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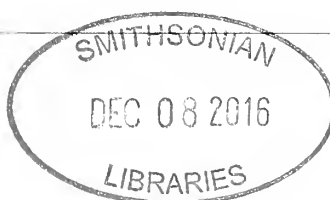


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ON THE COVER: Hudsonian Godwits were in the news from coast to coast in autumn 2011, with large numbers counted from New England (109 in New Hampshire!) to the Carolinas, many of these waylaid by Hurricane Irene and/or Tropical Storm Lee in late August and early September. Skagit County, Washington's second Hudsonian ever was this juvenile at Skagit Wildlife Management Area on 18 August. Photograph by Ryan Merrill.



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Two of three total White-tailed Tropicbirds that passed Cape May Point, New Jersey as Hurricane Irene struck there 28 August 2012. In all, fifteen were reported in association with this storm. Photograph by Tom Johnson.



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Probable Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus cyaneus*) at Cape May, New Jersey

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Abstract

A harrier (*Circus* sp.) with unusual plumage was captured and banded at Cape May, New Jersey 8 November 2010. Measurement of body mass and of wing chord produced values similar to those of the North American subspecies *C. cyaneus hudsonius* (herein called Northern Harrier), but the plumage was much more similar to the nominate subspecies of the Old World (herein called Hen Harrier), potentially supporting the first record of this taxon for the New World. This paper provides an analysis of plumage characters in support of this identification.

Field encounter

On 8 November 2010, while conducting banding operations for long-term raptor research under the auspices of the Cape May Raptor Banding Project, Inc., Katharine E. Duffy, Peter Deahl, and Mike Maurer captured a harrier (*Circus* sp.) at Cape May Point, New Jersey (Figures 1-3). The plumage, with creamy buff, streaky underparts lacking any rufous tones, was suggestive of an adult female Northern Harrier (*C. cyaneus*) of the expected New World subspecies *hudsonius*, but bird's mass (357 g) and wing chord (337 mm) indicated that the bird was a male. Pyle (2008) gives wing chord measurements of 361 mm or less for male *hudsonius* and greater than 361 mm for female *hudsonius*. Mass of *hudsonius* is also less in males (279–406 g) than females (400–651 g) (Schultz and Clark 2012).

Based on its plumage, with juvenal remiges and no trace of molt, the Cape May harrier was aged as a juvenile. Adult male *hudsonius*—with gray upperparts, white underparts with rufous spotting, and lemon yellow eyes—was easily ruled out, but the banders were puzzled by combina-

tion of plumage and measurements, not typical of *hudsonius* in any plumage, and so documented this bird extensively with photographs. (Cape May Raptor Banding Project does not have permits to take samples of tissue or blood.)

Discussion

The Cape May harrier's underparts were creamy buff in base color, with thick brown streaks that extended onto the belly and the undertail coverts, atypical for juvenile *hudsonius* of either sex (Figure 1). Juvenile *hudsonius* has strongly rufous or apricot tones in the underparts, upperwing coverts, and tail (Figures 4-6), all of which were lacking in the Cape May harrier. In addition to strongly rufous underparts, juvenile *hudsonius* sometimes has short, dark streaks on the upper breast, rarely extending to the central belly (cf. Figure 7). In our experience, juvenile male *hudsonius* are typically more streaked on their breasts than are juvenile females and have only narrow streaking extending into the flanks. Dorsally, the primaries of the Cape May harrier had grayish tones, as did the central two rectrices, and the upper surface of all but the two central rectrices showed dark bands wider than the whitish bands (Figure 3). In juvenile *hudsonius* of both sexes, the upperside of the rectrices, except for the central pair, have tawny (not



Figure 1. The eye color of the Cape May harrier was amber with many brown flecks around the pupil. The whitish plumage around the eyes was distinctive, unlike the facial pattern of most juvenile Northern Harriers. Photographs in Figures 1-3 taken 8 November 2010.

Photograph by Katharine E. Duffy.



Figure 2. The Cape May harrier showed thick dark brown streaks below, including on the undertail coverts, which are unstreaked in Northern Harrier of the American subspecies *hudsonius*. Photograph by Katharine E. Duffy.



Figure 3. In the Cape May harrier, the upper surfaces of all rectrices except the central pair showed wide dark bands and narrower whitish bands, unlike Northern Harrier (subspecies *hudsonius*), which has tawny rather than whitish bands (cf. Figure 4). The central pair of rectrices showed grayish bands, and the upper sides of the primaries also showed a grayish cast. Photograph by Katharine E. Duffy.

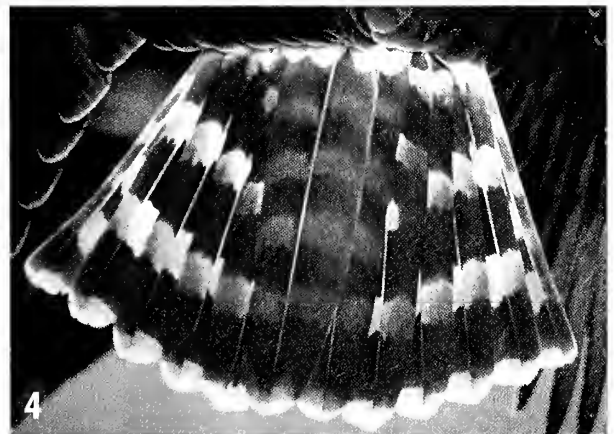


Figure 4. Typical rectrix pattern of a juvenile male Northern Harrier (subspecies *hudsonius*), dorsal view. Pale bands in the rectrices are tawny rather than whitish, as in the Cape May harrier. Photograph by William S. Clark.



Figure 5. Typical head pattern of a juvenile male Northern Harrier. Note the limited buffy markings above and below the eyes and the dark nape and sides of neck, which often produce a hooded appearance ("boa"), unlike Hen Harrier. Photograph by William S. Clark.

whitish) and dark brown bands (Figure 4). Adult female Northern Harriers have cream-colored breasts with thick dark brown streaks; some show a grayish cast to the upper sides of the rectrices and of the central remiges. The Cape May harrier's plumage thus resembled an adult female *hudsonius* in these traits, but the bird was in juvenal plumage and had the body mass and wing chord of a male, well outside the ranges measured in females (Table 1). Adult female *hudsonius*, moreover, have clear lemon yellow or yellow eyes with limited brown flecking. The amber or pale

brownish eye, with many darker brown flecks around the pupil (Figure 1), was also atypical for juvenile *hudsonius*, although Pyle (2008) indicates that some juvenile *hudsonius* have eyes with brown flecks. Juvenile females of both *hudsonius* and nominate *cyaneus* have very dark brownish eyes, another indication of a juvenile male in the case of the Cape May harrier.

By comparing photographs of the Cape May harrier to our photographs of numerous juvenile *hudsonius*, especially males, we confirmed that this juvenile male harrier was clearly not a normal *hudsonius*. In sum-

mary, it differed from juvenile male *hudsonius* by the base color of the underparts and the amount of streaking on the breast and belly; by the buffy, not rufous markings on the upperwing coverts; by the large whitish markings above and below the eyes; and by the grayish cast to the upper sides of the primaries and central rectrices. All juvenile male *hudsonius* we have examined have lacked dark brown streaks in the undertail coverts (Hough 2011)—a feature apparent on most juveniles of the nominate subspecies and shown by the Cape May harrier (cf. Figures 2, 7-8). Moreover, no juvenile *hudsonius* of which we are aware has shown whitish tail bands as in the Cape May harrier (Figure 2); these bands are tawny or buffy in juvenile *hudsonius* (Figure 4).

The number of dark bars on the outer primaries (p7-9) has sometimes been used to distinguish the two subspecies, with juvenile *hudsonius* typically showing 5-7 dark bars on p7-9 and juvenile *cyaneus* 4-5 bars (Martin 2008, Hough 2011, Mullarney and Forsman 2011; cf. Figures 2, 6-8). Of 40 juvenile Northern Harriers banded at Cape May, New Jersey in October 2010 (25 male, 15 female), we noted that the number of dark bars on p7-9 varies, with males averaging 6 bars (range 5-7) and females averaging 5.6 bars (range 5-8). Pyle (2008) indicates ranges of 5-6 bars on p8 in female *hudsonius* and 4-5 bars in *cyaneus*. The Cape May harrier showed 5, 5, and 4/5 bars on p7-9, respectively, thus in the zone of overlap between the subspecies.

Because of the many plumage characters of the Cape May harrier that did not fit *hudsonius*, we compared it further to descriptions and photographs of juvenile males of the nominate subspecies, first using criteria in Mullarney and Forsman (2011). The two subspecies are almost identical in size (Clark 1999, Forsman 1999), so we concentrated specifically on characters of juveniles and especially juvenile males. The results of the comparison are summarized in Table 1. One apparently anomalous feature of the Cape May harrier for juvenile male Hen Harrier was the paleness of the lesser underwing coverts, which are usually buffy in Hen Harriers of this age and sex; however, the undersides of the wings and body of the Cape May harrier are very similar in both color and pattern to those of juvenile male Hen Harrier in Plates 8 and 9 of Mullarney and Forsman (2011). Grayish uppersides of the central rectrices

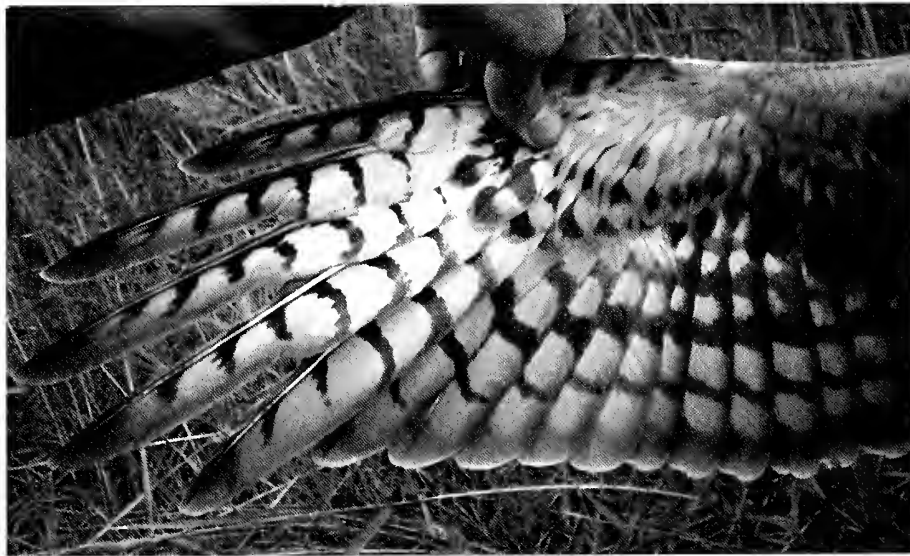


Figure 6. Underwing of typical juvenile male Northern Harrier (subspecies *hudsonius*), showing 6-7 dark bands on p7-9. Photograph by Bob Studholme.



Figure 7. Unusual juvenile male Northern Harrier with completely streaked breast. Note that the undertail coverts are unstreaked. Photograph by William S. Clark.

and upper primaries have been recorded in juvenile male Hen Harriers (William S. Clark, pers. obs.; Andrea Corso, pers. comm.).

We also compared photographs of the Cape May harrier with recent photographs of Hen Harriers, especially of juvenile males, presented by Blasco-Zumeta and Heinze (2011). According to this reference, the Cape May harrier's buff-tipped greater secondary underwing coverts (Figure 2) are typical of juvenile Hen Harrier and an especially useful character in establishing age as juvenile. The Cape May harrier's other characters were identical to or very similar to those shown for juvenile Hen Harriers, especially males, including the whitish facial markings; the pattern of crown and nape; the markings on remiges; the pattern of undertail coverts; the pattern and color of rectrices; and the marks on upperwing coverts (Figures 1-3). The ground color of the Cape May harrier's lesser secondary underwing coverts differed from typical Hen Harriers, though the pattern on the remainder of the secondary underwing coverts was typical of Hen Harrier. Blasco-Zumeta and Heinze (2011) do not depict Hen Harriers with whitish lesser secondary underwing coverts with brown streaks, but three photographs of juvenile Hen Harriers in Forsman (1999; plates 198, 199, and 201) do show such a pattern, very similar to the Cape May harrier (cf. Figure 8). The Cape May harrier had a generally darker head and upperparts than did most of the juvenile Hens shown in Blasco-Zumeta and Heinze (2011), but several individuals depicted in that reference are nearly as dark. Juvenile Northern Harriers typically have a streaked nape overlain with a dark brown wash that extends around the sides and under the throat, forming a noticeable "boa." At a distance, this often creates a hooded appearance in Northern, not seen in Hen Harrier (cf. Figures 5, 8). The Cape May harrier did not show this hooded pattern. Blasco-Zumeta and Heinze (2011) do not depict Hen Harriers of any age or sex with eyes similar to the Cape May harrier, and indeed the eye color of the Cape May harrier was not typical of either subspecies at any age.

Eurasian raptor experts who were consulted about the identification of

Table 1. Comparison of traits of the Cape May harrier with juvenile male and female Northern Harriers and Hen Harriers.

Character	Cape May Harrier	Northern Harrier ^a		Hen Harrier ^b	
	Juv. male	Juv. males	Juv. Females	Juv. males	Juv. Females
Mass	357 g	279–406 g (n=46)	400–651g (n=49)	300–400 g ^c	370–708 g ^c
Wing chord	337 mm	301–342 mm, 330 mm mean (n=47)	360–386 mm, 371 mm mean (n=47)	323–338 mm, 331 mm mean (n=19)	355–385 mm, 370 mm mean (n=28)
Eye color	Pale brown with brown flecks	Pale gray, pale yellow, or pale brown	Dark chocolate brown	Gray or gray-brown, but some are yellow by autumn ^e	Dark brown
Breast color and markings	Cream colored, with thick brown streaks extending onto belly	Rufous, usually unstreaked, sometimes heavy dark streaking on upper breast rarely extending onto lower breast	Rufous, usually unstreaked. Rarely heavy dark streaking on upper breast	Buffy with thick dark streaking, but some are whitish with brown streaking ^d	Buffy with thick dark streaking
Upper tail	All rectrices except central pair with wide dark bands and narrower whitish bands	Tail evenly barred with tawny and dark bands	Tail evenly barred with tawny and dark bands	Tail evenly barred dark and light bands; upper surface of light bands is slightly tawny	Tail evenly barred dark and light bands; upper surface of light bands is tawny
Undertail coverts	Cream colored, with narrow brown streaks	Rufous, unstreaked	Rufous, unstreaked	Buffy with narrow brown streaks	Buffy with narrow brown streaks
Facial markings	Large and white	Smaller and buffy	Smaller and buffy	Large and white	Large and white
Central rectrices	Pale bands with grayish cast	Pale bands pale to medium brown	Pale bands pale to medium brown	Pale bands gray-brown, occasionally gray	Pale bands pale brown.
Number of dark bars on p7-9	5, 5, and 4/5	Usually 5–7	Usually 5–7	Usually 5 or fewer	Usually 5 or fewer
Upperwing coverts	Buffy markings	Rufous markings	Rufous markings	Buffy markings	Buffy markings
Uppersides of primaries	Grayish cast	No grayish cast recorded	No grayish cast recorded	Grayish cast	No grayish cast recorded
Lesser underwing coverts	Whitish	Pale buff	Pale buff	Rufous	Pale buff

^a From C. Schultz and W. S. Clark, unless otherwise noted.

^b From Blasco-Zumeta and Heinze (2011), unless otherwise noted.

^c From Ferguson-Lees and Christie (2001).

^d From Cramp and Simmons (1980).

^e Dick Forsman (pers. comm.).

the Cape May harrier were not uniformly supportive of its identification as Hen Harrier; some felt that the bird was within the range of variation of Hen Harrier, but others did not. All North American authorities who reviewed the photographs were in agreement, and the authors believe, that this harrier was outside the known range of variation in Northern Harrier. The plumage characters of the Cape May harrier plumage most closely match those of juvenile male Hen Harrier, with the exception of the whitish lesser secondary underwing coverts. It is conceivable that the Cape May harrier was a Hen Harrier x Northern Harrier hybrid, but none of the bird's plumage characters or other features suggest hybrid derivation.

Hen Harrier is unrecorded in North America, but there are records of other European raptors in eastern North America, including Marsh Harrier (*C. aeruginosus*), Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*), Eurasian Honey-Buzzard (*Pernis apivoris*), Eurasian Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), Red-footed Falcon (*F. vespertinus*), and Eurasian Hobby (*F. subbuteo*) (A.O.U. 1998 and Supplements). Some authorities (e.g., Simmons and Simmons 2000, Ferguson-Lees and Christie 2001) consider Northern Harrier a full species, *Circus hudsonius*, distinct from Hen Harrier; the American Ornithologists' Union (1998) currently maintains the taxa as conspecific.

Acknowledgments

We thank Paul Napier and the Cape May Raptor Banding Group for collecting data

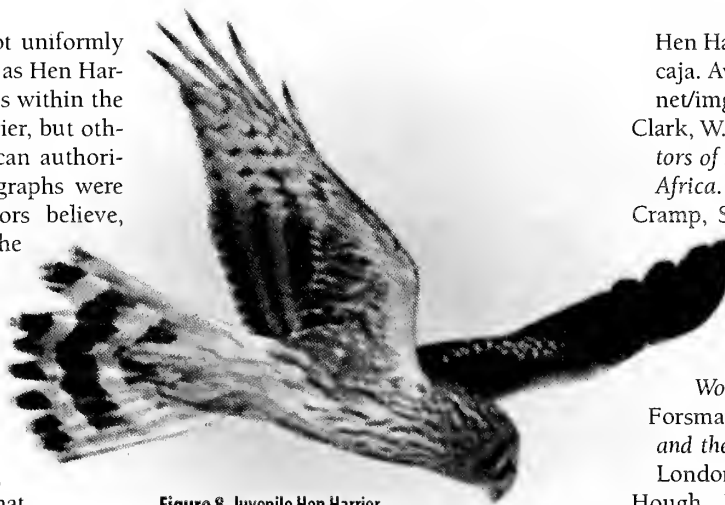


Figure 8. Juvenile Hen Harrier photographed in Wales, showing many of the characters of the Cape May harrier, including almost whitish lesser secondary underwing coverts and streaked undertail coverts. Note also the minimal dark banding (five bands or fewer) in p7-9. Photograph by Rob Davies.

and Robert Studholme for providing photographic resources. Ralph Buij, Andrea Corso, Rob Davies, Dick Forsman, Martin Garner, Gerd-Michael Heinze, Jerry Liguori, Stephen Murphey, Peter Pyle, Rob Simmons, Brian L. Sullivan, and Javier Blasco-Zumeta studied the photographs of the Cape May harrier and suggested identifications. We are most grateful for their work on this interesting bird.

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American Birding Association

Editors' Notebook

With gratitude, we present our annual list of donors to the "Friends of *North American Birds* Fund," which raised nearly \$4000 in 2011, despite trying economic times over our entire reporting area. We could not offer these burly 200-page issues without the support of our generous contributors, many of whom have donated for a decade. From all of us on the editorial team, *thank you*.

We have experienced many behind-the-scenes changes over the past few months. After serving as Regional Editor since 1978, Bill Tweit has decided to bird more, and edit less, and so has handed over responsibility for Oregon records to Ryan Merrill, a most capable birder whose photographs are known to readers and who will focus on records of seabirds in particular. Thanks, Bill, for 33 years of hard, high-quality work!

We are much saddened by the loss of Brian Dalzell, who served as Regional Editor for the Atlantic Provinces & St. Pierre et Miquelon region for over a decade and who was gearing up to write his first report for the Fall Migration when he passed away in November last year. His work was

always polished, his communication spirited and humorous. We miss him terribly. We hope to be able to present the highlights of autumn 2011 for that region in a future issue, but we have not identified a successor for the fall season as yet.

Another great loss to the journal in 2011 was the departure of Bryan Patrick for his home state of Arizona. Bryan held the position of Director of Publications for the past seven years but kept the publications' trains running on time for almost a decade, in addition to his many other duties at the ABA. Over that period, Bryan managed not only to keep the journal's finances in good order—and to keep the peace between publishers, graphic designers, advertisers, editors, board, staff, executives, and presses—he also went out of his way to present the case for preservation of this journal when it was on the chopping block several times. Looking back over his tenure, we can say that *North American Birds* owes its continued existence to Bryan's trademark diligence, patience, and industriousness. In the decade during which we worked together, Bryan distinguished himself as the most constructive and con-

scientious colleague imaginable, and his many contributions to the production of the journal are sorely missed. On the bright side, we celebrate that over the same ten-year span, Bryan became not just a birder but an excellent one, and his bird photography shows the disciplined eye that he trained on his managerial work. The *North American Birds* editorial team wishes him the very best of birding and life in his new digs! We hope to see many of his photographs in these pages in issues to come.

Corrigenda

In the previous fall migration issue, the photograph of the Snowy Plover from Nova Scotia (*North American Birds* 65: 30) has a caption indicating that the bird was first observed 4 September 2010; the correct date of discovery is 5 September 2010. The caption for the photographs of the Chinese Pond-Heron by Rodney Ungwilk, Jr. in the previous issue indicates that the bird was seen in June; the bird was observed only in July, as noted correctly in the Alaska regional report. Thanks to Paul Goossen and Thede Tobish for these corrections.

~ Friends of *North American Birds* Donors, 2011 ~

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Ash-throated Flycatchers in Maryland

Figure 1. Maryland's first banded Ash-throated Flycatcher was caught and released on 9 November 2011 (here). It was captured during regular banding operations at Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory in Queen Anne's County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Another Ash-throated Flycatcher was caught at the same location 30 November (Figures 4-6). Both individuals were aged as hatch-year birds by molt limits in the remiges. Ash-throated Flycatchers undergo an incomplete pre-formative molt that starts on the breeding grounds, is suspended during migration, and resumes on the wintering grounds. Figures 2 and 5 illustrate the extent of feather replacement in the wing between these two individuals. In the East, only three other Ash-throateds had been banded previously.

Figure 2. This image of the 9 November Ash-throated Flycatcher shows molt limits within and between feather tracts; two generations of feathers are evident. Primaries 1-5, tertials 8 and 9, and the inner greater and median coverts have been replaced during the pre-formative molt. The pre-formative molt was suspended during migration, resulting in the retention of primaries 6-10, secondaries 1-7, the outer four greater and median coverts, all primary coverts, carpal coverts, and the aiula complex. Notice the lack of wear, darker brown feather and vane, and glossy sheen on the replaced feathers.

Figure 3. In this image of the 9 November Ash-throated Flycatcher, it is clear that replacement of the rectrices has been suspended during the pre-formative molt. The four central rectrices have been replaced. Note the difference in wear, shape, and quality between the two feather generations and how the rufous of the inner webs of the outer rectrices extends to the tip of the feather, similar to the pattern seen in Great Crested Flycatcher. Hatch-year Ash-throated Flycatchers show this pattern, but adults do not. Unlike this bird, most Ash-throated Flycatchers seen in the East in autumn have rectrices of the same generation.



Figure 4. Remarkably, a second Ash-throated Flycatcher was caught at Foreman's Branch Bird Observatory in fall 2011, this one on 30 November.



Fig. 4

Figure 5. In comparison to the 9 November Ash-throated, this individual captured 30 November had replaced many more feathers during the pre-formative molt. Only secondaries 5 and 6 are retained, and all other secondaries and primaries have been replaced. All the lesser, median, and greater coverts, the carpal coverts, and the alula complex have also been replaced and show contrast with the retained juvenal primary coverts.



Fig. 5

Figure 6. The 30 November individual had completely replaced all rectrices during the pre-formative molt. Note how the brown of the outer web extends into the inner web, wrapping around the rufous on the outer rectrix, typical of Ash-throated Flycatcher. Most November Ash-throated Flycatchers seen in the East have this tail pattern.



Fig. 6

—Dan Small

All photographs by Dan Small.

Birding Journal

Lucy's Warbler in Michigan



Without doubt, 12 November 2012 provided the most fortuitous and improbable Michigan birding I've ever experienced. Earlier that week, Brad Murphy and I planned a trip to Whitefish Point Bird Observatory, in Chippewa County of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, to search for Lake Superior's first Northern Gannet, an adult first found on 6 October by Leonard Graf. Brad had already made several unsuccessful trips for this erratic visitor, so I agreed to join him for yet another search. At sunrise, we settled in to conduct the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory's daily waterbird count, hoping the gannet would make an appearance. After several hours, and no gannet, Brad's enthusiasm began to wane. Karl Overman also arrived in hopes of seeing the gannet, and just as Karl was leaving, Brad spotted the gannet winging its way past the Point.

After our eight-hour stint on the waterbird count, Brad was thinking about heading for home, but we decided to bird a bit longer. It was getting late, about 4:00 p.m., so we decided to end the day by the Observatory feeding stations. While enjoying the various feeder birds, including late Lark and Clay-colored Sparrows, we were joined by Karl Overman and Ken Mettje, Jr. As we chatted about the gannet and the unseasonably pleasant weather, we heard a late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher call from the nearby Jackpines. Karl didn't hear the gnatcatcher, so we headed in that direction to locate it.

We quickly found the gnatcatcher, but I also got a quick glimpse of a small gray bird and called out "kinglet?" Another quick look and I knew it was some sort of warbler, but which one? I called out "warbler!" and chaos ensued. Brad found it next and suggested "Virginia's Warbler," but I was sure the undertail coverts were not yellow. Karl was the next to get on the bird and cautiously suggested Lucy's Warbler. At this point, we were in disbelief and panic, knowing we had found a great rarity but struggling to get decent looks. For the next 30 minutes, we frantically followed the warbler and gnatcatcher in a chickadee flock working around the Point. Eventually, we were all able to get good looks at the Lucy's Warbler, and Karl was even able to get some photographs of this elusive little bird. A quick text message to Scott Schuette, the waterbird counter whom we had relieved for the day, allowed him to make it to the Point in time to share the excitement. The merriment continued into the evening at the Yukon Inn.

Lucy's Warbler is rarely found out of range. This record marks only the second record east of the Mississippi River, the other coming from Ipswich, Massachusetts on 1 December 1979. The only other "eastern" vagrant records involve two December records from Louisiana and one November record from northern Alberta.

—Adam M. Byrne

All photographs by Karl Overman, 12 November 2011.



In Memoriam:

Brian Duane Eugene Dalzell

March 2, 1957 – November 14, 2011

Brian Dalzell was born in Middleton, Nova Scotia. He grew up in Moncton, New Brunswick, the oldest of four boys, but his father was from Grand Manan Island, where the family spent summers, enjoying nature to its fullest; it is New Brunswick's finest birding hotspot, after all. Brian began watching birds at age 11 and attended his first Moncton Naturalist Club meeting at 14, where he was mentored by Mary Majka, New Brunswick's most prominent environmentalist, of whom Brian said: "Mary helped me find and define my passion, just by recognizing my potential." And Brian's new passion led him to become the youngest person in New Brunswick to see 300 species of birds within the province (a record now surpassed by his good friend Alain Clavette, who took the photograph included in this page).

In 1987, Brian graduated with a degree in journalism from Holland College, Prince Edward Island, and he used his writing skills in service of birds and the environment. It was soon after his graduation that I met him for the first time, in 1988, the first full year I lived in the Maritimes. Even though (or because) I was new to the area, I was invited to work as regional coordinator for the first *Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas*; the third season was commencing, and there were coordinator vacancies due to attrition. After that third summer, the Atlas Coordinator stepped down, and Brian was brought on board to ensure successful completion of the project. As Peter Payzant, on the Atlas Steering Committee, recalls:

A lot of New Brunswick still had inadequate coverage, so Brian agreed to spend the summer surveying. The atlas project rented a van for him, and he lived out of it all summer, driving around the back roads and logging trails. When he returned the van to the rental agency, he was amused to discover that at some point in the summer he had driven over

a live rifle bullet and gotten it embedded in one of the tires, and that for some months he had been driving around with the bullet just a few feet away from him.

On another occasion, we joined Brian in Cape Breton to look for Boreal Owls. At 2:00 a.m. on a frosty morning, Brian, seemingly at random, said, "This looks like a good spot." We played a few seconds of owl calls ... and within a few minutes there was a very irritated Boreal Owl mobbing Brian there in the moonlight. It was quite a sight to see him happily waving his arms above his head in self-defense as we ticked the first record for Boreal Owl in the atlas project.

Brian, through his leadership and enthusiasm, saved the atlas project and brought it to fruition. In the process, he personally submitted more than 14,500 reports, more than twice as many as the next most productive atlaser, and he was tireless (and successful) in ensuring that all of us local coordinators managed to finish our respective regions. As Fred Scott remembers:

Brian Dalzell, in addition to superb atlasing skills, brought an apparently inexhaustible capacity to suffer heat, rain, black flies, and cold canned

food while living out of a rented van. Without him there would have been huge blank areas in northern and central New Brunswick.

Brian didn't slow down after the atlas was published. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the Grand Manan Bird Observatory in 1995, which is now the Fundy Bird Observatory. He was a founding member and first secretary of the New Brunswick Bird Records Committee and was the author of *Grand Manan Birds* (1991) and one of the authors of *Birds of New Brunswick: An Annotated List* (2004). He undertook Breeding Bird Surveys, Christmas Bird Counts beyond count period, environmental field survey work, and of course since 1999 served as an excellent Regional Editor of the Atlantic Provinces region for *North American Birds*.

One of Brian's obsessions was particularly relevant with respect to *North American Birds*. He was a student of bird distribution within the Atlantic Provinces and enjoyed visiting remote and seldom-birded locations. He had a special interest in Labrador, which he visited on numerous occasions in all seasons, and also made frequent trips to Prince Edward Island. Cheryl Davis remembers Brian's many visits to Wabush, where she lived for six years.

