well away from forested regions (Rko).

PASSERINES

Two Say's Phoebes at Mowbray, MB 5-11 Aug were at the e. edge of the species' range (J&RH). A possible Black-capped Chickadee

x Mountain Chickadee hybrid was photographed at Pike L., SK 12 Nov (NS). Red-breasted Nuthatches irrupted across the south, with large numbers in many areas. A Carolina Wren at Winnipeg from 28 Oct into Dec proved elusive (JS, m.ob.), and an American Dipper at Saskatoon, SK 19-20 Nov may have summered in the vicinity (ML). Very tardy was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Winnipeg 17 Nov (RS). Saskatchewan had its first confirmed Northern Wheatear, seen and photographed at Last Mountain Lake W.M.A. 6 Oct (AS, RDi, m.ob.); another was near Churchill 16 Oct (RT). Townsend's Solitaires were at Patricia Beach, MB 29 Sep (GB, JW), Regina 23 Oct (RM), Dufresne, MB 8-11 Nov (BK), Kleefeld, MB on about 10 Nov (T&EW), and Prince Albert, SK 19 Nov (AH). A Northern Mockingbird pair near Miami, MB raised two broods (m.ob.).

Banders at Delta captured above-average numbers of Tennessee Warblers and Blackburnian Warblers (HdH). Late Orange-crowned Warblers were at Winnipeg 13 Nov (RC) and Calgary 14 Nov (DG). Rare was a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Winnipeg 8 Sep (BRk). Tardy individual Yellow-rumped Warblers lingered to the latter half of Nov in all three provinces (m.ob.), and one was far n. at Seal River Lodge, MB 8 Nov (DF). A Yellow-throated Warbler at Moose Jaw 7-16 Nov made the 4th or 5th for Saskatchewan (AG, m.ob., ph.). Exceedingly late at Winnipeg were an Ovenbird 5-8 Nov (LC, NB, CA) and a Hooded Warbler 16 Nov (RP). A Summer Tanager at Manitou Beach 7-21 Oct (T&SA, ph.) provided Saskatchewan with its 4th record, while Manitoba remarkably recorded its 10th and 11th of the year: singles at Winnipeg 1-5 Nov (BR, m.ob.) and 21-27 Nov (NM, m.ob.).

A Spotted Towhee at Winnipeg Beach, MB 21 Oct was rare (AC, ph.), while a Clay-colored Sparrow at Regina 3 Nov was late (GK). A Northern Cardinal in Edmonton, AB 21 Nov (BB), a Dickcissel at Calgary 12 Aug (TW), and an Eastern Meadowlark at Buffalo Pt. 1 Nov (VR, LG) were all rarities. A flock of 32 Western Meadowlarks near Birds Hill P.P., MB 11 Nov was notable for the large number, late date, and location (RS, DSt). Record late for Saskatchewan was a Baltimore Oriole at Moose Jaw 26 Nov (*vide* TH). White-winged Crossbills were numerous and widespread throughout the period across cen. and s. Manitoba. Common Redpolls made a brief incursion into s. Manitoba in Nov but enigmatically were seen flying northward in large numbers along the w. side of L. Winnipeg 14 Nov (Nature Manitoba) and were scarce in the south afterwards. A similar scarcity was noted in cen. Alberta (RK).

Observers (subregional compilers in bold-face): T. & S. Alcock, C. Artuso, K. Barker, B. Beck, L. Bennett, B. Breisch (BBr), G. Budyk, N. Butchard, B. Chartier, J. Christie, R. Clarke, L. Cocks, A. Cook, H. den Haan, R. Dickson (RDi), R. Doiron (RDo), R. Dudragne (RDu), D. Fast, K. Gardner, L. Giesbrecht, D. Guinan, A. Gurnsey, I. Halladay, A. Hartley, T. Herriot, J. & R. Hiebert, T. Hindmarch (THi), C.

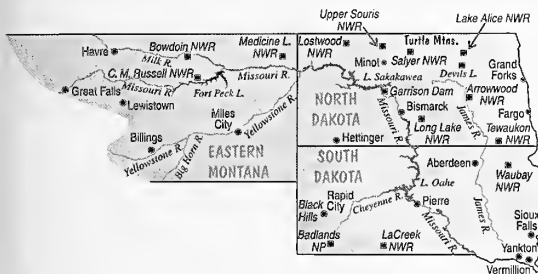
Hitchon, D. & C. Jordan, R. Klauke, R. Koes (RKO), T. Korolyk, G. Krätzig, B. Krosney, M. Loewen, B. Luterbach, N. MacPherson, R. Marchigiano, J. & M. McDonald, C. McPherson, J. & J. Murray, R. Parsons, J. & M. Priebe, M. Quigley, V. Reimer, B. Robinson, J. Rogers, B. Rolick (BRk), G. Romanchuk, N. Saunders, D. Sawatzky, A. & D. Schritt, A. Smith, D. Staniforth (DSt), R. Staniforth, J. Swartz, P.

Taylor, R. Taylor, H. Vanderpol, B. Walker, G. Wapple, T. Waters, J. Weier, T. & E. Wiens, B. Wilson (BWi), D. Wilson, R. Woods, G. Yaki, R. Zach, D. Zazelenchuk. 🌐

Rudolf F. Koes, 135 Rossmere Crescent
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2K 0G1, (rkoes@mts.net)

Peter Taylor, P.O. Box 597
Pinawa, Manitoba R0E 1L0, (taylorp@granite.mb.ca)

Northern Great Plains



(p.a., REM). This species made a good showing in North Dakota, with nine reports of 13 individuals spanning 17 Sep–20 Nov. Two South Dakota reports rounded out the Regional total. Rarely reported in fall in North Dakota, and establishing a new high count for the season, 10 Cinnamon Teal were in *Slope* and *Bowman* 7 Sep (eBT).

Ten Surf Scoter reports, all singles, from the Dakotas spanned 11 Oct–23 Nov. There were nine reports of White-winged Scoters in the Dakotas, with 14 individuals, recorded 19 Oct–26 Nov. Single Black Scoters were on L. Darling, ND 13 & 25 Nov (REM). In South Dakota, Black Scoters were in *Stanley* 27 Oct (RDO) and in *Kingsbury* 27 Nov (JSP). A Long-tailed Duck was early 21 Oct in *Meade*, SD (JLB).

The 7th report for South Dakota, a Red-throated Loon was in *Sully* 15–22 Nov (p.a., DB, KM, RDO). Casual in Montana, a Red-throated Loon was at *Cooney Res.* 3 Oct (GM). In North Dakota, Pacific Loons were seen at *Bowman-Haley Res.* 30 Oct (p.a., REM, CDE) and in *McHenry* 8–23 Nov (p.a., REM). These represented the 12th and 13th reports for the state, respectively. Single South Dakota Pacific Loons were in *Lyman* 14 Nov (p.a., KM, RDO) and in *Meade* 17 Nov (p.a., MO), and the only Montana report was at *Tiber Dam* 11 Oct (HM). The peak of Common Loons was 50 at Ft. Peck, MT 9 Oct (CC). Great Egrets were late 14 Nov in *Lake*, SD (MRZ) and 8 Nov in *McHenry*, ND (CDE), and a notable peak of 180 was tallied in *Stutsman*, ND 13 Aug (KAS). Other late waders in South Dakota included a Snowy Egret 1 Nov in *Marshall* (GO), a Cattle Egret 25 Nov in *Edmonds* (GO), and a Green Heron 14 Nov in *Lake* (MRZ). Three White-faced Ibis at *Freezout L.*, MT 28 Sep provided the latest record for the state (LC), and 7 in *Stark*, ND 7 Sep furnished the first record for

that w. county (CDE, JPL). Only five Northern Goshawk reports were received from the Dakotas. A Broad-winged Hawk was late 11 Oct in *Charles Mix*, SD (RM).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Providing the latest report for North Dakota, 2 American Golden-Plovers were at *Grand Forks* 24 Nov (EEF). A Black-necked Stilt at *Freezout L.* 1 Oct furnished the latest record for Montana (LC). Late Upland Sandpipers were in *Custer*, SD 15 Sep (MMM) and *Grand Forks*, ND 27 Sep (EEF). Tying the peak fall count for North Dakota, 50 Hudsonian Godwits were in *Pierce* 5 Aug (WE). The 2nd highest fall count for North Dakota, 13 Red Knots were in *Fargo* 1–2 Aug (DWR, KRC). Far west, and the first record for *Stark*, 2 Red Knots were in *Dickinson*, ND 8 Sep (REM). The latest ever for South Dakota, a Least Sandpiper was in *Kingsbury* 14 Nov (JSP). More late records in North Dakota included a Pectoral Sandpiper 20 Nov in *Grand Forks* (EEF), a Dunlin 16 Nov at *Long Lake N.W.R.* (HCT), and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper 26 Oct in *Grand Forks* (EEF). Providing the first records for *Bowman* and *Stark*, ND, 3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers each were at *Bowman-Haley Dam* and *Patterson L.* 15 Sep (REM). Furnishing the latest records for their respective states were single Wilson's Phalaropes at *Freezout L.*, MT 28 Sep (LC) and in *Kingsbury*, SD 14 Nov (JSP). Record late in North Dakota, a Red-necked Phalarope was in *McLean* 28 Nov (CDE).

Difficult to find in recent years, 3 Black-legged Kittiwakes were noted. Providing the first record for *Stutsman*, ND, and the first in the state since 2005, a single was at *Barnes L.* 4 Nov (p.a., HCT). South Dakota reports were singles in *Stanley* 8–9 Nov (RDO) and in *Charles Mix* 16–23 Nov (RM). Eight Sabine's Gull reports from the Dakotas included South Dakota's first Aug record in *Deuel* 25 Aug

Ron Martin

The weather was a study in contrasts, with alternating cool and warm months. August was cool and wet, followed by a very warm and dry September. At *Glasgow*, Montana, it was the second warmest September on record. October was very cold, with freezing temperatures and some snow early in the month. November saw record warmth: the average temperature for the month exceeded that of October in most areas. There was abundant open water throughout the Region through the end of the season.

The open water allowed many water birds to remain until the end of the period. There were numerous late waders, and rare loons made a good showing. Late shorebirds were reported everywhere. Owls made a poor showing, and the warbler migration could only be described as dreadful. No doubt the good flying weather in September contributed to this situation, but it also appeared that reproduction was very weak across the spectrum. There were good numbers of late passerines, especially in South Dakota, but overall the number of passerine migrants seemed to be the lowest in years.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Ten Greater Snow Geese that had been banded on *Ellesmere I.* were seen at *Freezout L.*, MT 3 Nov (MS). Casual in Montana, an American Black Duck was in *Sheridan* 20 Sep

(p.a., BJU) and a bird flushed off of Hwy. 3 in *Pierce*, ND 25 Sep (REM, CDE). The first juv. Bonaparte's Gull was noted 9 Aug in *McLean*, ND, and a late peak of 1550 was at Devils L., ND 29 Nov (REM). The only Little Gull reported was from Devils L., ND 1 Aug (EB). Providing the first Sep record for South Dakota, a Thayer's Gull was reported in *Hughes* 22 Sep (p.a., RDO). Iceland Gull reports included 2 at Garrison Dam, ND 28 Nov (DNS) and South Dakota's 10th in *Lyman* 30 Nov (p.a., SS). Casual in Montana, a single Iceland Gull was at Ft. Peck 30 Nov (p.a., CC). Regular in the Dakotas for some time, Lesser Black-backed Gulls are only now being recorded in Montana. Furnishing a potential 3rd record for the state, all three records coming in the last 12 months, was one at Great Falls 5-13 Nov (p.a., BH). The 3rd record for South Dakota, if accepted, a Long-tailed Jaeger was in *Walworth* 9-10 Sep (p.a., eBT, ph. CW). The 5th and 6th reports for North Dakota, Arctic Terns were seen 11 Oct in *McLean* (p.a., REM, CDE) and 23 Oct in *Stutsman* (p.a., HCT).

The 2nd latest on record for South Dakota, and the 2nd Oct record, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was in *Charles Mix* 4 Oct (RM). Still casual in North Dakota, a Barn Owl was in *Emmons* 18 Sep (TCK). The 2nd latest report for South Dakota, White-throated Swifts were in *Fall River* 10 Oct (JSP). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was rare and late 25 Oct at Ft. Peck, MT (CC).

PASSERINES

A possible Hammond's Flycatcher photographed 16 Oct at Great Falls, MT would, if accepted, mark the latest record for the state (p.a., Montana B.R.C.). An Eastern Kingbird in *Ward*, ND 3 Oct furnished the latest record for the state (REM). Only one report of the rapidly declining Loggerhead Shrike was received from North Dakota. The first Nov record for South Dakota, a Blue-headed Vireo

was in *Edmonds* 12 Nov (p.a., JDW). A Philadelphia Vireo in *Stanley*, SD 3 Aug would make the earliest fall record by 17 days (p.a., RDO). Accidental in se. North Dakota, a Common Raven was in *Fargo* 1 Nov (KRC, DWR). Rarely reported in the fall season, a Violet-green Swallow was at the North Unit, Theodore Roosevelt N.P., ND 5 Aug (HB). The latest on record for South Dakota, a House Wren was in *Hughes* 18 Oct (EDS). Still rare, but possibly regular in South Dakota, Carolina Wrens were in *Fall River* 16 Aug (JSP) and in *Hughes* 17 Sep-23 Oct (EDS). Varied Thrush reports included one in *Harding*, SD 3 Oct (CEM) and 2 in *Ward*, ND 23 Nov (SDL). A Bohemian Waxwing reported in *Meade*, SD 4 Oct would furnish the earliest fall record for the state (p.a., EEM). Only three other reports of this species were received from the Dakotas.

Marking the 4th record for Montana, a Golden-winged Warbler was photographed at Fort Peck 4 Oct (JC). New early and late dates were recorded for Orange-crowned Warbler in South Dakota, singles in *Charles Mix* 15 Aug (RM) and in *Hughes* 22 Nov (RDO). Black-throated Blue Warblers included Montana's 18th at Ft. Peck 29-30 Sep (p.a., JC, CC) and one in *Bowman*, ND 7 Sep (eBT). A rare migrant in South Dakota, an amazing 6 Black-throated Blue Warblers were noted 6 Sep-15 Oct. Casual in Montana, a Blackburnian Warbler was in *Westby* 28 Aug (p.a., TN). The latest on record for Montana, a Northern Waterthrush was in *Great Falls* 15 Oct (NK). Providing only the 2nd fall record for North Dakota, a Hooded Warbler was photographed 19-23 Nov in *Bismarck* (p.a., fide DNS).

The 2nd latest for South Dakota, a Nelson's Sparrow was in *Lincoln* 17 Oct (DC). Tying the 2nd highest count for North Dakota, 200 Smith's Longspurs were in *Foster* and *Stutsman* 18 Oct (REM, CDE), while the only

South Dakota report was from *Roberts* 28 Oct (BJU). Casual in w. North Dakota in fall, a Scarlet Tanager was in *Bismarck* 21 Sep (CDE, HCT). The 17th record for Montana, a Scarlet Tanager was near *Chester* 3 Oct (p.a., DA). North Dakota Western Tanagers were in *Bowman* 8 Sep (CW) and at *Bismarck* 21 Sep (CDE). Furnishing the earliest fall record for South Dakota, a Rusty Blackbird was in *Marshall* 10 Sep (DC). Probably a new high count for South Dakota, 150 Great-tailed Grackles were in *Lincoln* 25 Oct (DC). Seldom reported in fall in North Dakota, a Bullock's Oriole was in *Bowman* 7 Sep (CW). Except for the Black Hills of South Dakota, crossbills were unreported in the Dakotas. Fair numbers of Purple Finches and American Goldfinches were seen in North Dakota, but other finches were reported in very low numbers. The 2nd latest for South Dakota, a Lesser Goldfinch was still in *Fall River* 5 Sep (RSL).

Contributors (state editors in boldface): MONTANA: Dave Allen, **Charles Carlson**, John Carlson, Larry Carter, Beth Hill, Nate Kohler, Harriet Marble, Ron E. Martin, Montana Bird Records Committee, George Mowat, Mike Schwitters. NORTH DAKOTA: Hugh Beard, Erik Bruhnke, Keith R. Corliss, Wayne Easley, eBird Team (eBT), **Corey D. Ellingson**, Eve E. Freeberg, Todd C. King, Jack P. Lefor, Sherry D. Leslie, Ron E. Martin, Dean W. Riemer, Kris A. Sather, Dan N. Svingen, H. Clark Talkington, Chris Wood. SOUTH DAKOTA: Doug Backlund, Jocelyn L. Baker, Doug Chapman, Richard S. Latuchie, Ron Mabbie, Michael M. Melius, Charles E. Miller, Ernest E. Miller, Kenny Miller, Gary Olson, Ricky D. Olson, Mark Otnes, **Jeff S. Palmer**, Steve Stolz, Eileen D. Stukel, Bill J. Unzen, J. David Williams, Chris Wood, Mick R. Zerr. 🐦

Ron Martin, 16900 125th Street SE Sawyer, North Dakota 58781-9284, (jrmartin@srt.com)



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**W. Ross Silcock
Joseph A. Grzybowski**

This was probably the most “normal” fall season in some years, with generally good water conditions and mild to cooler-than-average temperatures. Late departures were not as pronounced as in some previous autumn seasons. Many waterfowl and gulls, however, had not progressed to the southernmost state by the end of November. Representatives of almost all of the expected groups were reported, but there were few exceptional concentrations and no notable irruptive species. The better water conditions brought some surprises, such as high counts of Virginia Rails and a scattering of localized species such as Common Moorhen, plus a slew of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in Nebraska. But even a “normal” fall season also includes an array of extralimital surprises and local rarities.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton, KS); Hackberry (Hackberry Flat W.M.A., Tillman, OK); McConaughy (McConaughy Reservoir, Keith, NE); Quivira (Quivira N.W.R., Stafford, KS); Red Slough (Red Slough W.M.A., McCurtain, OK); Salt Plains (Salt Plains N.W.R., Alfalfa, OK).

WATERFOWL THROUGH ANHINGA

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have bred in several satellite locations in nw. Oklahoma in recent years; the Red Slough group contained up to 22 birds present through 14 Oct (DA et al.). In Nebraska, 19 birds (2 ads., 17 imms.) in Phelps 24 Oct (TH) were rare there but probably an extension of the Regional expansion. Vagrant Arctic geese summering in Nebraska included a Greater White-fronted Goose in Lancaster (LE, SQ), a flock of Snow Geese (mostly of the blue morph) in Harlan

(G&WH), and an even more unusual Ross's Goose in Hall (JGJ). Though not established as a species in the Region, 2 unmarked ad. Mute Swans in Sarpy, NE were likely the same that appeared there as juvs. in Nov 2008 (JS, JWH, m.ob.). Trumpeter and Tundra Swans were reported in numbers s. to Kansas, where peak counts of 16 and 12, respectively, were reported from Quivira during Nov (*fide* LM). Two Trumpeters in Johnson, KS 22 Sep (NN) were quite early. The only report of Eurasian Wigeon was of 2 in Morrill, NE 11 Oct (LH), the 3rd fall record for Nebraska. Rare in the Region in recent years, 2 American Black Ducks were reported from Quivira 14 Nov (PJ), with singles in Bryan, OK 11 Nov (DW) and Osage, KS 14 Nov (MG). Two Mottled Ducks were at Quivira 22-29 Aug (MR, SS), with singles in Cowley, KS 4 Aug (GY) and at Red Slough 25 Aug (DA). Two late Cinnamon Teal at Red Slough 25 Nov (DA) were also e. of usual haunts. Greater Scaup were reported widely in the Region but in generally low numbers 10-21 Nov (m.ob.); however, most impressive were 237 in Noble, OK 20 Nov (JWA). A Regional total of 16 Surf Scoters 7-25 Nov (m.ob.) included 9 in Lancaster, NE 7 Nov (JGJ). There were five reports of 1-5 White-winged Scoters in Nebraska and Kansas 31 Oct-22 Nov (m.ob.) and four reports of one to 2 Black Scoters in the same states 25 Oct-30 Nov (PJ, JGJ, LE). The only Long-tailed Duck reported was in Lancaster, NE 8 Nov (PR). A rarity in the Region away from nw. Nebraska, a female Barrow's Goldeneye was in Sedgwick, KS 28 Nov (LL). The 6 Common Mergansers in n. Nebraska 22 Sep (MLy) were early. Custer, NE supports good numbers of both Sharp-tailed Grouse and Greater Prairie-Chickens; 22 of the former 18 Sep, and a flock of 110 of the latter 30 Oct, were near Broken Bow (TH). Rare loons included Red-throats in Lancaster, NE 21 Nov (JGJ, LE) and Mitchell, KS 1 Nov (SS); Pacific Loons were noted in unusually high numbers, with at least 5 in Nebraska 24 Oct-29 Nov (*fide* WRS) and singles in Reno, KS 21 Nov (PJ) and in Cherokee, OK 4 Nov (JM). Much more surprising was a Yellow-billed Loon in Rock, NE 29 Nov (*fide* MB). Western Grebes were noted e. to Noble, OK 1 Nov (JWA), and 2 were in Washington, OK 2 Nov (MP). Much less common in the Region were Clark's Grebes in Sedgwick, KS 17 Oct (PJ), Russell, KS 31 Oct

(MR), and e. to Hall, NE 26 Oct (JGJ). Single Brown Pelicans were seen in Coffey, KS 29 Aug (NJ, JG) and in Canadian, OK 2 Aug (MJ), the latter imm. also noted in Oklahoma 3 & 11 Aug (BD et al.). Neotropical Cormorants were found n. to Coffey, KS 30 Aug (2; ML, MG, NA) and Salt Plains 2 Nov (JWA); one lingered at Red Slough through 23 Nov (DA). Up to 2 Anhingas at Red Slough 28 Oct-25 Nov (DA) were rather late.

HERONS THROUGH CRANES

On the edge of its range was a Least Bittern at Hackberry 15 Aug (L&MT). An impressive northerly concentration of Great Egrets was the 50-100 gathered in Buffalo, NE 24 Aug (KS); a single was late in Sarpy, NE 1 Nov (JWH). Tricolored Herons were noted n. to Harvey, KS 21 Aug (RWe) and Salt Plains 5 Sep (BC); elsewhere in Oklahoma, up to 5 were at Hackberry through 6 Sep (m.ob.), up to 4 in Oklahoma through 21 Sep (BD et al.), one in Payne 23 Sep (VC), and, less surprisingly, one or 2 at Red Slough through 15 Sep (DA, MP). Snowy Egrets in Lincoln, NE 22 Oct (TJW) and Tulsa 1 Nov (TM) were tardy, as was a Green Heron in Sarpy, NE 24 Nov (JWH). A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron wandered n. to Seward, NE 7 Aug (LE). Among more recent records of late-departing White-



This Neotropical Cormorant lingered through 2 November 2009 (here) on the Arkansas River in Alfalfa County, Oklahoma. Photograph by James W. Arterburn.

face Ibis were 7 in Sequoyah, OK 20 Oct (JWA), one at Salt Plains 3 Nov (JWA), and 13 (identified as *Plegadis*) at Hackberry 13 Nov (L&MT). Twelve Glossy Ibis at the Salt Plains 14 Aug (*fide* RW) may have included some hybrids. Red Slough is the only expected site for Roseate Spoonbills in the Region; 1-3 were there through 3 Oct (BH), but a single at Hackberry 23 Aug (LHa) was a surprise. Wood Stork is similarly distributed in the Region; as many as 141 were at Red Slough through 8 Sep (DA), with 7 in Johnston, OK 13 Sep (BA). A northerly Black Vulture in Coffey, KS 14 Nov (MG) was also quite tardy for locality.



In Oklahoma, this Solitary Sandpiper remained through the entire autumn period and into December in Norman, Cleveland County, Oklahoma (here 17 November 2009). Photograph by Bill Diffn.



A second-cycle Black-legged Kittiwake on the Arkansas River at the Kaw Dam, Kay County, Oklahoma 14 November 2009 was one of only two kittiwakes reported in the Southern Great Plains region in fall 2009. Photograph by Gary Davis.

An excellent tally of Mississippi Kites was the 250 in a kettle over *Finney*, KS 19 Aug (T&SS). Westerly were 12 Broad-winged Hawks over *Scott*, KS 26 Sep (T&SS). Easterly Ferruginous Hawks were in *Knox*, NE 15 Nov (MB) and *Tulsa*, OK 27 Oct (JL et al.). Golden Eagles are less unusual eastward than Ferruginous Hawks; an imm. was in *Saunders*, NE 31 Oct (CNK), with others in *Leavenworth*, KS 25 Oct (DWi) and *Pawnee*, OK 13 Nov (TO). A Peregrine Falcon at Red Slough 4 Aug was early (DA). Reports of late Peregrines, likely pertaining to a single bird, came from *Tulsa*, OK 9-29 Nov (JSi, JL, TM et al.).

The best spot for Yellow Rails in the Region is Red Slough. Chris Butler and his students, banding Yellow Rails at this location, are encountering double-digit numbers; a rope drag by birders Oct 18 yielded 5 birds (DA et al.). Other reports of this tough-to-find species included singles at *Tulsa* 22 Sep (JF) and in *Douglas*, KS 15 Oct (MA, JK). Large aggregations of Virginia Rail might seem improbable in the Region, but the 50 and 300 Virginia Rails in two separate groups in *Cloud*, KS 22 Sep (SSo)—the 300 in a 2-hectare patch of smartweed—must have been a spectacle. A peak count of 25 Purple Gallinules at Red Slough, where expected, was tallied 25 Aug; at least one lingered until 30 Sep (DA, MP). Outside Red Slough, Common Moorhen is a rare Regional breeder, restricted to the se. portion of the Region; up to 10 chicks were with ads. in *Seward*, NE through 9 Aug (JGJ, JC, SSc), and *Hackberry* hosted up to 8, including 6 imms., 15 Aug–29 Sep (L&MT, m.ob.), indicating successful breeding there. A Common Moorhen was late at Red Slough 25 Nov (DA). American Coots numbered 17,359 in *Lancaster*, NE 24 Oct, including 16,000 at a single location (LE), an amazing tally. Excellent aggregations of Whooping Cranes occurred in Kansas and Oklahoma, with peaks of 27 at *Cheyenne Bottoms* 5-8 Nov (*fide* LM) and an amazing 44 at *Salt Plains* 10 Nov (*fide* RW, m.ob.).

cepting questionable historical records. An imm. Black-necked Stilt in *Lincoln*, NE 19 Oct (TJW) was Nebraska's latest by 23 days; an excellent count was the 150 stilts at *Cheyenne Bottoms* 20 Aug (HH). Rare at Red Slough, 1-2 Black-necked Stilts were present there through 1 Sep (DA). A Solitary Sandpiper in *Ellsworth*, KS 18 Oct (MR) was tardy, while one in *Cleveland*, OK lingered through the end of the period (RG, m.ob.). Large but flightless young Upland Sandpipers in *Dodge*, NE 2 Aug (D&JP) represented late breeding efforts. Very rare during fall was the single Whimbrel at *Quivira* 4 Sep (BJ). Fifteen Long-billed Curlews gathered at *Hackberry* 15 Aug, with 24 there on 23 Aug (L&MT); others were found in *Dawes*, NE 7 Sep (KDY), at *Quivira* 4 Sep (2; BJ), and in *Oklahoma* 16 Aug (JAG). A Ruddy Turnstone was in *Sarpy*, NE 8 Aug (WRS, KDy). Red Knot reports this season were of 3 in *Harvey*, KS 15 Aug (PJ, CM) and 2 at the *Salt Plains* 17 Aug (EB). Late shorebirds included a Sanderling in *Tulsa*, OK 22 Nov (BC) and a Western Sandpiper at Red Slough 25 Nov (DA). Good numbers of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported in the usual period 2 Aug–7 Sep (m.ob.), with peak count of 318 at a *Tulsa*, OK sod farm 11 Aug (JWA). Tardy Short-billed Dowitchers were located at Red Slough 22 Sep (DA) and at *Hackberry* 28 Sep (2 birds; JWA). Although Red-necked Phalarope becomes much rarer in the se. part of the Region, reports this season were still scant; 2 were at *Cheyenne Bottoms* 24 Aug (ML, MG, NA), 2 in *Johnston*, OK 11-13 Sep (BA, DW), and one in *Oklahoma*, OK 26-27 Sep (JB et al.). The only report of Red Phalarope, a Regional rarity, was of one in *Lancaster*, NE 7 Nov (ph. PD), a late Nebraska record by 23 days.

Black-legged Kittiwake was reported twice this season from locations on the Arkansas R., in *Kay*, OK 14 Nov (GD) and in *Tulsa*, OK 22-23 Nov (JH et al.). The seasonal tally of Sabine's Gulls was 12, a modest number. Very early was a Bonaparte's Gull at *Cheyenne Bottoms* 23 Aug (MR). Good numbers of Laughing Gulls were reported in Kansas and Oklahoma; no fewer than 8 were in Kansas 12 Aug–6 Sep (*fide* LM), 5-6 were in *Sequoyah*, OK 22-27 Aug (SB), and one was in *Pawnee*, OK 12 Sep (BC et al.). Few California Gulls are reported away from McConaughy in the Region; this season, one was in *Reno*, KS 15 Aug (PJ, CM). The first and only Thayer's Gull arriving this season was a first-cycle bird in *Harlan*, NE 18 Nov (KS). An ad. Lesser Black-backed at McConaughy 24-27 Oct (JGJ, PD) was the only one reported. An early surprise was an ad. Glaucous Gull at McConaughy 16

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

Migrant Piping Plovers, rare in Oklahoma, were found in *Tulsa* 9 Aug (BC) and *Oklahoma* 21 Aug (JAG). Continuing studies of Mountain Plover in *Kimball*, NE in recent years by Prairie Partners are establishing fall migration patterns; this season, flocks included 42 in *Kimball* 30 Aug (LS) and 40 there 23 Sep (*fide* LS). A group of 20 Mountain Plovers were in *Finney*, KS 10 Oct (T&SS). However, the 2 Mountain Plovers photographed at the *Salt Plains* 4 Sep (RW) represented the first noted within the main body of Oklahoma, ex-

Oct (TJW), furnishing the earliest Nebraska fall date on record. Only 2 Common Terns were reported, both in *LeFlore*, OK 13 Sep (SB).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Eurasian Collared-Doves have become dreaded "dirt-birds" in the Region, as indicated by a still impressive count of 483 at a *Scott*, KS grain elevator 7 Nov (T&SS). Much more local, the 112 White-winged Doves at a *Finney*, KS residence 2 Oct (T&SS) was even more impressive; they are still quite rare in Nebraska, with only three reports this season (DK, PD, WF). An Inca Dove was noted w. to *Cimarron*, OK 16 Sep (DR); still less common in the e. part of the Region were 4 in *Muskogee*, OK in Oct (JW). Always a good find in Oklahoma, a Long-eared Owl was in *Cimarron* 4 Nov (DR). A calling Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard in *Dawes*, NE 2 Oct (RE), where breeding occurs. Common Poorwills can appear in e. parts of the Region; this fall, one was in *Franklin*, NE 4 Sep (MB, DSt), and another was studied closely in snow (!) in *Polk*, NE 23 Oct (D&JP). Rather late for Nebraska were a Whip-poor-will in *Dixon* 20 Sep (MB) and 7 Chimney Swifts in *Douglas* 27 Oct (JR). Surviving subfreezing nights was a late Ruby-throated Hummingbird in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 3-18 Oct (KD); others were found through Oct in Oklahoma, the latest in *McCurtain*, OK 28 Oct (BH) and *Marshall*, OK 10-11 Nov (DT). Extralimital for Kansas were an ad. male Black-chinned Hummingbird in *Haskell*, KS 31 Aug (J&NC) and a female in *Pawnee*, KS 14 Sep (SS). If verified, a "probable" Costa's Hummingbird in *Finney*, KS 2 Oct (T&SS) would be the 2nd Regional record. Calliope Hummingbirds were reported as expected (5 birds) along the w. edge of the Region 13 Aug-15 Sep (T&SS, SS, AK, KD, JAG), though an ad. male in *Miami*, KS 8 Aug-15 Sep (J&JG) was unexpectedly far east. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds also were reported, as expected, along the w. edge of the Region, with 9 birds 1 Aug-7 Sep (m.ob.). Rufous Hummingbird is rare but more widespread in the Region, with more than 15 reported, including singles in *Riley*, KS 8-15 Nov (J&DR) and in *Oklahoma* through the end of period (TU et al.). Providing one of few Regional records was a female Williamson's Sapsucker that obliged many observers in a *Finney*, KS cemetery 9-27 Oct (T&SS, m.ob.). Regular but rare in the Nebraska Panhandle, a male Red-naped Sapsucker was banded in *Scotts Bluff* 20 Sep (JRe). West of the usual Oklahoma range, single Pileated Woodpeckers were in *Ellis* 24 Aug (SBa) and *Alfalfa* 14 Nov (DW, BCa).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Quite early was an Olive-sided Flycatcher 1

Aug in *Tulsa* (TM); another in *Wagoner* 1 Oct (*vide* JM) was tardy. An Eastern Wood-Pewee in *Sarpy*, NE 19 Oct (L&BP, ph.) was very late. An Acadian Flycatcher noted in *Tulsa*, OK 11 Sep (BCa) may be more normal, though the species is seldom reported in fall migration in the Region. A rare migrant on the w. edge of the Region, a Hammond's Flycatcher was in *Cimarron*, OK 30 Aug (JAG), and a Dusky Flycatcher was similarly rare in *Finney*, KS 6 Sep (T&SS). Migrant Cordilleran Flycatchers included one in *Dawes*, NE 10 Sep (b. ED) and another in *Morton*, KS 12 Sep (SS). An exceptional find was a juv. Black Phoebe in *Morton*, KS 13 Sep (MS, PH, GJ, DoS). Easterly and late was a Say's Phoebe in *Lancaster*, NE 9 Oct (LE). An Ash-throated Flycatcher in *Morton*, KS 12 Sep (SS) was a bit tardy. A Western Kingbird in *Otoe* 21 Oct (SQ, LF) was Nebraska's latest; others in *Box Butte*, NE 2 Oct (WF) and *Oklahoma*, OK 15 Oct (PV) were also late. A pair of ad. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers with a "mobile" juv. in *Knox*, NE 8 Aug (MB) established the northernmost breeding record for the Region; the last noted this season were in *Sequoyah*, OK 8 Nov (SB).

A Northern Shrike in *Cimarron*, OK, 4 Nov (DR) was early. Two Bell's Vireos in *Dodge*, NE 5 Oct (GR) were tardy. The only Cassin's Vireos reported were singles in *Morton*, KS 12 Sep (SS), where rare but expected, and in *Sedgwick*, KS 19 Sep (†PJ), surprisingly far east. Westerly Blue-headed Vireos were seen 9 Sep in *Dawes*, NE (ED) and 29 Aug in *Sioux*, NE (†HKH). Late were single Blue-headed Vireos in *Stafford*, KS 2 Nov (BJ), *Cleveland*, OK 5 Nov (RG), and *Wabaunsee*, KS 14 Nov (CO). On the margins of their range, 2 Western Scrub-Jays were in *Morton*, KS 26 Sep (SS), and another was in *Grant*, KS 15 Oct (DS). The Fish Crow in *Sarpy*, NE, the state's first, was still present 8 Aug (†WRS, †KDy). The large Purple Martin roost in Omaha, NE re-assembled this fall, with some 40,000 present 28 Aug (JR, JED); a roost of 20,000 was in *Wichita*, KS 3 Aug (KG). A single Purple Martin in *Douglas*, KS 25 Oct (BAn) was very late. About 5000 Tree Swallows were at Red Slough 18 Oct (DA). Only the 2nd and 3rd Sep records for Nebraska, Violet-green Swallows



This first-cycle Black-legged Kittiwake was found 23 November 2009 on the Arkansas River at the Keystone Dam near Tulsa, Oklahoma. Photograph by James W. Arterburn.

were seen in *Dawes* 7 Sep (3; KDy) and *Scotts Bluff* 19 Sep (one; AK), the latter a record late date for Nebraska. Forty-six Cave Swallows at *Hackberry* 29 Sep (ph. VF), including 26 hatch-year birds, represented only the 4th documented occurrence for Oklahoma; one was at *Cheyenne Bottoms* 14 Aug (MR, CW). A late Barn Swallow was in *Alfalfa*, OK 2 Nov (JWA). Few Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported this season, but early singles appeared in *Finney*, KS 10 Aug (T&SS) and *Cimarron*, OK 29 Aug (MP et al.).

A Pygmy Nuthatch surprised observers again in *Lancaster*, NE 16-23 Oct (LE), appearing at the same site where one was found the previous spring. An easterly Rock Wren was attracted to rocky dam habitat in *Oklahoma*, OK 31 Oct (EV). A belated report of a Canyon Wren in *Cheyenne*, NE 6-7 Oct 2007 (KK) was accepted by the Nebraska Records Committee; it is Nebraska's 3rd. Rather early for Kansas was a Golden-crowned Kinglet in *Rawlins* 12 Sep (PJ et al.), while a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in *Dodge*, NE 3 Oct (GR) was Nebraska's latest. Veeries, rare in the Region, were reported in *Lancaster*, NE 27 Aug (LE), *Sarpy*, NE 5 Aug (JR), and *Rawlins*, KS 12 Sep (PJ et al.). Also quite rare in fall, Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported from *Lancaster*, NE 10 Sep (LE) and *Fillmore*, NE 13 Sep (WRS). Rare but regular in sw. Kansas, 5 Curve-billed Thrashers were in *Stevens* 11 Sep (SS) and 3 in *Morton* 27 Sep (SS). Rare and erratic in the Region away from nw. Nebraska, a

single Bohemian Waxwing with Cedar Waxwings was a surprise in Stanton, NE 26 Oct (†JF).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Rare in Oklahoma, a Blue-winged Warbler was in Tulsa 20 Sep (TM). Westerly were 2 Tennessee Warblers in Dawes 7 Sep (KDy). Among rare fall migrants were a Chestnut-sided Warbler in Tulsa 13 Sep (BC) and a Magnolia Warbler in Payne, OK 26 Sep (TO). A Black-throated Blue Warbler in Cimarron, OK 21 Oct (DR) was exceptional; Nebraska had singles in Lancaster 10 (LE) & 17 Sep (TEL, JC, SSc) and in Fillmore 13 Sep (WRS). The only Townsend's Warbler reported was in Rawlins, KS 12 Sep (PJ et al.); the species is a regular fall migrant along the w. edge of the Region. Blackburnian Warbler reports were all from Nebraska: in Cass 31 Aug (JC, SSc), Dodge 18 Sep (GR), and Sarpy 19 Sep (JR). Among few fall records, a Yellow-throated Warbler was in Douglas, KS 30 Aug (MA, JK). Unexpectedly far westward was a Prairie Warbler in Barber, KS 5 Oct (GY). A casual fall migrant in the Region, a Palm Warbler was in Lancaster, NE 14 Oct (KC). Swainson's Warblers were present at Little River N.W.R., McCurtain, OK until 7 Sep (DW et al.), the only regular site in the Region for this species. A Northern Waterthrush still at Quivira 30 Nov (SS) was tempting fate. At least 9 Canada Warblers were found in Nebraska 27 Aug–12 Sep (*fide* WRS), a good showing, while one was rather early in Payne, OK 16 Aug (TO), where rare.

Green-tailed Towhees located along the w. edge of Region included one in Kimball, NE 5 Sep (MB, DSt) and 2 in Morton, KS 26 Sep (SS). A Black-throated Sparrow was located at its only current Regional outpost in Cimarron, OK 26 Aug (AD, TMi). Easterly Lark Buntings were singles in Hamilton, NE 18 Aug (JGJ) and Kearney, NE 24 Aug (WF); another in Harmon, OK 27 Sep (VF) was rather early there. Rarely reported in fall, one to 2 Henslow's Sparrows were in Sarpy, NE 14-16 Oct (JV). Tripling the previous high count of Le Conte's Sparrows for Nebraska was the count of 158 in Clay 19 Oct (PD, BF). Two Nelson's Sparrows were located, a single westerly in Cherry, NE 27 Sep (LR, RH), the other in Douglas, KS 25 Oct (BAn). A White-crowned Sparrow in Kimball, NE 5 Sep (MB, DSt) was rather early, as was a Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco banded in Scotts Bluff, NE 31 Aug (JRe). Summer Tanager, a species



At least 46 Cave Swallows were discovered 27 September 2009 (here) at Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area, Tillman County, Oklahoma. Photographs by Victor O. Fazio, Ill.

expanding northward in the Region, was detected in Cimarron, OK 29 Aug and 4 Sep (DR), in Dodge, NE 18 Sep (GR) and in Lancaster, NE 12 Aug (LE). A Summer Tanager in Sarpy, NE 25 Oct (L&BP) was rather late, as was a Scarlet Tanager in Pawnee, OK 15 Oct (JBa, BS). Migrant Western Tanagers were in Rawlins, KS 12 Sep (PJ et al.) and Finney, KS 30 Oct (T&SS), latter rather late. A Northern Cardinal in Kimball, NE 4 Sep (MB, DSt) provides more evidence of the species' westward expansion in the Region. Observations of adult cardinals feeding a fledgling in Wayne, NE 22 Oct (NB) indicate a very late nesting as well. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Muskogee, OK 14 Oct (AV) was late, as were 2 Bobolinks in n.-cen. Nebraska 22 Sep (MLy) and a Blue Grosbeak in Franklin, NE 14 Oct (WF).

The count of 150-200 Rusty Blackbirds in Sarpy, NE 5 Nov (L&BP) was encouraging for this declining species. Quite tardy were single Baltimore Orioles in Omaha, NE 26 Nov (AA) and Muskogee, OK 14 Nov (JM). Few Purple Finches were reported during the period. A Cassin's Finch in Dawes, NE 6 Sep (KDy) was a rare find on that date; another was a surprise in Grant, KS 29 Aug (KH, SG). Generally an early (though erratic) breeder in Nebraska, a Red Crossbill with a brood patch was banded in Scotts Bluff 10 Sep (JRe). Encouraging was the appearance of an Evening Grosbeak in Grant, KS 26 Aug (KH, SG, JRa); this species has been nearly absent from the Region for some time.

Cited observers (area editors in boldface): NEBRASKA: Andrew Albright, Norma Brockmoller, Mark Brogie, John Carlini, Ken Carnes, Kathy DeLara, Erika Dittmar, James E. Ducey, Paul Dunbar, Keith Dyché (KDy), Rick Eades, Larry Einemann, Lawrence Falk, Bill Fink, William Flack, Joe Freeborn, Tim Hajda, John W. Hall, Luke Hamilton, Robin Harding, Glen

& Wanda Hoge, Helen K. Hughson, Joel G. Jorgensen, Alice Kenitz, Dan Klammer, Clem N. Klaphake, Ken Kranik, Thomas E. Labeledz, Meryll Lynch (MLy), Loren & Babs Padelford, Don & Jan Paseka, Susan Quinn, Lanny Randolph, Julie Remp (JRe), Justin Rink, Gary Roberts, Paul Roisen, Shari Schwartz (SSc), W. Ross Silcock, Kent Skaggs, Larry Snyder, Dave Stage (DSt), Jon Strong, Joseph Verica, T. J. Walker. KANSAS: Nic Allen, Mike Andersen, Bob Antonio (BAn), Jack & Norma Conover, Joann Garrett, Matt Gearheart, Kevin Groeneweg, Sam Guy, Jerry & Janet Guyer, Paul Habiger, Helen Hands, Kellye Hart, Pete Janzen, Gary Johnson, Nan Johnson, Barry Jones, Jon King, Larry Londagin, Cheryl Miller, Lloyd Moore, Nea Nuessle, Chuck Otte, Mike Rader, John Rakestraw (JRa), John & Diane Row, Diane Seltman, Scott Seltman, Tom & Sara Shane, Steve Sorensen (SSo), Mike Stoakes, Don Stout (DoS), Rod Wedel (RWe), Dave Williams (DWi), Curtis Wolf, Gene Young. OKLAHOMA: Bill Adams, David Arbour, James W. Arterburn, Sally Barnes (SBa), Judy Barto (JBa), Jim Bates, Sandy Berger, Chris Butler, Bill Carrell, Bill Carter (BCa), Vince Cavaliere, Abigail Darrah, Gary Davis, Bill Diffin, Vic Fazio, Joseph A. Grzybowski, Richard Gunn, Larry Hancock (LHa), Berlin Heck, Jim Hoffman, Matthew Jung, Jo Loyd, Jeri McMahon (JM), Tim Millican (TMi), Terry Mitchell, Tim O'Connell, Mark Peterson, Dan Robinson, Brandon Scott, Jana Singletary (JSi), Diane Trisdale, Lou & Mary Truex, Terri Underhill, Eivind Varmraak, Patricia Velte, Antoinette Verne, Jim Winner, Doug Wood, Rebecca Wolff. ☺

W. Ross Silcock, P. O. Box 57
Tabor, Iowa 51673, (silcock@rosssilcock.com)
Joseph A. Grzybowski, 715 Elmwood Drive
Norman, Oklahoma 73072, (j_grzybowski@sbcglobal.net)



Mark W. Lockwood
Eric Carpenter
Willie Sekula

The severe drought that gripped South and Central Texas was broken in many areas during September and October. The state's office that monitors drought effects determined that the current drought was the most severe on record for several counties in central Texas. The effect was dramatic on avian habitats, with reports of trees dying in large numbers in the southern Oaks and Prairies region. The long-term effects on bird populations will undoubtedly be a mixed bag, with some species benefiting and others being negatively impacted. Although welcome rains came in the late fall, this moisture came too late in most areas to allow for a wild food crop to grow, thereby extending the effects of the drought through the winter season.

There were early signs of invasion by montane species in the western portions of the state, particularly in the El Paso area, but in general the earlier arrivers were not joined by subsequent flocks. One of the most surprising of the fall was the discovery of four Lewis's Woodpeckers in the western half of the state. During the 1980s and 1990s this would have been a more normal occurrence, but in the past decade, the species has become a far rarer visitor to Texas.

WATERFOWL THROUGH ANHINGAS

A male Eurasian Wigeon graced Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 3 Oct+ (ph., †JSp); the species has been present at this location for five consecutive winters. Quite early was a Greater Scaup at the Port Aransas, *Nueces* 16 Aug–6 Sep (MR, ShC, ECa). A Surf Scoter lingered at Mitchell L., *Bexar* 15–29 Nov (ph.m.ob.), and another appeared at S. Padre I., *Cameron* 16 Nov (ScC). A male Masked Duck was at Pintail L., *Santa Ana N.W.R.*, *Hidalgo* 30 Aug (ph., †Eca), and a pair was

found at Cattail L. 1–7 Nov (ph.LT, m.ob.). The only Red-throated Loon reported was at Benbrook L., *Tarrant* 21–28 Nov (GC, DDC, DLI, BC). Either very early or summering was a Common Loon at Imperial Res., *Pecos* 15 Aug (ECa). Least Grebes successfully bred in cen. Texas and on the Upper Texas Coast (hereafter, U.T.C.). Individual outliers were at John Bunker Sands Wetland, *Kaufman* 1 Aug–5 Sep (m.ob.), Longview, *Harrison* 12–17 Sep (ph. LP, MEd), and Eldorado, *Schleicher* 7 Sep (ph. BZe). Pushing the e. edge of their range were single Western Grebes on L. Buchanan, *Llano* 19 Sep (TiF), on L. Kickapoo, *Archer* 24 Oct (BSu), on White Rock L., *Dallas* 6–22 Nov (CR), and at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 27 Nov (RR). Three were at L. Walter E. Long, *Travis* 21–22 Nov (m.ob.), while the regular wintering flock on L. Buchanan, *Llano* was at 17 by 27 Nov (TiF). Clark's Grebes with a recently fledged young at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 5 Nov (BZi) made the first breeding here since 2002.

The notorious pair of mismatched flamingos, one American and one Greater, was spotted near Center Point, *Jackson* 15 Aug (ph., SR) and then at the Whitmire Unit, *Aransas N.W.R.*, *Calhoun* 20 Oct (PWa). Two Leach's Storm-Petrels were the highlight of the 28 Aug pelagic trip off S. Padre I., *Cameron*; a cooperative Sooty Shearwater stole the show on the 19 Sep trip (both ph., †m.ob.). Far-flung Brown Pelicans were singles at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 19 Aug (BZi), Tornillo Res., *El Paso* 1–5 Nov (JPa), Ascarate L., *El Paso* 4–13 Nov (BZi), Greenbelt L., *Donley* 17 Oct (TM), L. Buchanan, *Llano/Burnet* 18 Aug–17 Oct (BSt, TiF), Belton L., *Bell* 10–24 Aug (GE, RP), and Waco, *McLennan* 12 Nov (JWr). Providing a very rare record for the Panhandle, 2 Anhingas were in Friona, *Parmer* 31 Oct–1 Nov (ph. TB).

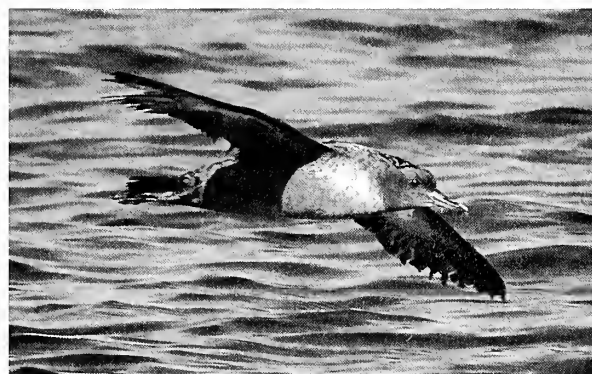
HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

An American Bittern at Monahan's Draw, *Midland* 12 Sep (JHe) was a good fall find for the w. third of the state. Out of place was a Little Blue Heron at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 1–2 Aug (AvH, m.ob.) and another near Smyer, *Hockley* 8 Aug (AnH). Tricolored Herons staged a major in-

vasion/post-breeding dispersal this fall, with large numbers present farther n. and w. than usual. Westerly were as many as 7 at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 12–15 Aug (DJ, ECa), 2 in Midland, *Midland* 15 Aug (RMS et al.) and 2 more there 8 Sep (BLu), 9 at L. Ballinger, *Runnels* 16 Aug (ECa), and one in Lubbock, *Lubbock* 7 Sep–4 Oct (CSt, m.ob.). Hill Country records included up to 5 at Junction, *Kimble* 1 Aug–5 Sep (ph. RH, AnL, ECo), 2 at Utopia, *Uvalde* 9 Aug–18 Oct (MHe), one at Eldorado, *Schleicher* 17 Aug (ph. BZe), and up to 7 at Uvalde, *Uvalde* in early Sep (MHe). Wandering Reddish Egrets, all juvs., included one at Granger L., *Williamson* 22 Aug–10 Sep (ECa, TiF, BSt), a white morph at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 5 Sep–18 Oct (JeM, ML), another se. of San Marcos, *Hays* 12 Sep (BSt), and one at the Ft. Bliss sewage ponds, *El Paso* 1 Oct (BZi). An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was detected at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 29 Aug (JPa). A White Ibis in Friona, *Parmer* 29 Aug (BP) was unexpected, as was one at El-



The northwestern Hill Country of Texas is a very under-birded part of the state. In fall 2009, several out-of-range species were discovered in Schleicher County, including this Least Grebe at Eldorado 6–9 (here 7) September. Photograph by Bob Zeller.



Texas pelagic trips have consistently turned up species thought to be rare in the western Gulf of Mexico. This Sooty Shearwater continued that tradition off South Padre Island, Cameron County 19 September 2009. Photograph by Chris Harrison.

dorado, *Schleicher* 17 Aug (ph.BZe). Inland Glossy Ibis included one at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 15 Aug (ECa), one at John Bunker Sands Wetland, *Kaufman* 2 Aug and 5 Sep (GC, BC), and another at Village Creek Dry-



Red-shouldered Hawks are recorded less than annually in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas. This cooperative immature was at Balmorhea State Park, Reeves County from 11 (here 17) September through 2 October 2009. Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.



This Curlew Sandpiper was often difficult to locate during its stay at Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas between 17 August and 4 (here 1) September 2009. Photograph by Christopher Taylor.

ing Beds, *Tarrant* 8 Sep (m.ob.). An impressive 6300 White-faced Ibis staged on the Katy Prairie, *Waller* in early Sep (BH et al.). A large number of Roseate Spoonbills lingered during the period at John Bunker Sands Wetland, *Kaufman*, with 21 still there 29 Nov (m.ob.). An imm. at Ft. Hancock Res., 27 Sep–14 Oct (JPa, ph. BZi) furnished a rare *Hudspeth* record. A high-soaring Jabiru was studied briefly near San Benito, *Cameron* 20 Sep (†TFu). A Wood Stork over Blewett 15 Aug and 9 at Cook's Slough 21 Aug furnished rare *Uvalde* records (ph. TD). As many as 19 individuals lingered at L. Rogers, *Bell* 7-10 Sep (RP, BSt). A Wood Stork at Houston's Arthur Storey Park, *Harris* 5 Nov+ was lingering later than usual (CD et al.). Late too was a lone Turkey Vulture in El Paso, *El Paso* 5 Nov (BZi).

Swallow-tailed Kites in Central Texas include singles at Ft. Hood, *Coryell* 4 Aug (ph.

ERu) and Richland Creek W.M.A., *Navarro* 7 Aug (ph. MB). After two failed efforts, the White-tailed Kite pair at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* had downy young by 16 Sep and fledged 2 juvs by mid-Oct for the first successful nesting in that region (JSp). Other Trans-Pecos sightings were lone birds nw. of Marfa, *Presidio* 9 Sep (BZi) and at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 15 Nov (J&JR). Rare Lower Rio Grande Valley sightings of Bald Eagles were one at Anzalduas, *Hidalgo* 18 Oct (DJ) and another near the Port of Harlingen, *Cameron* 9 Nov (Kyle O'Haver). A Harris's Hawk wandered n. to Stratford, *Sherman* 7 Nov (BP), while another was near White Rock L., *Dallas* 22-23 Nov (JHo, KD). Small numbers of Harris's Hawks made it to the U.T.C., with 2 at the Galveston Bay Virginia Point Peninsula Preserve, *Galveston* (LM, GM), singles at the Smith Point Hawkwatch, *Chambers* 29 Sep and 17 Oct, and 2 different birds in *Brazoria* 24 Oct (MAu) and 22 Nov (MMP). Becoming more regular in the cen.

Trans-Pecos, an imm. Red-shouldered Hawk was at Balmorhea S.P., *Reeves* 11 Sep–2 Oct (ML et al.). A Broad-winged Hawk near Shamrock, *Wheeler* 26 Sep (AnH) and another at Copper Breaks S.P., *Hardeman* 10 Oct (AnH) were w. of the normal migration path. A dark-morph Short-tailed Hawk was studied at Estero Llano Grande S.P., *Hidalgo* 11 Oct (†MGu). A great find was a Zone-tailed Hawk in Midland, *Midland* 1 Sep (DK, m.ob.), as was another in Victoria, *Victoria* 16 Oct (JBe). A Golden Eagle soared over the Smith Point Hawkwatch, *Chambers* 7 Nov. A Prairie Falcon on the Katy Prairie, *Waller* 1-10 Oct (BH) was one of very few recent records for the U.T.C. A Crested Caracara near Crockett, *Houston* 25 Nov (†LS) was a county first. The Crested Caracaras from the summer in *Kent* remained until at least 4 Sep (DS).

RAILS THROUGH JAEGERS

Rarely detected as a migrant, 2 Yellow Rails stopped at Cement Creek L., *Tarrant* 27 Oct (BC, EW). Amazing was a Black Rail seen at John Bunker Sands Wetland, *Kaufman* 10 Oct (BC); up to 7 King Rails were noted at the same location 1 Aug–17 Oct (GC, BC). A Purple Gallinule in Freeport, *Brazoria* 15 Nov was on the late side (KP). Hard to come by as migrants, 7 Whooping Cranes were over n. *Tarrant* 3 Nov (SJ), 2 more were at the Waco Wetlands, *McLennan* 19 Nov (FG, NG), and a

vocalizing individual at Hornsby Bend 27 Nov was a rare *Travis* treat (RD).

The continuing drought lowered L. Buchanan's shoreline by 30 feet, exposing extensive mudflats and allowing a unique opportunity to view numbers of shorebirds on the Edwards Plateau. Fennell, Stone, and others found an impressive 27 species by season's end, including several *Burnet* and *Llano* firsts. Three Black-bellied Plovers made a nice find at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 18 Oct, with one still present 8 Nov (ML). A high fall count for the U.T.C., 26 American Golden-Plovers were at Smith Point, *Chambers* 17 Oct (JKe). Snowy Plovers took advantage of the low water levels at L. Buchanan, where 2 recently fledged downy young were found with 5 other birds around Shaw I., *Llano* 8 Sep for a first breeding record for the Edwards Plateau (ph. TiF, BSt et al.). Fifty-seven Mountain Plovers e. of Bartlett, *Bell* 8 Nov was the best showing of this species around Granger since Jan 2003 (RP), 100 was a good count for w. *Nueces* 26 Oct (BBi). An ad. Northern Jaçana at the Calhoun Unit, Choke Canyon S.P., *McMullen* 1 Nov+ (ph. JAn, †m.ob.) represented one of the most northerly records for the state. A Whimbrel near Crosbyton, *Crosby* 9 Aug (KHi) was an unusual find for the South Plains. Long-billed Curlews again staged at Balmorhea L., *Reeves*, with a high of 705 on 15 Aug (ECa); more impressive were 1127 near the Chapman Ranch, *Nueces* 10 Oct (BF). A Curlew Sandpiper lingered at Cayo del Oso, Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 17 Aug–4 Sep (ph., †MC). Buff-breasted Sandpipers staged at a sod farm near Calallen, *Nueces* in last Aug, with a jaw-dropping 2600 tallied there 23 Aug (DMu). An amazing 2400 Long-billed Dowitchers stopped at John Bunker Sands Wetlands, *Kaufman* 8 Nov (CR). Easterly Red-necked Phalaropes included one at Tule L., Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 20 Aug (MC), one at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 7 Sep (RR), 2 at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 12-17 Sep (CW, ECa, m.ob.), one at Southside W.T.P., *Dallas* 26 Sep (RR), and another at Suntide Pools, Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 10 Oct (MC). A cooperative Red Phalarope at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* was enjoyed by many during its 17-22 Oct visit (ph., †CW, m.ob.).

Sabine's Gulls were present this fall at scattered locations throughout the state, with an immaculate ad. at Tornillo Res., *El Paso* 13 Sep (ph. JPa) and one observed from the Bolivar Ferry, *Galveston* 24 Sep (WB) being the most significant. Twelve Bonaparte's Gulls at L. Ransom Canyon, *Lubbock* 26 Nov (StC) was a high number and furnished a rare South Plains sighting. A Laughing Gull at L. Bryan, *Brazos* 22 Nov (†TH) provided a long overdue

county first. A second-cycle California Gull was present at Calaveras L., *Bexar* 22 Nov (MR, ShC). A first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull was observed at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 8 Nov (ML), and another individual that had been present across the Rio Grande in New Mexico since 9 Nov (ph. JPa) visited Keystone Heritage Park, *El Paso* 25 Nov (DA). An ad. black-backed gull at Ft. Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 29 Sep (ph. BZi) exhibited some aspects of a Yellow-footed Gull, but a clear identification could not be established. The second-cycle Glaucous Gull that summered at East Beach, *Galveston* was present 7-19 Aug (GL, JKa, RS) and 11 Oct (KP). Two gulls thought to be Kelp Gulls or Kelp hybrids were at Quintana, *Brazoria* 13 Sep (ph. JAr). A Caspian Tern was at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 13-15 Aug (DJ, ECa). A Royal Tern was discovered at Ft. Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 13 Sep (ph. JPa, BZi); no weather systems were thought responsible for this regional first. Ten Least Terns, including 4 begging juvs., at L. Ballinger, *Runnels* 16 Aug (ph. ECa) were suggestive of local breeding. The pelagic trip out of South Padre I., *Cameron* 28 Aug produced 30 Bridled Terns and 75 Sooty Terns (BM, ECa, MGu et al.). A Black Tern at Brazos Bend S.P., *Fort Bend* 1 Nov was late (MMP). A Brown Noddy found at the Port Aransas jetties, *Nueces* 9 Aug was joined by another 22 Aug-8 Sep (JMc, m.ob.). A Parasitic Jaeger was seen off Port Aransas, *Nueces* 31 Oct (MC).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Single Common Ground-Doves were found at two Midland, *Midland* locations 28 Aug (RMS, FR), where the species is detected less than annually. Single Black-billed Cuckoos were noted in Lufkin, *Angelina* 27 Aug (LD) and Caddo Lake N.W.R., *Harrison* 11 Oct (ERa). A Mangrove Cuckoo was discovered at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., *Cameron* 1 Sep (ph., †TFu). A Groove-billed Ani at Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* 2 Aug (CRi et al.) was early for a post-breeding dispersal, and one in *Waller* 12-15 Sep (BH et al.) was farther inland than normal. A Burrowing Owl was at Ft. Travis, *Galveston* 24-31 Oct (TK, DMA). A Long-eared Owl along the Brazos R., *Burleson* 8 Nov (DG, MGw) provided the first county sighting since 1974. A single Whip-poor-wills were heard in *San Augustine* 8 Sep (MAr) and in *Wood* 18 Sep (JaC). Three Whip-poor-wills banded at Smith Point, *Chambers* 10 Oct (BO et al.) could be an indication of more migrants passing through the area than previously realized. An unidentified *Chaetura* swift zipped through El Paso, *El Paso* 10 Oct (JG, US). Up to 10,000 Chimney Swifts were tallied in late Aug/early Sep while entering a

large smokestack of an old sugar plant in Sugar Land, *Fort Bend* (GO, PS, BD et al.).

An imm. Green-breasted Mango visited a yard in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 12 Aug (†, ph. LA). A male Broad-billed Hummingbird was present in Houston, *Harris* 24 Oct-8 Nov (JSh, ph. MHo). Juv. White-eared Hummingbirds were banded in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 9 Aug and 8 Sep (KB), providing more evidence that the species is breeding locally. A Buff-bellied Hummingbird seen near Common Fords Park in w. Austin, *Travis* 7 Sep (EF)

was a good find for the Edwards Plateau. A male Magnificent Hummingbird present near Brownsville, *Cameron* 6-8 Sep (ph. MP et al.) was a first for the Lower Rio Grande Valley. An astounding total of 103 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded in *Jeff Davis* and *Brewster* between 6 Aug and 31 Oct, including an amazing 32 in sw. *Brewster* 4 Sep (KB). In stark contrast, a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird in El Paso, *El Paso* 17 Sep (BZi) was only about the 3rd for the county. Given the dearth of New Mexico and El Paso records, this species is either overlooked or it has a very sharply defined w. edge to its migratory path. A female Black-chinned Hummingbird visited feeders in *Rusk* 9 Sep (PHa), while one in El Paso through at least 6 Nov (BZi) was notably late. A female Anna's Hummingbird at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 29 Aug (AnH) was noteworthy. It was another banner season for Costa's Hummingbird in West Texas, with an ad. male in Alpine, *Brewster* 3 Sep-19 Oct (ph., †ML), an ad. male at Terlingua, *Brewster* 6-19 Sep and 16 Oct+ (†, ph. MF), an imm. male at the same Terlingua location 6-13 Oct (†MF), an imm. male at the Ft. Bliss sewage ponds, *El Paso* 15 Sep (†BZi), and a female in the Christmas Mts., *Brewster* 29 Oct+ (ph., †KB). Calliope Hummingbirds made a good showing e. of the normal migration route: at least 5 reported in *Hays* and *Travis* and one at Houston, *Harris* 2-9 Nov (KK, JBe). Broad-tailed Hummingbirds wandering e. included singles in Austin, *Travis* 13-16 Sep (EF) and near Spring Branch, *Blanco* 1 Nov (LL). These were overshadowed by one at Magnolia, *Montgomery* 9 Sep-15 Nov (KH), which provided a very rare Pineywoods record. Bryan banded 12 Allen's Hummingbirds in *Jeff Davis* and *Brewster* between 19 Jul and 31 Oct. An Allen's Hummingbird at Bentsen S.P., *Hidalgo* 1 Sep+ (MGu) may be the same bird that spent previous winters there. An apparent



One of the highlights of the fall 2009 season in far western Texas was this Royal Tern at Fort Hancock Reservoir, Hudspeth County on 12 September. There is only one previous record of the species for the Trans-Pecos. Photograph by Jim Paton.



The skulking habits of Mangrove Cuckoo make it difficult to detect, particularly where it appears as a vagrant. This individual was found at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, Willacy County, Texas on 30 August 2009, providing just the eleventh record for the state. Photograph by Terry Fuller.

Anna's Hummingbird × Allen's Hummingbird hybrid at Ft. Davis, *Jeff Davis* 18 Sep-27 Oct (ph. KB) was captured and measured during its visit.

Green Kingfishers found away from areas of regular occurrence included singles at Port Aransas, *Nueces* 20 Sep+ (ph. WR), near Sheffield along the Pecos R., *Crockett* 21 Oct (DJ), and at Lajitas, *Brewster* 7 Oct (JAB). It was a good fall for Lewis's Woodpeckers, with singles at Ozona, *Crockett* 18 Oct (CSm), Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 25 Oct (J&JR), near Fort Davis, *Jeff Davis* 6 Nov+ (ph. DO, m.ob.), and Midland, *Midland* 18 Nov+ (DK, m.ob., ph. TeF). A juv. Red-headed Woodpecker was n. of Fabens, *El Paso* 25 Oct (ph. BZi), and one was seen in Midland, *Midland* 24 Oct (RMS et al.). Two Williamson's Sapsuckers



Lewis's Woodpecker was a nearly annual visitor to Texas during the 1990s and early in the 2000s, but the species has been mostly absent in the past few years. This first-winter individual spent part of the autumn 2009 season near Fort Davis in Jeff Davis County from 6 (here 18) November into December. Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.



In Texas, Juniper Titmouse is a rare visitor anywhere away from the Guadalupe Mountains, so a flock of four in El Paso, El Paso County from 30 September (here) through October 2009 was a surprise. Photograph by Barry Zimmer.

were detected in El Paso, *El Paso*—a male 15 Sep (US) and a female 19 Sep (BZi). Red-naped Sapsuckers e. of normal included 2 at L. Texana, *Jackson* 24 Oct (BF) and one at Del Rio, *Val Verde* 7 Nov (KG).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

An Eastern Wood-Pewee at Quintana, *Brazoria* 22 Nov was very late and the 2nd latest ever for the U.T.C. (JAr). A Gray Flycatcher in *Swisher* 2 Aug (BP) was rare for the Panhandle. A rather late Hammond's Flycatcher was near Tornillo Res., *Hudspeth* 1 Nov (JPa). Two Black Phoebes hung around a backyard swimming pool at Rancho Viejo, *Cameron* the whole season (BM); one in Friona, *Parmer* 2 Nov (Barrett Pierce) was a rarity for the Panhandle. An Eastern Phoebe at Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* 15 Sep (JAr) was early. A Say's Phoebe in s. *Brazos* 21 Nov (ph. BT, JBe) was the first detected in the county in 17 years. A Vermilion Flycatcher at the Southside W.T.P., *Dallas* 27 Sep (GC, RRa, BC) made a rare county occurrence. Notably late was a Western Kingbird at Balmorhea S.P., *Reeves* 2 Nov (ph. ML). An Eastern

Kingbird in w. El Paso, *El Paso* 12 Sep (JKi) was an excellent find, while one seen on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 17 Nov (JSt) was the 2nd latest ever for the U.T.C. Different Rose-throated Becards were at Bentsen S.P., *Hidalgo* 30 Oct (†LT) and 15 Nov+ (†m.ob.); another was at Estero Llano Grande S.P., *Hidalgo* 14 Nov+ (†LZ, m.ob.).

Single White-eyed Vireos where scarce were at Clairemont, *Kent* 30 Aug (AnH) and Palo Duro Canyon, *Randall* 28 Sep (KS), and a Bell's Vireo was at Clapp Park, *Lubbock* 21 Sep (StC). Plumbeous Vireos of note included singles along Bear Creek, *Carson* 26 Sep (AnH) and Rosehill Cemetery, Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 27 Oct (MC). A Philadelphia Vireo on Ft. Hood, *Bell* 5 Sep (RK) was an unusual fall discovery. A Yellow-green Vireo visited Santa Ana N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 16 Aug (DJ). Two Steller's Jays at El Paso, *El Paso* 10 Oct (JPa) and one along Big Bend's Window Trail, *Brewster* 30 Oct (AD) suggested more might follow. A Blue Jay at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground, *Brewster* 27 Sep (DLe, ALL) was exceptional. Excellent numbers of Western Scrub-Jays moved into the El Paso area 6 Sep+ and continued in evidence through the end of the period. Continuing a trend of southward and westward expansion in East Texas, Fish Crows were reported in *Gregg* 17 Aug (LP), *Harrison* 27 Aug and 12 Sep (DWe, MED), and *Titus* 1 Nov (PB). A Chihuahuan Raven was reported from *Refugio* 18 Oct (PHo). Two juv. Purple Martins at Imperial Res., *Pecos* 15 Aug (ECa) provided a rare county record, despite being in the e. Trans-Pecos. A Violet-green Swallow was studied briefly at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 2 Aug (SW, EF). A cool front brought a high count of 90+ Northern Rough-winged Swallows to L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine* 10 Oct (DWo). A single Cave Swallow at L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine* 10 Oct (DWo) provided a county first.