He encouraged me to start up the first official Christmas Bird Count the second winter we were in Western Labrador, followed by the Migratory Count in the spring. A pretty tricky situation considering the lack of roads in the area ... and the lack of birders. These two events are still being run by local birders. Brian put Lab West on the map. I remember being frustrated when opening up bird guides and not seeing common birds of Lab West on the maps. Now if you see a dot in Western Labrador, Brian had something to do with it.



I can think of no birder who was more helpful to beginners than Brian, and he felt it his duty to introduce the joys of nature to the world. Roger Leblanc comments:

I met Brian for the very first time on to a trip to Pointe Lepreau with the Moncton Naturalist Club. As we were standing on the point looking at birds that were all very new for me, here came this "bear" of a man (not only the shape of the beast but some of its character). Brian was continually helping out anyone who needed an identification tip. Later, on Grand Manan, I can still see Brian standing in the middle of a group of school kids with a banded Yellow Warbler in the palm of his hand ready to let it resume its migration. You should have seen the eyes and open mouths of the kids. We need much more of that in this world. Brian leaves us a great legacy.

I'll leave the final memory to Alain Clavette, one of the young birders whom Brian encouraged in his passion for birding:

I can't stop thinking about him, all those hours I spent with him as a birding buddy. I remember how much it meant to me in 1997, when I was walking back from seeing my big 300th species, and in the distance I saw Brian: he had heard I was at the site to see the Cerulean Warbler found earlier that day. He gave me a big hug (I am a large guy, but let me tell you, Brian could squeeze) and he said to me in a very official tone: "Congratulations my friend! I am very happy that it's YOU that now holds the title of being the youngest to reach 300 in New Brunswick!" Brian is also the one who taught me to identify birds without lifting my binoculars (and I thank you for that, Brian). I miss him so much already.

As do we all. With Brian's death, the birding community in New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada is diminished, and while we are remorseful to lose his leadership on so many future projects, we are ever grateful for all that he accomplished.

—Blake Maybank



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The Changing Seasons: Driven

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Described in written codices since the time of Tutankhamun, over 3300 years ago, and surely in practice earlier, the interpretation of birds' appearances, vocalizations, and flights still preoccupies human thought. In ancient times, the appearance of rare birds provoked intense wonder, and the same is true in the twenty-first century. How did these birds get here? Are there patterns in their appearances? Can their appearances be predicted? And what meaning might be derived from them? Though the human perceptual framework has shifted slowly from the religious-political toward the scientific, the fascination with birds, and our desire to make sense of their appearances, endures.

In this essay, we'll look again at themes familiar to readers of this column—late autumn reverse migrants, “slingshot” migrants, and hurricane-borne vagrants—but with some new twists. Why, for instance, did Ash-throated Flycatchers arrive early as vagrants in the East in fall 2011, and in worn juvenal plumage? Why were almost no Cave Swallows seen in the usual November window in the Midwest and East? What meteorological forces brought almost simultaneous fallouts of southern passerines in New England and of Yellow-billed Cuckoos on Bermuda in early October? And how do we understand the distribution of bird records in the wake of Hurricane *Irene*, whose

landfalls in North Carolina, New Jersey, and New York brought a surfeit of seabirds, as far north as Vermont, including more White-tailed Tropicbirds than ever before recorded after a hurricane—three times the number found after the Great New England Hurricane of September 1938?

Drought-driven: Western birds east

For Ash-throated Flycatchers in the East, a pattern of what we call vagrancy has been evident for about three decades (Murphy 1982; see also the special feature, in this issue). Though rare, these flycatchers appear regularly on the East Coast (Florida to Atlantic Provinces) from early November

Captivating thousands of birders in autumn 2011 was the landfall of Hurricane *Irene*, the first hurricane in more than 70 years to push pelagic species such as White-tailed Tropicbird into New York and New England in numbers. This young Bridled Tern, one of as many as 16 found in Rhode Island during and after *Irene*'s passage, was photographed at Little Compton, Newport County on 28 August 2011. There has been a gradual increase in records of Bridled Tern in waters from New Jersey to Massachusetts in recent decades, and it is possible that some of the Bridled Terns observed during and after *Irene* were not from the Caribbean or even the Carolinas but from waters closer to their point of discovery—thus not so much entrained in the storm as driven by the storm. Photograph by Geoff Dennis.



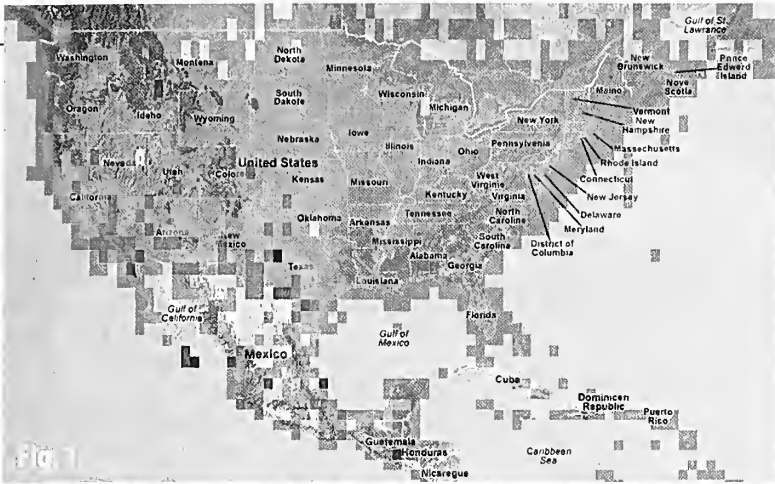


Fig. 1

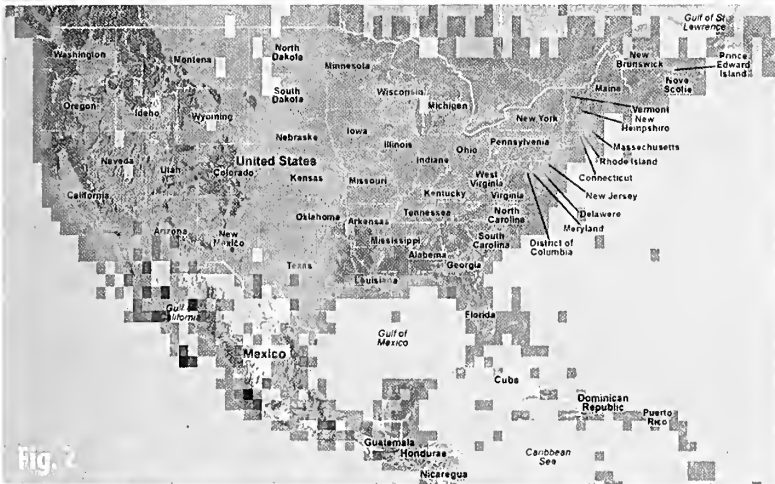


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

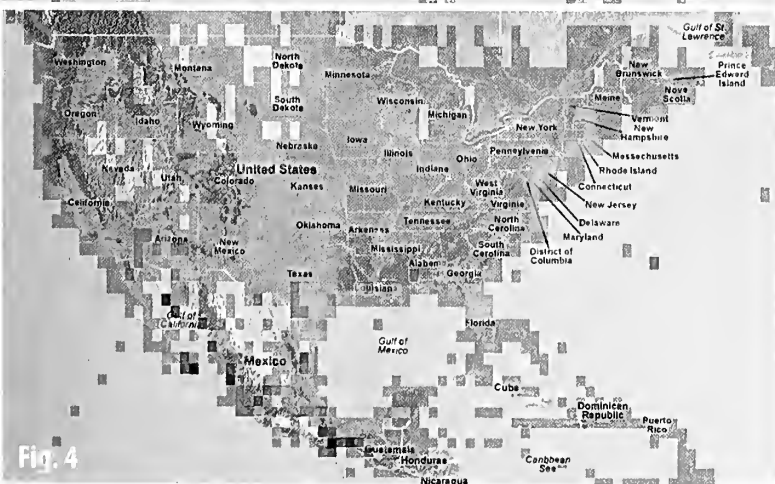


Fig. 4

through mid-December. During this time frame, at least north of Florida, a birder is much more likely to encounter an Ash-throated Flycatcher in the East than a Great Crested Flycatcher, a species typically absent in this area after the first week of October. Over the past two decades, the East has also seen a large flight of Cave Swallows, sometimes numbering in the hundreds, during the same time of year. Remarkably, records of either Ash-throated Flycatchers or Cave Swallows in this region earlier than 1 November have been exceptionally rare.

Fall 2011, however, changed both patterns abruptly. Very few Cave Swallows were noted in the East, but many Ash-throated Flycatchers were seen—a full month ahead of normal. At least 17 different Ash-throateds appeared east of the 100th meridian in September and October, far more than ever before in this period. These included up to three total at Plum Island, Massachusetts 27 September and 7-9 October; one at Boston 11-12 October; one on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick 15 October; one on Cuttyhunk Island, Massachusetts 16 October; one at Cape May 17-18 October; one on Monhegan Island, Maine 23 October; and one at Salisbury State Reservation, Massachusetts 28 October through 1 November. Are these September/October 2011 records really that unusual? On the East Coast, previously accepted September records include one at Belmont, Massachusetts 30 August 2001; one at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, New York 6 September 2000; and one at Assateague National Seashore, Maryland 29 September 2001. Before 2011, there are six total eastern reports of the species for the month of October in eBird, and all are from 25-31 October (part of the familiar early November through December pattern); very few other October reports have been accepted by state committees. Figures 1-4 represent data from 1900-2011 for September, October, November, and December.

State monographs provide further context on Ash-throated Flycatchers in the East. For New York, Levine (1998) lists eight fall and two spring records; all autumn records are from 2 November or later, except for one at Jacob Riis Park on 24 October 1992. Of 11 accepted records for New Jersey through 1999 (Walsh et al. 1999), all appeared in the window 11 November through 10 January, except for one record 24-31 October 1987 at Sandy Hook. Of 14 accepted records in Maryland, all have occurred 11 November through 3 January, except for the exceptional bird on 29 September 2001 mentioned above. In Virginia, the 16 state records through 2006 (Rottenborn and Brinkley 2007) are all from 6 November through 6 March. In Massachusetts, Veit and Petersen (1993) cite seven fall records in the period 1 No-

Figures 1-4. Records of Ash-throated Flycatcher in North America from eBird, 1900-2011, from the months of September, October, November, and December. Each square is 100 km on a side; squares with purplish coloration indicate that at least one record is known from that quadrant. The degree of darkness indicates frequency of reports from complete checklists: 0-2% (lightest lavender), 2-10% (lilac), 10-25% (thistle), and 25-40% (true purple), and 40-100% (eggplant).

U.S. Drought Monitor

October 25, 2011
Valld 8 a.m. EDT

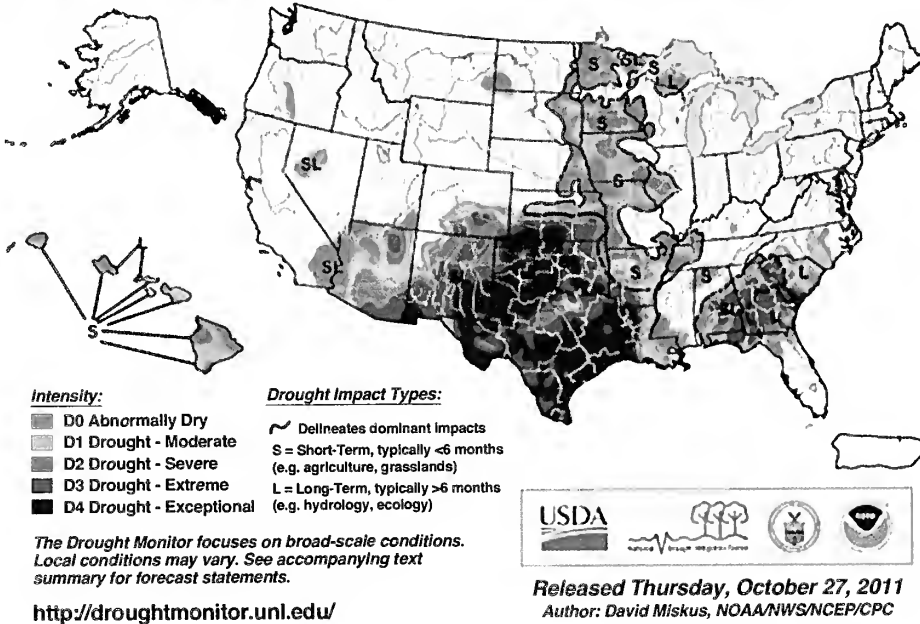


Figure 5. The region of extreme drought in the Southwest corresponds roughly to the typical distribution of Ash-throated Flycatcher east of the Rocky Mountains in August and September (see Figure 6). Graphics courtesy of the U.S. Drought Monitor.

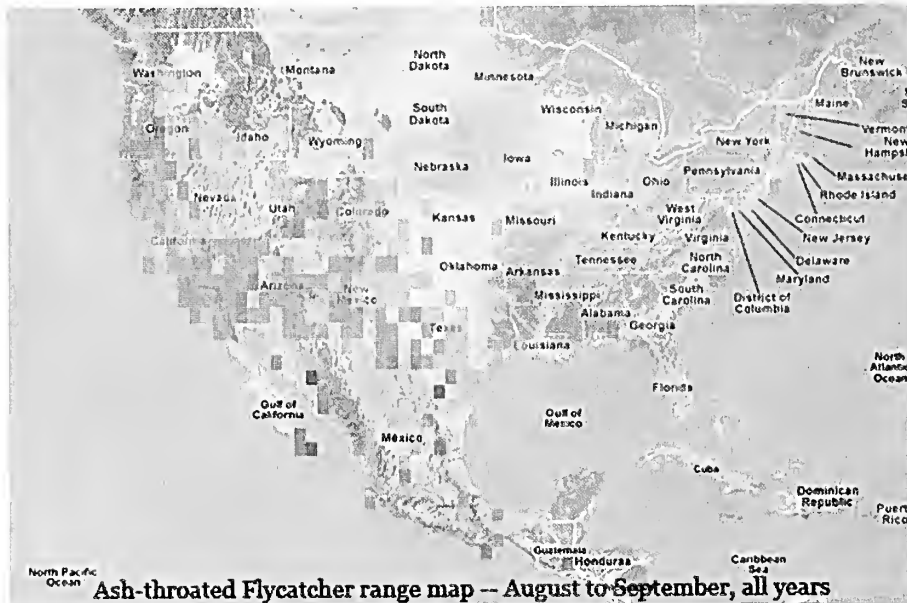


Figure 6. Records of Ash-throated Flycatcher in the eBird database for the months of August and September, 1900-2011.

ember through January; since 1993, there have been ten accepted fall records in the 7 November through 26 December period, except for the exceptional August sight record noted above. Additional records from the Carolinas north to Atlantic Canada

show the same pattern: most records from early November through early January, with very few earlier records.

So if we have established that September-October 2011 was indeed unusual, what could account for so many early Ash-throat-

ed Flycatchers? First, it is important to acknowledge changes in modern birding and how they relate to the discovery and documentation of uncommon birds. Since birders today are better connected (via eBird, regional listserves, and instant cell phone contact) than in the past, more people see uncommon species and are alerted to look for them in their areas; the “lag time” in getting the news has been reduced almost to zero. The increase in numbers of avid birders probably also means that the proportion of rarities present in a region that gets discovered is higher than in the past. With the advent of digital photography, the proportion of unusual birds that is documented has likely increased. And finally, our acumen has increased: more people are likely to check late-season flycatchers, hummingbirds, warblers, and other unseasonable finds for rarer species than they might have checked two decades ago. These days, many birders instantly respond to any report of these species to check for vagrants. Nevertheless, these changes in birding coverage and awareness have been gradual, and 2011 still stands out from all other years in the past decade in terms of the number of October Ash-throateds in the East.

Interestingly, the Ash-throateds in October 2011 were in juvenal plumage, with all-rufous tails and very worn wings. Although immature flycatchers (as opposed to adults) are almost always the ones to turn up out of range, their appearance in this state of plumage suggests that these birds were on the move *before* molting. Most November/December Ash-throateds in the East have been young birds, but they have typically already molted most tail feathers and body feathers and thus appear similar to fresh adults but often have a few juvenal feathers retained in the wings. So the plumage state of 2011 vagrants was also unusual.

Freshly plumaged immature Ash-throateds have traditionally arrived in conjunction with southwesterly winds ahead of low-pressure systems’ passage in November—the same winds associated with midwestern and eastern records of Cave Swallows since the 1990s. A connection between Cave Swallow and Ash-throated Flycatcher records does seem to make sense, as both species occur commonly in a similar area of Texas. The long cold fronts that herald Cave Swallow movements provide southwesterlies blowing from central Texas to the Great Lakes and/or Northeast. So it seems reasonable to suggest that the swallows and flycatchers are

on the move in Texas or Mexico and move northeastward in association with this air flow. But the much earlier movement of the 2011 birds—and their appearance before completing molt—suggests that something different occurred this season.

2011 was notable for the record-setting drought in Texas, the southern Great Plains, and the Southwest (Figure 5; see Brinkley 2012). Ash-throated Flycatchers are present in these regions in late summer and early autumn (Figure 6), so it may have been the case that fledged birds were fleeing the drought in early autumn 2011 and that a few of these birds ended up in coastal areas far to the east. Their ultimate appearance on the East Coast was likely abetted by the unusually persistent, often strong southwesterly winds that had dominated the region through much of October, but the larger question is why these birds were on the move at all. (Birds migrating over land are not “swept up” randomly by winds in most cases, but birds on the move do seem subject to longitudinal shifts, or even engage in reverse flights, when such winds occur.)

“Molt migration”—in which a bird performs partial migration after breeding or fledging in order to molt in an area with more plentiful food resources—appears to be a commoner phenomenon in western landbirds than in eastern. Molt migrations often occur before the classic “fall migration” to wintering grounds and so are effectively the first of several post-breeding movements. Do Ash-throated Flycatchers have a molt migration? If so, it might make sense that areas typically used for molt migration would be unsuitable for molting when stricken by extreme drought, and so the flycatchers might then disperse more broadly in search of more suitable areas. Perhaps the combination of Ash-throateds moving more widely in search of suitable molting grounds earlier and the dominant southwesterlies combined to produce the unusual early autumn records.

Other western species were widely reported east of range in autumn 2011. Sage Thrasher was also fleeing something this fall, and the pattern was particularly evident in Texas, beginning in late September. As the fall continued, unprecedented numbers were present from central Texas southward through the Rio Grande valley; the two earliest records of this past fall, from Florida and Illinois, are likely connected to the eastward shift. Other species that occurred in elevated numbers in central Texas were



Figure 7. A species that is rarely detected in the eastern half of Texas, Western Wood-Pewee, was found twice in fall 2011, including this calling bird on Mustang Island 1-2 (here 1) October. During the summer, many individuals of this species were noted lingering in lowland areas where they do not breed in the West, weeks after breeding has normally commenced. Widespread drought and very large wildfires may have been the reason for this behavior. Photograph by Marcin Kotjka.

Western and Mountain Bluebirds and Brewer's Sparrow. Brewer's Sparrow showed an obvious eastward shift, including records from Illinois in November and Virginia beginning in December. A great rarity in the East, Brewer's Sparrow was known from just a few previous records there. Coincidence? We think not.

Was Western Wood-Pewee part of this phenomenon, with records this season from Virginia, Indiana, Louisiana (possibly two birds), and eastern Texas (two birds), or were these strays perhaps products of the extreme fire season in the Southwest, as suggested in the previous essay (Brinkley 2012)? And what about extralimital Say's Phoebe? Maps generated by eBird do show so obvious an eastward shift in the core range for fall/winter Sage Thrashers, but no similar pattern is evident for Say's Phoebe, which was nevertheless widely reported east of range this past fall. Eastern records may involve birds straying during migration from the far Northwest (e.g., Alaska, Yukon and Northwest Territories) rather than birds from the Southwest, as with Cave Swallows and Ash-throated Flycatchers. The same is possibly true of Mountain Bluebirds, and several observers commented that the Vir-

ginia Brewer's Sparrow appeared to fit descriptions of subspecies *taverneri*, Timberline Sparrow, which breeds in the northernmost reaches of the species' range. Dickcissels were clearly affected by the drought by displacement eastward in summer, but numbers in the East in fall were not elevated above the average, except in Nova Scotia, where 11 fell out with the southeastern species in early October. And no Cassin's Sparrows were seen far out of range, in contrast to the spring and early summer pattern. But what about the more expected Lark Sparrow? Currently, it is difficult to understand fluctuations in autumn reports of such rare but regular species; too many reports remain in local databases or on listserves, and the lack of centralization makes compilation of these records prohibitively time-consuming for even an assiduous researcher.

To understand the potential connection between drought and bird vagrancy, especially during periods of exceptional drought, as in 2012, we would benefit greatly from having all material from state and provincial records committees collocated. As is true of local listserve reports, data in the archives of records committee are unconnected, and

many are essentially private, even in our marvelous Information Age. Several records committees, including those in Vermont, Colorado, Ohio, and Massachusetts, have entered their entire database into eBird. Having records from all states and provinces in one public, integrated, geo-referenced database would make it possible to conduct rapid, accurate comparisons of bird movements as they relate to drought and other phenomena. Currently, bird researchers interested in such work must correspond with secretaries of six-dozen committees—a laborious endeavor. We encourage all records committees, worldwide, to archive their records in eBird, so that everyone might have access to raw data and eBird data output on the continental level.

Wind-driven: Slingshot

So-called “slingshot” effects, in which typically southern species appear at sites far to the north of their expected ranges and destinations, have been the topic of much conjecture and, recently, careful analysis (e.g., McLaren 1981, McLaren et al. 2000). We do have some understanding of how these events occur in North America, especially in spring (McLaren and McLaren 2009). For instance, strong low-pressure features that transit the Gulf of Mexico often entrain and displace spring migrants as they are attempting to cross the Gulf. Most such systems displace the birds eastward until they escape its effects; birds continue flying until they reach land and then fall out. Autumn events of this sort are less well understood and are often precipitated by off-shore tropical low-pressure systems as well as nontropical systems, or even by combinations of both. In early October 2012, for example, observers in New England and Bermuda experienced a combination of effects from both continental and marine systems, as a strong low-pressure feature moving eastward interacted with a Category 4 hurricane in the Atlantic.

On 27-28 September, the central and southern

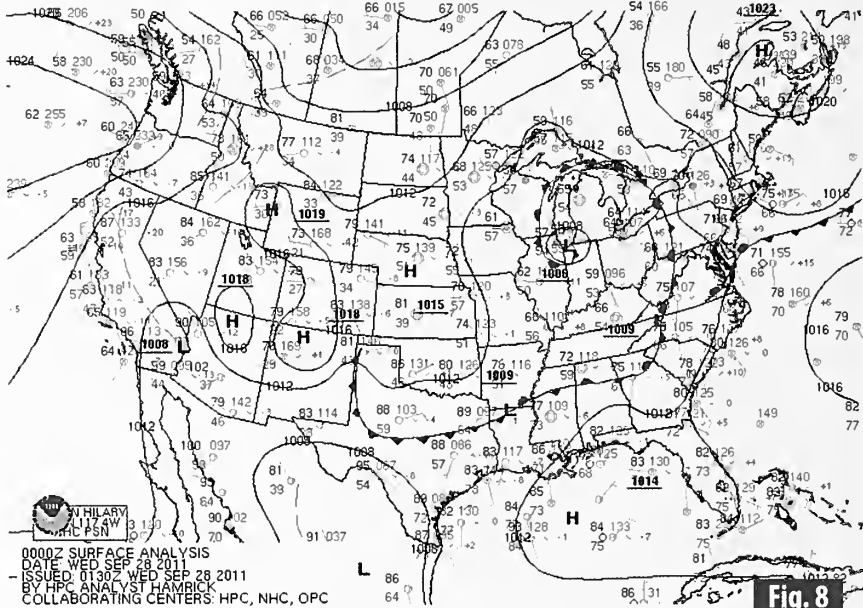


Fig. 8

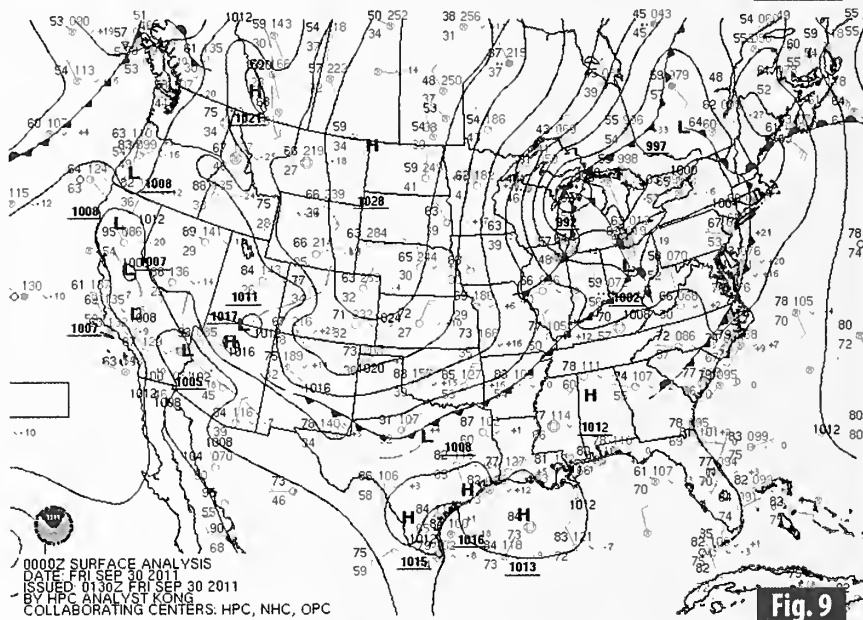


Fig. 9

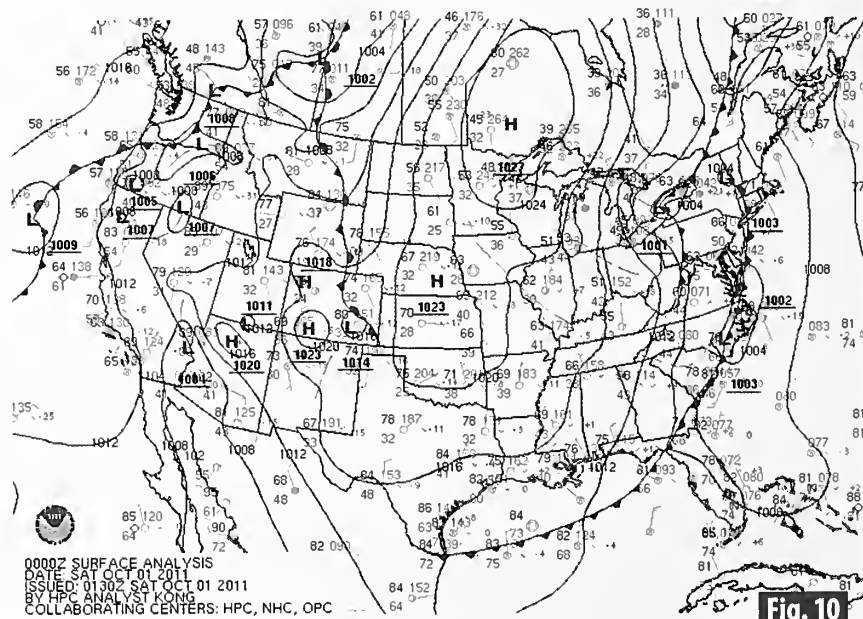


Fig. 10

Figures 8-10. Unusual weather dominated the eastern third of the United States in late September and early October 2011. During the last three days of September, a stalled frontal boundary reached from Texas, up the Appalachians, to the Great Lakes, and another weak low remained just off the mid-Atlantic states (Figure 8). By 30 September, a distinct, strengthening low had formed over the central Great Lakes, and the other, now strengthening lows were still present to the south and east (Figure 9), producing strong southwesterly winds across most of the eastern third of the United States. By 1/2 October, two features dominated the weather map: one long frontal boundary extended from the Rio Grande Valley to southern New England, and the other reached from West Virginia to the St. Lawrence River (Figure 10). *Graphics courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.*

United States were under the influence of a stalled frontal boundary that extended from the Edwards Plateau through the Appalachians (Figure 8). By 30 September, a substantial low-pressure system developed over the Great Lakes, setting up strong counterclockwise flow around its center (Figure 9); thus, two frontal boundaries were in play, one over New England and one larger one that reached from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. By the evening of 1 October, one frontal boundary extended from the Rio Grande Valley, across the Gulf of Mexico, and out over the outer continental shelf in the Atlantic, and the other spanned from Ohio River valley to the St. Lawrence River (Figure 10). The result in coastal New England was southwesterly air flow that blew from the Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and Florida) over Atlantic waters directly toward the Northeast and the Canadian Maritimes. The low over the central Appalachians deepened still more 2 October, strengthening the southwesterly winds blowing toward New England. As this low edged northward, winds weakened somewhat and became more southeasterly. The low remained essentially stationary for the next three days, with winds weakening somewhat but continuing to blow from the Southeast toward New England and Atlantic Canada. Southerly winds and rain predominated in coastal New England and offshore from 29 September through 5 October, with the system finally clearing out to the north, bringing clear skies and northwesterly winds behind it on 6 October.

During the same time, Hurricane *Ophelia* was raging in the Atlantic. This storm began as a fairly small tropical system several hundred kilometers east of the Lesser Antilles, jumping to major hurricane category quickly and moving northward (Figure 11). *Ophelia* eventually became a strong Category 4 storm before becoming extratropical and making landfall in eastern Newfoundland. The passage of this strong storm coincided with the low pressure systems' movements described above: after the hurricane passed (with whatever species it entrained), winds over much of the western North Atlantic became strongly southwesterly, particularly near Bermuda but also in many areas across the nearshore western North Atlantic. As *Ophelia* moved out of the Atlantic Basin and toward points farther north by 3 October, the remnants of the low-pressure systems and extensive frontal boundary that passed off the East Coast

eventually passed Bermuda. By 5-6 October, conditions were largely clear across much of the western North Atlantic.

A remarkable cadre of migrant landbirds—including many Yellow-billed Cuckoos, White-eyed Vireos, Hooded Warblers, and other southern migrants—appear to have been displaced offshore from the Southeast on the evening of 30 September/1 October and probably the next night. They began appearing in New England on 2 October (Table 1). A few days later, a staggering 1000+ Yellow-billed Cuckoos appeared at Bermuda. Had these cuckoos departed from the Southeast, as the New England birds appeared to have? Or were they migrants that had departed the East after the passage of the front, attempting to cross the western North Atlantic toward the tropics—only to encounter the turbulent outer bands of *Ophelia* as they proceeded? Did some cuckoos manage to escape the influence of the southwesterlies ahead of the continental front, only to plow into the northeasterlies on the forward edge of *Ophelia*?

For the southeastern species, once offshore and displaced from their intended course, many birds simply flew downwind (toward the northeast, on southwesterly

winds) to try to reach land as quickly as possible. These birds flying downwind would then have flown almost directly to New England and Nova Scotia, encountering rain as they came closer to land. The rain surely weakened the birds and forced them to land at the first available opportunity; and presumably many birds perished at sea.

In New England, the fallout was first detected by Steve Mirick, who found several unusual species, including several Yellow-billed Cuckoos and a male Hooded Warbler, along the New Hampshire coast on 2 October. Realizing what might be going on, he checked coastal migrant traps for the rest of the day and racked up an impressive list including 9 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, single Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers, and a White-eyed Vireo, among a number of other noteworthy birds. During the ensuing three days, many more White-eyed Vireos were found, late Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos, a few Summer Tanagers, more Yellow-billed Cuckoos, two more Worm-eating Warblers, and a record-late Blue-winged Warbler (Table 1). On Star Island, New Hampshire, a White-eyed Vireo and an Acadian Flycatcher 22 October may have been

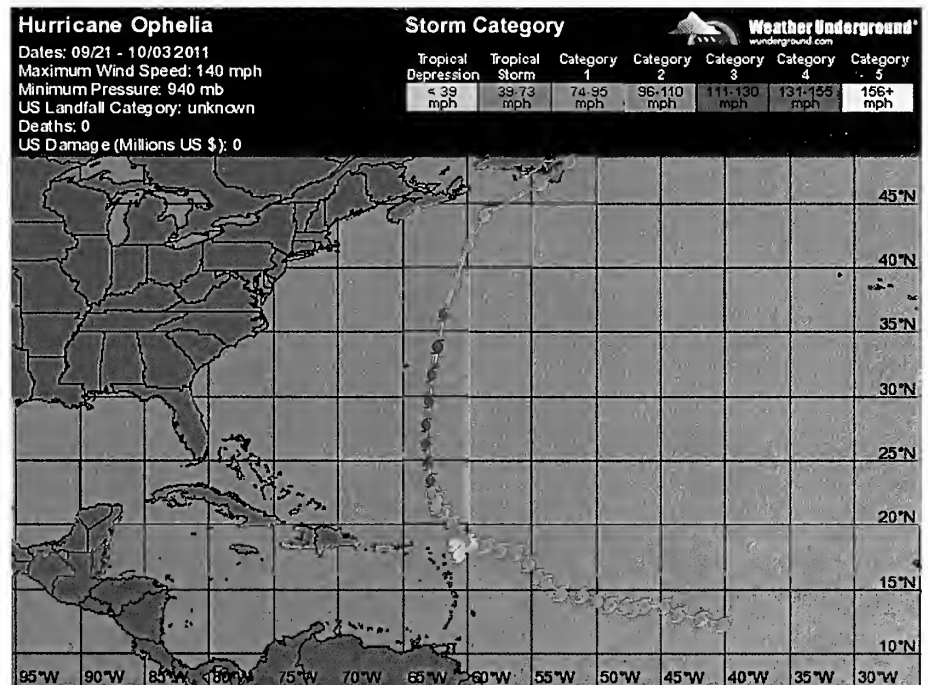


Figure 11. The track of Hurricane *Ophelia* through the western North Atlantic, 21 September through 3 October 2011. Although this intense storm was not credited with records of unusual seabirds, the fallout of over one thousand Yellow-billed Cuckoos in Bermuda during the first week of October may have been associated with this storm's activity, probably in conjunction with the passage of one or more low-pressure systems off the North American coast. *Graphic courtesy of WeatherUnderground.*

birds "stranded" there by this system; although no other Acadians were identified in this event, the source area for this event, the southern Southeast, should have been seeing near-peak passage of Acadians in early October, so the potential connection between the early October system and this record is hard to ignore.

In continuing rain on the southern Maine coast 3 October, Luke Seitz birded from Fort Foster, across from Odiorne State Park, to Cape Neddick and had an unprecedented one-day total of 11 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, 7 White-eyed Vireos, 4 Hooded Warblers, a Worm-eating Warbler, a Summer Tanager, a Blue Grosbeak, and several other surprises. This portion of the state had gone unchecked the day before, unfortunately, al-

though a Hudsonian Godwit fallout had been noted near Portland. Several Blue Grosbeaks were found in Maine, but oddly none were seen on the New Hampshire coast. The rarities observed were almost entirely limited to the immediate coast, and those seen after 6 October were surely lingering birds or birds moving southward after displacement, rather than fresh arrivals. Further checks of that region of Maine continued to produce birds for the next several days. The fallout in the United States stretched from northern Essex County, Massachusetts (north of Cape Ann) to Cumberland County, Maine, but along almost the entire coastline of Nova Scotia, 2-3 October produced a great bounty: seven Yellow-billed Cuckoos, a Yellow-throated, four

Hooded, three Cerulean (!), three Prothonotary, two Prairie, and three Blue-winged Warblers, several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, two Yellow-throated and eight White-eyed Vireos, three Summer Tanagers, 17 Indigo Buntings, three-dozen Blue Grosbeaks, as well as good numbers of Red-eyed Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, and Blackpoll Warbler.

The numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Eastern Wood-Pewees, *Empidonax* flycatchers, Yellow-throated and White-eyed Vireos, Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers, Summer Tanagers, and Blue Grosbeaks were remarkable for New England, but other migrants were not found there in unusual numbers or locations. In fact, the fallout seemed to be almost entirely restricted to those southeastern species that would not be expected in New England at all at this season, whereas more common early October migrants like Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and others were not seen in elevated numbers at all. Given the wind patterns from the southeast (which typically result in poor migration on the coast), this is perhaps not surprising, but some species like Red-eyed Vireo, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Northern Waterthrush, and others might have been expected to be passing through the Southeast as well. Although records of those species were scant in New England compared to the records of "southern" birds, their stronger numbers in Nova Scotia suggest that at least some were similarly displaced from the Southeast rather than late stragglers.

Events such as these fallouts are often surprising, but they are probably predictable, at least within a few hours of the visible event. In retrospect, on weather maps for 2-5 October, we can see how the wind fields would have transported southern migrants northward, with the southwesterlies ahead of the continental front providing the first conveyor and the southwesterlies following the passage of *Ophelia* maintaining that wind flow, at least offshore at the longitude of the Nova Scotia. Rain off New England would have further concentrated birds on the immediate coast.

Such "slingshot" (or "boomerang") events have occurred periodically, in both spring and fall, when southwesterly winds move offshore migrants northeastward, and counter-clockwise rotation near the center of the low's circulation brings them to shore in New England and the Atlantic Provinces. A similar fallout occurred 11 October 1998 (Brinkley 1999, McLaren et al. 2000). This

Table 1. Species clearly associated with the early October 2011 fallout in New Hampshire; all records are well outside the norm for New Hampshire. Particularly noteworthy records are in boldface. Not listed herein are totals of 3 Eastern Wood-Pewees, 27 Red-eyed Vireos, 8 Ovenbirds, 9 American Redstarts, also probably part of the coastal fallout.

Species	Date ranges	Number of reports and species totals	Locations
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2-10 October	Ten reports (14+ birds)	New Hampshire coast; Kensington
Acadian Flycatcher	22 October	One report (1 bird)	Star Island
Willow/Alder Flycatcher	8 October	One report (1 bird)	Hampton
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	4 October	One report (1 bird); another probable	Hampton
Least Flycatcher	3-4 October	Three reports (3 birds)	Hampton; Odiorne State Park
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.	3-16 Oct	Five reports (5 birds)	New Hampshire coast; Star Island
White-eyed Vireo	2-22 October	Eight/nine reports (8-9 birds)	Rye; New Castle; Seabrook
Yellow-throated Vireo	2-3 October	Two reports (2 birds)	Hampton; Rye
Warbling Vireo	3 Oct	One report (1 bird)	Awcomin Marsh, Rye
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3-4 Oct	One report (1 bird)	Awcomin Marsh, Rye
Veery	2 Oct	One report (1 bird)	Odiorne State Park
Worm-eating Warbler	2-6 Oct	Three reports (3 birds)	Rye (Odiorne State Park; Church Road; Star Island)
Blue-winged Warbler	3 Oct	One report (1 bird)	Odiorne State Park
Hooded Warbler	2-9 Oct	Two reports (2 birds)	Rye Harbor; Odiorne State Park
Yellow-breasted Chat	2-4 Oct	Three reports (3 birds), not counting Odiorne State Park	Rye; Hampton (2)
Summer Tanager	6-9 Oct	Two reports (2 birds)	Star Island; Odiorne State Park

event was similar in its species composition, weather pattern, and in the localized nature of the fallout; the point of origin of the birds involved was also apparently in (and/or offshore of) the Southeast. The fallouts in Nova Scotia tend to be larger, perhaps because of the coastlines lie at more easterly latitudes than the U.S. coasts and because the small island vagrant traps there are ideal for concentrating and detecting tired migrants. Like the 2012 Nova Scotia fallout, the 1998 event involved not only southern rarities (10 Hooded Warblers, tens of Blue Grosbeaks, 22 White-eyed Vireos), but also hundreds of Red-eyed Vireos and Indigo Buntings, tens of Scarlet Tanagers and American Redstarts, and several other species which should be common migrants through the Southeast in mid-October. The 1998 fallout had just ten Yellow-billed Cuckoos, an interesting contrast to 2011 there and in New England. Less well documented, the exceptional autumn of 1954 had at least one major cuckoo fallout (see Veit and Petersen [1993], under the Yellow-billed Cuckoo account). That season had several notable hurricanes, but the most likely vehicle for the fallout was a nontropical system. In autumn 1954, there were reports of 250 cuckoos per day in Maine, 300 per day in Massachusetts, and counts of 1000+ cuckoos (mostly Black-billed!) on multiple days at Orient Point, Long Island, including some “flushed from roadside weed patches like quail.” Although weather systems likely were responsible for the exceptional concentrations, it is worth noting that a Gypsy Moth outbreak in 1954 surely produced a bumper crop of young cuckoos of both species as well, which may have accentuated the affects of the weather systems. Imagine what might have been counted in 1954 with the greater observer coverage and smartphone connectivity of 2012! On several occasions, Farnsworth has observed autumn flights of Yellow-billed Cuckoos offshore in the Atlantic. Based on these observations, and scattered historical reports such as those of 1954, we think it is possible that the cuckoos recorded in early October 2011 in Nova Scotia, New England, and Bermuda could have been driven back to land *both* from the Northeast and the Southeast; that is, migrant cuckoos caught in the squeeze play between tropical and nontropical systems possibly originated from widely separated points of origin.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo makes a fine poster species for what we still do not know about

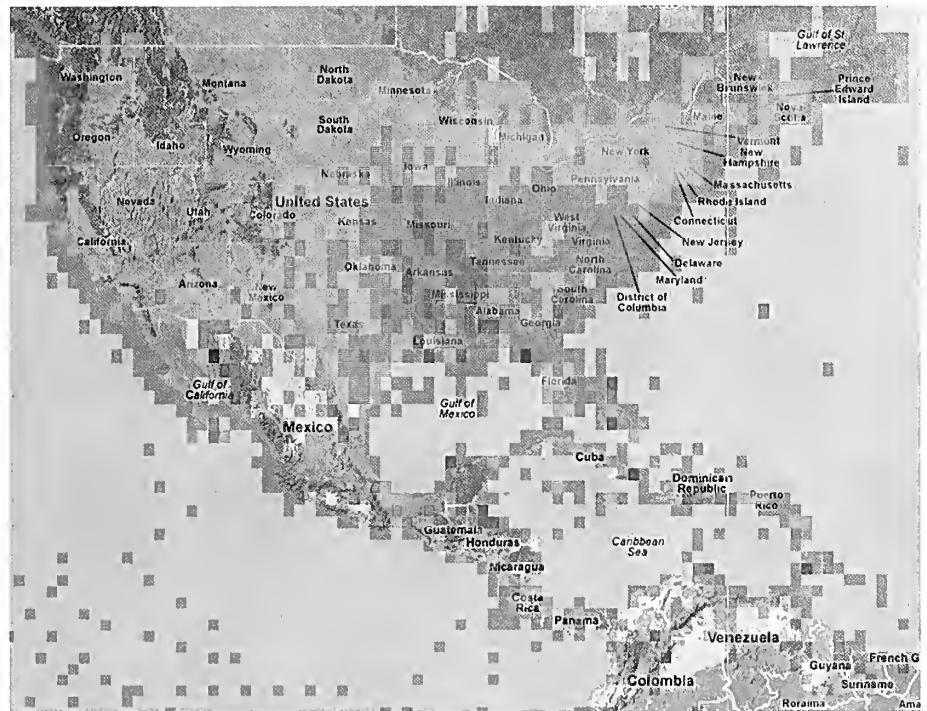


Figure 12. This map represents all autumn (August through November) records of Yellow-billed Cuckoo in eBird, 1900–2011. A recent paper tracking the seasonal movements of a western Yellow-billed documents complex movements, including a post-breeding south-then-back-north zigzag before the main southward migration. Do eastern birds perform such a flight? And to what extent do they migrate over the open Atlantic en route to South America?

bird migration. Many dedicated observers find this species annually in the United States during its autumn movements. However, it is possible that this species exhibits more than one “fall migration” (Figure 12). Juddson et al. (2012) report the first geolocator data for the species: a cuckoo outfitted with a geolocator in New Mexico (thus presumably of the subspecies *occidentalis*) flew nearly 9500 kilometers through Central America to winter in central-southern South America, returning in the spring through the Caribbean. Although this is just a single individual, the authors hint at the dynamism possible in this species’ migration strategy. Based on observations like those from fall 2011, it seems probable that some eastern populations of Yellow-billed Cuckoo migrate long distances over water through the western North Atlantic, presumably coming ashore in northeastern South America, a route similar to the one used by Blackpoll Warbler. Many authors have considered this a species that “island hops” through the Caribbean, but it may in fact cross the open Atlantic much more regularly, and only stop off on the islands when stressed or encountering inclement weather. Juddson et al. (2012) also noted that

their lone cuckoo moved far to the south in late summer, spending at least a week in western Mexico (western Chihuahua and Sonora) before returning back *north* to the region where it bred. Veteran observers have sometimes noted that Yellow-billed Cuckoos become hard to find in August and September, although their main southward movement occurs from late September to late October. Is the apparent scarcity of eastern cuckoos in late summer owing to a similar movement or concentration in some area of the East? Or do they simply become hard to detect at this season? Continued nocturnal flight call monitoring and careful collection of complete eBird checklists in appropriate cuckoo breeding habitat all season long could help develop hypotheses about cuckoo movements. Geolocator studies of eastern Yellow-billed Cuckoos, as well as Black-billeds, will help shed light on these mysteries in years to come.

Storm-driven: Hurricane Irene

Most United States residents will recall the hurricanes of 2011 as costly and soggy. Birders, as we are prone, will remember the season differently, colored most prominently by the passage of Hurricane *Irene*. Many

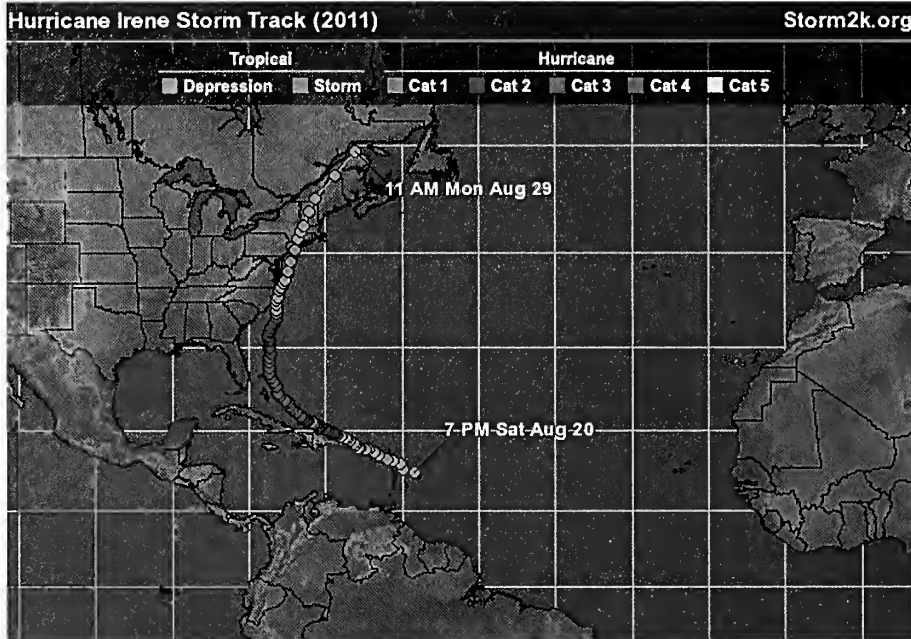


Figure 13. Track of Hurricane Irene, 20–29 August 2011. *Irene* had first landfall as a strong tropical storm at St. Croix 20 August, then a second landfall in Puerto Rico the next day, becoming a hurricane as it moved off Puerto Rico. With winds of 120 miles/hour, *Irene* became a Category 3 hurricane as it made at least four landfalls in the Bahamas 24 August. Three days later, as a Category 1 hurricane, *Irene* grazed the Outer Banks of North Carolina, then made landfalls again in the early morning of 28 August in southeastern New Jersey and at Brooklyn, New York City. By the late morning of 29 August, the storm's center of circulation had passed into Québec. Hurricane *Irene's* damages have been estimated at \$19 billion, making it one of the five costliest storms on record in the Atlantic; 56 people lost their lives as a result of the storm's landfalls. Map courtesy of Storm2k.org.

have commented (e.g., Bonomo and Kruitbosch 2011) that *Irene* was the first bird-displacing hurricane of our newly fledged era of linked Internet, cell phone, and digital camera technology. The advances in technology (e.g., networked connectedness of cellular phones, weather forecasting, and live weather radar on handheld devices), along with the advances in means of disseminating and archiving observations quickly from the field (e.g., via eBird, list-serves)—when combined with the sheer number of mobilized, organized, and interested birders awaiting storm waifs—made the passage of *Irene* one of the best documented tropical systems to impact the Atlantic coast and certainly the best ever from New Jersey to southern New England. Evacuation of large areas of the coast, of course, meant that birding coverage was patchy, as in all such storms.

The disturbance that would become *Irene* was declared a tropical storm on 20 August. Soon thereafter, the storm seemed headed toward the southeastern United States. However, models suggested another set of tracks, and when *Irene's* winds first hit 100

miles/hour, as of the 2 a.m. advisory 24 August, a very different track appeared likely. Bonomo and Kruitbosch (2011) put it well: this advisory “very nearly projected the exact path of *Irene* for the next five days, though we did not know it would be so perfect at the time. Shortly after this time, model agreement on the forecast track was unbelievable. [It] was a great success in weather forecasting and allowed residents the proper time to prepare for the storm, take precautions, and, in some cases, ready themselves for one of the best birding experiences of their lives.” *Irene's* track passed through the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Bahamas and onward up the Atlantic seaboard (Figure 13). The first landfall was on the Outer Banks of North Carolina on 27 August; second landfall was near Brigantine, New Jersey, at about 5:35 a.m. the next day. Maintaining tropical storm strength, the storm moved up the coast and passed right over New York City at about 9:00 a.m. Though weakened to a Category 1 hurricane at landfall, the large size, strength, and track through bird-rich regions meant that *Irene* would deliver a di-

versity of tropical species and migrants, by combination of displacement, entrainment, and grounding of birds.

The Southeast had the first influx of tropical terns and other displaced waifs on 26–27 August. New Jersey saw *Irene* pass in the early morning of 28 August; the storm deposited a number of seabirds into the Delaware Bay and along the Atlantic coast. The center of *Irene's* quickly decaying remnants the passed over New York City that morning, generating what was arguably one of the most exciting birding days ever in Manhattan. Displaced storm birds, both rare tropical and pelagic species and common species in large numbers, used the Hudson River and Harlem/East River as a primary pipeline to get back to the ocean. Over the course of 28–29 August, Laughing Gulls, terns, shorebirds, storm-petrels, and other waterbirds by the many hundreds made their way southward past the island of Manhattan. As the storm continued north and east, reports (and rain) poured in, as *Irene* moved up the Hudson River valley, weakening to an extratropical cyclone just west of Amherst, Massachusetts at about 4:00 p.m. Although winds were not much over 40 m.p.h. by the time the storm reached New England, the heavy rains caused record flooding and made *Irene* one of the costlier storms on record, especially in Vermont and eastern New York. As the storm passed, rapid clearing occurred, winds shifted to the north and then west, and birds moved out in a hurry! As is typical with the rapid passage after landfall for these storms, clear blue skies and westerly winds prevailed by 29 August in most of the Northeast. And by that morning, only a scant few birds remained, compared to the previous day's bounty. Lingered birds on 29 August included multiple Wilson's Storm-Petrels working slowly out of the mouth of New York Harbor and under the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, two Bridled Terns, numerous Laughing Gulls, and a few Black Terns. A few other stragglers were present across the Northeast, including several jaegers and Sooty Terns in Connecticut.

By now, we know a fair amount about seabirds displaced by tropical cyclones. For instance, the right-front quadrant of these cyclones (sometimes called the “northeastern” quadrant on northbound cyclones) tends to hold more displaced birds than the rest of the storm; perhaps the lower pressure (and sometimes more rain) in this sector of the storm keeps birds entrained more effec-

tively. There are scattered reports in print, too, of seabirds “trapped” within the calm eye of tropical cyclones. In the accounts below, we describe birds as being “entrained” within the storm or “driven by” the storm. “Entrained” birds are those that actually travel within the storm, from places substantially farther away than local pelagic zones; many such birds are discovered inland. In the case of *Irene*, we suggest that this would include *all* White-tailed Tropicbirds and Sooty Terns, including those appearing inland along the track and in the aftermath of the hurricane’s track. We are of the opinion that this phenomenon is different from species that are “driven” (pushed) by the storm, such as more typically coastal species that appear in large concentrations in calmer coastal areas or species that are move inland some distance ahead of the storm’s landfall. Laughing Gulls seem to fit the latter concept; even some Bridled Terns could fall into this category, given the species’ early autumn presence in the northwestern North Atlantic, not very far from mid-Atlantic coastlines. Such “storm-driven” birds are pushed into coastal areas, accumulating there rather than appearing farther inland as the tropicbirds and Sooty Terns typically were. Storm-driven birds are also pushed up riverine systems and occasionally overland, moved locally from nearby areas by the force of the storm. When the status of a storm bird is less clear in terms of being entrained or storm-driven, we describe it as being “displaced by” the storm. Clearly, the history of the storm (track, size, strength, location at landfall, time of day at landfall, etc.) determines much about what birds are entrained and moved inland—very powerful, large hurricanes that track from the Carolinas to the Great Lakes have the capacity to entrain a great variety of seabird species, whereas weaker, smaller storms tend to entrain fewer birds, often fewer species, and end up mostly driving birds into coastal zones rather than far inland.

Irene’s bounty was impressive, with White-tailed Tropicbird was the storm’s banner species (Figure 14). Team eBird, including these authors, had predicted that *Irene* might be highly productive for this species, based on large numbers observed offshore in summer 2011 from research vessels. Although there are historical records of birds displaced inland as far north as Vermont, never before has a storm produced double-digit numbers of tropicbirds and never before has a live one been observed



Figure 14. This adult White-tailed Tropicbird was found along a road in Stephentown, Rensselaer County, New York 29 August 2011. The bird is shown here at a wildlife pathology lab in Delmar, New York 1 September. As a result of Hurricane *Irene*, at least fifteen White-tailed Tropicbirds were noted from Delaware to New Hampshire in late August. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.

on an inland lake in the Northeast. And not since the late 1930s has this species been so widely observed in the Northeast. At least 12 White-tailed Tropicbirds were documented in the Northeast in conjunction with this storm, including three seen during a single morning vigil at Cape May Point—providing the first, second, and third state records! New Hampshire joined New Jersey in getting its first White-tailed Tropicbird as a result of the storm.

On the other hand, Sooty Tern, the quintessential hurricane bird (Figure 15), appeared in lower numbers than expected, given the track and attributes of the storm. Sooty Terns are highly aerial at sea and are frequently displaced thousands of miles inland by strong tropical cyclones. Most storms that affect the East Coast between August and October carry Sooty Terns, and indeed about 110 Sooties, from Georgia to Nova Scotia, were reported in this storm. This species was widespread both inland and coastally, reported from South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. The northernmost live bird was seen at Boston; single dead birds were found in New Hampshire and at East Side Port L’Hebert, Nova Scotia.

Bridled Tern (Figure 16) is typically less numerous than Sooty Tern in records of storm-displaced seabirds, perhaps because

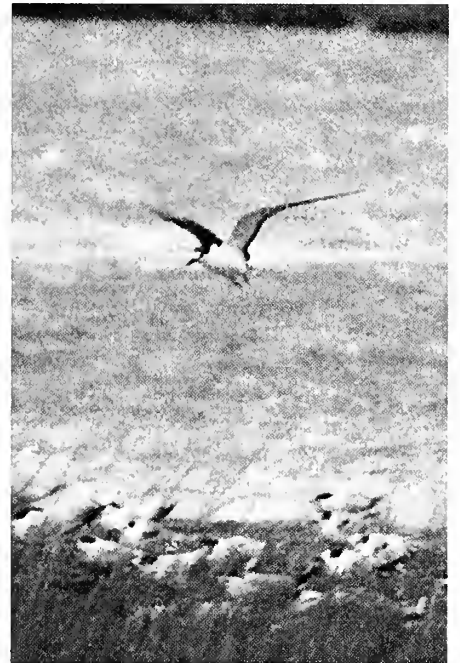


Figure 15. Sooty Terns are among the most numerous tropical seabirds displaced by tropical cyclones, and *Irene* was no exception, with over 80 reported as the storm made landfall in southern New England. This one joined a flock of Common Terns at Tuckernuck Island, Nantucket County, Massachusetts 28 August 2011. Advances in photography in recent years have made it possible to get identifiable photographs of seabirds such as this one even under poor field conditions, and *Irene’s* waifs were almost certainly the best documented of any hurricane birds in history. Photograph by Richard Veit.

it is overall less aerial than Sooty Tern and less apt to fly at great heights, whence longer-range displacement may occur. As expected, numbers of Bridleds were seen as a result of *Irene*, and only on the coast; verified inland records of the species are very few. Most unexpected, however, was the high total of Bridled Terns—about 80—relative to the total for Sooty, at least based on data from hurricane landfalls in the Southeast and the few that have made landfall farther north. Bridled Terns were seen in North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. Of those states, Bridled Tern is most unusual in Connecticut, the only eastern state that claims no pelagic waters. Additionally of note was a report of this species along the Delaware River, New Jersey/Pennsylvania, potentially the first state record for the latter state.

Also associated with *Irene*, Magnificent Frigatebirds appeared in the days and weeks after the storm in New York and New Jersey, and an unidentified frigatebird was seen in Pennsylvania during the storm. Larger tubenoses were not seen in abundance inland as a result of *Irene*. The only Black-capped Petrels were storm-driven coastal birds seen from Cape May and Long Island; by contrast, Hurricane *Fran* (September 1996) moved scores of Black-capped Petrels inland to North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the eastern Great Lakes. Cory's and Audubon's Shearwaters put in coastal appearances in several states, most notably in the Hudson River in the Bronx, where veteran hurricane birder P. A.

Buckley experienced a triple-tubenose morning. He wrote: "I watched fascinated as the blue sky and concomitant wind shift went from northeast to southwest right in front of me, looking like a miniature tidal bore marching up the Hudson, with an area of dead calm in the center. That's when/where the Audubon's Shearwater, Cory's Shearwater, second Arctic Tern, and Leach's Storm-Petrel all appeared, clearly moving with/within it." Three species of storm-petrels, Leach's, Band-rumped, and Wilson's, were reliably recorded in the Northeast, including a Leach's at far inland Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts and in the same state, single Wilson's Storm-Petrels at Lake Pontoosuc 28 August and found dead at Northampton 30 August. A first-state-record Band-rumped Storm-Petrel was found at Hartland, Vermont. On the immediate coast, storm-driven storm-petrels were widespread, including many Wilson's Storm-Petrels, seen from Long Island, in the Hudson River, and in coastal New England; several Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were also observed from New York north through Massachusetts, including Connecticut's first and second. Numerous Leach's Storm-Petrels appeared in coastal locations, from Cape May to the Hudson River, and from Long Island Sound to Massachusetts. The most noteworthy Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were first from-shore records for Massachusetts (Nantucket and Tuckernuck Islands 28 August, First Encounter Beach 29 August) and for Connecticut, and others were seen around New York City as well. The numbers of more typical coastal strag-

glers from the south, and regularly occurring pelagic and near-shore species, were exceptional during *Irene*. Brown Pelicans appeared in several states, including birds lingering well into the fall that were displaced, presumably, by the storm.