TITMICE THROUGH WARBLERS

Juniper Titmice appeared this season in *El Paso*, where the species is found on average about once per decade: 4 were in El Paso 30 Sep (ph. BZi), with at least one still there 17 Nov, and 2 more at another location in town 18 Nov (DA). An early Winter Wren was in Amarillo, *Potter* 16 Sep (DMc), while one at the Ft. Hancock Res. 7-9 Oct (BZi) was the 4th for *Hudspeth*. An impressive total of 70 Marsh Wrens was estimated on a walk through the Katy Prairie, *Waller* 14 Nov (BH, RW, KP). Early arriving Ruby-crowned Kinglets included one at El Paso, *El Paso* 23 Aug (JSp) and another at Richland Creek W.M.A., *Freestone* 5 Sep (DDC, DLi). A staggering 250+ Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were tal-

lied at L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine* 5 Sep (DWo). A Western Bluebird was at Palo Duro Canyon, *Randall* 17 Oct (MHa), and 2 were at Lubbock, *Lubbock* 22 Oct (PK). A Veery and a Gray-cheeked Thrush at Blucher Park in Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 12 Oct (MC) provided rare fall records for these thrushes. Swainson's Thrushes of note included singles in Midland, *Midland* 15 Sep (DMe, JMe) and Shamrock, *Wheeler* 26 Sep (AnH). Gray Catbirds were noted in the Trans-Pecos in El Paso, *El Paso* 6-8 Oct (JKi) and Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 23 Oct-8 Nov (DJ et al.). Sage Thrashers made a good showing in the w. half of the state, but singles at Stillhouse Hollow Res., *Bell* 23 Oct (JeP) and on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 7 Nov (BH) were well east. Westward-wandering Brown Thrashers included singles at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 23 Oct (DJ) and Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 24 Oct (StC, m.ob.). Two early Cedar Waxwings were noted at Longview, *Gregg* 17 Sep (CT).

A Blue-winged Warbler along the Azalea Trail, *Angelina* 29 Aug (LD) was a nice find. A Tennessee Warbler near Jayton, *Kent* 9 Oct (AnH) provided a county first. An early Orange-crowned Warbler was at Houston, *Harris* 4 Sep (BGr). A female Northern Parula made an appearance in El Paso, *El Paso* 3 Oct (JKi). A Chestnut-sided Warbler in Mason, *Mason* 7 Oct (DF) was a good find. A Magnolia Warbler was a great find at Ft. Bliss, *El Paso* 24 Sep (BZi). A Cape May Warbler, always noteworthy in fall, was at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 17 Oct (JWh). Black-throated Blue Warblers found away from the coast included singles at River Legacy Park, *Tarrant* 18 Sep (SG), near Hub, *Parmer* 3 Oct (CRu), and in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 3 Nov (MEa, ME). An early Yellow-rumped Warbler was at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 29 Aug (JPa), while other early ones were at Alazan Bayou W.M.A., *Nacogdoches* 2 Oct (DWo) and Paradise Pond, *Nueces* 3 Oct (MC). Black-throated Gray Warblers along the coast included singles near Mathis, *San Patricio* 1 Sep (RB) and Houston, *Harris* 25-26 Sep (CB), while one in El Paso, *El Paso* 25 Nov (JPa) was late. A Black-throated Green Warbler near Crowell, *Foard* 11 Oct (AnH) was probably a county first. A Townsend's Warbler was on S. Padre I., *Cameron* 31 Aug (ph. EC). An apparent Hermit Warbler x Townsend's Warbler hybrid was carefully studied at Garner S.P., *Uvalde* 1 Nov (†MHe, KHe). A Blackburnian Warbler just e. of the Pecos R. in *Crockett* 21 Oct (DJ) was an excellent find. Pine Warblers far w. for the fall included one in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 13 Sep (ph. KB) and near Lorenzo, *Crosby* 25 Oct (ML). A Prairie Warbler at the White Rock Lake Fish Hatchery, *Dallas* 31 Aug (CR, JPe)

provided a good local record. Palm Warblers of note included singles at in Mason, *Mason* 26 Sep (DF), at L. Nasworthy, *Tom Green* 13 Nov (AnH), and at River Legacy Park, *Tarrant* 7 Nov (SG). Three Cerulean Warblers in Houston, *Harris* 8 Aug (JKe) and one at Webberville Park, *Travis* 21 Aug (BF) were outstanding finds for the fall. A Black-and-white Warbler at the Ft. Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 9 Oct (BZi) was an overdue county first. An American Redstart at High I., *Galveston* 11 Aug (JKe) was on the early side. A Prothonotary Warbler at the Cibolo Creek Ranch, *Presidio* 10 Sep (ph. BZi) made for a rare county record. A Worm-eating Warbler was a rarity in Weslaco, *Hidalgo* 3 Oct (DJ). Two Louisiana Waterthrushes were detected in Big Bend, *Brewster* during the expected Aug migratory window: one at Sam Nail Ranch 8 Aug (D'Wo) and another at Boot Spring 15 Aug (CR). A Kentucky Warbler at Utopia Park, *Uvalde* 9-18 Aug (ph.MHe) was an unusual record for the w. portion of the plateau; one at Weslaco, *Hidalgo* 2 Oct (MBS) was on the late side. Fourteen MacGillivray's Warblers at the Ft. Bliss sewage ponds, *El Paso* 21 Aug (BZi) made a good one-day total. Red-faced Warblers were detected in the Chisos Mts., *Brewster* during expected Aug migration window, with perhaps the same bird noted 6 (JCr) & 9 Aug (D'Wo). An outstanding find was a Painted Redstart at Uvalde, *Uvalde* 17 Sep (ph. BR). After many failed attempts to follow up on the initial Jul sighting, the pair of Rufous-capped Warblers was relocated along the Big Bend's Window Trail, *Brewster* 14-16 Sep (†TS et al.)

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

An exceptionally early Green-tailed Towhee was in Waco, *McLennan* 17 Sep (FB, JMu). A Clay-colored Sparrow at Quintana, *Brazoria* 4 Sep (JSt) was early. A Vesper Sparrow photographed in Port Arthur, *Jefferson* 19 Sep (*vide* JWh) provided a new early record for the U.T.C. A Sage Sparrow at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 24 Oct (ph. StC, m.ob.) provided a rare South Plains record. An early Lark Bunting in *Dewitt* 24 Oct turned out to be an indicator of a major influx of this species into South Texas, highlighted by 1075 tallied in *Dewitt* 26 Nov (DMu). Very early Le Conte's Sparrows were noted at Common Ford Park, *Travis* 2 Oct (IS) and Katy Prairie, *Waller* 3 Oct (BH). An excellent find was 2 Henslow's Sparrows in *Upshur* 28 Nov (MEd). A Nelson's Sparrow on S. Padre I., *Cameron* 22 Nov (WC, ph. PWe) was s. of the expected range. A Dark-eyed Junco at High I., *Galveston* 17 Oct (BLi) was an early arriver for the U.T.C. Up to 8 Smith's Longspurs at Cement Creek

L., *Tarrant* 25-27 Oct (JoC) provided a very nice find for the county. A

Scarlet Tanager at Galveston, *Galveston* 31 Oct (BBE) was rather late. A nice count of 5000 Dickcissels was made on the Katy Prairie, *Waller* 12 Sep (BH). A count of 20+ Western Meadowlarks at Smith Point, *Chambers* 27 Oct (JKe) was an exceptionally high count for e. of Galveston Bay. Yellow-headed Blackbirds made a good showing on the U.T.C., with 10 on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 5 Oct (JSt) and 5 near Brookshire, *Waller* 14 Oct (CD). A Rusty Blackbird wandered w. to Friona, *Parmer* 2 Nov (BP). A male Baltimore Oriole in Lubbock, *Lubbock* 5 Oct (BGi) was w. of the normal migration path. A Cassin's Finch arrived in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 2 Oct (MEa, ME) and was followed by singles in El Paso, *El Paso* 31 Oct (BZi) and 30 Nov (BZi), suggesting that more might be on the way. An early Pine Siskin was at the Heard Museum, *Collin* 7 Oct (GG). At least one Red Crossbill was present between Bastrop S.P. and Buescher S.P., *Bastrop* 13 Nov+ (PR).

Corrigenda: In the spring report, the Masked Duck at Laguna Atascosa, *Cameron* 16 Mar+ should have been attributed to Rex Stanford, and the location of the possible Pacific Golden-Plover was near Hargill, *Hidalgo* rather than near Progresso (*North American Birds* 63: 464-469).

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Dan Allen, Linda Alley, Joann Andrews (JAn), Marcus Arreguin (MAR), John Arvin (JAR), Mike Austin (MAu), Peter Barnes, Trey Barron, Bob Becker (BBE), John Berner (JBe), Brian Biefelt (BBi), Mike Bloodsworth, Carol Bookout, Rik Brittain, Kelly Bryan, Frank Bumgardner, Winnie Burkett, J. Allen Burrows (JAB), Ernesto Cabrerias, Blaine Carnes, Eric Carpenter (ECa) (Central Texas: 5604 Southwest Pkwy #2222, Austin, Texas 78735. email: ecarpe@gmail.com), Will Carter, Sheridan Coffey (ShC), Scarlet Colley (ScC), Steve Collins (StC), Greg Cook, Janet Cook (JaC), Mel Cooksey, Elaine Councill (ECo), Joe Cox (JoC), Jim Criles (JCr), D. D. Currie (DDC) (North-Central Texas: 2703 Colleen Dr., Arlington, TX 76016. email: ddbirder@sbcglobal.net), Tripp Davenport, Louis Debetaz, Kausubh Deshpande, Carolyn Dill, Robin Doughty, Bill Duke, Anita Durel, Marc Eastman (MEa), Maryann Eastman, Gil Eckrich, Mark Edmund (MEd), Ed Fair, Tim Fennell (TiF), Terry Ferguson (TeF), Dixie Feuerbacher, Mark Flippo, Brush Freeman, Bert Frenz (East Texas: 221 Rainbow Dr., #12190, Livingston, TX 77399-2021. email: bert2@bafrenz.com), Terry Fuller (TFu), Fred Gehlbach, Nora Gehlbach, Brian

Gibbons (BGi), Karen Gleason, Steve Glover, Bernd Gravenstein (BGr), John Groves, Georgette Guernsey, Mary Gustafson (MGu), David Gwin, Manuelita Gwin (MGw), Peggy Harding (PHa), Mark Hassell (MHa), Mitch Heindel (MHe), Kathy Heindel (KHe), Mitch Heindel (MHe), Rhandy Helton, Jim Henderson (JHe), Anthony Hewetson (AnH) (Northwest Texas: 4407 36th St., Lubbock TX 79414. email: terrvets@yahoo.com), Aveline Hewetson (AvH), Toby Hibbitts, Kelly Hill, Kelly Himmel (KHi), Petra Hockey (PHO), Jason Hogle (JHo), Bob Honig, Martha Hood (MHo), Simone Jenion, Dan Jones, Joanne Kamo (JKa), Donna Kelly, Joe Kennedy (JKe), Tom Kihn, Keith Kingdon, John Kiseda (JKi), Phillip Kite, Rich Kostecke, Greg Lavaty, Allison Leavitt (ALl), Dan Leavitt (DLe), Ann Lemon (AnL), Leslie Linehan, Brad Lirette (BLi), Dell Little (DLi), Mark Lockwood, Bill Lupardus (BLu), David MacDonald (DMa), Greg Mason, Leslie Mason, Terry Massey, Don McColl (DMc), Jeff McIntyre (JeM), Jon McIntyre (JMc), Brad McKinney, Don Merritt (DMe), Joann Merritt (JMe), Miranne Merritt-Pellerin (MMP), John Muldrow (JMu), Derek Muschalek (DMu), Kyle OHaver, Gene Odom, Dale Ohl, Brent Ortego, Jim Paton (JPa) (Trans-Pecos: 4325 Boy Scout Lane, El Paso, TX 79922. email: paton-jn@netzero.net), Jeff Patterson (JeP), Jim Peterson (JPe), Barrett Pierce, Randy Pinkston, Kevin Poling, Max Pons, Linda Price, Bob Rasa, Ross Rasmussen, Ross Rasmussen (RRa), Eddie Ray (ERa), Martin Reid, J. & J. Riddick, Cecilia Riley (CRi), Susan Riley, Phil Rostron, Will Roundtree, Forrest Rowland, Eric Runfeldt (ERu), Chris Runk, Christopher Rustay (CRu), Isaac Sanchez, Laura Sare, Tom Schulenberg, Willie Sekula (South Texas: 7063 Co. Rd. 228, Falls City, TX 78113-2627. email: wsekula@copper.net), Kenneth Seyffert, Judy Sharp (JSh), Ursula Sherrill, Charles Smith (CSm), Rachel Smith, Pam Smolen, John Sproul (JSp), Diane Stelzer, Jim Stevenson (JSt), Cliff Stogner (CSt), Byron Stone (BSt), Rose Marie Stortz (RMS), Mary Beth Stowe (MBS), Brady Surber (BSu), Bryan Tarbox, Larry Therrien, Candy Troop, Christian Walker, Patrick Walther (PWa), David Weaver (DWe), Ron Weeks (UTC: 110 Indian Warrior, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. email: ronweeks@sbcglobal.net), Paul Wentzel (PWe), Ed Wetzel, John Whittle (JWh), Stu Wilson, David Wolf (D'Wo), Jim Wright (JWr), Bob Zeller (BZe), Louise Zematis, Barry Zimmer (BZi). 🌐

Mark W. Lockwood, 402 East Harriet Avenue Alpine, Texas 79830. (mark.lockwood@tpwd.state.tx.us)
Eric Carpenter, 5604 Southwest Parkway #2222 Austin, Texas 78735. (ecarpe@gmail.com)
Willie Sekula, 7063 County Road 228

Colorado & Wyoming



Lawrence S. Semo (passerines)
Tony Leukering (non-passerines)
Bill Schmoker

The Region had its share of climatic ups and downs over the long fall season. Most notable were a cold and wet October for both states—October's average temperatures were much below normal and precipitation amounts above normal—followed by a warm and dry November that found both states' temperatures above normal and precipitation below normal in Colorado and much below normal in Wyoming. In the end, Colorado ended the season a little drier than it began, with the USDA Drought Monitor categorizing much of western Colorado as abnormally dry and the Four Corners area experiencing moderate drought. Northeastern Wyoming also developed an extremely dry area by the end of the season, while the remainders of both states remained clear of drought categorization. Late fall visits to normally productive reservoirs were often disappointing, with a dearth of "good" waterfowl and jaeger reports. After being spoiled with several previous seasons of abundance, Sabine's Gulls were also few and far between this fall. Promising was another Cave Swallow report in Colorado (a species with a handful of single-observer reports but not yet accepted to the state list), while the warbler migration was somewhat modest. Near the end of the reporting period, a pair of White-winged Crossbills began their now multiple-season suburban tenure at an unusually low elevation, in Fort Collins.

Abbreviations: Chico (Chico Basin Ranch, El Paso and Pueblo, CO). "West Slope" denotes locations w. of the Rockies. 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. Because most rarities are seen by multi-

ple observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and identifying the bird are identified here. Undocumented reports from Colorado of Colorado B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review species (<www.cfo-link.org>) are summarized at the end of this report.

GEESE THROUGH CORMORANTS

The 11 Greater White-fronted Geese at Cañon City, *Fremont* 18 Oct+ (M. Miller, RM), of returning birds plus progeny, accounted for the seasonal maximum, but the single ad. at Navajo Res., *Archuleta* 5-10 Oct (JBy) provided the first for the season and the only West Slope report. One report of 3 Trumpeter Swans and four reports totaling 12 Tundra Swans were all that the Colorado season could muster, but 2 Tundra Swans in swan-poor *Denver* 5 Nov (GW, L. Kilpatrick) were noteworthy. The high count in Wyoming, where the species migrates through more commonly, was 23 at Yant's Puddle, *Natrona* 8 Nov (CM). Wood Ducks with young were observed 15 Aug (and present through 26 Sep) far to the nw. in Colorado at Craig, *Moffat* (FL), extending the species' known local breeding range, while 2 at Carbondale, *Garfield* 28 Nov (TM) were pushing seasonal boundaries. A dark male dabbling duck photographed in Pueblo, *Pueblo* 21 Nov+ (K. Shipe, J. Mitchell) was thought to be either a Mexican Duck × Mallard intergrade or a Mottled Duck × Mallard hybrid. The state's recent spate of spring and summer Mexican Duck records might suggest the former. Two Blue-winged Teal in *Broomfield* 15 Nov (TS) were late, while one in *Teton*, WY 20 Nov (J. Owens) was incredibly late. Also late in Wyoming was a Hooded Merganser in *Platte* 7 Nov (K. Kranik).

We received just four reports totaling 5 Greater Scaup, which were outnumbered by both Surf Scoter (five reports, 10 individuals) and White-winged Scoter (8, 16). The scoter highlights were the single Surf Scoter at L. Avery, *Rio Blanco* 20 Oct (DH) that provided a rare nw. Colorado report and the 7 White-winged Scoters at Timnath Res., *Larimer* 31 Oct (CW). The scoter "lowlight" was the complete lack of reports from South Park, *Park*, the epicenter of Colorado scoter abundance in recent years. Rounding out the scoter show were the three reports of single female-plumaged Black Scoters, all at Front Range locations. The high fall count of Barrow's Goldeneyes in Colorado was 45, in the last week of Nov at Craig (TD, FL). An ad. male at the JTL Ponds, *Natrona* 10 Nov (CM) was e. of normal for Wyoming.

Despite the very poor showing of the two common loon species in Colorado (9 single Pacifics, five reports of 27 Commons), there

was a veritable plethora of rare loons reported this fall, two singles of each species, though one of the Yellow-billed Loons went undocumented. Red-throated Loons were documented at Union Res., *Weld* 30 Oct–1 Nov (juv.; NP) and at Pueblo Res., *Pueblo* 7-14 Nov (age unreported; V. Truan); Arctic Loons (p.a.) were reported from Union Res. 25 Oct (ad.; WS) and Marston Res., *Denver* 31 Oct–19 Nov (unreported age; D. Kibbe); and a juv. Yellow-billed Loon graced Jumbo Res., *Sedgwick* and *Logan* 20-29 Nov (CW, ph. LS). Single Red-necked Grebes were found at Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe* 18 Oct–8 Nov (C. L. Wood) and Union Res. 25 Oct–2 Nov (TD), while the peak of *Aechmophorus* abundance was of 2000+ at Standley L., *Jefferson* 11 Oct (LS). Single Neotropical Cormorants were noted at Timnath Res., *Larimer* 14 Aug (ad.; NK) and Big Johnson Res., *El Paso* 22 Oct (juv.; JD).

HERONS THROUGH JAEGERS

The family group of Least Bitterns was present in *Larimer* through at least 3 Aug (CW, NK). A calico Little Blue Heron near Prewitt Res., *Washington* 29-30 Aug (JK) was unique for the season. Considering the great reduction of numbers of Cattle Egrets on Colorado's e. plains in recent decades, the 100+ found at Red Lion S.W.A., *Logan* 23-30 Aug (BK) was a real eye-popper. Of the three other reports, 2 provided a *Ouray* first near Ridgeway 24 Oct (CDe, BW), and one was quite late 14 Nov at Totten Res. (*vide* JBy) and on the West Slope, where rare. An ad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Jumbo Res., *Logan* 23-30 Aug (MP) was surprising but the 3 juvs. not far away near Crook 2 Sep (E. DeFonso) even more so. A juv. Northern Goshawk was unusual at Duck Creek S.W.A., *Logan* 12 Sep (CW), both in location and in seasonal timing (a tad early). An ad. Broad-winged Hawk in *Saguache* 30 Aug (J. Beason) provided a county first and this season's only report from w. of the Front Range. The ad. light-morph Harlan's Hawk that was photographically documented on migration in Alaska in spring 2009 returned to its Hygiene, *Boulder* haunts by 8 Nov (C. Nunes) (see: Schmoker, B., and J. Liguori. 2010. Photo-recovery of a Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk in Colorado and Alaska. *Colorado Birds* 44: 16-19). A Peregrine Falcon (age unreported) at Rifle Gap Res., *Garfield* 15 Nov (TM) was late.

As many as 6 American Golden-Plovers, a sizable number, graced Timnath Res. 11-16 Oct (CW). A Snowy Plover was out of place at Jumbo Res., *Logan* 30 Aug (BK), and a Black-necked Stilt was out of place and late at Grand Junction, *Mesa* 20-31 Oct (B. Bradley). The lateness of a Lesser Yellowlegs at Stagecoach



This cooperative juvenile Parasitic Jaeger, first observed at Chatfield Reservoir, Jefferson/Douglas Counties, Colorado 5-13 (here 11) November 2009, was almost certainly the same bird that appeared later at Pueblo Reservoir, Pueblo County 14-15 November. Photograph by Glenn Walbek.

Res., *Routt* 1-3 Nov (CDo, TL) was probably due to its broken leg. Single Upland Sandpipers were heard calling in nocturnal migration over *Boulder* 20 (TF) & 24 Aug (TD); the detection of these birds w. of what used to be considered normal is becoming a tradition for these two listeners. Three juv. Long-billed Curlews at *Ridgway* Res. 28 Aug (ph. CDe) were nearly unprecedented in *Ouray*. Very rare in Wyoming, a Ruddy Turnstone was at *Edness K. Wilkins S.P., Natrona* 5 Sep (A. Hines, B. Rickman). A Sanderling at *Totten Res., Montezuma* 23 Sep (M. & D. Hill) was on the West Slope, where rare. Also rare on the West Slope, single Semipalmated Sandpipers visited *Craig* 15 Aug (FL) and *Rio Blanco Res., Rio Blanco* 23 Aug (DH), and Pectoral Sandpipers were noted thrice: 3 at *Narraguinnep Res., Montezuma* 8 Sep (CDe, BW); one at *Navajo Res.* 10 Oct (HM, JBy) that probably provided an *Archuleta* first; and up to 2 at *Stagecoach Res.* 1-3 Nov (CDo et al.). Buff-breasted Sandpipers (presumably juvs.) were documented from *Cherry Creek Res.* 29 Aug-2 Sep (G. & L. Ackert) and *Jumbo Res., Logan* 29 Aug-2 Sep (BSc). Most unusually, Red-necked and Red Phalaropes were reported in equal numbers this fall: the only Red-necked was noted at *Chatfield Res., Jefferson* 8 Nov (BSc, GW), and the Red was documented from *Timnath Res.* 6 Sep (CW, NK).

A second-cycle Black-legged Kittiwake at *Colorado Springs, El Paso* 9 Nov (B. Kozar) was unusual, particularly as the bird was not at a large reservoir. A fresh juv. Bonaparte's Gull was a surprise at *Jumbo Res., Logan* and *Sedgwick* 23 Aug (BK); most migrant first-cycle birds arrive in Colorado in formative plumage and much later. Pitiably, 3 of the 4 Laughing Gulls and all of the 6 Mew Gulls went undocumented. The documented Laughing Gull was an ad. at *Timnath Res.* 24 Aug-5 Sep (R. Hop-

per). Two Herring Gulls were at *Vallecito Res., La Plata* 8 Aug (S. Allerton)—a month and a half early. Of the mere 10 reports of Thayer's Gull, the one of a juv. at *Stagecoach Res.* 3-26 Nov (TL) provided only the 3rd or 4th West Slope record and the first for *Routt*. All nine reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull came from the I-25 corridor from *Larimer* to *Pueblo*. Single Least Terns were n. of normal and seasonally odd at *Boyd L., Larimer* 10 Sep (W. Reeser) and *Sixmile Res., Boulder* 23-24 Sep (BSc), while a Black Tern was at high elevation at *Crystal Lakes, Lake* 23 Aug (TK). The most interesting of two Caspian Tern reports was of an individual in the mts. at *Blue Mesa Res., Gunnison* 5 Sep (V. Zerbi). Very oddly, Parasitic Jaeger accounted for half of the jaeger reports for the season, particularly odd in a season without a single report of Pomarine Jaeger. And of even more interest, the two reports probably pertained to the same individual at locations separated by almost 150 km! The first report came from *Chatfield Res., Jefferson* and *Douglas* 5-13 Nov (JK), the other from *Pueblo Res.* 14-15 Nov (*vide* BKP).

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Five reports of 7 White-winged Doves from four counties were all that could be mustered in Colorado, while Wyoming had one report, of a bird in *Goshen* 11 Sep (C. Fitz). Regarding Inca Doves, the *Lamar, Prowers* colony continues; we received no word about the *Rocky Ford, Otero* birds; one visited a feeder in *Las Animas, Bent* 10 Nov (ph. DN). The only Black-billed Cuckoo report came from *Park, WY* 1 Aug (J. Brauch). Providing another point of data for our vague understanding of screech-owl distribution in se. Colorado, an Eastern Screech-Owl was heard at *Cottonwood Canyon, Baca* 24 Oct (MP), one of very few sites at which both species' have been recorded multiple times. Late for Wyoming, a Common Nighthawk was near *Saratoga, Carbon* 25 Sep (SL). An imm. female Black-chinned Hummingbird was both late and northerly, while an imm. male Broad-tailed Hummingbird was "merely" late—amidst snow and ice—in *Lakewood, Jefferson* 8 Oct (M. Chavez), with the latest hummer, a Broad-tailed, at that same location lingering until 19 Oct. Establishing the 2nd record for Wyoming, an imm. male *Anna's Hummingbird* was at *Jackson, Teton* 20 Oct (S. Patla).

West of normal and only the 3rd for Wyoming's *Carbon*, a Red-headed Woodpecker was near *Saratoga* 25 Sep (SL).

Black Phoebes were reported from six s. and cen. Colorado locations, with the latest reports coming from *Fremont* and *Pueblo* 30 Nov. Westerly Great Crested Flycatchers were in *Fort Collins, Larimer* 3-5 Sep (L. Griffin) and *Chico, Pueblo* 11-15 Sep (JD). This species breeds regularly in extreme ne. Colorado and sparingly in the se. corner of the state; migrants are not detected annually in Front Range areas. A first for *Hinsdale*, an Eastern Kingbird was found at *Cebolla S.W.A.* 14 Sep (JBy); the species breeds very locally in w. Colorado lowlands and is rarely seen at such high elevations. A Blue-headed Vireo, a review species in Colorado, was observed at *Valco Ponds S.W.A., Pueblo* 25 Sep (BKP). Very late vireos included a Warbling Vireo 4 Nov in *Greeley, Weld* (NE) and a Red-eyed Vireo 1 Nov in *Arvada, Jefferson* (R. Michaels). Rare for the West Slope, a Red-eyed Vireo was in extreme se. Colorado at *McElmo Canyon, Montezuma* 24 Aug (DAL). Very rare in the *San Luis Valley*, 2 Chihuahuan Ravens were detected near *Blanca, Costilla* 20 Aug (JBy). A Tree Swallow was very late at *Plaster Res., Broomfield* 14 Nov (TS), and a Cave Swallow was reported below *Pueblo Res., Pueblo* 25 Sep (BKP). Although there are a few reports of Cave Swallow from Colorado, there are no accepted records in the Region.

Unusually high in elevation, a Canyon Wren probed the rocks at 3450 m in *San Juan* 22 Aug (J. Bregar). Single Carolina Wrens visited *Orlando Res., Huerfano* 1 Sep (MP, BSt) and *Lamar* 24-26 Oct (MP). Five Winter Wrens were observed, a fairly high number for fall; the wrens s. of *Lamar* 24 Oct (J. Stulp) and in *Cañon City* 7 Nov (RM) were not identified to subspecies group, whereas the 3 *Boulder* individuals included a *pacificus* at *Gregory Canyon, Boulder* 10 Nov (WS, NP, v.r.) and a *pacificus* and *hiemalis* together along the *St. Vrain R.* 26 Nov+. Of great interest, a Veery at *Chatfield S.P., Jefferson* 28 Nov (JK) was record late by about a month; the C.B.R.C. would appreciate details on this report. A Varied Thrush at *Chico, Pueblo* 15 Oct (BM) provided a first local record. The Brown Thrasher at a residence in *Carbon* 19-22 Nov (F. Bergquist) was quite late and w. of usual for Wyoming. The only Bohemian Waxwing reports involved

If accurate, the reports that bird breeding success in the Arctic was generally poor in 2009 may be the ultimate factor in the very poor Regional showing by Sabine's Gull. We received only 13 reports of 16 individuals (of these, 2 were in Wyoming), with the high count being of only 2, at each of three locations. Though the flight was slow in getting going, the first 3 were all ads., 23 Aug-12 Sep. A highlight was provided by 2 juvs. at *Navajo Res.* 5-10 Oct (JBy) in sw. Colorado; all other Colorado individuals (12) were, as expected, in e. Colorado.

a flock of 150 at Mammoth, Park, WY 23 Nov (M. Hurt) and a single at Castlewood Canyon S.P., Douglas 28 Nov (L. Reynolds).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

It was a relatively quiet autumn for eastern warblers in Colorado, as revealed by the paltry numbers of Northern Parulas (one) and Tennessee (3), Chestnut-sided (one), Magnolia (3), and Hooded (2) Warblers reported from the e. half of the state. By contrast, the numbers of Black-throated Blue (5), Palm (5), and Prothonotary (3) Warblers were above normal. Rare finds included a Yellow-throated Warbler in the mts. at Estes Park, Larimer 20-25 Oct (S. Rashid, J. Roederer) and 2 Kentucky Warblers: a continuing bird from summer at Gregory Canyon through 16 Aug (R. & C. Steinkamp), and another at Lamar 24 Oct (MP, BSt). Single Clay-colored Sparrows, a species rare in w. Colorado and the cen. spine of mts., straggled westward to Crystal Lakes 23 Aug (TK), providing a *Lake* first; to Durango, La Plata 12 Sep (JBy, HM); to Rio Blanco Res. 14 Sep (DH); and to Archuleta and Mineral (both 5 Oct; JBy). Field Sparrows also wandered w. of usual, with reports from Doudy Draw, Boulder 19 Sep (WS); from near Florence, Fremont 25 Sep-5 Oct (P. Gould); and from Chico, Pueblo 29 Sep (JD). Very late for Wyoming, a Vesper Sparrow was in Casper, Natrona 29 Nov (CM), whereas a Savannah Sparrow at John Martin Res., Bent 28 Nov was only moderately late (DN). Establishing a rare w. Colorado record and a first for Montrose, a Grasshopper Sparrow visited Nucla 19 Sep (CDe). Rare, but somewhat predictable in wet grasslands in migration (and, rarely, winter) in Colorado, up to 6 Le Conte's Sparrows were at Fox Ranch, Yuma 3 Oct (TF, BM, B. Patrick, BSc); another was in Park, WY 13 Sep (M. Hoffman). The Cañon City Golden-crowned Sparrow returned 20 Oct (RM) for its 3rd win-

ter. Only two reports of Snow Bunting came from Wyoming: one at Healey Res, Johnson 6 Nov (V. Hays, J. Adams) and 7 at Ocean's L., Fremont 20 Nov (J. Downham, B. Hargis).

Two Summer Tanagers, a species much rarer in fall than spring, made late appearances during the season. One was at Pueblo 3 Oct (T. Ivahnenko, R. Clawges), and another graced Livermore, Larimer 11 Nov (D. Beaver). The Western Tanager at Lathrop S.P., Huerfano 10 Nov (RM) was quite late. Of the 7 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported, one at Lake City, Hinsdale 6 Aug (V. Simmons), one at Pueblo 8 Nov (M. Yaeger), and one at Grand Junction, Mesa 17 Nov (N. Korte) were most unusual. A Painted Bunting was a nice find at Chico, El Paso 27 Sep (S. Brown), though it was probably the 4th or 5th there in the past decade. A single Rusty Blackbird visited Last Chance, Washington 5 Nov (T. Jones). White-winged Crossbills were reported from the mts. in n. Grand 31 Oct (LS) and Steamboat Springs, Routt 23 Nov (TD). More interesting, however, was one in Fort Collins 20-26 Oct (*fide* C. Kogler) and a pair at Grandview Cemetery in the same city 22 Nov+ (DAL). Evening Grosbeaks staged a fairly good push onto the Eastern Plains, with reports during the season coming from Baca, Prowers, and Pueblo.

Undocumented rarities: The following review species were reported in the period from Colorado with no documentation: Red-throated Loon (*Custer, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson*); Yellow-billed Loon (*Jefferson*); Neotropic Cormorant (*Larimer*); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Alamosa, Larimer*); Common Black-Hawk (*Montrose*); Red-shouldered Hawk (*Prowers*); Yellow Rail (*Gunnison*); Hudsonian Godwit (*Larimer*); Red Knot (*Larimer*); Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Logan*); Black-legged Kittiwake (*Boulder*); Laughing Gull (2 in *Washington, Weld*); Mew Gull (*Arapahoe, Boulder,*

Larimer, and 2 in *Pueblo*); Western Gull (2 in *Larimer*); Glaucous-winged Gull (*Mesa*); Arctic Tern (2 in *Weld*); Long-tailed Jaeger (*Mesa*); Blue-throated Hummingbird (*Fremont*); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (2 in *Prowers*); Eastern Wood-Pewee (2 in *Washington*); Alder Flycatcher (*Lincoln, Pueblo*); Blue-headed Vireo (*Bent, Lincoln, Prowers, Weld*); Varied Thrush (*Weld*); Cape May Warbler (*Fremont, Sedgwick*) Blackburnian Warbler (*Boulder, Fremont*, and 2 each in *Larimer and Weld*); Pine Warbler (*Prowers*); Red Fox Sparrow (*Bent, Weld*); Eastern Meadowlark (*Adams*); Purple Finch (*Larimer*, 2 in *Prowers*).

Cited observers (subregional editors in bold-face): Jim Beatty (sw. Colorado), Todd Deininger, Coen Dexter (CDe, w.-cen. Colorado), Craig Dodson, John Drummond, Norm Erthal, Doug Faulkner (Wyoming), Ted Floyd, Dona Hilkey, Bill Kaempfer, Tim Kalbach, Joey Kellner, Nick Komar, Steve Larson, David A. Leatherman, Tom Litteral, Forrest Luke (nw. Colorado), Bill Maynard, Tom McConnell, Chris Michelson, Rich Miller, Heather Morris, Duane Nelson, Brandon K. Percival (se. Colorado), Mark Peterson, Nathan Pieplow, Bill Schmoker (BSc; Colorado Front Range), Larry Semo (n.e. Colorado), Tim Smart, Brad Steger (BSt), Walter Szeliga, Glenn Walbek (n.-cen. Colorado), Cole Wild, Brenda Wright. Many other individual observers contributed information to this report but could not be acknowledged here; they have our appreciation. ☺

Lawrence S. Semo, SWCA Environmental Consultants
295 Interlocken Boulevard, Ste. 300
Broomfield, Colorado 80021 (lsem@swca.com)
Tony Leukering, 102A Delaware Avenue
Villas, New Jersey 08251 (greatgrayowl@aol.com)
Bill Schmoker, 3381 Larkspur Drive
Longmont, Colorado 80503 (bill@schmoker.org)

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David Trochlell

The autumn of 2009 was renowned for its interesting if rather bizarre weather fluctuations. August was unseasonably cool and moist, but that changed dramatically with September's record-setting warm and dry conditions. Then October was unusually cold and moist and was followed by an atypically warm and dry November. Unfortunately, the bird migration picture was not as interesting as the season's weather; in fact, it would be best described as uneventful. Perhaps this might be attributed to a combination of no major fallouts, high reservoir levels, and early October's wintry weather.

Abbreviation: Latilong (area encompassed by one degree latitude and one degree longitude, used in mapping bird distribution in both Idaho and Montana); L.P. (Idaho Bird Observatory's banding station at Lucky Peak near Boise).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GULLS

Wayward Greater White-fronted Geese were notable in Idaho's *Latah* 6 Oct (TG) and *Kootenai* 1 Nov (LH), where they are unexpected. Even more noteworthy was a Greater White-fronted w. of Belgrade, MT 25 Oct and 2 others at Harrison Res., MT 26 Oct (RW) that represented first local reports in a decade. Idaho had a good turnout of Cackling Geese, with one in *Kootenai* 29 Oct (ph., †LH) and 9 *taverneri* at Moscow 13 Nov (ph. TG, †CS)—the latter the Region's largest Cackling flock on record. Apparently, Eurasian Wigeons were elsewhere this fall, as one in Helena, MT 11 Oct (BB) was the only report. A total of 24 Surf and 12 White-winged Scoters were recorded, representing an excellent season. Single Long-tailed Ducks were discovered in both states 25 Oct–20 Nov, typical for fall. Red-throated Loons, not reported annually in the Region, were detect-

ed at Cooney Res., *Carbon*, MT 3 Oct (BJ) and in *Kootenai*, ID 16-22 Oct (†LH, DW). Reports of 5 Pacific Loons 3 Oct–12 Nov represented an average fall season. With only eight accepted records of Yellow-billed Loon in Idaho, one at Sandpoint 5 Nov (p.a., †TG) was a great find. Far n. of range was a Clark's Grebe in *Clearwater*, ID 7 Sep (CS).

A Broad-winged Hawk documented in *Fremont* 5 Oct (\$CW) provided Idaho's first accepted fall record away from L.P. Three Gyrfalcons were reported 14 Oct–18 Nov, representing the best fall in four years. A Whimbrel at Warm Springs, MT 12 Sep (GS) provided a first record for *Latilong* 27C. Twelve Solitary Sandpipers in *Somers*, MT 3 Aug (DC) made an impressive Regional count. A Stilt Sandpiper at Harrison Res., MT 22 Oct (JP, RW) was record late. Montana's 13th Red Phalarope was a splendid find at Silver L., *Deer Lodge* 24 Oct (GS). A Parasitic Jaeger chasing a Ring-billed Gull at Ennis L., MT 22 Oct (ph., †JP; RW) provided the only report of a jaeger this season; Parasitics have been recorded at this location in three of the past five fall seasons. Two wayward Franklin's Gulls visited Sandpoint, ID 15 Aug (RD), where they are occasional. The tally of rare-but-regular larids was fairly typical, with 7 Mew, 4 Thayer's, one Glaucous, and 6 Sabine's Gulls reported. The headline bird of the season was Montana's 2nd Lesser Black-backed Gull at Harrison L., *Madison* 15 Sep (ph., †DC).

SA One of the highlights of autumn 2009 was the unprecedented number of Broad-winged Hawks reported by the Region's hawkwatch sites. In Idaho, 84 were detected at the Lucky Peak banding station 7-27 Sep, which more than doubled the previous record count there. In Montana, 63 were seen at three hawkwatch sites 12 Sep–2 Oct, representing the Treasure State's 2nd highest count ever. Interestingly, before the advent of the hawkwatch sites in the early 1990s, it was not even known that small numbers of Broad-wingedets were regular migrants through the Region in fall.

PIGEONS THROUGH GRACKLES

A lost Band-tailed Pigeon at Elliston 9-12 Aug (GS) garnered Montana's 23rd record. Anna's Hummingbirds came through the Region in near-record numbers, with 7 reported 18 Aug–30 Nov. If accepted, a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird that graced a residence in *Gem* 20-21 Aug (ph., †FZ) will provide Idaho's 3rd record. Very unusual for n. Idaho was a Gray Flycatcher in *Moscow* 21 Sep (CS). A Say's Phoebe found in *Glacier* N.P., MT 7 Aug (SG) provided the first report there in 15

years. Montana's 11th Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen at *Bannack* 1 Sep (ph. BH). Pending acceptance, a Blue-headed Vireo documented in *Coolin* 22 Sep (†RB) would represent Idaho's 6th record. There was only one Idaho Blue Jay report, signifying a non-flight year. Only 2 Northern Mockingbirds were detected in s. Idaho, with one in *Gem* 21 Aug (FZ) and another in *Grandview* 25 Nov (CH).

The tally of rare warblers included a Tennessee Warbler in *Livingston*, MT 8 Oct (EH), a Northern Parula in *Boise*, ID 29 Sep–2 Oct (ph., †LU), and a Chestnut-sided Warbler at L.P. 10 Sep (ph., †RM). If accepted, a Hermit Warbler banded at L.P. 6 Aug (ph., †JC) will mark Idaho's 3rd record. Both interesting and far e. of its Cascadian range was a Townsend's Warbler x Hermit Warbler hybrid at L.P. 8 Aug (JC). An early snowstorm grounded a Hooded Warbler, Montana's 4th, in *Livingston* 7 Oct (ph., †EH). A Lark Sparrow was a local rarity near *Moscow*, ID 5 Sep (CS), and one near *Harrison*, MT 11 Oct (MB) was record late by a month. Numbers of rare *Zonotrichia* sparrows were fairly typical, with 12 White-throated, 2 Harris's, and 6 Golden-crowned Sparrows reported. With only four accepted fall precedents for Rose-breasted Grosbeak in Idaho, reports from L.P. 9 Sep (JC) and *Garden Valley* 8 Oct (LY) were surprising. Indigo Buntings detected at Idaho's *Camas* N.W.R. 8 Sep (DCI) and L.P. 12 Sep (ph. JC) represented an unusually good showing; this casual species has only been reported in four of the past 12 fall seasons. A Bobolink that passed through *Townsend* 18 Sep (RW) set a new Montana record late date by four days. Idaho's only reported Common Grackle was in *Grandview* 29 Nov (DH).

Contributors: (subregional editors in bold-face): Mike Becker, Robert Bond, Byron Butler, Kathleen Cameron, Jay Carlisle, Dan Casey, Darren Clark (DCI), Rich Del Carlo, Steve Gniadek, Terry Gray, Lisa Hardy, Ed Harper, Bart Hoag, Denise Hughes, Cheryl Huizinga, Barbara Jacquith, Ron Martin, John Parker, Shirley Sturts, Gary Swant, Charles Swift, Lew Ulrey, Doug Ward, Cliff Weisse, Robin Wolcott, Poo Wright-Pulliam, Linda Yearsley, Fred Zeilemaker. 📍

David Trochlell, 2409 East N Avenue
La Grande, Oregon 97850, (dtrochlell@verizon.net)

New Mexico



Sartor O. Williams III

The dry conditions of summer continued into fall 2009, until early cold and scattered precipitation arrived in mid-October. The season was characterized by conspicuous incursions of woodpeckers, jays, chickadees, and other montane groups, while grassland sparrows were notably scarce. Several interesting rarities were documented, and Blue-footed Booby and Golden-cheeked Warbler were added to the New Mexico list. Thanks to Bill Howe and John Parmeter for proofreading this report.

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, *Grant*); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R.); N.R.T. (n. Roosevelt migrant trap w. of Melrose); R.G.N.C. (Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque); P. O. Canyon (Post Office Canyon and surrounding Peloncillo Research Natural Area); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs and vicinity, *Eddy*).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Noteworthy for *Santa Fe* was a Greater White-fronted Goose at Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 15-22 Oct (ph. JPB, SF). A Tundra Swan reached E.B.L. 15 Nov (DC, ph. JO), and one was at Bosque in late Nov (CS); a swan below Conchas Dam 30 Nov (MW) may have been this species. A male Greater Scaup was w. to Bill Evans L. 27 Nov (RS). Two imm. Surf Scoters were at E.B.L. 15 Oct (MB, ph. CW); another was at L.V.N.W.R. 14 Nov (JEP). A high 50 Hooded Mergansers were at L.V.N.W.R. 8 Nov (PB). The Santa Barbara Ridge area, s. *Taos* was productive for White-tailed Ptarmigan, with one or more ads. and at least 2 chicks seen 8-17 Aug (ph. CW, JEP,

LM, W. Khuen). At the n. edge of their range, 8 Montezuma Quail were in the Datil Mts. 13 Sep (*fide* JH); scarce in the Organ Mts., one was at Aguirre Springs 1 Aug (CR).

A Red-throated Loon was at E.B.L. 27 Nov (ph. JO); a Pacific Loon at Stubblefield L. 6 Nov (JEP, JO) provided the lone report. Brown Pelicans in the news were an ad. at Morgan L. since 21 May, last seen 17 Oct (ph. TR), an imm. at Santa Rosa L. since 6 Jun, last seen 6 Oct (MH), and an imm. at Conchas L. 12 Sep (ph. JO); an ad. and 2 imm. were at E.B.L. 17 Aug-20 Nov (ph. DC, m.ob., ph.). High count for American White Pelican was 575 at E.B.L. 26 Sep (CR). New Mexico's first Blue-footed Booby was discovered at Conchas Dam 15 Aug (R. Mumford, ph. S. Peterson) and quickly attracted birders from around the country, who enjoyed its plunging antics until at least 10 Sep (m.ob., ph.). A Neotropic Cormorant was n. to Acomita L., *Cibola* 16 Oct (DH) and 14-17 Nov (CR, JO), and up to 2 were at Clovis 27 Aug-1 Oct (vt. JO, JEP, ph. S. Collins). Continuing scarce, single American Bitterns were at Belen 13 Sep (CR), Bosque 27 Sep (DH), and B.L.N.W.R. 23 Sep (JIS), where there were 3 on 21 Oct and on 18 Nov (JIS). Great Egrets were numerous in the R.G.V., including 73 at E.B.L. 1 Sep (DC) and 91 at Caballo L. 18 Sep (ph. DC), and wanderers were w. to *Grant* and n. to *Santa Fe* and *San Miguel*; late for *Cibola* was one at Acomita L. 14 Nov (CR). A strong Tricolored Heron season found singles at Clovis 23 Aug (CR), L. Avalon 6 Sep (SW), and Holloman L. 1 Aug (CR), one continuing from Jul at Brantley L. 1 Aug (JEP), and 2 continuing from Jul at B.L.N.W.R. 1-28 Aug (JEP, m.ob., ph.), with 3 there 9 Sep (JIS) and 4 on 11-12 Sep (JEP, JO). An imm. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at B.L.N.W.R. 23 Sep (ph. JIS).

Two peripheral Osprey nests were notably late—the Cochiti L. nest fledged 2 on 9 Aug (ph. MW), the Navajo Dam nest fledged 2 the next day (ph. TR). A Swallow-tailed Kite graced the skies over Santa Rosa's Power Dam Park 19-20 Sep (JEP, CMB, NH, ph. JO, CR), providing the 7th reliable state record. Single White-tailed Kites were at Bosque 11 Nov (ph. WH) and Columbus 15 Nov (JO, JEP, CW). A Mississippi Kite pair was feeding 2 fledglings at Corrales 31 Aug (DK, J. Ruth), 5 were n. to Santa Rosa 22 Aug (DH), and singles reached N.R.T. 21 Aug (JEP) and 5 Sep

(JEP, JO). A Bald Eagle was early at Santa Rosa L. 30 Aug (DK). Common Black-Hawks were at three Santa Rosa sites in Sep (m.ob.), and a migrant juv. was at Roswell 24 Sep (ph. C. Powell); last reported were singles at Percha 9 Oct (DG) and near Cliff 17 Oct (*fide* RS). Single Harris's Hawks were n. in the R.G.V. at Bosque 11 Nov (CS) and Radium Springs 14 Sep (MS, JZ); up to 3 were at Columbus 14-15 Nov (ph. JO, JEP). A probable Red-shouldered Hawk was heard but poorly seen at Percha 6 (CLB) & 9 Oct (DG). Broad-winged Hawks were scarce, with singles at Sumner L. 26 Sep (ph. NH) and N.R.T. 2 & 9 Oct (CR, JEP) the only reports away from the Manzano Mts. migration site, where 6 were counted 4 Sep-11 Oct (HawkWatch International). Noteworthy was a Gray Hawk soaring over Silver City 30 Sep (B. McKnight); single ads. were in Clanton Canyon 27 Sep (CR) and the R.S. area 19 Sep (SW). Merlins were reported from over half of New Mexico's counties 13 Sep-30 Nov; amazingly early, if accurate, were singles in the Ortiz Mts. 1 Aug (JPB, LS) and the San Mateo Mts. 12 Aug (WW).

RAILS THROUGH SWIFTS

Noteworthy for *Taos* were a Virginia Rail and a Sora at *Taos* 8 Aug (SW). An imm. Purple Gallinule near La Union 31 Aug (ph. D. Allen) furnished the state's 11th acceptable record. A Common Moorhen strayed to Deming 2 Nov (LM). Aerial surveys tallied 20,275 American Coots in the ne. 5 Oct (MW). Un-



Rarely verified in New Mexico, this Red-throated Loon was at Elephant Butte Lake, Sierra County 27 November 2009. Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

usual for the date was a Sandhill Crane near Cliff 17 Aug (*fide* RS), and an albino was in the Uvas Valley, *Doña Ana* 29 Oct (vt. JO); notable concentrations were 30,000 at Grulla N.W.R. 1 Nov (JO) and 23,500 at B.L.N.W.R. 4 Nov (JIS).

The earliest Black-bellied Plovers were 2 at Ruby Ranch n. of Las Vegas 23 Aug (WW); impressive were 16 counted at L. Avalon 7 Oct (SW). An American Golden-Plover was at Holloman L. 2 Oct (MB, CW). Late Semipalmated Plovers were one at Caballo L. 7 Nov (DC) and 2 at E.B.L. 8 Nov (DC). The "Patag-



Highlighting an active Brown Pelican season in New Mexico were these three at Elephant Butte Lake, Sierra County 17 August through 20 November (here) 2009. Photograph by David J. Cleary.

onia Picnic Table" effect was in play at Conchas L., where booby watchers found a Piping Plover 16 Aug (CR, m.ob., ph.), providing only the 4th confirmed state record. Late for the n. were 45 American Avocets at L.V.N.W.R. 20 Nov (JEP). Late Solitary Sandpipers were one at Zuni 27 Sep (JT) and 2 near Radium Springs 4 Oct (DG); high counts were 5 near Las Vegas 23 Aug (WW) and 6 at Alameda 7 Sep (CR). Upland Sandpipers made a strong showing in the e., with reports from seven counties 1 Aug–13 Sep, including up to 45 at Fort Sumner 9–11 Aug (ph. MB, JMB), 23 at Artesia 8 Aug (ph. JWS), and 60 at Otis 16 Aug (SW); noteworthy for Lincoln was one at Ramon 22 Aug (JEP). Two Whimbrels were at Holloman L. 20 Aug (SW). An impressive 500 Long-billed Curlews were near Tatum 6 Sep (JWS); late for the n. was one at L.V.N.W.R. 8 Nov (PB, MH). Marbled Godwits were scarce, with one at Tatum 10 Aug (JWS) and up to 8 at E.B.L. 3–24 Aug (DC) the only reports. An active Ruddy Turnstone season brought 2 to Conchas L. 18 Aug (M. Arthur) and singles to E.B.L. 3–4 Oct (ph. NP, ph. JO, m.ob.) and Bosque 12 Oct (DH). One to 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers were w. to Morgan L. 7–22 Aug (ph. TR) and 4 Sep (ph. TR). Late for the n. was a Western Sandpiper at Maxwell 20 Nov (JEP); another was at Tyrone 29 Nov (EL). A remarkable 36 Pectoral Sandpipers were counted at Zuni 27 Sep (JT). Dunlins arrived in the R.G.V. in late Oct, with singles at Bosque 24–29 Oct (R. Crofton, W. Harmon, JO) and E.B.L. 28–29 Oct (ph. DC, JO) and 4 at Caballo L. 29 Oct (ph. DC). Rare in New Mexico, a juv. Buff-breasted Sandpiper provided a Sierra first at E.B.L. 1–9 Oct (ph. DC, ph. JO, ph. JZ, m.ob.). Carefully documented were 2 Short-billed Dowitchers at Alameda 7–13 Sep (CW, m.ob., ph. JO) and 5 at B.L.N.W.R. 11 Sep (JEP). Two Red Phalaropes visited Holloman L. 25 Oct (vt. JO).

A juv. Black-legged Kittiwake at Bosque 14 Nov (ph. D. Brown) was the first in New Mexico since 2006. A juv. Sabine's Gull was at Sumner L. 11–13 Sep (JEP, JO, CW), and an ad. was there 19 Sep (NH, CMB); others were single juvs. at Conchas L. 18 Sep (JEP), Alameda 20 Sep (m.ob., ph.), E.B.L. 3 Oct (MB), and 2 at Brantley L. 17 Oct (CLB). A second-cycle Laughing Gull was at Brantley L. 17 Oct (CLB). Unexpectedly late were one Franklin's Gull at L.V.N.W.R. 3 Nov (WW) and 3 at Conchas L. 7 Nov (MB). A first-cycle Mew Gull was at E.B.L. 22 Nov (ph. DC); a first-cycle Thayer's was there 19 Oct (ph. H. Walker). Recently annual in New Mexico, a first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Sunland Park 9–11 Nov (ph. JNP). An apparent Gull-billed Tern was perched beside a Forster's at Brantley L. 12 Aug (SW); there is but one previous New Mexico record. Two unidentified jaegers were seen speeding over E.B.L. 18 Aug (DC).

An Inca Dove was n. to Conchas L. 18 Sep (JEP); a late pair at Las Cruces fledged one young 11 Oct (DG). Single Common Ground-Doves were at R.S. 1 Aug and 11 Sep (SW) and at Rodeo 27 Oct (CLB). Ruddy Ground-Dove, essentially annual in New Mexico over the past decade, made another strong showing, with a male on the Black R. 20 Sep (DG) and 16 Oct (CLB), a female at Percha 19 Oct (ph. JO), a male at Radium Springs 12 Oct (JZ), and one at Cotton City 27 Oct (CLB). A Flammulated Owl was at N.R.T. 2–12 Oct (ph. JO); the species is now a regular migrant to that isolated prairie site. An Elf Owl was vocal along Tierra Blanca Cr., w. Sierra 13 Aug (v.r. DC). Late were 2 Lesser Nighthawks at Las Cruces 3 Nov (DG). A Common Nighthawk swarm of at least 150 birds was over the Valley of Fires w. of Carrizozo 13 Aug (DG); late for the n. were 5 at Taos 13 Oct (JNS). Three Chimney Swifts

were w. to Las Vegas 23 Aug (WW). An impressive Vaux's Swift season found one to 5 at R.G.N.C. 1–2 Oct (JMB, m.ob., ph. JO, ph. CW, ph. JPB), one at E.B.L. 4 Oct (ph. JO), and one to 2 near Radium Springs 4 Oct (MS, ph. JZ, ph. DG, JO), plus 3 at San Simon Cienega 19 Sep and one there 26 Sep (RW); the state's first specimen was obtained in the Peloncillo Mts. 21 Sep (AJ).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

On the hummingbird front, Broad-billeds again wandered far from expected haunts, with a female e. to Waldrop Park 19–20 Sep (DH; a Chaves first), a female at Carlsbad 11 Oct (SW), 3 individuals near Radium Springs on various dates 10 Aug–14 Sep (MS, ph. JZ), and a female at Silver City 26 Sep (KB). Casual away from Guadalupe Canyon, a Violet-crowned Hummingbird at Las Cruces 3–11 Oct (R. Castetter, MS, ph. JZ, ph. DG, ph. JO) provided a 3rd *Doña Ana* record. A Blue-throated Hummingbird was at the Lewis Ranch, s. Guadalupe Mts., Eddy 12 Oct (SW), where reportedly present 5 Sep–18 Oct; among several Magnificent reports were singles in the Black Range above Meason Park 5 Aug (*fide* RS) and at Las Cruces 8 Oct (M. Weisenberger). Lucifer Hummingbirds in P. O. Canyon peaked at 31



New Mexico's seventh ever, this Swallow-tailed Kite sailed over the Pecos River at Santa Rosa, Guadalupe County 19–20 (here 20) September 2009. Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

on 18 Aug (CL); last was one there 24 Oct (CL). An ad. male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at R.S. 9 & 11 Sep (DG, SW). A Black-chinned Hummingbird at a feeder in Al-



Occasional at best in New Mexico, this young Purple Gallinule near La Union, Doña Ana County 31 August 2009 furnished the state's first since 2004 and the first ever for fall. Photograph by Dan Allen.

buquerque's North Valley was weathering a snowstorm 29 Oct and was last seen 31 Oct (BG). Post-breeding Anna's Hummingbirds were in the Peloncillo Mts. by 1 Aug, peaked at 30 in P. O. Canyon 9 Oct, and were gone by 5 Nov (CL); singles were e. to Las Cruces by 13 Sep (W. Seager), E.B.L. 18 Sep (DC), Florida Mts. 25 Oct (LM), and Carlsbad 29 Nov (SW). Late was an ad. male Rufous Hummingbird at Albuquerque 26 Nov (C. Witt).

Lewis's Woodpeckers on the move included one at the R.G.N.C. 5 Oct (ph. M. Bruce), flyover singles in the Ortiz Mts. 19 Sep (LS), Capilla Peak, Manzano Mts. 12 Oct (SMF), and Emory Pass 8 Oct (JL), plus singles s. to Virden 28 Nov (JEP) and Cotton City 27 Oct (CLB). Noteworthy for the lower R.G.V., a Red-headed Woodpecker was near Rincon 2 Oct (J. Douglas). Dispersing Acorn Woodpeckers included singles near Jemez Springs 8 Sep (C. Hayes), Fourth of July Canyon, Manzano Mts. 19 Sep (B. Millsap), Tyrone 11 Oct (EL), Florida Mts. 8 Sep (LM), Radium Springs 20 Oct (ph. JZ), and Tatum 9 Oct (JEP). Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were w. to Zuni's Tekapo 27 Sep (JT), in the R.G.V. at Luis Lopez 14 Oct (JO), and in the e. at Conchas L. 7 Nov (ph. MB) and at Portales in early Nov (Z. Jones); one to 2 were at R.S. 10 (SW) & 23-25 Oct (JO, JEP). Far e. was a Red-naped Sapsucker at Eunice 1 Oct (ph. PM). A Red-naped Sapsucker × Red-breasted Sapsucker hybrid was at Silver City 21 Oct (ph. A. Trombly); pure Red-breasted remains elusive in New Mexico. A Ladder-backed Woodpecker was nw. to Zuni 27 Sep (JT), where rare; a Downy was s. to Percha 26 Nov (SMF); single Hairy Woodpeckers were in the R.G.V. at Corrales 7 Sep (DK), R.G.N.C. 1 Oct (JEP), and Percha 17 Oct (JEP), and 2 reached Deming 22 Nov (LM). A pair of American Three-toed Woodpeckers and

fledglings were along the Sandia Crest trail on various dates 2 Aug-14 Sep (ph. NH, DL, S. Williams).

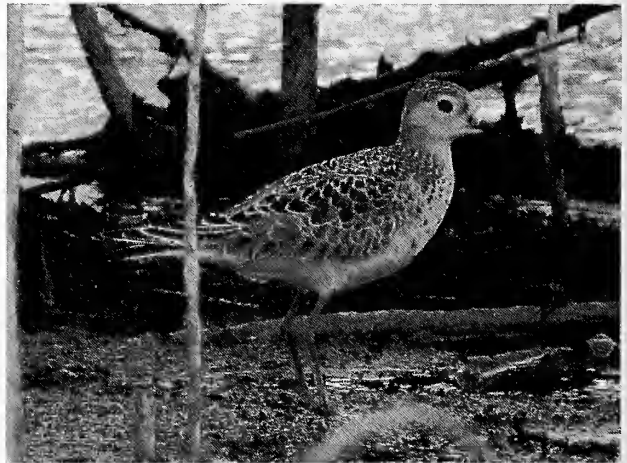
A Greater Pewee was n. to Heart Bar W.M.A., s. Catron 9 Aug (NH). A vocal Eastern Wood-Pewee was at N.R.T. 23 Aug (CR). An impressive migrant wave in the Burro Mts. 1-2 Sep contained large numbers of *Empidonax* flycatchers of several species but primarily Dusksies, which were estimated to number

perhaps 200 individuals (DG). An *Empidonax* banded below the Pajarito Ski Area, Los Alamos 12 Sep had measurements consistent with Pacific-slope Flycatcher (SMF); a bird at N.R.T. 9 Aug was believed to be a Pacific-slope based on call notes (CR). Two Black Phoeebes were along the Mora R. near Watrous 12 Sep (CR); others of note were singles w. to Acoma L. 5 Sep (CR), e. to N.R.T. 7 Sep (JWS) and to Eunice 27 Sep (ph. PM), and up into mixed conifer habitat in Bear Trap Canyon 30 Aug (AJ). An ad. Eastern Phoebe and 2 fledglings were at Santa Rosa 13 Sep (CW); early migrants were singles at Wagon Mound 2 Aug (DH), Santo Domingo 21 Aug (LS), Cerillos 30 Aug (LS), and w. to the G.B.A. 21 Aug (RS). Late *Myiarchus* flycatchers were 2 Dusky-capped in Clanton Canyon 27 Sep (CR) and an Ash-throated at N.R.T. 29 Sep (ph. CLB). Single Great Crested Flycatchers were on Sierra Grande 25 Aug (CLB), along the Las Vegas riverwalk 23 Aug (WW), at N.R.T. 27 Aug (JO) and 5 Sep (JO, JEP, MB), and at Carlsbad 20 Sep (SW). A Cassin's Kingbird was late at Tyrone 7 Nov (KB).

SHRIKES THROUGH WAXWINGS

A Northern Shrike reached Maxwell 1 Nov (J. Hirth). A White-eyed Vireo was at N.R.T. 7 Oct (ph. JO). Single Bell's Vireos described as the nominate subspecies *bellii* were at Las Vegas 23 Aug (WW) and Ramon 13 Sep (DH), and a duller "western" one was at Sumner Dam 7 Sep (JEP); elsewhere, singles at Tyrone

6 Sep (EL) and Spring Canyon S.P. 9 Oct (LM) provided local firsts. Occasional in fall, a Yellow-throated Vireo was at N.R.T. 25 Sep (JEP, ph. JO). Rare but regular in fall on the se. plains, a Blue-headed Vireo was at Tatum 9 Oct (JEP). A Red-eyed Vireo was early at Radium Springs 21 Aug (MS, ph. JZ), and another was there 15-16 Sep (MS, ph. JZ); in the e., singles were at Ruby Ranch 29 Sep (WW), N.R.T. 25 Sep (ph. JO, JEP), and Boone's Draw 26 Sep (CW). Steller's Jays staged a modest lowland incursion, including several in the R.G.V. from Albuquerque to Percha 21 Sep-26 Nov, 5 at L.VN.W.R. 6 Nov (JEP), one near Yeso 14 Oct (JO), and, in the sw., singles at G.B.A. 27 Nov (RS) and P. O. Canyon 6 Oct (CL). A Blue Jay was w. to Galisteo 18 Oct (WH); another reached Socorro 10-21 Nov (JWS, JEP). Western Scrub-Jays wandered widely, including to the R.G.V. from Corrales s. to Las Cruces Sep-Nov; one was at San Simon Cienega 6 Nov (AC), while in the e., one to 3 were at N.R.T. 10-28 Sep (m.ob.), and singles were near San Jon 16 Sep (CR), Vaughn 27 Sep (JO), and B.L.N.W.R. 23 Sep (JIS). Pinyon Jays passing through the Albuquerque bosque included 23 at Alameda 30 Aug (B. Vaughn) and 7 at R.G.N.C. 12 Oct (DH); easterly were 5 at Ragland 6 Sep (JO).



With only about a dozen records in the state, Buff-breasted Sandpiper is a rare treat in New Mexico; this juvenile visited Elephant Butte Lake, Sierra County 1-9 (here 4) October 2009. Photograph by James E. Zabriskie.

Unusual for the date was an American Crow at Las Cruces 7 Aug (J. Douglas). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow was late at Alameda 22 Nov (PB, WH); 2 lingered at Bosque 11 Nov (DH).

Mountain Chickadees staged a conspicuous lowland invasion statewide, beginning in late Sep and continuing through Nov. A Bridled Titmouse e. to E.B.L. Dam 17 Oct (CMB, ph. NH) and 10 Nov (DC) provided a new R.G.V. locality. Juniper Titmice wandered to Maxwell 12 Sep (CR), Socorro Oct-Nov (JO,

DH), Percha 7 Nov (DH), and Carlsbad 28 Nov (SW). Cactus Wrens expanded to Albuquerque's West Mesa, with 2 near the Double Eagle Airport 21 Nov (JJ). A vocal Carolina Wren was at Santa Rosa 20-26 Sep (CR, ph. CW, JEP); another provided a local first at Carlsbad 20 Oct (SW). An active Winter Wren season found an early eastern type at N.R.T. 5 Sep (MM, SF), one at R.G.N.C. 9 Oct (CMB, NH), 2 *pacificus* group birds in Hausner Canyon, Zuni Mts. 29 Sep (JT), and another likely *pacificus* in the P. O. Canyon area 22 Oct (CL). Golden-crowned Kinglets also spread widely over the state, including e. to Curry and Roosevelt by late Sep and s. throughout the R.G.V. mid-Oct and later. Late Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were one at N.R.T. 15-24 Oct (JO, CR), one to 2 at Corrales 20-29 Nov (DK), and one at E.B.L. 27 Nov (SMF). Surveys for Black-tailed Gnatcatchers in the E.B.L. area found seven occupied territories 1 Aug (DC). Maintaining a Guadalupe Canyon presence were 2 Black-capped Gnatcatchers 31 Oct (DC).

Seldom detected in migration, a Veery was heard and seen at R.S. 17 Oct (CLB). A Rufous-backed Robin at Percha 10 Oct (ph. CW) provided the 2nd Sierra record in two years. Often overlooked as a breeder in the se., American Robins were feeding fledglings at Hobbs 22 Aug (SW). A male Varied Thrush at Silver City 19-20 Nov (MZ, ph. DZ) provided the 3rd for Grant but the first to be confirmed. Gray Catbirds were seldom seen were singles at Texico 17 Oct (CR), Eunice 24 Sep (PM), Madrid 19 Oct (LS), Cedar Crest 4 Nov (DL), Zuni's Tekapo 27 Sep (JT), near Deming 5 Nov (DW), and P. O. Canyon 26 Oct (CL). Noteworthy for Los Alamos, 2 Curve-billed Thrashers were at White Rock 29 Aug (CR); in the w., 2 were at San Rafael, and 5 were at Bluewater Gorge 25 Sep (JT). Far n. was a Crissal Thrasher at Taos 29 Nov (K. Leopold). An ad. Cedar Waxwing tending 2 fledglings at Cochiti Village 8 Aug (ph. MW) provided a 2nd breeding record for that locale.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Two or more Olive Warblers were near Grassy Lookout, San Mateo Mts. 12 Aug (WW). Casual in fall, a male Blue-winged Warbler was at N.R.T. 24 Oct (CR); single Tennessees were at N.R.T. 11 Sep (JEP, JO) and 2 Oct (ph. JO), Percha Dam 6 Sep (CR), and Radium Springs 13-15 Sep (MS, ph. JZ). A Northern Parula was at Albuquerque 30 Sep-2 Oct (ph. NP). A Chestnut-sided Warbler was at N.R.T. 6 Oct (MH); a Black-throated Blue Warbler was there 6 Sep (MM, SF), as was a Magnolia Warbler 20 Oct (ph. MH). Providing a New Mexico first was a Golden-cheeked Warbler

at Eunice 23 Aug (ph. PM). A Black-throated Green Warbler at Holloman L. 2 Oct (MB, CW) provided an Otero first; single males were detected near Malaga 10 Oct (SW) and at R.S. 17 Oct (CLB). Hermit Warbler made a strong showing, including one e. to the Doc Long area, Sandia Mts. 30 Aug (DH) and moderate numbers in the Magdalena, San Mateo, Pinos Altos, and Peloncillo ranges 8 Aug-18 Oct, among the migrants swarming the Burro Mts. 1-2 Sep, DG counted 32 Hermits and estimated at least 50. A Hermit Warbler × Townsend's Warbler hybrid was in Bluewater Canyon 24 Sep (JT). A male Blackburnian Warbler at Pate Windmill, Otero Mesa 27 Sep (SW) furnished an Otero first. Confirmed in New Mexico only in 1995, this season produced 3 Prairie Warblers, an ad. male at N.R.T. 9-11 Aug (JO, JEP, CR, MB, ph. NP, JMB) and an imm. there 19 Sep (JEP, CMB, JPB, ph. NH, ph. S. Collins), plus one at Bosque 28 Nov (ph. JO, ph. SMF). Black-and-white Warblers were at 10 locales 28 Aug-3 Oct, including singles w. to Cherry Creek Campground 4 Sep (LM), the Animas Valley 5 Sep (DH), and Rodeo 21 Sep (RW). A Prothonotary Warbler at Bonito L. 10 Sep (A. Powell, ph. C. Naegle) provided a Lincoln first; another was at Bosque 13 (CMB, NH) & 27 Sep (DH). A Worm-eating Warbler was at R.S. 5 Sep (SW). Casual in fall, single Ken-



Providing the first confirmed Grant County record, this Varied Thrush was at Silver City, New Mexico 19-20 (here 20) November 2009. Photograph by Dale A. Zimmerman.



Rare in New Mexico, this first-cycle Black-legged Kittiwake made a brief appearance at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Socorro County 14 November 2009. Photograph by Douglas A. Brown.

tucky Warblers were at Santo Domingo 21 Aug (LS) and Las Cruces 6 Sep (M. Brooks). Intriguing was a Hooded Warbler at the Santa Fe Canyon Preserve 5-16 Sep (A. Fenner, JPB, CR, J. Berry) in the same location where one was found in Jun, and another in Chloride Canyon 27 Aug (ph. DC), at the exact spot where one was present in Jun; elsewhere, one was at Albuquerque 18 Sep-8 Oct (ph. NP, JEP, CW, MB). Far from normal range, a Red-faced Warbler was at N.R.T. 20 Aug (ph. JO), and a Painted Redstart was at Ruby Ranch, San Miguel 18 Sep (WW).

A male Scarlet Tanager was unusually early at Dixon 5 Aug (SW); single females were at Madrid 6 Sep (LS) and Boone's Draw 26 Sep (ph. NP, MB). Scant summer rainfall resulted in poor grass seed production across the s., and numbers of sparrows and other seed eaters were notably reduced; the few that were seen quickly continued on farther south. Two Field Sparrows were near Grulla N.W.R. 7 Nov (MB), and one was at N.R.T. 22 Nov (DH). Among the few Grasshopper Sparrow reports were one at R.G.N.C. 9-10 Oct (m.ob., ph. CW, ph. JJ) and 7 near E.B.L. 21 Oct (ph. DC). A Baird's Sparrow was at Rodeo 5 Sep (RW); another was at R.S. 30 Sep (SW). Slate-colored Fox Sparrows numbered 6 in the Zuni area 26 Sep (JT), 2 at G.B.A. 3 Nov (RS), and one per visit in P. O. Canyon 30 Oct, 5-9 Nov, and 13 Nov (CL); single red ones were at N.R.T. 20-25 Oct (MH et al., ph. NH, ph. JPB), Luis Lopez 23 Nov (JO), and near R.S. 31 Oct (SW). An early Song Sparrow reached E.B.L. Dam 31 Aug (DC); single White-throateds wandered w. to Morgan L. 11 Nov (MB) and P. O. Canyon 29-31 Oct (CL). A Harris's Sparrow was w. to Farmington 29 Nov (TR); 2 Harris's plus a Golden-crowned entertained many at Bosque 20-30 Nov (m.ob., ph. JO, ph. BF). Surprising was a juv. Yellow-eyed Junco far n. to the Catwalk near



Far from known range, and in atypical sycamore riparian habitat, this juvenile Yellow-eyed Junco was unexpected at the Catwalk Picnic Area near Glenwood, Catron County, New Mexico 7 September 2009. Photograph by Frank Gallo.

Glenwood 7 Sep (W. Scott, J. Hand, ph. F. Gallo), where the habitat (sycamore riparian) is atypical, and the location is 100 km from known range; farther s., 2 Yellow-eyed strayed to Clanton Canyon 22-27 Sep (AJ, CR). Two Lapland Longspurs at Maxwell 20 Nov (JEP) provided the only report.

A male Northern Cardinal persisted at Hillsboro 4-14 Aug (ph. DC), and 5 were on the Pitchfork Ranch n. of Separ 22 Aug (CR). A good Rose-breasted Grosbeak season found a female at N.R.T. 20-27 Aug (JO, MB), a male there 11-13 Sep (m.ob., ph.), and a female there 26 Sep (JEP); elsewhere, singles were at Shoemaker, Mora 12 Sep (CR), E.B.L. Dam 20 Oct (ph. DC), Silver City 1 Aug (MZ, ph. DZ), and a late male at Bosque 22-25 Nov (ph. JO, ph. JNS, ph. CS). High-elevation Lazuli Buntings were 2 at 2955 m near Grassy Lookout, San Mateo Mts. 12 Aug (WW) and one in pines at 2390 m in the Burro Mts. 1-2 Sep (DG). Migrant Painted Buntings moving southwestward included 5 at La Joya 11 Aug (K. Madden) and singles at Deming 8 Aug (LM), Pitchfork Ranch, Grant 22 Aug (CR), P. O. Canyon area 27 Aug (CL), and Rodeo 22 Aug, 5 Sep, and 24 Sep (RW). One to 3 Dickcissels were at multiple sites in 12 counties from the R.G.V. eastward 9 Aug-15 Oct, including isolated Ramon, Lincoln; in the w. were one at Pitchfork Ranch 22 Aug (CR) and 4 at Rodeo 13 Sep (RW).

Some 16 Bobolinks on a fence near Des Moines 24 Aug (CLB) was the largest flock seen in New Mexico in several decades. A Common Grackle was w. to the Datil Mts. 15 Sep (JH); unexpected was one at Columbus

15 Nov (JEP, CW). Single Orchard Orioles were w. to Maxwell 11 Aug (D. Nelson) and Sumner Dam 22 Aug (DH). An ad. male Baltimore Oriole was well documented at N.R.T. 12 Sep (L. Leckman, m.ob., ph. CW); reports of single young males at E.B.L. 25 Sep-1 Oct (ph. DC) and Radium Springs 7-8 Sep (MS, JZ) are under evaluation. Latest Scott's Orioles were 2 at Columbus 26 Oct (CLB). About 30 rosy-finches returned to Sandia Crest 6 Nov and, by 29 Nov, the local flock was estimated at 150 mostly Blacks, with fewer Brown-capped and even fewer Gray-crowned (N. Cox et al.). Five Pine Grosbeaks were s. to the Sandia Mts. 22 Nov (MH). A Cassin's Finch was s. to P. O. Canyon 4 Nov (CL). Lesser Goldfinches are among the latest of nesting species; this season found an active nest at Albuquerque 2 Oct (H. Schwarz) and ads. feeding fledglings at Madrid 13 Oct (LS) and Radium Springs 1 Nov (MS, JZ). Lawrence's Goldfinch invaded the sw.; earliest were singles at Radium Springs 6 Oct (MS, ph. JZ) and the Ladder Ranch, Sierra 13 Oct (WW), but others soon appeared elsewhere: 7 at Tyrone 18 Oct (EL), up to 16 near Deming 23 Oct-19 Nov (ph. DW, LM), and at least 10 at Columbus 26 Oct-15 Nov (m.ob., ph. JO). A male Orange Bishop of unknown provenance was lurking in Giant Reed (*Arundo*) at Las Cruces 3-7 Nov (ph. DG); given establishment of feral populations elsewhere, in s. California and Arizona, the situation bears watching.

Initialed observers: Jonathan P. Batkin, Matt Baumann, Karen Beckenbach, Phred Benham, Charles L. Black, James M. Black, Celestyn M. Brozek, David Cleary, Alan Craig, Stephen M. Fettig, Bernard Foy, Stacey Fradkin, David Griffin, Bill Groll, Joan Hardie, David Hawksworth, Nancy Hetrick, Michael Hilchey, William Howe, Andrew Johnson, James Joseph, David Krueper, Julian Lee, Eugene Lewis, David Ligon, Carroll Littlefield, Martin MacRoberts, Larry Malone, Pat McCasland, Jerry Oldenettel, John E. Parmeter, James N. Paton, Nicholas Pederson, Tim Reeves, Christopher Rustay, Lawry Sager, Jeffrey I. Sanchez, Catherine Sandell, Marcy Scott, John W. Shipman, Roland Shook, James N. Stuart, John Trochet, Mark Watson, Richard Webster, Steve West, William West, Diane Williams, Cole Wolf, James Zabriskie, Dale Zimmerman, Marian Zimmerman. 🐦

Sartor O. Williams III, Division of Birds
Museum of Southwestern Biology
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131
(sunbittern@earthlink.net)

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Mark M. Stevenson (Non-passerines)
Gary H. Rosenberg (Passerines)

Long-term drought was exacerbated statewide by markedly below-average monsoon and fall rains and above-average temperatures, with the result that birds were concentrated at artificial water sources. The season saw movements of multiple usually sedentary species as well as irruptions of montane species from several families. Widespread reports of late-lingering individuals of many species, more than can be included here, reflected the warm fall. Perhaps because of the concentrating effects, a remarkable collection of rarities was found.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee), B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum), B.W.D. (Bill Williams Delta, L. Havasu), G.W.R. (Gilbert Water Ranch), L.C.R.V. (lower Colorado R. valley), N.I.R. (Navajo Indian Reservation), Sweetwater (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson), U.L.M. (Upper L. Mary, Flagstaff), Whitewater (Whitewater Draw W.A.)

WATERFOWL THROUGH SKIMMER

Greater White-fronted Geese migrated through in good numbers, with more than 300 reported statewide beginning 20 Aug. There were a few reports of Cackling Geese: 4 were at Whitewater 7 Nov+ (A. Miller et al.), and 2 were at Cibola N.W.R. 30 Nov (†PEL; BC). There was a scattering of migrant scoters, with the Flagstaff area again hosting multiple species. A Surf Scoter was on n. L. Havasu 30 Oct (PN), and 2 were on U.L.M. 24 Nov (SP). Different White-winged Scoters were on U.L.M. 15 & 22-23 Nov (EH); another was at Sunrise L. 9 Nov (ph. DS). Even rarer, 3 Black Scoters were on U.L.M. 22-24 Nov (ph. EH). A Long-tailed Duck was below Glen Canyon

Dam 29 Nov (G. Nealon). In the L.C.R.V., goldeneyes have largely moved their winter operations from below Parker Dam to the Bill Williams Arm of L. Havasu, following infestation of the lake with exotic mussels. Up to 8 Barrow's Goldeneyes were there 16 Nov+ (K. Blair et al.). A juv. Hooded Merganser at Willow Tank near Portal 6 Aug (ph. RH) and a female-type on n. L. Havasu 25 Aug (JH) were two months earlier than expected for fall migrants. Rare migrants away from the Colorado R., 33 Red-breasted Mergansers were reported from other parts of the state 1 Nov+

Loons typically arrive in the L.C.R.V. after Sep, so a Pacific Loon and 3 Common Loons on L. Havasu 16 Aug (PEL, BC) had likely summered; a Pacific and 3 Commons present 16 Sep (DS) were likely the same birds. A more timely Pacific Loon was on U.L.M. 22 Oct (J. Wilder, ph. EH), and 2 were on L. Havasu 30 Nov (PEL, BC). Though fewer than last year, 35 Common Loons on L. Havasu 24 Oct (PEL, BC) was still a good passage number. Away from the L.C.R.V., 12 Common Loons were reported 26 Oct-28 Nov. The first report of Horned Grebes came a bit early, with 3 on L. Havasu 25 Oct (PEL, BC). Migrating Western Grebes were seen in increased numbers statewide, but Clark's Grebes were not. A Blue-footed Booby at Martinez L. 19 Sep (J. Coker, J. Keller, ph. HD) was the first found in Arizona since 1996. A few Brown Pelicans were seen in Aug, but the real show started later than usual this fall, on 5 Oct, when 20 were briefly present at B.W.D. (K. Blair) and 6 were seen over Tucson (DS). Subsequently, 14 were reported from seven sites in s. Arizona 6 Oct-30 Nov, as far e. as Whitewater. Neotropical Cormorants were seen again in the L.C.R.V., with up to 2 present at B.W.D. 15-17 Sep (DS) and one there 24-30 Oct (vt. PEL, BC). Others away from typical areas included one at San Carlos L., Graham 15 Sep (JBo et al.), 2 at Willow L. 20-29 Sep (MN, M. Reigner) and nearby Watson L. 29 Sep-5 Oct (MN, ph. FP), and one at Willow L. 14-25 Oct (S. Drown). Many hundreds of cormorants continue to be resident in greater Phoenix.

A Snowy Egret lingered into Dec at Willow L. (ph. FP). A Tricolored Heron at Patagonia L. 14 Aug (ph. MB), another there 7 Sep (M.

White), and a Reddish Egret at Glendale 4 Aug (†J. Dunn) were the only wandering ardeids reported. In the midst of housing tracts, a Wood Stork was a real surprise at G.W.R. 18 Aug-12 Sep (vt. TD, ph. BGR); there are few recent records of this species in Arizona. A White-tailed Kite at Mittry L. 16 Aug-27 Nov (HD et al.) was the only one reported away from typical areas. A Mississippi Kite wandered w. to Rio Rico 9-17 Aug (CC). A Red-shouldered Hawk s. of Parker 25 Aug (JH) was likely continuing there; others were found at Yuma West Wetlands 7 Oct (ph. D. Sussman), at Tres Rios, Phoenix 22 Oct (ph. J. Ritz), at Willow L. 26 Oct (ph. FG), and at nearby Watson Woods 9 Nov+ (MN). Red-shouldered remains casual in most parts of the state. The only Broad-winged Hawk documented away from the Grand Canyon was at Peppersauce Canyon 26 Sep (ph. B. Bowers, †DJ). While 2 Short-tailed Hawks continued in the Chiricahua Mts. through 30 Aug (m.ob.), one at Mt. Bigelow, Santa Catalina Mts. 3 Sep (ph. J. Edison et al.) made the first record for that range. For the 3rd consecutive year, one appeared set to winter in residential ne. Tucson 2 Nov (DS, ph. J. Florko). During the period 12-22 Oct, single Crested Caracaras were seen at four locations in the Santa Cruz R. valley (m.ob.), indicative of fall



This Blackpoll Warbler was at Sweetwater Wetlands in Tucson, Arizona on the very late dates of 14-17 (here 16) November 2009. Photograph by David Stejskal.

movement. North of there, in the Santa Cruz Flats, numbers of caracaras rose to 11 by 17 Nov (DPe et al.).

At G.W.R., an ad. Purple Gallinule present 2-8 Sep (ph. B. Amato, G. Nunn, T. Thomas) furnished a first record for Maricopa. A swarm of American Coots appeared again on matted vegetation at B.W.D. 25 Oct (PEL, BC) through at least 12 Nov, with a high count of 19,000+ on the latter date (K. Blair). There was a good showing by migrant Black-bellied



A Canada Warbler found along the Santa Cruz River at Tubac, Arizona 15 October 2009 provided only an eighth state record. Photograph by Andrew Core.

Plovers, with 9 reported 2 Aug–7 Nov. While a Mountain Plover appeared in the Santa Cruz Flats on the early date of 17 Sep (JM) and up to 18 were present there in late Nov (DPe), they were sporadically relocated. A Solitary Sandpiper at Tuba City 15 Oct (BG, CL) was quite late for the N.I.R. Lesser Yellowlegs were late at Dome Valley 15 Oct–3 Nov (PEL), at Rio Rico 7 Nov (CC), and at White-water 8 Nov (MB). The only Whimbrels reported away from the L.C.R.V. were 2 at Glendale 2 Aug (ph. MH; TC) and one at San Carlos L. 15 Sep (JBo et al.). A Ruddy Turnstone was a good find at Willcox 4-7 Sep (ph. DS, REW). Less than annual in the state, single Red Knots were at Glendale 7-8 Aug (ph. CB) and Willcox 11 Sep (ph. DS). Statewide, 14 Sanderlings and 22 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported. Providing a 3rd Grand Canyon N.P. record, a Baird's Sandpiper was at Desert View 22 Aug (ph. BG); 2 found there 6-7 Nov (ph. BG) were very late for anywhere in the state. A whopping 40 Dunlins and about 12 Short-billed Dowitchers were reported. Casual anywhere in the state, a Red Phalarope was at Pasture Canyon 9 Oct (CR, ph. BG). An erratic wanderer from Mexico, single Heermann's Gulls were at Wilcox 28 Oct (MP, ph. MMS) and Tucson 28 Nov (J. Higgins). There was a modest passage of Sabine's Gulls, with 10 reported 8 Sep–7 Oct. A trio of juv. Black Skimmers at B.W.D. 24-28 Oct (vt. PEL, BC) made only the 9th record for Arizona.

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A few Band-tailed Pigeons joined other irrupting species in the s. Arizona lowlands. An Inca Dove was well n. at Lee's Ferry 5-6 Oct (ph. SP). There was a strong movement of Ruddy

Ground-Doves into the state beginning in early Oct, from Yuma e. to Whitewater and n. to Mesa, with a total of 40 reported. Rare in the lowlands, single Flammulated Owls were found in Scottsdale 16 Sep (JB) and Mesa 17 Oct (ph. L. Fetter). Likewise, a juv. Spotted Owl was in nw. Tucson 21-22 Nov (ph. A. Mendoza). The last report of Buff-collared Nighthawk at Oro Blanco Mine came on 27 Aug (m.ob.). An early *Chaetura* swift at Tucson 21 Aug (JBo) was a harbinger of widespread reports of more Vaux's Swifts than we typically receive in fall. Very rare away from mid-elevation and higher canyons, a White-eared Hummingbird was at Tumacacori 22 Oct (GB, ph. JM). Among six Berylline Hummingbird reports,

highlights were an unbanded individual in lower Florida Canyon, Pima 6 Aug (ph. LH) and one that lingered late in Madera Canyon until 15 Oct (LH). Out-of-place Violet-crowned Hummingbirds were found at Tumacacori 9 Aug (LH) and 22 Oct (GB), plus in a Tucson yard 25 Nov+ (RH). The Violet-crowned Hummingbird × Broad-billed Hummingbird hybrid was last reported at B.T.A. 11 Oct (*vide* P. Wolterbeck) after a three-year stay. The hummingbird highlight of the season was a Plain-capped Starthroat that moved between Patagonia feeding stations 10 Aug–2 Sep (D. Schaffer, F. Kee, J. Bartholomeaux, ph. C. West, B. Holliday et al.). Away from Portal and the Huachuca Mts., the only reports of Lucifer Hummingbird came from Leslie Canyon N.W.R. 2 Aug (REW) and from a new location, the w. slope of the Dragoon Mts., where up to 2 were present 9 Aug–1 Sep (ph. A. Ripley). Very high numbers of hummingbirds seen at feeders in towns and canyons during migration suggested a lack of natural nectar sources due to the poor monsoon rains. Calliope, Broad-tailed, and Rufous Hummingbirds were prominent among them. Conversely, just 4 Allen's Hummingbirds were reported.

The occasional Green Kingfisher still wanders northward to se. Arizona. The only reports this season were from San Bernardino N.W.R. 9 Aug (ph. REW) and Kingfisher Pond on the San Pedro R. through 29 Oct (m.ob.). There was a notable movement of woodpeckers into the lowlands. Lewis's Woodpeckers were widely reported in s. Arizona, mostly in small numbers but with higher numbers in the Prescott region and on Mt. Ord. There was a clear movement of Acorn Woodpeckers into the lowlands, where they are occasional, with

14 reported 27 Aug+. Williamson's Sapsuckers were over-represented too, with 5 in the lowlands. A more typical count for the season, a single Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported, in Madera Canyon 15 Oct and 5 Nov (LH). Reports of hybrid sapsuckers were low, but 3 Red-breasted Sapsuckers were documented, above average: in ne. Tucson 15-22 Oct (L. Harrison, ph. P. Collins), in cen. Tucson 18 Oct+ (MP, ph. MMS), and at Cameron 31 Oct–1 Nov (†CL). There was an indication of movement by Downy Woodpeckers in n. Arizona, with scattered reports of out-of-habitat birds on the N.I.R. and even a report s. to Mt. Ord, Gila 15-24 Nov (K. Rademaker, J. Watson). Seldom seen in the lowlands, an Arizona Woodpecker was in ne. Tucson 21 Nov+ (ph. R. Payne).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRASHERS

A Western Wood-Pewee found in Tucson 21 Oct remained there until 8 Nov (D. Smyth; ph. MMS); this species is casual at best in the state beyond mid-Oct. Willow Flycatchers seemed more numerous than usual this fall, with several reported rather late in Oct around s. Arizona: one was at Arivaca L. 13 Oct (MM), one was at Tubac 16 Oct (DS), and another was at Sweetwater 18 Oct (MMS). Casual in fall in the L.C.R.V., single Dusky Flycatchers were at Parker 17 Sep (DS) and at Quigley W.A., e. of Yuma, 23 Oct (PEL). The Buff-breasted Flycatcher found in Willow Canyon, Santa Catalina Mts. in May was last seen 12 Aug (B. Bickel). Equally interesting, another Buff-breasted was found nearby in Molino Basin 17-19 Oct (ph. JY), which was not only n. of known breeding areas in the state but also very late. Always a notable bird in n. Arizona, an imm. Vermilion Flycatcher was at Lee's Ferry 5-6 Oct (ph. SP). Also very late was a Western Kingbird at G.W.R. 16 Nov (ph. BGr), with 2 there 29 Nov (ph. J. Bisschop); this species is practically accidental in the state during winter. Single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were at Sweetwater 1 Oct (JBo) and w. of Paloma 6 Oct (vt. PEL); this species is casual in the state during fall. A Rose-throated Becard discovered along the Santa Cruz R. at Tumacacori 22 Oct+ (GB; ph. P. Suchanek, KK; †MM) was originally reported as a female, but photographs clearly indicate an imm. male; this species has declined in the state to the point of being casual, with most records falling during the breeding season.

A Northern Shrike, casual to rare in the state during the late fall and winter, was located at Mormon L. for the 3rd consecutive year 15 Nov+ (EH). The White-eyed Vireo found at the Cameron seep during the sum-

mer was still present 1 Sep (BG et al.). A Yellow-throated Vireo, also casual in the state, was in e. Tucson 23 Aug (vt. B. Nicholas). Two Blue-headed Vireos, a species still considered accidental in the state, were reported this fall, with one at Paradise Forks outside Flagstaff 17 Sep (ph. B. Gebhart), the other in Tucson 18 Oct (ph. R. Payne); given the difficulty in separation of Blue-headed from bright Cassin's Vireos, both reports will be evaluated by the A.B.C. and should be considered tentative at this time. A Hutton's Vireo at Betty's Kitchen near Yuma 22 Nov (JY et al.) was away from normal areas of occurrence in the state. Red-eyed Vireos were found at San Simon Cienega 23 Sep (†REW) and at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson 12 Oct (†B. Bickel; †B. Burns); this species is still considered casual in the state. A Yellow-green Vireo reported at Tubac 12 Aug (†MM) has been accepted by the A.B.C. and represents only a 10th Arizona record.

A general movement of corvids into (and within) Arizona was detected throughout the fall, with numerous reports of both Steller's Jays and Western Scrub-Jays received from lowland locations across the s. portion of the state beginning by mid-Sep. More interesting were several reports of Mexican Jays, a species that has rarely dispersed away from known breeding areas, from lowland areas around Tucson from mid-Sep through mid-Nov. Also of interest were reports of a few Pinyon Jays in s. Arizona and scattered reports of small groups of American Crows, also across s. Arizona, with most of the crows found mid-Oct–mid-Nov. Even Common Ravens were detected to be on the move, with up to 400 seen flying westward at Ganado 10 Nov (DS).

Tree Swallow is a common migrant in s. Arizona, but observations of thousands at Whitewater 1-6 Oct (SH, DS) suggest that the big push southward through the state occurred during the first week of Oct. Two Violet-green Swallows at Sweetwater 4 Nov (DS), 4 at Whitewater 6 Nov (EW), and another on the upper San Pedro R. 8 Nov (EW) were all late for se. Arizona. Also late was a Bank Swallow at Gila Bend 17 Oct (PEL). Casual in the state, a Cave Swallow was reported from Gila Bend 19 Sep (†KR; CR). A single Black-capped Chickadee was along Short Cr. in Colorado City 27 Nov–1 Dec (†PEL, BC); this species is known to breed in extreme sw. Utah along the Virgin R. (which is not that distant as the chickadee flies) but is reported less than annually in Arizona and has yet to be found breeding. Small numbers of Bushtits, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, and Brown Creepers were detected at numerous lowland locations during the fall.

This movement, along with the corvid invasion, gave the general impression that lots of montane species had invaded into the lowlands this fall.

Scattered reports of Rock Wrens at odd locations were received; we do not usually think of this species dispersing very much, but it has occurred many times as a vagrant in the e. United States, and local movements may be an indication of a more widespread dispersal event to come. The Sinaloa Wren present for more than a year at Patagonia was reported sporadically all fall.

Along with the general invasion of montane birds into lowland Arizona, it appears that Bewick's Wren also participated, with numerous lowland reports from both Phoenix and Tucson during the fall. An early Marsh Wren was detected at Sweetwater 16 Aug (MMS). At least 20 reports of Golden-crowned Kinglet, many of multiple birds, came from across s. Arizona, beginning in mid-Oct, indicating their participation in the lowland invasion. And reports of both Western and Mountain Bluebirds were numerous and widespread across s. Arizona, another indication of an extensive movement of montane species.

A Wood Thrush, casual in Arizona at any season, was at Sweetwater in Tucson on the late date of 21 Nov (R. Grohman; ph. D. Vath, B. Beatson; ph. B. Metz). Unprecedented was the irruption of at least 12 Rufous-backed Robins into Arizona, with one in Portal 11-15 Oct and 2 there 12 Oct (RAR, REW); one in Green Valley 12-14 Oct (ph. LH); one in Tumacacori 17 Oct+ (MM, D. Knox; ph. T. Loomis); one at B.T.A. 21 Oct+, with 2 there 7 Nov+ (ph. RD; m.ob.); one at Whitlow Dam 22 Oct (JB); one in Martinez Canyon ne. of Florence 26 Oct (SB); one in Harshaw Canyon 4-7 Nov, with 2 there 7 Nov (S. Barlow, J. Smith; ph. MA); one at Congress, *Yavapai* 6 Nov (ph. S. Drown); and one at Anthem, *Maricopa* 12 Nov (D. Taylor). Eight Varied Thrushes, an above-average number for a single fall, were found 17 Oct–22 Nov. The Aztec Thrush located in Ramsey Canyon in Jul was last reported 11 Aug (ph. J. Smith, C. West). Also reported in greater numbers than normal, 8 Gray Catbirds were found during the fall. Early Sage Thrashers were at San Simon Cienega 12 Sep (REW), in Tucson 23 Sep (JM), and in Elfrieda 25 Sep (G. Klingler).



This Rusty Blackbird was in East Tucson 19-29 (here 19) November 2009; there are only about 15 previous records for Arizona. Photograph by David Stejskal.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Blue-winged Warbler at Cook's L. 25 Oct (TC et al.; ph. AC) provided about an 11th record for Arizona. Casual in the state, single Tennessee Warblers were at Sweetwater 2-5 Sep (PK, †MP; ph. AC), 23-30 Oct (WR; ph. AC), and 3-7 Nov (PK; ph. AC; possibly the Oct bird); another was at Tubac 6 Nov (ph. DS). A very late Virginia's Warbler was in Tucson 25 Oct (R. Taylor). A Lucy's Warbler in Tucson 20 Oct (WR) was extremely late, but truly outstanding was one at Lee's Ferry 18 Nov (ph. SP). Rare, but regular in the state, 5 Chestnut-sided Warblers and 4 Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported. Rarer was a Magnolia Warbler in Tucson 6-10 Nov (ph. CC, D. Smyth; ph. AC, DS). Likewise, a Black-throated Green Warbler was at G.W.R. 11-12 Nov (ph. BG). Several late Hermit Warblers were reported throughout early Oct, the latest being at Bear Wallow, Santa Catalina Mts. 19 Oct (JB, MP). Casual in the state, Blackburnian Warblers were reported near Saguaro L. 8 Nov (†KR) and in Phoenix 16 Nov (A. Tarby, L. Vogel; †D. Herron), while a Yellow-throated Warbler was at Tubac 16 Oct (†MMS; DS). Palm Warblers were at Rackensack Canyon 13 Oct (ph. M. Vandewater), at San Rafael Valley 16 Oct (GB; ph. JM), at Tucson 27 Oct (†S. Blackman), and at Quigley W.A. 21-22 Nov (ph. JY). Very scarce in the state, a Bay-breasted Warbler was in e. Tucson 21 Nov+ (ph. R. Fray); there have been fewer than 15 total records for Arizona. Another casual species, Blackpoll Warblers were at Tolleson 13-16 Oct (ph. WG) and at Sweetwater on the very late date of 14-17 Nov (J. Jones; vt. T. DeBardleben; MMS; ph. AC, T. Loomis). Eight Prothonotary Warblers, above average for a fall, were reported statewide. Still casual, Worm-eating Warblers were at Whitewater 6

Oct (ph. DS) and at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum 5-9 Nov (S. Parker-Hotchkiss; ph. JY, AC). Another warbler reported more frequently than usual this fall, 8 Hooded Warblers were found statewide. One of the best warblers of the fall, a Canada Warbler, was at Tubac 15 Nov (D. Touret; ph., †AC), providing about an 8th record for the state. A very late Red-faced Warbler was in Sawmill Canyon 8 Oct–26 Nov (J. Saba, SH). The pair of Rufous-capped Warblers found at Patagonia during the summer was last reported 28 Oct (ph. CC), while the breeding pair (and offspring) in Florida Canyon were reported sporadically through Aug, with at least one remaining on territory through Nov (m.ob.).

Casual in the state in fall, Scarlet Tanagers were documented in Tolleson 13 Oct (ph. WG) and at Tubac 16 Oct (ph., †DS). The nesting pair of Flame-colored Tanagers in Cave Creek Canyon from this past summer was last reported 22 Aug (ph. B. Percival). Several Rufous-winged Sparrows were found at odd locations away from normal breeding areas in Tucson, Sierra Vista, and St. David during the fall, perhaps an indication of how poor the food crop must have been after one of the driest monsoon seasons on record. Similarly, Rufous-crowned Sparrows were detected at odd locations away from normal nesting areas. No fewer than 20 reports of Clay-colored Sparrows were received, mostly mid-Sep–mid-Oct; this species is considered a rare

but irregular migrant, more common in the e. half of Arizona. Outstanding was a Field Sparrow at Roll, Yuma 26 Oct (†PEL); there have been fewer than 10 previous records in the state. The only Harris's Sparrow was one in Safford 29 Nov (ph. O. Lowe). Almost unheard of in the lowlands, a Yellow-eyed Junco was in e. Tucson 22 Nov–1 Dec (B. Nicholas; ph. AC). Still considered casual in the state, a single Lapland Longspur was e. of Scottsdale 28 Nov (ph. H. Bond).

No fewer than 35 Dickcissels were reported, a much higher number than typical for a fall; one at Vail 14 Nov (ph. J. Babson) was very late for the state. Multiple Varied Buntings were at Tubac on the late date of 15-26 Oct. Only 2 Bobolinks were reported, one at Quigley W.A. 6 Oct (PEL) and one at Dudleyville 16 Oct (ph. M. Brooks). Still a casual fall transient in the state, a Rusty Blackbird was along Woodland Rd. in e. Tucson 19-29 Nov (MMS et al.; ph. DS, AC). Of similar status, a Common Grackle was in Bisbee 27 Nov (ph. M. Turisk). It was a particularly good season for rare orioles. Single Orchard Orioles, casual in the state, were at San Simon Cienega 9 Sep (ph. REW), at Portal 23 Sep (ph. REW), at Willow Tank near Portal 4 Oct (ph. REW), at Morgan City Wash 17 Oct (†TC; WG, M. Vandewater), and at Tolleson 18 Oct (ph. WG). Baltimore Oriole reports included a male at Havasu N.W.R. (†DD), a male at Morgan City Wash 19 Sep (†TC), and another ad.

male at Tubac 16-17 Oct (ph. DS). A Purple Finch, casual in the state at best, was at B.T.A. 7 Nov (ph. BG). Cassin's Finches, Red Crossbills, and Pine Siskins were all found in small numbers in lowland situations, contributing to the overall montane invasion detected this fall. Lawrence's Goldfinches were numerous across se. Arizona during this fall.

Contributors: Moez Ali, Charles Babbitt, Jack Bartley, Gavin Bieber, Scott Blackman, Jerry Bock, Matt Brown, Barbara Carlson, Cliff Cathers, Andrew Core, Troy Corman, Tommy DeBardeleben, Dee Dee DeLorenzo, Henry Dewtweiler, Brian Gatlin, Brendon Grice, William Grossi, Felipe Guerrero, Laurens Halsey, Stuart Healy, Melanie Herring, Joe Hildreth, Eric Hough, Rich Hoyer, Doug Jenness, Philip Kline, Chuck LaRue, Paul E. Lehman, Michael Marsden, Jake Mohlman, Michael Moore (MMo), Michael Nicosia, Phil Norton, Dave Pearson (DPe), Molly Pollock, Shaun Putz, Cindy Radamaker, Kurt Radamaker, Will Russell, Dave Stejskal, Mark M. Stevenson, Richard E. Webster, Erika Wilson, Janet Witze-man (Maricopa), John Yerger (Tucson).

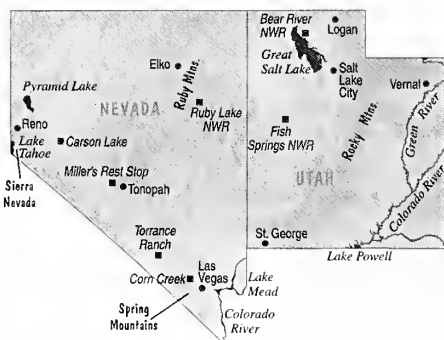
Mark M. Stevenson (Non-Passerines)

4201 East Monte Vista Drive, #J207
Tucson, Arizona 85712-5554, (drbrdr@att.net)

Gary H. Rosenberg (Passerines)

P. O. Box 91856, Tucson, Arizona 85752-1856
(ghrosenberg@comcast.net)

Great Basin



Rick Fridell

Fall migration in the Great Basin stretches from July to December, with an incredible mix of waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, gulls, and passerines moving through the Region. The fall can be especially rewarding for observers studying the timing of

western migrants and watching for vagrants at their favorite habitat patches. Amazing numbers of rare, unusual, and vagrant species turned up in the Great Basin this fall. One of the most remarkable sightings was Utah's first Thick-billed Kingbird discovered in a remote sandstone canyon in the central portion of the state. Additional Utah highlights included continuing observations of Neotropical Cormorants throughout the state and outstanding records of Upland Sandpiper, Black-legged Kittiwake, and Little Gull. A potential state first was also observed in Nevada this season: a Red-throated Pipit seen and heard in Las Vegas. Additional Nevada highlights included sightings of Long-tailed Jaeger, Common Ground-Dove, and Blue-winged Warbler.

Abbreviations: Antelope I. (Antelope Island S.P. and Causeway, Davis, UT); Ash Meadows (Ash Meadows N.W.R., Nye, NV); Bear River

(Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Box Elder, UT); Circle L (Circle L Ranch, Esmeralda, NV); Corn Cr. (Corn Creek Unit, Desert N.W.R., Clark, NV); Duck Creek (Duck Creek Wetlands, Las Vegas, Clark, NV); Farmington Bay (Farmington Bay W.M.A., Davis, UT); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark, NV); L. Mead (Lake Mead N.R.A., Clark, NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, Washington, UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda, NV); Pahrana-gat (Pahrana-gat N.W.R., Lincoln, NV); Quail Creek (Quail Creek S.P., Washington, UT); Red Hills (Red Hills G.C., St. George, Washington, UT); Sand Hollow (Sand Hollow S.P., Washington, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., Washington, UT).

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Single Eurasian Wigeons were observed at Provo, Utah, UT 23 Oct (JBI) and at Virginia L., Reno, Washoe, NV 28 Oct (MM). A male

Mexican Duck × Mallard intergrade was photographed at Springdale, *Washington*, UT 5-22 Nov (RF, RY); Utah's first such bird was documented in Apr 2009. Below-average numbers of scoters were observed this fall in the Region, and surprisingly no Surf Scoters were reported in Nevada. Utah Surf Scoters included 5 at Antelope I. 9 Oct–4 Nov (JBi, S&CS et al.), 2 at Lee Kay, *Salt Lake* 19-24 Oct (PF, CI), and singles at Utah Lake S.P., *Utah* 21-22 Oct (JBi), Otter Creek S.P., *Piute* 9 Nov (RF), and Sand Hollow 21-25 Nov (RF et al.). White-winged Scoters were observed at Pyramid L., *Washoe*, NV 2 Nov (MM, EA), Antelope I. 4-7 Nov (J&KB et al.), 5 Nov at L. Mead (RM), and 29 Nov+ at Sand Hollow (RF, KC et al.). Two Black Scoters were observed at Antelope I. 9-11 Oct (JBi, S&CS), and a female Long-tailed Duck was observed there 15-25 Nov (JP, S&SC). Pacific Loons were found at Steinaker S.P., *Uintah*, UT 11 Oct (BB et al.), at East Canyon S.P., *Morgan*, UT 30-31 Oct (DH), and at Pyramid L., *Washoe*, NV 3-4 Nov (GS, MM). A Red-necked Grebe made a rare s. Nevada appearance 19 Nov at H.B.V.P. (ph. RM). Neotropic Cormorant sightings continue to increase in Utah, with 2 lingering in *Washington* through at least 9 Oct (†RF et al.). The cormorants were originally discovered in May and split time between Ivins Res. and Gunlock S.P. during their four-month+ stay. The Neotropic Cormorants found in Jul at Lee Kay, *Salt Lake* remained through 23 Aug (TA et al.), and 2 additional birds were photographed at Jordan R., *Murray, Salt Lake* 23-24 Aug (PF, KP, ph. RY). A Green Heron found 29 Sep at Porter Springs, *Pershing*, NV (F&GP) was n. of expected range.

HAWKS THROUGH TERNS

The Pahrnagat White-tailed Kites remained throughout the season (GS, CL et al.). Common Black-Hawks were observed away from expected areas at Meadow Valley Wash, *Lincoln*, NV 19 Sep (JS) and at lower La Verkin Cr., *Washington*, UT 26-27 Sep (ph. RD, MH et al.). Utah Broad-winged Hawks were reported at Jupiter Hill, *Wasatch/Summit* 25 Sep (JBi, BM, BH) and at French Hollow, *Wasatch* 3 Oct (TA). Although it was a relatively slow fall for rare and vagrant shorebird sightings in the Great Basin, there were several noteworthy sightings. An American Golden-Plover was at Antelope I. 29 Nov (JBi, J&KB), and 4 Mountain Plovers were photographed 24-25 Oct at the Ponderosa Dairy, *Nye*, NV (GS, CL). Utah's 6th documented Upland Sandpiper graced Antelope I. 28 Aug (ph., †KE; ph. PH, S&CS). Whimbrels were found at Antelope I. 2-29 Aug (S&CS) and at Pyramid L., *Washoe*, NV 5 Aug (MM). Dunlins

were outside of expected areas at Ash Meadows 5 Oct (CL), Hurricane, *Washington*, UT 23-28 Oct (RF, RD, MH), and Logan, *Cache*, UT 1 Nov (ph. RO, RR). Single Stilt Sandpipers were reported at Logan, *Cache*, UT 4 Sep (RO, RR), at Quichapa L., *Iron*, UT 4 Sep (SH), at Carson L., *Churchill*, NV 5 Sep (ph. LN), at Upper Sand Cove Res., *Washington*, UT 12 Sep (LT), and at Ponderosa Dairy, *Nye*, NV 18 Sep (CL). An extraordinary flock of 14 Stilt Sandpipers remained 3-27 Oct near Farmington Bay (ph. JBi, ph. PH et al.). A Red Phalarope visited Washoe L., *Washoe*, NV 28 Aug–3 Sep (ph. ST et al.).

A cooperative ad. Black-legged Kittiwake, Utah's 4th, lingered 6-13 Nov in a large gull flock at Antelope I. (ph. JBi et al.). Sabine's Gulls were observed 10 Sep at South Fork Res., *Elko*, NV (DS, MM), 12-14 Sep at Logan, *Cache*, UT (RR, RO), 18 Sep at Dyer, *Esmeralda*, NV (MM), 19 Sep w. of Tonopah, *Esmeralda*, NV (GS, DG, RS), 20 Sep at Strawberry Res., *Wasatch*, UT (TA), 11 Oct at Steinaker S.P., *Uintah*, UT (BB et al.), and 7 Nov at Antelope I. (LW, ph. TA). Utah's 3rd Little Gull was also found this period at Antelope I. (7 Nov, TA); the ad. gull was with the same large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls that held the kittiwake. The Little Gull remained through 11 Nov, providing photographic opportunities for many observers (ph. TA, JBi, RF, m.ob.). A third-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull also joined the gulls 6-11 Nov at Antelope I. (†KP, JBe, KE et al.), and an ad. was documented there 24-26 Oct (ph., †JBi et al.). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was also found at Hemenway Harbor, L. Mead 29 Nov (†PL, BC, ph. MM, CL). A stunning leucistic Ring-billed Gull visited Liberty Park, *Salt Lake*, UT 8-10 Nov (ph. BO, ph. JL), and a first-cycle Glaucous-winged Gull was found at Pyramid L., *Washoe*, NV 2 Nov (MM, EA). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger was a major surprise at Ash Meadows 17-30 Aug (ph. GS, ph. CL et al.), and a dark-



This Red Phalarope, discovered 28 August 2009 (here), lingered through 3 September at Washoe Lake, Washoe County, Nevada. Photograph by Steve Ting.



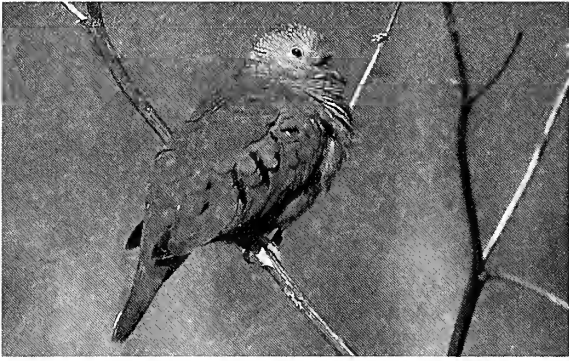
Utah's fourth documented Black-legged Kittiwake was one of several rare gulls that showed up in autumn 2009 along the Antelope Island State Park Causeway in Davis County. The kittiwake was observed 6-11 (here 10) November, usually with a large flock of Bonaparte's Gulls that fed on brine shrimp and flies. Photograph by Rick Fridell.



The first of two Lesser Black-backed Gulls documented in fall 2009 along the Antelope Island State Park Causeway, Davis County, Utah, this adult was observed 24-26 (here 25) October. Photograph by Jack Binch.



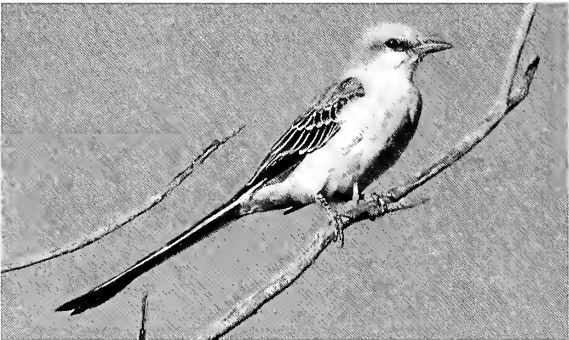
Lesser Black-backed Gulls are increasing in the Great Basin region, with three well-documented reports in autumn 2009. This adult, photographed 29 November, at Hemenway Harbor, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Clark County, was the fifth documented in Nevada, all since 2008. Photograph by Martin Meyers.



Common Ground-Doves are extremely rare in the Utah and Nevada. This individual visited Pahrnat National Wildlife Refuge, Lincoln County 1-4 (here 4) October 2009 and is the first to be documented for the Nevada Bird Records Committee. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.



Least Flycatcher reports have steadily increased in Nevada and Utah over the past five years, but few have been as well documented as this one, which lingered from 4 (here) through 13 October 2009 at Miller's Rest Area along Highway 95/6 in Esmeralda County, Nevada. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.



Vagrant Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are always thrilling to discover; this bird found 21 (here 22) September 2009 at the Duck Creek Wetlands in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada remained through 25 September, providing many people the opportunity to observe it. Photograph by Chris Ruiz-Gardner.

morph unidentified jaeger was observed at Pyramid L., Washoe, NV 20 Sep (GS). Common Terns were reported between 23 Aug and 23 Oct from Clark, Nye, and Washoe, NV and from Box Elder, Davis, Salt Lake, and Washington, UT.

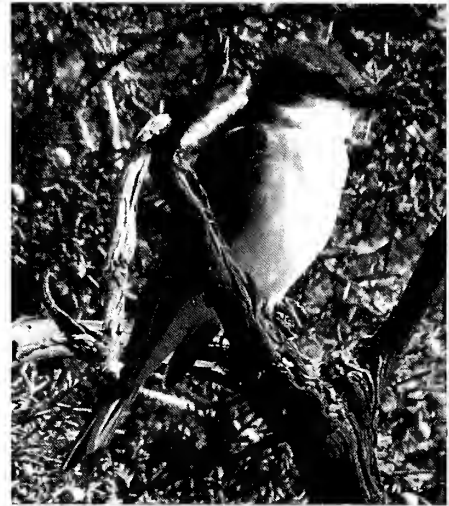
DOVES THROUGH WARBLERS

Wayward White-winged Doves were observed n. of their usual range in Utah at Dugway,

Juab 30 Aug-3 Sep (CZ), at Croydon, Morgan 2 Sep (WS), and at Moab, Grand 22 Sep (JP). A Common Ground-Dove was reported 19 Aug from along the Virgin R. near L. Mead (JS) with limited details; and a well-documented Common Ground-Dove was at Pahrnat 1-4 Oct (DW, ph. GS). A Short-eared Owl was a surprise find at Sun River, St. George, Washington, UT 29 Oct (ph. SG, fide WH). Noteworthy Vaux's Swifts appeared during a four-day window: at Quail Creek 2 Oct (RF), at H.B.V.P. 2 Oct (LV), at Pahrnat 3 Oct (GS), at Hurricane Sewage Ponds, Washington, UT 4 Oct (RF, RD, MH), and at Ash Meadows 5 Oct (CL). The small colony of Acorn Woodpeckers remained in the Kolob Meadows, Washington, UT through the season.

There were several outstanding flycatcher observations in the Region this fall. A Least Flycatcher was observed at Miller's R.A. 4-13 Oct (ph. GS, ph. MM), a very late Gray Flycatcher was found at Ash Meadows 22 Nov (CL), and a late, unidentified *Empidonax* was observed at Springville, Utah, UT 25 Nov (KCh). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported with limited details from Garr Ranch, Antelope I. 4 Oct (J&KB) and from Veyo, Washington, UT the same day (LT); although both of these sightings were by experienced observers, this long-overdue species remains undocumented in Utah. Black Phoebes were found outside of expected Utah areas at Matheson Preserve, Grand 13 Sep (JP) and at Salt Lake City, Salt Lake 11 Oct (JL). An Eastern Phoebe was reported at Flamingo Wash, Las Vegas, Clark, NV 18 Sep (TS). One of the major surprises this season was a hatch-year Thick-billed Kingbird found 20 Oct by a pair of visiting birders at Calf Canyon, in a remote section of the San Rafael Swell, Emery, UT (ph., †C&CE); this well-photographed bird was the first ever documented in Utah. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher graced Duck Creek 21-25 Sep (NN, ph. CR).

A late Plumbeous Vireo was observed at the Willow Creek G.C., Pahrump, Nye, NV 13 Nov (CL), a Blue-headed Vireo was re-



Utah's first Thick-billed Kingbird was discovered 20 October 2009 by Claus and Connie Engelhardt while they were camping in a remote canyon in the San Rafael Swell of Emery County. Photograph by Connie Engelhardt.

ported at Garr Ranch, Antelope I. 20 Sep (S&SC, J&KB), and a possible Philadelphia Vireo was reported at H.B.V.P. 26 Sep (RM). Red-eyed Vireos were found at Garr Ranch, Antelope I. 29 Aug (TA) and at Logan, Cache, UT 31 Aug (DR, CF). An imm. Purple Martin was photographed at Key Pittman W.M.A., Lincoln, NV 7 Sep (GS). A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was observed at the Provo Airport Dike, Utah, UT 11 Nov (EHu). Varied Thrushes were observed at several Nevada locations, including Porter Springs, Pershing (29 Sep, F&GP), Corn Cr. (3-10 Oct; CL et al.), Circle L (8 Oct; RS, DG), and Floyd Lamb Park, Clark (10-18 Oct; DG, RS, CL, ph. MM). Utah's only Varied Thrush was at Lytle Ranch 26 Oct (ph. RF). A vagrant Gray Catbird was at Corn Cr. 22-27 Sep (R&CT, D&RS), and a Bendire's Thrasher made a rare appearance at Lytle Ranch 7 Sep (LT, RF). Another major surprise this season was a Red-throated Pipit found 24 Sep at Duck



One of five Varied Thrushes reported from migrant traps in Utah and Nevada in autumn 2009, this one was photographed 17 October at Floyd Lamb Park, Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada. Photograph by Martin Meyers.

Creek (p.a., †GS). A flock of 12 Bohemian Waxwings was observed along the Mirror Lake Hwy., Summit, UT 21-22 Nov (LG, JBi, DH). Northerly Phainopeplas were found at Tonopah, Nye, NV 4 Oct (GS) and at Fallon, Churchill, NV 23-28 Oct (ph. M&CA).

The Great Basin Region typically hosts several rare and vagrant warblers, and this fall was no exception, with at least 30 species observed. The only Tennessee reported this season was at Crystal Springs, Lincoln, NV 27 Sep (TL, GS et al.). A hatch-year female Blue-winged Warbler was discovered at McCarran Ranch, Storey, NV 19-20 Sep (RSe, †DS, ph. GS). Northern Parulas were observed in Nevada at Circle L 17 Aug (GS), at Floyd Lamb Park, Clark 29 Aug (CL), at Circle L 19 Sep (JB, AQ, TF), at Willow Creek G.C., Nye 23 Sep (CL), and at Floyd Lamb 10 Oct (RS, DG). Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported from Washington, UT 11 Oct at La Verkin Cr. (RD, MH) and from St. George 1 Nov (LT). A Magnolia Warbler was found at Circle L 8 Oct (RS, DG), and a Cape May Warbler was photographed 25 Oct at Lytle (TA). Hermit Warblers were noted at Washington, UT locations, including the Pine Valley Mts. 17 (LT) & 28 Aug (J&KB) and Lava Pt., Zion 23 Aug (RD, MH). Palm Warblers were found 10 Oct at Leidy Cr., Dyer, Esmeralda, NV (MM, GS) and 11 Oct at Spanish Bottoms, Canyonlands N.P., Grand, UT (†K&JW). A Bay-breasted Warbler photographed at French Hollow, Wasatch, UT 19 Sep (TA) was a nice surprise. A male Blackpoll Warbler was photographed along the Virgin R., Washington, UT 1 Oct (RF). Black-and-white Warblers were sighted at Logan, Cache, UT 26 Aug (CF), at Miller's R.A. 5 Sep (DG, GS, RS, CL), and at Gunlock S.P., Washington, UT 3 Oct (LT). American Redstart sightings between 5 Sep and 16 Oct included 12 in Nevada (Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye) and one in Washington, UT. Prothonotary Warblers were reported at Floyd Lamb Park, Clark, NV 29 Aug (CL), at Sand Cove, Washington, UT 30 Aug (LT), at Lida, Esmeralda, NV 5 Sep (GS, RS, DG, CL), and at Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 28 Sep (GS, MM, D&RS). As usual, Nevada cornered the market on Ovenbird sightings, with individuals observed at Pahranaagat 16 Sep (F&GP), at Corn Cr. 21 Sep (SW et al.), and at Circle L 8 Oct (RS, DG). Ten Northern Waterthrushes were observed between 26 Aug and 27 Sep in Clark and Lincoln, NV and in Cache, Davis, Salt Lake, and Washington, UT. A Kentucky Warbler was located 21 Sep at Corn Cr. (SW et al.), and Hooded Warblers were discovered 17 Aug at Lida, Esmeralda, NV (GS) and 30 Sep along Clear Cr., Sevier, UT (TC). A Red-faced Warbler was present for the 2nd con-

secutive year at Fletcher Canyon, Mt. Charleston, Clark, NV (22 Jun-10 Aug; ph. BG, ph. CR et al.). A Summer Tanager at Lida Pond, Esmeralda, NV 24 Oct (GS) was n. of expected range, and a female Scarlet Tanager was photographed at the Salt Lake International Center, Salt Lake, UT 7 Sep (ph. TA).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Clay-colored Sparrow sightings continue to increase in the Great Basin, with 5 reported this fall: Floyd Lamb Park, Clark, NV attracted a single 30 Aug (ph. CR) and 2 between 26 Sep-3 Oct (GS, MS, TL, MM), and singles were noted 5 Sep at Gunlock, Washington, UT (LT) and 8-25 Oct at Lytle Ranch (ph. RF et al.). A possible Field Sparrow was photographed 25 Oct at Lytle Ranch (p.a., TA). Lark Buntings were observed at Lytle Ranch 24 Aug (J&KB), at Miller's R.A. 8-24 Sep (ph. F&GP et al.), and at Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 9-10 Oct (CL, DG, RS, GS). Observations of Fox Sparrows other than Slate-colored are noteworthy in the Region. Sooty Fox Sparrows were present at Circle L 9-10 Oct (MM, GS) and at Lida, Esmeralda, NV 24 Oct (GS), and Red Fox Sparrows were reported in Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 11-17 Oct (MM, GS) and at Lytle Ranch 3 Nov (J&KB). One or 2 Grasshopper Sparrows were present at Miller's R.A. 22-29 Sep (ph. GS, ph. RF), with singles seen 3 Oct at Duck Creek (JT) and 9 Oct at Lytle Ranch (ph. RF). Swamp Sparrows were photographed at Miller's R.A. 17 Oct (MM, GS) and at Leeds, Washington, UT 25 Oct-2 Nov (TA, RF). Ten White-throated Sparrows were reported between 17 Oct and 29 Nov in Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Pershing, and Washoe, NV and in Cache, Washington, and Weber, UT. The only Harris's Sparrows were reported in Utah—on 18 Nov at Moab, Grand (JP) and 30 Nov at Lytle Ranch (LT). Noteworthy Golden-crowned Sparrow sightings included one at Miller's R.A. 24 Sep (FP), one at Garr Ranch, Antelope I. 27 Sep (S&CS), one at Lower Sand Cove, Washington, UT 2-27 Nov (J&KB), one at the Virgin River Con-



Discovered by Rebecca and Dennis Serdehely, Nevada's second documented Blue-winged Warbler stopped over at the McCarran Ranch Preserve, Washoe County 19-20 (here 20) September 2009. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.



One of many vagrant eastern warbler species observed in the Great Basin in autumn 2009, this Palm Warbler was photographed 10 October along Leidy Creek at Dyer, Esmeralda County, Nevada. Photograph by Martin Meyers.



This male Blackpoll Warbler was found foraging in the riparian area along the Virgin River in Washington County, Utah on 1 October 2009. Photograph by Rick Fridell.

fluence Park, Washington, UT 2 Nov (J&KB), and one at Corn Cr. 27 Nov+ (JT et al.). Two Snow Buntings were photographed at Bear River 25 Oct (ph. MMo, M&SS).

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks made a nice showing this fall, with 7 observed between 5 Sep and 15 Oct in Esmeralda, NV and in Juab, Millard, Washington, and Weber, UT. Utah's 3rd documented Painted Bunting, a first-fall female, was photographed 1-7 Sep at Lytle Ranch (†RF et al.). A juv. Painted Bunting also turned up at Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 19 Sep (JB, AQ, TF). The only Bobolink reported this

fall was one at Miller's R.A. 19 Sep (GS, DG, RS). A Common Grackle was found at Battle Mt., in seldom-birded Lander, NV 14 Oct+ (†EH). Female Orchard Orioles were found at Lida, Esmeralda, NV 5 Sep (ph. GS, RS, CL, DG) and at Corn Cr. 7-12 Sep (GS, CT, MD, PJ). Either a hatch-year male or a hybrid Baltimore Oriole was found at Fish Springs N.W.R., Juab, UT 18 Sep (CN, CI, JBI). It was an amazing season for Lawrence's Goldfinch sightings in Nevada; however, none were reported in Utah. A flock of up to 15 Lawrence's Goldfinches graced Kyle Canyon, Clark 1-10 Oct (NN, CL et al.); a pair was photographed at nearby Mt. Charleston 11 Oct (JW); and singles were found at Battle Mt., Lander 11 Oct (ph. LT), at Corn Cr. 11 Oct (PJ, RS, JJ), at Ash Meadows 12 Oct (CL), and at Searchlight, Clark 17 Oct (JBo).

Contributors and cited observers: Aaron Ambos, Elisabeth Ammon, Mike & Carol Amos, Tim Avery, Janet Bair, John Bellmon (JBe), Joel & Kathy Beyer, Jack Binch (JBi), Jeff Blisky (JBI), Jim Boone (JBo), Bob Bradley, Je Anne Branca (JBr), Barbara Carlson, KC Childs (KCh), Kristen Comella, Travis Cooper, Laura Cunningham, Rob Dobbs, Marci Dvorak, Claus & Connie Engelhardt, Keith Evans, Mike Fish, Rick Fridell, Tara Forbis, Craig Fosdick, Pomeria Fronce, Sarah Gaines, Dennis Ghiglieri, Lu Giddings, Bob Gotschall, Carol Gwynn, Dave Hanscom, Ed Harper, Steve Hedges, Paul Higgins, Eric Huish (EHu), Meribeth Huizinga, William Hunter, Bob Huntington, Carl Ingwell, Paul Jared, Jeff Johnson, Paul Lehman, Tim Lenz, Jerry Ligouri, Carl Lundblad, Bob McDougal, Martin Meyers, Randy Michal, Don Molde, Mark

Mossing (MMo), Larry Neel, Colby Neuman, Nathaniel Nye, Ryan O'Donnell, Bryant Olsen, Scott Page, Fred & Gail Petersen, Jason Pietrzak, Kristin Purdy, Alan de Queiroz, Jack Rensel, Dominique Roche, Chris Ruiz-Gardner, Ron Ryel, Mike San Miguel, Matt & Stacey Schamberger, Greg Scyphers, Dennis Serdehely, Rebecca Serdehely (RSe), Arnold Smith, Weston Smith, Steve & Cindy Sommerfeld, Justin Streit, Rose Strickland, Toby Sulenski, Les Talbot (LTa), Larry Teske (LTe), Jeanne Tinsman, Steve Ting, Carolyn & Richard Titus, Larry Tripp, Lupe Varela, Kevin Wheeler, Stickland Wheelock, Jim Williams, Kay & James Wilson, Diane Wong, Larene Wyss, Richard Young, Candy Zaffis. ☺

Rick Fridell, 451 North SR-318
Hurricane, Utah 84737, (richardfridell@utah.gov)

Alaska



rarities, mostly early in the season from Gambell and in Southeast, but there was little excitement generated by Nearctic and boreal species out into the Bering Sea. Gambell was basically shut out after early September, when strong northerly winds prevailed. The Aleutian Low's position after early September seemed to direct the season's west-to-east storm tracks into the southern Bering Sea,

which meant that the northern half of the Bering Sea was under the influence of a northerly flow. In the eastern Aleutians, good coverage this season from the environs of Unalaska added considerably to our information from that end of the archipelago. Reports came also from nearby Dutch Harbor, which is located on Amaknak Island and connected by bridge to the rest of the city of Unalaska, on Unalaska Island proper. That site's unique Strawberry Hill spruce groves are proving to be quite a migrant trap, secluded in the expansive coastal tundra zone.

over Ketchikan 24 Sep (SCH, AWP). Still not well known in fall in Southeast, 3 Aleutian Cackling Geese were found around Sitka 31 Oct-9 Nov (ph. MRG), while another 4 were in Ketchikan 3-12 Nov (CAF, ph. SCH) and 6 there 10 Nov (ph. JHL). It has been presumed that most *leucopareia* Cacklings take a non-stop pelagic route from Aleutian breeding sites to the Pacific Northwest. A shift to northerly winds within a few days either side of 1 Sep typically ushers in the season's peak Emperor Goose counts at Gambell, where this year's high count was 400 off the Point 1 Sep (PEL). Farther s. and e., 5 Emperors at Kodiak 30 Aug (LM) were record-early arrivals at a traditional winter site. Thirty-five Eurasian Wigeons made a good total for the season from Gambell, including a group of 20, all between 27 Aug and 19 Sep (PEL). Elsewhere, numbers seemed low, with 5 noted in the Homer area 18-24 Oct (AL) being the only other significant report. A Green-winged Teal was described from the e. Aleutians in the Dutch Harbor area from 5 Nov (RAM), where this Mainland breeder is rare in passage. Perhaps because of lingering open water conditions on the Mainland, few interesting *Aythya* reports came in, save for the 2 and possibly 3 Lesser Scaup in the e. Aleutians in Dutch Harbor, Unalaska 31 Oct and 5 Nov (ph. RAM, SG), where this Mainland breeder is casual, mostly in winter. A very large and unusually early flock of 400 Black Scoters was located in Icy Strait 1 Sep (GS). Most Black Scoters arrive in Southeast in early Oct. Similarly early

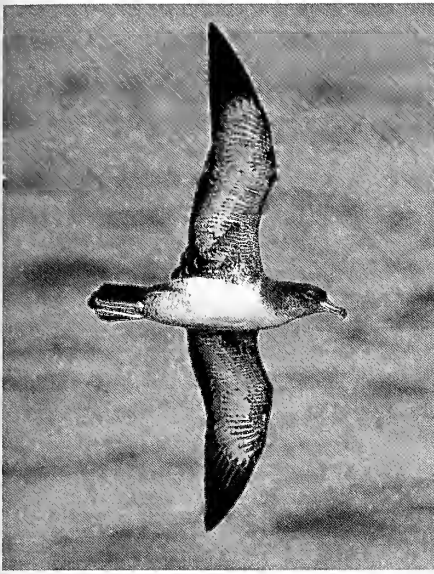
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Fall migration 2009 seemed to have commenced early, offered only a few significant early morning fallouts at coastal sites, and stayed rather slow from about mid-October into December. A combination of fine early summer weather—which offered ideal breeding conditions—and a lack of big storms in the first half of the season probably contributed to the rather uneventful autumn passage. The freeze-up period followed recent trends by coming on the late side and lasting longer, compared to long-term averages. From late September through October, conditions were generally mild, with below-average precipitation, but notable late dates for passerines were fewer than has been usual, probably because many had departed a bit early. As usual, there were still plenty of

waterfowl through herons

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Greater White-fronted Geese are casual in the cen. and w. Aleutians, so a single was notable at Adak I. 18 Nov (ph. RAM) and within the same timeframe as the few previous fall reports. Late Sep produced a strong showing of the species in s. Southeast, including 6800



In the northern Gulf of Alaska, Pink-footed Shearwater is detected mostly as single birds, from midsummer through early fall, when sea surface temperatures peak; nevertheless, this bird off Salisbury Sound near Sitka 23 August 2009 is one of few for which good documentation is available. Photograph by Joel Brady-Power.

was a single Long-tailed Duck in Sitka 6 Sep (PN), well ahead of the more normal Oct arrival period. Four female-type Hooded Mergansers around Kodiak 19 Oct (ph. RAM) made the season's best showing, while singles in Anchorage 2 Oct (PP) and at Seward 31 Oct (RC) were other notables. These reports are from typical sites for fall dispersants that reach w. and n. of known Southeast sites.

The loon passage at various Bering Sea sites was average, if on the late side, with essentially no good concentrations or local rarities. A single Western Grebe found near Juneau 17 Oct (GBV, PMS) was at the n. limits of the species' Southeast range. Decent shipboard coverage in the Bering Sea this season produced notable and late Short-tailed Albatross reports, highlighted by 12+ w. of the Pribilofs 24 Sep (ph. LHD) and a very late bird in the vicinity of Petrel Bank, n. of Semisopchnoi I. 10 & 12 Nov and 1 Dec (RAM). Most fall reports tail off after Sep, although there are occasional winter records. The Region's rarer *Puffinus* shearwaters made a decent showing, coinciding with the season's peak sea surface temperature period. At least one Pink-footed Shearwater was off Baranof I.'s Salisbury Sound 23 Aug (ph. JBP). Although recognized for years as a rare warm-water season straggler into Alaska waters, it has only been 10 years since Pink-footed was first photographically documented in the Region. Lack of North Gulf of Alaska ship surveys limited Buller's Shearwater reports this season. Singles from off Salisbury Sound in

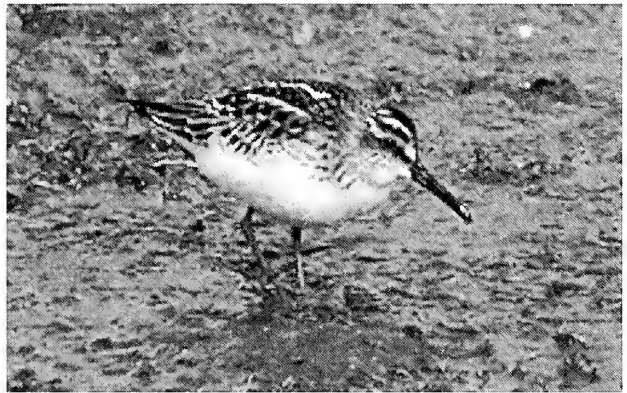
Southeast 23 Aug (JBP) and farther n. from Kodiak waters 4 Oct (JBA) were the only ones noted. Of these two rare and sporadic shearwater species, Buller's is known from Alaska waters in irregular, occasionally high numbers (hundreds), concentrated in Aug and Sep. Two Southeast Manx Shearwaters photographed off the coast near Icy Bay 4 Aug (ph. NH) preceded another report of one off Chichagof I.'s Khaz Bay 23 Aug (JBP). This species has recently been found nearly annually in very small numbers in the North Gulf of Alaska between May and Sep. Casual in the n. Bering Sea, where small numbers probably disperse each fall, were single Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels off the Point at Gambell 29 Aug (PEL) and 8 Sep (AL). Lehman described record-high numbers of Pelagic Cormorant passing the Point at Gambell this season, with notable counts of 300 on 12 Sep and 575 on 19 Sep. The usual dispersal of Great Blue Heron found decent numbers beyond the usual coastal sites, highlighted by scattered singles into Upper Cook Inlet. Individuals were reported from Anchorage's fish hatchery 31 Aug (DFD), at s. Anchorage's Potter Marsh irregularly 1 Sep–14 Oct (m.ob.), farther n. in Wasilla 25 Oct (DC), at the Palmer hayflats 22 Nov+ (KR), and on the w. Kenai Pen. at Ninilchik 6 Sep (KB). In a more typical fall, a few reports from the n. half of Cook Inlet would be considered a good showing.



This Long-eared owl near Juneau 10 November 2009 represents one of about ten Alaska records, most of which are from the fall season. Photograph by Nick R. Hajdukovich.

HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

Juneau birders conducted several hawk-watches in the alpine zone in early Sep, which produced decent numbers of southbound birds. Record-high numbers highlighted their 5 Sep count, including 31 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 17 Northern Harriers, 3 Red-tailed Hawks, 4 American Kestrels, and 4 Merlins (PMS, BAA). Farther s. at McDonald L., on the Cleveland Pen. near Ketchikan, a similar vigil from 28 Sep tallied 37 Red-tailed Hawks (AWP, SCH), which tied that locale's high fall count. Understanding autumn raptor migration in Southeast has always been a tricky endeavor, given the archipelago's geography,



This juvenile Broad-billed Sandpiper, photographed here on the first of its three-day stay at St. Paul Island, Alaska 29–31 August 2009, was the first for the Pribilof Islands and Bering Sea. All of the state's prior reports of this casual fall migrant come from the central and western Aleutian Islands between 15 August and 8 September. Photograph by Scott Schuette.

limited access, and the season's protracted nature; it has been assumed that many southbound migrants push inland and through the Coast Range via the larger interior-draining watersheds. Two Sharp-shinned Hawks made forays into an ornamental spruce grove near Dutch Harbor in the e. Aleutians 31 Oct (ph. RAM, SG), where at least one remained through 3 Nov; there is one prior record substantiated for the Aleutians, a single that spent the winter 2003–2004 at the same locality. Record late in Upper Cook Inlet was a dark-morph Harlan's Hawk just s. of Palmer 12–15 Nov (PF); Rough-legged Hawk is typically the later-lingering *Buteo* in South-coastal Alaska. Up to 5 Golden Eagles on the coastal plain near the Colville R. delta 13 Aug (JH) were likely typical in fall on the North Slope, where mostly imms. from foothill breeding sites are probably drawn to staging waterbirds and/or high ground squirrel numbers. An American Kestrel at Ketchikan 9–17 Nov (JFK, JHL) set a new local late date for this falcon, which is very rare off the Southeast's mainland. A lone Merlin 31 Oct–1 Nov was joined by another in an area of isolated spruce at Unalaska 6 Nov (ph. RAM, SG). Of the typ-



While duck hunting in dense marshes far out on the Palmer Hay Flats at the north end of Upper Cook Inlet 25 October 2009, Dan Crowson found this Marsh Wren. The observer and others returned and documented Alaska's first record with this and other photographs on 28 October (here). This furtive species breeds into northeastern British Columbia and sporadically into southeastern Yukon. Photograph by Dan Crowson.

ical scattered American Coot reports from Southeast sites, 6 each at Juneau's Pioneer Marsh 17 Oct (NRH) and Sitka's Swan L. 9 Oct+ (MRG), were high for the season. A single farther n. at Cordova 15 Nov (MB) was about the 6th from that area and the only other notable observation.