Irene precipitated several significant fallouts of overland migrants. An unprecedented fallout of Hudsonian Godwits was witnessed, with 109 counted at one site in New Hampshire and other lower numbers at two inland sites in Massachusetts, as well as coastal Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York. Most notably, several were seen in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida, where the species is rare in fall. Many more would be waylaid by the rainy remnants of Tropical Storm *Lee*, just over a week later, including high numbers in the Virginia Piedmont, where there were no previous records of the species. Various other shorebirds "fell out" in the storm, most of these probably grounded overland migrants but some possibly also displaced back to shore during offshore migration. Substantial numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes were reported (Figure 17), including multiple tens of bird flocks flying down the Hudson River, and Sanderlings were grounded inland on the shores of Lake Champlain and flying down the Hudson River. The Wilson's Plover in Massachusetts may well have been associated with *Irene*'s passage and conceivably also the five Black-necked Stilts in New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey area after the storm.

Counts of gulls, terns, and jaegers were mostly modest and in keeping with the history of storm displacement. While storm-driven concentrations of Laughing Gull were very large in Manhattan, and at other coastal sites to the south and east, we are not aware of any inland reports of this species that would be considered unusual. Storm-driven Arctic, Roseate, Royal, and Sandwich Terns were found in many locations from the mid-Atlantic states to New England, including highly noteworthy records of Sandwich and Royal Terns in Pennsylvania. A Royal Tern in Massachusetts may have been entrained in the storm, rather than wind-driven, as is more usual. Black Tern numbers were off the charts after *Irene*: perhaps the largest numbers in 50-60 years were reported in many parts of the Northeast, and high counts continued well into the fall in some areas. Although some of these birds were almost certainly migrants grounded by the large storm system (espe-



Figure 16. One of many storm-tossed Bridled Terns noted on the Mississippi coast in association with landfall of Tropical Storm *Lee*, this immature was at Long Beach Harbor, Harrison County on 4 September 2011. This minor storm was also credited, perhaps in conjunction with *Irene*, with fallouts of shorebirds from the Gulf coast to the mid-Atlantic states. Photograph by Melanie Driscoll.

cially those at Concord, New Hampshire), the exceptional coastal counts may also have involved birds transported from offshore waters off Cape Cod, where unusually large numbers had been seen staging this year, or from the Southern Atlantic Bight. The usual scattering of jaegers, of all three species, was noted after *Irene*; as is true in the case of Sabine's Gulls noted during and after tropical cyclones, birders detect a mixture of jaegers displaced coastward from pelagic waters and overland migrant jaegers that are grounded.

The Northern Gannet picked up at Hartland, Vermont 29 August was almost certainly connected to the passage of *Irene*'s remnants, though only a few gannets were reported, all coastally, during this period; gannets are not recorded inland in August in New England! Hartland is along the western edge of the storm's passage. This bird must have been entrained in the storm, like the tropicbirds, but gannets (and sulids generally) are very rarely driven inland by such storms, unlike tropicbirds.

Why is it that Laughing Gull, Royal Tern, Forster's Tern, and other common coastal species are so seldom entrained by tropical systems? We think part of the answer is storm strength: a storm like *Irene* simply may not be strong enough to move these species inland. In the case of *Irene*, this sample group of species easily rode the storm out at storm roosts and/or in coastal bays (like Hudson River, East River), where they had been pushed by storm. Did *Irene*'s strength, forward speed, and timing upon arrival in the mid-Atlantic result in the relatively low load of entrained birds? Presumably so. The extent of the storm is probably a primary reason for the large number of wind-driven displacements that occurred. We believe the coastal numbers of Laughing Gulls, Black Terns, and shorebirds are all probably best explained by wind-driven factors rather than entrainment. Bridled Tern is likewise also probably not entrained by weaker storms so much as displaced. If this is true, and *Irene* was more a driver than an entrainer, we may have a good explanation for why the Sooty-to-Bridled ratio is unusual compared to most other storms.

Of course, the distribution of a handful of key species begs the question: why are White-tailed Tropicbirds and Sooty Tern so prone to storm entrainment? Both species are highly aerial and forage from great heights; both would seem unlikely to stay close to water's surface during periods of

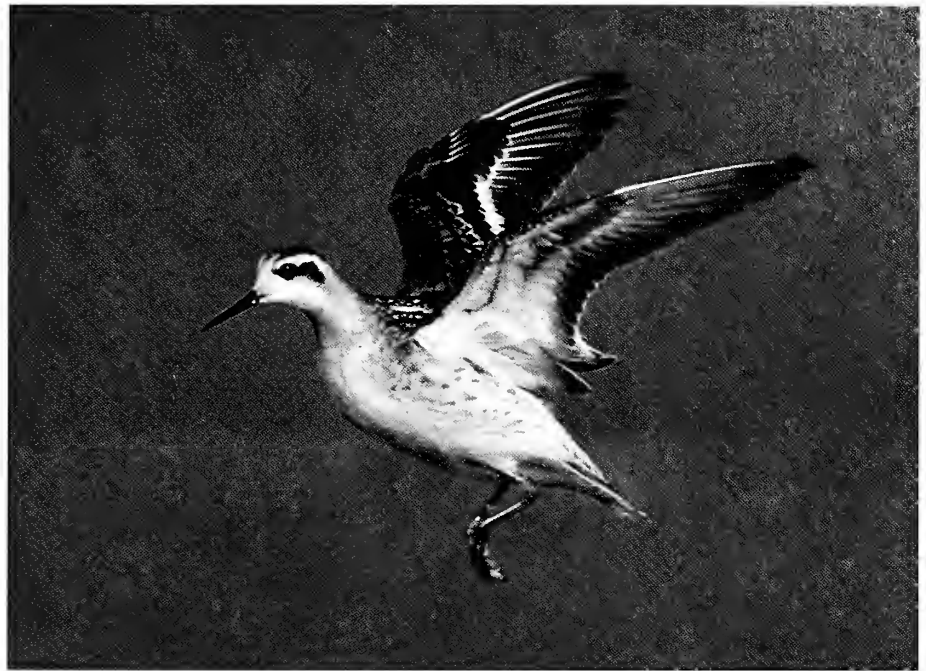


Figure 17. Numerous Red-necked Phalaropes were noted in Pennsylvania during fall 2011, most of them during or after Hurricane *Irene*, with over 35 individuals reported. This individual was one of four at a pond in Lawrence in early (here 11) September, possibly a bird put down by the remnants of Tropical Storm *Lee*, which moved up from the Gulf coast into the mid-Atlantic region 8-10 September. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

high winds. We agree with past Changing Seasons authors on this subject (e.g., Brinkley 1999) that the more aerial a species is, the more apt it is to be entrained by tropical cyclones—Magnificent Frigatebird being the supreme aerialist among American seabirds and also one of the champion entrainees. As noted in this column in the past, the more aerial *Oceanodroma* storm-petrels are more apt to be entrained and moved inland than the less aerial Wilson's Storm-Petrel, and similarly the more aerial larger tubenoses (Black-capped Petrel) are far more often entrained than less aerial ones (Audubon's Shearwater). The distribution of this suite of species in *Irene* would seem to suggest that this pattern is worth a thorough review from the accounts we have for previous storms.

To consider *Irene* from these perspectives, let's look at the timing for the arrival of certain species along the Atlantic coastline. Consider this note from the West Indies: "On 20-22 August, well ahead of Hurricane *Irene*, Brown Noddies and Roseate, Sooty, and Bridled Terns were present in the Exuma Cays; after the storm, only the noddies were seen there." This sort of observation accords with our surmise about entrained versus driven birds: the less aerial noddies

remained in the Bahamas, whereas the *Onychoprion* terns and Roseate Terns apparently did not. Like records of Bridled Tern, verified records of Brown Noddy (Figure 18) are coastal. The southern mid-Atlantic had a fair share of Sooty and Bridled Terns and some nearshore seabirds, as well as some fallouts of shorebirds, but no tropicbirds, petrels, storm-petrels, or other strictly pelagic species. Despite the amazing flurry of birding activity in the New York City area, most of the birds in and around this area appeared to be storm-driven rather than entrained. The entrained species, such as the Black-capped Petrels, the tropicbirds, the Sooty Terns—though striking in their appearances in the region—were far outnumbered by the local nearshore species and southern stragglers driven in the storm winds. Still farther north, coastal New Hampshire observers saw no obviously displaced (i.e., southern or tropical) birds from the storm, surely because the storm's center passed too far to the west. The only obvious coastal storm bird detected away from southern and western New England were the Sooty Terns at Boston and in Nova Scotia, which also had a rare Least Tern.

Why did observers at Quabbin Reservoir, just 46 kilometers south of the New Hamp-

shire border, manage to see live Sooty Tern, White-tailed Tropicbird, Parasitic Jaeger, and Leach's Storm-Petrel—species that eluded observers stationed in areas to the north but were found in New York and Connecticut? The answer lies in the track and the timing of the storm, as well as the size of the reservoir. Weakened though the storm was, the very first suggestion of a bird transported by the storm at Quabbin Reservoir was a Parasitic Jaeger seen at 1:15 p.m., when the stronger right-front quadrant of the storm arrived in the area. But jaegers migrate over land, and this bird may have been put down by rain and turbulence, rather than being entrained by the storm. Clearly entrained, though, were a White-tailed Tropicbird, a Sooty Tern, and a Leach's Storm-Petrel; the first two appeared together at 4:30 p.m., just after the storm passed, the skies cleared, and the winds switched to the northwest, and the storm-petrel followed an hour later. This pattern has been observed during hurricanes in the Carolinas and Virginia as well: entrained birds “drop out” as the storm passes over a large water body. Because it took the storm another three hours or so to reach New Hampshire, grail species like White-tailed Tropicbird and Sooty Tern were entering the Granite State at dusk or after dark—and were found dead or moribund the next morning.

In reporting on tropical cyclones, seabirds dominate the discussion. *Irene* provid-

ed several landbird highlights, if not specifically predicted, then at least anticipated. Before the storm made landfall, birders on facebook reminded each other that the storm had passed over many eastern Caribbean islands and that aerialists such as Bahama Swallow, Antillean Palm-Swift, and Caribbean Martin should be looked for along the coasts, as highly aerial passerines are known to be entrained by tropical cyclones. None of these species appeared, but a Caribbean Black Swift at Cape May and a Brown-chested Martin at Cape Charles were potential firsts for New Jersey and Virginia. Additionally, large swifts or suspected large swifts were reported from five other locations, including New York City, Charleston, South Carolina (two birds), Slaughter Beach, Delaware, western Massachusetts (a bird seen moving with Common Nighthawks!), and the North Carolina mountains. Like most other reports of large swifts in the East after hurricanes, these birds were not photographed, but it seems plausible that many Caribbean Black Swifts could have been entrained by *Irene*.

In ancient Rome, auspices (“those who look at birds”) were among the most powerful political agents, telling emperors what they must do to conform to the will of the gods—all based on very specific observations of birds. Few decisions about public policy were taken without consultation of an auspice. Two millennia later, those who

look at birds wield a little less clout, but we modern auspices are still driven to practice divination, of a different kind. We interpret birds driven into strange lands by extreme drought, by mega-fires, by increasingly powerful storms and hurricanes as *inauspicious*: we perceive them, in the aggregate, as the tell-tales of a warming planet. As we bind our observations together through citizen science, making possible the evidence of what we witness, perhaps we will regain the emperor's ear. For our influence to increase, collaboration is vital, and collocation of our observations is imperative.

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Figure 18. At least two Brown Noddies, a species recorded in Mississippi on only five prior occasions, arrived with Tropical Storm Lee at Ocean Springs, Jackson County (here 5 September 2011). There are no verified records of any noddy from inland sites in North America. Photograph by Jake N. Walker.

New evidence in support of a distinctive Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) Type in Newfoundland

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This Red Crossbill was audio-recorded, captured, and measured at Whitbourne, Newfoundland on 15 July 2005. The recordings are similar to other recent recordings of Red Crossbills from Newfoundland, presumably all typical of Type 8, although previous brief recordings of calls by which Type 8 was described are distinctly different from more recent recordings. *Photograph by Lester Rees.*

Abstract

On the basis of two four-second audio recordings made in 1981 by Jay Pitocchelli, Groth (1993) identified Type 8 Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*), which he considered possibly resident on the island of Newfoundland, where earlier ornithologists had described a large-billed resident form as subspecies *perna*. This Type, or subspecies, is thought to have experienced a precipitous population decline in the twentieth century (Pimm 1990, Benkman

1993) and since 2004 has been listed as Endangered by the Species At Risk Act (COSEWIC 2004).

Audiospectrographic analysis of 30 recordings made during 2005-2011 (2 hours, 37 minutes) supports the claim of a distinctive Red Crossbill Type on the island of Newfoundland. We compared these recordings to other North American Types, including the recordings used by Groth to describe Type 8. The 2005-2011 recordings are different from the

Pitocchelli recordings and from other known Types but almost certainly represent Type 8, as no other North American Type has been recorded in recent times on Newfoundland, and morphological measurements of recent specimens and captures are very similar to those of other Newfoundland-breeding Red Crossbills.

Background

Crossbills (*Loxia* spp.), distinctive cardueline finches, are unique among bird species

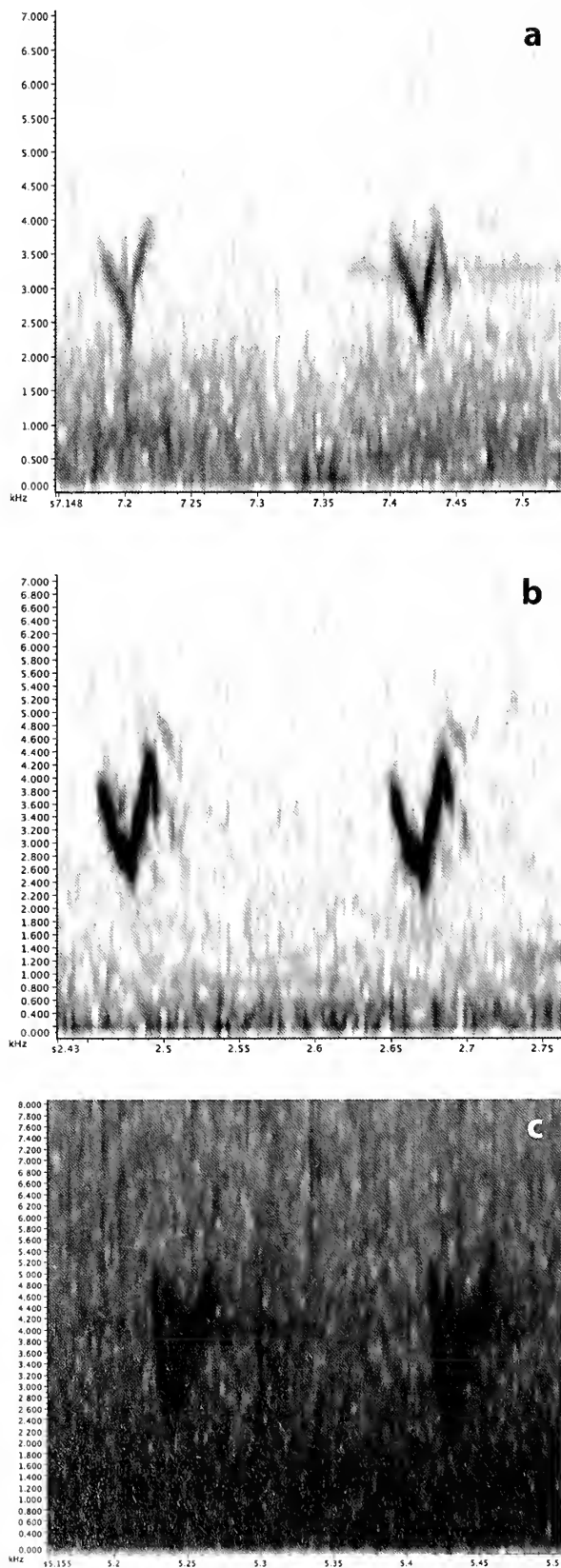


Figure 1. a) and b) Spectrographs of Red Crossbill calls recorded by Jay Pitocchelli at Cape Bonavista, Newfoundland 14 June 1981; used by Groth (1993) to describe Type 8. c) Spectrograph of Type 4 Red Crossbill flight call recorded by Young in Cayuga County, Summerhill, New York on 4 April 2009.

a in having fully crossed bills. Red Crossbills (*L. curvirostra*) show variations in vocalizations, bill morphology, and ecology, and research conducted since the 1980s indicates that there are at least 10 North American “call-types” or Types (Groth 1993, Benkman 1999, Benkman et al. 2009b, Irwin 2010), each of which could represent an incipient species (Parchman et al. 2006). Many of these, including Types 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10, disperse large distances when cone crops of key conifers (see Benkman 1993b) fail in the core zones of occurrence where the respective Type most regularly breeds and is most common (Dickerman 1987, Knox 1992, Kelsey 2008, Young 2010). Their nomadic tendencies result from fluctuations in cone crops over large areas. Red Crossbill Types that inhabit islands (Newfoundland’s Type 8), island-like locales (Type 9, also known as South Hills Crossbill, *L. sinesciurus*), and/or areas with more stable cone crops (Type 5 and probably Type 6) apparently wander or “irrupt” less often or less extensively than Types from large areas of contiguous forest and/or areas with less stable cone crops (Benkman 1993a, Benkman and Siepielski 2004, Mezquida and Benkman 2005, Benkman and Parchman 2009a, Young 2010).

Red Crossbill Types have different bill depths, and many Types appear to forage most efficiently on a single “key” conifer that corresponds to their bill morphology, especially to bill depth (Benkman 1993b, Edelaar and Benkman 2006). All Types do, however, feed on seeds of other conifers that provide the highest energy yields (Benkman 1987). Type 8 may be associated with the local Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*) (Benkman 1993a) or White Pine (*Pinus strobus*). Benkman (1993a) has suggested that Type 8 Red Crossbills are ineffective competitors with introduced Red Squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*) for Black Spruce seed, but the decline in Type 8 could well have been caused by changes

in forest ecology, including Spruce Budworm (*Choristoneura fumiferana*) activity and the extensive logging in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries of White Pine, White Spruce (*P. glauca*), and Black Spruce.

Identification of Red Crossbill Types is currently only possible by recording their flight calls, rendering the recorded calls as audio-spectrographs, and analyzing the calls’ attributes. Ideally, morphological measurements of the calling birds would also be obtained and analyzed (Summers et al. 2002). In addition to Type 8, other Types likely inhabit Newfoundland on occasion: specimens collected in the late nineteenth century show a range of bill sizes, including some with smaller bills than what is described for Type 8 (Montevicchi, unpublished).

Methods

In order to investigate more fully the claim of a resident Red Crossbill Type on Newfoundland, we analyzed 30 audio recordings of Red Crossbills made in Newfoundland since 2005 (a total of 2 hours, 37 minutes) and also compared morphological measurements of five individuals to measurements associated with presumed Type 8 specimens (Table 1); two of these individuals were also audio-recorded. We compared Pitocchelli’s two audio recordings (a total of 8 seconds) analyzed by Groth (1993) to the more recent recordings from 2005–2011. Of the 30 recent recordings, four were made at Whitbourne in the May–July period of 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2010 (2 hours, 4 minutes). In addition, similar recordings were made at Conception Bay South in February 2010 (26 seconds), at West Brook Ecological Reserve 29 and 31 March 2011 (23 minutes, 19 seconds), and at Howley 20 April 2011 (9 minutes, 36 seconds). When possible, recordings were made of single individuals perched in trees at a distance of 10–20 m and from flocks in flight at similar distances. Recordings were analyzed using Raven Pro 1.3 (Charif et al. 2004).

We have been able to take recent measurements of five Red Crossbills from Newfoundland; two of these individuals were also audio-recorded. At Whitbourne, hatch-year male and female (sexed by plumage and aged by extent of skull ossification) were captured by Fifield on 15 July 2005, measured (unflattened wing chord; bill length from nares to tip; bill depth at nares), photographed, banded, and released. These birds were audio-recorded, and all the birds recorded that day had similar flight calls (see Figure 2a). In addition, a dead second-year male Red Crossbill found in Terra Nova National Park 27 February 1998 was measured by Fifield and single juveniles at Blake-

town (July/August 2010) and at Whitbourne (month unknown) were measured by Fifield.

Results

The original Type 8 spectrograph from the recording by Pitocchelli can be described as V-shaped with a slight downward element at the end (Figure 1a-b). The main frequency is in the 2.3 to 4.0 kHz range. The flight call of Call Type 4 (Figure 1c) is presented for comparison, as it shares some similarities with the Pitocchelli recordings. These original recordings lack the ringing quality of more recent recordings and might be described as flat, quick, and a bit harsh by comparison. The more recent Newfoundland recordings of flight calls depict a complex modulated note that vaguely resembles the letter “M” (Figure 2a-g). The main frequency of sound is in the 3.25 to 4.0 kHz range. Additionally, there are often subtle modulated elements at beginning and end. The sound of the flight call of these more recent Newfoundland recordings can be described as bell-like or ringing and clear, resembling the *cheep* call of Evening Grosbeaks of the nominate subspecies.

The spectrographs of the Pitocchelli recordings appear most similar to those of Type 4 Red Crossbills. However, the closing downward element differs from Type 4 calls; moreover, the Pitocchelli recordings show a single modulated element, rather than two distinct modulated elements, as is typical of Type 4 (see Figures 1a-c). The initial downward modulated element in the Pitocchelli recordings is stronger than that seen in Type 4 calls. To the ear, the original Pitocchelli recordings sound similar to Type 4 flight calls but with a harsher, flatter quality. By comparison, the more recent crossbill recordings from Newfoundland (Figures 2a-g) do not resemble the Pitocchelli recordings, or recordings of Type 4, or any other North American Type. Differences in audiospectrographs between the 1981 recordings and 2005-2011 recordings are readily apparent. The recent recordings are perhaps closest to audiospectrographs of Type 3, most common in the Pacific Northwest (Groth 1993). Type 3 is easily ruled out in this case because Type 3 is the smallest-billed Type in North America; even the largest-billed Type 3 and smallest-billed Type 8 would not overlap in bill measurements (Groth 1993).

The spectrograph of one Red Crossbill flight call recorded at Howley 20 April 2011 (Figure 2h) is similar to the other recent Newfoundland calls, but it was produced in a lower frequency range and shows a downward element at the end. Also, the call appears to be produced polyphonically, that is, with different halves of the syrinx simultaneously.

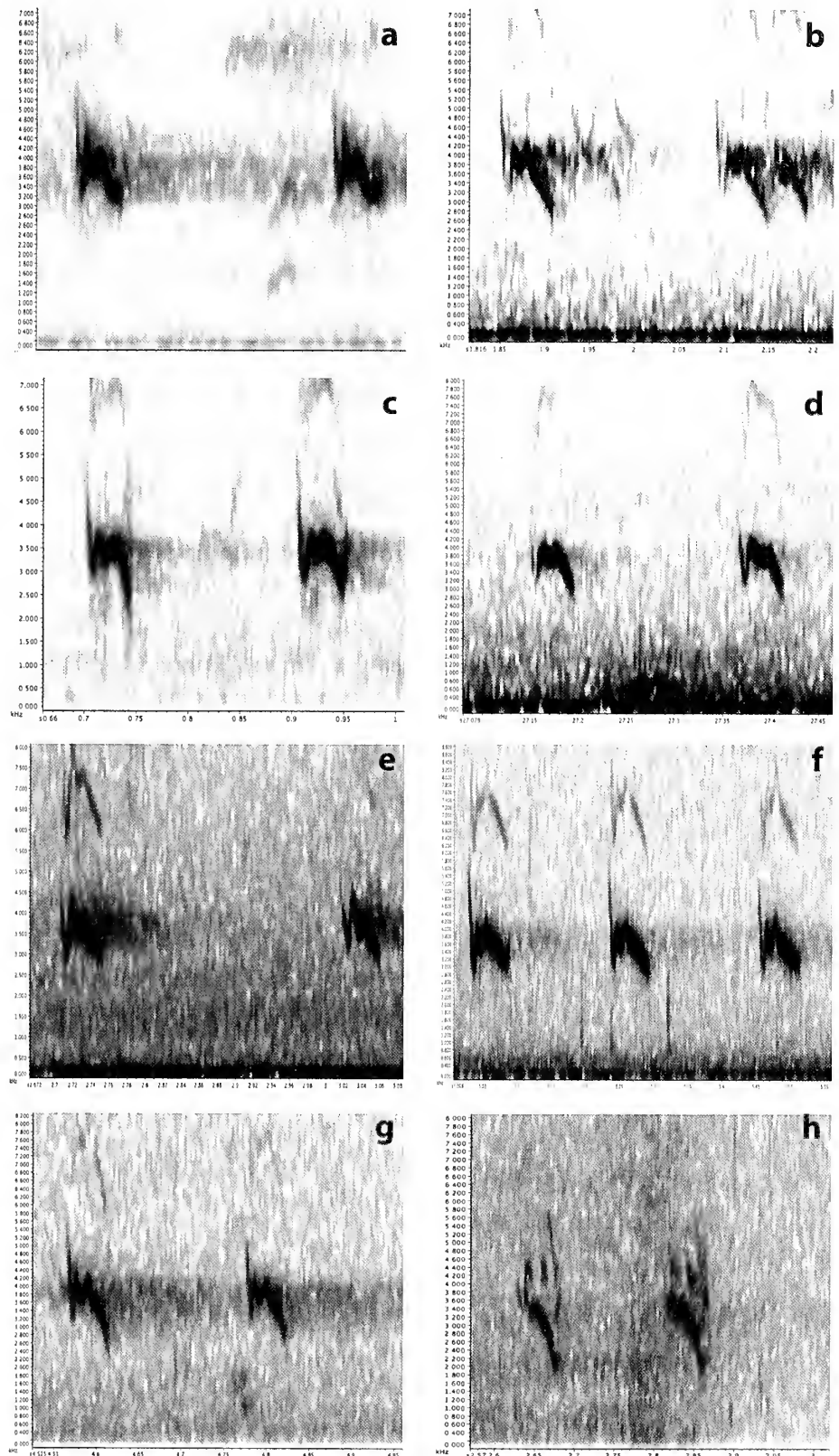


Figure 2. Proposed Type 8 flight calls, all recorded on the island of Newfoundland. a) recorded by Fifield at Whitbourne 15 July 2005. b) recorded by Greg Stroud 10 June 2006 at Whitbourne. c) recorded by Martha J. Fischer 7 May 2007 at Whitbourne. d) recorded by Doug Hynes 2 February 2010 at Conception Bay South. e) recorded by Doug Hynes 16 July 2010 at Whitbourne. f) recorded by Bruce Rodrigues 31 March 2011 at West Brook Ecological Reserve. g) recorded by Bruce Rodrigues 20 April 2011 at Howley. h) unusual calls recorded by Bruce Rodrigues 20 April 2011 at Howley.

Nevertheless, the spectrograph of this call most closely matches the "M-shaped" spectrographs of the most recent Newfoundland recordings. The bird was recorded in Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) stands, and it is perhaps best left unassigned to Type.

In the Northeast, the nomadic Type 2 is the only large-billed Type similar to Type 8 that occurs with any regularity; there is also one recording of a large-billed Type 5 in New York in August 2006 (Young 2010). While there is some overlap in measurements of bill depth between Type 2 and Type 8, the bill depths of birds measured in this study are in the middle range of Type 8 (Table 1) and would be on the extreme high end of the range for Type 2 (Table 2).

Discussion

Groth's (1993) description of Type 8 from two brief recordings was tentative, and it is possible that Pitocchelli's recordings are not of true flight calls but other sorts of calls (Irwin 2010). Although it is conceivable that the differences between the Pitocchelli recordings and the more recently recorded calls are due to a genetic bottleneck in Type 8, or even to recent colonization by an undescribed North American or European Type, it seems far more plausible that the more recent recordings more accurately represent Type 8 than the recordings analyzed by Groth. Red Crossbill flight calls appear to be relatively stable over time (Sewall and Hahn 2009), and so a radical change in flight call, even in a situation of sharp population decline, would seem unlikely.

Moreover, there is currently no evidence to support the notion that European Red Crossbills have colonized Newfoundland in recent times. Thomas et al. (in prep.), studying populations of Red Crossbill in the Atlantic provinces of Canada, sequenced a segment of the mitochondrial DNA control region from Red Crossbill tissue samples collected at locations from across Newfoundland, Québec, and Nova Scotia. Their analysis included comparison with tissue samples of crossbills from across Europe and from elsewhere in North America. Their results indicated clear distinctions between North American and European groups, but the North American samples did not reveal distinctive clusters for the gene regions investigated.

The most parsimonious explanation of the differences between the 1981 recordings and the 2006-2011 recordings, then, is that the more recent and complete set of recordings is typical of Type 8 Red Crossbill. The fact that recently measured individuals from Newfoundland were near the morphological mean of Type 8 (but near the extreme of Type 2) further supports the assignment of these birds to Type 8, despite the small sample size. Thus we infer that the more recent recordings refer more reliably to Type 8.