Apart from several notable Southeast and Pribilof rarities, it was an average to subpar shorebird season across the Region. Always one of the later species to depart the Region, Black-bellied Plovers made late news from n. Southeast at Gustavus, where 6 were last seen 19 Nov (NKD). An average Lesser Sand-Plover showing included 4 for the season from Gambell 27 Aug–14 Sep (PEL, AL et al.) and a single at St. Paul I. 17–23 Aug (St. Paul Tour). A juv. Common Ringed Plover at Gambell 29 Aug (PEL) was the latest there by four days, by contrast, most of the few fall reports in the w. Aleutians are from the first half of Sep. Of 4 Semipalmated Plovers at Gambell 20–26 Aug, a lone bird lingered through 8 Sep (PEL), the latest ever there. A flock of 13 Killdeer in

Ketchikan 12 Nov (SCH) established a new local high count. A record single-day total of 5 Gray-tailed Tattlers came from Gambell 5 Sep (PEL et al.), while St. Paul numbers were limited to 5 for the season (St. Paul Tour). For some reason, Wood Sandpiper reports from the Pribilofs have been more consistent recently than from other sites. There were 2 at St. Paul this season, 23–24 Aug and 30 Aug–5 Sep (St. Paul Tour). Five Upland

Sandpipers in Juneau 12 Aug–8 Sep (m ob.) and a single in Gustavus 29 Aug (BBP) made a strong showing for this very rare fall migrant in Southeast and the 3rd fall in a row for Southeast reports of the species. Rare in fall away from sw. Alaska staging sites, a single Bar-tailed Godwit made news in Gustavus 31 Aug–5 Sep (BBP, ph. NKD). Since most Alaska-breeding Marbled Godwits apparently overfly the Gulf of Alaska in fall migration, fall reports beyond Jul are significant. One in Gustavus 27 Sep (ph. NKD) was deemed one of few documented in fall for Southeast, while another on the Homer Spit 18–26 Oct (ph. AL) is probably the Region's latest on record and only the 2nd in fall for the Kenai Pen. Four Rock Sandpipers at Juneau's Eagle Beach were extremely early migrants 28 Aug (PMS), where they typically arrive at winter sites in early Oct. Later, and mixed in with the larger arriving winter flocks in Nov, single nominate *ptilocnemis* were noted at Gustavus 26 Nov (ph. NKD) and at Eagle Beach 21–26 Nov (PMS, BAA). Most birds of the nominate subspecies winter in Cook Inlet,

and small numbers straggle to the North Gulf of Alaska coast in winter. A juv. Broad-billed Sandpiper at St. Paul 29–31 Aug (St. Paul Tour, ph. SS), the Region's first in five years, was a first for the Pribilofs and first away from Adak I. and the w. Aleutians. Buff-breasted Sandpipers made a strong showing within their known coastal fall range, which occasionally includes the Region's w. coast and the Southeast. Far westerly reports came in from St. Paul I., a single 28 Aug (St. Paul Tour), plus 3 on the Narrow Cape beach, Kodiak I. 29 Aug (JBA, MP, ph. RAM). In Southeast, Buff-breasted were seen at Juneau 31 Aug–1 Sep (2 birds, NRH, ph. MWS) and 2 Sep (3; BBP, ph. NKD), and among several Gustavus reports was a late single 30 Sep (BBP). Long-billed Dowitchers lingered quite late, with the latest a single from what was an already late flock at Homer through 13 Nov (AL), the latest ever for the Kenai Pen. A Long-billed at Gustavus stayed through 30 Nov (NKD), and one at Unalaska Spit in the e. Aleutians 21 Sep (AL, SG) made a first local record. Black-legged Kittiwake breeding success in the n. Bering Sea must have been reduced this year, as the Gambell tallies were substantially below averages, with a one-day high of only 2000 birds from 2 Sep and juvs. arriving two weeks late, on 19 Sep (PEL). With good fall coverage at Gambell going back to 1992, this season's summaries of large *Larus* gull status in the heart of Glaucous Gull country nicely illustrate their current Bering Sea distribution. Maximum daily counts of *vegae* Herring Gull were mostly in the 30–45 range until mid-Sep, when numbers decreased. Slaty-backed Gulls were seen nearly daily, with a slightly above-average season total of 15, while Glaucous-winged Gulls increased after early Sep, with 5–25 seen most days and an above-average maximum peak of 55 on 17 Sep (PEL). Glaucous-winged Gull oc-



The Strawberry Hill spruce groves at Unalaska in the eastern Aleutians were hot with rarities in fall 2009, including this Yellow-rumped Warbler (right), photographed here 22 September, one of two noted there in late September. Amazingly, a Townsend's Warbler appeared in a tree next to the Yellow-rumped, and it or a second Townsend's was in the area again on 1 November. Both species are extremely scarce beyond the mainland and boreal forests, and there is only one previous record of Townsend's for the Aleutians. Photographs by Aaron Lang.

currence in the n. Bering Sea has clearly increased over the past decade or so, and the species is now known to breed on St. Matthew Island. An ad. Black-headed Gull located at Gambell 5-7 Sep (vt. PEL et al.) was a 2nd for fall at Gambell and the season's only report. Franklin's Gull reports were subpar, given the species' recent fall history, with an ad. in the Anchorage area 18 Sep-2 Oct (DWS, TT, PP) and a first-cycle bird at the Ketchikan waterfront 12 Aug (AWP, ph. SCH) the only reports. A first-cycle California Gull that wandered nw to the e. side of Kodiak 20 Sep (JBA ph.) was the season's only extralimital find beyond the s. half of Southeast, where peak staging estimates included 400 in Ketchikan 12 Aug (AWP, SCH) and 500 farther w. at Lagoon Cr. on Prince of Wales I. 12 Sep (AWP, SCH). A *smithsonianus* Herring Gull attracted to research trawls at Petrel Bank off the n. end of Semisopochnoi I. in the w.-cen. Aleutians 23 & 24 Nov (ph., †RAM) likely documents the westernmost record of this common mainland Alaska breeder. It was seen with *vegae* Herring Gulls, which are more typical across cen. and w. Aleutian waters. Seabird observers documented an ad. Thayer's Gull in cen. Bering Sea waters some 200 km sse. of St. Matthew I. 22 Sep (ph. LHD). Thayer's Gull is casual in the Bering Sea, and most of the few reports have come from the e. half in autumn. The only Slaty-backed Gull reports of note beyond the Bering Sea were singles at Anchorage's Ship Cr. mouth 8 Aug (DWS) and up to 4 scattered around Kodiak 25 Sep-4 Oct (JBA, RAM, RC). This fall's Caspian Tern highlights continued the summer's notable observations from n. Southeast. A juv. at Gustavus 18 Aug (ph. NKD) was one of 42 chicks that had been banded at a Copper R. Delta colony in Jul 2009, and it represented the first band recovery of an Alaska-produced bird. Another banded at the E. Sand I. colony in the Columbia R., Washington/Oregon in Jul was also noted in Gustavus 6 & 20 Aug (NKD). An ad. near Ketchikan 9 Aug (SCH) was seen feeding a young bird. This species only recently became a regular and rare but increasing breeder in Alaska, following a long-term population expansion along the n. Pacific Coast. Very rare in late summer, and recorded mostly in e. North Gulf of Alaska waters, a South Polar Skua was photographed off Salisbury Sound on the w. side of Kruzof I. 23 Aug (ph. JBP). A basic-plumaged Marbled Murrelet in pelagic waters over the continental shelf 215 km n. of St. Paul I. 28 Sep (AL) was a long way from familiar waters and made a casual Bering Sea report. Twelve Kittlitz's Murrelets for the season off the Point at Gambell 8-20 Sep (PEL et al.) established a record-high count from that locali-

ty and follows good numbers discovered in the n. half of the Bering Sea as reported last winter. Adding to what appears to be growing fall numbers in the n. Bering Sea over the past few years, Ancient Murrelets were again seen in high numbers off Gambell, with a new record peak of 144 birds passing the Point 13 Sep (PEL).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS

The latest Band-tailed Pigeon reports included 2 in Wrangell 19-20 Sep (BHD) and a Regional record-late single at Petersburg 30 Oct (ph. LS). Eurasian Colared-Doves continued to turn up in Southeast areas in Aug and early Sep, following the species' incursion from the summer. Up to 6 could be accounted for in Juneau by 2 Oct (ph. GBV), all of which hung around into Dec, and at least 4, including 2 juvs, were in Ketchikan through 14 Sep (JFK). Another 2 were well n. at Yakutat 19 Aug (ph. NC); one in a housing area of Cold Bay 11-13 Oct (ph. AB) made a first for Alaska's Southwest. Fall 2009 also saw a robust passage of Mourning Dove, particularly at Ketchikan, where 12+ birds were located 26 Aug-5 Oct (m.ob.). Another 4 were in the Sitka area during Sep (KLL, m.ob.), while singles were scattered among other Southeast communities. Casual in fall, the season's only *Cuculus* report was an imm. from Adak I. 18 Sep (IH, ph. FH, BH); there are no confirmed Aleutian fall records of Common Cuckoo and just one of Oriental. Single Northern Hawk Owls dispersed to the coast in Juneau 11 Oct (m.ob.) and Gustavus 14 Oct (HL) and 9 Nov (NKD). This Interior species is otherwise very rare in Southeast, where the irregular reports are most often from the mainland. A migrant Long-eared Owl was a lucky find in dense conifers at the Juneau golf course 10 Nov (GBV, ph. NRH et al.); there are fewer than 10 records for the Region, most from fall, and all but one from Southeast. An offshore Common Nighthawk at Ketchikan 28 Aug (AWP) made a 3rd local record and the season's only report. Anna's Hummingbirds, an irregular, rare fall and early winter visitor in Alaska since the 1980s, were widely distributed this season, with a local record-high 5 in Juneau 3 Oct-10 Nov (m.ob., ph. MWS), 2 at a Wrangell feeder 9 & 27 Oct (ON), and singles at Haines 29 Aug (MM), Farm I. at the Stikine R. mouth 2 Oct



This adult Lark Sparrow, rather out of place in the Ketchikan rainforest 13-22 (here 19) September 2009, furnishes only the second documented record for Alaska. Photograph by Jim H. Lewis.

(EB), and Ketchikan 28 Nov (SC), the latter a bird that had been present for several weeks. Farther afield, a probable Anna's was described from Cold Bay 9 Sep (JS, †ES), one of few ever from Southwest, and a very late South-coastal bird was at Homer 7-14 Nov (ph. AL). Single Rufous Hummingbirds at Juneau 11 Sep (ph. MWS) and on Prince of Wales I. 14 Sep (AWP, SCH) were extremely late, given that most depart the Region by late Aug. Following this spring's sightings from the Juneau area, single Black-backed Woodpeckers were again documented in Juneau 9 (ph. DJ) & 15 Oct (PMS).

Record-late flycatchers for their locations were an Olive-sided in Ketchikan 24-26 Sep (ph. JHL) and a Western Wood-Pewee in Ketchikan 22 Sep (JDL). Notable Hammond's Flycatchers included a rare South-coastal bird in an Anchorage yard 17 Aug (ph. TT), where there are maybe six total records, mostly from spring, and one at Juneau 14 Sep (MWS). The Region's 2nd Great Crested Flycatcher thrilled Juneau observers as it fed in hedge thickets on berries and bugs 29 Sep-11 Oct (NRH ph., m.ob.). A Middleton I. specimen from 29 Sep 1990 represents the only prior Alaska record of this e. species, which breeds as close to the Region as e.-cen. Alberta. Coincidentally, the only British Columbia record was a coastal bird also from 29 Sep. The first Western Kingbird for Northern Alaska was a startling report, a bird photographed next to an Eastern Yellow Wagtail near milepost 284.5 of the Dalton Hwy. and the Toolik Field Station 8 Aug (ph. JS) in the n.-cen. Brooks Range. This constitutes the Region's northernmost report and one of few from the fall season. A juv. Brown Shrike reported from St. Paul I. 2-3 Sep (St. Paul Tour) would be a first Pribilofs record but lacked documentation. Adak I. again produced an imm. Northern Shrike 9 Nov+ (ph. IH). A Cassin's Vireo at

Juneau's Sandy Beach thickets 4 & 8 Sep (PMS) represented only the Region's 2nd fall record. Probably record late for the Region was a Warbling Vireo in Ketchikan 23 Oct (SCH). There are few reports noted after mid-Sep, and the species is very rare away from the Southeast mainland in fall. Extremely rare on the outer coast in Southeast, a wandering Black-billed Magpie was a surprise find at Big L. above Sitka 22 Nov (KB), where it fed on a Mountain Goat carcass. The season's significant late swallow reports included a Tree Swallow in Juneau 12 Sep (PMS, PAR, BAA) and a Bank Swallow 15 Sep (GBV). Cliff and Barn Swallow are the latest swallows to depart while Trees, Banks, and Violet-greens are typically scarce by the 3rd week of Aug. Gambell's 2nd fall Barn Swallow, a pale-bellied Palearctic bird, was seen 3-4 Sep (PEL, ph. MT, AL et al.).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

It was clearly not a Red-breasted Nuthatch irruption year, as the season's only notable report away from Mainland taiga habitats was a single in the Bering Sea at St. Paul I. 2-3 Sep (St. Paul Tour). While on a duck-hunting foray to the outer edges of the Palmer hay flats se. of Wasilla 25 Oct, Crowson found Alaska's first Marsh Wren. Remarkably, this furtive bird was relocated in a knee-deep *Scirpus* marsh 28 Oct, when photographs were obtained (ph. DC, RW, BF). There are a few Marsh Wren records, including nesting, from extreme se. Yukon Territories, but the nearest regular breeding areas are in the Peace R. watersheds of ne. British Columbia, e. of the Continental Divide. A lone Ruby-crowned Kinglet came aboard a vessel s. of St. George I. in the Pribilofs 7 Sep (LHD); this species is rare to very rare offshore in fall in the Bering Sea, whereas Golden-crowned Kinglet is strictly casual. Only one Dusky Warbler was located this season, at Gambell on 1 Sep (AL, PEL, ph. MT et al.). Casual in fall in the Region, a Taiga Flycatcher skulked around crab pots at St. Paul I. 28-29 Aug (ph. SS), a 3rd Pribilof record and the Region's 2nd in fall. Twenty-four Bluethroats was deemed a very good fall tally from Gambell 24 Aug-13 Sep (PEL). Two Mountain Bluebirds made news at Fairbanks 23 Aug (LD, NRH), where there are few actual fall records, while another took up residence in Mountain Ash trees at Homer 18 Nov-Dec (AL). There are a few prior fall reports from South-coastal Alaska. A Swainson's Thrush in the Gambell middens 10 Sep (PEL et al.) was remarkably that site's 10th from fall. A Swainson's of the Olive-backed group in Juneau 15 Oct (PMS, ph. NRH, LHD) was a rare find and notably late by nearly a month in

Southeast, where Russet-backed breed. Olive-backed nest in South-coastal Alaska, well w. of n. Southeast. Another Gray Catbird spent a day at a Juneau feeder 13 Oct (ph. PMS et al.), providing the Region's 5th record, which have occurred mostly in fall. A calling Red-throated Pipit at Unalaska 22 Sep (AL, SG) was the e. Aleutians' first and marks a nice link between fall records from the cen. and w. Aleutians and the few records from South-coastal Alaska at Middleton I. and Anchorage. MacIntosh managed to photograph one of 2 Bohemian Waxwings present in the spruce groves at Unalaska 1 Nov (ph. RAM, SG). There are a few late fall and winter reports from the cen. and e. Aleutians. Two Cedar Waxwings were in Gustavus 2 Aug (NKD), 6 were in Homer 26 Sep, with another there 24 Nov (MK, AL).

Late Orange-crowned Warblers included one each at Juneau 13 Nov (JDL), in Sitka in "mid-Nov" (MLW, MET), and at Kodiak 1 Nov+ (ph. MM, RAM); another landed on a vessel in the cen. Bering Sea s. of the Pribilofs 4 Sep (LHD). Two more Nashville Warblers were reported: one was found in stored nets on a research vessel way out in the Bering Sea some 200 km se. of St. Matthew I. 21 Sep (ph. LHD); the other was found by the same observer nearly a month later in Juneau 19 Oct (ph. LHD), the 4th for Southeast. The same Bering Sea vessel also harbored a Yellow Warbler s. of St. Matthew I. 5 Sep (LHD). A single Yellow-rumped Warbler was drawn to the Strawberry Hill spruce groves at Unalaska 10 Sep, with 2 there 22 Sep (ph. AL, SG). Yellow-rumped are casual in the Aleutians, and these are the first for Unalaska. Remarkably, a Townsend's Warbler appeared in an adjacent spruce tree with the Yellow-rumped at Unalaska 22 Sep (ph. AL, SG), with another Townsend's there 1 Nov (RAM, SG). There is one previous Aleutians record of Townsend's, from Shemya I. in Oct. The latest Townsend's report otherwise was one in Ketchikan 26 Nov (SCH). Southeast sites had a decent showing of American Redstarts, highlighted by an imm. in Ketchikan 24 Aug (SCH, AWP) that provided only a 2nd for fall there; one in Juneau 3 Oct (ph. PAR) may have been the Region's latest ever. Nearctic warblers at Gambell were few: a Northern Waterthrush 13-14 Sep (HLB, vt. PEL et al.) represented the latest of the now five total fall records there, and a Wilson's Warbler appeared 27 Aug (PEL). Especially late Wilson's included one in the Talkeetna area through 10 Oct (DP) and one in Ketchikan through 22 Nov (SCH et al.).

An American Tree Sparrow was a good find on the deck of a vessel at sea s. of St. Matthew I. 6 Sep (LHD). Elsewhere, southbound mi-

grants arrived early in Southeast sites, e.g., 19 Sep in Juneau (NRH, GBV), and in above-average numbers, including 40 in Juneau 15 Oct (PMS) and 55 there 16 Oct (GBV). Extralimital Chipping Sparrows pushed n. of their range: a single was near the Colville R. mouth 17 Oct (ph. JH), making a 2nd fall record from the North Slope, and 4 were at Gambell, on various dates 3-16 Sep (vt. PEL, AL et al.). An ad. Lark Sparrow, the 2nd ever documented in Alaska, looked out of place in coastal rainforest at Ketchikan 13-22 Sep (ph. JHL). The season's only Swamp Sparrow occurred in Juneau 19 Nov (†NRH). Nearly all of the Region's occasional fall reports come from the Ketchikan area. At least 11 White-throated Sparrows from Southeast localities 23 Sep-30 Nov (7 in Ketchikan 25 Oct-30 Nov, a record season) was a good total; another was in Homer 8 Nov (JDL, AL, MK). Rare and not annual in the Aleutians, another Golden-crowned Sparrow visited Unalaska 10 Oct (ph. AL, SG). What were possibly the same 3 *oreganus* Dark-eyed Juncos occupied two separated willow patches in two sections of Unalaska 1 & 6 Nov (ph. RAM, SG), the location of most of the very few Aleutian reports, all from late fall and winter.

The Little Bunting located at Gambell 23 Sep (vt. PEL) became that site's 21st overall since the early 1990s. An imm. Rustic Bunting attended a Ketchikan feeder 23-30 Nov and was joined by another 10-29 Nov (JFK, ph. SCH, m.ob.). This species is found sporadically in Alaska, most often in the w. Aleutians in spring; in fall, Rustics are casual there and on other Bering Sea islands, and we have four Alaska records away from those sites, including two previous Southeast observations (Juneau and Mitkof I.). The precious few days with favorable winds at Gambell produced an imm. Yellow-breasted Bunting 2 Sep, the Region's first in fall and only the 6th ever, and an imm. Pallas's Bunting, showing remnant juv. plumage characters, also 2 Sep, Gambell's 3rd in fall (both vt. PEL, ph. AL, ph. MT et al.). Fall migrant Western Tanagers are rarely located away from Southeast Mainland breeding areas, so 2 at Ketchikan 22 Sep (SCH, AWP, JDL) and one there 27 Sep (SCH) were notable. Alaska's 9th Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed at a Ketchikan area feeder 27 Sep (ph. CMC), where there are now several fall reports. Black-headed Grosbeaks have been increasing in both spring and fall since the late 1990s, and they made a good showing in Southeast again this season. Two at Wrangell 2 Sep (KM, BHD) apparently included a male that had been there all summer. Singles were also reported at Ketchikan 14-21 Sep (ph. JHL) and 22-24 Oct

(ph. LHD) and offshore in Sitka 26 Sep–5 Oct (AJ, ph. BF). A *Pheucticus* at Ketchikan 30 Aug (SCH, AWP) was likely a Black-headed.

An imm. male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at Ketchikan 12 Aug (ph. JHL) made a 2nd local report; most of the Region's observations of this casual visitor likely involve overshoots and are concentrated between late May and late Jul. Each fall, small numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds are typically scattered across Southeast sites, where the species is rare and possibly breeds, but the 17 total for the season was more than double the Region's previous high. Most were singles noted between 3 Aug and 12 Sep, with a local one-day high count of 3 at Yakutat 11–12 Sep (ph. GSB) and a season peak of 6 around Ketchikan 28 Aug–11 Sep (m.ob.). Casual for the Bering Sea was a Rusty Blackbird that visited St. Paul I. 9–10 Oct (St. Paul Tour), where there are about seven previous fall reports. Brambling reports were outside the norm this fall, starting with a very early arrival, certainly for Gambell where they are not annual, on 3 Sep (ph. AL, ph. MT, vt. PEL). Another early bird was at St. Paul 4 Sep (St. Paul Tour); 6 were in the Strawberry Hill groves at Unalaska 21–22 Sep (ph. AL, SG); and one was at sea in Bristol Bay 134 km ssw. of Cape Newenham 7 Oct (ph. AL). Casual in fall were single **Common Rosefinches** in the Gambell midens 22 Aug (vt. PEL) and 28 Aug–2 Sep (vt. PEL, ph. AL, ph. MT et al.). Gambell had produced four previous documented fall reports. Ketchikan always seems good for the Region's obligatory fall or winter Purple Finch reports,

which this season include 2 at a feeder there for most of Nov (KMR). This species remains sporadic and very rare in fall or winter in Ketchikan but still casual elsewhere, mostly in Southeast. Wandering Pine Siskins ventured off the Mainland into the Bering Sea, where they are casual. Up to 2 were present at Gambell 20–22 Aug (vt. PEL) for the 5th year there in fall since 1999. More unusual for the e. Aleutians, where siskins are casual, up to 5 foraged in the Unalaska groves 21 Sep (ph. AL, SG), and another 2 were in the vicinity 1 Nov (RAM, SG). The prolific Ketchikan area **House Sparrow** pioneers nested for a 3rd time 30 Aug–Sep. The female was observed carrying food 6 Sep and attending 2 fledglings 7 Sep (AWP, SCH, JHL). At least 7 of varying ages were observed in the nest area and at a nearby feeder through the season.

Contributors and observers (area compilers in boldface): B. A. Agler, J. B. Allen, R. H. Armstrong, G. S. Baluss, E. Benitz, B. Benter, S. Berns, A. Bohl, K. Bovee, J. Brady-Power, K. Buesseler, G. V. Byrd, M. Cady, N. Cattrerson, E. W. Clark, P. Coffey, R. Corcoran, K. Crenshaw, D. Crowson, J. E. Dearborn, D. F. Delap, B. H. Demerjian, L. Devaney, J. DeWitt, N. DeWitt (Interior), L. H. DiCicco, B. Ditttrick, N. K. Drumheller, S. DuBois, L. Edfelt, S. Echols, P. Eldridge, M. Enright, T. Eskelin, T. Evans, D. Fox, P. & C. Fritz, C. A. Fultz, T. Galloway, D. D. Gibson, R. E. Gill, M. R. Goff, S. Golodoff, R. J. Gordon, T. L. Goucher, C. Griswold, S. Hansen, M. K. Hart, C. Harwood, N. Hatch, N. R. Hajdukovich, S. C. Heinl (Southeast), J.

Helmericks, I. Helmericks, High Lonesome Birdtours (D. McKay, D. Radin et al.), K. Hocker, P. & T. Hunt, B. Hunter, J. Huntington, D. Hurley, J. Johnson, K. Johnson, D. Jones, P. Keller, W. Keys, M. Kilcher, M. Kissling, E. Kistler, J. F. Koerner, G. Koonooka, K. Kuletz, K. L. LaBounty, A. Lang, J. Leighton, H. Lentfer, J. D. Levison, J. H. Lewis, M. MacIntosh, R. A. MacIntosh, D. McKay, D. MacPhail, M. McCafferty, C. McIntyre, S. J. McCurdy, B. Meiklejohn, N. Mollett, M. Mooring, K. Morse, L. J. Oakley, B. B. Paige, E. Pandolfino, B. Pawuk, B. Peluso, G. Pendleton, M. Pherson, A. W. Piston (Southeast), J. E. Piston, D. & S. Porter, P. Pourchot, D. Prentki, J. Puschock, K. M. Ripley, P. A. Rose, C. L. Ross, K. Rousey, D. Rudis, K. Russell, J. Sauer, L. Scharf, J. Schas, R. L. Scher, G. Schorr, M. W. Schwan, A. Selin, S. Senner, D. Shaw, L. Skeep, J. & E. Smith, G. Smith, D. W. Sonneborn, M. Spindler, E. Stahl, K. Stenek, St. Paul Tour (S. Schuette et al.), G. Streveler, S. Studebaker, P. M. Suchanek, A. Swingley, M. Taylor, M. E. Tedin, T. Tobish, J. Trochet, C. Trussell, W. Tweit, S. Urvina, G. B. Van Vliet, P. Vanselow, V. Vosburg, M. L. Ward, K. L. Wendt, L. A. Wild, Wilderness Birding Adventures (B. Ditttrick, A. Lang et al.), M. F. Wilson, R. Winckler, J. Withrow, K. Zervos, S. Zimmerman. Details (†), specimens (*), photographs (ph.), videotape (vt.), and audiotape (v.r.) referenced in this report are on file at the University of Alaska Museum. 📍

Thebe Tobish, 2510 Foraker Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99517, (tgtljo@gci.net)

British Columbia

Chris Charlesworth

August began and ended hot and dry, with only a few days of showery weather in between. Forest fires from the previous months continued to burn in areas of the interior of the province. September continued the warm trend, with some interior locations reporting their warmest September on record. However, it was wetter than during the previous several months. Only the last few days of the month hinted at the autumn weather to come. The overall nice weather spurred many migrants to overfly the Region altogether. The Vaseux Lake Banding Station recorded its lowest number of migrant birds ever during a fall banding season. Frequent storms moved onto the coast through

October and November, but only a timid brand of Arctic air made its way into the interior by season's end. Snowpacks were low at all valley locations by the end of the period.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HAWKS

Greater White-fronted Geese, uncommon to rare through much of the interior of the province, were noted at several locations throughout the period. A bird with a neckband was reported at Fort St. James 9 Oct (RR); 500 were seen in migration over McQueen's Slough in Dawson Creek 5 Sep (JHD); and up to 4 frequented the Kelowna area, first seen at Munson's Pond 29 Sep (CC). Rare but regular in the interior, 42 Snow Geese were seen over Vernon and later over Kelowna 3 Oct (RC, CS); one was at the Maude Roxby





This rare Black Phoebe near Vancouver, British Columbia remained from 7 (here 8) September through 26 October 2009. Photograph by Peter Candido.

Bird Sanctuary, Kelowna 28 Sep (RCa). Four Ross's Geese were in farm fields near Newlands, 50 km ne. of Prince George, 4-18 Oct (CA, MA, m.ob.). A juv. Emperor Goose was seen by many and photographed in Richmond 19-21 Oct (HT, m.ob.). Not particularly common in late summer, 2 male Eurasian Wigeons were at Boundary Bay 11 Aug (DT). Uncommon to rare fall migrants in the interior, a White-winged Scoter was seen at the S.S. Sicomous in Penticton 31 Oct (JTU); 5 Surf Scoters were at the same location 11 Oct (LRO), as was a Long-tailed Duck 8 Oct (RCa). In the Peace River region, 2 female Rock Ptarmigan, each with broods of 3 chicks, were found on Pink Mt. 7 Aug (JHD). Rare migrants on interior lakes, Pacific Loons were reported at Burton in the West Kootenays 7 Sep (GD), on the Nechako R. in Prince George 7-12 Nov (JB, LH), and on Okanagan L. near Peachland 21 Sep (3 birds; CC, CS); elsewhere, 2 were at Vaseux L. 18 Oct (RC, TM), and up 4 were at the n. end of Osoyoos L. 18 Oct (RC, TM). An ad. Yellow-billed Loon in basic plumage was on Okanagan L. s. of Kelowna 5 Oct (CC, RC). A few single Clark's Grebes were seen outside of their only Regional breeding location, Salmon Arm: at Callanan L. in the Cariboo 24-25 Oct (JF); at Williams L. 19 Sep (ph. KA); at Chilliwack 27 Sep (DT); and at Blackie Spit in White Rock 7 Oct (JV, m.ob.).

Very rarely seen from shore, a Black-footed Albatross was noted with a large feeding flock of gulls off Tower Pt., Metchosin, s. Vancouver I. 17 Sep (DA). A gadfly petrel photographed by several birders on a pelagic trip 6 Oct (MTO, ST, FR, AA) showed an underwing pattern typical of Solander's Petrel; the bird was found 52 km w. of Tofino. Review of the photographs by Chris Corben, Steve Howell, Hadoram Shirihai, and others suggests that the bird's slight build, and bill, are more indicative Murphy's Petrel, but review is ongoing. A Manx Shearwater was seen from Tower Pt., Metchosin 26 Aug (DA), as was an ad. Brown Booby 11 Aug (MTO, ST).

Brown Pelican records were sparse this period, with 2 seen from Tower Pt. 11 Aug (DA). A Double-crested Cormorant was at Lardeau in the West Kootenays through the first half of Aug (*vide* GD); another was found in the Okanagan at the s. end of Wood L. in Lake Country 26 Sep (CC, RC); and 35 at Castlegar 25 Sep-3 Oct (MM) was an astonishingly high number for an interior location. Single Cattle Egrets were seen in a farmer's field near Prince

George 18 Oct (*vide* CA), near McBride 22 Oct (*vide* ES), in Telkwa in mid-Oct (Brenda Mallory), at Nakusp 24-25 Oct (ph. SM), and in rural Delta 23 Nov (NH). The only Broad-winged Hawk reported was at Castlegar in the Kootenays 23 Sep (Michael McMann). The province's first Red-shouldered Hawk, an ad., was found at the Rocky Point B.O. 17 Sep (RM, IC) and seen again later that day over Sooke (Rick Toochin). Rare in the Prince George checklist area, an ad. dark-morph Swainson's Hawk was at the Vanderhoof Airport 29 Aug (CA, Nancy Krueger). Also rare on Vancouver I., a juv. Swainson's Hawk was over East Sooke Park 14 Sep (KM). The only Gyrfalcon reported was along 96th Street in Delta 1 Nov (MT, JT).

GULLS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Two Franklin's Gulls were at the mouth of Power's Cr. in West Kelowna 25 Aug (*vide* CC); singles were noted at Iona in Richmond 13 Aug (Guy Pickavance), at the Maude Roxby Bird Sanctuary in Kelowna 26 Aug (JL, CC), at Salmon Arm 28 Aug (CC, MF, CS), at Robert L., Kelowna 15 Sep (RC), and at Esquimalt Lagoon near Victoria 26 Sep (*vide* RS). An unusually large flock of 120 Bonaparte's Gulls was at Kokanee Creek Park near Nelson 9 Oct (JA). On Vancouver I., an ad. Black-headed Gull was near Qualicum Bay 7-8 Nov (Tom & Evelyn Constable, GM, m.ob.). An ad. Little Gull was found at Nulki L. near Vanderhoof 27 Sep (CCo, JG). Interestingly, there have been three records of Little Gull at this lake within the past year. An ad. Black-tailed Gull was studied at Clover Pt., Victoria 14 Nov (MMc). A first-cycle Glaucous Gull was at the Foothills Landfill in Prince George 2-8 Oct (CCo), the 2nd local fall record. An ad. Kumlien's Iceland Gull was at the mouth of Mission Cr., Kelowna 23 Sep (CC). Also in Kelowna, an ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Robert L. 15 Sep+ (RC, m.ob.). In cen. British Columbia, single juv. Sabine's Gulls were seen at Eaglet L. 7 Sep (CCo, DCo) and

at Nulki L. 27 Sep (*vide* CA). In the West Kootenays, a Caspian Tern was observed 7 Sep (GD). Rare on the Lower Mainland, a Black Tern was at White Rock 31 Aug-3 Sep (DT, m.ob.). A Parasitic Jaeger was at Salmon Arm 29 Aug (ES, GS). An imm. Long-tailed Jaeger was in Cranbrook 15 Aug (Dianne Cooper), while on Vancouver I., another imm. Long-tailed Jaeger was watched chasing California Gulls off Tower Pt., Metchosin 11 Aug (DA).

An American Golden-Plover and a Pacific Golden-Plover were seen together at the Englishman R. Estuary near Parksville 7 Sep (GM, RMo). An American Avocet was at Blackie Spit in White Rock 31 Oct (JV, Al McTavish). A long-staying Willet was at Oak Bay, Victoria 3 Sep-27 Oct (Warren Drinnan, m.ob.). A Hudsonian Godwit was at the Reifel Refuge in Ladner 27-31 Aug (BS, m.ob.); another was at Boundary Bay at the foot of 96th Street in Delta 7 Sep (MT); and in the interior, a juv. was at Christmas I., Salmon Arm 13-27 Sep (RC, m.ob.). A Dunlin was at the Maude Roxby Bird Sanctuary, Kelowna 31 Oct (JL, CC). Two Ruddy Turnstones seen near Kamloops at Tranquille 25 Aug (Jan Bradshaw) were a nice find. A juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was seen at the Shelley Sludge Lagoons near Prince George 10 Sep (JB), where another was photographed 27 Sep (Clive Keen). In the Lower Mainland, single juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were seen at Boundary Bay at the foot of 96th Street in Delta 9 Oct (MW, Chris Turner); one was at the Reifel Refuge 11 Oct (*vide* Peter Lypkie); and one was in Richmond 23 Oct (DT). In ne. British Columbia, an Upland Sandpiper was heard calling in flight at Tumbler Ridge 13 Aug (Charles Helm). Several Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared in the province this period, including an ad. photographed at the Shelley Sludge Lagoons, Prince George 10 Sep (JB). Also in the interior, 2 appeared at Salmon Arm 1 Sep (GS, DC), only the 2nd record for the Prince George area. Up to 2 Buff-breasteds were in the Boundary Bay area between 24 Aug (MW, IP) and 14 Sep (IP, MT), and on Vancouver I., one was at Whiffen Spit, Sooke 2 Sep (Gerry Ansell). Single juv. Stilt Sandpipers were found at Rose's Pond, Vernon 28 Aug (CC, MF), at Robert L., Kelowna 8-9 Sep (RC, m.ob.), and at the mouth of Hoden Cr. near Parksville 18 Oct (RMO, Mike Ashbee); up to 9 were at Salmon Arm 8 Aug (TH).

DOVES THROUGH GRACKLES

Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to spread through the province at a rapid pace. Reported regularly from the Okanagan, Lower Mainland, and Vancouver I., they were also reported in the Kootenays for the first time, and in

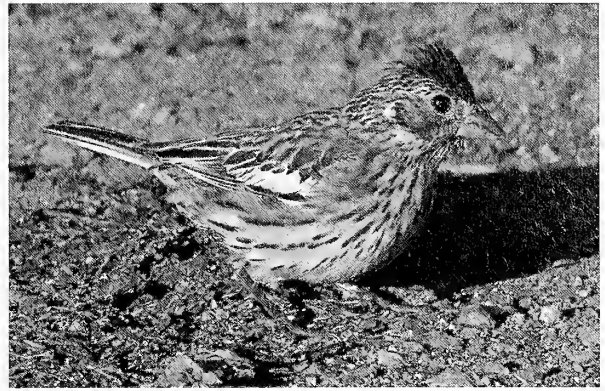
the Creston, Cranbrook, and Johnson's Landing areas (*vide* GD). A Snowy Owl was at Iona in Richmond 3 Nov (PC). The only report of Northern Hawk Owl for the period came from Kaslo 30 Oct (Lorna Surina). An Anna's Hummingbird was in the Okanagan at a feeder in Naramata 5 Oct (JL). A male Rufous Hummingbird banded in Dunster in May was recaptured 2900 km away in Fort Davis, Texas 19 Aug (*vide* ES). Lewis's Woodpeckers are rare in the province away from the dry Southern Interior. A pair visited Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver 31 Aug–5 Sep (Paul Kusmin, m.ob.); one was in Burnaby at Deer Lake Park 11 Sep (GC, Cathy Aitchison); and another was at Port Moody 12 Sep (Hilary Maguire). Coastally rare, a Red-naped Sapsucker at Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver 31 Oct was of note (IT). A rare migrant on Vancouver I., single Dusky Flycatchers were at the Rocky Point B.O. 22 Aug (RM) and at the Englishman R. Estuary near Parksville 27 Aug (GM). A very obliging Black Phoebe remained in Richmond at Terra Nova from 8 Sep (PC) until at least 26 Oct (m.ob.). Two Ash-throated Flycatcher reports were received from the Lower Mainland; one at Serpentine Fen, Surrey 20 Aug (Tom Bearss, Rochelle Farquhar et al.), the other the Matsqui Trail in Abbotsford 22 Aug (JV). In Delta, a Western Kingbird was along 96th Street near Boundary Bay 24 Aug (MW, IP); another was on Vancouver I. at the Rocky Point B.O. 13 Sep (Aziza Cooper). A Tropical Kingbird was on Vancouver I. at the Carmanah Point Lighthouse 19 Oct (JE).

A Blue Jay discovered 9 Nov on Kelowna's Westside at Trader's Cove (CC) remained throughout the period. A Western Scrub-Jay, first reported 9 Jun, remained in Maple Ridge throughout the period (RCr, m.ob.). Thirty Clark's Nutcrackers were seen on Grouse Mt. in North Vancouver 5 Oct (Les Lee, Devin Manky); one appeared somewhat out of habitat in the driftwood at the Carmanah Point Lighthouse, Vancouver I. 4 Nov (JE). An amazing 15 Cliff Swallows were reported in Salmon Arm on the late date of 31 Oct (DC). On Vancouver I., a Rock Wren was photographed at Miracle Beach near Comox 12 Oct (Dave Ingram). There was a Mountain Bluebird along 88th Avenue in Delta 12 Nov (NH). A Hermit Thrush in a campground in Oliver 24 Nov provided a very late date (CS). In Prince George, 2 Tennessee Warblers were seen in with a flock of Yellow-rumped Warblers in Fort George Park 18 Sep (JG). The star warbler of the period was a first-fall male Prairie Warbler found in a yard in Tofino 28 Sep; it remained until 3 Oct (AD, m.ob.). Single Palm Warblers were seen along the Fraser R. in Prince George 30–31 Oct (JG, m.ob.), in

the Colwood area of Victoria 16 Sep (DA), on Stubbs I. near Tofino 4 Oct (AD), and at the Nanaimo R. Estuary 21 Oct–15 Nov (Jon Carter, m.ob.). A tardy Yellow Warbler was at the Chichester Bird Sanctuary in Kelowna 1 Nov (RC). Rare in British Columbia anywhere away from the Peace R., a first-fall female Mourning Warbler was banded near Revelstoke 2 Sep (RC). Northern Waterthrush, rare along the coast, was noted at Maplewood Flats, North Vancouver 19 Aug (QB), on Vancouver I. at Rocky Point B.O. 17 Aug (IC), and in Victoria at Tuesday Pond 7 Sep (CSa). Rare on Vancouver I., an American Redstart was at the Rocky Point B.O. 17 Aug (IC).

New for Sutherland Hills Park, Kelowna's main migrant trap, was a Clay-colored Sparrow 19 Aug (CC); up to 7 were at the Chichester Bird Sanctuary, Kelowna 14 Sep (RC) and one was at Swan L. in Victoria 15 Aug (CSa). A Vesper Sparrow at Iona in Richmond 28 Aug (CG) was a good find. One of Vancouver's best birds for the period, a Lark Bunting was found in Cecile Green Park 11–12 Oct (PC, m.ob.). Single Swamp Sparrows were reported at the w. end of McCurdy Rd. in Kelowna 1 Nov (CC), at the Chichester Bird Sanctuary, Kelowna 4 Nov (RC), at the Rocky Point B.O. 26 Sep (RS), and at King's Pond, Victoria 8 Oct (IC). Harris's Sparrows were very hard to find this fall. The only ones reported were 2 imm. at Christmas I. near Salmon Arm 6 Oct (DC, PB) and one imm. along the Kettle Valley Railway in Penticton 1 Nov (JGi). The usual smattering of White-throated Sparrows were reported in the Kootenays, the Okanagan Valley, the Lower Mainland, and Vancouver I., all places where this species is a rare but regular migrant. Vancouver's star bird for the period was undoubtedly the McCown's Longspur seen by many in Stanley Park 10–14 Oct (Mike Boyd, m.ob.). A flock of 75 Lapland Longspurs in Nakusp 3 Oct (GD) represents a local high count. A Smith's Longspur was at the Delkatala Wildlife Refuge on Haida Gwaii 1 Oct (MH, PH, Martin Williams). A female Black-headed Grosbeak hit a window in Masset on Haida Gwaii 3 Sep (Marvin & Donna Crist), representing the 6th record for the islands.

On Vancouver I., an imm. Common Grackle was at Happy Valley in Victoria 27 Sep (DA). Four Rusty Blackbirds were at Kokanee Creek Park near Nelson 9 Oct (JA); a male visited the Kelowna Landfill 27 Nov+



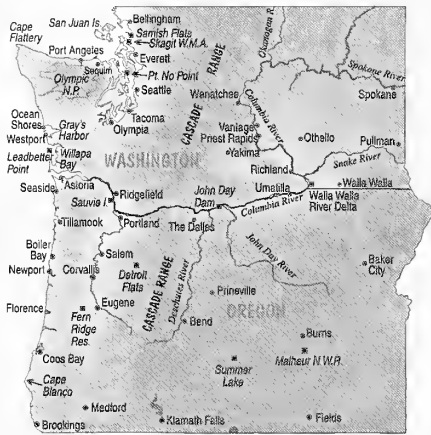
In British Columbia, this Lark Bunting visited Vancouver's Cecil Green Park 11 (here) and 12 October 2009. Photograph by Peter Candido.

(RC, m.ob.); and one returned to Swan L., Victoria for the 5th year in a row 5 Oct (CSa). A Brewer's Blackbird was at the Dixon Entrance G.C. in Masset, on Haida Gwaii 25 Oct (MH, PH). An imm. Orchard Oriole was a great find in a Tofino garden 3 Oct (RMO). White-winged Crossbills staged a bit of an invasion into the high-elevation forests of the Okanagan Valley this summer, where large flocks were seen repeatedly; 50 were along the Big White Rd. 13 Aug (CC, CS). A Pine Grosbeak at Queen Elizabeth Park in Vancouver 28 Nov was noteworthy (IT, m.ob.).

Observers (subregional compilers in boldface) Artie Ahier, David Allinson, Kris Andrews; Cathy Antoniazzi, Janice Arndt Peter Blokker, James Bradley, Jack Bowling (JBo; weather report), Quentin Brown, Peter Candido, Don Cecile, Richard Cannings (RCa), Russ Cannings, Chris Charlesworth, George Clulow, Christopher Coxson (CCo), Debbie Coxson (DCo), Roger Craik (RCr), Ian Cruikshank, Gary Davidson Jim H. Davis (JHD), Jerry Etkorn, Jamie Fenneman, Mike Force, Roger Foxall, Jeremy Gatten, Carlo Giovanella, Jim Ginns (JGi), Peter Hamel, Margo Hearne, Nathan Hentze, Liz Hewison, Ted Hillary, Marlene Johnston, Judy Latta, Thor Manson, Derek Matthews, Mike Mcgrenerere (MMc), Sue Mclean, Michael McMann, Ron Melcer, Kirsten Mills, Guy Monty, Rich Mooney (RMO), Laure Neish, Ilya Povalyayev, Phil Ranson, Randy Rawluk, Lesley Robertson, Laurie Rockwell (LRO), Chris Saunders (CSa), Rick Schortinghuis, Brian Self, Chris Siddle, Elsie Stanley, Emily Styles, Geoff Styles, Richard Swanston, Mike Tabak, John Tabak, Ian Thomas, Mike Toochin (MTo), Sharon Toochin, Hank Tsen, Jim Turnbull (JTU), Danny Tyson, John Vooy, Mark Wynja. 📷

Chris Charlesworth, Avocet Tours
571 Cawston Avenue, Kelowna, British Columbia, V1Y 6S5
(c_charlesworth23@hotmail.com)

Oregon & Washington



David Irons
Douglas Schonewald
Brad Waggoner
Bill Tweit

Longest of our four reporting periods, the fall season is invariably comprised of several sub-seasons. In August and even into early September, some species were still completing their nesting duties (see Red-eyed Vireo), so it is not always possible to determine whether a bird is a migrant or summered locally. By period's end, many species of waterfowl, raptors, and passerines had settled in at sites where they would winter. In general, it was wetter and milder than normal throughout the season. Precipitation in each month was above normal but substantially so in November. A major "red tide" bloom of *Akashiwo sanguinea* off Oregon and Washington was blamed for the deaths of thousands of seabirds—mostly Red-throated Loons and Common Murres—starting in late October; this was the season's only significant seabird die-off. When agitated by the surf, blooms of this toxic phytoplankton form a soapy substance, which covers birds and ruins the waterproofing on their feathers. Most succumb to hypothermia. During the last two weeks of November, a series of strong storms deposited coastal/pelagic species in locales where they were previously unknown (see Leach's and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels and Heermann's Gull).

In between the end of the breeding season and the onset of winter, it seemed that there was something of interest happening with nearly every species. This column offers a mixed bag of high counts, low counts, record dates (early and late), positive data, and, in several cases, negative data. It seemed to be a down year for unusual shorebirds, in particular several semi-rare mid-sized waders (see Stilt Sandpiper and Ruff). This shortfall was offset by a sparkling assortment of unexpect-

ed passerines and other rarities that kept observers entertained. Additionally, the seabird show within the Straits of Juan de Fuca was nothing short of spectacular. Huge gatherings of tubenoses and gulls in August and September were unprecedented. Finally, two more species were added to the Region's checklist. In the context of our Region's ongoing avian story, aspects of this season's summary may come to represent important benchmarks in long-term trends.

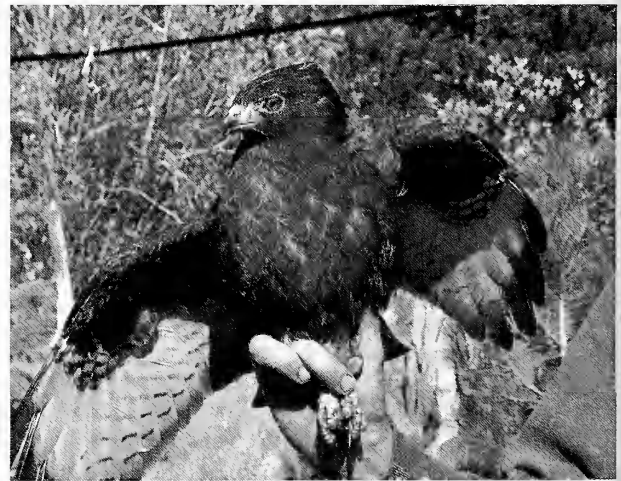
Abbreviations: Ankeny (Ankeny N.W.R., Marion), Baskett Slough (Baskett Slough N.W.R., Polk), E.E.W. (E. E. Wilson W.M.A., Benton), Finley (William L. Finley N.W.R., Benton), F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., Lane), G.L.S.R.A. (Goose Lake S.R.A., Lake), N.S.C.B. (North Spit Coos Bay, Coos), O.S. (Ocean Shores, Grays Harbor), P.N.P. (Pt. No Point, Kitsap), P.S.B. (Port Susan Bay, Snohomish), P.T. (Puget Trough), Ridgefield (Ridgefield N.W.R., Clark), S.J.C.R. (South Jetty Columbia R., Clatsop), W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla River Delta, Walla Walla). W.V. (Willamette Valley, OR), "Eastside" and "westside" indicate locations e. and w. of the Cascade crest, respectively.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

Peak flights of southbound Greater White-fronted Geese passed through w. Oregon during the last week of Sep; "thousands" of nocturnal migrants were heard over Siskiyou Summit, Jackson 24 Sep (F Lospalluto), and flocks totaling 2185 were counted passing over Merlin, Josephine 25 Sep (DV). A flock of 1950 Greater White-fronteds at McNary N.W.R., Benton 5 Sep (SM) was an outstanding fall count for e. Washington. Numbers of migrant Snow Geese in e. Washington grow with each passing season; this fall's reports were highlighted by 2200 at Paterson Slough, Benton and another 475 at Plymouth, Benton 14 Nov (M&MLD). Blue Geese again fraternized with the s. Skagit/n. Snohomish Snow Goose flock, with at least 7 noted 18 Oct–24 Nov (GB), while another at Ridgefield 8 Nov was very rare for sw. Washington (*vide* SM). On the eastside, 3 were noted away from the favored Harney and Klamath basins 19–25 Sep. An errant Ross's Goose near Chehalis, Lewis 27 Nov (R. Moyer) was the first fall report in w. Washington since 2004; one at

Coos Bay 24 Sep+ and 2 at Floras L., Curry were the only other westside birds. There were no reports from e. Washington, which has averaged nearly 4 per fall since 2005. A heavy movement of Aleutian Cackling Goose (subspecies *leucopareia*) passed along the Oregon coast 18 Oct, with 5000+ counted at N.S.C.B. during a 1.5-hour watch (TR). One Aleutian near Kingston, Kitsap 10–15 Nov (BW) provided a very rare Washington record away from the outer coast. Single Black Brant at Brook L. Grant 5 Nov (R. Finger) and Kent, King 18 Nov (C. Schulz) were only the detections away from salt water; the former represents the 8th record from e. Washington. An exceptionally early Tundra Swan was at Steigerwald L., Skamania 22–25 Aug (C. Healy, K. Healy); this species typically arrives in late Oct or Nov; it is likely that this bird summered nearby.

A Mallard × Gadwall hybrid ("Brewer's Duck") inhabited Tukwilla, King 22–23 Oct (ph. K. Andrich); this cross is now found annually in the Region. A more expected (now annual) Mallard × Northern Pintail graced Nisqually 22 Nov (BT). A Eurasian Wigeon, banded and fitted with satellite telemetry equipment in the Klamath Basin last spring, was tracked as it moved about e. Washington throughout the summer and into Sep, when it succumbed to unknown causes at Gloyd Seeps, Grant. Just 2 other Eurasians were reported from e. Washington, yielding one of



With the establishment of multiple hawkwatches in the Pacific Northwest, Broad-winged Hawks have proven to be rare but regular fall migrants through both Oregon and Washington. This dark-morph bird was captured and banded at Chelan Ridge, Chelan County, Washington 28 September 2009. Photograph by Unknown Photographer.

the lowest fall tallies in memory. The 2500 American Wigeons on Tillamook Bay 3 Oct (CK, PS) marked the first major influx of the season. The season's lone Eurasian Teal was at Nisqually 23 Nov (RM, CW), while Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal intergrades went



These two juvenile Hudsonian Godwits lingered at Newport, Lincoln County, Oregon 4-12 (here 4) September 2009. In the field, the front bird was presumed to be female based on its noticeably larger size and longer bill than the rear bird, which was presumed to be a male. Photograph by David Irons.

unreported. Although modest when compared to the peak numbers found along the Columbia R., a gathering of 3120 Greater Scaup at Lummi Bay, *Whatcom* 22 Nov (RM, JBP) was a high count for the P.T. The female King Eider that summered at O.S. remained through the fall period (m.ob.). A first-year male King at Potlatch, *Mason* 21 Nov was Washington's 20th; most records have occurred late Oct-early May. Single Harlequin Ducks at Soap L., *Grant* 8 Aug (DS) and Hood Park, *Benton* 8 Oct (*fide* M&MLD) provided rare lowland fall reports. Fifty eastside Surf Scoters 13 Oct-22 Nov was about 150% of the seasonal average, while 17 Surfs at favored Hagg L., *Washington* 27 Oct (SS) were the westside's only inland birds. White-winged Scoters showed spectacularly e. of the Cascades; 34 reported 11 Oct-26 Nov was nearly triple the norm. A pair of Black Scoters at L. Lenore, *Grant* 23 Oct (TL) made about the 13th inland record for the Region; at least one of these birds remained through 1 Nov (DS). The inland showing of Long-tailed Ducks was very poor for the 2nd straight fall. One at Banks L., *Grant* 19 Nov (*fide* DG) was the only report from e. Washington, where 7+ is normal. A single at Hagg L. 28 Oct (SS) was in the W.V., where less than annual. Barely annual along the Oregon coast, a lone Barrow's Goldeneye graced *Clatsop* (DB), while another inland at Philomath 22 Nov+ was a *Benton* first (WDR, JS, m.ob.).

Major loon flights failed to materialize at Boiler Bay, where high counts for Pacific Loons typically range into the tens of thousands. The daily maximum of Pacific Loons (2500 at Lincoln City 4 Nov) was about one tenth of normal, while counts of 6000 Red-throated Loons at Boiler Bay on 13 & 19 Nov (PP) were highest there for either species.

Wickiup Res., the eastside's largest staging site, hosted 200 Common Loons 18 Oct (SD). The only Yellow-billed Loon reports came from w. Washington; a likely returning bird was at Pt. Wilson, *Jefferson* 17 Nov + (B. Whitney), and another inhabited Ediz Hook, *Clallam* 27 Nov (RM, BW). About normal for w. Washington, 9 Clark's Grebes were detected 8 Sep-14 Nov.

Four Laysan Albatrosses, reported 9 Aug-27 Sep, equaled the decade's best fall tally (2006). Offshore trips encountered highly variable numbers of Black-footed Al-

batrosses; Westport pelagics averaged 35/trip, but 390 were found 29 Aug. Similarly, Oregon's Perpetua Bank hosted 500 on 8 Aug and 350 on 3 Oct (GGi). Two Cook's Petrels were reported off Reedsport, *Douglas* 31 Aug, and at least one more was seen off *Coos/Curry* the same day (†JG, †OS); Oregon has but one accepted record for this species. Pink-footed Shearwater counts remained well above the norm, with an exceptional 2434 off Westport 22 Aug (*fide* BT) and 1345 seen from a cruise ship in Oregon waters 22 Sep (JW); collectively, Oregon and Washington trips averaged about 650, which would represent the seasonal maximum in most years.

SA Continuing a recent fall trend, from-shore counts of Pink-footed Shearwaters were far above the norm; 120 flew past Cape Flattery 9 Sep (RM, CW), and 150 were at Boiler Bay 4 Oct (PP). Even more remarkable was the collection of shearwaters that wandered more than 100 km eastward into the Straits of Juan de Fuca 26 Sep (SM, BW). Fourteen Pink-footed Shearwaters off the Elwha R. mouth, *Clallam* and another 7 even farther e. near Port Angeles that day were nearly without precedent; a single storm-driven bird at Clover Pt., *Vancouver I.* 22 Sep 1958 represents the only other Pink-footed record for these inland marine waters. In addition to the Pink-footeds, 43 Sooty Shearwaters and one Short-tailed Shearwater were off Ediz Hook, *Clallam* 26 Sep (SM, BW).

Just 8 Flesh-footed Shearwaters were noted, with all but one off Westport; the lone Oregon bird was off *Coos* 22 Sep (*fide* JW et al.). The Region's 4th Greater Shearwater (all since 2001) highlighted the 29 Aug Westport trip (ph. RS, †BT); this is Washington's 3rd record. Mirroring the poor showing in 2008, fewer than 200 Buller's Shearwaters were re-

ported all season. The 36,717 Sooty Shearwaters tallied out of Westport 9 Aug was exceptional; otherwise, this species was reported in low numbers offshore, averaging about 825/trip. As expected, the season's high count came from shore; 100,000+ were just off Clatsop Beach just s. of the Columbia R. mouth 15 Aug (C. Cordy). Most surprising, and very rare at any time in the P.T., was one Sooty near Bremerton, *Kitsap* 14 Sep (*fide* CW). Three Short-tailed Shearwaters seen from shore at Cape Flattery 9 Sep (RM, CW) were about three weeks early. Seven Manx Shearwaters 7 Aug-31 Oct matched recent fall totals; the latest, at Boiler Bay 31 Oct (PP), was quite tardy, as most of the Region's fall records come Aug-Sep. One 35 km w. of Cape Foulweather, *Lincoln* 12 Sep (D. Mandell) was the only at-sea report. A Wilson's Storm-Petrel was reported 104 km w. of Pistol River, *Curry* 23 Aug (†JG, †OS); there are just three accepted records for Oregon, plus two others pending. Amidst a series of late-Nov storms, a Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel appeared 260 km up the Columbia R. at Hood River 22 Nov (SJ); this is more than three times farther away from salt water than the previous inland record for the Region. The only notable tallies of Fork-taileds came from Perpetua Bank; 700 were there 8 Aug and 550 on 12 Sep (GGi). One near Pt. Bellingham, *Whatcom* 27 Aug (F. Sears) was very rare for the Puget Trough, not a storm-related occurrence. Single storm-blown Leach's Storm-Petrels were 80 km inland at Philomath, *Benton* (ph. WDR, JSi et al.) and 50 km inland near Woodson, *Columbia* 22 Nov (CK, PS), both county firsts. Nine Ashy Storm-Petrels were reported off the s. Oregon coast 31 Aug (†JG, †OS); Oregon has several pending reports, but these are unsupported by photograph or specimen evidence.

Oregon's 3rd Brown Booby, an ad., appeared in lower Coos Bay 28 Oct, where it was seen daily through 6 Dec (†TR, KC, DL, RN). Ironically, that state's 2nd washed ashore dead nearby 27 Oct 2008. American White Pelicans were once again conspicuous in w. Oregon throughout much of the season; 165 at Sauvie I. 26 Aug-30 Sep (JW et al.) highlighted several counts of 50+ birds. Huge numbers (thousands) of Brown Pelicans inhabited the outer coast through the period. Strangely, just 3 (22 Aug-19 Oct) were reported in the P.T., where 10/fall is the recent norm. The now-annual assemblage of Great Egrets at Portland's Smith/Bybee Lakes peaked at 302 birds 27 Aug (SN). In e. Washington, no fewer than 22 dispersing egrets were noted 6 Aug-26 Sep away from sites where they are expected; post-breeding/wintering Great Egrets now commonly inhabit



This stunned Red-eyed Vireo, which struck a window at Coos Bay, Coos County, Oregon 2 October 2009, is one of the latest ever recorded in Oregon or Washington. Photograph by Larry Mangan.

many areas in the Region where they were formerly rare. A Snowy Egret at Cold Springs N.W.R. 16 Aug (AS, ES) was *Umatilla's* first. For the first time in many years, there were no detections of Cattle Egret; this species was once a fixture in the Region during fall, with hundreds per season recorded from 1970 through 2000.

White-tailed Kite populations plunged this year in sw. Washington. Encounters during annual surveys in Lewis and Thurston fell from 5+/day in 2008 to fewer than one/day in 2009 (R. Orness). It is suspected that weeks of heavy snow cover and sub-freezing temperatures last Dec, followed by severe flooding in Jan, may have precipitated this decline. Five Northern Goshawks in the W.V. 2 Aug–14 Nov was par for the season. A goodly 7 Red-shouldered Hawks were noted in sw. Washington 7 Aug–23 Nov; however, for the first time in a decade, none was detected n. of Clark. Ten Red-shoulders—slightly below recent averages—were reported in e. Oregon, where they are now present much of the year at several sites, with nesting suspected in *Deschutes*, *Harney*, and *Klamath*. Broad-winged Hawk has proven to be a low-density fall migrant in the Region; 8 this season approximated recent fall averages and included 5 birds away from the hawkwatches at Chelan Ridge, *Chelan* and at Bonney Butte, *Hood River*, where they are annual. A rarer dark-morph bird was banded and photographed at Chelan Ridge 28 Sep (*vide DS*). Seven Swainson's Hawks visited the W.V., where now annual in fall, 26 Aug–14 Nov. A Prairie Merlin (*F. c. richardsoni*) was near Rome, *Malheur* 14 Sep (JD, JW), and an apparent returning bird was at Edison, *Skagit* 11 Nov+ (ph. G. Thompson); perhaps due to increased observer scrutiny, this subspecies is now detected annually in the Region. Ten Gyrfalcons 18 Sep+ was more than double the seasonal norm. A Prairie Falcon at Bandon, *Coos* 10

Aug (KC, DL) was both extremely early and out of place along the outer coast; this species is rarely found in the westside lowlands before Sep. Two Prairies detected in the w. Washington lowlands 29 Aug–26 Nov was about par, while an impressive 7 were noted along the Cascade Crest 3 Aug–5 Oct; there seems to be a small but regular movement to or along high-elevation ridgelines during late summer and early fall.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Seventy Black-bellied Plovers at Sauvie I. 25 Sep (W. Gross) was an impressive tally for this early date; flocks of this size are rare in the W.V. except during the winter months. Twenty-seven westside American Golden-Plovers 20 Aug–18 Oct included a maximum of 4 at Fir I., *Skagit* 9 Oct (MB); this was the best fall tally since 2005. Americans exploded on the eastside, with no fewer than 11 detected 6 Sep–24 Oct; all but one of these was in Washington, including maxima of 4 each at the Tyson ponds in Wallula, *Walla Walla* 25 Sep (MW) and Sheep L., *Whitman* 9 Oct (TL). Fifty-two Pacific Golden-Plovers 20 Aug–14 Nov was slightly subpar but included 2 extremely rare eastside birds: one graced the Tyson ponds 27 Sep–3 Oct (MW, m.ob.); the other was at Sheep L. 9 Oct (TL). Six Pacifics at Leadbetter Pt., *Pacific* 26 Aug (TA) made the high count. As with recent falls, only a few golden-plovers were left unidentified. Washington's breeding population of Snowy Plovers is seriously imperiled. This year's surveys found only 35 adults, nearly a 50% decline from the 67 counted four years ago; just two nesting locations remain—Leadbetter Pen. and Midway Beach—down from four in 2005 (Washington State Snowy Plover Population Monitoring, Research, and Management: 2009 Nesting Season Research Progress Report, S. Pearson et al.). A Black-necked Stilt at the Yakima R. delta, *Benton* 22 Oct–18 Nov. (MW, m.ob.) was six weeks later than any prior record from e. Washington and appears to be the latest ever in the Region.

Ninety-four Solitary Sandpipers 1 Aug–29 Sep was the best fall tally since 2005; nearly two-thirds (60) of these birds were in e. Washington. A Wandering Tattler at Bend 30 Aug (†D. LaShelle) was exceptional for the eastside, where there were just eight prior records. Another tattler at Keystone I., *Island*

29 Aug (GB, B. Kuntz) was in the P.T., where barely annual. Five Long-billed Curlews visited the W.V., where now annual, 22 Aug–15 Sep. Single Whimbrels at Finley 11 Aug and 6 Sep (WDR) provided the first fall reports in the W.V. since 2007. Hudsonian Godwit appeared in the Region for the 8th consecutive fall, with 2 at Ocean Shores 22–24 Sep (EH, GGe) and 2 juvs. at Newport 4–12 Sep (A. & C. Hinkle, m.ob.). After a rare absence in the Region last fall, Bar-tailed Godwits once again joined the swarm of Marbled Godwits at favored Tokeland, *Pacific*; an ad. was there 4 Sep–10 Oct (KT), and a juv. joined the flock 16 Oct–1 Nov (R. Hibpshman). A Marbled Godwit at Sutherlin, *Douglas* 1 Sep (JH) may have been the first ever found in the Umpqua Valley. Sixty-four eastside Sanderlings 4 Aug–8 Oct was paltry compared to last year's 111+ but still above average; these included a rare ad. at Perch Pt., *Grant* 4 Aug (DS) and a high count of 30 at Potholes Res., *Grant* 12 Sep (P. Sikes). The season's 148 Semipalmated Sandpipers was subpar by recent standards, particularly on the eastside, where just 68 were reported 2 Aug–7 Sep; westside maxima of 6 were at Florence, *Lane* 5 Aug (D. Farrar, L. Cruz) and Everett 6 Aug (SM), while one at Kalaloch, *Jefferson* 26 Sep (G. Shugart) was nearly record late. Oregon's 2nd White-rumped Sandpiper, at Hatfield L., *Deschutes* 13 Aug (†JM), is the Region's first fall season report; the Region's five prior records span May–Jul. Forty-one Baird's Sandpipers at Fir I. 10 Sep (RM) bested the previous w. Washington record; 36 were at P.S.B. 19 Aug 2007. Similarly, a flock of 130 Baird's se. of Burbank, *Walla Walla* 26 Sep (M&MLD) highlighted the exceptional migration on the eastside; this tally represents the 2nd highest ever for e. Washington. The westside flight of Pectoral Sandpipers was probably the best in a decade; 55 near Mount Vernon, *Skagit* 8 Oct (SM, RM) topped Washington reports, while 35 at FR.R. 26 Sep (AC et al.) was Oregon's maximum. Fifteen Sharp-tailed Sandpipers 9 Aug–17 Oct was slightly above the recent seasonal average.

Incredibly, 3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers visited e. Washington, where there were just four prior records. One was at River Bend, *Pend Oreille* 14 Aug (TL), and 2 appeared at the W.W.R.D. 3 Oct (MW, M&MLD); the latter birds were Washington's latest ever, with one remaining through 12 Oct (M&MLD). On the westside, Buff-breasted rebounded to above average after last fall's abysmal showing; 26 were noted 17 Aug–18 Sep. Two at Fir I. 7–11 Sep (GB) were rare for the Puget Trough. The near-absence of Ruffs was truly puzzling, as the Region has averaged nearly 10 per fall

SA In the fall of 2005, 349 Stilt Sandpipers were reported in Oregon and Washington, the most ever recorded in one season in the Region. Since that time, we have reported decreasing numbers for five consecutive fall seasons. This fall, a mere 27 were noted, the lowest fall count since 2001. One at O.S. 12-14 Sep (KT) represented the only report from w. of the Cascades, which had a flock of 17 (at Stanwood, Snohomish) as recently as 19 Aug 2007. Although reports of this species in our Region tend to vary from year to year, it is hard to ignore this five-year slide. In the coming fall seasons, it will be interesting to see if this is part of a long-term trend or just the nadir in a short-term cycle.

since 2003. This season's lone report came from Leadbetter Pt. 28 Sep (A. Richards). A Washington-record 2000 Long-billed Dowitchers were near Stanwood, *Snohomish* 17 Oct (M. Willison), while the 900 amassed at FR.R. 26 Sep (AC) was the high count from w. Oregon. Though difficult to quantify, the number of staging Wilson's Phalaropes at L. Abert, *Lake* 16 Aug was estimated to be between 750,000 and 1,000,000 (DI, DF, JP); tens of thousands of Red-necked Phalaropes were also present. Very rare e. of the Cascades, single Red Phalaropes enlivened W.W.R.D. 3-4 Oct. (M&MLD) and Royal City, *Grant* 15-18 Oct (ph. J. Grant, RH). Nov storms pushed Reds near shore in both states, particularly in Oregon, as evidenced by 4000 at Boiler Bay 6 Nov and another 1000 there 14 Nov (PP). The strongest systems deposited 5 birds in the W.V. 14-31 Nov.

A South Polar Skua near Ediz Hook, *Clallam* 27 Aug (B. Phillips) was only the 6th record for inland marine waters in Washington, while another at Boiler Bay 13 Nov (PP) provided a rare from-shore sighting for the outer coast. Following record summer counts, offshore skua numbers peaked earlier than normal, with maxima of 9 off Newport 8 Aug (GGi) and 14 out of Westport 9 Aug (*fide* BT); their numbers typically peak in Sep. A goodly 17 Pomarine Jaegers were noted in inland marine waters, including a rare P.T. sighting off of Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 22-23 Sep (BW) and a maximum of 7 off of the Elwha R. mouth, *Clallam* 26 Sep (SM, BW). A Parasitic Jaeger at Pt. Jefferson, *Kitsap* 14 Nov (BW, DW) was about three weeks tardy. The lone inland Parasitic of the season was exceptionally late at the Diamond Hill Rd. wetlands e. of Harrisburg, *Linn* 23 Nov (R. P. Moore); most inland records occur Sep-early Oct. Aside from 60 Long-tailed Jaegers off Charleston 29 Aug (GGi) and 386 seen from a cruise ship in Oregon waters 22 Sep (JW et al.), all other counts numbered 10 or fewer. The only Long-tailed seen from shore was an ad. at Lincoln City 8 Aug (PP).

A near-normal 13 Franklin's Gulls were noted away from se. Oregon; all but one were in Washington, including 5 westside birds 19 Aug-1 Nov. A Black-tailed Gull enlivened the Tacoma waterfront 13 Oct-8 Nov (CW, m.ob.), adding to four prior records for the Region; all

have appeared in Washington since 2004. Smashing any prior Washington count, 20,000 Heermann's Gulls gathered off of the Elwha R. mouth 26 Sep (SM, BW); the world population is estimated at 525,000 (Delaney and Scott 2006; Waterbird Population World Estimates). Nov storms swept record numbers of Heermann's Gulls inland. One at Finley 13 Nov (WDR) and 6 more at nearby Philomath 22 Nov (WDR, JS) were the first records for *Benton*, while a flock of 15—the largest ever recorded inland in the Region—enlivened Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* 22-23 Nov (SC, SN). An ad. Mew Gull at Molson L., *Okanogan* 5 Aug (ph. B&NL) was the earliest ever in e. Washington, while 2 ads at Newport 8 Aug (WH) and another at Coos Bay 21 Aug (TR) were four to six weeks early for the Oregon coast. A first-cycle bird at John Day Dam, *Sherman* 7 Sep (SJ) was merely a month early for the eastside, where the earliest Mews typically arrive after 1 Oct. In addition to the aforementioned Heermann's Gulls, 45,000 California Gulls amassed off the Elwha R. mouth 26 Sep (SM, BW), narrowly missing another Regional record (50,000 were at North Cove, *Pacific* 7 Aug 2006). Supranormal numbers of California Gulls persisted through the season along the Oregon coast. This incursion was punctuated by tallies of 15,000 at Boiler Bay 22 Nov (PP) and 3500 in Alsea Bay, *Lincoln* 29 Nov (SF, DI); the latter flock was comprised almost entirely of adults. Coastal buildups normally peak in Oct, after which time most California Gulls move southward. An extraordinary 1000 Thayer's Gulls congregated at the Elwha R. mouth 21 Oct, providing the 2nd highest count for Washington (CW, RM). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls (an ad. and a third-cycle) played hopscotch with the state line at John Day Dam, *Klickitat/Sherman* 20 Nov+ (†SJ, C. Flick, m.ob.); even though this species has been nearly annual in Washington's Columbia Basin since 2000, these are the first for e. Oregon and just the 3rd and 4th records for that state. A Glaucous Gull that apparently summered at Westport, *Grays Harbor* (m.ob.) and another at

Gold Beach 29 Nov (J. Sullivan) were the only reports of the season; the Region averages about 6 per fall. For the 2nd straight fall, Sabine's Gulls showed poorly; 11 eastside birds 10 Sep-7 Oct is about two-thirds the recent average and, aside from 3 at FR.R. (included 2 ads.) 4 Sep (DI), there were just 2 other westside birds. Birders cruising southbound 70-100 km off the Oregon coast encountered an excellent flight, tallying 3294 on 22 Sep (JW et al.), while pelagics averaged just 18/trip. A lone bird off of North Head, *Pacific* 8 Nov (CW, T. Brooks) was about a month late. Rare in the P.T., a Black-legged Kittiwake was at Rosario Beach, *Skagit* 6 Oct (*fide* CW). A storm-blown kittiwake 90 km inland at Fernhill Wetlands 22-25 Nov (SC) was the 3rd for *Washington*. This fall's incursion of Elegant Tern was modest, with just 7 in Oregon 6 Aug-6 Sep; a single at Tokeland, *Pacific* 26 (B. LaBar) made the only Washington sighting.

Fewer than 20 Common Terns were reported from e. Washington, which has averaged about 150 per fall since 2003; only 5 were detected in e. Oregon 8 Sep-11 Oct. Thirty-four at FR.R. 4 Sep (DI) was more than double the



Oregon and Washington observers enjoyed five Northern Parulas in autumn 2009, the most ever recorded in a fall season, including this hatch-year female at Bassett Park in Washtucna, Adams County, Washington 7 September 2009. Photograph by Ryan Merrill.

typical high count for this locale, the only W.V. site where Commons are annual in fall. A mere 14 Arctic Terns were noted from pelagics 8-29 Aug, while 1028 were seen from a cruise ship in Oregon waters 22 Sep (JW et al.), apparently being farther offshore (70-100 km) later in the season raises one's chances of encountering this highly pelagic species. Three westside Forster's Terns 4-20 Sep was about the seasonal norm.

Though paltry compared to all-time high counts from nw. Washington, 100+ Marbled Murrelets counted from Cape Arago, Coos 16 Aug (RN) was exceptional for the Oregon coast, where it is unusual to see more than 20 birds from a single vantage point. Xantus's



This immature Orchard Oriole, at Hoquiam, Grays Harbor County 22-27 (here 24) October 2009, was one of two found this fall in Washington, where there were just four prior records. Photograph by Gregg Thompson.

Murrelet reports included one *scrippsi* off Westport 2 Aug (BS), 4 of unknown subspecies off Charleston, *Coos* 7 Aug (C. Dillingham), and 2 more *scrippsi* off Newport 12 Sep (GGi). An early Ancient Murrelet was at Pt. Wilson, *Jefferson* 21 Aug (B. Whitney); this species typically reaches inland marine waters in early Oct. Cassin's Auklet numbers appear to be rebounding; high counts of 516 off Westport 9 Aug and 600 off Newport 12 Sep suggest a healthy level of reproduction. Normally rare at any time e. of Cape Flattery, Cassin's Auklet numbers were off the charts for inland marine waters this fall, including an extraordinary 64 in Port Angeles Harbor, *Clallam* 2 Aug (BW). Eleven in the P.T. 1 Oct–26 Nov included 6 at Edmonds, *Snohomish* 16 Nov (MB). The season's Horned Puffins included a flyby at Goat I., *Curry* 8 Aug (M. B. Stevens, M. R. Stevens) and a dead bird found on Midway Beach, *Grays Harbor* 10 Aug (K. Brady); live birds seen from land or near shore are generally found May–Aug, whereas most at-sea or beached birds turn up Nov–May.

Band-tailed Pigeons are apparently maintaining their foothold in recently colonized *Klickitat*, with five reports around White Salmon 15 Sep–4 Oct. However, a single near Sentinel Gap, *Grant* 1 Nov (S. Downes) was farther e. than expected and late. Single White-winged Doves at Malheur 8 Aug (J. Sutter), Port Orford, *Curry* 31 Aug (ph. L. Miller), and G.L.S.R.A. 6 Sep (SR) added to 28 prior Regional records; this species is now detected annually in Oregon. Unreported elsewhere, 2 Snowy Owls near Des Moines, *King* 14-20 Nov (S. Osmek) and another in Tacoma 18 Nov (*fide* BS) approximated the fall norm

for w. Washington in a non-invasion year. A Spotted Owl was found near Olympia 9 Oct (*fide* J. Buchanan); this species is known for dispersals of 16-24 km, but lowland w. Washington records are few. Single Boreal Owls near Bachelor Butte, *Deschutes* 26 Sep (T. Snetsinger) and Tollgate, *Umatilla* 24 Oct (AS, ES) were at two of Oregon's best-known sites for this species, which was all but unknown in that state prior to the mid-1980s. Though well shy of the Regional record (500 at Priest Rapids Dam 14 Aug 1993), the 120 Common Nighthawks over Cheney, *Spokane* 16 Aug (CC) was still one of Washington's highest counts ever. The Region's first fully documented Lesser Nighthawk graced Malheur 27 Aug (ph. D. Evered); experienced observers reportedly heard one calling at Beverly Beach S.P., *Lincoln* 21-22 Jun 2007, but that record has not been submitted to the O.B.R.C.

A group of 21 Black Swifts over s. Corvallis 28 Aug (R. & N. Armstrong) is likely the largest flock ever for *Benton* and an exceptional gathering for the W.V. Anna's Hummingbirds made news again in e. Washington, with 10 straying n. and e. of *Klickitat* 30 Aug–20 Nov; the easternmost bird reached Cheney, *Spokane* 19-20 Sep (CC, MW). A Calliope Hummingbird visited Edmonds, *Snohomish* 15 Aug (D. Harville); there are few records from the w. Washington lowlands. Another Calliope at Bend 1 Oct (T. Crabtree) was nearly a month beyond the typical departure date for the eastside. For the 3rd consecutive year, Lewis's Woodpeckers graced the w. Washington lowlands, with 10 reported 9 Sep+. A near-record 8 were at Park Creek Pass, *Skagit* 11 Sep (*fide* CW); 9 were at Corkingdale, *Skagit* 2-7 Sep 2008. More than 100 Lewis's (five-fold the fall norm) invaded w. Oregon 6 Sep+. Several impressive flocks bolstered this tally, including up to 40 at Jefferson, *Marion* 24 Sep–1 Oct (*fide* B. Altman), 7-15 at Perrydale, *Polk* 10-14 Nov (CK, D. Robberson), and 20 e. of Roseburg, *Douglas* 21 Nov (JH). Western Washington's 6th Williamson's Sapsucker visited Carnation, *King* 25 Nov (M. Wile). About par with recent falls, 3 Red-naped Sapsuckers were noted in w. Washington 27 Aug–25 Oct,

while none were reported in w. Oregon. A Red-naped Sapsucker × Red-breasted Sapsucker hybrid inhabited Juanita Bay Park, *King* 17-30 Aug (RM); this cross has been annual of late w. of the Cascades.

PASSERINES

The Region's first documented Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was at Windust S.P. 30 Aug (ph., †MW; †CC); at first, this bird was thought to be a Least Flycatcher, but closer examination of photographs revealed its identity. After producing new birds for the Region in back-to-back fall seasons (Variegated Flycatcher there in 2008), Windust S.P. will surely gain further popularity as a vagrant trap. Six Least Flycatchers in e. Washington 3 Aug – 6 Sep matched typical fall numbers, while a singing Least Flycatcher at DeBay's Slough, *Skagit* 6-9 Aug (GB) added to very few well-documented fall records of the species in w. Washington. A Dusky Flycatcher visited Portland's Mt. Tabor 27 Aug (A&CH); though small numbers of northbound Dusky Flycatchers regularly appear in the W.V. Apr–May, southbound birds are less than annual in the westside lowlands, where just 4 have been reported in the past six years. Nearly all of Washington's antecedent Black Phoebes (13 records) have been found along or near the Lower Columbia R., so one at Julia Butler N.W.R., *Wahkiakum* 9 Aug (M. Bartells) was not overly surprising. One at Cold Springs N.W.R. 16 Aug (M&MLD) was *Umatilla's* first; this species was formerly mega-rare on the eastside, but there is now a small resident population in the Klamath Basin, and there are records from at least four other e. Oregon counties. Oregon's 12th Eastern Phoebe was along Camp Polk Cr. n. of Sisters, *Deschutes* 5 Oct (K. Boddie, SK); most of Oregon's birds have come May–Jun. Westside Say's Phoebes were near normal, with 5 recorded (all in Oregon) 15 Sep–11 Nov; the earliest, at Finley 15 Sep (WDR), was about four weeks early. Western Washington's 22nd Ash-throated Flycatcher enlivened Seattle 31 Aug (C. Siddles, ph. K. Lloyd); most records for this species have come mid-May–late Jul. A carefully identified Ash-throated at Florence 28 Nov (†DF, HH) eclipses the Region's latest well-documented record for this species, one in w. Seattle 24 Nov 1956. Thirteen Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds 25 Sep+ was the lowest fall tally since 2006 but still slightly above the long-term average; Oregon's 11 included a maximum of 3 at Newport 11 Nov+ (J. Thomas, m.ob.). Singles at Hoquiam, *Grays Harbor* 24 Oct (J. Gachet, BT) and at Westport, *Grays Harbor* 12 Nov (ph. RM, BW, TA) were heard calling (as were some of the Oregon birds), confirming that they were Tropic-

als, the expected species in the Region. Western Kingbirds typically depart the Region's westside by mid-Aug; thus 4 along the cen. Oregon coast 1-22 Sep were surprising; one at Yachats, *Lincoln* 5 Sep (DI, DPe) was clearly a hatch-year bird, the presumed age of most tardy birds. Later still, a Western at E.E.W. 8 Oct (B. Proebsting) adds to just three post-Sep records from the Region. It's hard to know whether the Eastern Kingbird at Ridgefield 13 Aug (*vide* BF) had come from the nearby nesting outpost at the Sandy R. mouth, *Multnomah* (about 20 km away) or from a more distant point of origin.

A pair of Red-eyed Vireos, apparently present at G.L.S.R.A. since Jul (*vide* J. Sterling), remained through at least 5 Sep, when an ad. was feeding a juv. (SR). The latest eastside migrant, at Malheur 14 Sep (O. Johnson, E. Pandolfino), was singing, while a Red-eyed that struck a window in Coos Bay 2 Oct (L. Mangan) was the 3rd for Coos. The season's lone Blue Jay was at Cascade Head, *Tillamook* 8 Sep (PP). Considering that Clark's Nutcrackers did not irrupt into the lowlands of e. Washington, it was somewhat surprising that 4 were found far from known populations in shrub-steppe habitat at Swanson L., *Lincoln* 20 Sep (T. O'Brien). A nutcracker in the Coast Range at Rocky Pt., *Lincoln* 8 Oct (C. Philo) was the only report from w. of the Cascades. A Western Scrub-Jay at 2100 m elevation near Hart's Pass, *Okanogan* 22 Oct (V. Glick, L. Scheiner) was clearly out of place; although expanding northward in the P.T. and on the eastside, this species is all but unknown in the Cascades. Not annual in the W.V., single Black-billed Magpies were at Portland 21 Oct+ (C. Selker) and Molalla, *Clackamas* 30 Oct (A. Wimsett). The latest Tree Swallows were at Langlois, *Curry* 4 Nov (K. Andersson) and Portland 22 Nov (A&CH). A migrant Bank Swallow at Hoquiam 28 Aug was noteworthy, as there are very few fall coastal records (BT), while a flock of 25 at Sauvie I. 26 Aug (JW) were likely dispersants from a nearby colony at Prescott, *Columbia*. Two Barn Swallows at Vantage, *Kittitas* 8 Nov (J. Kozma) and 7 still at Ankeny N.W.R. 22 Nov (R. Gerig) were the latest e. and w. of the Cascades, respectively; these were considered to be southbound and not connected to the recent spate of mid-winter appearances by this species. The traditional Barn Swallow roost at Dayton, *Yamhill* built to at least 100,000 birds in late Sep (F. Schrock et al.), while a newly discovered Portland roost held 10,000 on 24-25 Sep (L. Neumann, S. Leaptrott).

Two Black-capped Chickadees at Hat Rock S.P., *Umatilla* 1 Aug (M&MLD) were at a site where they are not resident, while another at

Ritzville, *Adams* 23 Oct (J. Hebert) was in a county with no resident population and at least 40 km removed from the nearest breeding outposts in *Spokane* and *Whitman*; this species rarely strays from suitable breeding habitat. Up to 6 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Prineville Res., *Crook* 17 Aug-4 Sep were at a site where they have been annual since 2003 (CG). Oregon's 4th Northern Wheatear enlivened Whalen County Park, *Tillamook* 17-18 Sep (S. Engel, m.ob.); this was the first wheatear in the Region since 2004 and just the 5th overall. Four Mountain Bluebirds in the westside lowlands 26 Sep-25 Nov was an excellent showing; this species appears on the westside about every other fall. Gray Catbirds have now appeared on the westside in five consecutive fall seasons; one at Julia Butler N.W.R. 21 Sep (BF) was a *Wahkiakum* first. Another at Colville, *Stevens* 8-24 Nov (W. Current) was e. Washington's latest ever; there are just three winter records from the Region. Northern Mockingbirds showed well, with 6 in Oregon and 4 in Washington 22 Aug-27 Nov; the Region averages about 7 per fall.

Tennessee Warblers graced both states; one at Bellair, *Mason* (†K. Brady, M. Mathis) was w. Washington's 11th, while another at Malheur 5 Sep (AC) was at a site where nearly annual. Though northbound Northern Parulas occur almost annually in the Region, this season's 5, all in Sep, was unprecedented for fall; only 3 had been reported over the five previous autumn seasons. Singles at Washtucna, *Adams* 3 Sep (TA, ph. RM) and Sooes R. Valley 17 Sep (†BT) were Washington's 14th and 15th records. A Magnolia Warbler at Lynnwood, *Snohomish* 3 Sep (ph. K. Mack) and 2 together at Lacey, *Thurston* 22 Nov (†J. Dluogo, †A. Wang) add to 15 prior records in Washington. This species has now been detected in that state five of the past six fall seasons; most have appeared early Sep-early Oct. A hatch-year male Cape May Warbler at S.J.C.R. 14 Sep (†S. Terrill) was Oregon's 18th. Roughly a month tardy, this season's Black-throated Blue Warbler brightened Redmond, *Deschutes* 15 Nov (SD); most of the Region's reports come late Sep-early Oct. A Hermit Warbler, rare for lowland w. Washington during fall, graced Seattle 7 Sep (*vide* CW). A Townsend's Warbler × Hermit Warbler hybrid in the eastside lowlands at Washtucna, *Adams* 13 Sep (Mike & Merry-Lynn Denny) was just the 5th such cross for e. Washington, where, until recently, birds with Hermit parentage were all but unknown. A Blackburnian Warbler was at Sentinel Gap, *Grant* 29 Aug (†CW, †SM); this is just the 2nd fall record from that state. It was the worst fall season in recent memory for Palm Warblers,

with just 9 reported from outer coastal locations and none in the P.T./W.V., which had averaged nearly 6 per fall since 2003. The season's only 2 Blackpoll Warblers were at Cascade Head, *Tillamook* 10 Sep (PP) and Malheur 14 Sep (JD, JW); none were reported in Washington, which had hosted multiple birds every fall since 2004. Two Black-and-white Warblers inhabited G.L.S.R.A. 23 Aug-9 Sep (M. Persmark, DF, JP), and another was at Cape Meares Village, *Tillamook* 26 Aug (M. Tweelinckx). An American Redstart at Hillsboro, *Washington* 2 Sep (SS) was the first southbound bird in w. Oregon since 2005; 7 Aug singles at DeBay's Slough and North State Reserve, *Skagit* (GB) were in the P.T., where nearly annual in fall. A Yellow-breasted Chat at Ridgefield 19 Sep (BF) was nearly record late for w. Washington, where this species is now considered a rare breeder.

A Western Tanager lingering in Seattle 30 Nov (TA) was about six weeks late. A record-early American Tree Sparrow visited Cabin Lake Guard Station, *Lake* 28 Sep (ph. R. Loud-erback). On the westside, where the species is now annual in fall, early singles visited F.R.R. 11 Oct (DI, DPe) and Finley 18 Oct; the former was the 3rd earliest ever for w. Oregon. One at Forest Grove, *Washington* 13 Nov (T. Shreve) was on schedule. All 4 eastside Clay-colored Sparrows were in Washington 24 Aug-8 Sep. As expected, 5 westside Clay-colored Sparrows came much later in the season (4 Oct-1 Nov); 4 found in Oregon were all along the coast. A Brewer's Sparrow at Finley 3 Aug (WDR), 2 at F.R.R. 26 Aug (L. McQueen), and one on the outer coast at Cascade Head 1 Sep (PP) were on the westside, where near annual over the past decade. Three migrant Vesper Sparrows detected in w. Washington 3-18 Sep continued the trend of recent fall seasons; until the past few years, southbound birds were less than annual here. For the 2nd straight fall, a Black-throated Sparrow was w. of the Cascades; one at Albany, *Linn* 17 Oct (T. Gholson) marked just the 3rd fall record from w. Oregon. A Lark Sparrow at Ridgefield 18 Sep (DP) made the 3rd consecutive fall with a report in w. Washington, where this species was only recorded once during fall between 1996 and 2005. In w. Oregon, stray Lark Sparrows at Cape Blanco, *Curry* 21 Aug (TIJW), Nehalem, *Tillamook* 12 Sep (S. Hagen), and Florence 16 Oct (AC) were away from the westside's only known breeding sites in *Jackson* and *Josephine*. A Red Fox Sparrow (subspecies *iliaca/zaboria*) was near Fall City, *King* 18 Nov (†TA); this type is now found annually in the Region. Swamp Sparrows showed poorly, with just 8 Regionwide 27 Oct+; only w. Washington, with 6, approached normal numbers. The

only eastside Swamp was at Paterson Slough 14 Nov (M&MLD). A mere 3 Harris's Sparrows 7-19 Nov was half the seasonal norm. It was recently discovered that Golden-crowned Sparrows around Nome, Alaska sing a uniquely patterned and noticeably different song than other Golden-crowned populations (E. Pandolfino, pers. comm.). The wintering grounds and migratory routes for this population are not known, but birds singing the "Nome song" were heard and seen at Marrowstone I., Jefferson 10 Oct (SM, BW) and Everett 17 Oct (SM). Thirty Lapland Longspurs at S.J.C.R. 4 Oct (SS) was an exceptional count for w. Oregon, where most flocks contain fewer than 10 birds. Washington's 7th Chestnut-collared Longspur enlivened Hoquiam 21-31 Oct (†DW, B. Norton); the state's only other fall record was also from Hoquiam. In Oregon, which has averaged about 4 per fall since 2000, single Chestnut-collareds visited Finley 18 Oct (WDR) and Cape Blanco in early Nov (TJW).

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak near Ilwaco, Pacific 4 Sep (†JD) was Washington's 10th fall bird; 5 have come since 2004. Four Rose-breasteds together at Wood River Wetlands, Klamath 15 Sep (fide K. Fairchild) was highly unusual, as most reports of this vagrant involve singles. Single Black-headed Grosbeaks at Powell Butte, Crook 30 Oct (CG) and at Ridgefield 3 Nov (T. Hicks) were at least five weeks later than normal departure dates. Lazuli Buntings are rare along the outer coast, particularly in Washington, so singles at Sunset Beach, Clatsop 3 Aug (MP), near Neah Bay, Clallam 9 Sep (RM, CW), and at La Push, Clallam 16 Sep (BT) were noteworthy. An Indigo

Bunting that summered near Snoqualmie, King remained until 9 Aug (R. Ben-Shalom), while a molting male at E.E.W. 6-9 Sep (J. Geier) was the season's lone migrant. A migrant Bobolink strayed to G.L.S.R.A. 6 Sep (SR); though this species nests a number of sites in se. Oregon, there are no known colonies near this locale. Western Washington's 3 Rusty Blackbirds represented a typical fall and included Kitsap's first near Kingston 10-20 Nov (BW). Two near Burbank, Walla Walla 19 Nov (MW) were on the eastside, where less than annual. A Great-tailed Grackle near Cow Lakes, Malheur 8 Aug (CG) may have summered locally; this represents just the 3rd post-Jul report in the Region over the past decade. Though Great-taileds have been found annually in Oregon since the 1980s, nearly all occur during May and Jun. Single Orchard Orioles at Neah Bay 9 Sep (ph. RM, CW) and Hoquiam, Grays Harbor 22-27 Oct (ph. I. Ubrovic) were just the 5th and 6th for Washington; all but one were w. of the Cascades Sep-Dec. A Bullock's Oriole at Seaside, Clatsop 10 Nov (S. Warner) was at least six weeks tardy and on the outer coast, where rare but nearly annual in fall and winter. Two Purple Finches near Vantage 29 Aug and another there 4 Sep (likely different birds) were very early for e. of the Cascades, where they are rare (SM, CW). Mary's Peak, Benton hosted up to 3 Cassin's Finches 5 Oct-2 Nov (WDR); this species is less than annual w. of the Cascades. White-winged Crossbills continue to be noted in exceptional numbers along the Cascade Crest, with 65 tallied 19 Aug-10 Oct. Five Common Redpolls near Bend 25 Oct (SK) were well s. and w. of their normal late

fall/winter haunts.

Corrigendum: The American Tree Sparrow reported from Clatsop Spit 6 Oct 2005 (*North American Birds* 60: 149) was in fact at the s. jetty of the Siuslaw R., Lane, OR.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Tom Aversa, David Bailey, Range Bayer (*Lincoln*), Gary Bletsch, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Craig Corder (Spokane), Mike and MerryLynn Denny, Shawneen Finnegan, Bob Flores, Chuck Gates (*Crook*), George Gerds, Greg Gillson (Washington), Denny Grandstrand (*Yakima*), Garrett Gregor, Anne Heyerly, Dan Heyerly, Paul Hicks, Randy Hill, Wayne Hoffman, Stuart Johnston (*Hood River, Klickitat*), Bruce Labar, Nancy LaFramboise, Ryan Merrill (Washington), Tom Mickel (Lane), Craig & Marilyn Miller (*Deschutes, Jefferson, Lake*), Steven Mlodinow, Russ Namitz, Harry Nehls (Oregon), Vic Nelson, Mike Patterson (*Clatsop*), Phil Pickering, Tim Rodenkirk (*Coos, Curry*), Kevin Spencer (*Klamath*), Andy Stepniewski, Bill Tice, David Trochlell (*Union, Wallowa*), Dennis Vroman (*Josephine*), Charlie Wright (eBird).

- David Iron**, 740 Foothill Drive
Eugene, Oregon 97405, (lstdirons@msn.com)
- Douglas Schonewald**, 1535 South Skyline Drive
Moses Lake, Washington 98837, (dschone8@donobi.net)
- Brad Waggoner**, 7865 Fletcher Bay Road N.E.
Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110
(wagtail@sounddsl.com)
- Bill Tweit**, P.O. Box 1271
Olympia, Washington 98507, (Sebnabgill@aol.com)

Northern California



Jeff N. Davis
Ed Pandolfino
Stephen C. Rottenborn
Michael M. Rogers

The Region experienced mostly warm and dry conditions, typical of the season. High water temperatures close to the coast, including well inside Monterey Bay, throughout August were likely related to the developing El Niño-Southern Oscillation pattern. This warm water shifted farther offshore in September. Dense fog and strong northwesterly winds offshore during most of the period contributed to a condensed fall migration on the Farallon Islands. The exception to prevailing conditions was the strongest Octo-

ber storm in several decades. This storm affected the entire Region and brought rainfall totals in excess of 25 cm to portions of the Central Coast 13 October. The season produced several outstanding rarities including the state's first White-chinned Petrel, its second Brown Shrike, a flurry of Hudsonian Godwits, and a tantalizing report of a Yellow-breasted Bunting.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.C.F.S. (Coyote Cr. Field Station, *Santa Clara*); C.R.P. (Cosumnes R. Preserve, *Sacramento*); C.V. (Central Valley); FI. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*); H.R.S. (Hayward Regional Shoreline, *Alameda*); PRBO (PRBO Conservation Science); S.F. (San Francisco,

not State Forest). Reports of exceptional vagrants submitted without documentation are not published. Documentation of C.B.R.C. review species will be forwarded to Guy McCaskie, Secretary, P. O. Box 275, Imperial Beach, CA 91933. Birds banded on FI. should be credited to PRBO Conservation Science.

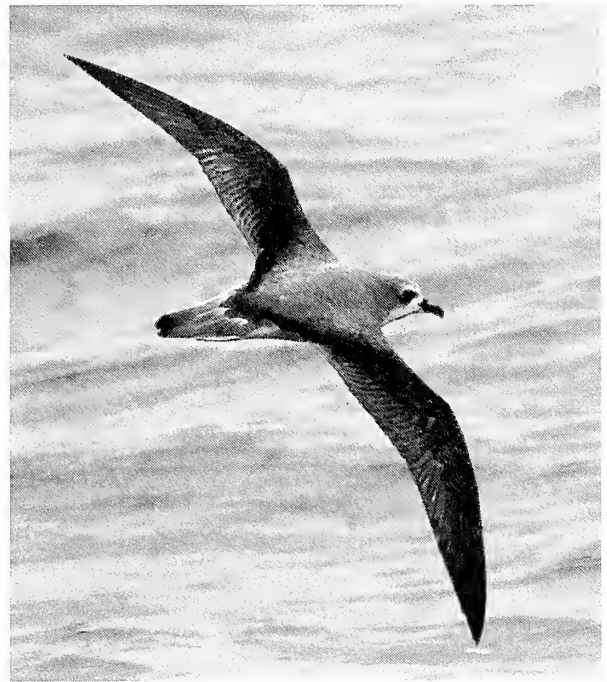
WATERFOWL

Up to 4 well-documented Dusky Canada Geese (*B. c. occidentalis*) at Morgan Hill, *Santa Clara* 27 Oct+ (ph. SCR, m.ob.) were unexpected, as there are very few records of this subspecies in cen. California. Two Snow Geese at Shasta Valley WA, *Siskiyou* 24 Aug (RE) were notably early. A Ross's Goose at Lewiston L. 20 Sep (JSL) was the earliest ever for *Trinity*, where few have been found; others in unusual locations were at Indian Creek Res., *Alpine* 17 Nov (JSL) and at Goffinet Res., *Amador* 19 Nov (Don Marsh). Up to 7 Trumpeter Swans were at Modoc N.W.R., *Modoc* 26-28 Nov (ph. SCR); up to 2 Bewick's Swans were there the same days (ph. SCR, David Bell). An unusual early push of Tundra Swans was widely reported, with southbound groups of 10-12 seen over Olivehurst, *Yuba* 18 Aug (Kathryn Sanderson), the Smith R. bottoms, *Del Norte* 20 Aug (LuB), and Roseville, *Placer* 20 Aug (Chad Aakre). The male Gadwall × Northern Shoveler hybrid returned to Belmont Slough, *San Mateo* 23 Oct+ (Pat Boor); another male, apparently of this same hybrid combination, was in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 31 Oct (Amy McDonald). Other notable male hybrid ducks reported this season included an apparent Cinnamon Teal × Northern Shoveler at Palo Alto, *Santa Clara* 15 Nov (ph. Ed Rooks) and a Ring-necked Duck × Greater Scaup returning to L. Hennessey, *Napa* for a 4th winter 25 Oct+ (MBe). Eurasian Wigeons well inland included singles at Boca Res., *Nevada* 9 Oct (JSL), s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 10 Oct (JLl), at Twin Lakes, *Mono* 20 Oct-10 Nov (Ken Wells), and at Goffinet Res., *Amador* 28 Nov (Don Marsh). High counts of Blue-winged Teal included 19 in Gilroy, *Santa Clara* 9 Nov (RWR, FV) and 28 at Gustine, *Merced* 23 Nov (PJM, DMo). A male Tufted Duck returned to L. Merritt, *Alameda* 28 Oct+ (*vide* Hilary Powers). Broods of Lesser Scaup included one at H.R.S. 22 Aug-6 Sep (RJR) and 2 at Sunnyvale, *Santa Clara* 25 Aug (WGB). Five Surf Scoters at Lewiston L. 20 Oct (JSL) constituted the 6th record and a new high count for *Trinity*. Likewise, 5 at Fall River L. 29 Oct (KAb) was a new high count for *Shasta*. Inland White-winged Scoters included an imm. at O'Neill Forebay, *Merced* 22 Nov+ (JLD et al.) and as many as 9 in *Mono* 14 Oct-23 Nov. *Merced's* first Black Scoter was

an imm. male at O'Neill Forebay 10-25 Nov (Ken Schneider, ph. m.ob.). Birders searching for the Black Scoter also turned up a Long-tailed Duck at the same location 11 Nov+ (JLx, m.ob.). The only other truly inland Long-tailed Duck was at Bridgeport Res., *Mono* 16-29 Nov (JSL, m.ob.). The summering Long-tailed Duck at King Salmon, *Humboldt* was last reported 16 Aug (MWa); the first returning bird was an ad male flying s. at Pajaro Dunes, *Santa Cruz*, found during an aerial survey 20 Oct (JND et al.). An ad. male at Palo Alto 16-17 Nov (WGB, ph. MJM, m.ob.) was the first for *Santa Clara* since 2002. A Barrow's Goldeneye at H.R.S. 29 Aug-22 Sep (PDr, RJR) was inexplicably early. The Barrow's Goldeneye × Hooded Merganser hybrid returned for a 7th winter to L. Merritt, *Alameda* 29 Nov+ (Travis Hails). A female Ruddy Duck with 2 downy young at Ukiah W.T.P. 14 Aug (GEC) supplied one of few *Mendocino* breeding records.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS

Red-throated Loons inland, where scarce, included an overdue first record for *Lassen* at Eagle L. 11 Oct (LOR) and one at Bridgeport Res., *Mono* 16-23 Nov (JSL, m.ob.). Twenty-one Pacific Loons were part of a large group of migrating piscivores grounded by weather at Eagle L., *Lassen* 11 Oct (LOR); 4 others were inland in *Mono*, *Lake*, and *Siskiyou*. A Common Loon at the Madera W.T.P. 9 Nov (KPa) provided an unusual record for the C.V. floor in *Madera*. The only Yellow-billed Loon was on Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 23-24 Sep (Brent Campos, TKz, ph. ScC). In addition to 20+ Red-necked Grebes (a typical showing) in coastal and estuarine habitats, an impressive 9 on non-tidal water bodies included *Mono's* 3rd record at Crowley L. 12-18 Sep (JuH, m.ob.), *Lassen's* 4th or 5th at Eagle L. 11 Oct (LOR), and *Napa's* 3rd at L. Hennessey 20-25 Oct (MBe, JLx, m.ob.). Eared Grebes nested late and in large numbers at Crowley L., *Mono*, with 335 active nests on 2 Sep (KNN). A total of 1315 active Western Grebe nests at L. Almanor, *Plumas* 15 Aug (CPD, Anthony E. Hall) was the highest breeding concentration at that location on record. Diligent coastal surveys recorded high numbers of *Aech-*



Nearshore encroachment of warm surface waters was apparently associated with the appearance of record numbers of Cook's Petrels not far off the Northern California coast in late summer and early autumn 2009. This bird was well photographed on Monterey Bay, Monterey County 12 September 2009. Photograph by Scott B. Terrill.

mophorus grebes in *Santa Cruz*, peaking at 4110 at Soquel Cove 8 Oct (DLSu).

In addition to 4 Laysan Albatrosses recorded on three offshore boat trips, the Pt. Arena Cove, *Mendocino* bird returned for its 17th consecutive winter 18 Nov (Tom Reid, m.ob.). The highlight of the season was a White-chinned Petrel 30 km w. of Pigeon Pt.,

SA Four Short-tailed Albatrosses were recorded. A juv. was 32 km sw. of Pt. Arena, *Mendocino* 31 Jul (ph. Kevin Stockmann), and a bird at least one year old was at Cordell Bank, *Marin* 16 Sep (ShJ). A juv. 48 km w. of Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 11 Oct (LTer, ph. AJ, m.ob.) carried a satellite transmitter. According to Robert Suryan of Oregon State University, this bird had hatched on Torishima I. but was translocated to Mukojima I., where it was hand-reared until it fledged on 22 May. It then flew a clockwise path around the n. Pacific Ocean, entering California waters in late Sep and continuing s. to the Big Sur/Monterey Bay, *Monterey* area, where it spent about one week before turning northward to be spotted by birders off *San Mateo*. It then wandered n. before its signal was lost off Vancouver I., British Columbia. This bird provided a first *San Mateo* record and obviously traversed the waters of a number of other Regional counties between *Monterey* and *Del Norte* during its journey. According to Suryan, another juv. with a transmitter was tracked off *Humboldt* 28 Sep-13 Oct.



Very late for any location in the United States was this Western Wood-Pewee in the Panoche Valley, San Benito County, California 26 November 2009. Photograph by Debra Shearwater.

San Mateo 18 Oct (ph. AJa, m.ob.). This well-documented bird provided a first record for California (pending C.B.R.C. acceptance) and only the 2nd for North America. Hawaiian Petrels were found in good numbers this season. On 2 Aug, singles were documented 61 km sw. of Davenport (a *Santa Cruz* first) and 63 km sw. of Año Nuevo Pt., *San Mateo* (ShJ, †JCS, †LTer). Near Cordell Bank, *Marin*, one or 2 were observed 12 Aug (ShJ, SNGH, ph., †MtB; †OsJ, †JLD, ph. NS), and one was seen 16 Aug (ph., †RyT; ph., †MWE; ph. SBT, RS). Another was off Noyo Harbor, *Mendocino* 23 Aug (GEC, ph. DWN, m.ob.). No documentation was received for singles reported in *Monterey Bay*, *Monterey* 2 Aug and 12 Sep or 200 km sw. of FI. 2 Aug. Cook's Petrels remained in high numbers into Sep. On 2 Aug, a birding trip recorded 71, 11, and 9, respectively, off *Monterey*, *Santa Cruz*, and *San Mateo* (ShJ), while 36 more were recorded farther off *Santa Cruz* and *San Mateo* by a research vessel the same day (MFo); *Santa Cruz* had just one prior record. Lesser numbers were recorded in *Monterey* on four more dates through 12 Sep, when 24 were on *Monterey Bay* (ShJ). Additional *San Mateo* birds included 23 on 6 Aug (ShJ) and one 23 Aug (JRy). *Sonoma* waters off Bodega Bay had 11 on 12 Aug (ShJ) and 2-3 on 15 Aug (RS, RAR, m.ob.), and 2 were at Cordell Bank, *Marin* 16 Aug (RyT, RS, m.ob.). Three Manx Shearwaters, with singles at FI. 3 Sep (†RyT) and on *Monterey Bay*, *Monterey* 27 Sep and 3 Oct (both ShJ), was about average. Black-vented Shearwaters appeared 8 Oct and were in relatively low numbers through the season, with a high of only 150 at FI. 3 Nov (PRBO). Six

Wilson's Storm-Petrels on five boat trips in *Monterey*, *Santa Cruz*, *Marin*, and *Sonoma* waters 12 Aug–27 Sep represented an average showing. Least Storm-Petrels were nearly absent this fall, with one on *Monterey Bay*, *Santa Cruz* 20 Sep (*Monterey Seabirds*, ph. TEa) and 2 there 27 Sep (*Monterey Seabirds*) comprising the only reports. An Ashy Storm-Petrel at H.R.S. 5 Aug (RJR) was at a location where the species is rare but nearly annual in fall. An ad. female Brown Booby was on FI. 19 Sep–25 Nov (†RyT, ph. JTz), and an unidentified booby was at Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz* 2 Sep (W. Breck Tyler, Martha Brown). American White Pelicans are typically scarce on the n. coast; this season, *Humboldt* observers recorded 2 at various locations 10-23 Aug, followed by singles at *Humboldt Hill* 2 Oct (Leslie Tucci) and *Trinidad* 8 Oct (MHA), and *Del Norte* had 2 at *Crescent City* 31 Aug (ADB) and up to 2 at the *Smith R.* mouth 1-7 Sep (ADB, JRy). A total of 400 at *Struve Slough* 26 Aug (DLSu) was one of the highest counts ever for *Santa Cruz*. Inland Brown Pelicans are becoming increasingly regular. This season, singles were at the *Bufferlands* 4-5 Aug (Shawn Petrash, Kevin Cassidy, ph. CCo, Roger Jones; 4th *Sacramento* record); at *San Luis Res.*, *Merced* 25 Aug (PJM) and 7-21 Nov (KVV); and at *L. San Antonio*, *Monterey* 26 Aug (RJA). Numbers were unusually low most of the period at FI., with 1732 on 6 Aug dropping to fewer than 100 through most of the period (PRBO). Pelagic Cormorants unusually far inside S.F. Bay were in *Alviso*, *Santa Clara* 25 Oct (MMR, RGJ) and *Benicia*, *Solano* 29 Nov (EPi).

HERONS THROUGH RAILS

A pair of Least Bitterns with up to 5 young was at the *Yolo Bypass W.A.*, *Yolo* 1-27 Aug (ph. Lyann Comrack, m.ob.). Least Bitterns continued in *Lake*, with 2 at *Clear Lake S.P.* and 2 at *Lakeside C.P.* 1 Aug–27 Sep (JRW, m.ob.). Cattle Egrets in less expected locales included *Lake's* 4th at *Clear Lake S.P.* 2 Nov (JRW) and 2 at *Crowley L.*, *Mono* 23 Aug (JLD); a smattering of reports from several coastal counties spanned 13 Aug–16 Nov. Good numbers of White-faced Ibis reached coastal counties throughout the season, with some lingering past the end of the period in *Santa Clara* and *Santa Cruz*; an ibis in Fall

River Valley, *Shasta* 27 Nov (KAb) was likewise late. A count of 461 at *Bridgeport Res.* 14 Sep (PJM) was the highest count ever for *Mono*. An unbanded ad. White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) near *Montague*, *Siskiyou* 10 Aug–13 Sep stirred up interest (ph. m.ob.), but its provenance remains unknown.

A juv. Northern Goshawk flew past *Hawk Hill*, *Marin* and into S.F. 29 Oct (Steve Bauer). The *Sonoma Common Black-Hawk* continued through the period near *Sebastopol* (ph. Stan Moore). A juv. Broad-winged Hawk at the n. shore of *L. Tahoe* 4 Oct (†TEa) was *Placer's* first and only the 2nd for the *Sierra Nevada* in our notebooks. Over 200 Swainson's Hawks assembled at a roost in *Visalia*, *Tulare* 6-10 Oct (Gary Lindquist), the only known large roost in the Region and one of only two known in the state. Migrant Swainson's Hawks were detected in several coastal counties 14 Aug–14 Oct. *Harlan's Hawks* included returning ads. in *Humboldt* at *Fay Slough W.A.* 15 Oct (ScC) and *Bayside* 12 Nov (dark morph; ScC), birds in *Sonoma* along *Valley Ford Rd.* 27 Oct (dark morph; RS et al.) and near *Sebastopol* 21 Nov (light morph; Bill Doyle, Helen Kochenderfer), and a returning ad. along *Thornton Rd.*, *San Joaquin* 8 Nov (BWb, m.ob.). The *Del Norte Crested Caracara* continued through at least 5 Nov (MHA). Aug Merlin reports continued, with singles in four counties 3-14 Aug. Two downy Clapper Rail chicks at *Meeker Slough*, *Contra Costa* 2 Sep (Alex Navarro) confirmed late breeding by this species.

SHOREBIRDS

A Black-bellied Plover at *Salt Springs Valley Res.* 21 Sep (JSL) was the first for *Calaveras*. American Golden-Plovers were well reported, with 10 found: *Arcata Bottoms*, *Humboldt* 18-24 Sep (juv.; DFx, JCP, †RbF et al.); *Bodega Harbor*, *Sonoma* 18 Sep–3 Oct (juv.; RS, ph. BBg, ph. LHg, m.ob.); *O'Neill Forebay*, *Merced* 26-27 Sep (juv.; †PJM, ADeM, ph. KVV, FrT); *Modesto S.T.P.*, *Stanislaus* 27 Sep (juv.; ph., †JHG, ERC); *outer Pt. Reyes*, *Marin* 1 Oct (RS, BBg); *Salinas R. mouth*, *Monterey* 2 Oct (juv.; †RF); *L. Earl*, *Del Norte* 6-12 Oct (juv.; LuB, ADB); *Loleta Bottoms*, *Humboldt* 11-14 Oct (juv.; ph., †RbF, KGR, Rachel Smith); *Shasta Valley W.A.*, *Siskiyou* 19 Oct (RE); and *Salinas W.T.P.*, *Monterey* 24 Oct (juv.; ph. OsJ). A Pacific Golden-Plover at *San Felipe L.* 25 Oct was a long-overdue first for *San Benito* (ph. KVV). Two Snowy Plovers at *S. Lake Tahoe* 4 Oct (ph. TEa) were a surprising find in *El Dorado*. Mountain Plover numbers sw. of *Madera*, *Madera* built from 7 on 19 Oct to 320 on 29 Nov (ph. GaW), including one bird 13 Nov that had been color-banded as an ad.

SA Prior to 2009, the Region had amassed 20 Hudsonian Godwit records since the first state record in *Humboldt* in 1973. With the exception of 2003, during which 3 birds were found, at most one or 2 birds were found in the Region during any given year. There is thus no precedent for the occurrence of up to 12 juv. Hudsonian Godwits this season, with at least 4, and perhaps as many as 8, being found in *Mendocino*. Four were at Ft. Bragg 26 Aug (DT, ph. m.ob.). Subsequently, several additional reports came from nearby MacKerricher S.P. to the north: up to 2 were at Virgin Cr. Beach 30 Aug–2 Sep (ph. MMT et al.), with another there 20–30 Sep (†DT, †Cheryl Watson-Heinecken, ph. RLeV, m.ob.), and one was at Ten Mile Beach 30 Aug–2 Sep (ph. Becky Bowen et al.). Records from other counties included California's earliest fall record at Arcata Marsh 4 Aug (*Humboldt's* 6th; †DFx et al., ph. SMCA, vt. RbF), followed by *Humboldt's* 7th at the Eel R. delta 19 Sep (ph. SMCA). *Santa Cruz's* first was at Watsonville Slough 25–27 Aug (RgW, ph. Osl, m.ob.). The Region's 4th inland record, the 2nd for *Kings*, was s. of Corcoran 30 Aug (ph. JLt, Mark Stacy), in the same area as the Jun bird reported last season.

near Arlington, WY in summer 2008 (*fide* Michael Wunder). Other records of note included 40 s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 31 Oct (JLt) and one at Crowley L., *Mono* 13 Sep (JuH).

American Avocets in unusual locations included 4 at Prosser Creek Res., *Nevada* 19 Aug (Steve Rose) and one at Groveland, *Tuolumne* 18 Sep (Jeanne Ridgley). A notable 79 Lesser Yellowlegs at the C.C.F.S. waterbird pond 1 Sep (MMR) was a new high count for a single *Santa Clara* location; 2 at L. Almanor 15 Aug (CPD, Anthony Hall) provided a rare record for *Plumas*. Migrant Willets in the Sierra Nevada were at Prosser Creek Res., *Nevada* 19 Aug (Steve Rose) and Indian Creek Res., *Alpine* 6 Sep (juv.; JLD).

Three *Humboldt* Bar-tailed Godwit reports 23 Aug–24 Sep were all undocumented. The only inland Ruddy Turnstones reported were *Tulare's* 2nd and 3rd, at Visalia W.T.P. 14 Aug and *Tulare* W.T.P. the next day (both JLt), perhaps involving the same bird. Inland Red Knots included 2 s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 30 Aug (Mark Stacy) and singles 3 km n. of Stratford, *Kings* 6 Sep (PSt), at the Fresno W.T.P., *Fresno* 15 Sep (JCS, *fide* JSy), and at Gustine W.T.P., *Merced* 18 & 26 Sep (PJM, ADeM). Sanderlings in the Sierra Nevada included juvs. at L. Almanor, *Plumas* 18 Aug (†Tim Guida) and at the n. shore of L. Tahoe, *Placer* 17 Sep (SAbb). Also notable at the latter location 20–26 Aug was an ad. Western Sandpiper that had been banded in the Russian Far East a few months earlier (ph. WRi). A Western Sandpiper along White Rock Rd. 18 Sep (JSL) was apparently *Mariposa's* first. A report of a juv. Red-necked Stint at the Yolo Bypass W.A., *Yolo* 30 Aug–1 Sep (TEa, ph. JCS, m.ob.) awaits C.B.R.C. review; all 12 previously accepted state records have been of ads., with the latest lingering only until 18 Aug. A Pectoral Sandpiper at L. Almanor 7 Oct (CPD) was one of few recorded in *Plumas*. Seven Sharp-tailed Sandpipers was an above-average total for the season. An unexpected ad. was at the Yolo Bypass W.A., *Yolo* 4 Sep (TEa, ph. JCS), followed by a juv. in flight over Monterey Bay, *Monterey* 20 Sep (TEa, ph. JPo et

al.) and juvs. at West Struve Slough 29 Sep–1 Oct (2 birds on 29 Sep, 2nd record for *Santa Cruz*; RgW, DLSu), at H.R.S. 3 Oct (RJR), and at L. Earl, *Del Norte* 11–14 Oct (LuB, ADB et al.), with a duller bird at this location 21 Oct (ADB, JSL). *Santa Cruz's* Rock Sandpiper returned for a 7th winter to West Cliff Dr. in Santa Cruz 28 Oct+ (SGE, m.ob.). Nine Stilt Sandpipers in seven counties 6 Aug–26 Oct included 3 inland in *Kings* and *Tulare*. Seven Buff-breasted Sandpipers in six counties 23 Aug–19 Sep included *Santa Cruz's* 4th at Watsonville Slough 28 Aug (ph. JCS, TEa). Yet another rare *Plumas* shorebird record came in the form of 2 Short-billed Dowitchers at L. Almanor 1 Aug (CPD).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Increased coverage of productive sites and scrutiny of gull flocks continue to augment our knowledge of gull occurrence at inland locations. This season, inland reports of Sabine's Gulls spanned the period 27 Aug–26 Sep, with 15+ individuals in *Mono*, 3 in *Kings*, and one in *Placer*; the only other reported away from the coast was on a Fremont, *Alameda* salt pond 16 Sep (MJM, Josh Scullen). Aside from 61 Franklin's Gulls at New Pine Cr., *Modoc*, where regular, 11 Aug (JCS), 13 were in six inland counties; singles at the Madera W.T.P., *Madera* 25 Aug (ph. GaW) and at Clearlake, *Lake* 31 Oct (FHa, Darlene Hecomovich) provided 3rd records for their respective counties. Coastal Franklin's were at MacKerricher S.P., *Mendocino* 11 Aug (KHv, ph. REH) and El. 21 Sep (Jill Gautreaux; ph. MtB, ph. RyT; 6th inland record). A Heermann's Gull at Clear Lake S.P. 1 Nov (Steve & Diane Ross) provided the 6th record for *Lake*. Among 6 Mew Gulls far inland, the most extralimital and unseasonable were in *Modoc*. There, one at New Pine Cr. since May was joined by another 8 Aug (TEa), with one seen again 11 Aug (JCS); another s. of Alturas 10 Oct (JSL) was more seasonally, if not geographically, expected. A Mew Gull at Trinity L. 11 Nov (COg, JEH, RbF) provided a 4th *Trinity* record. An ad. Western Gull at O'Neill Forebay and San Luis Res.,

Merced 5 Aug–26 Sep (CCo, PJM, ADeM) was at a location where the species has become regular in recent years; more unusual were singles at Paicines Res., *San Benito* 24 Aug (†KPa) and Bridgeport Res. 16–23 Nov (JSL, ph. KNN, m.ob.), the latter providing a first record for *Mono*. The first Lesser Black-backed Gull for *Kings*, an ad. discovered 3 km n. of Stratford 16 Nov (ph. GaW, m.ob.), died the next day (*U.C. Davis). The only Glaucous Gull reported was an early ad. at the Yolo County Landfill, *Yolo* 10–19 Nov (SCH).

A Least Tern s. of Hanford 22–30 Aug (Mark Stacy, JLt, SDS) was in *Kings*, where small numbers have bred regularly for more than a decade, but one at O'Neill Forebay 25 Aug (†PJM) was apparently a first for *Merced*. Post-breeding S.F. Bay Least Terns apparently staged in *Alameda* this season, where the high count of 180 was recorded in Coyote Hills salt ponds 4 Aug (MJM), rather than in traditional sites in *Santa Clara*, where the only report was of 10 in Alviso 23 Aug (DvWb). Fourteen Caspian Terns at Indian Creek Res. 6 Sep (JLD) provided a new high count for *Alpine*. Fall migrant Black Terns are typically not reported in large numbers; this season, 12 reported from six counties 1–29 Aug was a fairly good showing. An Elegant Tern at Skaggs Island Rd. 4 Sep (David Bell) provided the first *Napa* record since the 1970s; all county records are from this site. The only inland jaegers reported were a Parasitic at the n. shore of L. Tahoe, *Placer* 11 Sep (DeR) and an unidentified Parasitic or Long-tailed at *Mono* L., *Mono* 19 Sep (JuH). Long-taileds were in high numbers offshore; the peak count of 177 on a Monterey Seavalleys trip 23 Aug, with 70, 29, and 78 in *Monterey*, *Santa Cruz*, and *San Mateo*, respectively (Monterey Seabirds, DR, DSg, RgW et al.), was the highest single-day count on record for the Region. Unusual coastal reports included singles at Crescent City Harbor, *Del Norte* 15 Sep (KMS) and the n. jetty of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 19 Sep (KGR, Rachel Smith).

A Common Murre near Austin Cr., *Sonoma* 16 Aug (Linda Petrulias) was unusually far inland along the Russian River. Increased scrutiny of murrelets on the n. coast is revealing Long-billed Murrelet to be regular there in fall. Different individuals were off the Smith R. mouth, *Del Norte* 6 & 7 Aug (ph., †EE, Moe Morrisette, Jeff Jacobsen). One off the Little R. mouth, *Humboldt* 11 Aug (†EE, Moe Morrisette, Vince Slabe, RbF, KGR) may have been the same one seen at Houda Pt., *Humboldt* 31 Aug (†ScC, TKz). The latest was at the mouth of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 11 Oct (†KGR, †SFB). Elias considered the 6, 7, & 11 Aug individuals to be different from each oth-

er and from the 31 Jul bird noted in the summer report on the basis of plumage differences. Xantus's Murrelets were recorded on nine pelagic trips 2 Aug–24 Oct, with a high of 24 at the Monterey Seavalleys, *Monterey* 10 Oct (ShJ); single individuals of the subspecies *hypoleucus* were on Monterey Bay in *Monterey* 2 Aug and in *Santa Cruz* 7 Aug (both ShJ). One to 2 Rhinoceros Auklets were present 1–8 Aug at H.R.S. (RJR, Bob Dunn), where rare so far inside S.F. Bay. The season's only Horned Puffin was on Monterey Bay, *Monterey* 13 Sep (ShJ).

DOVES THROUGH WRENTIT

Notable White-winged Doves included *Modoc's* first at New Pine Cr. 6 Sep (SCR) and *Kings's* 2nd s. of Corcoran 20–28 Sep (ph. SDS et al.). Up to 3 Common Ground-Doves e. of Earlimart 8 Aug–20 Sep (Alison Sheehy, m.ob.) were not only the first for *Tulare* but also for the C.V. portion of the Region. Reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoo included one at Natural Bridges S.B. 11 Aug (PDB, OsJ, Wes Fritz), furnishing *Santa Cruz's* 4th modern record, another netted near Bolinas, *Marin* 11 Aug (ph. PRBO), and *San Mateo's* 2nd at Pescadero 5 Sep (RSTh). A road-killed Flamulated Owl at Angwin 29 Aug (C. Toews) and a live bird at Big Basin Redwoods S.P. 29

Sep (†DLSu) yielded 2nd records for *Napa* and *Santa Cruz*, respectively. Although Long-eared Owls occur regularly in parts of the Interior Coast Range of w. *Fresno*, 2 near Tollhouse 27 Sep (JND, JSy, GaW) established an unusual record for the Sierra Nevada foothills in the e. part of the county. A Northern Saw-whet Owl found after a storm 17 Oct at Lincoln, taken to a rehab facility, and then released 30 Nov (Gordon & Shirley Powers, ph. Kari Friedig) represents an unusual C.V. floor occurrence for *Placer*. Only occasionally detected outside breeding areas in the Region, a Common Nighthawk over Salinas 31 Aug (TAm) was one of very few ever reported for *Monterey*. The Whip-poor-will at Willow Creek, *Humboldt* was present through Oct (*vide* Marla Shull).

Chimney Swift reports included singles at Swanton Pond, *Santa Cruz* 12 Aug (DLSu) and Searsville L., *San Mateo* 19 Sep (†RSTh, Leonie Batkin). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Bolinas 30 Sep–1 Oct (KH) would be *Marin's* 2nd, pending C.B.R.C. acceptance. A female Anna's Hummingbird gathering plant down at Watsonville 9 Oct (SGe et al.) and another overseeing a fledgling at Aptos Cr. 19 Oct (DLSu) supplied evidence of rare fall nesting in *Santa Cruz*. An imm. *Selasphorus* at Bolinas, *Marin* 30–31 Aug (ph. KH) showed features consistent with Broad-tailed Hummingbird. Lewis's Woodpeckers made a strong showing for the 3rd consecutive year. Notable numbers included 57 passing s. over Long Canyon, *Napa* 7 Oct during a 15-minute period (MBe) and 100+ at Michigan Bar, *Sacramento* 25 Oct (CrS). A Pileated Woodpecker at Tilden Park 6 & 8 Sep (PCp) was 16 km n. of the only regular enclave for the species in *Contra Costa*.

A Western Wood-Pewee at Panoche Valley, *San Benito* 29 Nov (ph. DLSh, Don Doolittle) established the Region's latest fall record by nearly a month. Six Least Flycatchers reported included *Yolo's* 2nd at Grasslands Park 14 Sep (TEa). Supplying first Nov records for their respective counties were a Hammond's Flycatcher at White Slough W.A., *San Joaquin* 27 Nov (†MDo), a Gray Flycatcher at Elkhorn Slough, *Monterey* 7–8 Nov (RF, Cheryl Fournier), and a Dusky Flycatcher at C.R.P. 7–11 Nov (JTr). A Black Phoebe along Ash Cr. in Adin 7 Sep (SCR) was just the 3rd for *Modoc*. After a several-month absence, the banded Black Phoebe × Say's Phoebe hybrid returned 26 Sep to Ferndale Bottoms, *Humboldt*, where it remained until 14 Oct (Owen Head, KGR, Rachael Smith). A Vermilion Flycatcher at Dechambeau Ranch, *Mono* 12 Oct–2 Nov (JuH, ph. DHo, m.ob.) was just the 2nd for the *Mono* Basin. An unprecedented 2 Great Crested Fly-

catchers turned up in *Monterey*, one at Moon-glow Dairy 15 Sep (†RF, Cheryl Fournier), the other at Laguna Grande 15–20 Oct (BJW, RF, ph. DR, ph. BHL, ph. SRv, m.ob.). Tropical Kingbirds were well represented, with 27 reports spanning the coast from *Monterey* to *Del Norte*. Seven Eastern Kingbirds, all coastal, conformed with the seasonal average.

One of the season's standouts was a well-documented Brown Shrike seen and then netted on EI. 24–25 Sep (ph. MtB, †RyT, Jill Gautreaux, ph. JTz), providing the 2nd record for the island and 3rd for the state. White-eyed Vireo is predominantly a spring vagrant, so one at the Big Sur R. mouth, *Monterey* 16 Sep (†MiT) would provide an unusual fall record for the Region, pending C.B.R.C. acceptance. A Least Bell's Vireo along the Tule R. near Porterville 11 Sep (†SDS) was a great find for *Tulare*. Single Plumbeous Vireos were in *Kings* at Corcoran 30 Sep (JSL) and at Atwell I. 23 Oct (JLT), as well as in *Tulare* at Porterville 6 Oct (SDS) and near Black Rock Ranger Station 20 Oct (JLD). Blue-headed Vireos of note were at L. Merced, S.F. 3 Oct (ph. †MWE, DPM, TGr) and EI. 9 Oct (ph., †JTz; ph., †KNN et al.). Two Hutton's Vireos traveling with a mixed-species flock at Day 25 Sep (ph. SCR) supplied a first for *Modoc*. Eight Red-eyed Vireos included 2 summer leftovers: *Yolo's* 2nd at Davis through 18 Aug (Chris Dunford, TEa, SHa, JCS et al.) and *Modoc's* 2nd at New Pine Cr., through 6 Sep (TEa, JCS, David Irons). The latter bird was feeding a juv. 6 Sep (ph. SCR), supplying an outstanding breeding record for the area. Although this would represent the first breeding for the Region, the nest site itself may have been just across the state line in Oregon. Reported without details, a Yellow-green Vireo in Pacific Grove, *Monterey* 9 Oct was in the same area as one found Oct 1988.

Late nesting by Western Scrub-Jays in *Santa Cruz* was evidenced by a bird carrying nesting material at Natural Bridges S.B. 24 Sep (SGe) and an ad. supervising a fledgling at Capitola 5 Oct (DLSu). A conspiracy of 415 Common Ravens at Pescadero, *San Mateo* 11 Aug (DLSu) was the largest gathering ever reported in the Santa Cruz Mts. Pygmy Nuthatches feeding nestlings at New Brighton S.B., *Santa Cruz* 22 Sep (DLSu) may represent the latest fall nesting for this species in the state. A fallout of 59 Golden-crowned Kinglets at EI. 10 Oct set a new high count for the island (PRBO). An unseasonable Rudy-crowned Kinglet was at C.R.P. 16 Aug (JTr). A Western Bluebird made it to EI. 28–29 Oct (Jenny Erbes et al.), for the 3rd island record. Mountain Bluebirds included a dizzying total of 998 among several flocks at Panoche Valley,

SA The invasion by Eurasian Collared-Doves continues. Groups of 137 at Moonglow Dairy 8 Nov (BLS) and 150 at Alturas 26 Nov (SCR) established new high counts for *Monterey* and *Modoc*, respectively. One in the interior of Big Basin Redwoods S.P., *Santa Cruz* 8 Aug (DLSu) provided an unusual record from a densely forested setting. The species made an appearance in the high mts. at S. Lake Tahoe, *El Dorado* 14 Oct (WRI) and well offshore at EI. 25 Aug and 1 Oct (PRBO), providing the first fall records for the island. A bird sitting on a nest in *Fresno*, *Fresno* 30 Sep (Kris McNew) highlighted one of the keys to the collared-dove's success—its ability to nest at any season. Although the species prefers suburban and agricultural areas, some of these records indicate that it is not confined to those habitats. These records also highlight the species' extraordinary dispersal capabilities, another key attribute of this adaptable pioneer.

The pace of the invasion of this exotic bird rivals that of the European Starling, which ensconced itself in the Region over a few decades during the middle of the last century. Although the effects of the starling invasion on populations of native birds are now coming to light (e.g., see *Conservation Biology* 17: 1134–1140 [2003]), those of the collared-dove remain to be determined. Anecdotal evidence, however, suggests the species may be displacing Mourning Doves in some areas.

San Benito 21 Nov (CKf, ELb), the 3rd for the Monterey Pen. at Pt. Pinos, *Monterey* 9-10 Oct (Jim Bangsma et al.), and the 3rd modern record for *Santa Cruz*, with 7 birds at New Brighton S.B. 15 Oct (DLSu). *San Joaquin's* 3rd Townsend's Solitaire was at Mokelumne Day Use Area 12 Nov (Steve & Diane Rose). A Gray-cheeked Thrush at FI. 9 Oct (ph., †RyT; ph., †JTz et al.) was the 14th for the island, which has hosted the lion's share of the state's records. A good month ahead of the normal arrival date for wintering migrants from the north, a Hermit Thrush at Almaden Valley, *Santa Clara* 18 Aug (JPa) presumably dispersed from the coastal breeding population to the west.

THRASHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Sonoma produced our only Gray Catbird, at Campbell Cove 1-14 Sep (DN). Northern Mockingbirds in unusual locations included singles in *Mono*, at Rush Cr. 19 Sep (JuH) and Simis Ranch 21-23 Sep (KNN), one at outer Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 16 Oct (RS), and another in *Alturas, Modoc* 18 & 26 Nov (KAb, LOr, SCR). Ten out-of-range Sage Thrashers matched our fall average, with 3 in *Monterey* and one each in *Humboldt, Alameda, Santa Cruz, Merced, Marin, Tehama, and San Joaquin*. An Eastern Yellow Wagtail at Pillar Pt., *San Mateo* 15 Oct (†PBC, †Arnel Guanlao) would be the only record for the state outside the narrow window of 27 Aug–25 Sep if accepted by the C.B.R.C. Notable reports of single Phainopeplas came from Oasis, *Mono* 13 Sep (JuH) and Big Basin S.P., *Santa Cruz* 4 Nov (DLSu).

A generally lackluster season for "eastern" warblers was brightened by *Santa Cruz's* first Blue-winged Warbler near Manresa S.B. 10-15 Oct (ph. TEa, DLSu, SRv et al.). Among 26 Tennessee Warblers was *Butte's* first at Chico State University Farm 17 Sep (†JHS) and *Lake's* 2nd and 3rd at Rodman Slough Park 7 Sep (JRW) and Anderson Marsh 21 Sep (Nick Shepherd). Our 6 Virginia's Warblers included the earliest record for nw. California at Mad River C.P., *Humboldt* 21 Aug (†LuB). A Lucy's Warbler was at Natural Bridges S.B., *Santa Cruz* 19-27 Sep (SGe, ph. Jean Myers, PDB, OsJ, ph. Wendy Naruo, m.ob.). Northern Parula was the only warbler reported in large numbers (15; nearly twice our 20-year average). Twenty-one Chestnut-sided Warblers included only one from an inland county, at Butte Cr. Canyon Reserve, *Butte* 15 Aug (JHS). Only 9 Magnolia Warblers were reported, fewer than half our average. Pt. Reyes, *Marin* had both our Cape May Warblers, one 13-16 Sep (NS, SNGH, DMo) and another 12 Oct (NS). Seven Black-throated Blue Warblers included a male at C.R.P. 17 Sep (JTr) and sin-

gles on FI. and in mainland S.F., *Santa Cruz, Alameda, Marin, and San Mateo*. Black-throated Greens were on FI. 10-12 Oct (KNN, RyT et al.) and at New Brighton S.B., *Santa Cruz* 16 Oct (DLSu). Black-burnian Warblers were in Arcata, *Humboldt* 25-27 Sep (GAB, RbF, Owen Head, ph. KGR, TKz), on FI. 9 & 10 Oct (PRBO), and in *Santa Cruz* at Lighthouse Field S.B. 12 Oct (LGo, WGo) and New Brighton S.B. 16 Oct (DLSu). A Yellow-throated Warbler at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 10 Oct (ph. NS, Ed Conrad, Natalia Penuela) awaits C.B.R.C. acceptance. Eleven Prairie Warblers was close to average, but 22 Palm Warblers was our lowest total in at least the past 20 years and less than a fifth of our average. A well-described Bay-breasted Warbler near Nevada City 27 Oct (†ECB) was a first for *Nevada*; another was banded on FI. 27 Sep (PRBO). Our total of 25 Blackpoll Warblers was less than half our average.

Seventeen Black-and-white Warblers included *Modoc's* 4th along New Pine Cr. 8 Aug–9 Sep (TEa, SCR), *Placer's* first at N. Lake Tahoe 16 Sep (BWb, ph. Jean Myers), and *Stanislaus's* 3rd in Modesto 20 Sep (ERC). An American Redstart in Chester 15 Aug (CPD, Anthony E. Hall) may be *Plumas's* 3rd; another in Milliken Canyon 8 Sep (MBe) was *Napa's* 2nd. The other 34 American Redstarts were all in coastal or bayside counties. Ovenbirds were at Mad River C.P., *Humboldt* 7-8 Oct (Phil Chaon, KGR, Rachel Smith), at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 8 Oct (NS), and on FI. 9 & 11 Oct (PRBO). The total of 16 Northern Waterthrushes was well under our 20-year average. Reports of *Oporornis* warblers were few. A first-winter Kentucky Warbler was reported from Convict L., *Mono* 1 Sep (†KPa). A Connecticut Warbler was on FI. 17 Sep (p.a., †RyT, Jill Gautreaux, †MtB). Eight Hooded Warblers included a female-type along the American R., *Sacramento* 19-20 Sep (Kevin Thomas, DKo, JSL). Canada Warblers were on FI. 9 Sep (MtB), at Sunnyvale Baylands Park 19 Sep (RKe, PKe, ph. WGB, ph. MMR, m.ob.; 2nd for *Santa Clara*), and at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 10-11 Oct (DDeS).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

American Tree Sparrows were at the Carmel R. mouth, *Monterey* 5 Nov (CHO, ph. BHL, ph. DR), on FI. 8-10 Nov (Dan Maxwell, JTz et al.), near Arcata, *Humboldt* 15-18 Nov (RbF, COg), and at Ellis Cr. Ponds, *Sonoma* 19 Nov



Santa Clara County, California's second Canada Warbler was well documented during its short visit to Sunnyvale Baylands Park 19 September 2009. Photograph by William G. Bousman.

(RAR). Two Clay-colored Sparrows at S. Lake Tahoe 5-6 Oct (ph. WRi, TEa, TS) gave *El Dorado* its first record. Fifty-three other Clay-colored were all in coastal or bayside counties. More than 40 Vesper Sparrows in a 2-km stretch near Millerton L., *Madera* 8 Nov (JND) made an unusual concentration for this species in our Region. Black-throated Sparrows were reported from Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* 22 Aug (ADB), e. of the Hwy. 32/36 junction, *Tehama* 31 Aug (†Timothy Guida), and Red Hills, *Tuolumne* 3 Oct (Charlotte Ginn). Fall observations of Grasshopper Sparrow on the C.V. floor are rare, so reports from Yolo Bypass W.A., *Yolo* 7 Sep (OsJ), Gustine W.T.P., *Merced* 26 Sep (PJM, ADeM), and Woodbridge Rd., *San Joaquin* 21 Nov (DVP, Lauren Harter, m.ob.) were notable. Nelson's Sparrows were reported from Palo Alto Baylands, *Santa Clara* 1-3 & 30 Nov (Ken Schneider, RKe, PKe, m.ob.) and Heron's Head Park, S.F. 16 Nov (†Trent Orr). Fourteen Swamp Sparrows was a low total, but 127 White-throated Sparrows was above our average. Small groups of Lapland Longspurs were widely reported, and 14 Chestnut-collared Longspurs from six counties was a good showing. Snow Buntings were on FI. 27 Oct (ph. Dan Maxwell, Andrew Greene, †JTz) and on Mission Peak, *Alameda* 26 Nov (ph. Bob Briggs). The C.B.R.C. will have to decide the fate of the 10 Oct observation of a well-described Yellow-breasted Bunting on FI. (†JTz). If accepted, this would be the first North American record outside of Alaska, which this season recorded its 6th

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ever, at Gambell 2 Sep.