Clearly, more research on Red Crossbills in Newfoundland is needed. In Québec, there are reports of presumed Type 8 Red Crossbills from Anticosti Island (Benkman 1993a) and the Magdalen Islands (P. Thomas, pers. comm.), though there are no recordings to confirm identification. Other Red Crossbill

Types likely occur in Newfoundland on occasion, and several small-billed specimens have been noted in Newfoundland collections (Montevecchi, unpublished). Moreover, Types 1, 2, 3, 4, and 10 have been documented in nearby areas of northeastern North America (Groth 1999, Young 2008, 2010, 2011). More audio recordings of Red Crossbill flight calls are sorely needed from Newfoundland and from nearby islands and the adjacent mainland. Identification of Red Crossbill Types in Newfoundland, as elsewhere, will require an abundance of audio recordings, ideally paired with morphological data from the calling individuals (Groth 1993, Robb 2000, Summers and Piertney 2003). Ongoing acoustical studies by Doug Hynes and Ted Miller (Memorial University of Newfoundland) have confirmed that the vast majority of Red Crossbill flight calls recorded recently in Newfoundland are of the kind we describe herein.

Acknowledgments

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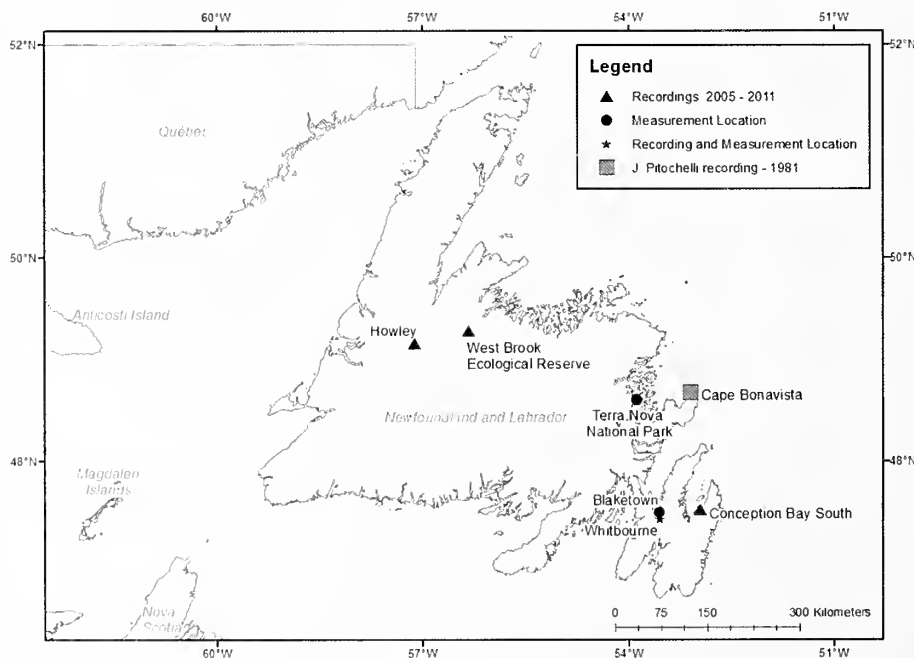


Figure 3. Site locations for recently measured and recorded Red Crossbills in Newfoundland.

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Table 1. Morphological measurements of Red Crossbills in Newfoundland, all apparently of Type 8. Measurements presented included single individuals, mean \pm standard deviation, or a range, unless otherwise specified. Where relevant, the sample size is provided parenthetically. Measurements of males (m) and females (f) are presented separately in some cases.

source	bill length (mm) ^a	bill depth (mm) ^b	wing chord (mm)
Whitbourne (1711-08128) ^c	15.0	10.2	89
Whitbourne (1711-08131) ^c	15.7	10.2	90
Terra Nova National Park (see text)	14.5	10.3	91.5
Blaketown ^d	13.9	10.2	91
Whitbourne ^d	14.1	10.2	87
Payne (1987)	m 15.16 \pm 0.52 (42) f 15.05 \pm 0.74 (22)	m 10.54 \pm 0.35 (41) f 10.49 \pm 0.43 (21)	m 92.02 \pm 1.70 (43) f 89.48 \pm 2.11 (21)
Benkman (1993, 1989)	14.9 \pm 0.18 (10)	10.6 \pm 0.10 (10)	
Pyle (1997)	13.5–16.4	9.6–11.4	m 89–97 (43) f 85–93 (21)

^a Mandible measured nares to tip.
^b Measured at anterior tip of nares.
^c Female and male with skull ossifications of approximately 66% and 50%, respectively, indicating hatching in early 2005.
^d Juvenile specimens; see text.

Table 2. Morphological measurements of Type 2 Red Crossbills.

Groth (1993)	m 16.14 \pm 0.059 (188) f 15.68 \pm 0.076 (118)	m 9.67 \pm 0.026 (189) f 9.41 \pm 0.029 (118)	m 93.78 \pm 0.145 (189) f 90.56 \pm 0.186 (117)
Benkman et al. (1989, 1993a)	m 15.8 \pm 0.08 (105) f 15.41 \pm 0.09 (74)	m 9.63 \pm 0.03 (120) f 9.48 \pm 0.04 (80)	m 92.8 \pm 0.02 (110) f 90.5 \pm 0.03 (72)
Pyle (1997)	13.8–19.2	8.9–10.5	m 89–99 (100) f 86–96 (100)

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

August was warm and rainy. Montréal and the Lac Saint-Jean area had their wettest August on record. Temperatures continued well above average for the next three months, but precipitation totals were generally below average. Relative to long-term averages, November was the most anomalously warm, with temperatures 5.3° C above normal for Montréal. The warm weather and very few strong cold fronts were probably responsible for a slow migration and for some migrants lingering late into November. Waterbirds, especially waterfowl, were still abundant well into December. Observers enjoyed several rarities, including Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Graylag Goose, White-faced Ibis, Purple Gallinule, Eurasian Collared-Dove, and White Wagtail.

DUCKS THROUGH HAWKS

A rare Fulvous Whistling-Duck, the first for the province in 20 years, turned up at Chambly 19 Nov (RB, D. Collins et al.). This wary, unbanded bird reappeared in association with a few hundred Mallards about 10 km n. of Chambly at Otterburn Park 20-23 Nov, but it soon left after the first snowfall (J. Lizotte, m.ob., ph.). Notable reports of Greenland Greater White-fronted Geese (subspecies *flavirostris*) included one ad. and 2 juvs. at Victoriaville 16-21 Oct (A. Daigle et al., ph.), an ad with a juv. at Norway Bay (Pontiac) 11 Nov (RD, D. Dallaire), a juv. at Victoriaville 19-26 Nov (CR, L. Longpré), and up to 8, including up to 4 juvs., in the Québec City region Oct-Nov (m.ob.). A neck-collared Ross's Goose, the first reported in the province, was at Roxton L. 30 Oct (ph. R. Roy et al.). The

SA A first-year **Graylag Goose** of the nominate subspecies appeared at Saint-Mathias 14-20 Nov (RB, GÉ, m.ob., ph.) and later at nearby Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 3-8 Dec (S. Mathieu et al.). At both sites, it was seen resting in the Richelieu R. and taking flight with Canada Geese to feed in neighboring cornfields. The bird's behavior and trim appearance, lacking the bulbous posterior of domestic Graylags, were both suggestive of a wild bird. In addition to the large population in Iceland, Graylags have recently colonized se. Greenland, although the size of that population is not well documented (*vide* Tony Fox). In recent years, there have been notable increases in appearances of Pink-footed Geese, Barnacle Geese, Greenland Greater White-fronted Goose (subspecies *flavirostris*), and Greenland-breeding Canada Geese (identified as such by yellow neck collars) in sw. Québec and across the Northeast; thus, more North American appearances of Graylag Geese, whose populations are likewise increasing, would seem likely.

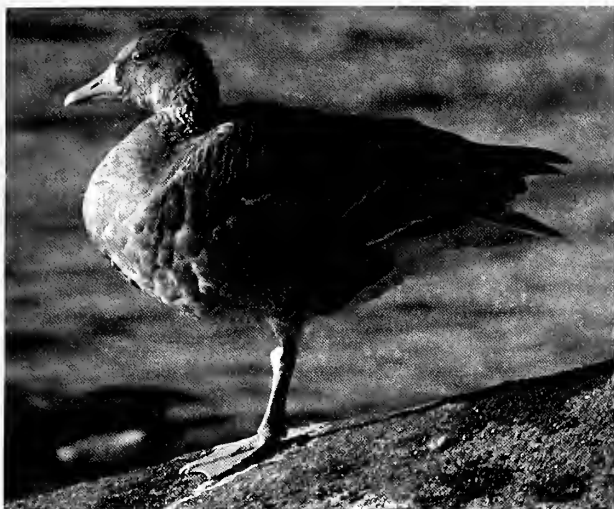
bird had been banded in Nunavut at Arviat, on the w. shore of Hudson Bay 25 Jul 2003, re-sighted at the same place in the summers of 2004 and 2005, and was reported in Nebraska in Mar 2004.

SA The overland migration of *dresseri* Common Eiders between the inner St. Lawrence estuary and the Gulf of Maine has been documented in both spring and in fall (Gauthier et al. 1976. *Wilson Bulletin* 88: 333-344). Diligent observations conducted at Rivière-Ouelle (CA, CG) indicate that the dynamics of the fall migration may have changed since that study was published. The peak of the flight has shifted from late Oct to early Nov, with flights continuing until late Dec. This season, a record-high **11,700** eiders were counted 5 Nov. The 1976 paper indicated a sex ratio with more females than males late in the season: "The sex ratio in the flocks of migrants changed markedly as the season progressed. In early October, the number of males was higher than the number of females, but by the last week in October and the first week in November, the number of females constituted 95% of the migrants." This is no longer the case, and male eiders now outnumber females later in the season. Also in contrast to the findings of Gauthier et al. is the apparent preference for a slight tailwind (from the north or northeast), whereas a headwind now appears to halt flock movements.

Anecdotal observations indicate that eiders from beyond the St. Lawrence estuary also utilize this migratory route. An ad. male King Eider among Common Eiders had reached the end of salt water at Saint-Vallier 19 Nov (J. Lachance). A nearly ad. male King first seen heading southwestward among **2200** Common Eiders at Rivière-Ouelle 3 Dec (M. Raymond, PL) was relocated in the afternoon at Saint-Vallier. An hour later, a first-winter male King was discovered among the eider flocks at the same location by G. Lord and J. Bernier. Judging by their restless behavior and subsequent absence at dawn the following day, all of these birds had likely undertaken their overland flight during the night. At Berthier-sur-Mer 4 Dec, a smaller flock of Common Eiders containing a female of the *borealis* subspecies, previously unrecorded in this section of the estuary, was seen to depart inland, toward the southeast (OB).

Single Mute Swans visited Île Charron 2 Aug (YG), Rosemère 16 Aug (DJ. Léandri), and Île Perrot 9 Nov-1 Dec (A. Rouleau), and single Trumpeter Swans were at Val d'Or 18 Aug (R. Ladurantaye) and La Mauricie N.P. 16 Sep (S. Bouchard, H. Royer). Two Tundra Swans at Granby 13 Nov (JF. Ostiguy) were new for this locality. There were five reports of Eurasian Wigeon, including a late bird at Tadoussac 19 Nov+ (SD). Canvasback has almost disappeared as a fall and spring migrant over the past two decades. This fall, more than 80 birds were reported from 20 different localities of s. Québec beginning in late Nov and culminating in early Dec (*vide* PB), a welcome rebound for this handsome duck. An apparent Hooded Merganser × Common Goldeneye hybrid was reported at Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 11 Nov (M. Roy). A rarity for the North Shore at any time, a Ruddy Duck was found at Portneuf-sur-Mer 11 Nov (SD).

Always rare in s. Québec, an ad. Pacific Loon still in breeding plumage appeared at Rivière-Ouelle 5 Oct (JFR). An *Aechmophorus* grebe was seen at Gatineau on the Outaouais R., on both sides of the Québec-Ontario border, 23-29 Oct (M. Gawn, J. Dubois et al.). An estimated 15 Northern Fulmars off Tadoussac 7 Oct (RP) was noteworthy. Shearwaters in the St. Lawrence R. included a Sooty at Pointe-des-Monts 5 Oct (G. Huot, J. Cadieux) and a Manx at Rivière-Ouelle 10 Sep (CA et al.). A Wilson's Storm-Petrel at Rivière-Ouelle 28 Sep (JFR) and a Leach's Storm-Petrel at



This Graylag Goose was present first at Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu, Québec 14-20 November 2011 and was relocated later at nearby Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu 3-8 (here 3) December. Photograph by Morcel Gauthier.

Sainte-Pétronille (Île d'Orléans) 2 Oct were the westernmost of their species this fall (PL et al.). Always rare inland, a Great Cormorant was at Chambly 15 Nov+ (F. Grenon, GÉ). A Little Blue Heron at Lac-au-Saumon 25-26 Oct (*vide* R. Lang) and a Cattle Egret at Gaspé 7-21 Nov (M. Lemay) were the only representatives of the southern herons this season. An ad. White-faced Ibis stopped at Yamachiche 12 (J. Gélinas et al.) & 20 Aug (ph. M. Amyot et al.), only the 4th Regional record. A Western Red-tailed Hawk (subspecies *calurus*) was photographed at Tadoussac 22 Nov (SD).

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

A very cooperative Purple Gallinule enlivened Sherbrooke 8-27 Sep (ph. S. Brûlotte, m.ob.). Sandhill Cranes were numerous in Témiscamingue, as evidenced by 500 at Nédélec and 200 at Roulier 1 Oct (JF); the L. Saint-Jean area also held good numbers, with 200 tallied at Saint-Augustin 9 Oct (D. Lavoie, G. Lemelin). A group of 4 Sandhills at Sept-Îles 25 Sep (JY. Galland, B. Galland) was notheworthy so far east. On 13 Nov, a flock of 10 was still lingering at Dundee, sw. of Montréal, where the species has been nesting for the past five years (J. De Marre). Breeding of American Golden-Plover was confirmed in Aug near Puvirnituq, Nunavik, where the species was also reported in the summers of 2002 and 2003; Dunlin and Pectoral Sandpiper were also present in the same area and probably nesting as well (MR). It was a remarkable fall for Hudsonian Godwits, with a total of over 100 birds reported (*vide* PB), the latest at Saint-Ferdinand 20 Nov being record late (D. Gagné). Single Marbled Godwits were seen at Saint-Siméon, Gaspésie 20 Aug (B. Arsenault et al.), at Sept-Îles 27 Aug

(JFL, C. Couture et al.), at Hope 18 Sep (D. Mercier et al.), and again at Sept-Îles 8 Oct (JFL). A Western Sandpiper was at Kamouraska 8 Sep (R. & F. Dion), while 2 different individuals were photographed at Portneuf-sur-Mer 14 & 25 Oct (SD). Twenty Buff-breasted Sandpipers in the Region late Aug-mid-Sep was close to the recent autumn average. A Buff-breasted among an unusual shorebird fallout at Saint-Joseph-de-Beauce 5-9 Sep (M. Therrien, MA. Rubénovitch) was a first record for the Beauce-Appalaches area. A Short-billed Dowitcher of the subspecies *hendersoni* in

breeding plumage was at Sainte-Martine 2-4 Aug (MiB et al.). Single Long-billed Dowitchers were identified at Kamouraska 3 Sep (F. Lachance, P. Otis, A. Rasmussen), Yamachiche 19 Oct (M. Bisson), and Lachenaie 25 Oct (S. Guimond), with 3 at Saint-Lazare 7 Oct (M. Dennis). A flock of about 100 dowitchers seen in flight at Saint-Blaise 1 Oct (M. Gauthier et al.) was intriguing, as large flocks are

Sep (RD et al.), and Rivière-Ouelle 3 Oct (JFR). An inland Sabine's Gull at Ville-Marie, Témiscamingue 10 Oct (JF) was noteworthy. A Black-headed Gull was seen regularly at Les Escoumins throughout the period (m.ob.); up to 30, including juvs., were more expected at Havre-aux-Basques, Magdalen Is. 21 Aug (SD, OB). Other rare gulls included a Laughing Gull at Percé 23 Oct (AC) and single Franklin's Gulls at Victoriaville 13-17 Aug (CR), Les Escoumins 16 Aug (JG. Beaulieu), and again at Victoriaville 27 Nov-1 Dec (CR). Among the increasing reports of Lesser Black-backed Gull, 6 each at Victoriaville 14 Sep (CR) and at Saint-Barthélémy 10 Oct (YG, SM) were noteworthy for the season. An ad. Forster's Tern was a nice find at Sainte-Pétronille 15 Oct (A. Côté). There were five reports of Pomarine Jaeger in the Tadoussac area in Oct and one at Pointe-aux-Loups, Magdalen Is. 6 Oct (AR). Sightings of Long-tailed Jaeger were made mainly in the Tadoussac area, but singles also turned up at Rivière-Ouelle 29 Aug (JFR) and notably at Île Sainte-Hélène, Montréal 23 Sep (VG. Kumar).

Small numbers of Dovekies were reported on the North Shore. Two at Sainte-Pétronille 20 Oct (SR) and one at Rivière-Ouelle 29 Oct (CA, CG) were noteworthy so early and so far upriver. Thick-billed Murres numbered a



This White-faced Ibis, a scarce species in Québec, was seen at Yamachiche 12 and 20 August (here) 2011. Photograph by Michèle Amyot.

very unusual on this late date.

Sabine's Gulls were reported regularly around Tadoussac in Sep, as usual, but an ad. there 18 Oct (ph. RP) was very late; elsewhere, single juvs. were at Beauharnois 6-17 Sep (MiB, J. François, m.ob.), Deschênes 17-21

notable 11 at Matane 19 Nov (G. Gendron, D. Ruest). An incursion of Atlantic Puffins upriver in the St. Lawrence R. was detected in early Oct, including 5 at Rivière-Ouelle 2 Oct (CA, CG), 12 at Bergeronnes 6 Oct (RP), and 2 at Sainte-Pétronille 20 Oct (G. Cyr, A. Côté).



This juvenile Western Sandpiper, a species rarely well documented in Québec, was at Portneuf-sur-mer 14 October 2011. Photograph by Samuel Denault.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

The saga of the Eurasian Collared-Doves continued this season, with up to 8 reported at Sainte-Brigide-d'Iberville in Nov (G. Gilbert), suggesting that the pair initially found there in summer reared several broods. Another frequented a feeder at Sainte-Félicité 19 Nov+ (ph. JD). A total of 9 Yellow-billed Cuckoos between mid-Sep and late Oct was above average; one at Rouyn-Noranda 5 Oct (C. Pépin) was outside the usual pattern of dispersal. An imm. Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird frequented a Blainville feeder 12-17 Nov (C. Fiset, ph.); there are fewer than ten records of *Selasphorus* in the Region. A Red-headed Woodpecker was quite a surprise near La Tuque 12 Oct (S. Marcotte). The fall flight of Red-bellied Woodpeckers was the best since the invasion of 2004, with most found in the e. half of the province, including one at Sept-Îles 21 Oct (C. Bérubé), one at Saint-Fulgence 23 Oct+ (Y. Légaré et al.), up to 3 in the Magdalen Is. 1 Nov+ (RA. De Coste, B. Vigneault), one at Longue-Pointe-de-Mingan 15-17 Nov (W. Desmond), and at least 9 in the Gaspé Pen. region in Nov (fide PP).

Single Say's Phoebes were reported at Saint-Adelme 27 Aug (M. Larochelle, fide P. Fradette), Pointe-au-Père 9-11 Sep (SM, YG, m.ob., ph.), Métabetchouan 10 Sep (J. Rousseau, ph. CB), and at Sept-Îles 18 Sep (F. Rousseau, M. Forest-Tremblay). The occurrence of multiple individuals of this species in a single season is unprecedented in the Region. A Western Kingbird strayed to Sainte-Thérèse-de-Gaspé 28 Oct-1 Nov (ph. AC). A window claimed the life of a White-eyed Vireo at Alma 30 Oct, only the 2nd record for *Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean* (C. Duguay), while one at Cowansville 12 Nov-1 Dec (B. Hamel, JP. Santerre, m.ob., ph.) established a new record-late date for the province.

A Purple Martin at Bic 8 Oct (M. Lafleur, JP. Ouellet) and 2 Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Rivière-Bleue 1 Sep (R. Deschênes) represented rare records for the Lower St. Lawrence. Single Cliff Swallows at Portneuf-sur-Mer 11 Nov (SD) and at Port-Daniel 13 Nov (PP et al.) extended the late departure date for the province. Seldom reported in the Laurentian Mts., a Carolina Wren at Baie-Saint-Paul 12 Aug (L. Rousseau, N. Burgdorfer) had apparently been present since fall of 2009, while another was found at Mont-Laurier 27 Nov (R. LeBrun). The species was confirmed breeding at Iberville 4 Aug, where an ad. was seen feeding 3 young (SR et al.). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported from five localities, including one at Port-Cartier 21 Sep (RL. Dumais) and an astonishing 4 birds together at L'Anseau-Griffon 24 Oct (J. Lacasse). Northern Wheatears were reported exclusively on the Gaspé Pen. this season, with 2 at Penouille 12 Sep (D. Jalbert, É. Asselin) and one at L'Anse-Pleureuse 20 Sep (A. Coughlan). Single Townsend's Solitaires visited Shawinigan-Sud 15 Nov (S. Bouchard) and the Mount-Royal Cemetery 29 Nov+ (E. Samson, m.ob.) A hatch-year Bicknell's Thrush was banded at the McGill B.O. 26 Sep, the 3rd bird to be banded in the history of this station (S. Duval, ph.).

Coming on the heels of last fall's record was Québec's 3rd White Wagtail, a bird seen in flight with 4 Horned Larks at Rivière-Ouelle 10 Oct (LM). An Ovenbird at Longueuil 26-27 Nov was remarkably late (A. Provost). A Worm-eating Warbler at Cap Tourmente 10 Sep was the earliest ever recorded in fall (L. Belleau). A well-described male Prothonotary Warbler at Québec City 28 Sep (S. Beaucher) was only the 3rd for *Capitale-Nationale*. Single Connecticut Warblers were noted at Deschênes 6 Aug and 1 Sep (G. McNulty). A female Audubon's Warbler was at Charron I., Montérégie 8 Nov (YG). It was an excellent fall for Yellow-throated Warblers, with singles at Saint-Michel-de-Bellechasse 6-7 Nov (Claude Girard), Maple Grove 12 Nov (JM. Béliveau, D. Ouellette et al.), Bic 14 Nov (L. Masson, fide J. Larivée), and Roberval 29 Nov-1 Dec (CB). A hatch-year Lark Sparrow at Tadoussac 19 Sep fell a prey to a Sharp-shinned

WAGTAIL THROUGH FINCHES

Hawk the next morning (SD). Another young Lark Sparrow was at Cap d'Espoir 22 Sep (M. Larrivière). Rarely intercepted on migration in the Region, a Le Conte's Sparrow at La Pociatière 24 Oct was record late (LM).

Single Summer Tanagers highlighted the month of Nov at Saint-Fulgence 7-8 Nov (C. Cormier), Cap-aux-Os 17-19 Nov (D. Sigouin, fide M. Côté), and Pointe-aux-Trembles, Montréal 19 Nov (YG). Single Dickcissels were at Port-Daniel 2 Oct (AC et al.) and Tadoussac 3 (SD) & 22 Oct (SD, OB), and 2 were at Sainte-Félicité 1 Nov+ (JD). Two different Yellow-headed Blackbirds frequented the Magdalen Is. in the same time frame: a young male at Grande-Entrée 19-23 Oct (JC. Richard) and an ad. male at Havre-Aubert 23-25 Oct (G. Chiasson, fide S. Cyr). A Streak-backed Oriole photographed at Notre-Dame-de-Montauban 23-26 Oct (A. Picard, ph. I. Therrien) was determined to belong to the non-migratory *sclateri* group of the Pacific slope of Central America, thus an escapee. Systematic counts at the Tadoussac dunes yielded tallies of 53,369 Common Redpolls and 30,766 Pine Siskins, breaking previous single-season records of 42,433 redpolls and 18,451 siskins.

Addendum: Two Trumpeters Swans were seen and heard in flight at Bergeronnes 8 Aug 2010 (P. Welch, fide Harry Lumsden).

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**Walter G. Ellison
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Autumn 2011 in New England was warmer and wetter than average. Tropical Storm *Irene* was the standout storm of the season, with its combination of seabirds, including good numbers of Sooty, Royal, and Sandwich Terns, hundreds of displaced Black Terns, Black Skimmers, modest numbers of other southern terns, many inland and inshore storm-petrels, jaegers, shorebird fallouts, and habitat destruction. Landfalling tropical cyclones of this type are relatively rare in the Region.

Some pronounced cold fronts included 6-9 September, which caused inland shorebird fallout and subsequent hawk and small landbird flights on 10 September. A cold front followed by northwesterly winds 17-18 September led to a large hawk flight and another landbird push. Other flights occurred 27 September and 6 October, after frontal passage. Finally, wet weather on 27 October led to an inland waterbird fallout featuring Black Scoters and a coastal sea duck flight. Productive November nor'easters were generally lacking save for a Thanksgiving blow 23 November.

Trends of note included a late waterfowl migration that did not start in earnest until mid-November and large numbers of low-density migrants such as Dickcissel, Blue Grosbeak, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Lark Sparrow. Ash-throated Flycatchers also arrived early and continued in unprecedented numbers. A notable nonevent was the lack of the almost annual late-season Cave Swallow flight. There were signs of decent irruptions of Snowy Owl and Northern Shrike but little else from the north. Further evidence of the warm season was the large number of late-season lingerers and late reverse migrant songbirds, including many warblers. Relatively few westerners were found, in-

cluding only two western warbler species. Rarities included several storm-driven birds brought by *Irene*, notably White-tailed Tropicbirds (several inland) and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels (firsts for Connecticut and Vermont), Pink-footed Goose, Red-billed Tropicbird (summering for the sixth year in the Gulf of Maine), at least two Brown Boobies, Little Egret, White-faced Ibis, Virginia's Warbler, Cassin's Kingbird, Mountain Bluebird (Maine's first), Smith's Longspur, and Calliope Hummingbird. The bird of the season was the Yellow-green Vireo banded on Plum Island, Massachusetts—there is no previous record of the species north of the Gulf Coast states.

Abbreviations: A.P. (Andrew's Pt., Rockport, Essex, MA); Charlotte (on L. Champlain shore, Charlotte, Chittenden, VT); Cousin's I. (Sandy Point Beach, Yarmouth, Cumberland, ME); Cumberland Farms (in Middleboro, Plymouth, MA); D.C.W.M.A. (Dead Creek W.M.A., Addison and Panton, Addison, VT); Lighthouse Pt. (at New Haven, New Haven, CT); Monhegan (Monhegan I., Lincoln, ME); Plum I. (at Newbury/Rowley, Essex, MA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

Scarce goose species continue to be sprinkled among the increasing numbers of our more regular geese. The Bay State's 4th Pink-footed Goose was found in the Connecticut R. valley at Turners Falls, Franklin 26-28 Oct (ph. J. Smith et al.). The number of Greater White-fronted Geese reported reached new heights, with 23 observed 5 Oct+ from all six states, including 7 each in Maine and Massachusetts, 3 each in Vermont and Connecticut, 2 in New Hampshire, and one in Rhode Island. Ross's Geese were limited to the Champlain Valley at D.C.W.M.A. from 29 Oct-14 Nov, including 2 very rare blue morphs 13 Nov (TGM, AS, m.ob.). Single Barnacle Geese were in Aroostook, ME 5-22 Oct (several sites; ph. BS, ph. RSp), at West Newbury, Essex, MA 6 Nov-Dec (ph. PB, m.ob.), and at East Windsor, Hartford, CT 19 Nov (CE). Combing of goose flocks for Cackling Geese has become a productive pastime for birders: 54 were discovered in all states save New Hampshire; all appeared to be of the nominate subspecies. The first Cackling Goose of the season was at

Morristown, Lamoille, VT 3 Oct (R. Budliger); high counts included 5 at Newport, RI 9 Oct (R. Weaver) and 6 at Windsor, VT 26 Oct-24 Nov (m.ob.). Tundra Swan counts returned to the normal handful after last autumn's influx; an ad. was at Dorchester, Suffolk, MA 14 Oct (RD), and 3 were on Tiogue L., Coventry, Kent, RI 25 Nov (B. Larson et al.).

A dozen Eurasian Wigeons were reported, mostly from traditional locations, the first being 2 males at Plum I. 10 Sep-31 Oct, with one continuing there through 24 Nov (m.ob.). Several were at the usual New Hampshire location on Great Bay at Sunset Farm, Greenland, Rockingham 5-29 Nov, with an impressive count of 4 drakes 13 Nov (LM, JL, m.ob.). Sixty Blue-winged Teal at Simsbury, Hartford, CT 15 Sep (S. Johnston) made a record count for the Nutmeg State. In recent years, Tufted Ducks have been more often absent than present in autumn, so it was a pleasure to have one establish residence on Manchester Res., Attleboro, Bristol, MA 22 Oct+ (ph. J. Sweeney, m.ob.). Scoters burgeoned in an inland fallout and major coastal flight 27 Oct; Surf Scoters numbered 484 at Charlotte on L. Champlain (TGM, RBL), and an impressive 58,670 Surf Scoters flew past A.P. that day (RH). Also 27 Oct, Black Scoters appeared in notable numbers both inland and coastally, with hundreds on modest-sized ponds and lakes in the interior including 2500 on Unity Pond, Waldo, ME (TA), 2300 on L. Champlain at Charlotte (TGM, RBL), and 20,660 passing A.P. 27 Oct (RH). A few Barrow's Goldeneyes were seen away from Maine: singles were at Rye, NH 20 Nov (PB) and at Panton, Addison, VT 26 Nov (TGM), and 4 were at two locations in coastal Massachusetts after 26 Nov. A male Hooded Merganser × Common Goldeneye hybrid returned for its 7th winter at Southwest Harbor,



One of four displaced to New England by Tropical Storm *Irene*, this White-tailed Tropicbird was found on a busy road in Colebrook, northern Litchfield County, Connecticut on 29 August 2011. It was taken to a rehabilitator and subsequently flown to Florida and released. Photograph by Linda Bowen.