Summer Tanagers celebrated their first fall in a new taxonomic position with the highest total (16) we have seen in over 20 years. Included in this total was *Napa's* first at the Napa R. Ecological Reserve 25-30 Sep (MBe, MBa, m.ob.). The total of 23 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was above average. Despite a heavy fall snowstorm, a Black-headed Grosbeak stayed into winter at 500 m elevation in Sutter Creek, *Amador* 13 Nov+ (ph. Mary Petrone). Among 13 Indigo Buntings, *Madera's* first was banded at Devils Postpile N.M. 24 Oct (PRBO, ph. WRi). Our only Painted Bunting was on F.I. 27-30 Sep (PRBO). Twelve Bobolinks made a near-average total. A Rusty Blackbird was near Arcata, *Humboldt* 11-20 Nov (ph. KGR, KBu, m.ob.). A total of 19 Orchard Orioles set a new high for the Region. Baltimore Orioles were on F.I. 9 Sep (MtB), in S.F. 25 Sep (†HuC, PSar), at Sunnyvale Baylands Park 8 Oct (RWR, RKe; 4th *Santa Clara* record), and near Antonelli Pond, *Santa Cruz* 1 Nov (LGo, WGo, RRa, BRa et al.). A Purple Finch at 3000 m elevation near Minaret Vista at *Madera's* e. edge 4 Sep (JLD) was notable, as were single Cassin's Finches in S.F. 25 Sep (†HuC, PSar) and *Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz* 25 Nov (OsJ).

Addenda: Our fall 2008 column failed to note *Mendocino's* first Canada Warbler at Usal Cr. Campground 13 Sep (JRW, KHv); we regret the omission of this significant observation. *Mono's* 2nd Wood Thrush, found dead at Mono L. and preserved in a freezer in late Nov 2008 (Bonnie Noles), was exhumed and identified in fall 2009 (ph. KNN), when it was prepared as a study skin and sent to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

Cited observers (county coordinators in bold-face): Steve Abbott, Ken Able (*Lassen*), R. J. Adams, Tim Amaral, Stephen F. Bailey, Alan D. Barron, Bob Battagin, Edward C. Beedy, Murray Berner (*Napa*), Gary A. Bloomfield, William G. Bousman (*Santa Clara*), Matt Brady, Phil D. Brown, Lucas Brug, Ken Burton, Eric R. Caine, Phil Capitolo, Scott Carey, George E. Chanot, Peter B. Colasanti, Chris Conard (*Sacramento*), Hugh Cotter, Maryann Danielson, Rudy Darling (*Nevada*), Jeff N. Davis (*Madera*), Al DeMartini, David DeSante, Bruce E. Deuel (n. C.V. counties), Colin P. Dillingham (*Plumas* and *Sierra*), Matthew Dodder, Peter Dramer, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Mark W. Eaton (S.F.), Ray Ekstrom (*Siskiyou*), Elias Elias (*Del Norte*), David Fix, Michael Force, Rick Fournier (RF), Rob Fowler (RbF; *Humboldt*), James H. Gain, Steve Gerow (*Santa Cruz*), Steve A. Glover

(*Contra Costa*), Lois Goldfrank, Wally Goldfrank, Tom Grey, Melody Hamilton, Steve C. Hampton, Keith Hansen, Karen Havlena, Floyd Hayes, Bill Hill, Justin Hite, Craig Hohenberger, Debbie House, Steven N.G. Howell, Richard E. Hubacek, Lisa Hug, John E. Hunter (*Trinity*), Alvaro Jaramillo, Richard G. Jeffers, Oscar Johnson, Robert J. Keiffer (*Mendocino*), Clay Kempf, Roland Kenner, Pat Kenney, Dan Kopp, Tony Kurz, Earl Lebow, Robin L. C. Leong (*Solano*), Ron LeValley, John Lockhart, Jim Lomax, John S. Luther, Michael J. Mammoser, Matthew A. Matthiessen, Sean McAllister, Peter J. Metropulos (*San Mateo*), Monterey Seabirds, Dominik Mosur, Dan P. Murphy, David Nelson, Kristie N. Nelson (*Mono*), Chet Ogan, Frances Oliver (*San Joaquin*), Lew Oring, Ed Pandolfino (*Placer*), Kathy Parker, Janna Pauser, Eric Pilotte, Gary W. Potter (*Fresno*), Jude C. Power, Bernadette Ramer, Robert Ramer, Robert W. Reiling, Will Richardson, Robert J. Richmond (*Alameda*), Don Roberson (*Monterey*), Michael M. Rogers, Deren Ross, Kerry G. Ross, Stephen C. Rottenborn, Steve Rovell, Ruth A. Rudesill (*Sonoma*), Jennifer Rycenga, Paul Saraceni, Adam Searcy (*Marin*), Jeff Seay (*Kings*), Shearwater Journeys, Daniel Singer, Keith M. Slauson, Jim H. Snowden, Rich Stallcup, John C. Sterling (*Alpine, Calaveras, Modoc, and Yolo*), Tim Steurer (*Amador* and *El Dorado*), Penny Stewart, Noah Strycker, David L. Suddjian (*Santa Cruz*), Brian L. Sullivan, Steven D. Summers (*Tulare*), Craig Swolgaard, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, Jim Tietz (F.I.), Dorothy Tobkin, Francis Toldi, John Trochet, Mike Tyner, Steven Umland (*Tuolumne*), Kent Van Vuren (*Merced* and *San Benito*), David Vander Pluym (*Mariposa*), Frank Vanslager, Matt Wachs, Bruce Webb, Dave Weber, Brian J. Weed, Jerry R. White (*Lake*), Roger Wolfe, Gary Woods, Bob & Carol Yutzy (*Shasta*). Many more observers are not specifically cited; all are appreciated. ☺

Jeff N. Davis (Doves to Wrentit)
7815 North Palm Avenue, Suite 310
Fresno, California 93711
(jdavis@harveyecology.com)

Ed Pandolfino (Thrashers to Finches)
5530 Delrose Court, Carmichael, California 95608
(erpfromca@aol.com)

Stephen C. Rottenborn
(Loons to Frigatebirds, Larids to Alcids)
983 University Avenue, Building D
Los Gatos, California 95032
(srottenborn@harveyecology.com)

Michael M. Rogers
(Waterfowl to Quail, Herons to Shorebirds)
499 Novato Avenue, Sunnyvale, California 94086
(m.m.rogers@comcast.net)

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Guy McCaskie
Kimball L. Garrett

The expected summer and fall drought was finally relieved by the first significant rains in late November. Tropical storms that pushed northeastward through Baja California and the desert southwest had little direct effect on our Region. It was another autumn of major brush and forest fires. In the San Gabriel Mountains, three fires between late August and mid-October, including the largest single fire in Los Angeles County history, burned 666 square kilometers and scorched much of the western half of this mountain range. Another fire burned 364 square kilometers of back country and montane woodland in Santa Barbara County, and smaller fires burned in Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego Counties.

There was very little irruptive movement of passerines into or within the Region; only Golden-crowned Kinglets and, particularly, Western Bluebirds made incursions of note. Unprecedented large numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were noted on a September pelagic NOAA cruise, and the Region saw its largest influx of Blue-footed Boobies since 1977. The Region's first Black Vulture divided its time between Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. There were several excellent shorebird rarities, including an apparent Surf-bird × Great Knot hybrid, a previously unknown hybrid combination, with the latter parental species being unrecorded in California! The appearance of six Curve-billed Thrashers could charitably be termed an "invasion." Two of the most notable landbird vagrants were the Region's fourth Sedge Wren and the Region's second Baird's Sparrow. The fall saw below-average numbers of most eastern landbird vagrants and virtually no Asian landbird strays; the six Palm Warblers must surely be the lowest fall total in decades. Among the exceptions to the lackluster counts of eastern landbirds were well-above-normal numbers of Orchard Orioles.

Abbreviations: C.L. (China L. Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. 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); P.M.N.A.S. (Point Mugu Naval Air Station, Ventura); S.E.S.S. (s. end of the Salton Sea, Imperial); S.J.W.A. (San Jacinto W.A., near Lakeview, Riverside); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve, near Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, Ventura). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: LACM (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County). Because most rarities in s. California are seen by multiple observers, only the observer(s) initially finding and/or identifying the bird are included. Documentation for species on the California B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review list (see www.californiabirds.org) is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH CORMORANTS

Waterfowl arrived earlier than usual, as illustrated by the arrival of 5 Snow Geese at S.E.S.S. 30 Sep (NB) and 200 Ross's Geese there 18 Oct (GMcC), both establishing the earliest dates ever for the Salton Sink, along with 19 Surf Scoters flying s. past La Jolla, San Diego 30 Sep (PEL) and 15 more flying s. past Coronado, San Diego on the same day (BMu). Five Brant at Searles L., San Bernardino 12-13 Sep (*vide* SH) had undoubtedly summered locally; fall migrants do not reach s. California until Nov. A Tundra Swan at Santa Margarita L., San Luis Obispo 14 Nov (DGS) was the earliest, and single birds in Carlsbad, San Diego 23 Nov+ (StB) and on s. San Diego Bay 18 Nov (MMcC) were unusually far south. At least 2 Harlequin Ducks on the coast of San Luis Obispo were in an area where one or 2 are regular, but one at Dana Pt. 1-2 Oct (JLD) was only the 3rd in Orange. Only 6 Surf Scoters were found inland, all after 29 Oct, including one at F.C.R. 31 Oct (ADeM). A White-winged Scoter at C.L. 6 Nov (SLS) was only the 3rd in Kern, and one at Quail L., Los Angeles 8-12 Nov (JLF) was the only other one inland. The only Black Scoters reported were one at San Simeon, San Luis Obispo 22-24 Nov (JSR) and on San Diego Bay, San Diego 18-20 Nov (MS),

and the only Long-tailed Duck was one in El Segundo, Los Angeles 29 Nov (DQ).

Forty thousand Pacific Loons flying s. past La Jolla, San Diego in four hours 28 Nov (MS) made an impressive sight; 4 inland in Inyo and San Bernardino after 15 Oct were fewer than expected. The only Red-necked Grebes were singles on Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 10-30 Nov (MLS) and in Ventura, Ventura 15-21 Nov (EW). The first Northern Fulmars arrived in s. California waters in mid-Sep (TMcG et al.) and were numerous offshore by the end of the period. A Cook's Petrel was seen far off San Luis Obispo 19 Oct (DB). Single Flesh-footed Shearwaters were 25 km ssw. of Pt. Arguello 15 Nov (PEL) and 5 km off the Palos Verdes Pen., Los Angeles 18 Nov (MF). A count of 220 Buller's Shearwaters in the area between Rodriguez Dome and the San Juan Seamount 9 Sep (TMcG et al.) was a high number for s. California waters; 30+ in that same area 15 Nov (PEL), along with 2 off the Palos Verdes Pen. 18 Nov (MF), were late. A Manx Shearwater off the Palos Verdes Pen. 22 Oct (DB) was the only one identified. An unprecedented 80 Wilson's Storm-Petrels with about 1500 Ashy, 300 Black, and 100 Least Storm-Petrels were 53 km sw. of Pt. Buchon, San Luis Obispo 11 Sep (MF). Leach's Storm-Petrels were unusually close to shore off San Diego in Aug-Sep, as indicated by a high count of 138 near the Nine-Mile Bank off San Diego 7 Aug (TMcG et al.). An impressive raft of about 8000 Black and 1400 Least



A remarkable twelve Blue-footed Boobies—a virtual invasion—were photographed at the mouth of the Whitewater River at the Salton Sea, Riverside County, California 25 October 2009. Photograph by Curtis A. Marantz.

Storm-Petrels at the Nine-Mile Bank 10 Oct (JSE, WTH) illustrates how numerous these birds were in San Diego waters.

Five Red-billed Tropicbirds w. of the Cortez Bank 10 Oct (WTH) were the only ones reported. A Blue-footed Booby on Anacapa I. 26 Sep (DP) was the first in Ventura, and another



This Black Vulture, photographed in Goleta, Santa Barbara County on 11 September 2009, roosted with Turkey Vultures during its 10-13 September stay and established the first record for Southern California. Photograph by Curtis A. Marantz.

er was at Corona del Mar 9 Sep (DCR), then at nearby Dana Pt., *Orange* 24-27 Sep (RMcN); inland, one was at N.E.S.S. 22 Aug-6 Sep (TE), and single birds were at S.E.S.S. 17 Sep (GMcC) and 19 Oct (M&JS), followed by up to 12 at N.E.S.S. 25 Oct-8 Nov (CAM). Eleven Brown Boobies in *San Diego* waters 26 Aug-23 Nov (JSF, FB, MS, DP, BMu), along with single birds in the San Pedro Channel 15 Aug (JM), at the Bell Bank off *Los Angeles* 25 Aug (JSF), s. of Santa Cruz I. 26 Sep (BA), and near Anacapa I. 21 Nov (MF), well illustrate the increasing frequency of this species in s. California waters. A sub-ad. Red-footed Booby rode a NOAA research ship from near Anacapa I. to Pt. Dume, *Los Angeles* 20-21 Sep (MF). A Neotropic Cormorant on L. Havasu 19 Sep (TAB) was the first recorded in *San Bernardino*; one at S.E.S.S. 6-8 Oct (MF) and another near Seeley, *Imperial* 26 Nov+ (BK) were in the area where most in California have been recorded.

HERONS THROUGH PHALAROPES

The only Reddish Egrets away from coastal *San Diego* and *Orange* were up to 3 at P.M.N.A.S. through the period (DP) and one at Gaviota/Goleta, *Santa Barbara* 23 Aug-13 Sep (SS) on the coast, along with one at L. Mathews, *Riverside* 30 Sep (LM) and up to 4 around S.E.S.S. through Aug (GMcC, BK) inland. The pair of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Imperial Beach since 2005 was still present at the end of the period (GMcC); in addition an ad. and an imm. were together at P.M.N.A.S. 13 Nov+ (MR), the ad. in Ocean Beach remaining through 13 Aug (PEL), and an imm. was still present there 20 Aug (JP). Ten Wood Storks at S.E.S.S. 12 Sep (GMcC, ESB) were the latest this year.

What appeared to be the same Black Vul-

ture in Goleta, *Santa Barbara* 10-13 Sep (HPR), then in Santa Paula, *Ventura* 29 Nov-4 Dec (CR), was the 4th in California and the first for this Region. A Harris's Hawk was in Borrego Springs, *San Diego* 6 Oct (PJ). Migrant Broad-winged Hawks included single birds near Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo* 30 Sep (BKS), on Pt. Loma, *San Diego* 4 Oct (JP), and inland at Desert Center, *Riverside* 16 Sep (CAM). The largest flocks of migrant Swainson's Hawks to be reported were 111 at Borrego

Springs 18 Oct (PJ) and 80 near El Centro, *Imperial* 19 Oct (KZK); 20 near Yorba Linda, *Orange* 16 Oct (HA) was a large flock for the coastal lowlands, and 26 at Borrego Springs 6 Nov (PJ) were late. Wintering Zone-tailed Hawks included single birds around Ojai, *Ventura* 5 Nov+ (DR), L. Forest/Mission Viejo, *Orange* 7 Nov+ (BAA), and near Escondido, *San Diego* 25 Oct+ (KR), plus 2 at San Vicente Res., *San Diego* 12 Aug+ (HC); others at Fillmore, *Ventura* 30 Oct (DDesJ), Anaheim, *Orange* 29 Sep (JF), Encinitas, *San Diego* 6 Oct (AM), and near Blythe, *Riverside* 11 Nov (RH) were believed to be migrants. The only Rough-legged Hawk was one on the Carrizo Plain, *San Luis Obispo* 1-8 Nov (MLS). The long-staying Crested Caracara was still present in the Tijuana R. valley, *San Diego* 14 Nov (AR).

A flock of 14 Sandhill Cranes at Desert Center 11 Oct (TAB), and single birds at Piute Ponds near Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 16 Nov (KG) and in Goleta 31 Oct (NG), were at unexpected locations. Wintering Pacific Golden-Plovers arrived as early as 15 Aug, with one at Bolsa Chica, *Orange* on that date (BED), and at least 15 migrants or other wintering birds reported from along the coast by the end of the period. A Mountain Plover at S.E.S.S. 12 Sep (GMcC, ESB) was unusually early, and one at Owens L., *Inyo* 3 Oct (KH-L) was at a location where rare. An apparent "pure" American Oystercatcher accompanied up to 10 Blacks and an obvious American Oystercatcher × Black Oystercatcher hybrid at Pt. Loma 26 Sep-19 Dec

(EGK). A Solitary Sandpiper at L. O'Neill 11 Oct (DM) was the latest of the migrants, and one near Seeley, *Imperial* 1 Oct-24 Dec (GMcC) was wintering. A short-staying Hudsonian Godwit on the Los Angeles R. in Paramount 22 Aug (SS) was the first in fall for *Los Angeles*. A Bar-tailed Godwit at Upper Newport Bay 31 Oct+ (NAG) was the first in *Orange*. By far the most interesting shorebird of the season was an apparent Surf-bird × Great Knot hybrid on *San Diego* Bay 27-31 Aug (BMu, MS). At least 35 Sanderlings were found in the e. part of the Region between 3 Aug and 3 Oct, including an impressive 16 at Owens L. 20 Sep (SLS). About 20 juv. Semipalmated Sandpipers on the coast, along with 10 more inland between 2 Aug and 5 Sep, plus late stragglers in *San Diego* 17 Sep (RTP) and near Daggett, *San Bernardino* 26 Sep (TEW), were fewer than in recent years. An ad. Little Stint, the 4th for fall in this Region, was on Owens L. 29-30 Aug (CBH, JLD). Numbers of Baird's Sandpipers appeared lower than normal, whereas Pectoral Sandpipers were far more numerous, as illustrated by 114 together on the coast at the V.C.G.P. 29 Sep (LSa), along with 20 at Owens L. 3 Oct (T&JH), 21 near Daggett 25 Sep (TAB), and 120 at the S.J.W.A. 1 Oct (CMcG). A juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was at the V.C.G.P. on



This somewhat late juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper was photographed on South *San Diego* Bay, *San Diego* County, California on 16 September 2009. Photograph by Robert T. Patton.

the early date of 5 Sep (LSa). Single Stilt Sandpipers inland near Daggett 2 Oct (TAB) and Blythe, *Riverside* 30 Aug-3 Sep (RH), and on the coast in Goleta 29 Aug (NAL), at the V.C.G.C. 8-27 Sep (JLD), and in Lakeside, *San Diego* 16 Sep-5 Oct (EGK), along with 3 in *Orange* between 21 and 31 Aug (JEP, BED, LR), were all away from S.E.S.S. The only Buff-breasted Sandpipers were singles at the Oxnard Plain, *Ventura* 3-7 Sep (JG), on the Los Angeles R. in Long Beach 25-26 Aug (JSB), and on San Clemente I. 23-30 Aug (SMS). The only Ruffs reported were single juvs. at Whale Rock Res., *San Luis Obispo* 7 Sep (TME) and the V.C.G.P. 6-29 Sep (LSa)

and an ad. at S.E.S.S. 1 Oct (GMcC). Single Red Phalaropes near Cantil, Kern 22 Sep (SLS), at C.L. 6-7 Nov (SLS), and at S.E.S.S. 1-3 Oct (GMcC) were inland, where rare.

GULLS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Nine Sabine's Gulls were found inland between 14 and 29 Sep; 2 about 20 km sw of Pt. Arguello and one about 74 km sw. of Pt. Arguello 14 Nov (PEL, CAM) were late. Franklin's Gulls were scarce, with only 11 reported. A Western Gull at Tinemaha Res., Inyo 25-29 Aug (JLD) was far inland. The only Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported were returning birds at S.E.S.S. 8 Oct+ (GMcC) and 28 Nov+ (MJB) and one at Salton City 13 Oct (BS). Four exceptionally late Least Terns were at Oso Flaco L., San Luis Obispo 24 Sep (MLS). Eighteen South Polar Skuas seen off the coast in Sep and Oct were expected, but one from shore in Long Beach 6 Sep (GL) was a surprise. Only 2 jaegers were found inland: an ad. Long-tailed in Lancaster 22 Aug (M&JS) and a juv. at S.E.S.S. 1 Oct (GMcC). An Ancient Murrelet at S.E.S.S. 18 Nov (SA) was the 4th at the Salton Sea and the 5th away from the coast in California.

A flock of 50 Band-tailed Pigeons at G.H.P. 10 Oct (KH-L) was remarkable for a desert location. Twenty White-winged Doves scattered along the coast was about normal. A Common Ground-Dove at F.C.R. 10 Oct (SLS) was well n. of this species' normal range. Single Ruddy Ground-Doves were at Desert Center 18-22 Nov (DG) and near Winterhaven, Imperial 3 Nov (PEL), along with 2 at F.C.R. 15 Oct+ (JEP, CGL). A Black Swift over the Tijuana R. valley 8 Sep (MS) was clearly a migrant. A *Chaetura* photographed on San Nicolas I. 29 Sep (JMcM) appears to have been a Chimney Swift. A Broad-billed Hummingbird, very rare to casual in California, frequented a feeder in Goleta 8 Nov+ (PK). A Black-chinned Hummingbird in Tierrasanta, San Diego through 27 Oct (PEL) was unusually late. Most unusual was a Broad-tailed Hummingbird on the coast in Goleta 21 Nov+ (DMC). Single Williamson's Sapsuckers near Burbank, Los Angeles 23 Nov+ (RiB) and in Sylmar, Los Angeles 30 Nov+ (RSu) were away from expected montane conifer habitat. At least 13 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found scattered throughout the Region after 8 Oct. A Red-breasted Sapsucker of the nominate subspecies in Niland, Imperial 16 Oct (GMcC) was unusually far to the southeast. A White-headed Woodpecker in Sylmar 6 Oct (DM) was in the lowlands.

Western Wood-Pewees have generally departed the Region by about 20 Oct, so single birds near El Monte, Los Angeles 24 Oct (JG)

and in Huntington Beach, Orange 25 Oct (JEP) were of note. Willow Flycatchers at F.C.R. 10 Oct (SLS) and near Lancaster, Los Angeles 15 Oct (MSanM) were rather late for the interior. An *Empidonax* photographed in Lancaster 10 Oct (M&JS) appeared to be a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, potentially the first for Los Angeles, but was not heard calling. The only Least Flycatcher reported was at Zzyzx, San Bernardino 3 Sep (JEP).

Exceptionally early was an Eastern Phoebe photographed in Playa del Rey, Los Angeles 22 Sep (DS); more typical were others in Los Angeles at Torrance 12-14 Oct (TD) and in the Baldwin Hills 29 Nov (A&EB). Northerly Vermilion Flycatchers included a male photographed in Guadalupe, Santa Barbara 25 Oct (MPB) and a late bird in Bishop, Inyo 14 Nov-2 Dec (R&NO); a small but growing population appears to be established in w. San Bernardino at Prado R.P. and California State University San Bernardino (HBK, TAB). A Great Crested Flycatcher in n. Orange 26-30 Sep (DRW) was the 3rd ever found in Orange. Some 23 Tropical Kingbirds were found on or near the coast after 13 Sep; farther inland were birds at Bombay Beach, Imperial 14 Sep (JLD), Desert Center, Riverside 16-19 Sep (CAM), and Prado R.P. 17 Nov (MJSM). A Cassin's Kingbird in Brawley 1-12



A visiting birder from Great Britain found this Ancient Murrelet with Ruddy Ducks near Obisidian Butte at the south end of the Salton Sea, Imperial County, California 18 November 2009; it is the fourth recorded on this inland body of water. Photograph by Steve Arlow.

Sep (GMcC) was in an area where rare. Eastern Kingbirds were in Santa Barbara at Goleta 6 Sep (MAH) and Montecito 10 Sep (JEL); 5 more were found on the deserts 24 Aug-30 Sep. A Western Kingbird at Santa Fe Dam, Los Angeles 14 Nov (AKL) was the latest one reported. The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Mission Bay, San Diego 23-30 Nov (SaB).

SHRIKES THROUGH WARBLERS

A Northern Shrike in Marble Canyon in the White Mts., Inyo 15 Oct (JMH) was exceptionally early. A Bell's Vireo banded as a nestling in San Diego during the 2009 breeding season was re-sighted in Los Osos, San Luis Obispo 12-15 Sep (JSR); such northward post-breeding dispersal has been noted previously. A bright Bell's at Deep Springs, Inyo 3 Sep (BP-B) was thought to be a stray of the nominate subspecies. A Blue-headed Vireo was on Santa Barbara I. 25 Sep (NAL, WTF). The continuing increase of Plumbeous Vireos in the Region is illustrated by the 13 found in Orange alone 26 Sep+. A Cassin's Vireo in Brawley 9 Sep (BMi) was the earliest ever found in the Salton Sink. A Yellow-throated Vireo continued from the summer through 2 Sep at G.H.P. (JLD); others were in Laguna Niguel, Orange 20-27 Sep (RMcN) and near Bishop 22 Sep (J&DP). Red-eyed Vireos were at G.H.P. 25-26 Sep (TEW) and Dos Palmas Spring, Riverside 27 Sep (JEP); quite late was one on Pt. Loma 21 Oct (CH). The only Yellow-green Vireo was at Oceano, San Luis Obispo 18-19 Oct (JSR). Somewhat out of range were American Crows on the s. Carrizo Plain, San Luis Obispo 28 Oct (AFS) and at Borrego Springs, San Diego 31 Oct (PEL). Late for the n. deserts was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow in the w. Antelope Valley, Los Angeles 4 Nov (CDY); also late was a Bank Swallow at Bolsa Chica through 16 Oct (BED) and single Cliff Swallows at Irvine, Orange 18 Oct (BED), Coronado, San Diego 18 Oct (MS), and Imperial Beach 20 Oct (MS).



One of six Curve-billed Thrashers found in Southern California in autumn 2009, this bird was photographed at Chiriaco Summit, Riverside County on 14 November during its stay from 8 October through the winter. Photograph by Stephen J. Myers.



This photograph of the hatch-year female Blackburnian Warbler that remained in California City, Kern County, California 16-23 (here 17) November 2009 shows the prominent striped pattern on the upperparts typical of the species. Photograph by Larry Sansone.

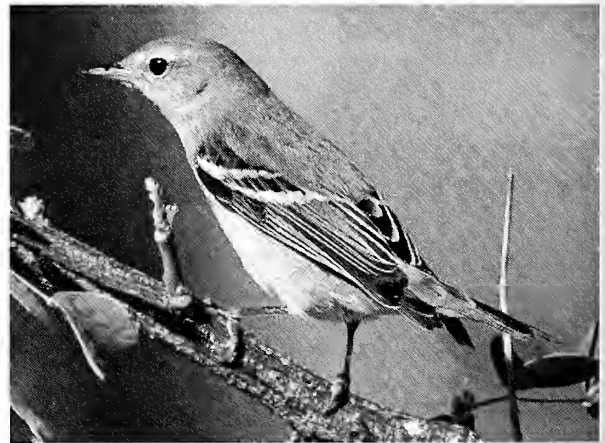
A Sedge Wren at Glen Helen R.P. 17-20 Oct (MSanM) established only the 4th record for the Region, all of which fall between 15 Oct and 12 Nov. Golden-crowned Kinglets were widely reported in the lowlands in small numbers from the s. coastal counts e. to the Colorado River. Western Bluebirds staged a strong invasion away from their normal habitats; a flock of 18-20 was at Zzyzx 7-26 Nov (AEK), several flocks of up to a dozen were at S.E.S.S. 31 Oct+ (PEL), and a flock of 6 on San Clemente I. 28 Nov (TWH) established the first record of this species for the Channel Islands. Mountain Bluebirds moved in greater-than-average numbers to the coastal slope. A Swainson's Thrush at N.E.S.S. 11 Oct (DG) was one of the few ever found in fall in the Salton Sink; one at Desert Center 10 Oct (CAM) appeared to be a of the Olive-backed subspecies group. A Rufous-backed Robin photographed at Black Meadow Landing on the Colorado R., San Bernardino 8 Nov (EP) was the 16th for the Region and state.

Six Gray Catbirds on the deserts between 22 Sep and 18 Nov was more than average; another was in Huntington Beach 16 Sep-31 Oct (JA). A Sage Thrasher in the White Mts. 24 Nov (J&DP) was quite late for Inyo. An exceptional 6 Curve-billed Thrashers included Los Angeles's first in the Montebello Hills 1-3 Sep (RoB) as well as 2 birds at Black Meadow Landing 1 Nov+ (EP) and singles in Riverside e. of Indio at Cactus City 22-23 Sep (JT, MT)

Aug-22 Oct. There was a good showing of Northern Parulas for fall, with 12 along the coast 25 Aug-25 Oct, plus 3 remaining until 9 Oct from the summer nesting period in Los Angeles (DS); in the interior, one was in the high Sierra Nevada at Aspendell, Inyo 23-29 Aug (SLS), and 3 were on the s. deserts 18 Sep-18 Oct. Just a third of average, 6 Chestnut-sided Warblers were on the coast 16 Sep-11 Nov. Five coastal Magnolia Warblers 22 Sep-26 Oct were augmented by singles near Cantil, Kern 1 Oct (MSanM) and at Zzyzx 24 Oct (TEW, LLA). A bit above average were 7 Black-throated Blue Warblers on the coastal slope 28 Sep-11 Nov, plus 6 on the deserts 19 Sep-23 Oct. A Yellow-rumped Warbler in La Verne, Los Angeles 4 Aug (KE) was unseasonable in this foothill location. The only Black-throated Green Warbler (a species normally averaging about 4 per fall) was at Deep Springs, Inyo 18 Oct (SLS). A Hermit Warbler in Bishop 9 Oct (DJH) was quite late for Inyo. Six Blackburnian Warblers were on the coastal slope 19 Sep-3 Dec; another was at California City, Kern 16-23 Nov (GS). Returning for its 2nd winter, a Grace's Warbler

and Chiriaco Summit 8 Oct+ (MSanM) and in Imperial at Picacho S.R.A. 22 Nov (GCH). It was a very poor fall for Red-throated Pipits, with singles noted only at San Nicolas I., Ventura 24 Sep and 6 Oct (JMcM) and near Imperial Beach 20 Oct (LSa). A Blue-winged Warbler, casual in fall, was at Mojave Narrows R.P., San Bernardino 12 Sep (BD). Eleven Tennessee Warblers, about half of the normal fall mean, were found 8 Sep-24 Nov, all on the coastal slope. Twelve Virginia's Warblers were on the coastal slope 30 Aug-11 Oct, with 2 more on the e. Mojave Desert Aug-1 Sep. Eight migrant Lucy's Warblers were along the coast 18

was in Goleta 21 Oct+ (NAL). Two different Pine Warblers were at Oceano 25 Sep (BKS) and 3 Oct (BAB); another was on Pt. Loma 5 Oct (PAG). Five Prairie Warblers, about average, were along the coast 10 Sep-8 Oct. Palm Warblers were exceptionally scarce this fall, with only 5 along the coast 25 Oct-20 Nov and another at Deep Springs 16 Oct (SLS); an average fall sees 40+ birds in the Region. Well-documented Bay-breasted Warblers were near Cantil 21-23 Oct (MSanM) and at Cactus City 6-10 Nov (JFG). A below-average 29 Blackpoll Warblers were on the coastal slope 14 Sep-22 Oct, with others at Deep Springs 7 Sep (CBH) and Cactus City 26-27 Sep (MB). Twenty-seven coastal slope Black-and-white Warblers 16 Aug+ included some returning wintering birds; 3 more were on the deserts 19 Sep-8 Oct. American Redstarts included 34 on the coastal slope 26 Aug+ and 13 on the deserts 24 Aug-12 Nov. Five Prothonotary Warblers, about average, were found along the coast 11 Sep-1 Oct. Only 4 Ovenbirds, all coastal, were noted 9 Sep-13 Oct. Eleven Northern Waterthrushes were on the coastal slope 9 Sep-20 Oct, and the same number were on the deserts 30 Aug-11 Oct. The only Kentucky Warbler was a well-described bird from a yard in Huntington Beach 4 Sep (TP). A MacGillivray's Warbler in the Laguna Mts. 1 Aug (CH) was probably an early migrant, as breeding is unknown in the mts. of San Diego. Hooded Warblers made a better-than-average showing, with birds at Cerro Alto Campground, San Luis Obispo 26-



Bay-breasted Warblers are now much scarcer stragglers to California than they were twenty years ago, so this cooperative individual at the Cactus City rest stop on Interstate 10, Riverside County, photographed on the first day of its 6-10 November 2009, stay attracted many birders. Photograph by Chet McLaugh.

30 Aug (RHZ), Deep Springs 3 Sep (BP-B), Zzyzx 19 Sep (LSc), Desert Center 8 Oct (MSanM), and Morongo Valley 9 Oct (ReB), the summering bird at Aspendell was present through 6 Sep (SLS). Canada Warblers, which average 4 per fall in the Region, were at Nojo-

qui Falls County Park, *Santa Barbara* 9-12 Sep (DD) and Pt. Loma 19 Sep (MJB). Migrating Painted Redstarts were at San Nicolas I. 29 Sep (JMcM), Desert Center 10-11 Oct (CMcG), Irvine 28 Oct (LF), and Limestone Canyon, *Orange* 31 Oct (LL); returning wintering birds were in Monrovia, *Los Angeles* 3 Oct+ (DDo) and on Pt. Loma 4 Oct+ (JK); one in Upper Silverado Canyon, *Orange* 20-21 Nov (NAG) may have been attempting to winter. A Yellow-breasted Chat near El Centro 10 Oct (KZK) was the latest ever found in the Salton Sink.

SPARROWS THROUGH MANNIKINS

Green-tailed Towhees moved through the lowlands in greater-than-average numbers, as illustrated by a count of 4 on *Santa Barbara* I. 27 Sep (NAL) and totals of 6 birds each in *Orange* 8 Sep+ and *San Diego* 29 Sep+. An American Tree Sparrow was at Twentynine Palms, *San Bernardino* 11-12 Nov (TAB). Two Chipping Sparrows in Brawley 13 Aug (GMcC) were the earliest to be found in fall in the Salton Sink. Clay-colored Sparrows were routinely noted as migrants, with 31 found on the coastal slope 11 Sep-7 Nov and 15 more on the deserts 30 Aug-19 Nov. A Field Sparrow at Glen Helen R.P. 27 Oct (MSanM) would be the first for *San Bernardino* and only the 6th for the Region if accepted. The scattering of Lark Buntings included birds at Long Beach, *Los Angeles* 13 Aug (MT), San Nicolas I. 30 Sep (JMcM), Westchester, *Los Angeles* 10 Oct (RSt), and e. *Orange* 10 Oct (NAG), and in the interior at Desert Center 23 Sep-3 Oct (JFG), Weldon, *Kern* 1 Oct (DL), and F.C.R. 3 Oct (CBH, RHo). A Large-billed Savannah Sparrow at Malibu Lagoon, *Los Angeles* 7 Sep (JLF) was away from areas of regular occurrence. A Baird's Sparrow nicely photographed at Desert Center 5 Sep (CMcG) was only the 2nd ever found in the Region (and California's 7th). Nelson's Sparrows were reported only at the three areas of regular occurrence (Morro Bay, Seal Beach, and Imperial Beach). Although Golden-crowned Sparrows are routinely found on the coastal slope by early Oct, one at N.E.S.S. 11 Oct (DG) established the earliest ever fall date for the Salton Sink. The only Harris's Sparrow reported was at F.C.R. 28 Nov (LSu). It was a poor year for longspur sightings, with only 4 Chestnut-collareds reported (2 each in *Santa Barbara* and *Inyo*), 8 coastal Laplands 27 Oct-24 Nov, and another Lapland at C.L. 30 Oct (SLS).

A female Hepatic Tanager was in San Diego 10-15 Oct (TRS), along with a returning wintering male in Imperial Beach 4 Nov+ (MS). Some 35 Summer Tanagers were reported on

the coastal slope 2 Sep+, with an earlier bird in Torrance, *Los Angeles* 6 Aug-5 Sep (TD); 4 more birds were on the deserts 12 Sep-22 Nov. Scarlet Tanagers were in Oceano 4 Nov (RHZ) and on Pt. Loma 26-27 Oct (GLR); an ad. male, possibly last year's unprecedented wintering bird, was on the grounds of the San Diego Zoo 16 Nov (TRS) but not seen thereafter. Following a record spring, 24 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were noted on the coastal slope 10 Aug-23 Nov, with 6 more on the deserts 9 Aug-16 Oct. A Black-headed Grosbeak in Brawley 10 Nov (GMcC) was thought possibly to be wintering. The latest of 33 Indigo Buntings was in Goleta 15 Nov (MV). Female-plumaged Painted Buntings were at Imperial Dam 23 Aug (TE), Glen Helen R.P. 12-19 Oct (DG), and San Luis Obispo 14 Nov (KH). A Dickcissel was found dead in West Hills, *Los Angeles* 17 Sep (*LACM), and on the deserts one was at Baker 3 Oct (SJM), and up to 3 were at Desert Center 7-27 Sep (SG, CAM, JT, MT).

Nineteen Bobolinks on the coastal slope 13 Sep-19 Oct was a bit below average; another 5 were on the deserts 7 Sep-4 Oct. A female Rusty Blackbird was photographed in Goleta 14-19 Nov (RL). An Orchard Oriole in Goleta 10 Sep (JLD) was the first of a dozen to appear on the coast during the period, with additional birds to be reported in the winter report; 3 more birds were on the deserts 14 Sep-12 Oct. A Bullock's Oriole at 3930 m on Mt. LeConte, *Inyo* must surely have set a high-elevation record for the species. Nine Baltimore Orioles were in coastal areas 4 Sep-15 Nov, with another 5 on the deserts 10 Sep-15 Oct. Given the absence of any irruptions in the Region this year, a Red Crossbill in the coastal lowlands at Bellflower, *Los Angeles* 9 Aug (PJM) was unexpected. Cassin's Finches in unusual localities included a 2nd for San Clemente I. 25 Oct (SMS) and one at Desert Center 10-18 Oct (CAM). Nutmeg Mannikin continues to increase its geographical range and population size in the Region, as illustrated by counts of 200 in Goleta 13 Sep (DMC) and 150-200 in the Hidden Valley Wildlife Area, *Riverside* 4 Nov (LM).

Cited observers (County coordinators in boldface): Jim Abernathy, Renee Baade (ReB), Bruce A. Aird, Bernardo Alps, Steve Arlow, Henry Armijo, Liga L. Auzins, Fred Baker, Mike Barkwell, Richard Barth (RiB), Rob Bates (RoB), Naomi Baucom, David Bell, Thomas A. Benson, Mark J. Billings, Bill A. Bouton, Jeffrey S. Boyd, Steve Brad (StB), Sara Braeutigam (SaB), Edward S. Brinkley, Ann & Eric Brooks (A&EB), Mark P. Brown, David M. Compton (*Santa Barbara*), Howard Cum-

tings, Brian E. Daniels, Al DeMartini, Bill Deppe, Don Desjardin, Darren Dowell (DDo), Tracy Drake, Jon L. Dunn, Todd Easterla, Tom M. Edell (*San Luis Obispo*), Kathi Ellsworth, Jon S. Feenstra, Jon L. Fisher, John Fitch, Lindsay Fitch, Michael Force, Wes T. Fritz, Noah Gaines, John Garrett, Kimball L. Garrett (*Los Angeles*), Neil A. Gilbert, Peter A. Ginsberg, Dave Goodward, Stan Gray, John F. Green (*Riverside*), Kristie Grubb, Steve Hampton, Christine Harvey, Gjon C. Hazard, Tom & Jo Heindel (*Inyo*), Kelli Heindel-Levinson (*Kern*), Taylor W. Higgins, Roger Higson, Ken Hillers, Justin M. Hite, Mark A. Holmgren, Debbie J. House, Chris B. Howard, Rosie Howard (RHo), W. Terry Hunefeld, Oscar Johnson (*Ventura*), Paul Jorgensen, Eric G. Kallen, Peggy Kearns, Jay Keller, Howard B. King, Alexander E. Koonce (*San Bernardino*), Barbara Krause, Kenneth Z. Kurland, Graham Langley, Kevin G. Larson, Denise LeBerteaux, Paul E. Lehman, Joan E. Lentz, Nick A. Lethaby, Linette Lina, Rob Lindsay, Carl G. Lundblad, Curtis A. Marantz, Doug Martin, Andy Mauro, Guy McCaskie (*Imperial* and *San Diego*), Mike McClintock, Chet McGaugh, Todd McGrath, Jimmy McMorran, Robert McNab, Peter J. Metropulos, Bob Miller (BMi), Lynn Miller, Jess Morton, Brennan Mulrooney (BMu), Stephen J. Myers, Jack O'Connell, Ron & Nancy Overholtz (R&NO), Brainerd Palmer-Ball, Jim & Debby Parker (J&DP), Robert T. Patton, Jim Pea, Dave Pereksta, James E. Pike, Teri Pool, Ernie Psikla, Dana Quincey, Hugh P. Ranson, Les Redpath, Anne Reilly, David C. Rice, Geoffrey L. Rogers, David Roine, Kim Roth, Jim S. Royer, Martin Ruan, Craig Rudolph, Matt Sadowski, Mike San Miguel, Michael J. San Miguel, Larry Sansone (LSa), Mark & Janet Scheel (M&JS), Larry Schmahl (LSc), Alan F. Schmierer, Brad K. Schram, Greg Scyphers, Bill Sheldermine, Maggie L. Smith, Scott Smith, Steve Sosensky, Justyn Stahl (*San Clemente Island*), Trent R. Stanley, Don Sterba, Doug G. Stinson, Susan L. Steele, Russell Stone (RSt), Shawn M. Sullivan, Lee Sutton (LSu), Richard Sutton (RSu), Matt Teutimez, Jennifer Tobin, Michelle Tobin, Matt Victoria, Eric Waian, Douglas R. Willick (*Orange*), Thomas E. Wurster, Callyn D. Yorke, Roger H. Zachary. An additional 40+ observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports; all have our thanks. 🌐

Guy McCaskie, 954 Grove Avenue
Imperial Beach, California 91932, (guyccc@pacbell.net)
Kimball L. Garrett
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90007
(kgarrett@nhm.org)

Baja California Peninsula



Richard A. Erickson
Roberto Carmona
Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos

There was plenty to report, as always; but this was not a typical fall season. Researchers spent nearly a month at sea off the Pacific coast and reported numerous tropical seabirds, including the Region's first documented Christmas Shearwater and third Great Frigatebird. But their best bird—Mexico's first documented Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel—was of northern origin. Birders also observed many landbird migrants at sea. On land, traditional eastern landbird vagrants were again in short supply, but highlights included the Region's third Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Baja California Sur's first Pine Warbler. Some western species are equally rare on the southern peninsula, so two Olive-sided Flycatchers there were Baja California Sur's second and third. Species making reappearances after long absences included Wood Stork and Groove-billed Ani in the Cape District (think of the area as a large island off the west coast of Mexico) and Clark's Nutcracker in the northern mountains.

GREBES THROUGH ALCIDS

Late nesting was established by a pair of Least Grebes feeding 2 chicks at Nopoló 10 Nov–2 Dec (ph. TH) and a Clark's Grebe with 2 chicks at the Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds 24 Sep (ph. ESM). Cataviña is known for migrant landbirds but not waterbirds. An Eared Grebe there 11 Oct (RAE, PAG) was unexpected. Not all unusual seabird observations were from the *McArthur II* (see S.A. Box): a Masked Booby at 28° 23' N, 115° 55' W (~37 km wnw. of Is. San Benito) 2 Oct was seen from a cruise ship (MDC, ph. TR et al.). And from a sport fishing boat, 75-100 Masked and

15-20 Brown Boobies were seen at Rocas Alijos (24° 58' N, 115° 45' W) 17-19 Oct (DWP).

The subad. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron found at Lagunita El Ciprés in May was last seen on 17 Sep (EDZH), and White Ibis were seen at Bahía Asunción for the 3rd autumn in the past four, with 4 imms. there 12 Oct (RAE, PAG). Less expected were Wood Storks in the Cape District, the first there since 1999: an imm. at Estero San José 8-22 Sep (ph. DGE, ph. JM et al.) and 2 at Lagunas de Chametla 10 Oct (DGE, JAC). There were few uncommon shorebirds, with 3 ad. Solitary Sandpipers at Lagunas de Chametla 7 Aug (ph. SGM), 4 juv. Baird's Sandpipers at Estero Punta Banda 15 Sep (MJB, RAE), and 8 Pectoral Sandpipers in Baja California Sur 7 Aug–5 Nov, beginning with a rare ad. at Lagunas de Chametla 7 Aug (ph. SGM) and Stilt Sandpipers at Estero Punta Banda 6 Sep, Guerrero Negro 30 Sep, and Las Arenitas sewage ponds 2 Oct (all KAR, DJP). A juv. Sabine's Gull was inland at the Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds 24 Sep (ph. ESM). This year's Black Tern high counts were 3341 at the Guerrero Negro saltworks 24 Aug (VA, HO, AY) and 3024 at adjacent Laguna Ojo de Liebre 21 Sep (VA). The only non-NOAA South Polar Skua was seen from a cruise ship crossing the mouth of the Gulf of California 1 Oct (MDC et al.). Eighty or 90

Pomarine Jaegers at "The Ridge," just above Bahía Magdalena, 20 Oct (DWP) and about 40 Xantus's Murrelets at Pta. Eugenia 28 Sep (KAR, DJP) were noteworthy concentrations.

PIGEONS THROUGH FINCHES

Band-tailed Pigeon is now strictly casual in Baja California, so 14 near Laguna Hanson 24-25 Oct (GR-C et al.) were noteworthy. A Grove-billed Ani at La Ribera 19-20 Nov (ph. JSp) was a great surprise. Although the species nested in Baja California Sur late in the 1800s, the only record since was from



These Least Grebes established a late nesting record at Nopoló, Baja California Sur, photographed here 12 November 2009. Photograph by Tom Haglund.

Tripui in Nov 1985 (*Western Birds* 23: 158). Vaux's Swift is generally rare in the Region anywhere s. of n. Baja California; e.g., one at Bahía Asunción 12 Oct (PAG, RAE) was only the 2nd found on the Vizcaíno Pen. and vicinity (cf. *Monographs in Field Ornithology* 3: 157). A male Rufous Hummingbird was at El Rosario 11 Oct (PAG). In fall, the species

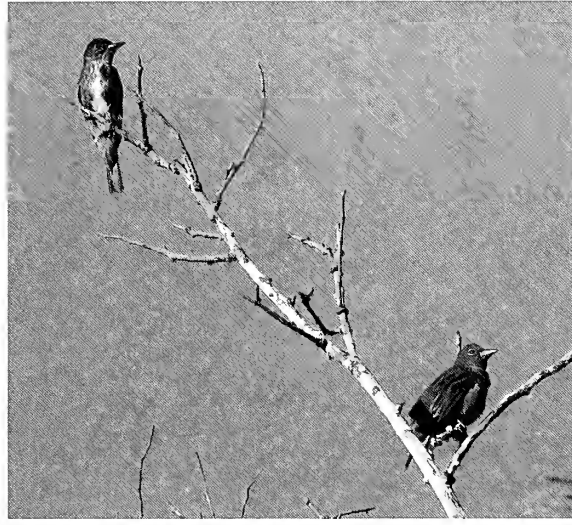
SA Our summaries from the Baja California Peninsula are dependent upon the reports of professional biologists—Mexican and American—more so than in most regions covered by *North American Birds*. Most significant this season are the observations of individuals working for Lisa T. Ballance of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Southwest Fisheries Science Center, Protected Resources Division. Michael P. Force (actually Canadian) reported highlights from Leg 2 of the Ecosystem Survey of *Delphinus* Species cruise aboard NOAA ship *McArthur II*, traveling from San Diego to the tip of the peninsula and back 9 Oct–4 Nov. Other observers included Rich Pagan, Richard Rowlett, Sophie Webb, and Suzanne Yin. Among Force's observations (note that the U.S. border is ~32.5°; the state line is 28° N, and Cabo San Lucas is ~22.2° N): 23 Northern Fulmars s. to ~25.4°; 2 Cook's Petrels at ~23.1° 26 Oct; Flesh-footed Shearwater at ~28.3° (nw. of I. Cedros) 31 Oct; 140 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters n. to ~25.4°; 22 Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels n. to ~24.0°; 36 Masked Boobies n. to ~27.1°; 4 Nazca Boobies n. to ~25.1° (w. of Cabo San Lázaro); 2 Blue-footed Boobies at ~27.1°; 102 Red-footed Boobies n. to ~25.4°; 2 South Polar Skuas (~23.5°; ~21.5°); and an ad. Long-tailed Jaeger at ~23.1° 26 Oct. The birds that got away, given the cruise structure, included 15,000 unidentified storm-petrels rafting ne. of I. San Jerónimo and 100,000 unidentified phalaropes close to shore e. of San Jerónimo, both 12 Oct.

And then there were these (all fMPF): a **Christmas Shearwater** in a loose flock of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters over Pantropical Spotted Dolphins and Eastern Spinner Dolphins at ~23.5° (~70 km w. of Cabo Falso) on 23 Oct; a **Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel** at ~31.5° (~40.5 km w. of Punta Santo Tomás) on 4 Nov; and a **Great Frigatebird** (cf. imm. female) at ~22.5° (~92 km w. of Cabo Falso) on 25 Oct. Their significance? First published Regional record of the shearwater, first documented Mexican record of the storm-petrel, and third Regional record of the frigatebird.

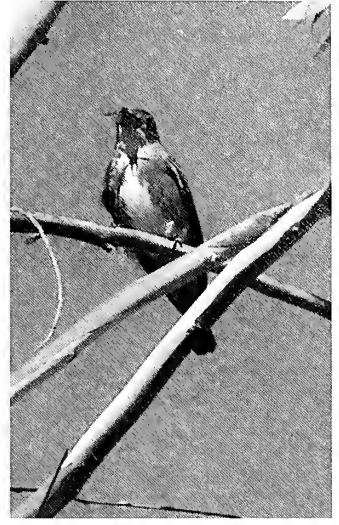
Highlights from similar trips here and in the Gulf of California in previous years include more Christmas Shearwaters and a Kermadec Petrel (fide MPF), all still unpublished (cf. *Marine Ornithology* 35: 127-135).



Wood Storks were found in Baja California Sur for the first time since 1999. This immature was at Estero San José 8 September 2009. Photograph by Daniel Galindo Espinosa.



These Olive-sided Flycatchers, at Bahía Asunción 12 October 2009 (left) and Rancho Santa Mónica 13 October 2009 (right), were the second and third ever recorded in Baja California Sur. Photographs by Richard A. Erickson.



Groove-billed Ani once nested in the Cape District of Baja California Sur, but this adult at La Ribera 19 November 2009 was only the second one found there since 1896. Photograph by John Spencer.

is believed to regularly pass through Baja California's higher elevations, but records of low-elevation *Selasphorus* are rarely identified to species.

One Neotropical migrant that generally avoids the Region is Olive-sided Flycatcher. Individuals at Bahía Asunción 12 Oct and Rancho Santa Mónica 13 Oct (both PAG, ph. RAE) were preceded by one other Baja California Sur record: Guerrero Negro 27 Sep 1999. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher has been recorded in the Region more often than expected: one at La Bufadora 5 Sep (ph., †KAR; †DJP) was the 3rd, all in Baja California 5 Sep–1 Oct. Other noteworthy migrant *Empi-*

donax included 6 Willow Flycatchers from Cataviña northward 30 Aug–27 Sep; Least Flycatchers at El Rosario 27 Sep (KAR, DJP) and Rancho Santa Mónica 12–13 Oct (PAG, ph. RAE); a Dusky Flycatcher at Cataviña 30 Sep (KAR, DJP); and a late Pacific-slope Flycatcher on the e. side of the Sierra San Pedro Mártir at Cañada el Cajon 17 Nov (MSM, RAE). Away from the Cape District, 3 Tropical Kingbirds were on the Vizcaino Pen. 29 Sep–13 Oct, but none were found on mainland Baja California. Three Western Kingbirds were widely scattered in Baja California Sur 21 Sep–13 Oct. The only vireos of note reported were 4 Plumbeous Vireos in the ne. quarter of Baja California 14 Oct–17 Nov and a Red-eyed Vireo at Bahía Asunción 12 Oct (RAE). Cassin's Vireo was unrecorded as a migrant this season. Two Clark's Nutcrackers near Laguna Hanson 24 Oct (ph. GR-C et al.) were the first found in the Region since the flight of 1996–1997. A Bank Swallow at Estero San José 12 Aug (SGM) and 3 on the Maneadero Plain 15 Sep (ph. MJB, RAE) were the only ones reported. Two or 3 Townsend's Solitaires in the n. Vizcaino Desert 30 Sep–14 Oct were typical, but 8 near Laguna Hanson 24–25 Oct (ph. GR-C) was the greatest concentration ever submitted to us. The only Sage Thrasher was at the Guerrero Negro saltworks 22 Oct (ph. RC, LM).

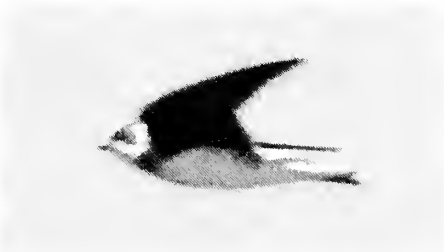
Vagrant warbler totals this year were probably lower than in any other year since Regional reporting began in 2000. Observer coverage has certainly declined since early in the decade, but that is probably not sufficient cause alone. The following species were recorded at about half the ten-year average (includes 2009): Tennessee (2 in Baja California, 1 in Baja California Sur), Virginia's (1,

0), Lucy's (2, 0), Northern Parula (1, 0), Chestnut-sided (0, 1), Prairie (0, 1; but first in Region since 2004), Prothonotary (1, 0), Ovenbird (1, 0), and Hooded (0, 1). Numbers of other warbler species were reduced even further: Blackpoll (0, 2), Black-and-white, American Redstart, and possibly Northern Waterthrush. And some species were unrecorded altogether: Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Canada; and there were no mainland Palm Warblers. Three of this year's best warbler finds were from the Vizcaino

SA We received many reports of landbird migrants off the Pacific coast seen from cruise ships and sport fishing boats. Some involved species that nest on the Region's islands, such as 6 Mourning Doves off s. Baja California 15–27 Sep (RB, MDC et al.)—another was seen at the mouth of the Gulf of California 1 Oct (RB, MDC et al.)—and single Burrowing Owls that came aboard ships off s. Baja California 27 Sep (RB, MDC et al.) and 23 Oct (DWP). Others were of species that perhaps only formerly nested on islands, such as a Barn Swallow at Rocas Alijos 17 Oct (DWP; first record for that tiny remote archipelago) and a Chipping Sparrow off cen. Baja California 27 Sep (RB, MDC et al.). Most of the other species nest in the Region, but the individuals involved more likely originated elsewhere: Tropical Kingbird, Palm Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, and Hooded Oriole off cen. Baja California 27 Sep (RB, MDC et al.); Northern Rough-winged Swallow at the mouth of the Gulf of California 1 Oct (RB, MDC et al.); and a Brewer's Blackbird off n. Baja California 23 Oct that rode all the way to San Diego (DWP). The NOAA observers contributed a Grasshopper Sparrow se. of the s. tip of I. Santa Margarita 22 Oct (MPF et al.).



This Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at La Bufadora, Baja California on 5 September 2009 was the rarest of the eastern vagrants found in the Baja California Peninsula region in autumn 2009. Photograph by Kurt A. Radamaker.



Bank Swallows migrate through the Baja California Peninsula region every year, but no specimens have been collected, and no photographs have been published previously. This bird was one of three on Baja California's Maneadero Plain 15 September 2009. Photograph by Mark J. Billings.



At Rancho Santa Mónica, Baja California Sur, this immature male Hooded Warbler was photographed 12 October 2009. Since the first record in 1997, the species has averaged one record per year in the state, but this is the first published photograph. Photograph by Peter A. Gaede.

Pen.: Yellow-throated Warbler at Bahía Tortugas 13 Oct (RAE, PAG; first for that pen.), female Pine Warbler at Bahía Asunción 12 Oct (ph. PAG, †RAE; 5th Regional record and first state record), and female Mourning Warbler at Rancho Santa Mónica 28 Sep (†KAR, DJP; 7th regional and 6th state record). The final highlight was near Tecate: a Painted Redstart 16-17 Oct (ph. JS). Areas along the lower Arroyo El Rosario in the vicinity of El Rosario were generally unproductive this year (along with the rest of the California District), but that area remains the warbler capitol of the Region, with 35 species recorded. Close behind are the Maneadero Plain (34) and Bahía Asunción (33).

An imm. Black-throated Sparrow at Tecate 26 Sep (ph. JS) was at an unusual location. More Clay-colored Sparrows than usual were seen in Baja California, with 4 on the nw coast and up to 3 per day on 14 dates in Oct at Bahía de los Ángeles (ph. GF, MF). Other rare migrant sparrows at Bahía de los Ángeles included up to 2 Lark Buntings 9-13 Oct, Golden-crowned Sparrows 16-22 Oct and 27-30 Nov, and a Pink-sided Junco 4 Nov (all ph. GF, MF). Elsewhere, notable migrant sparrows included a Grasshopper Sparrow at Villa Jesús María 11 Oct and a Gray-headed Junco at Bahía Tortugas 12 Oct (both PAG). Tanagers were rather poorly represented, with a female-plumaged Hepatic Tanager at Ojos Negros 18 Nov (RAE, MSM), 5 Summer Tanagers from the Vizcaíno Pen. northward 4 Sep-14 Oct, and no Scarlet Tanagers. Two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 2 Indigo Buntings were on the Pacific

coast of Baja California 27 Sep-1 Oct (KAR, DJP), and another Indigo Bunting was at Bahía de los Ángeles 8-9 Oct (ph. GF, MF). Among early migrants at Estero San José 19 Aug was a Blue Grosbeak (DGE), apparently the earliest ever recorded in Baja California Sur. Seven Dickcissels and 6 Bobolinks from the Vizcaíno Pen. northward 27 Sep-14 Oct was an about-average showing. This year's Oct Great-tailed Grackle dispersal was highlighted by 2 males at Laguna Hanson 24 Oct (ph. GR-C et al.) and up to 8 at Bahía de los Ángeles 18 Oct-7 Nov (ph. GF, MF). Single Orchard Orioles were on the lower Río Santo Tomás 15 Sep (RAE, MJB) and at La Bufadora 26 Sep (KAR, DJP). Our last highlights are all from Bahía de los Ángeles (ph. GF, MF): Bullock's Oriole 23 Oct, Cassin's Finch 10-12 Nov, Pine Siskin 31 Oct-1 Nov, and Lawrence's Goldfinch 17 Nov.

Contributors: Antonio Avelar, Victor Ayala, Renae Baade, Mark J. Billings, Peter H. Bloom, Alejandra Calvo Fonseca, Michael D. Carmody, Roberto Carmona, José Alfredo Castillo, Richard A. Erickson, Daniel Galindo Espinosa, Edith Fernández, George Flicker, Mary Flicker, Michael P. Force, Peter A. Gaede, Antonio Gutierrez-Aguilar, Tom Haglund, Adriana Hernández, Steve N. G. Howell, W. Terry Hunefeld, Marshall J. Iliff, Brenda Johnson, John Lobel, Guadalupe Márton, Israel Martínez Cedillo, Julio Méndez, Luis Mendoza, Steven G. Mlodinow, Denisse Morales, Ivan Moreno, Elena Muriel, Hugo Ortiz, Eduardo Palacios, David J. Powell, David W. Povey, Eduardo L. Prieto, Kurt A. Radamaker, Mario Rivera, Tommie Rodgers, Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos, Oscar Salazar, Mike San Miguel, Eduardo Soto Montoya, John Spencer (JSp), Joe Sweeney, Kenneth L. Weaver, Anjélica Young, Enrique D. Zamora-Hernández. As usual, records submitted to and accessed from eBird were very useful in the compilation of this report.

Richard A. Erickson, LSA Associates
20 Executive Park, Suite 200, Irvine, California 92614
(richard.erickson@lsa-assoc.com)

Roberto Carmona, Departamento de Biología Marina
Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur
Apartado Postal 19-B, La Paz, Baja California Sur, México
(beauty@uabcs.mx)

Gorgonio Ruiz-Campos, Facultad de Ciencias
Universidad Autónoma de Baja California
Apartado Postal 233
Ensenada, Baja California, 22800, México
U. S. mailing address:
PMB 064, P.O. Box 189003
Coronado, California 92178-9003
(gruiz@uabc.mx)

Héctor Gómez de Silva

NORTHERN MEXICO



More than 20 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were recorded at the sewage treatment facility in Gómez Palacio, Dgo. 30 Aug (MRL, FVP). A male Bufflehead and an American White Pelican, uncommon winter visitors to the Laguna region of Durango and Coahuila, were at the Gómez Palacio sewage treatment facility 8 Nov (MRL, FVP). Two Common Black-Hawks, an ad. and a juv., were seen at La Isla on the Nazas R., Dgo. 27 Sep (MRL, ph. FVP, HCF). A juv. Red-shouldered Hawk was seen in La Isla on the Nazas R. 15 Nov, making this the 5th consecutive winter it has been recorded visiting the Nazas (MRL, FVP). A displaying Black Hawk-Eagle was at La Bajada, Nay. 23 Oct (HGdS, MPV, AL). A Laughing Falcon was heard 28 Nov at a private ranch on the Río Sabinas, Tamps.; this species is regular but rare in this northernmost part of its range, even though there seems to be adequate habitat for it n. to Ciudad Victoria and beyond for 30-40 km (JA).

A Baird's Sandpiper was at Ciénega del Toro, N.L. 1 Aug (ph. RV). Hundreds of Wilson's Phalaropes, dozens of Western Sandpipers, and 2 American Avocets were seen at the sewage treatment facility in Gómez Palacio 13 Sep (FVP, MRL). Psittacids observed at a private ranch on the Río Sabinas, Tamps. in late Nov (JA) were 100 Red-lore Parrots seen staging before going to roost, four or five pairs of Red-crowned Parrots (down from the flocks of hundreds in the 1960s but more than in recent years), and no Green Parakeets (formerly abundant, but locally absent for the past decade or so). A pair of Red-crowned Parrots was seen flying over Chamal, Tamps. 26 Nov (JA). An Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush was singing along the Singayta rd. near San Blas, Nay. 22 Oct (HGdS). An Aztec Thrush was at Mesa del Oso, N.L. 16 Aug (DZ, AGS, m.ob.). Two male Lazuli Buntings,

only seen previously in the La Laguna region in 2001 and 2002, were recorded at the sewage treatment facility in Gómez Palacio 30 Aug (MRL, FVP). A Lark Bunting, an uncommon winter visitor to the subregion, was recorded at the sewage treatment facility in Gómez Palacio, Dgo. 8 Nov (MRL, FVP).

Contributors (area compilers in boldface): John Arvin, Hesner Coto Fuentes, Adrián Ganem Sada, Héctor Gómez de Silva, Alfonso Langle, María del Refugio Loya Loya, Mónica Pérez Villafaña, Francisco Valdés Peresgasga, René Valdés, Diana Zorrilla.

CENTRAL MEXICO



A belated record was received of a Great Curassow at Santa Gertrudis reserve, Ver. 16 Mar 2009 (RS). A juv. Hook-billed Kite was at Xochitla Parque Ecológico, Méx. 25 Oct (HGdS, MPV), and an ad. was above Erongaricuaro near the village of La Zarzamora, Mich. 4 Nov (ph. GC, VHV, RW, ph. MM). Up to 2 White-tailed Kites and a Roadside Hawk were seen in Xochitla Parque Ecológico, Méx. 6-9 Aug and 19 Sep (HGdS, MPV). An ad. Harris's Hawk was observed s. just s. of La Mancha lagoon, Ver. 12 Sep (AM, JM). A Peregrine Falcon was at San Miguel Chapultepec near



This photograph of a juvenile Common Black-Hawk taken 27 September 2009 provides solid documentation of yet another "tropical" species found by the photographer and his group on the Mexican Plateau along the upper Nazas River in Durango. Photograph by Francisco Valdés Peresgasga.

Toluca, Méx. 15 Aug (HGdS, MPV), and a Prairie Merlin was at Xochitla Parque Ecológico, Méx. 1 Nov (HGdS, MPV). Two Greater Roadrunners were seen at Los Humeros, Ver. 15 Sep (AM, JM). Up to 2 Eurasian Collared-Dove x African Collared-Doves hybrids were at Xochitla Parque Ecológico, Méx. 7 Aug and 19 Sep (HGdS, MPV). Up to 3 Western Screech-Owls per night were heard at Xochitla Parque Ecológi-

co, Méx. 25-31 Oct (HGdS, MPV). A male Calliope Hummingbird was at Teotenango, Méx. 12 Aug (ph. GdO), and another was at Xochitla Parque Ecológico, Méx. 19 Sep (HGdS, MPV).

An imm. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Xochitla Parque Ecológico, Méx. 31 Oct and an Ash-throated Flycatcher there the next day (MPV, HGdS). A male Rose-throated Becard, possibly a former cagebird, was near Bosque de Aragón, D.F. 6 Nov (HGdS, MPV). A juv. White-throated Thrush was at Xochitla Parque Ecológico, Méx. 7 Aug, where 7 Cinn-

mon-rumped Seedeaters were noted that day and again 1 Nov (HGdS, MPV). A Prothonotary Warbler was at Parque El Haya in Xalapa, Ver. 5 Sep (ph. AM, ph. JM). Three ad. Chipping Sparrows and a Lark Sparrow were at Miradores Lagoon, Ver. 8 Sep (AM, JM). A male Red-legged Honeycreeper, likely an escapee, was at a flowering *Grevillea* along with at least one Orchard and 3 Hooded Orioles at Xochitla Parque Ecológico, Méx. 19 Sep (HGdS, MPV). Giant Cowbirds were farther n. than ever, at the Montezuma Oropendola colonies along the road to Santa Gertrudis reserve and at the reserve 14 & 16 Mar 2009 (ph. RS, m.ob.).

Contributors (area compiler in boldface): Georgia Conti, Gerardo del Olmo, Héctor Gómez de Silva, Manuel Grosselet, Amy McAndrews, Jorge Montejo, Michael Morrison, Robert Straub, Victor Hugo Valencia, Robert Whitlatch.

SOUTHERN MEXICO



Fifteen Blue-footed Boobies were off Salina Cruz, Oax. 27 Sep (MG). A Pinnated Bittern was discovered s. of La Ventosa 30 Sep (AM, ph. JM). Belatedly received was a report of a Golden Eagle near Santa María Tecomavaca, Oax. 18 Jul (AL, RS, m.ob.). An ad. Aplomado Falcon was photographed s. of Nizanda, Oax. 2 Oct (ph. AM, ph. JM). A Peregrine Falcon was hunting at Santa María Xadani, Oax. 30 Aug (AM, JM). A Killdeer was seen near Ixtepec 17 Aug, and 2 were at La Ventosa lagoon, Oax. 29 Aug (ph. AM, JM). Two Surf-birds were discovered at Santa María Xadani, Oax. 29 Aug (ph. AM, ph. JM). A White-eyed Vireo was near Teotitlán del Valle, Oax. 31 Oct (ph. MG). At least 5 Tree Swallows and 7 Cave Swallows were seen at Santa María Xadani, Oax. 7 Nov (ph. AM, ph. JM). A Blue-winged Warbler was observed 3 Oct w. of Nizanda, Oax. (AM, ph. JM). One Yellow-throated Warbler was mist-netted in the Santo Domingo botanical garden, Oax. 25 Oct (EdV, IH, LS). An imm. Prairie Warbler was discovered w. of Nizanda, Oax. 4 Oct (ph. AM, ph. JM). Single Townsend's Warblers were seen at Santa María Xadani, Oax. 29 Aug and s. of Nizanda, Oax. 2 Oct (AM, JM). Single Hermit and



Two *Streptopelia* doves at Xochitla Parque Ecológico in the state of México 7 August (here) and 19 September 2009 appeared to be hybrids between Eurasian Collared-Dove and African Collared-Dove. Photograph by Mónica Pérez Villafaña.

Kentucky Warblers were encountered 20 & 21 Oct, respectively, w. of Nizanda, Oax. (ph. AM). A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak was near Teotitlán del Valle 31 Oct (ph. MG). A Yellow Grosbeak seen briefly near Santa María Tecomavaca 20 Jul (AL, RS).

tober, during a strong norther, Bacab reported birds flying southward along the narrow stretch of mangrove bordering one side of the estuary for five hours beginning at 1100. Species identified included Gray Catbird (the most abundant), American Redstart, Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Parula, Summer Tanager, Wood Thrush, Indigo Bunting, Tennessee Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Common Nighthawk, Yellow Warbler, and Magnolia Warbler. The norther continued to blow through 19 October, when Barbara MacKinnon saw evidence of the migration inland at Hacienda San José Cholul, 35 km east of Mérida, Yucatan; several of the same species were in evidence there. Prior to this date, no migrants had been observed at this latter site, and in general migrants were absent from the Yucatan forests during September.

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

Rarely seen wild, a Muscovy Duck was reported on road to Sacbó, 20 km se of El Cuyo, Yuc. 21 Nov by one of the Yucatan Bird Festival teams, which also saw an even rarer Cinnamon Teal later that day on the road between El Cuyo and Tizimin, Yuc. (EC). A Ring-necked Duck was seen 21 Nov by another team nearby in a pond along the San Felipe–Panaba road (HD). A 3rd team reported a female Red-breasted Merganser at Las Coloradas 21 Nov (EI, BM, RM, AN). Ocellated Turkey is reported with more frequency of late but not always so close to human habitation as on the grounds of Hacienda San José 30 km ne. of

Contributors (area compilers in boldface): Edgar del Valle, Manuel Grosselet, Itzel Hernández, Alberto Lobato, Amy McAndrews, Jorge Montejo, Laura Soledad, Robert Straub.

YUCATÁN PENINSULA



Two notable migration waves were reported this fall. At Celestún, Yucatan, on 11 October, the day after a storm, David Bacab observed 3 Great Blue Herons flying eastward about 5 m over the water some 14 km offshore. These were followed by flocks of warbler-sized birds and Barn Swallows. Also at Celestún on 17 Oc-

Mérida, Yuc. 25 Nov, where an ad. male and 3 females were seen (CV). In the wetlands at km 6 of the Río Lagartos–Tizimin hwy., an American Bittern was seen 14 Nov (EC). Although Great White Heron has been reported previously in the Ría Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, it is still quite rare in Yucatán; 2 were at Las Col-

oradas 21 Nov (EI, BM, RM, AS). A flock of 120 Cattle Egrets came in to roost in the trees bordering the large pond (aguada) at Rancho Chacmultún 20 Nov (XG, EI, BM, RM), and an ad. Black-crowned Night-Heron was in the mangrove between the bridge and Las Coloradas 21 Nov (EI, BM, RM, AS). A Glossy Ibis was reported in the wetland by the cemetery at Río Lagartos 21 Nov by two Yucatan Bird Festival teams (AD, EC, SM). An incredible 76 Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures were at the garbage dump at Celestun, Yuc. 18 Nov (EI); and a single King Vulture was observed flying over Rancho San Salvador 22 Nov (EC).

A Gray-headed Kite, no longer common in the subregion, was seen on the road to Sacbó 21 Nov (EC), and another was on road to Chunchucmil near Celestún 22 Sep (AD), where a pair of Snail Kites was also seen on same day (AD). A Northern Harrier was in an area of Río Lagartos 22 Nov (DB), perhaps the same individual reported 8 km from Río Lagartos on the Tizimin road a day earlier (AD). A White-tailed Hawk was reported at Celestún 15 Aug (DB); and a Zone-tailed Hawk was at Uxmal 28 Aug (DB). The latter species has been observed in all months of the year, suggesting that it may nest on the peninsula. A Collared Forest-Falcon chick fell from its nest in a temple in Dzibanché, Q. Roo 1 Aug and was being fed by a parent. The same site was used a year ago by the same species, but unfortunately the two eggs laid then were destroyed by vandals (LT).

A flock of 10 Marbled Godwits was seen feeding at Las Coloradas 21 Nov (EI, BM, RM, AS), where 2 White-rumped Sandpipers were also noted, a late date for this transient (HD). Dunlins are often missed among the hundreds of shorebirds that feed on the salt flats at Las Coloradas. Two were observed there 21 Nov (EI, BM, RM, AS); and later that day, 15 Wilson's Phalaropes were there (EI, BM, RM, AS). Least Terns are hanging around later than they did 20 years ago, when most left the subregion by Oct; more than 12 were at Dzilam Bravo, Yuc. 20 Nov (VM). A flock of 30 transient Black Terns was at Progreso, Yuc. 10 Aug (EG).

DOVES THROUGH ORIOLES

In Yucatan, single Caribbean Doves were reported 21 Nov at Izamal and Chichén Itzá (VM, RL) and on the road to Sacbó (EC). A flock of 200 White-fronted Parrots fed in a cornfield at Chumbec 20 Nov (EI, BM, RM, AS), and 10 were visiting cornfields at dusk around Rancho Xchen, 6 km n. of Ek Balam, Yuc. 17 Nov (BM, AS). Perhaps Yellow-billed Cuckoo nested later than usual this year, or migrants came through later: late singles were reported 21 Nov on the road to Sacbó behind

El Cuyo (EC) and on the road between El Cuyo and Dzonot Carretero 22 Nov (DB). Two Yucatan Poorwills were heard on the road from Tizimin to Ek Balam 22 Nov (EC). Three Yucatan Nightjars were heard at Ek Balam 21 Nov (RL, VM); 3 more were heard on the road from Tizimin to Ek Balam 22 Nov (EC); and another was heard at the Dzinub cenote at Valladolid, Yuc. 20 Nov (HD). A Ringed Kingfisher was reported at El Cuyo 7 Sep (AC), and a male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was in woods near the large aguada at Rancho Chacmultun 15 km se. of Izamal 20 Nov (XG, EI, BM, AS).

An Ochre-bellied Flycatcher, very rarely reported in the subregion, was seen 21 Nov on the road to Sacbó behind El Cuyo (EC), while a rare migrant to the area, a White-throated Flycatcher, was at Puerto Morelos 7 Sep (AC). A late Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen at km 6 on the road to Río Lagartos, near the turnoff to Dzonot Carretero 22 Nov (DB), and a Fork-tailed Flycatcher was at km 15 on the Río Lagartos-Tizimin hwy. 14 Nov (EC). Thrush-like *Schiffornis* has never before been reported in the interior of Yucatán, but one was reportedly heard at Chumbec 20 Nov (EI), in an area where other species never before reported in the cen. part of the state have also turned up. A pair of uncommon Gray-collared Becards was seen feeding on fruits of wild mulberry at Hacienda Chucab, 50 km sw. of Tizimin, and an equally uncommon Black-crowned Tityra was seen at Uxmal 23 Aug (DB). A Warbling Vireo was among the massive migration that passed through Celestún 17 Oct (DB); another was found at Ek Balam 22 Nov (AD, SM), along with a Red-eyed Vireo and a Yellow-green Vireo, which normally leave in Oct. Additional late sightings of the latter vireo include 4 at 6 km n. of Izamal 20 Nov (VM, RL) and one on the Sacbó road se. of El Cuyo 22 Nov (EC).

Tree Swallow migration through the peninsula is not well known, and so we report all sightings, including an undetermined number on the Chunchucmil road s. of Celestún 22 Sep (AD); 3 at the former garbage dump at Progreso 20 Nov (RL, VM); 20 along the Río Lagartos-Tizimin rd. 21 Nov (EC); 3 at Las Coloradas 21 Nov (HD); and one at the aguada at Rancho Chacmultun 15 km se. of Izamal 20 Nov (AD, SM). Another species only reported once previously from the cen. region of Yucatan is Long-billed Gnatwren, which was again reported at Chumbec, 20 km se., of Izamal, where it was seen and heard several times 20 Nov (AD, SM, JH). Another was reported on the same day 1 km w. of Chumbec (DB) and another at Ek Balam 22 Nov (RL, VM). Black Catbird is widespread but very local in Yucatán, where one was reported at Rancho Chacmultun, se. of Izamal 5 Sep (BM, RM,

AM). Others were seen at Chichen Itzá 21 Nov (RL, VM), on the road to Sacbó se. of El Cuyo 21 Nov (EC), at Ek Balam 22 Nov (RL, VM), and 40 km s. of Valladolid 22 Nov (DB).

A Golden-winged Warbler was observed during the massive migration 17 Oct at Celestún (DB), while an uncommon Orange-crowned Warbler was reported at San Antonio Chel in Hunucmá 19 Nov (AD, BH). A hatch-year female Chestnut-sided Warbler was at San Jose Cholul, 30 km ne. of Mérida 21 Oct (BM). An early arrival was a female American Redstart seen in Celestún 8 Aug (DB), while an exhausted male landed in a boat located 14 km from the shore at Celestún during the massive migration of 11 Oct and remained there for a half hour, "jumping ship" while the boat was still 2 km from shore (DB). A regular but rare Worm-eating Warbler was reported 6 km n. of Izamal 20 Nov (RL, VM), and an equally rare male Wilson's Warbler was seen at Río Lagartos 21 Nov (AD, SM, JH). Another species that has showed up in the interior of Yucatan in the past year is Rose-throated Tanager: a male was seen on the grounds of the Mayaland Hotel at Chichen Itzá 21 Nov (RL, VM). A male Scarlet Tanager was very late at Ek Balam 22 Nov (EC). A Chipping Sparrow turned up at Rancho San Salvador 21 Nov (AD, SM, JH), and a Savannah Sparrow was at the cemetery in Río Lagartos 21 Nov (HD). The sharp drop in the Painted Bunting population brings us to report all sightings: 4 at Rancho Chacmultún, se. of Izamal 20 Nov (XG, EI, BM, AS); 2 at Chumbec 10 km to the e. 20 Nov (AS); 3 at Hacienda Temozon, 10 km e. of Uman, Yuc. 20 Oct (BM); 3 in the botanical garden at Hacienda Santa Rosa, 8 km w. of Maxcanu 27 Oct (BM); 2 at the former garbage dump at Progreso 20 Nov (RL, VM); 2 at a cenote near Kantunilkin 21 Nov (RL, VM); one at Rancho San Salvador 21 Nov (EC); and 3 behind the Río Lagartos cemetery 21 Nov (HD). A Dickcissel was seen along the Chunchucmil road 22 Sep (AD). A male Baltimore Oriole, a regular but uncommon visitor to the subregion, was seen at Chichen Itzá 21 Nov (RL, VM), and another was at the park in Sucilá, Yuc. the same day (DB).

Contributors (area compiler in boldface): David Bacab, Elmer Canul, Antonio Celis, Alexander Dzib, Henry Dzib, Xiomara Galvez, Edwin Gongora, Joy Hester, Bernice Hotman, Eduardo Iñigo, Ramiro Lara, Barbara MacKinnon, Victor Marin, Stennie Meadours, Rodrigo Migoya, Ana Morales, Ann Snook, Luis Tellez, Cesar Vergara. 🌐

Héctor Gómez de Silva, Xola 314-E
03100 México, D.F., Mexico
(hector.gomezdesilva@gmail.com)

Central America



H. Lee Jones
Oliver Komar

With pelagic trips now being run out of Costa Rica and El Salvador on a regular basis, and out of Guatemala at least occasionally, the new frontier of Central American birding must surely be seabirds. Pelagics again made news in Costa Rica, with a rare fall trip producing documentary evidence that Tahiti Petrels do indeed occur in the eastern Pacific. In El Salvador, Least Storm-Petrel was finally confirmed photographically, and Black-vented Shearwater was found for the third and fourth time in a little over a year. In Guatemala, where seabirding is truly a new frontier, Bridled Tern was added to the country's list, Sabine's Gull was finally moved from the hypothetical to the official list, and Blue-footed Booby was seen for the second time (having first been recorded just one year ago)—all on a single 23 August pelagic trip. In addition to Tahiti Petrel, Long-winged Harrier is a strong candidate for inclusion on the *A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds*, now that one has been definitively photographed in Darién, a locality where it had been reported three times previously (it is found as close as the Cauca Valley in northwestern Colombia). Other country firsts included a Piping Plover (remarkably!) on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, a Great Potoo (finally!) in Belize, and a Tricolored Munia (ugh!) in Guatemala.

QUAIL THROUGH BOOBIES

Two new sites for Ocellated Quail, which occurs locally in the Guatemalan highlands, are San Pedro Volcano, *Sololá*, where a bird was heard calling 21 Aug (KE), and Finca Filadelfia, *Jocotenango, Sacatepéquez*, where one was present 11 Aug (JF, RA, RS, OM), 6 on 12 Oct (OM), and 3 on 26 Nov (OM). A Parkinson's Petrel that came in to chum about an hour before sunset 178 km sw. of the Nicoya Pen., *Puntarenas* 19 Sep (JZ, RG, BY, PM, ph. NU) provided the first recent fall record for Costa Rica. Although it has been seen rather frequently on recent pelagic trips in spring, little is known about it or any other pelagic species in Costa Rican waters in fall. Wedge-tailed Shearwater is probably

more common off the coast of El Salvador than the relatively few reports suggest. This fall, one was observed off Los Cóbano, *Sonsonate* 17 Oct (NH, LP et al.). There are no confirmed records for Manx, Townsend's, or Newell's Shearwater from Costa Rica, but a sighting of either Manx or Townsend's about 90 km sw. of the Nicoya Pen. 18 Sep (JZ, RG, BY, PM, NU) provides evidence that at least one of these species is possible at this time of year. The bird was seen well, though briefly, and was not photographed. It was a medium-sized shearwater, blackish above, much more extensively white below (including underwing pattern and undertail coverts), and with longer, more pointed wings than in Audubon's Shearwater. Lastly, a Black-vented Shearwater seen approximately 20 km off Los Cóbano 29 Oct (ph. JF, LA, CF), and another observed off Los Cóbano 13 Nov (ph. NH), provided only the 3rd and 4th confirmed records for El Salvador, all recent. Band-rumped Storm-Petrel has been one of the rarer species on recent pelagic trips off Costa Rica, so 2 seen 18 Sep 28 km s. of, and one seen the next day 246 km sw. of, the Nicoya Pen. (JZ, RG, BY, PM, NU) were note-

SA Our knowledge of pelagic species occurring off the Pacific coast of Central America increases with each passing season. One species, Tahiti Petrel (*Pterodroma* or *Pseudobulweria rostrata*), has yet to be accepted by the American Ornithologists' Union's North American Checklist Committee, despite increasing numbers of reports by seabird experts. Until now, there has been no specimen or unequivocal photographic documentation of the species in North American waters; and too, there is a widespread, if incorrect, notion that Tahiti Petrel is difficult to separate from Phoenix Petrel (*Pterodroma alba*) at sea.

We now have sufficient photographic evidence to support its addition to the North American list. Five Tahiti Petrels were seen in Costa Rican waters this fall: different individuals 37 km. s. and 68 km ssw. of the Nicoya Pen. 18 Sep and further singles 285 km sw., 250 km sw., and 213 km sw. of the Nicoya Pen. the following day (JZ, RG, BY, PM, ph. NU). Tahiti Petrel is regularly observed in the e. Pacific off Central America. Sophie Webb notes: "We see this species regularly in the fall on the NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center research cruises to the Eastern Tropical Pacific in the Gulf of Tehuantepec [Mexico], often in small flocks of 5-15." Michael Force comments: "I've seen at least 21 Tahiti Petrels in Costa Rican waters over the years, and they're not that uncommon in waters far off the Central American coast, usually beyond 100 nmi [185 km]. I agree with Howell and Webb's assessment of the status of Tahiti Petrel in the eastern tropical Pacific, and it does occur a lot farther east than some popular guides suggest. Phoenix and Tahiti Petrels appear quite different at sea."



Six active Roseate Spoonbill nests found near Las Lisas in October and November established the first nesting records for Guatemala. This nest was photographed on 9 October 2009. Photograph by Rosa Alicia Jiménez.

worthy. In Guatemala, 30 Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels were seen 20 km off of Puerto Quetzal, *Escuintla* 23 Aug (JF, RS, ph. RF). At least one Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel was observed off Los Cóbano 17 Oct (NH, LP et al.). Although apparently only the 4th recorded in El Salvador, it may be a regular visitor. At least one Black Storm-Petrel was observed 17 Oct (NH, LP et al.) and 12 were observed 29 Oct (ph. JF, LA, ph. CF) off Los Cóbano. In Guatemala, 5 were seen 20 km off of Puerto Quetzal 23 Aug (JF, RS, RF). Among large mixed-species storm-petrel flocks sitting on the water 211 km and 202 km sw. of the Nicoya Pen. 19 Sep were 2 Markham's Storm-Petrels (JZ, RG, BY, PM, ph. NU). These individuals provided the only recent reports of this poorly documented species in Costa Rica. At least 3 Least Storm-Petrels observed off Los Cóbano 29 Oct (ph. JF, LA, ph. CF) provided the first confirmed record for El Salvador.

Red-billed Tropicbird now appears to be regular, albeit in very low numbers, off the coast of El Salvador. This fall, one was observed 14 km off Los Cóbano 4 Aug (ph. JF, ph. LA, RJ, OK); 2 more were observed off Los Cóbano 29 Oct (ph. JF, LA, ph. CF). In Costa Rica, one ad. and 8 imm. Red-billed Tropicbirds were observed on the Sep pelagic trips off the Nicoya Pen.: 2 on the 18th, 5 on the 19th, and 2 on the 20th (JZ, RG, BY, PM, NU). This was the first of recent trips (mostly in the spring) to report multiples, suggesting an influx of tropicbirds in Sep. At least one Nazca Booby was observed off Los Cóbano 17 Oct (ph. NH, LP et al.). Although probably a regular year-round visitor, additional records are needed to determine its seasonal abundance. Blue-footed Booby was first documented in Guatemala in 2008. On 23 Aug, 3 were seen 20 km off of Puerto Quetzal (ph. JF, RS, ph. RF). One or more observed off of Los



Following reports of two immature Double-toothed Kites in El Imposible National Park on 5 November 2009 and another there the following day, this individual was captured by the SalvaNATURA monitoring team on the 6th. It is possible that this bird was the same one seen nearby earlier in the day or one of the two seen the day before. This species is seldom reported in El Salvador. Photograph by Vicky Galán.



Another species photographically documented in North America for the first time this fall was Long-winged Harrier, a stray to eastern Panama from Colombia where it occurs within 250 km of the Panamanian border in the Cauca and Magdalena valleys. Following three sight records in recent years, this dark morph immature photographed 5 November 2009 at the El Real airstrip provided the evidence necessary for its inclusion on the North American list. Photograph by Euclides Campos.



One of three Crested Eagles reported in the region this fall was this dark morph adult photographed 20 August 2009 at Tortuguero. This locality in the Caribbean lowlands may be the only area in the region where Crested Eagle is reported with any regularity. Photograph by William Granados.

Cóbanos 17 Oct (NH, LP et al.) furnished the 12th record for El Salvador and the first for *Sonsonate*. In Costa Rica, an ad. seen 26 km e. of the tip of the Nicoya Pen. 20 Sep (RG, JZ,

BY, PM, NU) attending a fishing trawler was considered atypically far from shore, and an imm. seen a few hundred meters from shore off Playa del Coco, *Guanacaste* 29 Aug (KEa, ph. SEa et al.) was on the ocean side of the pen., where rare. In Panama, 100+ Blue-footed Boobies were observed feeding close to shore off Costa del Este, Panama City 19 Oct, and more than 1000 were seen on the beaches near Santa Clara and Juan Hombrón, *Panamá* 12 Nov (both BZ). These are extraordinarily large numbers for the species anywhere in Panama. Finally, on 29 Nov, about 15 were seen feeding offshore at El Agallito Beach near Chitré, *Los Santos* (RM, YD, DL, AR), an unexpected locality.

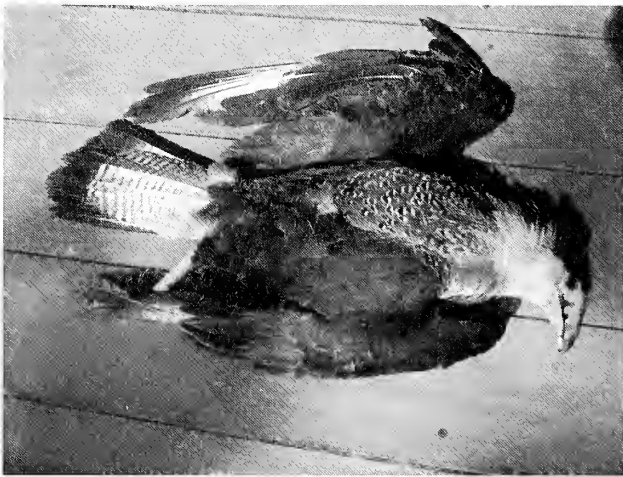
SPOONBILL THROUGH PLOVERS

Two active Roseate Spoonbill nests found 9 Oct and four more found 13 Nov in mangroves near Las Lisas, *Santa Rosa* provided the first confirmation of nesting in Guatemala (RAJ, ph. JL). Two Jabirus, perhaps a breeding pair, were seen near the La Corona archaeological site 34 km nnw. of Paso Caballo, *Petén* at the edge of Laguna del Tigre N.P. 22 Nov (RBM). A single bird has been seen at the same site previously for several years (RBM). In Belize, a Turkey Vulture soaring over Caye Caulker 9 Nov (DB) provided only the 3rd record for the cay. The two previous records were 1 Oct 1999 and 19 Mar 2003. Gray-headed Kite continues to be observed regularly at Barra de Santiago after being found there last May. Possibly the same ad. was observed 18 Oct (OK, MA, RJ) and again 6 Nov (ph. JF, LA et al.). This species is restricted in El Salvador to a few coastal sites where increased observer coverage in recent years indicates that it

occurs regularly and is perhaps resident. About 50 Swallow-tailed Kites circling over Canton Farm (Mile 22, Old Northern Hwy.) 3 Aug (PB) were early fall migrants in n. Belize,

where the species is not resident. On the other hand, 2 seen at the Canopy Tower hotel near Summit, *Panamá* 18 Oct (BZ) were exceptionally late migrants. Also in Panama, an imm. Snail Kite observed near Playa El Toro near Pedasi 4 Sep (ph. BT) was the first reported from *Los Santos*. Two imm. Double-toothed Kites were observed at El Imposible N.P., *Ahuachapán* 5 Nov (JF), and another imm. was observed there the following day (JF). A bird, possibly one of these, was captured and banded by the SalvaNATURA monitoring team nearby 6 Nov (ph. VG, RJ, RV). Single Mississippi Kites were seen migrating over Barra de Santiago in Jujutla, *Ahuachapán* 17 Oct (OK, MA, RJ) and at Finca La Giralda, *La Libertad* during a hawkwatch on 25 Oct (ph. JF, LA). This species is a rare migrant in El Salvador, especially in late Oct. In Belize, a late migrant Plumbeous Kite was observed 29 Aug at Eligio Panti N.P., *Cayo* (ph. RMa, GG, ET).

Two Northern Harriers, a rare migrant and winter visitor in El Salvador, were seen over Finca La Giralda 25 Oct (ph. JF, LA). A dark-morph imm. Long-winged Harrier, seen 5 Nov at the El Real airstrip, *Darién* (ph. EC), was only the 4th reported from Panama (and North America) and the first to be documented with photographs, thus making it eligible for inclusion in the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds*. A Sharp-shinned Hawk seen at the Canopy Lodge, El Valle, *Coclé* 8 Nov (BZ) was considered rare so far e. in Panama. A White-breasted (Sharp-shinned) Hawk observed at roughly 1800 m at Cerro Verde in Los Volcanes N.P., *Santa Ana* 17 Oct (JF, LA, GF, RoJ), the first to be recorded at the site, was presumed to have strayed from the pine-oak forests some 75 km to the n., where it is resident. Three Crested Eagles were reported this fall. In Guatemala, an ad. was at La Corona archaeological site 34 km nnw. of Paso Caballo 22 Nov (RBM), a locality in nw. *Petén* where it had not been previously reported. In Panama, where it is rare anywhere, a dark morph was seen at Nusagandi, *Kuna Yala* 7 Nov (ph. JCG), and in Costa Rica, a dark-morph ad. was at Tortuguero, *Limón* 20 Aug (ph. WG), the only area of the country where it is reported with any regularity (roughly once or twice a year). All previous reports from Tortuguero have been of light-morph birds; this individual was an exceptionally black individual, with no white barring on its undertail or thighs. The photograph was reviewed by Bill Clark and Sergio Seipke, both of whom confirmed the bird's identity. In Belize, a Crested Caracara found dead on the Southern Hwy. at Moody Hill between Golden Stream and In-



This unfortunate Crested Caracara, only the 2nd to be recorded in southern Belize, was the apparent victim of vehicular traffic on a newly paved section of the southern Hwy between Golden Stream and Indian Creek villages. The carcass was found on 2 November 2009. Photograph by Ya'axché.



Despite the fact that the region boasted two species this fall that were photographically documented for the first time in North America, the most unexpected find of the season must have been this juvenile Piping Plover that graced Playa Avellanas in Guanacaste from 1-7 November 2009. A species that is confined to the Atlantic and Caribbean coasts of North America and is seldom reported anywhere on the Pacific side of the continent, it is all the more surprising that Costa Rica's first record would have been from the country's Pacific coast. Photograph by José David Vargas.

dian Creek villages 2 Nov (VB) was only the 2nd to be found in Toledo.

A Gray-necked Wood-Rail observed in a residential suburb of San Salvador 7 Nov (ph. AM) was completely unexpected: the species has never been recorded in El Salvador away from s. Ahuachapán near the Guatemala border. Rarely reported in the Region, a Spotted Rail was seen along the edge of a flooded mature rice field at Pelón de La Bajura, Guanacaste 21 Nov (JZ, CJ). At Playa Avellanas, Guanacaste, a juv. Piping Plover seen 1 & 7 Nov (ph. JDV, GM, EB) provided an unexpected first for Costa Rica. The bird was first observed by JDV on a rocky ocean beach in company of many Semipalmated Plovers and was seen again on 7 Nov by JDV, GM, and EB in the same location. It is odd that it turned

up on the Pacific rather than the Caribbean coast, suggesting that it may have been storm-blown. Although no Caribbean tropical storms or hurricanes coincided with the date of its discovery, the area is not often birded and it may have been there for some time.

SANDPIPERS THROUGH POTOOS

An ad. Wandering Tattler in basic plumage was found on Granito de Oro beach in Coiba N.P., Veraguas 21 Nov (EC, ph. RL); the species is rare in Panama. An Upland Sandpiper heard migrating over San Salvador 20 Sep (OK) provided the 6th record for El Salvador and the first for San Salvador. Continuing an unbroken string, a Long-billed Curlew was observed at Panama Viejo, Panama City 23 Oct (BZ), where one or 2 have turned up in fall the past 11 years. Three Surfbirds seen flying 19 km offshore from Los Cóbano 4 Aug (JF, LA, RJ, OK) established the 2nd record for Sonsonate. Rare in fall, 3 White-rumped Sandpipers were reported in the Region: one near Punta Chame, Panamá 3 Sep (ph. EC); one in a flock of Western Sandpipers in freshwater rain pools in a weedy abandoned lot at Golfito, Puntarenas 12 Sep (ph. JZ, AO, SE); and one in a muddy rice field with many other shorebirds at the entrance to Palo Verde N.P. (Bagatzí), Guanacaste on the late date of 14 Nov (JZ). Providing only the 9th record for El Salvador and the first for Sonsonate was a Baird's Sandpiper observed at the Playa El Flor Shrimp Farms 4 Aug (OK, JF, LA, RJ). A Red Phalarope, El Salvador's 4th, was seen off of Los Cóbano 29 Oct (ph. JF, LA, ph. CF). Rarely reported in Guatemala, a total of 300 Red-necked Phalaropes was seen 20 km off Puerto Quetzal 23 Aug (ph. JF, RS, ph. RF). Belize's 4th Red-necked Phalarope was seen along the barrier reef between Tom Owens Caye and Ranguana Caye 11 Oct (PB).

Sabine's Gull has been reported several



This Red Phalarope, photographed on 29 October 2009 off Los Cóbano, provided only the 4th record for El Salvador. Photograph by Jesse Fagan.

times in the Pacific off Guatemala, but 6 observed 20 km off of Puerto Quetzal 23 Aug (JF, RS, ph. RF) were the first to be documented in the country. Rarely seen onshore in the Region, an imm. Sabine's Gull was at Costa del Este, Panama City 20 Nov (JAC). Yet another seabird rarely reported in El Salvador, 6 imm. Brown Noddies observed 6-12 km off Los Cóbano 4 Aug (ph. JF, LA, RJ, OK) provided only the 9th record for the country. Although common at Cocos I., White Tern is seldom seen elsewhere in Costa Rican waters, so an ad. seen 94 km sw. of the Nicoya Pen.



Rare anywhere on the mainland of Central America, this presumed first year male Cape May Warbler found at La Alegria de Siquirres in the foothills of Turrialba Volcano in Costa Rica 19 November 2009 was quite a surprise. Photograph by Donald Jiménez.

18 Sep (JZ, RG, BY, PM, ph. NU) was noteworthy. Two Bridled Terns seen 20 km off of Puerto Quetzal 23 Aug (JF, RS, ph. RF) established the first documented record of this species in Guatemala, and one observed 14 km off Los Cóbano 4 Aug (JF, LA, RJ, OK) established only the 4th record for El Salvador. Rare in Panama, a Forster's Tern in basic plumage was seen 28 Nov at El Agallito Beach



Establishing El Salvador's 5th record was this female-plumaged Black-throated Blue Warbler mist-netted and banded at Los Volcanes National Park 14 October 2009. This species, which winters in the West Indies and the cays off Belize and Honduras, is seldom seen on the mainland, even in Belize and Honduras. Photograph by Roselvy Juárez.



Another rare Parulid in El Salvador, this Prothonotary Warbler at Barra de Santiago 17 October 2009 was only the 6th to be recorded in the country. Photograph by Michael Andersen.

near Chitré (RM, YD, DL, DM, DeM). Pomarine Jaeger merits reporting in El Salvador at least until its seasonal abundance becomes clearer. Two teams reported it during the birddathon on 17 Oct, one from Bahía de Jiquilisco, *Usulután* (EM, MR) and another off Los Cóbano (NH, LP et al.). Three more were observed 29 Oct off Los Cóbano (ph. JF, LA, ph. CF). During a three-day pelagic trip off the Pacific coast of Costa Rica 18-20 Sep, Parasitic Jaegers outnumbered Pomarine 6:3. On past trips, Pomarine has outnumbered Parasitic by ratios as high as 20:1 in Apr, with ratios as low as 1:1 in Jan. The trip's only Long-tailed Jaeger was an imm. seen 25 km sse. of the Nicoya Pen. 18 Sep (JZ, RG, BY, PM, NU).

Rare on Costa Rica's Caribbean slope and even rarer along the coast, a White-winged Dove was seen in Tortuguero town 20 Nov (ph. DaL). The bird may have been a migrant or a wandering resident. Rare in El Salvador, a pair of Great Horned Owls was heard calling at Hotel Perkin Lenca, Perquín, *Morazán* 23 Nov (OK). A pair of Black-and-white Owls in the Río Sarstún Multiple Use Area, *Izabal* 18 Nov (v.r. JF, ph. LA) was a first for this Guatemalan site. Fulvous Owl is common in high-elevation

cloud forests in Guatemala; however, it had not been recorded at Finca Filadelfia until 11 Aug (v.r. JF, RS), when a pair was heard calling. Stygian Owl was documented in 2008 at Atilán Volcano in Los Andes Reserve, *Suchitepéquez*, where one or 2 birds have since been observed repeatedly on a day roost (JLY). Two birds were seen there 17 Aug (JF, RS). Rare in the Atlantic slope lowlands of Guatemala, where it is at the n. edge of its range, a Great Potoo was heard calling 34 km n. of Paso Caballo in the Multiple Use Zone of the Maya Biosphere Reserve 17

Nov (RBM), thus providing only the 4th record for *Petén*. East of the *Petén*, Great Potoo was finally confirmed for Belize when one was discovered 13 km s. of Georgeville, *Cayo* on a perch just off JM's veranda on the night of 29 Sep (vt. JM). The ghostly videographic image (taken without a flash) was compared for size with the image of a Plumbeous Kite that regularly uses the same perch, and the voice recording from the video was confirmed as that of Great Potoo by Greg Budney at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Macaulay Library.

SWIFTS THROUGH MUNIAS

Five Great Swallow-tailed Swifts, rarely reported in Guatemala, were seen at Biotopo del Quetzal, *Purullhá, Baja Verapaz* 20 Aug (JF, RS). In Panama, a male Lattice-tailed Trogon was seen 16 Aug at Omar Torrijos N.P., *Coclé* (JAC, EC, RL, HM, ph. OQ), where rare, and in Belize, an American Pygmy Kingfisher was observed on *Caye Caulker* 22 Nov (ph. JB), where it is a rare visitor from the mainland. On 8 Oct, an Ochraceous Pewee was seen at Las Nubes, La Amistad International Park, *Chiriquí* (ph. EC); this species is rare in Panama. An Eastern Wood-Pewee heard and seen at Finca San Luis in Santa Tecla 29 Nov (OK) established the latest fall date for this species in El Salvador and the first record for *La Libertad*. Two species of becardas that are rare in Panama were reported this fall. A female Black-and-white Becard was seen for the first time at Omar Torrijos N.P. 16 Aug (JAC, HM, OQ), and a female Rose-throated Becard at El Valle

10 Nov (ph. BZ) provided the country's easternmost record. Also rare in Panama, at least 4 Bare-necked Umbrellabirds, 3 vocalizing and apparently imm. males with small crests, were seen at Omar Torrijos N.P. 16 Aug (JAC, EC, RL, HM, ph. OQ). A Cave Swallow at Punta Chame, *Panamá* 16 Oct (ph. EC) was the first for this locality and only the 5th for Panama. In cloud forest at 1700 m, a Long-billed Gnatwren observed in the Los Andes Reserve on Atilán Volcano 31 Aug (KE) was at an unusually high elevation. This and other species typically restricted to the lowlands have been found at this site in recent years, perhaps because of increasing fragmentation and loss of habitat at lower elevations in the vicinity. A Hermit Thrush banded at the pine-oak station in Montecristo N.P. 8 Nov (JF, LA, GK) was El Salvador's 7th. In Belize, a Wood Thrush at Blancaneaux Lodge, *Cayo* 10 Sep (RMA) was exceptionally early for a species that typically does not arrive before the first of Oct.

With fewer than 20 records for El Salvador, a first-winter Nashville Warbler observed at Cerro Verde in Los Volcanes N.P. 1 Nov (ph. JF) was noteworthy, and a Northern Parula seen 6



This Tricolored Munia found near the Tayazal archaeological site at Lake Petén Itzá on 29 September 2009 was the first to be recorded in Guatemala, leaving only Nicaragua among Central American countries without at least one record of this potentially destructive import from southeast Asia. Photograph by Melvin Rivera.

Aug on *Caye Caulker* (JB) was an exceptionally early migrant. A male Cape May Warbler at La Alegría de Siquirres in the foothills of Turrialba Volcano, *Limón* 19 Nov-14 Dec (ph. DJ) was also noteworthy, as this species is seldom found on the mainland. Another species rare on the Central American mainland is Black-throated Blue Warbler; thus, a female-plumaged bird

banded at Los Volcanes N.P. 14 Oct (ph. RJ, CZ) was only El Salvador's 5th. Although Golden-cheeked Warbler has been recorded twice during spring migration in the Kantishul and Chelemba Reserves, *Alta Verapaz*, an ad. male in the Kantishul Reserve 19 Nov was the first recorded in winter in the Yalijux mt. range (RR, KE). Rare in Panama at any season, a Blackpoll Warbler was seen at Cerro Azul, *Panamá* 22 Nov (WA). With records of Cerulean Warbler, globally listed as Vulnerable, becoming increasingly rare over most of the Region, an imm. male seen on Caye Caulker 5 Sep (ph. JB) is worth acknowledging. Possibly overlooked in El Salvador's wetlands and coastal mangroves in migration, a Prothonotary Warbler observed at Barra de Santiago, *Ahuachapán* 17 Oct (ph. MA, RJ, OK) was apparently only the 6th to be confirmed in the country.

A flock of 10 Slate-colored Seedeaters was found 27 Sep in Metropolitan Park, Panama City (ph. OQ), where several were also seen 25 Oct, along with 2 males and a female on Old Gamboa Rd. near Summit Park (both JAC, ph. OQ). All were found in seeding bamboo, and on the latter date several males were singing. The species is generally rare in Panama. A partially leucistic Thick-billed Seed-

Finch (seen in the company of regularly plumaged birds) was at La Platanera de Sarapiquí, *Heredia* (between Puerto Viejo and Horquetas) 8-10 Aug (ph. RVa). At Las Nubes, La Amistad International Park, *Chiriquí*, a male Peg-billed Finch was observed feeding on seeding bamboo 8 Oct (ph. EC). Elsewhere, a group of 4 females were in seeding bamboo above the Los Quetzales Cabins near Guadalupe, *Chiriquí* 3 Nov (DM). The species is rare in Panama and is recorded mainly when bamboo is seeding. Tricolored Munia was recorded in Guatemala for the first time when an ad. was seen near the Tayazal archaeological site at L. Petén Itzá, *Petén* 29 Sep (ph. MeR). Providing the 4th record for El Salvador, 3 male Tricolored Munias were observed near the Comalapa International Airport, *San Salvador* 6 Nov (NH).

Contributors (country coordinators in bold-face): William Adsett, Rocio Aldecoa, Michael Andersen, Leticia Andino, George Angehr (Panama), Philip Balderamos, Dorothy Beveridge, Jim Beveridge, Victor Bonilla, Edgar Brenes, Euclides Campos, Juan Axel Cubilla, Yenifer Díaz, Kevin Easley (KEa), Steven Easley (SEa), Knut Eisermann (Guatemala), Susan

England, Jesse Fagan (El Salvador), Renato Fernández, Carlos Funes, Guillermo Funes, Vicky Galán, Geraldo García, José Carlos García, Richard Garrigues, William Granados, Néstor Herrera, Carlos Jiménez, Donald Jiménez, Rosa Alicia Jiménez, Lee Jones (Belize), Rocio Juárez (Roj), Roselvy Juárez, Gail Kirch, Oliver Komar, Dinora López, Jessica López, Daryl Loth (DaL), Rafael Luck, Esmeralda Martínez, Roni Martínez (RMA), Roan Balas McNab, Jan Meerman, Omar Méndez, Hildegar Mendoza, Rosabel Miró, Alexandra Monge, Darien Montañez, Delicia Montañez (DeM), Gustavo Mora, Paul Murgatroyd, Alison Olivieri, Luis Pineda, Osvaldo Quintero, Alfred Raab, Rogelio Rax, Marvin Rivas, Melvin Rivera (MeR), Rick Schaefer, Bartolo Tumolo, Eddie Tzib, Noel Ureña, José David Vargas, Ronald Vargas (RVa), Ricardo Velásquez, Bruce Young, Jesús Lucas Yuxón, Carlos Zaldaña, Barry Zimmer, Jim Zook (Costa Rica) 🌐

H. Lee Jones, 901 East Washington Street, Apt. 126 Colton, California 92324, (lee_jones@att.net)

Oliver Komar

SalvaNATURA Conservation Science Program
33 Avenida Sur #640, San Salvador, El Salvador
(okomar@salvanatura.org)

Birders' Exchange

Photo by Nancy Bell
Voice-billed Hummingbird

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Robert L. Norton
 Anthony White
 Andrew Dobson
 Eddie Massiah

The season passed with remarkably little tropical cyclone activity; in fact, it was the least active season since 1997. Precipitation in July and early August was below normal at Vieques, Puerto Rico, so lagoons were dry during the first few days of Daphne Gemmill's surveys there in August. The remnants of Tropical Storm *Ana* passed to the south of Puerto Rico 17 August, bringing much-needed rain to parts of Puerto Rico, including Vieques. Hurricane *Bill* passed to the east of the Caribbean on 21 August and to the west of Bermuda the next day, with little impact on weather in these areas, but arrivals and even fallouts of shorebirds in the easternmost part of the Region, including Whimbrels, Lesser Yellowlegs, and a pratincole, were perhaps related to the passage of the storm.

On Bermuda, a Purple Swampphen made a first for the Region. In the Bahamas, a Manx Shearwater specimen found on Paradise Island and two rarities on Grand Bahama in October, a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird and a Townsend's Warbler, were highlights. Caroline Stahala monitored forty-eight Cuban (Bahama) Parrot nests on Abaco this summer and found that only two were depredated by feral cats, illustrating the efficiency of the predator control program. She also surveyed White-tailed Tropicbird nests on nearby Tilloo Cay, where there was no predator control program. Four of seven nests had been depredated by feral cats. At Barbados, overall rainfall was well below average in this time period, but the new Woodbourne Shorebird Reserve still proved a very effective magnet and observation point for shorebirds. Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe also played host to large numbers of shorebirds on several occasions.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SWAMPHEN

Fifty West Indian Whistling-Ducks were counted at Royal Palm Reserve, Negril, Jamaica 5 Sep (RL). Two Blue-winged Teal at Adelaide, New Providence 8 Aug (PM) were 10-15 days earlier than usual; one at Woodbourne Shorebird Reserve, Barbados 15 Aug was the earliest ever recorded there, and 2 White-cheeked Pintail in the Oilfields, Barbados made only the 3rd record there (BS, *vide* EM). The long-staying male Eurasian Wigeon continued at Spittal Pond, Bermuda through Aug (DBW). Two Masked Ducks were near Arecibo, Puerto Rico 6 Aug (HM). Purdy had a high count of 13 Pied-billed Grebes at Reef G.C., Grand Bahama 25 Oct; Gemmill noted a pair feeding a chick on Vieques 18 Aug. A desiccated Manx Shearwater corpse found on Paradise I. 12 Oct (PD, ph. TH) provides the 2nd confirmed record for the Bahamas; based on data from Bermuda and Guadeloupe, it is virtually certain that this species passes through the Bahamas in spring migration, probably in some numbers, and this specimen could have been a spring bird. A pair of Brown Pelicans nesting on the bank of an artificial pond in the Mayagüez Zoo, Puerto Rico 8 Aug (JS-F) raised 2 chicks. At least 40 Brown Boobies (including 2 ads.) were seen roosting on West Cay off Conception I., Bahamas 7 Aug, and even more (mostly immes.) were noted flying around Mira Por Vos 10 Aug (BP).

A gathering of herons at Marls of Abaco, Bahamas 29 Oct (EB, BM) included at least 10 Great Blue Herons, 50 Great Egrets, 30 Tricolored Herons, 5 Snowy Egrets, 5 Green Herons, 5 Little Blue Herons, and 5 Reddish Egrets. Cattle Egrets numbers increased from 24 at



An overdue first for Grenada, this Little Egret was at Rex Resort 27 August 2009. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

the Bermuda Airport 16 Nov to 32 island-wide 19 Nov (DW). A Black-crowned Night-Heron was at Somerset Long Bay N.R., Bermuda 7 Nov+ (AD). On Guadeloupe, a Gray Heron at Saint François 29 Oct (AL, LMa) represented the 2nd island record; a Little Egret ph. at Rex Resort, Grenada 28 Aug (JL, DL, AJ) was probably the first documented record for that island. An American Bittern was n. of Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera 16 Nov (DE). A Least Bittern was noted at Royal Palm Reserve, Negril, Jamaica 5 Sep (RL). A flock of about 100 Glossy Ibis seen flying toward the Caño Tiburones Swamp, Puerto Rico 8 Aug (JMN) is an indication of how sharply that species has increased in Puerto Rico in recent years. The Roseate Spoonbill at Freeport Harbour, Grand Bahama was last seen 4 Aug (BP). An American Flamingo was reported on Los Amadores Pond, a coastal pond in Camuy, Puerto Rico through 22 Aug (JS-F), and a few remained at Flamingo Lagoon on Culebra, Puerto Rico 30 Aug (JS-F). An ad. Peregrine was observed chasing feral pigeons on Bermuda 10 Nov (PH); another was at Green Castle Estate, Jamaica 7 Oct (RL). A Northern Harrier was at the Bermuda Airport 9-17 Oct (PA, JM).

SA Bermuda's and the Region's first **Purple Swampphen** was at Bernard Park 26 Oct-6 Nov but had probably been present for at least a week before that (AD). Following much discussion by experts on both sides of the Atlantic, the conclusion is that the bird appears to be of the subspecies *madagascariensis*, sometimes split as African Swampphen, which is native to sub-Saharan Africa, Egypt, and Madagascar. In s. Florida, where the eradication program of feral Purple Swampphens has now ended, most birds appear to be of the subspecies *poliocephalus*, and so it appears that Bermuda's bird did not come from Florida. The only reports of the Purple Swampphen group in North America away from Florida come from Wilmington, DE 5-18 Dec 1990, a gray-headed bird thought to have escaped from captivity, and from the Glennville W.T.P., GA 21 Nov 2009, assumed to have come from Florida.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH SKIMMER

Southern Lapwings continue to maintain a presence in the s. Lesser Antilles, with 3 continuing in late Aug at Telescope, Grenada (AJ, JL, DL) and at least 2 in St. Lucy, Barbados through the period (EM). A flock of 39 American Golden-Plovers arrived at Woodbourne Shorebird Reserve, Barbados 4 Sep (WRB), the peak count there; singles were at the Treasure Cay Dump, Bahamas 3 & 10-11 Sep (EB, TH). On Vieques, 58 Wilson's Plovers were counted, with a high of 21 at Laguna



A rare transient in the Lesser Antilles, this Baird's Sandpiper was smartly photographed at Pointe des Châteaux on Guadalupe 16-22 (here 22) August 2009. Photograph by Anthony Levesque.

Navio when it was dry 14 Aug (DG). On 29 Nov, Purdy found 4 Snowy and 10 Piping Plovers at Discovery Beach, Grand Bahama. Other reports of Pippings in the Bahamas included one at Discovery Beach 2 Aug (BP), 4-6 at Green Turtle Cay 12 Sep (EB, TH), 4-6 at South Andros 8 Sep (TH, PD, LH), and 5 at South Beach, New Providence 18 Nov (PD, TH, WP). In Bermuda, 2 were at Cooper's Pt. 11 Nov (AD). On Guadeloupe, a Killdeer was at Gaschet Res. 15 Oct (AL).

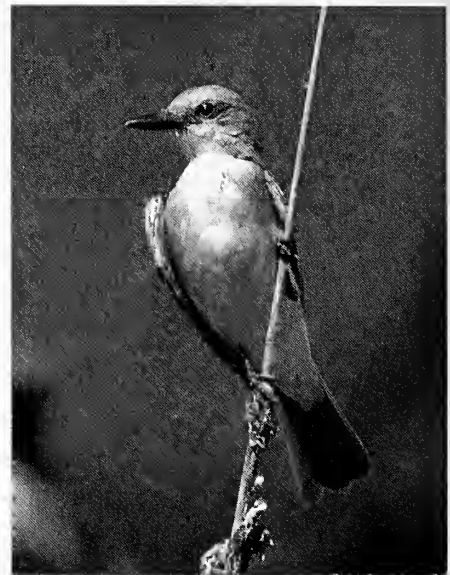
Prior to the appearance of 2 American Avocets at Spittal Pond 2 Oct (KR), there had been only eight records on Bermuda, so no one expected numbers would peak at 8 there 11 Oct—5 at Spittal Pond and 3 at Port Royal G.C.; one lingered through 7 Nov (m.ob.). On Vieques, the tally of 83 Black-necked Stilts included a high of 21 on Laguna Bahía Icacos 14 Aug (DG). Two Solitary Sandpipers were at Green Castle Estate, Jamaica 12 Oct (BL); 2 were noted at Campanillas, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico 15 Aug (JS-F); and one was Laguna Kiani, Vieques 16 Aug (DG)—a first fall and only the 3rd confirmed Vieques record since spring 1990. A Willet was at Port Royal G.C., Bermuda 20 Sep (PH). Seven Willets at Laguna Playa Blanca, Vieques 22 Aug (DG) may have been migrants or perhaps a post-breeding group from St. Croix, where the species has nested. The only Upland Sandpiper reported in the Bahamas was one seen at the Gladstone Road Agricultural Center, New Providence 6 Sep (PD, TH); 5 were at the Bermuda Airport the next day (PW). On Guadeloupe, 9 Upland Sandpipers graced Pôle Caraïbes Airport 18 Sep (AL, ED, TB, FD). Tracked by satellite, a Whimbrel called "Hope" arrived on Great Pond, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands 19 Aug (LY) and spent at least four months there. Three Whimbrels on Vieques included 2 on Laguna Bahia Icacos 22 Aug and one at Laguna Puerto Diablo the next day (DG). "Luc," the banded Ruddy Turnstone, arrived for its 9th winter on

Guadeloupe 8 Sep (AS-A). On Bermuda, single Red Knots were at the East End Dairy 12 Sep and at Spittal Pond 21-27 Sep (AD). A peak count of 135 White-rumped Sandpipers came from Woodbourne Shorebird Reserve, Barbados 5 Sep (EM); singles were found on Grand Bahama 30 Aug and 20 Sep (BP), Green Turtle Cay 12 Sep (EB, TH), and New Providence 31 Aug (PD, TH). An ad. Baird's Sandpiper was a rarity for Guadeloupe at Pointe des Châteaux 16-22

Aug (AL, FD, YL). Over 20 Pectoral Sandpipers at Lyford Cay G.C., New Providence 20 Sep was a good count (TH). Two Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen in St. Lucy, Barbados 4 Oct, with 3 there 10 Oct (EM), and one was at Gaschet Res., Guadeloupe 15 Oct (AL). A Ruff was on Mid-Ocean G.C., Bermuda 3 Oct (PW). Ruffs elsewhere included 2 in Guadeloupe—a female 10-16 Aug (AL) and a juv. 25 Sep (AL, KP, LMa)—and one at Woodbourne Shorebird Reserve, Barbados 25 Oct (WRB). A Wilson's Phalarope visited Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe 12-13 Sep (FD, AL).

SA The passage of low-pressure systems through the Region during autumn migration often brings not just seabirds; even a weak system can occasion a fallout of shorebirds, as can the passage at some distance of a larger storm. Hurricane *Bill*, which reached Category 4 status in the middle of the Atlantic, passed well to the e. of the Region during the 3rd week of Aug and may have been connected to such a fallout at Woodbourne Shorebird Reserve, Barbados of 100+ Lesser Yellowlegs and an unidentified pratincole 21 Aug (EM). There is a previous record for Barbados of Collared Pratincole, and this individual was thought to have been a Collared but could not be verified. Earlier in the season, an impressive shorebird fallout at Pointe des Châteaux, Guadeloupe 5 Aug (AL) involved 14 species, including 370 Lesser Yellowlegs, 73 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 34 Ruddy Turnstones, 32 Least Sandpipers, 30 Wilson's Plovers, 25 Stilt Sandpipers, 8 Spotted Sandpipers, 5 Black-bellied Plovers, 4 Black-necked Stilts, 3 Semipalmated Plovers, 3 Semipalmated Plovers, 2 American Oystercatchers, 2 Sanderlings, a Western Sandpiper, and a Short-billed Dowitcher.

On 14 Nov, 4 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were at Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera, with 5 there 24 Nov (DE, RZ). Others were at Woodbourne Shorebird Reserve, Barbados 26 Sep (WRB) and 25 Oct (EM). A Franklin's Gull



This Tropical/Couch's Kingbird on Grand Bahama Island 2-3 (here 2) October 2009 would represent the first of either species for the Bahamas; photographs of the bird in profile suggest that it was a Tropical Kingbird, but it was not heard vocalizing. There are no records of Couch's Kingbird in the Caribbean but at least three of Tropical. Photograph by Larry Manfredi.

was at Spittal Pond, Bermuda 1 Aug (PW). Gull-billed Terns were noted at Port-Louis Swamp, Guadeloupe 9 Sep (AL) and at Woodbourne Shorebird Reserve, Barbados 12 Sep (EM, WRB). A Least Tern was on the North Channel marker at Bermuda 5 Sep (AD), and the species was seen at three Vieques locations: one at Puerto Mosquito 15 Aug; 12 at Playa Grande 24 Aug; and 5 over Laguna Sombe 24 Aug (DG). Forty Roseate Terns at Andrews Beach Estates, New Providence 5 Aug (TH) was a good count but eclipsed by the 200+ seen at Crooked I. 6 Aug (BP). Common Terns are uncommon fall migrants in the Bahamas, so a count of 25 at Andrews Beach Estates 13 Aug (TH, PD) was noteworthy. A Forster's Tern landed on a dive boat n. of Bimini, Bahamas 25 Nov (ph.; *vide* BP). A Black Skimmer was found on Indian Cay, n. of West End, Grand Bahama 18 Oct (ph. GS, BP).

DOVES THROUGH BECARDS

A White-winged Dove at Coral Harbour, New Providence 19 Nov (CW) was the first there in nearly three years. A Eurasian Collared-Dove noted at St. George's, Grenada 27 Aug (DL) confirms that the species has reached the southernmost of the Lesser Antilles; local resident Anthony Jeremiah indicates that the species has been present here for several years. More than a 1000 White-winged Parakeets roosted at San Patricio Mall, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 23 Aug (JS-F). A Barn Owl was watched at Lover's L., Bermuda 19 Sep (PW)

and 9 Oct (GA). Yellow-billed Cuckoos were found on Abaco 14 Aug (EB), New Providence 31 Aug (2 birds; PD, TH), and Grand Bahama 25 Oct (BP). Resident Antillean Nighthawks normally leave the Bahamas in early Sep; 25 or more nighthawks over Grand Bahama 26-30 Oct and a single bird seen over Abaco 30 Oct were thought to be Common Nighthawks migrating through the Bahamas, but the birds were silent (BP, EB). A road-killed Antillean Nighthawk was identified on the e. end of Vieques 22 Aug (DG). A late Chimney Swift was over Horseshoe Dunes, Bermuda 1 Nov (AD). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was on Wreck Rd., Bermuda in early Nov (WF). Six Bahama Woodstars at the abandoned fruit farm on Abaco 2 Nov was a good count for that location (EB). A possible sighting of Purple-throated Carib at El Pilon, Vieques 16 Aug (DG) would make the 2nd on Vieques of this Lesser Antillean species, known as a vagrant to St. Croix and St. John, U. S. Virgin Islands. A Belted Kingfisher at Coral Harbour, New Providence 1 Aug was early (CW). Three Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, not common on Jamaica, were seen at Green Castle Estate, Robins Bay, St. Mary 27 Dec (RL).

At least 6 Eastern Wood-Pewees were found in the pine woods of Grand Bahama 4 Oct (LM, BP), and singles were at Gladstone Road Agricultural Center, New Providence 19 Oct (PD, TH) and on Abaco 30 Oct (EB, BM) and 2 & 6 Nov (EB, TH, BM). Six Eastern Phoeebes were at Reef G.C., Grand Bahama 4 Oct (LM, BP), and singles were on Abaco 30 Oct and 11 Nov (EB, TH). Seldom documented on Bermuda, an Acadian Flycatcher was at Spittal Pond 11-12 Oct (AD). The highlight of the season at Grand Bahama was a Couch's/Tropical Kingbird at Emerald G.C. 2-3 Oct (ph. LM, BP); the bird was silent, but photographs suggest Tropical. This would be the first record of either species for the Bahamas. There is no record of Couch's Kingbird in the West Indies; there are at least three records of Tropical from Cuba and one from Bermuda. On Bermuda, single Western Kingbirds were at Lagoon Park 3 Oct (PH), Port Royal G.C. 12 Oct (AD), St. Georges G.C. 24 Oct (DW), and Spittal Pond 29 Nov (AD). Five Eastern Kingbirds were seen at Coral Harbour, Bahamas 12 Sep, which grew to 20+ two days later, and singles were seen at Cowpen Rd., New Providence 21 Sep and S. Andros 27 Sep (all PD, TH, LL, LH). A Gray Kingbird at Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera 14 Nov (DE) was in keeping with the later departure dates seen in recent years. Up to 3 Jamaican Becards were noted at Green Castle Estate, Jamaica 21 Nov-27 Dec (RL).

VIREOS THROUGH MANNIKINS

On Bermuda, a Blue-headed Vireo was at North Pond 14 Oct (AD), and a rare Warbling Vireo was at Fort Scaur 2 Oct (DW). On 22 Aug, at Punte Este, the e. tip of Vieques, Gemmill estimated 200+ Barn Swallows heading eastward towards the U. S. Virgin Islands, along with 50+ Cave Swallows. Twenty-five Caribbean Martins were on Mt. Pirata, Vieques 21 Aug (DG). A Purple Martin at Harrold and Wilson Ponds

N.P., New Providence 1 Aug (PD, LH, LL) and 2 Barn Swallows on Long Cay off Crooked I., Bahamas 9 Aug (BP) made early arrivals for these species. A Gray Catbird banded at Désirade I. 31 Oct furnishes not only a first Guadeloupe record but perhaps only the 2nd for the Lesser Antilles (LMa, NH, AL). On Bermuda, single Gray-cheeked Thrushes were at Springfield 23-25 Oct (WF, PH) and Talbot Estate 31 Oct (AD). Three Swainson's Thrushes were at St. Augustine's College, New Providence 1 Oct (PD), and singles were found on South Andros 29 Sep (TH, PD, LH), Nassau 19 Oct (PD, TH), and Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama 24 Oct (BP). A Swainson's Thrush was noted at Green Castle Estate, Jamaica 2 Oct (RL). Four Cedar Waxwings, an occasional winter visitor, were at the Lucayan G.C., Grand Bahama 23 Oct (BP).

Bermuda had Golden-winged Warblers at the Arboretum 5-6 Oct and Heydon Trust, Bermuda 25 Oct (AD, DW). Uncommon on Jamaica, 2 Yellow-throated Warblers were at Royal Palm Reserve, Negril 5 Sep (RL). A Cerulean Warbler was near East End Dairy, Bermuda 2 Oct (PW), and a Kentucky Warbler was at Cemetery Hill 19 Sep (PW). In the Bahamas, single Chestnut-sided Warblers were at St. Augustine's College 20 Oct (PD, ph. TH) and along Waterloo Rd., Nassau 27 Oct (PD). A Townsend's Warbler, making the 3rd record for the Bahama Archipelago, was photographed at East End, Grand Bahama 4 Oct (ph. LM, BP). Previous records are from Grand Bahama 18 Apr 1984 (AE) and Grand Turk 16 Jan 1986 (GR). A Kirtland's Warbler found in coppice near Treasure Cay, Abaco 24 Oct was the first for n. Abaco in decades (ph. BM); another was found at an undisclosed location on New Providence 19 Nov (PD, ph. LL). On Eleuthera, Madera Rd. was the site of Dean's discovery of Kirtland's Warbler wintering grounds in 2002; it remains an active site, as 4-5 Kirtland's were there 13 & 15 Nov (DE,



This Kirtland's Warbler was found by the photographer on 25 October 2009 in coppice near Treasure Cay, Abaco, Bahamas—the first for northern Abaco Island in at least 50 years. Photograph by Becky Marvii.

JW). Ten Blackpoll Warblers at Gladstone Road Agricultural Center, Bahamas 9 Nov made a fine count (PD, TH). Two Prothonotary Warblers were at Garden of the Groves, Grand Bahama 28 Aug (BP), 2 at Blue Waters, Nassau 8 Sep (PD), and one at Reef G.C. 20 Sep (BP). At Pointe des Châteaux, a Connecticut Warbler noted 9-17 Oct (b. AL et al.) provided just the 2nd record for Guadeloupe.

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Tarpum Bay, Eleuthera 11 Nov (DE). A Saffron Finch was seen collecting nesting material at Campanillas, Puerto Rico 15 Aug (JS-F). Six Clay-colored Sparrows were at East End, Grand Bahama 4 Oct (LM, BP); singles were at Heydon Trust 25-26 Oct (AD) and along Wreck Rd. 11 Nov (WF), both Bermuda. Also on Bermuda, a Chipping Sparrow was at St. Georges G.C. 24 Oct (PW), and 3 were at Port Royal G.C. 16 Nov (DW). A Grasshopper Sparrow was at the Bermuda Airport 21 Nov (AD). A White-crowned Sparrow was photographed at the abandoned fruit farm, Grand Bahama 29 Oct (EB, BM). A White-throated Sparrow was reported from Wreck Rd., Bermuda 11 Nov (WF). A Snow Bunting was seen on the Castle Harbour Is., Bermuda 8 Nov+ (JM). An imm. or female Blue Grosbeak, seen 12 Oct at Green Castle Estate, Jamaica, had apparently just arrived, flew inland, and could not be relocated (RL). Single Dickcissels were on South Andros 27 Sep (TH, PD, LH) and at Tudor Farm, Bermuda 17 Sep (DW).

On Guadeloupe, a Bobolink was at Pointe des Châteaux 25 Oct (AL et al.), and a Shiny Cowbird was at Capesterre Belle-Eau 3 Jul (AL, YL). A Brown-headed Cowbird was at the Egg Farm, Grand Bahama 28 Aug (ph. BP), and an Orchard Oriole was at the Marsh Harbour Dump in Abaco 6 Nov (EB, TH). A Pine Siskin was a good find at Cooper's Pt., Bermuda 14 Nov (PW). A second-year male Yellow-crowned Bishop was seen at Laguna Cartagena N.W.R., Puerto Rico 8 Aug (MJM). A male

Nutmeg Mannikin was noted 6 Nov at Green Castle Estate, Jamaica (RL). Nutmeg Manikins were observed feeding fledgling Pin-tailed Whydahs at Laguna Cartagena N.W.R., Puerto Rico 8 Aug (MJM); another pair of Nutmeg Manikins raised a brood of whydahs in Cupey, Puerto Rico, noted 7 Aug (JS-F).

Addendum: Up to 6 Masked Ducks frequented Green Castle Estate, Jamaica 17 May through 18 Jun 2009 (RL).

Observers and contributors (subregional editors in boldface): Peter Adhemar, Eric Amos, Gerry Ardis, Stephen Barton, Thomas Bouchara, Elwood Bracey, Wayne R. Burke, Andrew & Sonia Cox, Paul Dean, Eric Del-

croix, Andrew Dobson, Fiona Dobson, Lionnel Dubief, Frantz Duzont, Art Edwards, David Ewert, Wendy Frith, Joe Furbert, Daphne Gemmill (DG), Lee Hanna, Nathalie Hecker, Tony Hepburn, Peter Hopkin, Stanley Ingham, Anthony Jeremiah, Anthony Levesque, Yasmine Levesque, Lionel Levine, Robert Lockett, Bruce Lorhan, Jeannette & Derek Lovitch, Jeremy Madeiros, Pericles Maillais, Laurent Malignave (LMA), Larry Manfredi, Becky Marvil, Hilda Morales, Mike J. Morel, Jose M. Nazario, David O'Neill, William Pinder, Kevin Pineau, Ron Porter, Bruce Purdy, Petite-Terre Nature Reserve, Susan Roberts, Gary Rosenberg, Keith Rossiter, Alain Saint-Auret, Jose Salguero-Feria, Gary Simmons, Bruce Skeete, Caroline Stahala, James Tatham, David Wallace (DW),

Carolyn Wardle, Paul Watson, Tim White, David Wingate (DBW), Joe Wunderle, Lisa Yntema, Richard ZainEldeen. 🌐

Robert L. Norton (Greater Antilles)

8960 NE Waldo Road, Gainesville, Florida 32609
(corvus0486@aol.com)

Anthony White (Bahamas Archipelago)

P. O. Box 2531, Jackson, Wyoming 83001
(spindalis@aol.com)

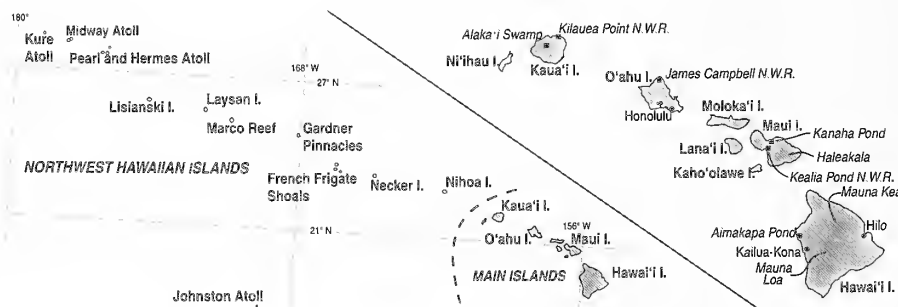
Andrew Dobson (Bermuda)

Warwick Academy
117 Middle Road Warwick PG 01 Bermuda
(ADobson@warwickacad.bm)

Eddie Massiah (Lesser Antilles)

Johnson Road, Fitts Village, St. James, Barbados
(ebmassiah@hotmail.com)

Hawaiian Islands



Peter Donaldson

After a very dry summer, the fall brought an increase in rainfall. The additional rainfall was not enough to end the drought conditions over leeward areas of Oahu Island, the islands of Maui County, and Hawaii Island. Some wetland areas remained unusually dry. On the other hand, the rain was heavy enough to produce flooding over some windward areas. The fall season was good for unusual migrants, but numbers of some common migrant waterfowl species were low, probably due to drought conditions. The drought may also have limited the nesting habitat for some of the endangered native waterbirds.

Observer coverage was pretty good. There were no pelagic birding trips, but the cetacean researchers with Cascadia Research Collective provided a large number of seabird photographs from a field project off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island. Their images documented a wonderful array of seabirds, particularly *Pterodroma* petrels.

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

Numbers of the regularly occurring waterfowl species were rather low, but several uncommon species were reported. A Greater White-fronted Goose arrived on Kure I. 25 Sep (CV), and an Aleutian Cackling Goose arrived there 29 Sep (CV). These are the first records of these species for Kure and mark the earliest arrival dates in the Region for both species. Two Greater White-fronteds were at the Kii unit of James Campbell N.W.R. 2 Oct+ (ML, m.ob.), and 5 were observed on Molokai I. 6 Oct+ (ADY). Greater White-fronteds had been considered rare in the Region but have been regular for the past 10 years or so. A juv. Snow Goose was spotted at Kanaha Pond State Wildlife Sanctuary 1 Nov (MN); Snow

Geese are rare in the Region. A Cackling Goose at the Kona S.T.P. 11 Oct (RD) had summered there; another was at Kii 16 Nov+ (ML, m.ob.). Northern Shovelers and Northern Pintails are the most numerous migrant waterfowl in the Region. The peak count of Northern Shovelers was 48 at Kealia Pond N.W.R. 12 Nov (MN), while the peak count for Northern Pintails was 30 at Kuilima S.T.P. 31 Oct (PD, RM). Compared to numbers over the past 30 years, the count of pintails is modest, while the count of shovelers is low. The first migrant ducks reported this fall were 3

SA Researchers with the Cascadia Research Collective were at sea 19-31 Oct, working on a project off the w. (Kona) coast of Hawaii Island. They found enough seabird species to make any birder envious. Some of these birds are quite challenging to identify, but the researchers took copious digital photographs, which were studied by Peter Pyle, who identified many of the birds in them (Table 1). In addition to a remarkable six species of gadfly petrel, a South Polar Skua and a Pomarine Jaeger were observed 19 Oct. South Polar Skuas are rare in the Region, while Pomarine Jaegers are regular in small numbers.

Table 1. A partial list of seabirds (inferred from photographs) observed off the western coast of Hawaii Island, 19-31 October 2009, by the Cascadia Research Collective.

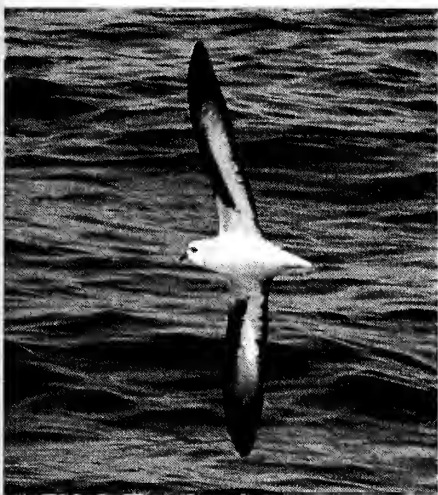
Kermadec Petrel	2
Mottled Petrel	2
Juan Fernandez Petrel	1
Hawaiian Petrel (Endangered)	several
White-necked Petrel	1
Black-winged Petrel	several
Buller's Shearwater	1
Leach's Storm-Petrel	2
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	2
White-tailed Tropicbird	3
Sooty Tern	2
South Polar Skua	1
Pomarine Jaeger	1



This Eared Grebe that visited Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge, Maui Island was nicely documented 6 October 2009; any grebe is a rarity in the state. Photograph by Michael Walther.



Although Band-rumped Storm-Petrels probably breed in the main Hawaiian Islands, their status is poorly understood. Because identification of storm-petrels at sea presents such challenges, it is always good to have photographic documentation, such as this image of a Band-rumped from waters off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island 29 October 2009. Photograph by Daniel Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.