SA Hurricane *Irene* had degraded to tropical storm strength by the time it arrived in s. New England on the morning of 28 Aug, but it packed a wallop and dropped a lot of rain on the Region. The storm took an inland path, where it caused a great deal of flood damage, particularly in Vermont, where swollen brooks and rivers severed roads and swept bridges and streamside buildings away. Riparian habitat used by migrant waterbirds and breeders in w. New England will take some time to recover from the destruction.

The storm also entrained an impressive array of seabirds and precipitated fallout of migrating shorebirds (Tables 1, 2). No large tubenoses were displaced inland, but a fair scatter of storm-petrels was found inshore and inland, including Connecticut and Vermont's first Band-rumped Storm-Petrels. **White-tailed Tropicbirds** were driven inland in numbers not seen since 1938, with 2 in Massachusetts and singles in Connecticut and New Hampshire. Only one Northern Gannet was driven inland, but it reached Vermont. Sooty Terns were found inland in Connecticut and western Massachusetts, Bridled Terns were restricted to the coast south of Cape Cod, and most Royal and Sandwich Terns were also s. of Cape Cod. Black Terns were spectacularly numerous at many locations; over 300 were totaled along the New Hampshire coast alone. Some species did not turn up until after the storm had passed, including a handful of Brown Pelicans and almost all of the storm-driven Black Skimmers (mostly young birds).

Table 1. Summary of total birds recorded during and following the passage of Tropical Storm *Irene* in New England, 28-30 August 2011. Especially noteworthy species are in boldface.

Species / State	VT	NH	ME	MA	CT	RI
Cory's Shearwater	-	-	-	-	-	6
Great Shearwater	-	-	-	-	1	1
Manx Shearwater	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	-	-	-	2 ‡	5-6	12
Leach's Storm-Petrel	-	-	-	1 ‡	6 (4 ‡)	-
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	1	-	-	4	2	-
unidentified storm-petrel	1	-	-	-	-	-
White-tailed Tropicbird	-	1	-	2	1	-
Northern Gannet	1	-	-	-	-	-
Brown Pelican	-	-	-	1	1	1
Red-necked Phalarope	-	-	-	4 ‡	-	250
Red Phalarope	-	-	-	-	2	-
Red-necked/Red Phalarope	-	-	-	8 ‡	-	-
Laughing Gull	-	-	1 ‡	5 ‡	-	-
Sooty Tern	-	-	-	12	66 (19 ‡)	5
Bridled Tern	-	-	-	6	-	16
Sooty/Bridled Tern	-	-	-	-	-	9
Gull-billed Tern	-	-	-	1-2	-	-
Black Tern	-	23 ‡	-	700	31	190
Forster's Tern	-	-	-	11 ‡	3 ‡	-
Royal Tern	-	-	-	9	6	13+
Sandwich Tern	-	-	-	2	-	10+
Black Skimmer	-	6	2	27	-	5
Parasitic Jaeger	-	-	-	3 ‡	1	20
Long-tailed Jaeger	-	-	-	-	1	6

‡ = notable inland record/count.

Hancock, ME 20 Nov+ (CK). An impressive 275 Hooded Mergansers came to roost at Penacook L., Concord, Merrimack, NH 5 Nov (PH, RSu et al.). Ruddy Ducks were numerous late in the season, with high counts of 710 at Sabbatus Pond, Androscoggin, ME 18 Nov (MiF) and 705 on the Plymouth, MA waterfowl survey 19 Nov (J. Scott).

Two Pacific Loons were at Charlotte 22 Oct (†J. Osborn, †TGM, JM, C. Provost) and 2 at A.P. 27 Oct (RH), a rather low count overall compared to recent seasons. Strong counts of Horned Grebes included tallies of 95 on L. Champlain at Charlotte 16 & 26 Nov (TGM, P. Wiczoreck) and 221 at Nantucket 27 Nov (ER, K. & C. Blackshaw). The only

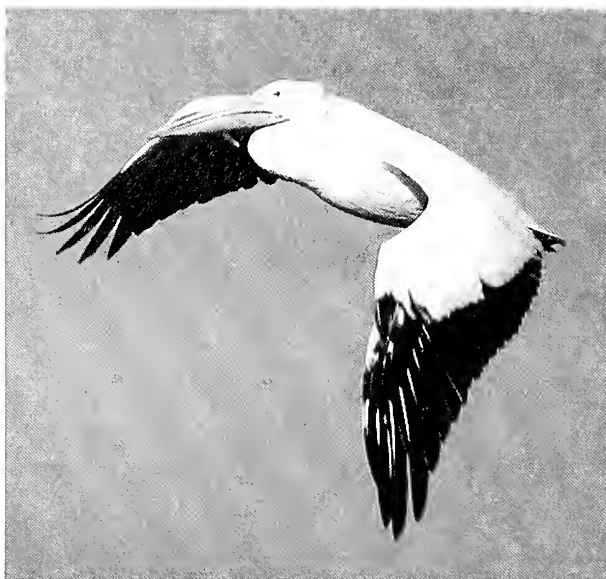
Eared Grebe this autumn was at the Rochester W.T.P., Strafford, NH 12 Aug (SM, DH, ph. LM). Excellent counts of Northern Fulmars included 400 at Jordan's Basin in the Gulf of Maine 16 Nov (CJV) and 350 at A.P. 23 Nov, the 5th highest count for this venerable seawatch site (RH). High counts of shearwaters included 1620 Greats at A.P. 23 Nov, a notably late date for such a number (RH), 1100 Sooty Shearwaters on Stellwagen Bank 6 Aug (P. Trull), and 74 Manx off North Truro, Barnstable 10 Aug (BN). The only Audubon's Shearwater reported was at Block Canyon off RI 19-21 Aug (C. Pedro et al.).

The Seal I, Knox, ME Red-billed Tropicbird spent its 6th summer in the Gulf of

Maine, staying until 13 Aug (P. Chamberlin). The arrival of at least 2 Brown Boobies in the Region did not appear to be associated with tropical storm activity; one was seen sitting on flotsam during a whale watch se. of Portland, ME 12 Aug (JD), and presumably just one young booby spent a long autumn on Cape Cod, first at Dennis, Barnstable 16-24 Aug (ph. M. Richmond, m.ob.), then later through the end of Nov at Provincetown, usually on the harbor jetty, 29 Aug+ (BN, m.ob.). Single American White Pelicans appeared on Ash Cr., Fairfield, CT 29 Aug (S. Carrow), at Chatham, Barnstable, MA 28 Oct (MaF, ph. RSc), at Kent Pond, Killington, Rutland, VT 17 Nov (ph. RP), and at Lighthouse

Table 2. Seabird records of note associated with Tropical Storm Irene in New England, 28-30 August 2011.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Pontoosuc L., Pittsfield, Berkshire, MA	28-Aug	Jacob Morris-Siegel et al.	
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Florence, Hampshire, MA	29-Aug	Betsy Higgins, <i>vide</i> Tom Gagnon	dead
unidentified storm-petrel	Ompompanoosuc R., South Strafford, Orange, VT	28-Aug	John Lloyd	one, seen floating down river (alive at the time, but disappeared downstream)
unidentified storm-petrel	Onota Lake, Pittsfield, Berkshire, MA	28-Aug	Chris Blagdon, Jacob Morris-Siegel et al.	
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Bantam Lake, Litchfield, Litchfield, CT	28-Aug	Fran Zygmunt et al.	
Leach's Storm-Petrel (2)	Mansfield Hollow, Mansfield, Tolland, CT	28-Aug	Mark Szantyr	
Leach's Storm-Petrel	South end, Quabbin Res., Hampshire, MA	28-Aug	Marshall J. Iloff et al.	worn
Leach's Storm-Petrel (many)	Litchfield, CT to Nantucket, MA (many)	various	various	
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Milford, New Haven, CT	28-Aug	Nick Bonomo, Julian Hough	first state record
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Stamford, Fairfield, CT	28-Aug	Patrick Dugan, Brenda Inskeep	first state record
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Hartland, Windsor, VT	29-Aug	Kenneth Moeller	first state record, *MCZ
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Westport, Bristol, MA	28-Aug	Paul Champlin	
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (2)	Tuckernuck, Nantucket, MA	28-Aug	Richard R. Veit	
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	Nantucket, Nantucket, MA	28-Aug	Vernon Laux et al.	one found on road, kept overnight and released next morning
White-tailed Tropicbird	Colebrook, Litchfield, CT	29-Aug	name unknown	first state record; one ad., found on road, finder's name unknown, taken to rehabilitator Linda Bowen and later flown to Florida
White-tailed Tropicbird	South end, Quabbin Res., Hampshire, MA	28-Aug	Larry Therrien, Marshall J. Iloff et al.	ad.
White-tailed Tropicbird	Onota L., Pittsfield, Berkshire, MA	28/29-Aug	Jacob Morris-Siegel, Tom Begley	
White-tailed Tropicbird	Claremont, Sullivan, NH	29-Aug	name unknown	one, found in a yard, transported to rehabilitator Catherine Greenleaf by Kathy Sullivan; died 31 Aug
Northern Gannet	Hartland, Windsor, VT	29-Aug	Guy Crosby, Sara Eisenhauer	brought to Vermont Institute of Natural Science; died
Bridled Tern (2)	Little Compton, Newport, RI	28-Aug	Robert Emerson et al.	
Bridled Tern (6)	Galilee Harbor, Narragansett, Washington, RI	28-Aug	Drew Wheelan	
Bridled Tern (2)	Point Judith, Narragansett, Washington, RI	28-Aug	Dick Ferren	both ads.
Bridled Tern (2)	Napatree Point, Westerly, Washington, RI	28-Aug	Dick Ferren, Tom Auer	
Bridled Tern (2)	Newport, Newport, RI	28-Aug	Charles Avenengo	
Bridled Tern (2)	Roger Wheeler State Beach, Narragansett, Washington, RI	29-Aug	Tom Auer	
Sooty Tern (4)	Bantam L., Litchfield, Litchfield, CT	28-Aug	Fran Zygmunt et al.	
Sooty Tern	Mansfield Hollow, Mansfield, Tolland, CT	28-Aug	Mark Szantyr	
Sooty Tern (11)	Candlewood L., Litchfield, CT	28-Aug	Jim Dugan et al.	
Sooty Tern (22)	Cornfield Pt., Old Saybrook, Middlesex, CT	28-Aug	Andrew Griswold	
Sooty Tern (3)	Milford, New Haven, CT	28-Aug	Nick Bonomo	
Sooty Tern (8)	Housatonic R. at Route 1, New Haven/Fairfield, CT	28-Aug	Frank Mantlik, Scott Kruitbosch et al.	
Sooty Tern	Milford Point, New Haven, CT	28-Aug	Sara Zagorski, Richard Payne	
Sooty Tern (2)	Pine Creek Beach, Fairfield, Fairfield, CT	28-Aug	Alex Burdo	
Sooty Tern	Pt. Judith, Narragansett, Washington, RI	28-Aug	Chris Raitel	
Sooty Tern (5)	Narragansett and Galilee, Washington, RI	28-Aug	Tom Seiter	
Sooty Tern	South end, Quabbin Res., Hampshire, MA	28-Aug	Larry Therrien, Marshall J. Iloff et al.	ad.
Sooty Tern (2)	Onota L., Pittsfield, Berkshire, MA	28-Aug	Jacob Morris-Siegel, Tom Begley, Seth Kellogg et al.	
Sooty Tern	L. Massapoag, Sharon, Norfolk, MA	28-Aug	Will Sweet	
Sooty Tern (1)	Antrim, Hillsborough, NH	30-Aug	found dead; <i>vide</i> New Hampshire B.R.C.	
Sooty/Bridled Tern (2)	Eagleville Pond, Tolland, CT	28-Aug	Chris Elphick	
Sooty/Bridled Tern (6)	Galilee, Washington, RI	28-Aug	Tom Seiter	
Sooty/Bridled Tern (3)	Newport, Newport, RI	28-Aug	Charles Avenengo	



This ponderously graceful American White Pelican stopped by Kent Pond, Killington, Rutland County in Vermont's Green Mountains on 17 November 2011. Interestingly, there was another report from the same location in May 2011. Photograph by Roy Pilcher.



At least three Brown Pelicans appeared along New England's south coast after the passage of Tropical Storm Irene. This immature was photographed 29 August 2011 at Griswold Point, Lyme, New London County, Connecticut. Sightings continued along Long Island Sound until 14 November. Photograph by Hank Golet.

Pt., CT 21 Nov (GH et al.). Brown Pelicans numbered at least 3 and were probably displaced into the Region by Irene; the first was seen at Griswold Pt., Lyme, New London, CT 29 Aug (H. Golet, G. Williams), and sightings continued along Long Island Sound through 14 Nov (m.ob.); others were in coastal Washington, RI 30 Aug–1 Sep (m.ob.), at Cuttyhunk, Dukes, MA 31 Aug–3 Sep (ph. K. Kleister et al.), and at Dennis and Chatham, MA 8–9 Sep (A. Marcy, M. Avis et al.). The Nantucket Birding Festival was indeed festive for birders, producing several rare sightings

including a well-documented young male Magnificent Frigatebird 20–21 Oct (J. Carlson, ph. VL, m.ob.). Fewer than 10 Least Bitterns were reported from scattered locations; at Great Meadows N.W.R., Concord, Middlesex, MA, a few were seen regularly until 9 Sep, with the high count of 4 on 23 Aug (WH et al.). High numbers of Great Egrets were found in the Champlain Valley, with a maximum of 14 at Ferrisburgh, Addison 18 Aug (F. Pratt); the farthest n. in the Region was at Washburn, Aroostook, ME 7–10 Aug (BS). Great Egrets lingered late, with 5 at Plum I. 20 Nov (RH) and 8 at Little Compton, Newport, RI 30 Nov (G. Dennis). A Little Egret photographed near the s. end of Plum I. 6 Aug may have been the same bird there 10 Jul (JH). The only stray inland Snowy Egret of the season was at Ponemah Bog, Amherst,



White-faced Ibis can be hard to identify in fall and are seldom reported in that season. This individual, showing the species' characteristic pink facial skin and red eye, represented Connecticut's first late autumn record and was well inland in Portland, Middlesex County 20–22 (here 22) October 2011. Photograph by Mark Szantyr.

Hillsborough, NH 16 Aug (C. Sheridan). Tricolored Herons continue to be very scarce, so 4 at Scarborough Marsh, Cumberland, ME 24 Aug was a very notable tally (J. Kelly). Fewer Cattle Egrets were seen in Oct and Nov than in 2010; late birds included singles at Matanuck, Washington, RI 1 Sep–30 Nov (MRe et al.), at Mapleton, Aroostook, ME 15–18 Nov (ph. BS et al.), and at Sabattus Pond, Androscoggin, ME 15 Nov (ph. DL, JL). It was a good ibis season. An imm. White Ibis was at Misquamicut, Washington, RI 2–10 Aug (m.ob.), and perhaps the same youngster was at nearby Barn I., Stonington, New London, CT 27 Aug–6 Sep (B. Dewire); another imm. visited Plum I. 4 Sep (C. Ciccone et al.). There were no inland Glossy Ibis this autumn, but there was a pelagic one near the ledges in the Gulf of Maine se. of Portland, ME 16 Aug (JD). An especially nice find was Connecticut's first inland and 2nd autumn White-faced Ibis at Portland, Middlesex 20–22 Oct (ph. J. Luppi et al.).

VULTURES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Only one Black Vulture reached n. New England this autumn, at East Kingston, *Rockingham*, NH 14 Nov (D. Finch). Turkey Vultures continue to do well in the Region, with record flights of 136 at the Putney Mt. Hawkwatch in *Windham*, VT and 521 over Boothe Park, Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT (SK) 28 Oct. Another impressive flight, particularly at an inland ridge location, was 75 Osprey at Pack Monadnock Mt., *Hillsborough*, NH 28 Sep (KK). Mississippi Kites continue to breed in New England: a pair nested for a 2nd consecutive year in Rhode Island at an undisclosed location (*vide* RF). In addition, one was seen at North Kingstown, *Washington*, RI 24 Aug (B. Glembowski), and singles were observed in Connecticut at Great Pond, Simsbury, *Hartford* 18 Aug (CE), Wallingford, *New Haven* 28 Aug (B. Asteriades), and Quaker Ridge, *Fairfield* 28 Sep (imm.; L. Tiller). There were several good Broad-winged Hawk flight days 10-18 Sep, with the strongest flights 17-18 Sep, exemplified by 8752 over Pack Monadnock (5208 of these on the 18th; KK et al.). Four Swainson's Hawks were detected, including a dark morph at Milford Pt., *New Haven*, CT 16 Sep (F. Gallo), a light imm. at Lighthouse Pt. 7 Oct (S. Mayo) that was also encountered at Hammonasset Beach S.P., *New Haven* later that day (ph. J. Carr, R. Gravlin), and a dark imm. at Lighthouse Pt. 12 Oct (L. James et al.); Vermont's 3rd Swainson's flew over the Putney Mt. Hawkwatch 25 Oct (DC et al.). Ninety-three Red-tailed Hawks and 3 Golden Eagles made the seasonal high counts at Putney Mt., both 28 Oct. The Region recorded 45 Golden in all. The season's only Gyrfalcon, a gray morph, was observed harassing Northern Gannets off North Beach, Chatham, MA 27 Nov (WP, ph. C. Goodrich), surely a thrilling sight.

A Purple Gallinule was at Cuttyhunk, *Dukes*, MA 8 Oct (RSc et al., ph.), and the remains of another was discovered at Stebbins Refuge, Longmeadow, *Hampden*, MA 13 Nov (P. Desjardins). There was a pronounced Region-wide invasion of American Coots that began on 20 Oct and continued through Nov, with above-average counts for all states including peak counts of 860 on Chickawaukie Pond, Rockland, *Knox*, ME 29 Oct (MJI et al.) and 900+ on the ponds at Lakeville, *Plymouth*, MA 23 Oct (WP). At least 45 Sandhill Cranes were reported, including a family of 4 at Bristol Pond, *Addison*, VT Aug-7 Nov (m.ob.), 4 over Pack Monadnock 7 Oct (KK et al.), 6 at Wareham, *Plymouth*, MA 13-24 Oct (M. Maurer et al.), and 6, perhaps the Wareham flock, migrating over Quaker Ridge, CT 28 Oct (B. O'Toole). Tropical Storm *Irene* grounded good

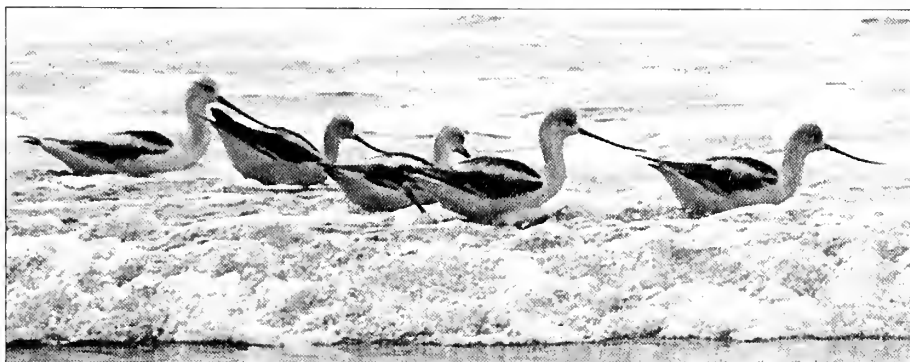
numbers of American Golden-Plovers over much of the Region, with counts of 32 at Rye, NH 28 Aug (LM) and 29 inland at Clinton, *Kennebec*, ME 29 Aug (LB, TP). Later high counts of golden-plovers included 50 at Northampton, *Hampshire*, MA 8 Sep (JH) and 38 at D.C.W.M.A. 29 Oct (TGM, AS). The first Wilson's Plover in autumn since 2005 was at South Beach, Chatham, MA 3-10 Sep (M. Kasprzyk et al.). Because they are early migrants in their breeding range, Black-necked Stilts are much scarcer in autumn, so two records this season were particularly noteworthy, singles in the Milford Pt. area in *Fairfield* and *New Haven*, CT 29 Aug-4 Sep (SK, FM, N. Bonomo, et al.) and at Orleans, *Barnstable*, MA 30 Aug (E. Orcutt). Ten American Avocets marked the best tally since 2005; singles were at Hampton and Seabrook, *Rockingham*, NH 24 Aug-1 Oct (LM, SM, MRe, m.ob.), in the Milford Pt., CT area 30 Aug-16 Sep (m.ob.), at Salisbury and Plum I., MA 4-17 Sep (D. Chickering, RSc, m.ob.), at Ninigret, *Washington*, RI 10 Sep (B. Sherman), and at Eastham, *Barnstable*, MA 20-31 Oct (K. Brunell et al.). An impressive flock of 5 avocets graced First Beach, Newport, RI 24 Sep-21 Oct (R. Larsen, m.ob.).

The Rochester W.T.P., *Strafford*, NH was alive with 19 Spotted Sandpipers 9 Aug (D. Hubbard); a very late one was at Cliff Pond, Brewster, *Barnstable*, MA 30 Nov (D. Clapp). Twenty-seven Upland Sandpipers were reported, with high counts of 6 at Boston, MA 3 Aug (RSc), 6 at Westfield, *Hampden*, MA 7 Aug (S. Kellogg), and 7 at the Kennebunk Plains, *York*, ME 17 Aug (D. Moulton). A



Most New England Swainson's Hawks are observed soaring overhead, so finding one perched is unexpected. This light-morph juvenile was found at Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, New Haven County, Connecticut on 7 October 2011, the afternoon after a similar (or the same) bird was seen over Lighthouse Point, New Haven, about 29 kilometers to the west. Photograph by Jim Carr.

migrating flock of 100 Whimbrels off Rye Harbor S.P., *Rockingham* 15 Aug (BG, JL, LM) made a very high number for the Granite State. Inland Whimbrels were singles: at Grand Isle, VT 25 Aug (DJH), at Weybridge, *Addison*, VT 25 Aug (IW), at Quabbin Park, *Hampshire*, MA 28 Aug (MJI, SSr, LT), and in the s. White Mts. at Woodstock, *Grafton*, NH 30-31 Aug (R. Bradley). A count of 45 migrating Hudsonian Godwits off Rye Harbor S.P. 15 Aug (BG, JL, LM) was impressive. Tropical Storm *Irene* grounded even more Hudsonian Godwits 28 Aug, including 109 total in New Hampshire (SM et al.), 12 at Quabbin Park (MJI, SSr, LT), 19 at Plum I. (SSn), and 3 at Fitchburg, *Worcester*, MA (T. Pirro). Other inland Hudsonians were 3 at East Hartford, CT 8 Sep (m.ob.), 4 at D.C.W.M.A. 1 Oct (TGM, R. Payne), and one at Delta Park, Colchester,



American Avocets usually appear in New England in ones or twos, so this flock of five at First Beach, Newport, Newport County, Rhode Island on 24 September 2011 was exceptional. They remained in the area until 21 October. Photograph by Bob Weaver.



This Black-necked Stilt appeared on 29 August 2011 at Milford Point, Milford, New Haven County, Connecticut after Tropical Storm Irene's passage. It frequented the mouth of the Housatonic River until 4 (here 2) September. This and one in Massachusetts on 30 August made only the third autumn records in the New England Region in at least 14 years. Photograph by Joe Cala.



Vermont's eighth Laughing Gull was photographed with Ring-billed Gulls on 20 September 2011 at Lake Bomoseen, Castleton, Rutland County. Most prior records are from the Champlain Valley. Photograph by Roy Pilcher.

Chittenden, VT 3 Oct (JM). Marbled Godwits have been in above-average numbers since 2009; 29 were reported this season, most at the "elbow" of Cape Cod at Chatham, where 13 were counted 11 Sep (MJI). Other reports included one in New Hampshire, 3 in Maine, 5 in Connecticut, and one in Rhode Island. The first fall-season Red Knots in Vermont in nine years were 2 in a muddy field at Pantton, Addison 6 Sep (TGM). In general, Sanderlings are very rare away from the shores of L. Champlain and the immediate coast, so several birds inland, some grounded by Irene and others by a 6-8 Sep stationary front, were exceptional; these included 4 at Norwich, Windsor, VT (SH et al.) and 2 at Bellows Falls, Windham, VT (EM) 28 Aug, 2 at Deerfield, Franklin, MA 6 Sep (M. Fairbrother), and 8 at Herrick's Cove, Windham, VT 8 Sep (DC, JR). White-rumped Sandpipers were also put down inland by Irene and by the later stationary front, with 10 each at Bellows Falls (EM

and Norwich (E. Hack et al.) 28 Aug and 9 at New Haven, Addison, VT 29 Aug (FP); 52 were at East Hartford, CT (m.ob.), and 33 were in a muddy field in Pantton, Addison, VT 8 Sep (E. Hynes). Seventy-two Baird's Sandpipers made an above-average season total and reflects the increase in reports over the past 10 years; the high count was of 4 at Clinton, Kennebec, ME 30 Aug-4 Sep (LB et al.). Purple Sandpipers occur almost annually on L. Champlain in autumn but usually on distant rocky islands rather than the mainland; this year's 2 were seen near Bixby I., Grand Isle 22 Nov (DJH). Curlew Sandpipers appeared in autumn for the 2nd consecutive year, with singles at Plum I. 17 Sep (B. Cassie et al.) and Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH 17-23 Sep (m.ob.).

The total of 87 Buff-breasted Sandpipers nearly matched the high of 90 recorded in 2006. The combination of Irene and wet early Sep weather produced several inland Buff-breasted Sandpipers, including counts of 3 at Pantton, Addison, VT 31 Aug (FP, TGM, JM et al.) and 5 at Clinton, ME 9 Sep (M. Viens); the high count on the coast was 5 at Plum I. 3 Sep (m.ob.). The only Ruff of the season was an ad. female at Quicksand Pond, Little Compton, Newport, RI (B. Emerson). The count of 2225 Short-billed Dowitchers at Chatham, MA 6 Aug (F. Atwood) was exceptional even for

that well-known shorebird hotspot. Nine Wilson's Phalaropes were reported, one in New Hampshire, 4 in Maine, and 4 in Massachusetts Jul-13 Sep. The large number of inland Red-necked Phalaropes (11) during this autumn was partly attributable to Irene. Red Phalarope is the more likely phalarope inland in Oct; 4 this autumn included singles at Brattleboro, Windham, VT 2 Oct (ph. DJ) and at Arlington Res., Middlesex, MA 3 Oct (C. Floyd et al.) and 2 at Charlestown W.T.P., Sullivan, NH 4 Oct (EM); 2 distant phalaropes at L. Bomoseen, Rutland, VT 5-6 Oct (RP) were most likely also Reds.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

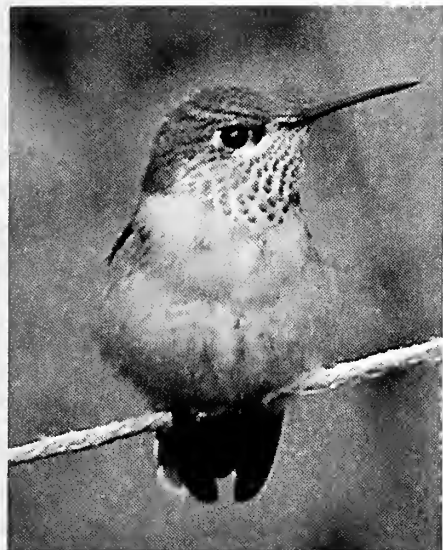
Inland Black-legged Kittiwakes included at least 3 on L. Champlain 20-23 Oct (m.ob.) and one at Trafton L., Aroostook, ME 25 Nov (ph. BS). The 14 Sabine's Gulls noted this autumn was an exceptional total, matching 2008's excellent showing; 4 were reported

from L. Champlain 10 Sep-29 Oct (m.ob.), and 10 were on the coast 28 Aug-8 Nov, with 8 of these in Cape Cod waters. The best count of Bonaparte's Gulls this autumn came from the traditional concentration at the tidal rips between Eastport, Washington, ME and Campobello I., NB, with 4000 on 1 Sep (C. Bartlett, B. Marvil et al.). Black-headed Gulls numbered 14; 3 were reported on L. Champlain at Grand Isle 13 Sep-22 Oct (DJH), 3 were in Maine, 7 in Massachusetts 30 Oct-29 Nov, and one in Rhode Island. Seventeen Little Gulls were reported throughout the season, with 6 on L. Champlain, 5 in Maine, 3 in Massachusetts, and one in Rhode Island. A few Laughing Gulls were displaced inland by Irene, including 4 at Quabbin Res., MA (ML et al.), a juv. at Concord, MA 28 Aug (WH), and a juv. at Bangor, Penobscot, ME 29 Aug (J. Mays). Vermont's 8th Laughing Gull was at L. Bomoseen, Rutland 20 Sep (ph. RP). Noteworthy among inland Lesser Black-backed Gulls were 3 juvs. at Clinton, ME 11 Sep (ph. RSp, LB) and an ad. at L. Josephine, Aroostook, ME 24 Sep (BS); 11 on a Jeffries Ledge pelagic trip 12 Sep (DL et al.) and 8 around Block I., Washington, RI 2 Oct (D. Finizia) made high counts for New Hampshire and Rhode Island, respectively. Nantucket's highest tally was 167 on 20 Nov (ER et al.).