Few birds are named for their underwing pattern, but Black-winged Petrel, like this one off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island 27 October 2009, may be easier to identify by its underparts than its upperparts. Photograph by Daniel Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.

Northern Pintails at Ohiapilo 5 Aug (ADY)—an unusually early date. A Garganey was observed at Kii 31 Oct (PD, RM). A Garganey at the Kuilima S.T.P. 7 & 11 Nov, and one at the Kahuku shrimp ponds 29 Nov (MW) was likely the same individual. Garganeys are rare but regular in the Region.

The most outstanding rarity reported over the fall was an Eared Grebe spotted at Kealia 1 Oct (ph. MN) and observed in the same area 5 (CP), 6 (ph. MW), & 16 Oct (RD). There

are only two previous records for the Region. Besides the Cascadia Research Collective project, the only pelagic reports came from a group of researchers visiting Lehua I., just s. of Niihau I., in late Aug. On the boat trip from Kauai to Lehua they observed one Hawaiian Petrel (Endangered), 3 Newell's Shearwaters (Threatened), and 3 Band-rumped Petrels, plus one Brewster's Brown Booby on Lehua (EV et al.). A Lesser Frigatebird was observed at Poipu, Kauai I. 25 Nov (EH). Lesser Frigatebirds are very rarely reported in the Region, but frigatebirds can be very difficult to identify.

Two White-faced Ibis were observed on a golf course in Princeville, Kauai I. 19 Aug (ph. CL). White-facedes were observed at Kealia Aug+ (MN, m.ob.), with a high count of 5 on 16 Oct (RD); another was in Hilo 20 Oct (JJ), 14 Nov (DL), and 21 Nov (JS). White-facedes have been regular in low numbers since 1993. A Northern Harrier was observed in Kahuku, Oahu I. 16 &

20 Nov (ph. MW); harriers are rare but regular in the Region. A Merlin, observed at Honouliuli 15 Nov (PD, PP), provided only the 5th record for the Region. This was a good season for unusual shorebirds. A Whimbrel (subspecies *hudsonicus*) on Molokai I. 7 Sep+ (ADY) was likely the same individual seen there a year earlier. Whimbrels are uncommon but regular in the Region. There were good numbers of Bristle-thighed Curlews in Kahuku, Oahu I., with counts of 50 at Kii on 22 (PD), 24 (PD, RM), & 29 Oct (PD). Up to 8 Bristle-thigheds were seen on Molokai I. Aug+ (ADY), 2 were on Hawaii I. at Makalewena 27 Aug (GD), and singles were on Kauai I. at Kilauea Pt. 16 Aug (JD, JJ) and at Hanapepe 3 Sep (JF). Bristle-thigheds are regular in small numbers in limited areas of the main islands. A Bar-tailed Godwit was at Kahuku, Oahu I. 12 Sep (ph. PD, m.ob.). A Red Knot was observed at Honouliuli 7 Nov (PD). A Curlew Sandpiper was at Kahuku, Oahu I. 19 Sep–2 Oct (ph. EV, MW); one noted around Pearl Harbor, Oahu I. 28 Oct+ (PD, PP, RM) might have been the Kahuku bird. Bar-tailed Godwits, Red Knots, and Curlew Sandpipers are all rare in the Region. A Ruff remained on Molokai 16 Sep–2 Oct (ADY). Ruffs are uncommon in the Region. A Wilson's Snipe was carefully identified at Kii 7 Oct (PD, RM); Wilson's are regular in the Region. A snipe at Honouliuli 6 (PD), 28 (PD), & 30 Oct (PD, RM) and 16 Nov (MW) appeared to have pale underwings but was



The unique dark belly patch on this Mottled Petrel off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island (27 October 2009) makes it one of the most distinctive of the gadfly petrels. Mottleds are among the most regular gadfly petrels encountered in waters of the Hawaiian Islands. Photograph by Daniel Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.



Juan Fernandez Petrels are apparently rare in Hawaiian waters, so this bird off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island 29 October 2009 was a fortunate find. Photograph by Daniel Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.



Hawaiian Petrels breed in the Hawaiian Islands, but they are rare and Endangered, and migrant petrels are often more numerous in offshore waters of the region. This Hawaiian Petrel was observed off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island 28 October 2009. Photograph by Daniel Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.

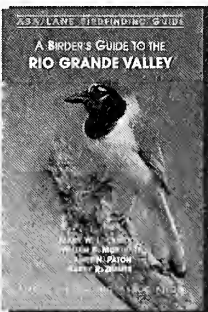
never seen clearly enough to determine whether it was a Wilson's or Common.

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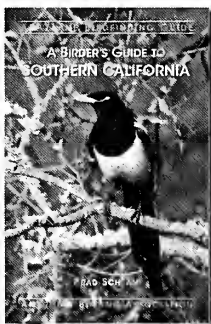


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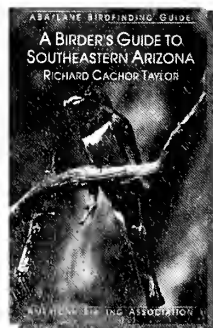
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Buller's Shearwaters are distinctly patterned dorsally but also below: the nearly all-white underwings on this bird off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island 20 October 2009 mark it as a Buller's. Photograph by Daniel Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.



This photograph of a South Polar Skua off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island 19 October 2009 provides excellent documentation of this rare species in the region. Photograph by Daniel Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.



Pomarine Jaegers are relatively common in waters around the Hawaiian Islands, but good documentation of any jaeger, such as this Pomarine off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island 28 October 2009, is always welcome. Photograph by Robin Baird/Cascadia Research Collective.

Gulls were observed on Oahu and Molokai Nov+ (m.ob.). One to 3 Least Terns were observed in Kahuku 22 Aug–7 Nov (m.ob.), with counts of 3 birds 22 Aug (PD) and 19 Aug (MO). Two Least Terns were spotted at the Kona S.T.P., Hawaii I. 11 Oct (RD). Least Terns, Laughing Gulls, and Ring-billed Gulls winter regularly in small numbers in the Region. Up to 56 Red-masked Parakeets were

counted in e. Honolulu 22 Oct (MO), and 35 were counted 19 Nov (MWe). A small population of Red-masked Parakeets has persisted on Oahu for at least 20 years, but some of the birds may be Red-Masked × Blue-crowned hybrids. A Mariana Swiftlet (Endangered) was observed in Moanalua Valley, Oahu I. 4 Sep (EV). These swiftlets are seldom observed away from the nearby valley where they nest.

PASSERINES

Birders on a tour into the Kokee area on Kauai

SA Volunteers with the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Program conducted a survey in a 250-acre (101-hectare) portion of The Nature Conservancy's Waikamoi Preserve on Maui I. 8-18 Sep. Ten different Maui Parrotbills (Endangered) were found on one day. Data from the survey teams indicated there were 15 different male parrotbills in the survey area; 5 of the males had mates, and 3 had offspring. Good numbers of Akohekohe (Endangered) were also found, suggesting 35-70 birds were present in the survey area.

I. 7 Sep reported one Puaiohi (Endangered), as well as both Akikiki and Akekee, both rare and rapidly declining in numbers, but no details were provided (JL). One Greater Necklaced Laughing-thrush was seen at Huleia N.W.R., Kauai I. 13 Aug (JD, JJ). This exotic babbler is hard to find, and its range and habits on Kauai are poorly understood. Two Akikiki were spotted in Kokee 29 Aug (JF). Five Akekee were found in Kokee 14 Aug, and 3 were observed 15 Aug (JD, JJ). Tour groups on Hawaii I. were able to consistently find very small numbers of the rare and Endangered Palila, Akiapolaau, Hawaii Creeper, and Akepa, but few details were provided (H.F.T.).

Contributors: Dusti Becker, Randy Cabrereros, Phil Capitolo, Cascadia Research Collective, Reg David, Garry Dean, Jim Denny, Arleone Dibben-Young, David Dolan (DDo), Peter Donaldson, Darren Dowell, J Foster, Justin Fujimoto, Anna Gebbie, Calvin Gehlen, Hawaii Forest & Trail (H.F.T.), Eugene Hunn, Jack Jeffery, Dustin Johnston, C Jordan, Joe Jordan, Pauline Kawamata, Jeri Langham, Dan Lindsay, Mike Lohr, Carl Lundblad, Richard May, Kumu Misaki, Mike Nishimoto, Mike Ord, Jay Ovsiovitch, Carol Pecot (CPe), Chuck Probst, Peter Pyle, Phillip Raab, Cristi Rasmussen, Neil Reimer, Brooks Rownd, Jesse Swift, Elizabeth Tapley, Cynthia Vanderlip, Eric VanderWerf, Michael Walther, Megan Westervelt (MWe), John York. ☺

Peter Donaldson, 2375 Ahakapu Street
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782, (pdnldsn.bird@mac.com)

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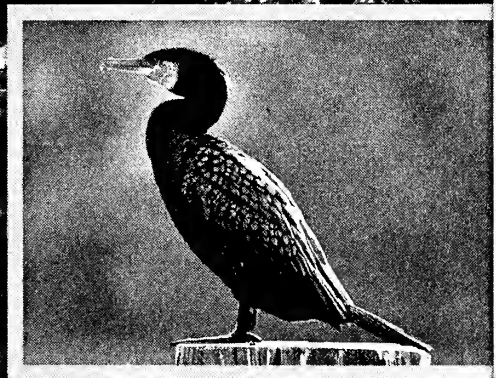
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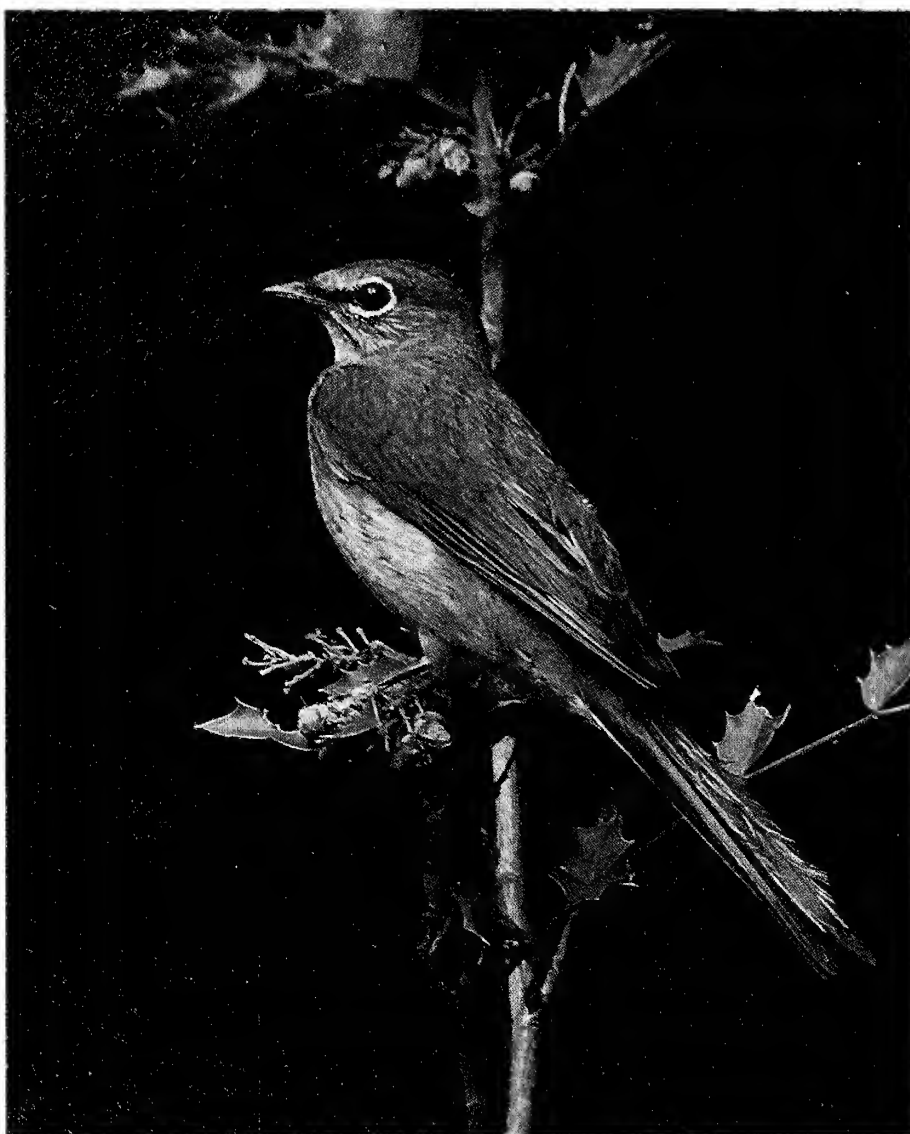
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A Brown-backed Solitaire (*Myadestes occidentalis*) in Arizona

BENJAMIN VAN DOREN • 87 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE, WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK 10606 • (BENJAMIN.VAN.DOREN@GMAIL.COM)



This portrait of the Brown-backed Solitaire was taken in Ramsey Canyon, Arizona 26 July 2009, after it had apparently moved from Miller Canyon, where first found 16 July. In May 2010, the record was accepted by the Arizona Bird Committee, thus becoming the first for the state and any location north of Mexico. Photograph by Christie Van Cleve.

Abstract

This paper documents the occurrence of a Brown-backed Solitaire (*Myadestes occidentalis*) in Arizona, first found in Miller Canyon on 16 July 2009 and last noted in adjacent Ramsey Canyon through at least 1 August 2009. Although there are other reports of this species in the United States, these have either not been documented or have not been ac-

cepted as referring to wild birds, as the species is frequently kept in captivity in Mexico and Central America. This paper summarizes the discovery and identification of the Miller/Ramsey Canyon bird and considers the likelihood of wild provenance.

Field encounter

On 16 July 2009, the author and eleven other

campers from Camp Chiricahua, led by Dave Jasper and Rob Day of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, were hiking in Miller Canyon in the Huachuca Mountains of southeastern Arizona. Miller Canyon is situated at about 31.410938° N, 110.28162° W, less than 10 kilometers from the border with Mexico. Miller Canyon is composed largely of pine-oak woodlands, with typical trees including White Fir (*Abies concolor*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Gambel's Oak (*Quercus gambelii*), and Arizona Sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*). The steep walls of the canyon terminate in a streambed, and a hiking trail runs along its side. In some areas, the trail is positioned such that the canopies of trees rooted near the streambed are at eye level. Miller Canyon starts at an elevation of 1650 meters and continues to Miller Peak, at 2840 meters. Because bird species typical of the northern Mexican highlands, such as Aztec Thrush (*Ridgwayia pinicola*), have been recorded in Miller Canyon on several occasions, we had hopes of finding a wanderer from Mexico.

Just after 1000 MST, the Camp Chiricahua group was hiking in an area around 4506 meters in elevation and had begun the return to the base of the canyon in advance of the mid-day heat. Several minutes into the return hike, Jasper halted suddenly, having heard a strange bird song (31.40611° N, 110.287743° W). Most of the group had heard it as well, but no one in the group was able to identify the song. One who heard it mentioned that the song recalled that of Canyon Wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*), a species we had heard singing most of the morning. However, this vocalization was markedly different from Canyon Wren: although it was descending in pitch, the song was composed of a complex rolling gargle of metallic, flute-like notes. The group tentatively identified the singer as a member of the thrush family, largely on the basis of the flute-like quality of the vocalization. Aztec Thrush was the top suspect, given our location and the time of year, but we could not confirm this; and a quick review of the *Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North America* (2003) revealed that its song is "unknown." The author had stored a collection of regional bird songs on his iPhone, which in-

cluded a small selection from Sonora, Mexico. The first thrush recording in this collection was Brown-backed Solitaire (*Myadestes occidentalis*); when played, the song perfectly matched the song we were hearing, much to the group's astonishment.

To document the identification thoroughly, we then worked to obtain photographs of the singer. We used a set of small speakers to broadcast the song in the direction of the bird. The bird sang shortly afterward and moved closer to the group. After five long minutes of waiting in silence, punctuated only by a few seconds of playback and responses by the bird, it vocalized from a location near the trail. Though it was still out of sight, we judged that it was very close. Suddenly, the bird flew into view in the treetops, where it perched on an exposed pine branch 50 meters from the group (Figure 1).

We could see that the bird was a medium-sized thrush, slender, and with a relatively long tail. Its uniformly gray undersides contrasted with a grayish-brown back and solidly warm brown upperwings. The bird's head appeared gray as well, and a prominent white eye ring was clearly visible. Also apparent was a thin, dark submalar stripe below a paler malar mark, dark lores, and dull white above the eye, which continued to the bill, forming "spectacles."

The small amount of playback allowed us good views of this bird. In addition to coming to investigate the song, the bird sang on several occasions and called frequently; this call was similar to the "hesitating" introductory notes of the song. After a few minutes of observation by the group, the solitaire then burst into a dazzling flight song display, singing while fluttering in the air between trees and eventually landing in another conifer. It has been suggested that this species' song is sung in its fullest form during this display flight (del Hoyo et al. 2005). After this spectacular behavior, which elicited awed reactions from the group, the solitaire flew up the canyon, past our group, and sang from another perch (Figure 2). This was the last time we saw the bird, though its remarkable song was audible for many minutes after it had retreated up Miller Canyon.

While visible, the bird did not remain perched for long, keeping to the treetops and moving from tree to tree. Many photographs were taken during the several minutes the solitaire was seen (Figures 1, 2). In addition, the author recorded the bird's vocalizations (Figure 3) and logged the GPS coordinates of the encounter on his iPhone. Unfortunately, there was no cell phone reception in the canyon, so we contacted the Arizona Rare



Figure 1. When first coaxed in view by use of playback, the Brown-backed Solitaire in Miller Canyon flew to an exposed perch, where it was easily studied and photographed. Visible in this first image taken is a combination of field marks that distinguish it from other similar thrushes: slaty gray body plumage, a bit darker on the crown; dark lores and submalar mark; rich brown upperwings; short, relatively thick black bill; and narrow white eye ring. The legs and feet are a vinaceous pink. Photograph by Benjamin Van Doren.



Figure 2. During about five minutes of study of the bird in Miller Canyon, the Brown-backed Solitaire flew about from perch to perch, singing and once performing a flight display, before moving up the canyon—behavior typical of wild birds observed in Mexico that have responded to an audio-lure. The Camp Chiricahua group was able to determine that its plumage appeared uniformly worn but not bedraggled in wing or tail feathers, as cagebirds often appear. Photographs taken later, in Ramsey Canyon (see frontispiece), show that some flight feathers had begun to become abraded, possibly because the bird had been feeding regularly in dense barberry bushes. Photograph by Benjamin Van Doren.

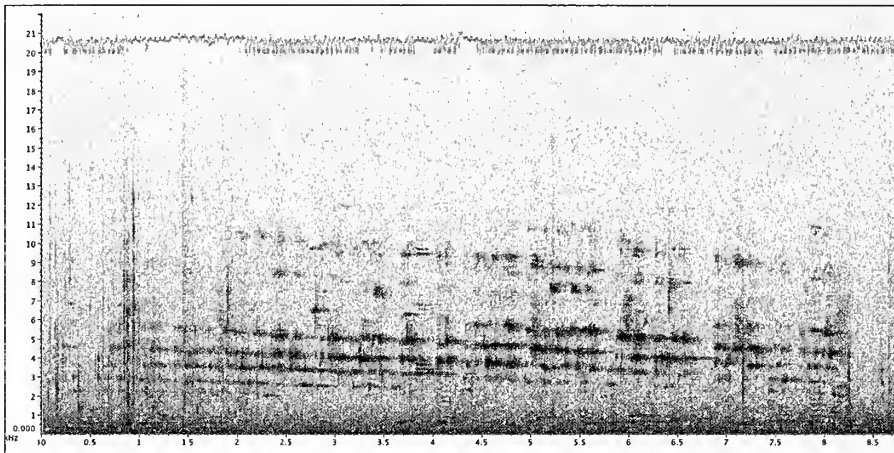


Figure 3. Sonogram of the Brown-backed Solitaire's song given from a perch in Miller Canyon, 16 July 2009. The bird was recorded using the author's iPhone (Voice Memo application) and rendered as a sonogram using Raven Pro software. Recording and sonogram by Benjamin Van Doren.

Bird Alert just after noon; the sighting was posted to the Arizona Birds email listserve a few hours later. The group was able to alert a few people already in the Miller Canyon vicinity to the bird's presence. After returning from the canyon, we consulted Peterson and Chalif's *A Field Guide to Mexican Birds* (1973) to confirm the identification.

The Brown-backed Solitaire was heard and observed by a handful of people later on 16 July in Miller Canyon. On the following day, it was neither seen nor heard in the canyon, despite searching by more than 50 birders. However, around noon on 18 July, a singing Brown-backed Solitaire was found in Ramsey Canyon, the canyon adjacent to Miller. The bird was observed irregularly in Ramsey Canyon for two weeks and sporadically for a few days afterward, allowing many more photographs and audio recordings to be obtained. Confirmed reports extended through 1 August, with unconfirmed reports through about 9 August.

Discussion

Brown-backed Solitaire is endemic to the highlands of Mexico and Central America. It occupies a variety of montane forest habitats, including pine-oak woodlands (Howell and Webb 1995), habitat very similar to that of the Huachuca Mountains. Brown-backed Solitaires prefer brushy ravines and are often found along streams (Clement and Hathway 2000, del Hoyo et al. 2005); when found at Miller Canyon, the solitaire was very near the streambed. During the many days the solitaire was observed in Ramsey Canyon, it was often reported feeding from a Wilcox's Barberry bush (*Berberis wilcoxii*) in the lower part of the canyon. Like many other thrush species, Brown-backed Solitaire takes fruit and often forages in the lower strata of forest

vegetation (Russell and Monson 1998, del Hoyo et al. 2005).

A common bird of southern Sonora (A.O.U. 1998), Brown-backed Solitaire is often described as a permanent resident where it breeds, and breeding occurs from February through July (del Hoyo et al. 2005). It has been recorded as an altitudinal migrant, e.g., in Tamaulipas (Gómez de Silva et al. 1999). In southern Sonora, the species winters in low-elevation mountains and foothills from mid-August through mid-May (Miller et al. 1957, Binford 1989, Howell and Webb 1995). In recent years (see Flesch 2008, 2009), Brown-backed Solitaire has been documented to breed farther north than previously described. Several were found singing in the Sierra Huachinera, a small mountain range 130 kilometers south of the Mexico/United States border and 192 kilometers southeast of Miller Canyon (30.138002° N, 108.867645° W), during the 2006 breeding season (Flesch 2009; A. Flesch, pers. comm.). Approximately 16 kilometers to the southeast of Sierra Huachinera is Sierra Tobacco (30.066667° N, 108.716667° W), another location where Brown-backed Solitaire has been documented to breed (Lammertink et al. 1996). Flesch (2009) describes the species as a "winter resident in moist canyon forests," implying that it engages in seasonal movements in the northern part of its range. Like many bird species of the Mexican mountains, thrushes apparently undertake minor movements in response to environmental stimuli, such as a lack of water or population build-up (del Hoyo et al. 2005), and the apparent increase in records of essentially Mexican montane species in the southwestern United States in recent decades is probably a result of such pressures and possibly also of climate change.

While the documentation from the first ob-

servation on 16 July left no doubt that this bird was a Brown-backed Solitaire, the question of its provenance is important, as the species is kept in cages very commonly in Mexico. A Brown-backed Solitaire seen from 4 October through at least 7 October 1996 in Madera Canyon of the Santa Rita Mountains was not accepted by the Arizona Bird Committee (Rosenberg et al. 2007), largely because the bird appeared to have damaged rectrices. This led some to conclude that it had been held in captivity (M. Stevenson, pers. comm.). Photographs were obtained that showed apparently unusual wear on these feathers; this wear may have been due, at least in part, to the bird spending a large amount of time on the ground (G. Rosenberg, pers. comm.). There are two further Arizona reports of Brown-backed Solitaire from the Chiricahua Mountains that have not been reviewed: 24 June 1987 in Cave Creek Canyon above Herb Martyr Campground, and 20 September 1991 in Cottonwood Canyon, south of West Turkey Creek (Taylor 1993). These birds were not seen but were heard clearly by an observer familiar with the species, and both were in typical pine-oak habitat (R. Taylor, pers. comm.). Neither bird, however, was studied to assess feather wear or damage to flight feathers, commonly seen in solitaires that have recently been kept in cages.

The July 2009 individual showed some feather wear but no broken or unusually abraded remiges or rectrices when first discovered. Molt in this species commences between August and September (Clement and Hathway 2000), so a worn coat of feathers is expected in summer. The Miller/Ramsey Canyon record is consistent with the timing of post-breeding wandering, which occurs in summer, but the bird's strong territoriality perhaps suggests a first-year male wandering in search of a good territory and a mate (we were not able to determine the bird's age). In any case, the solitaire's observed behavior was consistent with that of birds observed in the mountains of Mexico (A. Jaramillo, pers. comm.). The species sings year round (Howell and Webb 1995), though more often during the breeding season.

Conclusions

Although the evidence is inferential, the 2009 bird may well have been part of a population of Brown-backed Solitaires that breed in the northern Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico, rather than a cagebird brought over from Mexico. The bird's behavior, physical condition, and the timing of its occurrence are consistent with what would be expected in a wild individual, and the fact that there are popula-

tions of this species breeding less than 130 kilometers south of the Arizona/Mexico border that engage in seasonal movements also supports this supposition. This record has been accepted by the Arizona Bird Committee, making it the first accepted record of the species for the state and any location north of Mexico. The Committee may also re-review the 1996 record in light of the 2009 record (G. Rosenberg, pers. comm.).

Acknowledgments

I am grateful to Scott Haber of the American Museum of Natural History in New York for providing access to the museum's ornithology library and to Andrew Farnsworth of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for providing feedback on the manuscript. I would also like to thank Aaron D. Flesch, Gary Rosenberg, Mark Stevenson, Alvaro Jaramillo, and Rick Taylor for helpfully responding to inquiries regarding this paper.

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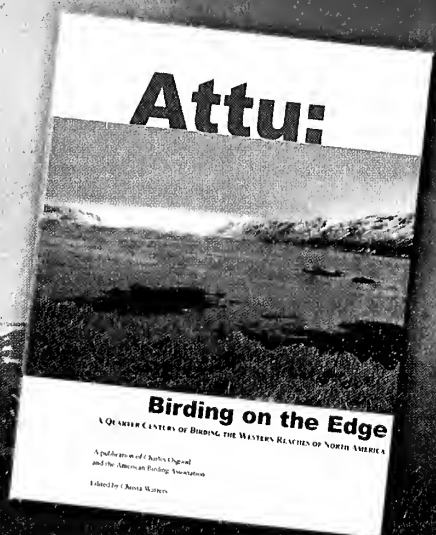
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American Birding

First record of Gray-collared Becard (*Pachyramphus major*) for the United States

JILLIAN JOHNSTON • BOX 325, DONNELLY, ALBERTA, CANADA T0H 1G0 • (JILLIAN_SPARROW@YAHOO.CA)
ANNE PELLEGRINI • 79 MOUNTAIN SIDE RD, WARWICK, NEW YORK 10990 • (FIDDLEHOPPER@GMAIL.COM)
RYAN DAVIS • 142 ST. ANDREWS ROAD, MOYOCK, NORTH CAROLINA 27958 • (RDDAVIS11@GMAIL.COM)



Figure 1. This first-year male Gray-collared Becard turned up on 5 June 2009 in the famed Cave Creek Canyon of Arizona's Chiricahua Mountains. It has been accepted by the Arizona Bird Committee as the first record for Arizona, and it would represent the first record of the species north of Mexico, if approved by North American checklist committees. Photograph by Jillian Johnston.

Abstract

This article documents the first record of Gray-collared Becard (*Pachyramphus major*) for the United States, a bird photographed at the South Fork Zoological and Botanical Area, Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahua Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona on 5 June 2009. The species' apparent northward expansion in Mexico in recent decades is also discussed.

Background

Southeastern Arizona is home to part of a unique biogeographic region known as the "Sky Islands." This region encompasses parts of southeastern Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and northern Mexico and contains more than 40 separate mountain ranges with elevations ranging from 760 meters in the valleys to 3350 meters at the peaks. These

isolated, forested mountains surrounded by expanses of grassland and desert have relatively high biodiversity. In the United States, the region occasionally hosts bird species typical of northern Mexico—such species as Eared Quetzal (*Euptilotis neoxenus*), Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentata*), Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*), Fan-tailed Warbler (*Euthlypis lachrymosa*), Slate-

throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*), and Yellow Grosbeak (*Pheucticus chrysopheplus*) are especially sought after by birders, as they are sporadic in their occurrence in the United States.

Located within the Sky Islands region, in the extreme southeastern corner of Arizona, are the Chiricahua Mountains, which boast such birding hotspots as the town of Portal and Cave Creek Canyon. Within the canyon is the South Fork Zoological and Botanical Area, situated along Cave Creek. In the oak-pinyon juniper-pine belt of the canyon, tree species include Emory Oak (*Quercus emoryi*), Silverleaf Oak (*Q. hypoleucoides*), Mexican Blue Oak (*Q. oblongifolia*), Arizona White Oak (*Q. arizonica*), and several other species of oak, Arizona Sycamore (*Platanus wrightii*), Arizona Cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*), Alligator Juniper (*Juniperus deppeana*), Apache Pine (*Pinus engelmannii*), Chihuahuan Pine (*P. leiophylla*), Arizona Walnut (*Juglans major*), Bigtooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*), Box Elder (*A. negundo*), Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and Velvet Ash (*Fraxinus velutina*).

Field encounter

While birding the south fork of Cave Creek Canyon on 5 June 2009, the authors arrived at the bridge over Cave Creek at about 1000 MST, where the elevation is approximately 1600 meters. About 15 minutes later, Pellegrini noted an unfamiliar bird perched in a tree next to the bridge. She pointed the bird out to Johnston and Davis, who also could not identify it. The bird was observed for approximately 30 minutes from as close as about five meters away, as it foraged from tree to tree along the road near the creek. It was observed actively flycatching and gleaning insects from twigs, mostly at a height of 4-5 meters in broadleaf trees, among them several oaks and later a Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*). The bird seemed very intent on feeding and appeared not to be perturbed by the group's presence. It was mostly silent but occasionally produced high, thin, monosyllabic calls. Numerous photographs were obtained during the observation period (Figures 1-3).

The bird was stocky and large-headed, with a stout, dark bill. Its crown, upperparts, and tail were all rusty brown. The lores were blackish, and a wide, black eye-stripe bordered the crown. The cheeks, hindcollar, and supraloral stripe were grayish white; the underparts, including the throat, were pale yellowish white. The upperwings were blackish with pale edging. The graduated tail had blackish subterminal markings, with the outermost rectrices having whitish tips.



Figure 2. In this image, and in Figure 1, the becard's rusty crown is clearly set off by a broad, dark eyestripe, widest behind the eye. The hindcollar is clearly dirty white. These features indicate the western Mexican subspecies *uropygialis*; the nominate subspecies shows a uniformly dark cap and a cinnamon or buff hindcollar. The strong contrasts in upperwing coverts and in rectrices indicate a young male rather than a female Gray-collared. Female *uropygialis* have cinnamon-edged upperwing coverts and lack white in the outer rectrices. Photograph by Jillian Johnston.

Hoping to find someone who could help identify the bird, the group proceeded to the Southwestern Research Station, a research facility of the American Museum of Natural History. There the images of the bird were shown to P. D. Hulce, who identified it as a Gray-collared Becard, matching the photographs to the illustration in Howell and Webb's *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America* (1995). The becard was last seen at about 1300 that afternoon when Hulce, Chris West, Bob Weaver,

and one other birder relocated it and observed the bird for approximately 15 minutes before it flew down the canyon. The becard appeared to be more sensitive to the presence of humans than it had during the original encounter. Reports of up to three Gray-collared Becards (two in female-type plumage, one adult male) came from Sunny Flats Campground, approximately 1.3 km to the north, later in the month, but to our knowledge these have not been confirmed or documented.

Discussion

The only becard species expected in Arizona is Rose-throated Becard (*P. aglaiae*). Female and first-year male Rose-throated Becards—the plumages of this species that would be most similar to the South Fork bird—have unpatterned wings and tails, uniformly dark crowns, and lack a supraloral stripe. Moreover, Rose-throated Becard does not have a graduated tail like the South Fork bird. Several species of South American becards have plumages that include a rusty crown, such as female Black-capped Becard (*P. marginatus*) and female Black-and-white Becard (*P. albo-griseus*); however, they differ from Gray-collared in other key plumage features, such as wing edging (Ridgely and Tudor 2009).

Gray-collared Becard ranges from north-central Nicaragua to central Nuevo León and eastern Sonora (Howell and Webb 1995). Of the five named subspecies, two are found in northern Mexico, not far from the United States: *P. major major* of eastern Mexico and Central America, whose range extends nearly to Monterrey, Nuevo León, about 250 kilometers from Texas; and *P. major uropygialis* of western Mexico, which breeds as far north as eastern Sonora, about 300 kilometers from Arizona. The rusty crown that contrasts with the blackish eyestripe (rather than solidly dark cap) and the whitish (not pale cinnamon or buff) hindcollar of the South Fork bird indicate *uropygialis* rather than the nominate subspecies. The pattern and colors of the remiges and rectrices indicate a first-year male rather than a female: the central rectrices were gray with black subterminal marks; the outer rectrices showed pale tips (though somewhat abraded); and the blackish upperwing coverts and tertials had broad pale edges. Female *uropygialis* of any age show much less contrast in remiges and rectrices generally, with cinnamon-edged upperwing coverts and no white in the outer rectrices (Howell and Webb 1995). The geographically more remote subspecies of Gray-collared Becard—*itzensis* of Campeche, Yucatán, and Quintana Roo; *matudai* of the Pacific slope of Chiapas and Guatemala; and *australis* of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and north-central Nicaragua—apparently have plumages that resemble the nominate subspecies rather than *uropygialis* (del Hoyo et al. 2004).

Uncommon throughout its range, Gray-collared Becard is found from sea level to 2500 meters and is an altitudinal migrant, residing at lower elevations in winter (Howell and Webb 1995). Gray-collareds inhabit pine-oak woodlands and cloud forest (Peterson et al. 1973) but have been observed to frequent forest

edges and plantations as well (Howell and Webb 1995). The species was only known as far north as southeastern Sinaloa until 1983 and 1984, when four birds were discovered in eastern Sonora (Monson 1986). In 1987, Gray-collared Becards were found breeding in Sonora (Russell and Monson 1998). The individuals found in Sonora in the early 1980s, near Yécora and Sahuaripa, were over 670 kilometers north of any previous sightings and less than 300 kilometers south of the U.S. border with Mexico (Monson 1986), which suggests a possible northward expansion; however, we have not located published records of Gray-collared Becard from the 1990s or the 2000s closer to southeastern Arizona than these records. Extensive field work by Aaron D. Flesch and others in Sonora in recent years has not produced records of the species; Flesch (in litt.) suggests that the little-investigated area northwest of Mesa Tres Rios may have good habitat for the species and that there are plans to conduct research in the area in the near future.

Jones (1998) summarized experts' predictions for six bird species likely occur for the first time in the United States in southern Arizona or southwestern New Mexico; Gray-collared Becard won top "honorable mention," selected by Chris Benesh, Doug Danforth, and Gale Monson.

Unlike many Mexican and Central American passerine species, Gray-collared Becard is apparently unknown or very rare as a cagebird; its unremarkable vocalizations and its scarcity make it an unlikely, though by no means impossible, candidate for the cagebird trade from Mexico into the United States. To our knowledge, there are no previous reports of the species from the United States.

Acknowledgments

We thank P. D. Hulce for his assistance in identifying the Gray-collared Becard and in providing information on the South Fork Zoological and Botanical Area and Aaron Flesch for review of the status of Gray-collared Becard in Sonora.

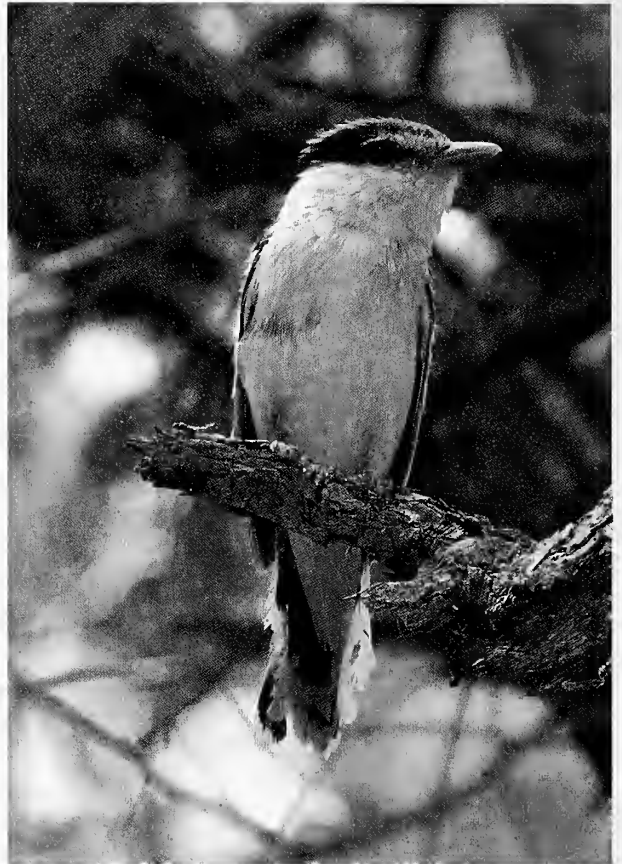



Figure 3. In this image, as well as in Figure 2, the large, blackish subterminal marks in the rectrices typical of Gray-collared Becard can be seen; the extensive pale tip to the outer rectrices is visible in Figure 2 (left side only). Unlike some other species of becard, Gray-collared has a graduated tail, with outer rectrices progressively shorter than the central two rectrices. The disparate lengths of this bird's rectrices are apparent from photographs, although this worn bird also appeared to be in molt of, and/or show damage to, the rectrices. Photograph by Jillian Johnston.

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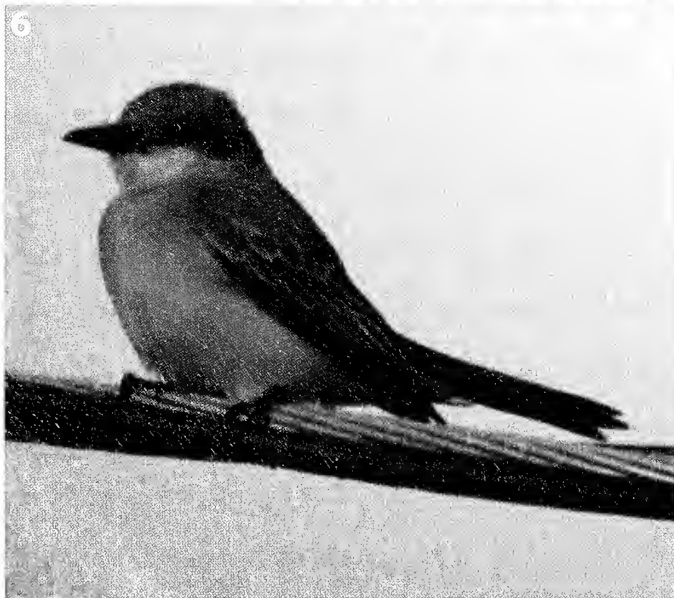
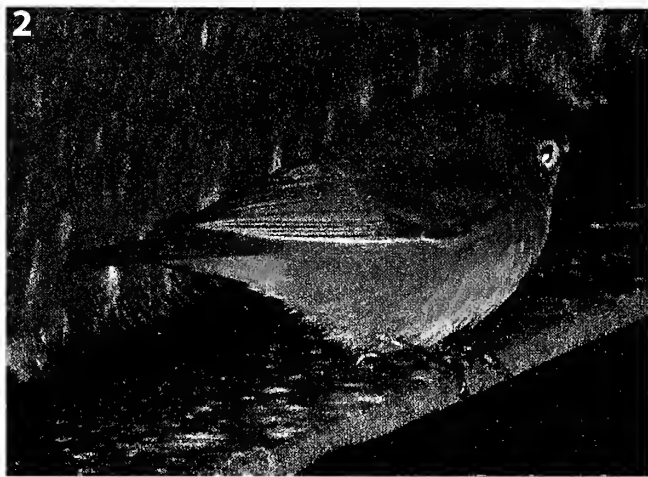
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Pictorial Highlights



1 • Located 29 September 2009 near Juneau—19 years to the day after the first Alaska record from Middleton Island—this Great Crested Flycatcher provided a second state record and remained through 11 October. *Photograph by Doug Jones.*

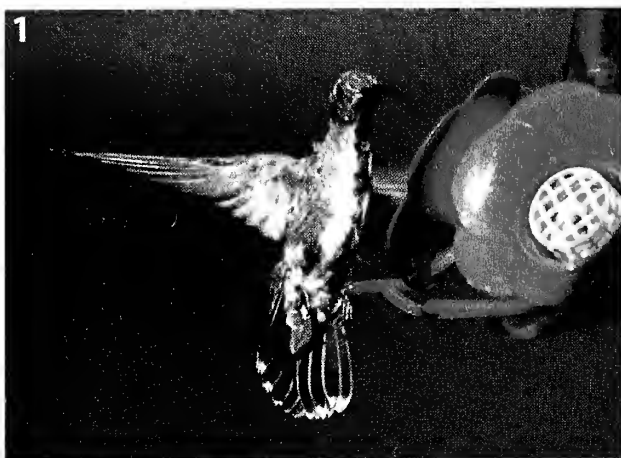
2 • This Nashville Warbler was photographed at dawn on 21 September 2009, immediately after it landed on a research vessel in the central Bering Sea about 260 kilometers southeast of St. Matthew Island. Amazingly, this is the second Nashville Warbler for the Bering Sea, following one from fall 2004 at Gambell. Most of Alaska's seven records, all from the fall season, are photographically documented. *Photograph by Luke DeCicco.*

3 • Alaska's first ever Yellow-breasted Bunting for the fall season was this immature that skulked within the middens at Gambell 2 September 2009. It made the state's sixth overall record. *Photograph by Aaron Lang.*

4 • This immature Pallas's Bunting, associating with the Yellow-breasted Bunting at Gambell on 2 September 2009, was Gambell's third ever in autumn, all of which have come in the past four years. Some remnant juvenal plumage is visible on the upper breast. The overall dorsal pattern and tones, along with the straight culmen, help to identify this species. *Photograph by Aaron Lang.*

5 • An immature Rustic Bunting that took up residence at a Ketchikan feeder 23 October into December 2009 (here 15 November) was only the third ever found in Alaska's Southeast. Amazingly, it was joined by a similarly plumaged individual 10-29 November. Note the strongly patterned plumage, obvious crest with white nape patch, white outer retrices, rusty rump and shoulders, and rusty streaks on the underparts. *Photograph by Steven C. Heinl.*

6 • A first for Delaware, this Tropical Kingbird visited Prime Hook Beach, Sussex County 13 October 2009. *Photograph by Frank Marengi.*



1 • Rapid communication and response allowed birders to verify a one-day visit by Louisiana's thirteenth species of hummingbird—this immature male Green-breasted Mango at Greenwood, Caddo Parish 20 August 2009. *Photograph by Jeff Trahan.*

2 • An exciting first for Alabama, this Mangrove Cuckoo was banded 17 September 2009 at Fort Morgan, Baldwin County. *Photograph by Jaclyn Smolinsky.*

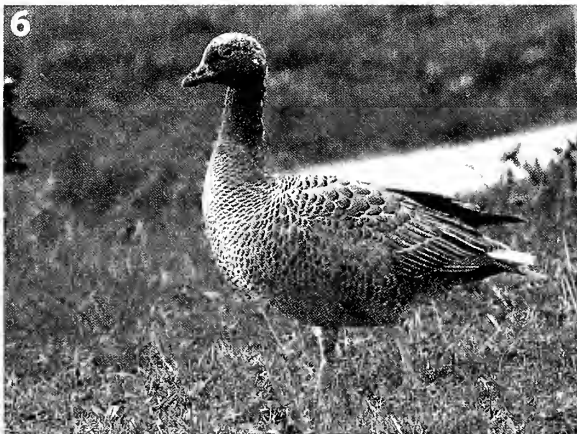
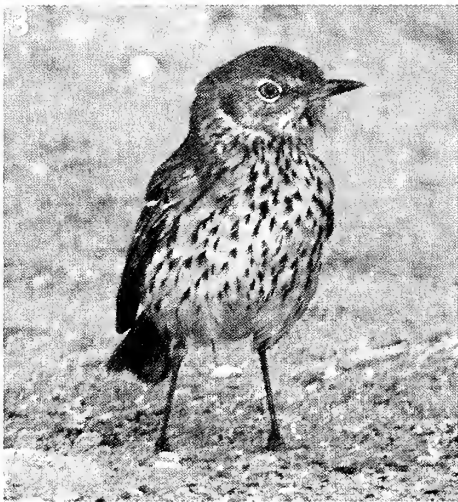
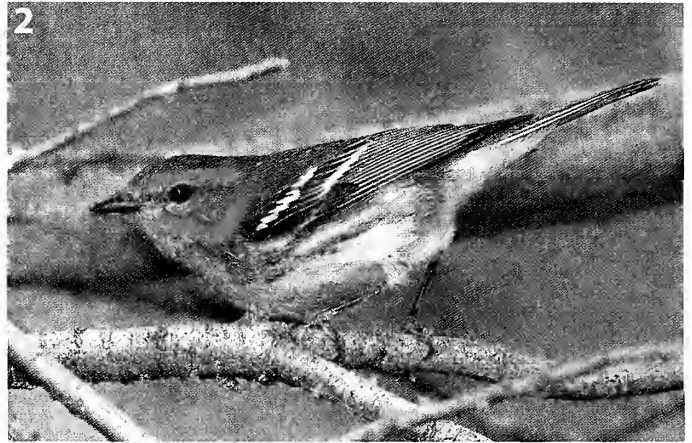
3 • A species only occasionally recorded in northern Alabama, this Henslow's Sparrow visited Shelby County 14 November 2009. *Photograph by Greg D. Jackson.*

4 • Another of the amazing birds found in the Johnsons Bayou area, Cameron Parish on 3 October 2009, this Pacific-slope/Cordilleran Flycatcher was only the sixth of this complex to be documented in Louisiana. *Photograph by Matthew T. Pontiff.*

5 • Only the second to be confirmed in Louisiana, this Cassin's Vireo was probably the rarest bird found during an extraordinary 3 October 2009 at Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish. *Photograph by Matthew T. Pontiff.*

6 • Wood Stork is a casual late summer visitor to southern Arizona. This individual was present at Gilbert Water Ranch 17 August (here) through 12 September 2009. *Photograph by Brendon Grice.*





1 • A casual summer visitor to Arizona from Mexico, this Aztec Thrush was in Ramsey Canyon 31 July through 11 (here 9) August 2009. *Photograph by Chris West.*

2 • This Black-throated Green Warbler, a species casual in Arizona mainly during fall, was at Gilbert Water Ranch 11-12 (here 11) November 2009. *Photograph by Brendon Grice.*

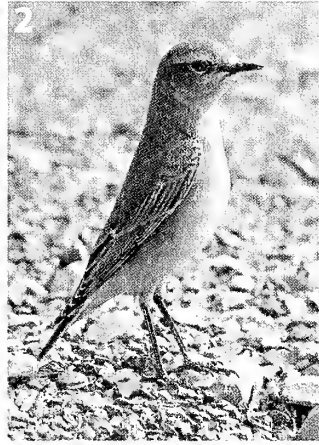
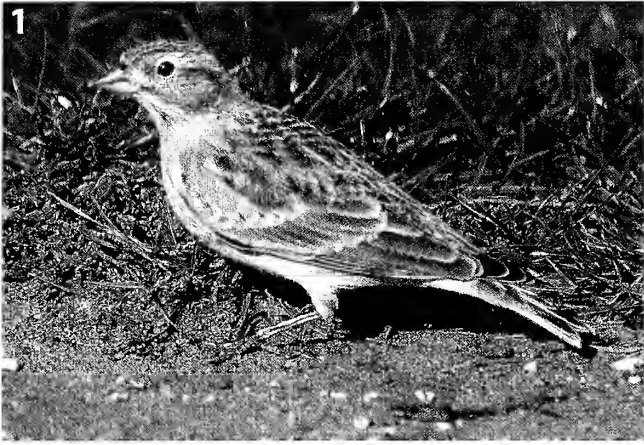
3 • The number of Sage Thrashers wintering on the Baja California Peninsula appears to have dropped sharply in recent years, consistent with population declines through much of the species' breeding range. This bird was found mid-peninsula at the Guerrero Negro saltworks, Baja California Sur on 22 October 2009. *Photograph by Roberto Carmona.*

4 • The Baja California Peninsula region's warbler highlight was this female Pine Warbler at Bahía Asunción 12 October 2009, the first recorded in Baja California Sur. *Photograph by Peter A. Gaede.*

5 • This bird, initially identified as a Solander's Petrel based on underwing pattern, would if confirmed be the first for Canada, and first clearly documented in North American waters. Distinguishing this species from Murphy's Petrel at sea is difficult, and in fact the bill and overall structure of this bird look closer to Murphy's than to Solander's. It was seen off Tofino, Vancouver Island, British Columbia 6 October 2009. *Photograph by Sharon Toochin.*

6 • A great find at Richmond, British Columbia was this immature Emperor Goose 19-21 (here 19) October 2009, furnishing one of very few recent records for the province. *Photograph by Peter Candido.*

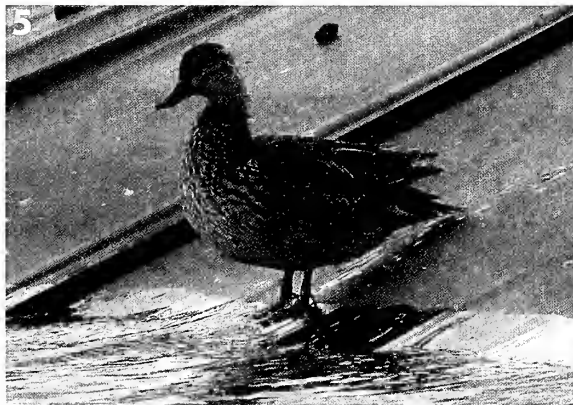
7 • Discovered in Tofino, on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, this first-fall male Prairie Warbler thrilled birders 28 September-3 (here 2) October 2009. *Photograph by Adrian Dorst.*



1 • Vancouver, British Columbia's Stanley Park hosted this vagrant McCown's Longspur 10-14 (here 11) October 2009. Photograph by Peter Candido.

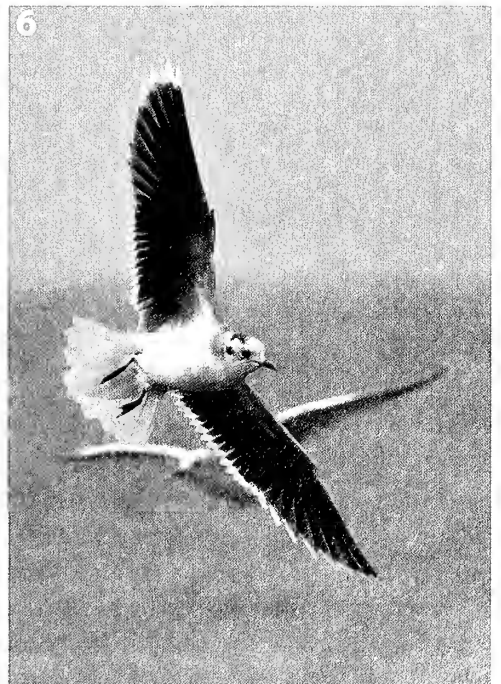
2 • Ohio's third ever, this Northern Wheatear frequented Bunker Hill in Holmes County 12-16 (here 13) September 2009. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

3 • Utah's fourth documented Upland Sandpiper turned up 28 August 2009 along the Causeway at Antelope Island State Park, Davis County. Photograph by Paul Higgins.

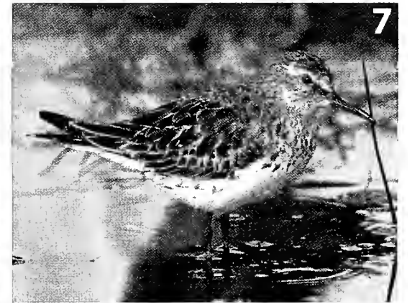
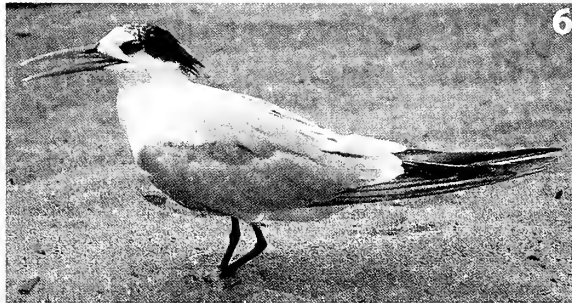
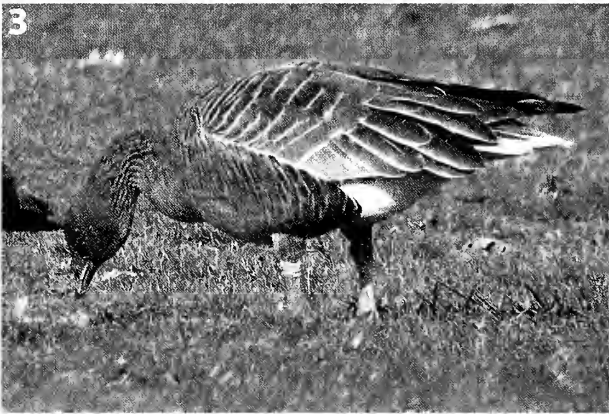


4 • Miller's Rest Area, located along Highway 95/6 west of Tonopah in Esmeralda County, Nevada, has a well-deserved reputation as a vagrant trap. The third Grasshopper Sparrow record accepted by the Nevada Bird Records Committee was discovered there 22 September 2009 (left). Although it was not located during subsequent searches, another turned up on 29 September (right). Photographs by Greg Scyphers (left) and Rick Fridell (right).

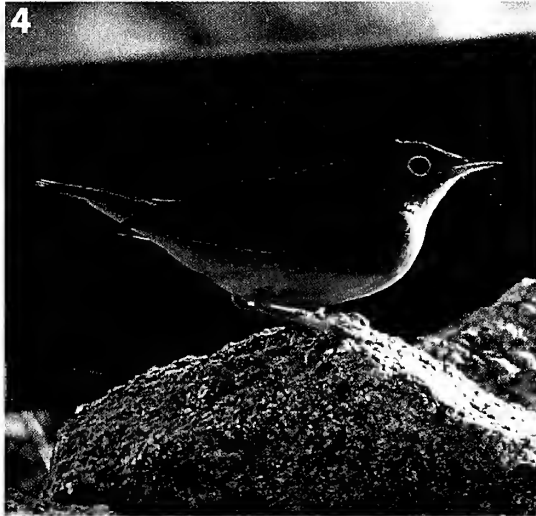
5 • Garganeys are rare in the Hawaiian Islands, and those that are observed are often wary and difficult to photograph. This fine image was taken at the Kuilima Sewage Treatment Plant on Oahu Island 7 November 2009. Photograph by Michael Walther.



6 • Utah's third documented Little Gull was one of the star attractions of a large gull flock observed 7-11 (here 10) November 2009 along the Antelope Island State Park Causeway in Davis County. Photograph by Rick Fridell.



- 1 • Kermadec Petrels can confusingly variable in appearance, but this pale morph photographed off the Kona coast of Hawaii Island 28 October 2009 is distinctive. *Photograph by Daniel Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.*
- 2 • Bar-tailed Godwits that breed or fledge in Alaska migrate to New Zealand for the winter. Most fly past the Hawaiian Islands, but some, like this juvenile photographed at James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge, Oahu Island 12 September 2009, do stop in Hawaii. *Photograph by Peter Donaldson.*
- 3 • New York's sixth Pink-footed Goose was found at Sunken Meadow Park, Suffolk County, New York 3 November 2009 and remained through the 11th. *Photograph by Shaibal S. Mitra.*
- 4 • The blank-looking facial pattern and rufescent tones of the underparts distinguish this Cinnamon Teal (right) from Blue-winged; New Jersey's fourth, it was present at Cape May 16 (here 17) September through 5 October 2009. *Photograph by Michael O'Brien.*
- 5 • Hands-down the Middle Atlantic region's bird of the season, this apparent Lesser Sand-Plover attracted numerous birders to a small farm pond in Augusta County, Virginia 6-8 (here 7) September 2009. *Photograph by Brenda Tekin.*
- 6 • Discovered in a Sandwich Tern flock at Virginia Beach, Virginia 9 August 2009, this bird was identified by most experts who viewed the photographs as an adult Elegant Tern, though several commented that the bird's apparently small size suggested possible hybrid derivation. *Photograph by David Wendelken.*
- 7 • White-rumped Sandpiper is a casual migrant along the Yukon's North Coast. This molting adult touched down briefly at Herschel Island 17 August 2009. *Photograph by Cameron Eckert.*



1 • Several plumage features of this Brewster's-type Warbler, documented 16 September 2009 in Little Compton, Newport County, Rhode Island, suggest back-crossing with Blue-winged Warbler, among them the greenish mantle, whitish wingbars, and extensive yellow below. *Photograph by Geoff Dennis.*

2 • A White-chinned Petrel off the San Mateo County, California coast 18 October 2009 became the first widely accepted record of the species in North America, though a specimen was salvaged in Texas 27 April 1986, and another was photographed off North Carolina 17 October 1996. *Photograph by Alvaro Jaramillo.*

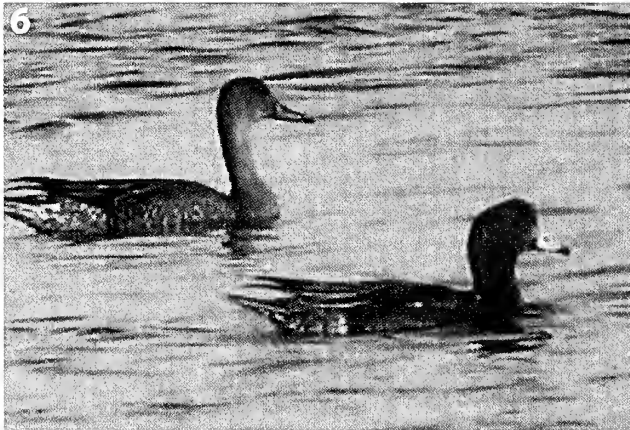
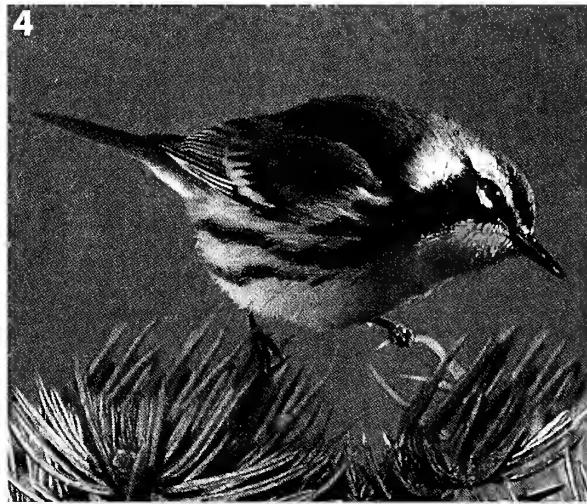
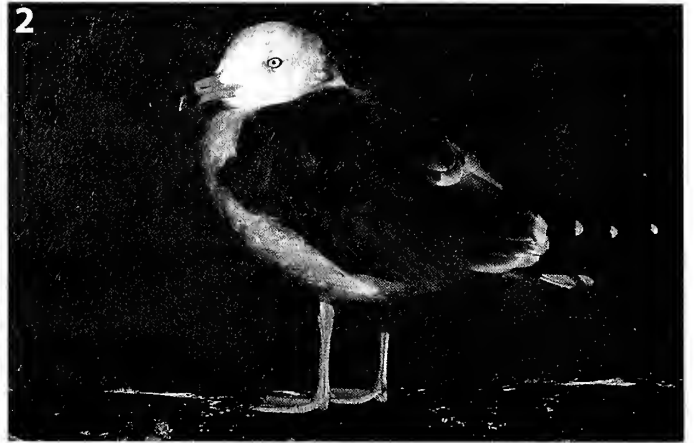
3 • This Brown Shrike on Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County 24-25 (here 24) September 2009 provided the second record for the island, third record for California, and ninth record for North America. As with previous records of this Asian stray, this bird was believed to be the of nominate subspecies. *Photograph by Ryan Terrill.*

4 • Over half of California's records of Connecticut Warbler have come from one location, Southeast Farallon Island, San Francisco County, where this bird was documented 18 September 2009. *Photograph by Matt Brady.*

5 • This young White Ibis may have wandered both shores of Lake Ontario in September and October 2009; it is shown here 3 October, during its one-day visit to Whitby harbor in the Durham region of Ontario. *Photograph by Joe Noordman.*

6 • New Mexico's first Golden-cheeked Warbler made a brief stop at Eunice, Lea County 23 August 2009. *Photograph by Pat W. McCasland.*





1 • This immature male Phainopepla, only the second for Ontario, delighted many as it fed on the numerous berry bushes in a small subdivision in Brampton, Peel County from 9 (here 29) November 2009 into December. *Photograph by Sam Barone.*

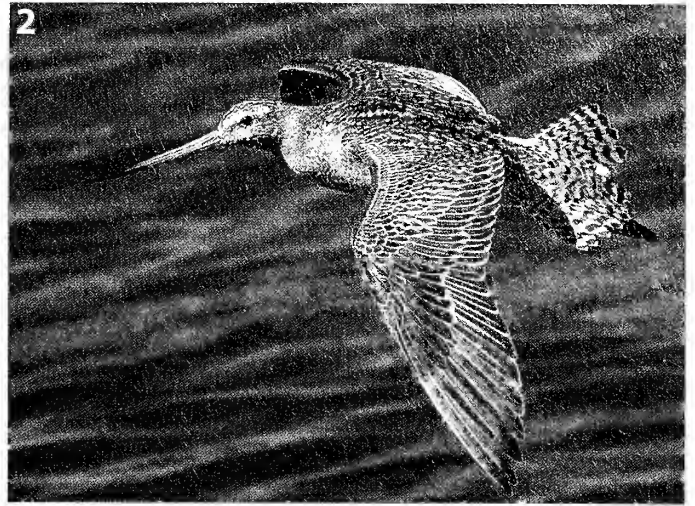
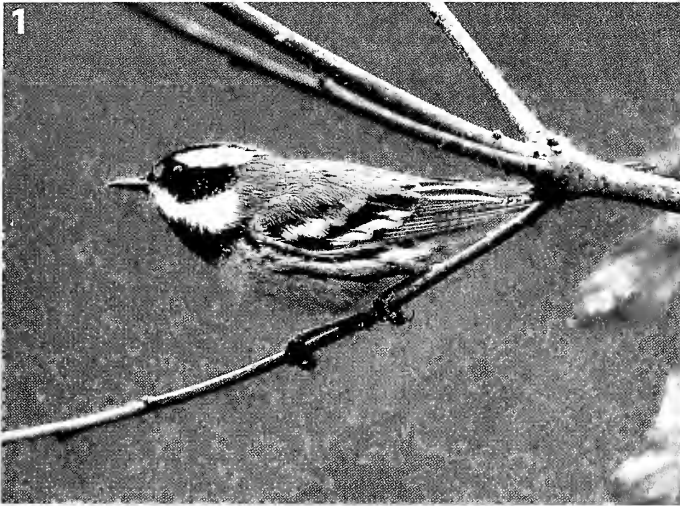
2 • Washington's fifth Black-tailed Gull (all since 2004) was this lovely adult found by Charlie Wright on Puget Sound's Commencement Bay in Tacoma County 13 (here 27) October 2009. It was last reported 7 November, and its departure coincided with a notable decrease in California Gull numbers. *Photograph by John Puschock.*

3 • This immature Northern Wheatear, Oregon's fourth, inhabited a gravel parking area at Whalen County Park, Tillamook County 17-18 (here 18) September 2009. *Photograph by Anne Heyerly.*

4 • Nicely photographed, this Yellow-throated Warbler remained at Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan 7-16 (here 14) November 2009. Its yellow lores and long bill seemed to indicate southeastern origins. *Photograph by Nick Saunders.*

5 • Furnishing a first record for the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas, this immature male Magnificent Hummingbird visited the The Nature Conservancy's Southmost Preserve in Cameron County 6-8 (here 8) September 2009. *Photograph by Gwyn Carmean.*

6 • Although in a location where the species is reported annually, this male Eurasian Wigeon (right) at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge, Dare County, North Carolina on 19 September 2009 was still in eclipse plumage, rarely observed in the Southeast. *Photograph by Jeff Lewis.*



1 • Representing only the fourth state record was this vagrant Black-throated Gray Warbler in Gilmer County, Georgia on 9 November 2009. *Photograph by Roy Brown.*

2 • This juvenile Bar-tailed Godwit found on Upper Newport Bay on 31 October 2009 (here 1 November) remained into the winter and established the first record for Orange County, California. *Photograph by Larry Sansone.*

3 • Northern Jacanas have been all but absent from Texas in the past 15 years, so the appearance of this adult at Choke Canyon State Park, McMullin County from 2 (here 6) November 2009 well into spring 2010 created considerable interest. *Photograph by Lee Pasquali.*

4 • Possibly the first "wild" Purple Swamphen ever recorded in the New World, and certainly the first for Bermuda, was this adult at Bernard Park found 26 October 2009 (here); the bird lingered for study through 6 November. Expert opinion on this individual appears to favor identification as subspecies *madagascariensis*, sometimes split as African Swamphen. Most of the non-native birds established in Florida, by contrast, resemble gray-headed subspecies, such as *poliocephalus*. *Photograph by Andrew Dobson.*

5 • In 2003, Illinois had its first accepted record of Roseate Spoonbill. This bird, the state's fourth, was in Vandalia 22 (here 25) September through 2 October 2009. *Photograph by Wes Serafin.*

6 • Indiana's first documented Roseate Spoonbill, which was discovered at Goose Pond in Greene County 2 June 2009 (here 14 June), remained through 6 September, achieving celebrity status among the state's birders. *Photograph by Jim B. Sullivan.*

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296 Acorn Woodpecker
Melanerpes formicivorus Length 9"
 Common in Pacific Coast forests and at higher elevations in AZ and NM. Highly social. Feeds on acorns, sometimes using sharp mandibles for material. Nests in hole. Heard more easily than bird is seen. Tracks in deciduous forests with yellow and black. Common in eastern PA. Black with white rump and white around face. Both sexes wear red on top of head. Male's more extensive.

297 Lewis' Woodpecker
Melanerpes uropygialis Length 11"
 Found in sweet oaks in the Pacific Coast and inland through Rockies. Wanders in winter. One recently discovered in Kentucky, VA, west of Washington. Gray metallic. Both sexes wear red on top of head. Male's more extensive. Green back, rufous face and belly and gray collar and flanks. Overall aspect very dark.

298 Pileated Woodpecker
Dryocopus pileatus Length 17"
 Eastern forests, mixed and deciduous, extending westward in Canada. Crow-sized. Eastern forests, mixed and deciduous, extending westward in Canada. Crow-sized. Eastern forests, mixed and deciduous, extending westward in Canada. Crow-sized. Eastern forests, mixed and deciduous, extending westward in Canada. Crow-sized.

299 Eastern Kingbird
Tyrannus carolinensis Length 9"
 Tyrannids are noted for their hairlessness, often diving predators such as crows and juncos. Similar. Tumbling courtship flight. Breeds in barnyards, woodlands, and open areas. Widespread throughout the East. Black upperparts, white underparts, and broad white hind wings tail tip.

300 Western Kingbird
Tyrannus verticalis Length 9"
 Tyrannids are noted for their hairlessness, often diving predators such as crows and juncos. Similar. Tumbling courtship flight. Breeds in barnyards, woodlands, and open areas. Widespread throughout the East. Black upperparts, white underparts, and broad white hind wings tail tip.

301 Cassin's Kingbird
Tyrannus vociferans Length 9"
 The members of the Kingbirds. It resides in forest habitats than others. Aggressively defends territory. Breeds in open oak mountains, semi-open high country in the Southwest. Similar to Western, but darker gray head and breast, and broader white chin. Black tail with light tip.

302 Gray Kingbird
Tyrannus carolinensis Length 9"
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 High in flight, takes insects in order. Common along open country and roadways in southern Great Plains. Purplish-gray upperparts, black wings, and salmon pink underparts. Wings and tail very long tail-like black-and-white tail streamers, usually folded. are used in courtship.

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305 Ash-throated Flycatcher
Myiarchus cinerascens Length 9"
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306 Eastern Phoebe
Sayornis phoebe Length 7"
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307 Black Phoebe
Sayornis nigricans Length 7"
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308 Say's Phoebe
Sayornis saya Length 8"
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309 Western Wood-Pewee
Contopus richardsonii Length 7"
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