It is hard to be sure if any of the 90 Caspian Terns seen away from L. Champlain nesting colonies were products of Irene's passage. Up to 36 were seen on L. Champlain before their early Sep departure; the high count for autumn migrants along the coast was 8 at Squantum, Suffolk, MA 19 Sep (RD). Good numbers of Forster's Terns are seen long after tropical storms, but given relatively few were seen during Irene, it is debatable that later high counts were entirely attributable to the storm; these counts included 110 at Dennis, MA 2 Sep (likely due to Irene, BN), 95+ at Plum I. 27 Sep (RH), and 39 at Hampton and Seabrook, NH 8 Oct (SM et al.). A Forster's was still present at Wellfleet, Barnstable, MA 29 Nov (O. Spalding). Many of the Royal Terns seen after 28 Aug may also have been delivered by Irene; they lingered exceptionally late, through 7 Nov on Long Island Sound at Stratford Pt., Fairfield, CT (SK, T. Leenders).

Four Great Skuas were reported: at First Encounter Beach, Eastham, MA 30 Oct (BN); on the continental shelf edge e. of Nantucket 13 Nov (CJV), at Jordan's Basin in the Gulf of Maine 16 Nov (CJV), and at A.P. 23 Nov (RH). Lake Champlain jaegers included at least 8 Pomarines 6 Sep-13 Oct, with a maximum of 3 on 9 Sep (JM et al.) and 9 Parasitics 3 Sep-22 Nov (m.ob.). Coastal high counts of jaegers included 49 Pomarines at First En-

counter Beach, Eastham 30 Oct (BN) and 118 Parasitics at Provincetown, Barnstable, MA 2 Oct (BN). Aided in part by Tropical Storm *Irene* (at least eight sightings), it was a banner fall for Long-tailed Jaegers, with 21 observed; these included a juv. at Charlotte 11 Sep (TGM et al.), an unprecedented 4 seen from shore at Rye S.P., NH 15 Aug (BG, LK, JL, LM), single pelagic mid-Sep sightings off Maine and New Hampshire, and at least 6 in waters around Cape Cod 5 Sep–2 Oct. All six



Records of western hummingbird continue to accumulate in New England. Connecticut's fourth Calliope Hummingbird spent 21–22 (here 22) October 2011 in a Pawcatuck, New London County garden. Photograph by Carlos Pedro.

regular alcid species were reported, but most were in unspectacular numbers. Exceptions included 300 Dovekies at Jeffries Ledge off New Hampshire 27 Nov (EM) and 1030 Razorbills on outer Cape Cod 25 Nov, with 457 seen from Chatham Light and a further 573 at First Encounter Beach, Eastham (RSc).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Yellow-billed Cuckoos were well reported along the coast, with an amazing high count of 11 at Cape Neddick, York, ME 3 Oct (LS) and 4 on Nantucket on the late date of 21 Oct (S. Perkins et al.). Single Black-billed Cuckoos turned up late on the Maine coast at Biddeford 25 Oct (B. Marvil) and at Acadia N.P. 26 Oct (M. Good). Installation of nest boxes for Barn Owls in Addison, VT has proved beneficial, with evidence of breeding at two sites and a total of 6 individuals at four locations 14 Aug (H. Trombley). The earliest of a good showing of Snowy Owls was at East Point Sanctuary, York, ME 2 Nov (C. Bartlett), followed by records from every state totaling about 25 individuals, concentrated as usual at the coast. It was a good season for inter-

cepting the Common Nighthawk migration in the Connecticut Valley. At Westminster Station, Windham, VT, the best counts were 1 & 2 Sep, with 762 and 771 (DC, JR), respectively, while watchers in Northampton, MA had high counts of 574 on 26 Aug and 454 on 31 Aug (T. Gagnon). In Connecticut, peak flights of 460 at Storrs, Tolland 27 Aug (C. Elphick) and 500 at Windham, Windham 31 Aug (P. Rusch) were recorded. A very tardy nighthawk was sighted on Nantucket 3 Nov (VL). Passage of a cold front pushed 295 Chimney Swifts past Lighthouse Pt. the morning of 23 Aug (BB, LJ). More traditional evening roost counts of 250 at Concord, NH 19 Aug (RSu) and 480 at Tauton, Bristol, MA 5 Sep (J. Sweeney) were notable, as was a late swift in Hampton, NH 22 Oct (SM).

Connecticut's 4th Calliope Hummingbird graced a Pawcatuck, New London garden 21–22 Oct (ph. R. Jones). Vermont's first *Selasphorus* identified to species was a female Rufous Hummingbird. It appeared in an East Arlington, Bennington yard in Nov, was banded 22 Nov, and remained until 15 Jan (S. Derosia, ph., vt. R. Schmidt et al.). Massachusetts feeders hosted female Rufous at Wareham, Plymouth (C. Roy) and at Lunenburg, Worcester, (M. Andella), both discovered 20 Oct. Connecticut contributed 3 more to the

Regional tally: an imm. male at Norwalk, Fairfield 29 Sep (J. Jaeger), an imm. male at North Haven, New Haven in mid-Oct (J. Zipp), and one at Guilford, New Haven 16 Nov (T. Kelly). A total of at least 21 Red-headed Woodpeckers was reported from all states save New Hampshire. Red-bellied Woodpeckers had their "best showing since 2004–2005" in Maine (DL); elsewhere across the Region, northern outliers appeared in New Hampshire at Holderness and at Lost River, Grafton and in Maine at Clinton, Kennebec, at Unity, Waldo, and at Stoneham, Oxford. Diligent observers counted 358 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and 206 Northern Flickers making the water crossing at Cousin's I., ME 6 Oct (LS, B. Hancock).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

Tardy *Empidonax* presented identification

puzzles in late Oct. A Least Flycatcher was photographed at Plum I. 16–21 Oct (ph. J. Center et al.), an *Empidonax* on Star I., NH 22 Oct (EM et al.) remained unidentified, and a Willow/Alder was at Seapoint Beach, Kittery, York, ME 23 Oct (TA). A good count of 58 Eastern Phoebes came from Westport, MA 9 Oct (ML et al.). Two Say's Phoebes were widely separated: the first at Ninigret Park, Charlestown, RI 9 Sep (P. Blake), the next at a farm in North Ferrisburgh, Addison, VT 21–23 Nov (J. Jones, †TGM, m.ob.). A record 9 Ash-throated Flycatchers appeared in coastal Maine and Massachusetts; the first was at Plum I. 27 Sep–10 Oct (B. Harris et al.), and 2 were there 8 Oct, when one was banded. Three other Bay State birds followed in mid-to late Oct, joined by Monhegan's first 23 Oct (JT, MJI) and a late Nov influx included one at Northport, Waldo, ME 24 Nov, which was captured and taken to a rehabilitator the next day (D. Reimer), one on Nantucket 25 Nov (ph. VL), and a long-staying juv. at Fort Hill, Eastham, MA 11 Nov+ (ph. J&PT, m.ob.). Observers who encountered a *Myiarchus* flycatcher in West Newbury, MA 14 Nov did not see enough plumage detail to determine if it was a Great Crested or Brown-crested Flycatcher (S. Haydock, PB). Photographic and audio recordings confirmed the identity of a



Lark Sparrows were among several species of low-density migrants found in record numbers in New England in autumn 2011. This portrait of one on Portland's Eastern Promenade, Cumberland County, Maine was taken 6 November. It was one of at least 12 in Maine and 38 in the New England region. Photograph by Derek Lovitch.

long-staying Cassin's Kingbird at Cherry Hill Res., West Newbury 25 Nov–28 Jan (P. Ruvolo, ph. J. Offerman, m.ob.), the 4th for the Bay State. Western Kingbirds were once again well represented, with at least 13 individuals,

most along the Massachusetts coast and outliers on Monhegan (4-5 birds) and at Westport, Fairfield, CT. The cold front passage of 23 Aug pushed an impressive 605 Eastern Kingbirds past Lighthouse Pt. (BB, LJ); a very tardy individual was photographed at Newbury, MA 3 Nov (S. Grinley). An imm. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher delighted participants in the Nantucket Birding Festival 21 Oct and lingered through 4 Nov (ph. SP, ph. VL, m.ob.). An ad. male Fork-tailed Flycatcher showing the three strongly emarginate outer primaries of the nominate subspecies was photographed at Stratton I., York, ME 2-3 Sep (†LS et al.).

Northern Shrikes put in their best appearance in the Region since 2007, with over 50 individuals tallied beginning 10 Oct. A White-eyed Vireo at Charlotte, VT 17 Sep (†JM) had wandered well n. and inland from its usual coastal distribution. At least 11 reached Maine, with an unprecedented 7 encountered in York 3 Oct (ph. LS); one at Plympton, Plymouth, MA 12 Nov was exceptionally late (J. Young). Other late-staying vireos included Yellow-throated Vireos at Biddeford Pool, ME 12 Oct (B. Cole) and Plum I. 23 Oct (D. & S. Larson), Blue-headed Vireos at Saco, York, ME 27 Nov (DL) and at the Sanford W.T.P., York, ME 27 Nov (A. Aldrich); a Warbling Vireo at Pittsfield, Merrimack, NH 26 Oct (†AR); Philadelphia Vireos at Truro, MA 6 Nov (ph. JT), at Saco, ME 17 Nov (ph. DH), and at Newtown, Fairfield, CT 28 Nov (record late; P. Dugan); and a Red-eyed Vireo at Rockport, MA 29-30 Nov, also record late (ph. RH, RSt). Although banders are accustomed to finding the occasional surprise in their nets, the appearance of a Yellow-green Vireo at Plum I. 5 Sep was stunning (ph. B. Flemer et al.). This Neotropical species rarely strays farther than s. Texas; there are no previous records n. of Florida in the East. Inland Fish Crow reports came from South Burlington, VT in Sep (TGM, JM et al.) and from Squam L., Carroll, NH 20 Aug (SM); noteworthy high counts were 12 at Plaistow, Rockingham, NH (SM) and 225+ at Sharon, Norfolk, MA (V. Zollo). Only one Cave Swallow reached the Region this autumn, at Stratford, Fairfield, CT 30 Nov (FM). Three Sedge Wrens were widely dispersed, noted at Tyringham, Berkshire, MA 6 Aug (ML et al.), at Northampton, MA 23 Sep (B. Zajada), and on Star I., NH 16 Oct (EM et al.).

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

All five of the season's Northern Wheatears were present only one or two days but were photographed. The first was seen by participants on the Maine Audubon Society pelagic trip as they circled Machias Seal I. 10 Sep (LS

et al.), followed by others at Hull, Plymouth, MA 14-15 Sep (M. Curran), on Nantucket 19 Sep (J. Van Vorst et al.), at the Groton–New London, CT airport 29 Sep (J. Ringler), and in the alpine zone on Mt. Moosilauke, Grafton, NH 11 Oct (M. & B. Lipson). Maine's first Mountain Bluebird was also photographed on a mountaintop, feeding on Mountain Ash berries on East Royce Mt., Oxford about 13 Nov (L. Webb); the peak is less than 0.5 km from the New Hampshire line. Eastern Bluebirds were on the move at Lighthouse Pt. 18 Nov, when about 200 passed observers (D. Campbell). After a three-year absence, Townsend's Solitaires appeared in Massachusetts, one for the birding festival on Nantucket 22-23 Oct (an island first, ph. VL, ph. PT, m.ob.), the other at Chatham 25-28 Oct (D. Manchester, ph. RSc et al.). Observers did not intercept the peak of the nocturnal thrush migration this season, but counts of 55 Veeries over Burlington, VT 5 Sep (AS) and 198 over West Roxbury, MA 7 Sep (MJI) were respectable, as was a diurnal count of 65 Hermit Thrushes at appropriately named Hermit I., Sagadahoc, ME 5

SA Two Regional locations have earned reputations as hotspots for observing large numbers of migrants concentrated along the coast: Cousin's I., Yarmouth, ME and Bluff Pt., Groton, New London, CT. This season, peak flights at Cousin's I. came on 10 Sep (DL; 834 migrants, including 260 Northern Parulas and 27 Magnolia Warblers), 26 Sep (LS et al.; 1437 warblers of 16 species, including 20 Nashvilles, 160 parulas, 220 Blackpolls, 310 Yellow-rumped, and 55 Black-throated Greens), 27 Sep (DL; 974 migrants, including 53 Black-throated Green Warblers), and 6 Oct (LS et al.; 2357 warblers of eight species, including 728 Blackpolls, 147 Palms, and 782 Yellow-rumped), while Bluff Pt. counters were busiest on 10 Sep (B. Asteriades et al.; 800 warblers of 13 species, including 200 American Redstarts and 45 parulas), 11 Sep (G. Williams et al.; 900+ warblers of 16 species), 17 Sep (G. Williams; 1083 warblers of 20 species, including 500 redstarts and 35 Black-and-whites), 6 Oct (C. Elphick; 500 warblers of nine species, plus 80 Golden-crowned Kinglets and 400 sparrows), and 23 Oct (G. Williams; a "mega-flight" of 31,000 birds, including 1600 kinglets, 105 Hermit Thrushes, 10,000 White-throated Sparrows, and 3000 Dark-eyed Juncos).

Nov (MiF). A late Swainson's Thrush at Odiorne S.P., Rye, NH 29 Oct was documented with notes (SM). A Northern Mockingbird living up to its name was taking advantage of Mountain Ash berries at St. Agatha, Aroostook, ME 5 Nov (BS). The only Bohemian Waxwings of the season were one at Southwest Harbor, Hancock, ME 29 Oct (CK) and 2 in Truro, MA 6 Nov (ph. JT). Maine's 2nd Smith's Longspur obliged birders and photographers in a sand quarry in Norridgewock, Somerset 21-25 Sep (ph. TP, m.ob.).

A count of 35 Ovenbirds at Cape Neddick, ME 3 Oct (LS) was good for this usually unobtrusive species. Other noteworthy high counts of common warblers were 86 Common Yellowthroats at Biddeford Pool, ME 25 Oct (B. Marvil), 26 Magnolia Warblers in breeding habitat at Victory, Essex, VT 3 Sep (RSt), 100 Blackpoll Warblers on Star I., NH 24 Sep (EM), 30 Black-throated Blues at Cape Neddick, ME 3 Oct (LS), and 150 Palms at Matinicus I., Knox, ME 16 Oct (MiF). Orange-crowned Warblers continue to be reported in high numbers, with over 90 total in the Region. At least 40 total Connecticut Warblers were reported, with a maximum of 3 at both Cumberland Farms 15 Sep (C. Nims) and Moran W.M.A., Windsor, Berkshire, MA 26 Sep (B. Zajada). Other species whose scarcity in recent years has been the subject of concern showed some signs of recovery this season. Reports of over 100 Tennessee Warblers across the Region were highlighted by an ad. feeding a fledgling at Crawford Notch, Carroll, NH 7 Aug (M. Harvey) and a high count of 7 at Unity, Waldo, ME 1 Sep (TA). Cape May Warblers numbered 45-50, with a high count of 5 on Monhegan both 21 & 23 Sep (LS, JT et al.). The high count among 55-60 total reported Bay-breasted Warblers was also 5, at Victory, VT 3 Sep (RSt) and at West Quoddy Head S.P., Washington, ME 30 Sep (J. Mays). Just 11 total Golden-winged Warblers were reported across all states except New Hampshire. Respectable Wilson's Warbler maxima were 7 at Burlington, VT 16 Sep (A. Strong) and 8 on Mohnegan 23 Sep (LS et al.). The usual scattering of southerly warblers occurred along the n. coast, with 3 Worm-eating Warblers each in Maine and New Hampshire in early Oct and 2 Prothonotary Warblers in Maine and one on Nantucket. Hooded Warblers appeared in better-than-usual numbers; about 10 were along the Maine coast n. to Metinic I., Knox, including a maximum of 3 at Cape Neddick 4 Oct (D. Doubleday), 2 in New Hampshire, and 10 in Massachusetts, the latest on 23 Oct. The only Yellow-throated Warblers were 2 in Rhode Island, including one banded at Ninigret, Washington 21 Oct

(E. King). Yellow-breasted Chats were also detected in very high numbers, with over 104 across the Region, including one at Saxtons River, *Windham*, VT 1 Oct (†JR) and 4 still present on Cape Ann, MA 29 Nov (RH).

November warblers have become almost routine in New England, especially along the coast, as observers have found the best places to look. Boston's Fenway gardens sheltered a lingering Ovenbird 16 Nov (RSc), a Nashville Warbler 9 Nov+ (RSc, RSt et al.), a Northern Parula 21 Nov+ (MJI, ph. RSc et al.), a Magnolia Warbler 7 Nov (ph. RSc), and a Blackpoll Warbler 7-21 Nov (RSc, MJI). Birders at East Shore Park, adjacent to a sewage treatment plant in New Haven, CT, found an impressive 13 species of warblers in Nov, including a record-late Bay-breasted 16 Nov (GH et al.). Other tardy warblers included a Northern Waterthrush at Wayland, *Middlesex*, MA 13 Nov (S. Miller, C. Dengler), a Black-and-white at Brattleboro, *Windham*, VT 5 Nov (J. Ogorzalek), a Nashville at Hinesburg, *Chittenden*, VT 17-18 Nov (E. Lee, TGM, S. Morrical), an American Redstart at Saco, *York*, ME 16-27 Nov (DH, TA, DL), a Northern Parula at Saco 17 Nov (ph. DH), single Black-throated Blues at Bridport, *Addison*, VT 4 Nov (IW) and at North Kingstown, *Washington*, RI 13 Nov (T. Newell), Prairies at Fort Hill and Marblehead, MA 11 Nov (ph. J&PT; D. Noble), and Black-throated Greens at Manchester, *Bemington*, VT 19 Nov (R. Schmidt et al.) and Marston's Mills, MA 25 Nov (J. Young). A Cape May Warbler discovered feeding in the wrack line at Odoirne S.P., Rye, NH 26 Nov successfully overwintered (JL, m.ob.). A Blackburnian Warbler photographed at Concord, NH 5 Nov (AR, RSu, A. Moser) was stunningly late for its species. The season's western strays were Maine's 3rd Virginia's Warbler, photographed at Monhegan 8 Nov (DH), and a MacGillivray's Warbler at Squantum, MA 8 Oct (RD).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Small numbers of Clay-colored Sparrows now breed in the Region, which may have contributed to the record 92+ reported this season, especially for the 5 in Vermont; Massachusetts (35) and Maine (25) contributed the bulk of the rest, with others distributed fairly evenly among the three remaining states; the maximum for one location was 5 on Monhegan 3 Oct (DH et al.). Lark Sparrows also appeared in record numbers, with 38 distributed along the coast from Maine (12+), New Hampshire (3), Massachusetts (17), Rhode Island (3), and Connecticut (2). Aside from the tallies mentioned in the S.A. above, other impressive high counts of common species included 318 Chipping Sparrows on a walk-

ing survey of Penacook, *Merrimack*, NH 3 Oct (PH), and 272 Savannah, 41 Lincoln's, and 500 Swamp Sparrows at Cumberland Farms 9 Oct (J. Sweeney et al.). Most Nelson's Sparrows were on the coast, as expected, including an estimated 80 in the Morse River Marsh, Phippsburg, *Sagadahoc*, ME 25 Sep (P. Vickery, J. Pierson et al.); 2 Nelson's of one of the interior subspecies were also present. Inland records came from *Grand Isle*, VT (DJH), *Worcester*, MA (P. Meleski et al.), *Hartford*, CT (P. Cianfaglione), and *Middlesex*, CT (L. Nichols et al.). The season's lone Lark Bunting was photographed and occasionally fed beneath parked cars at Gloucester, MA 8-9 Oct (B. Harris, m.ob.). A first-winter Harris's Sparrow at Thetford, *Orange* 24 Sep was Vermont's 3rd (sketch, †B. Heitzman). For the 2nd autumn in a row, Summer Tanagers set a record, with 11 total, most in the first two weeks of Oct. Farthest afield was one on Metinic I., ME 17-18 Oct (N. Strycker); one other was in Maine, 2 were on the New Hampshire coast, and the balance came from Massachusetts, including a late imm. or female at Manomet 26 Nov (MaF). Single Western Tanagers were at Dorchester, MA 5 Oct (RD) and at Short Beach, Stratford, *Fairfield*, CT 30 Nov (R. Williams). Yet another record fell, with at least 93 Blue Grosbeaks in the Region, including one very close to where 2 were found last year at Vernon, *Windham*, VT 9 Oct (DJ, DC) and up to 7 on Monhegan 5 Oct (DH et al.), where the actual number present over the season was impossible to determine. An ad. male Painted Bunting graced Cove Island Sanctuary, Stamford, *Fairfield*, CT 2-26 Nov (ph. P. Dugan), and a female was found by those seeking the Ash-throated Flycatcher at Fort Hill, MA 26-27 Nov (ph. E. Labado, m.ob.). Dickcissels flooded the Region, with 3 in Vermont, 10 in Rhode Island, 18 in New Hampshire, 45 in Connecticut, 70+ in Massachusetts, and 15-20 in Maine away from Monhegan's migrant trap.

Bobolinks were on the move in Northampton, MA 1 Sep, with a count of 531 (T. Gagnon); a late individual was found in an Eastham, MA brush dump 6 Nov (ph. JT). Eastern Meadowlark populations are declining with changing agricultural practices, so a count of 21 from Hinesburg, *Chittenden*, VT 29 Sep was welcome (P. Wiczorek). Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found 12-17 Oct: at Revere, MA 12 Oct (RSc, MJI et al.), on Star I., NH 16 Oct (male; EM et al.), and on Belle Isle, East Boston 17 Oct (male; P. Peterson). Rusty Blackbirds have become uncommon at best, but there were a few double-digit high counts in mid-Oct: 36 at Brookfield, *Worcester*, MA (R. Jenkins) and 41 at Cousin's I. (LS

et al.). The high count of Baltimore Orioles was 50 at Monhegan 27 Sep (DH). Crossbills were present in modest numbers in n. mountains through the season, with a lone Red over Cove I., Stamford, CT 8 Oct (P. Dugan). Red Crossbill maxima were 20 along the Kancamagus Hwy., *Grafton*, NH (R. Robinson) and 24 at Nicasious L., *Hancock*, ME (DH, RSp). Analysis of recordings of the latter flock by Matt Young at Cornell Lab identified most as Type 10, accompanied by one Type 1 individual. White-winged Crossbills may have nested in the North Country, with a high count of 35 at Baxter S.P., *Piscataquis*, ME in Aug (RSp) and flocks up to 60 in the same area (DH) and in n. *Aroostook* (D. Smith) in Nov. A handful of Common Redpolls reached coastal Massachusetts, but most remained in the far north, including a large flock of 130 in Square Lake Twp., *Aroostook*, ME 26 Nov (BS). Modest numbers of Pine Siskins were reported, although they were locally common across the n. states. American Goldfinch flocks generally held fewer than 50 birds, with the exception of migration counts of 296 on 12 Nov and 311 on 20 Nov at Hampton, NH (SM) and 200 on Isleboro I., *Waldo*, ME 21 Nov (J. Wilson). Single-digit counts of Evening Grosbeaks represented local nesters, with no sign of invaders from farther north.

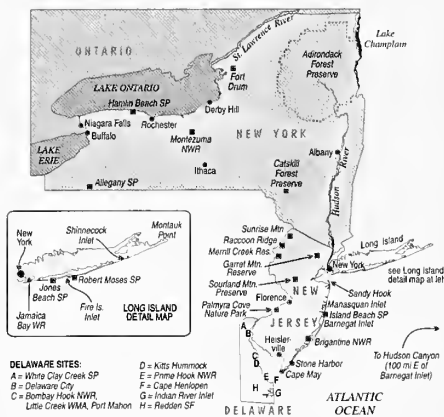
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The weather news this fall was dominated by Hurricane Irene, which skirted Cape May and came ashore in the morning of 28 August over Coney Island, with the western edge of the center of circulation passing up the Hudson River at 10 a.m. No storm in history has produced so many records of seabirds, especially tropical seabirds, in the Region. Tropical Storm Lee, which came ashore on the Gulf coast 5 September, brought heavy rain but little wind to the Region over the next three days. A powerful cold front produced an unseasonable snowstorm at the end of October, bringing record-breaking October snowfalls for both New Jersey and New York. Otherwise, the season was marked by very mild temperatures, with an exceptionally warm November, and slightly more rain than average. We thank Tony Leukering and Michael O'Brien for assistance in compiling records for this report and for careful reading of early drafts.

Abbreviations: Avalon (Avalon Seawatch, Avalon, Cape May, NJ); Braddock Bay (Braddock Bay B.O., Rochester, NY); Brigantine (Forsyth N.W.R., Atlantic, NJ); Derby Hill (Derby Hill Hawkwatch, Oswego, NY); Hamlin Beach (Hamlin Beach S.P., near Rochester, NY); Higbees (Higbees Beach State Wildlife Area, Cape May, NJ); Iroquois (Iroquois N.W.R., Genesee, NY); Jamaica Bay (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Gateway N.P., New York City); Jones Beach (Jones Beach S.P., Nassau, NY); Moriches (Moriches Bay and inlet, Suffolk, NY); Montauk (Montauk Pt., Suffolk, NY); Montezuma (Montezuma N.W.R., Seneca/Wayne/Cayuga, NY); Sandy Hook (Sandy Hook Unit/Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth, NJ).

WATERFOWL THROUGH PELICANS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks appeared for the 4th year in a row; 5 were at Brigantine through 21 Aug (CJV et al.), and singles were at Conewango, Cattaraugus, NY 3 Sep (Bob Sundell) and Stow, Chautauqua, NY 19-25 Sep (Brent Gamma, Peter Landon). A Pink-footed Goose at Middletown, Orange, NY 15-25 Nov (Deborah & Lee Hunter, m.ob.) made the 3rd Regional record in the past five years. About 33 Greater White-fronted Geese were found Regionwide, with, predictably, the largest concentration being about 20 in the Niagara frontier region 9 Oct+ (K. Suty, J. Adams, PY et al.). A total of 10 Ross's Geese included 4 in the Niagara region 23 Oct-26 Nov (R. DeLeon, J. Wojewodski et al.) and 3 at Woodland Beach, Kent, DE 20 Nov (AGo). Larger counts of Brant include 6000 at Brigantine 27 Nov (D. Rankin) and 1969 flying past Derby Hill 22 Oct (BPu). A Barnacle Goose visited Middle Valley, Morris, NJ 15 Nov (Allison Gossling); as with Pink-footed Goose, the increase in Regional records is consistent with recent large increases in breeding populations in eastern Greenland and Iceland (BirdLife International. 2004. *Birds in Europe: Population Estimates, Trends and Conservation Status*). Reports of roughly 90 Cackling Geese included 33 in the Niagara region 12 Oct-12 Nov, and, somewhat more unexpectedly, 22 in New Jersey from 6 Oct+. About 30 Trumpeter Swans in upstate New York included one near Perch River W.M.A., St. Lawrence, NY with a wing tag from the Michigan program; this is the first indication that Trumpeter Swans from somewhere other than Ontario are appearing in the Region. Thirteen Eurasian Wigeons were found, about average, with 6 in New Jersey 9 Oct+ and 5 on Long I. and Staten I., NY 5 Nov+ (DG et al.). Two thousand Blue-winged Teal at Walkill, Sussex, NJ 17 Sep (MBr) ties the state high count. About 2000 Northern Shovelers at Brigantine 27 Nov (D. Rankin et al.) exceeds published maxima for New Jersey by a wide margin, whereas 6000 Northern Pintails at Brigantine 27 Nov (J. Lefever) are within historic levels. The high count of Green-winged Teal past Avalon was of 1329 on 22 Oct (TR).

Some 5500 Ring-necked Ducks made a very high count at Wilson Hills W.M.A., St. Lawrence, NY 27 Nov; 500 Redheads were also noted there (JSB). Seven total King Eiders included one rather early near Massena L., at the St. Lawrence R. 1 Oct (JSB). High counts of Common Eider included 1185 at Montauk Pt. 26 Nov (SF) and 200 at Barnegat Inlet 27 Nov (SAB, LM). Thirty Harlequin Ducks included 26 at Barnegat Inlet 19 Nov (J. Lefever), 2 on Long I., and one at Island

Beach S.P., Ocean, NJ 17 Oct (SW). There were 1080 Surf Scoters at Montauk 26 Nov (SF et al.), 6175 Black Scoters at Amagansett 29 Oct (AnW), 1500 White-winged Scoters at Montauk 5 Nov (AnW), and 13,252 scoters total at Montauk 29 Oct (AnW); 55,860 scoters passed Avalon 28 Oct (including 19,405 Surfs, 21,727 Blacks, 14,727 dark-wingeds), and 39,286 were tallied there 5 Nov (15,406 Surfs, 15,585 Blacks, 7178 dark-wingeds) (TR). A juv. Common Goldeneye at Wilson Hills W.M.A., St. Lawrence, NY 3 Sep may have been locally raised; Commons are rare breeders in n. New York. Two male Barrow's Goldeneyes were found, one at E. Marion, Suffolk, NY 26 Nov (HM et al.) and another at Rye, Westchester, NY 23 Nov (TWB), the latter for the 2nd year in a row. Twenty-four hundred Red-breasted Mergansers at Long Pond, Greece, Monroe, NY 16 Nov (RSp) was a moderate number, but 2900 Common Mergansers at Oradell Res., Bergen, NJ 30 Nov (John Workman) made an unusually high count so far south. A high count of 4580 Ruddy Ducks came from Jamaica Bay 29 Nov (DG).

High numbers of Red-throated Loons were seen at the coast, such as the 16,851 on 21 Nov (new all-time record) and 15,787 the next day passing Avalon (TR) and 1594 at Fire Island, Long I. 21 Nov (SSM, PJJ). A Pacific Loon at Hamlin Beach 23 Oct-1 Nov (AGu, DT) was the only one this fall. An ad. Yellow-billed Loon in breeding plumage was carefully studied at Hamlin Beach 16 Oct (JHB, CLW) and relocated at Wolcott, Wayne, NY 30 Oct (TLz); a decade ago, this species was virtually unknown in e. North America, but recent records come from Georgia and Maine. High numbers of Red-throated Loons were seen at the coast, such as 10,000+ passing Avalon 23 Nov (TJ) and 1594 at Fire Island, Long I. 21 Nov (SSM, PJJ). The only Eared Grebes reported this fall were singles at Jamaica Bay 3 Nov+ (Anne Lazarus, m.ob.) and at their regular haunt at Batavia through 3 Oct (WW et al.).

Northern Fulmars were commoner this fall than in recent years: 34 were seen off Shinnecock, Suffolk, NY 6 Nov (AnW, JSh, RF), and 7 were off Cape May 9 Nov (CJV). Single Black-capped Petrels were recorded from shore during Irene 28 Aug: one at Cape May Pt. (MO'B, TJ, VE et al.) and one over Mecox Bay, Suffolk, NY (AnW, PMP et al.). Thirty Cory's Shearwaters were at Wilmington Canyon 14 Aug (MFr et al.) and 10 off Lewes, DE 19 Aug (PAG et al.). On 28 Aug, Irene dropped a Bronx first Cory's in the Hudson R. at Riverdale (PAB). Great Shearwaters remained late into the fall, with 716 off Shinnecock 6 Nov (AnW, JSh, RF), 450 between

Hudson Canyon and Block Canyon 10 Nov (CJV), and 270 over the "Lobster Claw" off Cape May 27 Nov (MFr et al.). Counts of Manx Shearwater are increasing during late fall off our coast: 21 were over the "Lobster Claw" 27 Nov (MFr) and 19 off Cape May 9 Nov (CJV). Eleven Audubon's Shearwaters were at Wilmington Canyon 14 Aug (MFr et al.) and 6 off Lewes, DE 19 Aug (PAG et al.). On 28 Aug, one was struggling with *Irene's* storm surge while drifting up the Hudson R. in Riverdale, a first for the Bronx (PAB). A White-faced Storm-Petrel was seen at Hudson Canyon 10 Sep (LS), and another was off the Monmouth Cove Marina in Raritan Bay, Monmouth, NJ 28 Aug (ETB). Three Leach's Storm-Petrels were near Wilmington Canyon 19 Aug (MFr et al.), 3 more were off Lewes 19 Aug (PAG et al.), and 5 singles were seen offshore 14 Aug–10 Sep. During the passage of *Irene*, 2 were over the Hudson R. near Edgewater, Bergen, NJ 28 Aug (J. Crusco, A. Egan) and one at Riverdale, plus 2-4 at Fort Schuyler in extreme sw. Long Island Sound, both Bronx firsts (PAB). Two Band-rumped Storm-Petrels were identified at Wilmington Canyon 14 Aug (MFr et al.), one was off Lewes 19 Aug (PAG et al.), and one was at Hudson Canyon 10 Sep (LS). During *Irene*, single Band-rumped were seen from Fowler's Beach, DE (CB), off Fort Schuyler at the w. end of Long Island Sound (PAB), and in Jones Inlet (SSM, PJJL).

Five Magnificent Frigatebirds appeared 28 Aug–13 Sep, some of these surely connected to the passage of Hurricane *Irene*: an imm. at Oradell Res., Bergen, NJ 28 Aug (LS), one at South Bay, Hudson, NJ 5 Sep (Tim O'Connor), one at Brick, Ocean, NJ 8 Sep (Christine Raabe), an ad. male at Avalon that continued southward past Cape May 9 Sep (Gail Dwyer, ph. TJ et al.), and one at Pleasantville, Westchester, NY 13 Sep (MBo). An ad. Brown Booby at Cape May 20 Aug–30 Oct (David Lord et al.) spent much of its time loafing on

a channel marker and dock with Double-crested Cormorants and was seen by thousands of birders during its long stay. Higher counts of Northern Gannets included 5000 at Fire I., NY 18 Nov (SSM) and 4500 at Ft. Tilden, Queens, NY 18 Nov (DG). About 4700 Double-crested Cormorants passed Fire I., NY 26 Oct (SSM). Nineteen total American White Pelicans included a peak of 6 at Cape Henlopen, DE 14 Nov (Seth Cutright et al.). Some 25 Brown Pelicans were found on Long I. this fall, about 10 of these immediately after *Irene* (HM et al.). The last was a juv. at Ft. Schuyler 15 Nov, a first for the Bronx, presumably the individual that had been working its way southwestward down Long Island Sound from New Haven, CT (PAB).

HERONS THROUGH RAPTORS

The 23 Aug earthquake apparently startled 200 Great Egrets out of their roosting area (John Hand); other high counts were 228 at Iroquois 16 Sep (WW) and 191 at Winthrop Swamp, St. Lawrence, NY 4 Sep (JSB). A Great Egret at Bombay Hook 20 Nov (M. Moore) bore a green wing tag that indicated it had been banded at Collingwood, ON. Two hundred forty Snowy Egrets were at Brigantine 13 Sep (CJV), and 15 Little Blue Herons were at Avalon 1 Oct (S. Kacir). A high count for recent seasons, 108 Cattle Egrets were at Salem, NJ 12 Aug (Tom Amico). Eight White Ibis appeared in the Region 13 Aug–18 Sep, all hatch-year birds except for the ad. at Hampton Bays, Suffolk, NY 6 Sep (HM, TBo et al.). An ad. Glossy Ibis at Savannah, Wayne, NY 2-11 Sep (D. Spier) was notable for upstate. A White-faced Ibis at Bombay Hook 1 Aug (CB) made the only report of the season. An imm. Wood



A Townsend's Solitaire turned up 26 October 2011 at Taylor's Wildlife Preserve, Ginnaminson, Burlington County, New Jersey. Photograph by Denise Bittle.

Stork frequented Hamlin Beach 24-28 Oct (DT, MT, BC, AGu), the only one reported.

The increase of Black Vultures in the Region seems to have accelerated this fall: 11 were seen over Moses Mt., Staten I., NY 6 Nov (CB, AP), 4 were far n. at Hamlin Beach 19 Nov (AGu, DT), and 12 were in the Niagara region 13 Sep–24 Nov (Joe Fell, JP). Single Mississippi Kites, much less common in fall than spring, were at Montclair Hawkwatch 16 Sep (Ted Keyel) and over Central Park, Manhattan 25 Sep (PWP). Away from hawkwatches, about 30 Northern Goshawks were reported. The peak one-day total of Sharp-shinned Hawks was 1016 at Cape May 1 Oct (MR). There were 6 Swainson's Hawks (all singles) at Cape May 16 Sep–28 Oct (MR, TM), while other singles were at the Ashland Hawkwatch 11 Sep (Jeff Uhlenburg), Cape Henlopen 30 Sep (SC), a light imm. that was eventually hit by a car and killed at Hamlin Beach 1-5 Oct (JHB et al.), and an imm. at Brigantine 24 Oct (SAB, LM). Nine reports of Golden Eagle came from Delaware 30 Sep–28 Nov (FR), 6 were seen at the Raccoon Ridge Hawkwatch 30 Oct (Megan Taylor), and 2 were on Staten I., NY 30 Oct (AP, CB). Falcon peaks at Cape May were 1029 American Kestrels and 148 Merlins 4 Oct (TM) and 132 Peregrines 30 Sep (MR).

RAILS THROUGH ALCIDS

A rare, late Black Rail was at Cape May 30 Oct (Will Kerling et al.). An imm Purple Gallinule was at Bayonne, Hudson, NJ 20 Oct

SA Eleven White-tailed Tropicbirds were found during and after *Irene*: not since the 1938 hurricanes had this rare species been so widely observed in the Northeast. Seawatchers at Sunset Beach, Cape May Pt., including Tony Leukering, Michael O'Brien, David La Puma, Sam Galick, Scott Whittle, Glen Davis, Vince Elia, Mike Fritz, Tom Johnson, Kevin Karlson, and many others, were rewarded by an ad. White-tailed 28 Aug (MFr et al.). Later in the morning, 2 ads. together were noted by the large party gathered there (TJ et al., ph.). Two were also seen at Fowler's Beach, Sussex, DE (ES, AGO). Reports of single live birds included an ad. on the Hudson R. seen from Manhattan 28 Aug (Ardith Bondi, D. Dancis, PWP, S. Stuart), an imm. on the Hudson R. from Manhattan 28 Aug (N. Sourigi, J. Knox), and an ad. at Pt. Lookout 28 Aug (Steve Walter). After the storm, dead White-tailed Tropicbirds were found at Rockaway Beach in Queens, New York City and at East Marion, Suffolk, NY (J. Sep); the only report from well inland in the Region was a moribund ad. found on the roadside in Stephentown, *Rensselaer* 29 Aug (ph. R. Wiltraut).

(MBr, SL); another was picked up at Sodus Pt., Wayne, NY 27 Sep (RSp) and later died. About 45 Sandhill Cranes were reported; 15 cranes at Husted Landing, Cumberland, NJ 12 Nov (Mary Bleecker, Susan Killeen) probably included some hybrids and backcrosses with Common Crane; all of these appear to be permanent residents in this area.

A maximum of 1185 Black-bellied Plovers was at Brigantine 4 Aug (AM et al.). The season's total of 700 American Golden-Plovers included top counts of 122 in *Genesee*, NY 10 Aug (G. Lawrence, A. Garland), 120 in *Salem*, NJ 9 Sep (Hank Burk), and 103 along Kitts Hummock Rd., Kent, DE 12 Sep (CB). A Wilson's Plover was at Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ 12-27 Sep (Joe Turner, Bob Ringler et al.). American Oystercatcher roosts held 397 at Champagne I., Cape May, NJ 2 Oct (SG) and 465 at Jones Beach 4-17 Sep (RJK et al.). *Irene* dropped a Black-necked Stilt at Sleepy Hollow, Westchester 28 Aug, a county first (B. Van Doren et al.); others (*Irene*-related?) were found n. to Liberty S.P., Hudson, NJ 9 Sep (SL), Marine Park, Brooklyn, New York City 11 Sep (H. Lopes), and Brigantine 13-15 Sep (John Collins et al.); one was late at Bombay Hook 20-30 Nov (CDC). American Avocets moved n. to Bergen 29 Aug-10 Nov (M. Newhouse et al.) and Sandy Hook 17 Aug-10 Sep (SAB, LM); one was at S. Dayton, Cattaraugus, NY 12 Nov (KF); and 1032 were at Bombay Hook 23 Oct (BGP). Up to 660 Greater Yellowlegs were at Stone Harbor 1 Nov (LZ), and peak counts of Western Willets were 86 at Nummy I., Cape May, NJ 4 Sep (TR), 35 at Jones Beach 9 Oct (Steve Schellenger), and 279 at Brigantine I., Atlantic, NJ 16 Oct (TJ). Eight Whimbrels along the Chazy R., Clinton, NY 5 Sep (Matthew Medler) were unusual at that locality. It was a very big fall for Hudsonian Godwit in the Region: over 100 were recorded, including maxima of 58 at Kitts Hummock, Kent, DE 10 Sep (CB, KB), 25 at Hamlin Beach 24 Aug (DT), 20 in *Oswego*, NY 1 Oct (D. Wheeler), 8 in four flocks passing Cape May 2 Oct (TJ, TL et al.), 8 in one flock past Cape May 19 Oct (TL), plus 3 each at Brigantine and Bayonne, Hudson, NJ that remained until 7 Nov (MBr et al.). Marbled Godwits continue to increase in number Regionally and remain later in fall; 64 were at Brigantine I., Atlantic, NJ 21 Oct (SG), 11 were at Nummy I., Cape May, NJ 17 Sep (J. Wahl), 7 were at Bombay Hook 21 Oct-20 Nov (CB, BGP), 14 were at Cupsogue County Park, Suffolk, NY 3 Sep (RK et al.), and one was inland at Ontario Beach, Monroe, NY 3 Sep (A. & D. Stout). Higher counts of Red Knots included 875 at Brigantine I., Atlantic, NJ 5 Aug (Glen

Davis), 540 at Stone Harbor, Cape May, NJ 13 Sep (MFr), and 330 at Jones Beach 3 Nov (DG et al.). Larger counts of small sandpipers include 2585 Sanderlings at Long Beach Island, NJ 13 Aug (MH); 5000 Semipalmated Sandpipers at DeKorte W.M.A., Bergen, NJ 6 Aug (MBr) and 4000 at Brigantine 11-20 Aug (M. Sabatine); and 300 Western Sandpipers at Brigantine 12 Oct (H. Tomlinson). A Western Sandpiper at Iroquois 13-14 Sep was locally rare (JMi, WD'A). White-rumped Sandpipers were not particularly numerous, with a maximum of 52 at Brigantine 17 Sep (VZ). The Region's total of 22 Baird's Sandpipers 13 Aug-7 Nov was a bit below average. One hundred Pectoral Sandpipers were at Liberty Sod Farms, Warren, NJ 10 Sep (A. Boyd), and 93 were at Cape May 28 Aug (Scott Whittle). Fifteen Stilt Sandpipers were at Cape May 24 Sep (CJV), and 10 visited Brigantine 27 Sep (KL). The Regional total of about 56 Buff-breasted Sandpipers included 14 on Long I. 3-26 Sep (Mike Cooper et al.) and 13 at Monmouth Sod Farms, NJ 14 Sep (Charles Brine). The only Ruff reported was a male with a white ruff at Taylors Gut, Kent, DE 5 Aug (MVB). Brigantine held 120 Long-billed Dowitchers 18 Oct (CJV); 2 stayed through Nov at Jones Beach (ABa et al.). Thirteen Wilson's Phalaropes 1 Aug-5 Nov included 3 at Hecksher S.P., Suffolk, NY 12 Sep (PJL, SSM). Twenty-five Red-necked Phalaropes were at Wilmington Canyon 11 Sep (SL et al.), and 12 were seen from shore at Higbees the day after *Irene*, 29 Aug (TJ, SG). Increased coverage of pelagic waters has revealed more Red Phalaropes: 262 were off Shinnecock 6 Nov (AnW et al.), 150 were between Hudson Canyon and Block Canyon 10 Nov (CJV), and 41 were near the "Lobster Claw" off Cape May 27 Nov (MFr et al.). Inland, 9 Reds were reported 7 Sep-4 Nov.

There seemed to be more Black-legged Kittiwakes offshore than usual for autumn; 35 were between Hudson Canyon and Block Canyon 10 Nov (CJV), and 16 were at Five Fathom Bank off Cape May 9 Nov (MFr). About 17 were seen along the L. Ontario shoreline 19 Oct+ (*fide* RSp, BPu), and one appeared at Cumberland Head, Clinton, NY for just the 2nd county record (David Hoag). Only 4 Black-headed Gulls were reported, one in New Jersey, the other on Long I., all in Nov (SL, AnW, R. Fleming et al.). An apparent Ring-billed Gull × Black-headed Gull hybrid passed Avalon 22-23 Nov (ph. TJ, TR, MO'B). Only 12 Little Gulls were seen Regionwide 11 Sep-19 Nov (AGu, HM). Single Franklin's Gulls were at Leipsic, Kent, DE 4-5 Sep (Frank Marengi, C&KB), Derby Hill 17 Oct (D. Wheeler, BPu), and Artpark S.P., Ni-

agara, NY 5-28 Nov (WD'A et al.). The Conney I. Gray-hooded Gull was last reported 4 Aug (K. Graff et al.). Two California Gulls were along the Niagara R. 13-26 Nov (WD'A, JMi), where annual, one was at Dunkirk Harbor, Chautauqua, NY on the early date of 1 Oct (JP, JMi), and another was reported from Avalon 11 Nov (TR). Though none were reported during *Irene*, 6 Sabine's Gulls flew past Hamlin Beach 12 Sep (AGu) and 6 more on 16 Sep (DT).

The total of 875 Black Terns at Gardiner's Bay, Suffolk, NY 11 Sep (AnW) is much larger than anything recorded since the 1950s; similarly high numbers were found in s. New Eng-

SA At least 60 Sooty Terns and 53 Bridled Terns were found this fall during the passage of Hurricane *Irene* 28-29 Aug. Peak numbers were 8 Sooties and 11 Bridleds at Cape May Pt. 28 Aug (MO'B, TL et al.), 9 Sooties at Great Gull I. 28 Aug (JDi), and 7 Bridleds at Fort Pond Bay, Montauk 28 Aug (AnW, Anthony Collerton, Philip Dempsey). A few of each species were seen in the Delaware R. and Hudson R., and county firsts were recorded for both at Fort Schuyler on sw. Long Island Sound, Bronx (PAB); 4 Sooties at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon, NJ 28 Aug (FS) were the only ones well away from the coast. The high numbers of Bridled Tern relative to numbers of Sooty is unexpected, based on data analyzed from hurricanes that have made landfall since the 1960s. In addition to the hurricane birds, 17 Bridled Terns in total were seen on pelagic trips to Baltimore Canyon 2 Sep (7; MFr, DL) and Wilmington Canyon 11 Sep (10; MO'B et al.).

land this fall, probably related to *Irene*. Two Roseate Terns were seen at Cape May Pt. during *Irene* 28 Aug (MO'B et al.); another was there 8 Sep (MO'B); and another was at Montauk 11 Sep (AnW). Roseates depart considerably earlier in fall than do Commons and are normally gone by the end of Aug. Six Arctic Terns were reported during *Irene*, as follows: 2 ads. over the Hudson R. in the Bronx (PAB), one ad. at Mattituck, Suffolk, NY (R. Adamo), one in basic plumage at Del Haven, Cape May, NJ (Bob Fogg), and 2 ads. over the Delaware R. at Taylor's Wildlife Sanctuary, Burlington, NJ (Brian Hart). Royal Terns were actually scarcer than in recent autumn seasons, with unremarkable counts of 150 at Cape May 5 Sep and 400 there 29 Sep (MO'B). By contrast, Sandwich Tern numbers were elevated: 7 were

on Long I. in Sep, 7 were at Cape May 15 Sep (Charles Slugg), and 18 were at Gordon's Pond, Cape Henlopen S.P., DE 7 Aug (FR, BGP). Malibu Beach, Atlantic, NJ held 600 Black Skimmers 22 Sep (J. Stanton), and 170 were at Mecox Bay, Suffolk, NY 18 Sep (SA, Patricia Aiken). A South Polar Skua was very late at Hudson Canyon 10 Nov (CJV). South Polar Skuas were seen from shore and on-shore during *Irene* on Long I. 28 Aug, including one on the beach at Sea Cliff, Nassau (Ar-dith Bondi, Mary Normandia) that was taken to a rehabilitator and released the next day, one sitting in the parking lot at Jones Beach West End, Nassau (Brent Bomkamp), and 2 at Hook Pond, East Hampton, Suffolk (AnW). An unidentified skua was off Shinnecock 6 Nov (AnW, JSh). Of 28 Pomarine Jaegers seen, 4 were off Cape May 9 Nov (CJV), 4 off Shinnecock 6 Nov (AnW, JSh) and 3 off Hamlin Beach 22 Oct (RSp, AGu et al.). Of 95 Parasitic Jaegers reported, 10 were seen from shore at Cape May 26 Oct (MO'B), 11 from Island Beach, Atlantic, NJ 19 Nov (SAB, LM), and a total of 10 came from L. Ontario during Oct. Single Long-tailed Jaegers appeared during *Irene* at Cape May 28 Aug (MFr et al.) and at Hampton Bays, Suffolk, NY 28 Aug (V. Frati); 3 singles were seen on offshore trips 2-11 Sep (MFr, DL, MO'B); and 3 juvs. were seen from Hamlin Beach 25 Aug-15 Sep (DT). A Razorbill at the mouth of the Niagara R. 8-30 Nov (Josh Stiller et al.) was a stand-out rarity; there are very few upstate New York records. Sixty-six Razorbills were seen from Fire I. 29 Nov (SSM) and 52 from Montauk 20 Nov (AnW); 7 were seen near the "Lobster Claw" off Cape May 29 Nov (MFr). An Atlantic Puffin was seen between Hudson Canyon and Block Canyon 10 Nov (CJV).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Up to 5 Eurasian Collared-Doves were present at Cape May Pt. through the season (m.ob.); 2 continued at Selbyville, Sussex, DE through 15 Nov (F. Marengi), and 4 visited Parma, Monroe, NY 17 Nov (RSp). Single White-winged Doves were at Talleyville, New Castle, DE 3 Aug (Michael Smith), Cape May 28 Oct+ (SW, KL et al.), and Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, New York City 27-28 Nov (Avi Lewis). The Monk Parakeet population shows signs of increasing and of eastward expansion on Long I., with 70 at Edgewater, Bergen, NJ 20 Oct (R. Klockner), 55 at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn 18 Nov (DG), and scattered reports of singles e. to Freeport and Baldwin, Nassau (SA et al.). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Derby Hill 22 Oct (Lewis Grove) was rather late.

Fifteen Snowy Owls were reported Region-

wide 2 Nov+, with more to come in winter. Reports totaling 19 Short-eared Owls 30 Oct+ included 5 at Hillsborough, Somerset, NJ 14 Nov (FS). Sixteen Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded the night of 28-29 Oct in Westchester, NY (MBo), and 4 were banded the night of 2-3 Nov at Sandy Hook (ETB). A Black Swift passed astonished seawatchers at Cape May Pt. 28 Aug (TL, ph. TJ, m.ob.). Given the track of the storm, it seems likely that this bird was from a Caribbean population. Large roosts of Chimney Swifts are normal in autumn in the Northeast; the count of 500 at Cape May 22 Oct (TL) is high for the late date. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Westchester, NY 25-30 Nov (SA et al.) was one of several late fall occurrences this season. A few decades ago, 11 Rufous Hummingbirds in the Region would have been unthinkable, but this count is now just above average for a fall season; 7 of these were in New Jersey 10 Sep+, and singles were on Staten I. 11-12 Nov (LLM, SIW), at Easthampton, NY 19 Sep (A. Collerton), at Mountainville, Orange, NY 15 Oct-9 Nov (Christine McCluskey et al.), and at Lenoir Nature Center, Westchester, NY 6-30 Nov (Bill van Wart et al.). In addition, 3 *Selasphorus* were noted in New Jersey and on Long I. 16 Oct-23 Nov (MFr, HM et al.); one of these, at Cape May, was discovered to be a Broad-tailed Hummingbird when it molted in the spring (details to be published in a later issue). Sixteen Red-headed Woodpeckers were on Long I. and Staten I. 7 Sep-4 Nov (H. Fisher et al.), and 6 were at Higbees 30 Sep (Sarah Lane). The peak flight of Northern Flicker came 5 Oct with 1168 counted at Fire I., NY (SSM, PJJ) and 693 at Higbees (TJ). Ten Black-backed Woodpeckers were found in the Adirondacks (MMc, William Lenhart, Joan Collins); singles seen by others in the Adirondacks were at Quiver Pond, Herkimer 22 Nov (BPu) and Massawepie L., St. Lawrence 13 Nov (JSB).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS

Thirty-six Eastern Pewees at Central Park, Manhattan, NY 25 Sep (AF) was a large number. Single Say's Phoebes were found at Caumsett S.P., Suffolk, NY 4-5 Oct (SF et al.), Fire I., NY 7 Oct (JQ), Bee Meadow Park, Morris, NJ 19 Oct (Jamie Glydon et al.), and Cocksackie Grasslands, Greene, NY 19 Nov (RG et al.); the Region averages fewer than one per autumn. By contrast, the Regional total of 6 Ash-throated Flycatchers 13-30 Nov is lower than in recent fall seasons.

Minimally 8 Western Kingbirds, including 5 from Long I., were seen 14 Aug-26 Nov. Single Gray Kingbirds turned up at Cape May 5 Oct (ph. TL) and at Jones Beach 15 Oct (M.

SAA Great Kiskadee was photographed perched on the aircraft carrier *Intrepid*, docked on the w. side of Manhattan, 31 Aug (*vide* John Votta). Peter Pyle has identified the bird as a one-year-old (second-year) bird. On 11 Sep, another or the same bird was photographed from an apartment at Spuyten Duyvil in the Bronx, about 14 km farther n. (Philip & Alice Brickner). The species is widespread in South and Central America, ranging n. to southernmost Texas. Texas kiskadees have expanded their range in recent years, and vagrants have reached Colorado, Arizona, and Louisiana. The species was introduced to Bermuda in 1957 and is now an abundant resident there. The only prior reports of Great Kiskadee on the East Coast are from Cape May 15 Dec 1960 and Fort Lauderdale, FL 26 Dec 1960, but neither is well documented.

McBrien); there are about ten records for each state. Nine hundred eight Eastern Kingbirds were counted from the dike at Higbees 30 Aug (TJ). The season's only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was at Captree S.P., Suffolk, NY 21-22 Oct (K. Thompson). The first Northern Shrike was a bit early 8 Oct at Fairhaven, Cayuga, NY (BPu); about 23 others appeared through the end of Nov. A Loggerhead Shrike along Bennett Pier Rd., Kent, DE 5-15 Nov (APE et al.) had been color-banded in Ontario as one of the remaining 21 pairs in that province. A Blue-headed Vireo at Staten I. 28 Nov (RRV) was late. Some 110 Red-eyed Vireos were counted at Higbees 25 Sep (TJ, SG). Up to 10 Gray Jays were at Five Ponds Wilderness, St. Lawrence, NY 3-5 Sep (JSB), 6 were at Massawepie Mire, St. Lawrence, NY 10 Sep (JSB), and 6 were at Sabbatis Bog, Hamilton, NY 29 Oct (MMc). A Common Raven at Ashland Hawkwatch 7 Nov (Kim Steininger) provided one of very few recent records for Delaware; Long I. and Staten I. had reports totaling 14 birds. Six hundred Fish Crows at Cape May 23 Sep (SG) made a sizeable total, while 26 at Syracuse 31 Oct (BPu) and 4 at Charlotte, Chautauqua, NY 14 Sep (KCG) provided further evidence of their northward expansion.

A high count of 45,000 Purple Martins on the Maurice R., Cumberland, NJ 13 Aug (TL) is nevertheless slightly below recent maxima for the state. A Violet-green Swallow at Cape May 19 Sep (ph. TJ) made a 4th record for New Jersey, all the others being from Cape May and Cumberland Oct-Nov. Cave Swallows went unreported this fall for first time since

1992. Nineteen Winter Wrens at Sandy Hook after the frontal passage 30 Oct (JSB, DG, TJ) made a large count there. Seven Sedge Wrens were found 23 Sep–10 Nov. Counters tallied 202 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers from the dike at Higbees 23 Aug (TJ), and 6 lingered into Nov in the Region, including one on Staten I. 28 Nov (DG, RRV et al.). Single Northern Wheatears were at Croton Pt., Westchester, NY 6-8 Sep (Christopher Lette, Charlie Roberto), Montauk 17-20 Sep (KR et al.), and Walkill River N.W.R., Sussex, NJ 7-9 Oct (Rob Stone et al.). Kinglet numbers were lower than usual, with a peak of just 300 Ruby-crowneds 23 Oct and 100 Golden-crowneds 26 Oct at Sandy Hook (Patrick Belardo, M. Newlon), for instance. A Townsend's Solitaire graced Taylor Wildlife Preserve, Burlington, NJ 26 Oct (Denise Bittle, Chip Krilowicz). Veeries peaked at 51 over Villas, Cape May 1-2 Sep (TL) and 45 over Cape May 17 Sep (Bob Fogg). Braddock Bay B.O. banded 82 Gray-cheeked and 57 Swainson's Thrushes in Sep; this proportion seems in accord with a recent increase in Gray-cheeked relative to Swainson's in the Northeast. The highest counts of migrants based on night calls were 70 Gray-cheekeds 27 Sep at Cape May (MO'B) and 200 Swainson's there 25 Sep (TJ). A Swainson's was late at Bryant Park, Manhattan 19 Nov (Ben Cacace). Four Bicknell's Thrushes were at Cape May 27 Sep (MO'B), and singles were at Alexandria Park, Hunterdon, NJ 5 Oct (FS) and Manitou 27 Sep (RSp). The peak count of American Robins at Cape May was 11,600 on 22 Oct (MO'B); fall counts there often exceed this number by a factor of 10. A Bohemian Waxwing at Greece, Monroe, NY 17 Nov (KCG) made the sole report. High counts of Cedar Waxwings included 4730 at Hamlin Beach 1 Sep (DT) and 2000 at Cape May 20 Nov (MFr).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Six Worm-eating Warblers and 72 Northern Waterthrushes were part of a major flight at Cape May 23 Aug (TJ). Regionwide, 4 Brewer's Warblers were reported 17 Aug–15 Sep, and 3 Lawrence's Warblers appeared in a similar window, 11 Aug–16 Sep. At least 18 Golden-winged Warblers were reported 17 Aug–17 Oct, a relatively strong fall tally. Eight Prothonotary Warblers were found n. to Long I. and Staten I. 1 Sep–1 Nov; the last of these, which was present 22 Oct–1 Nov at Sunken Meadow S.P., Suffolk, NY (Steve Chang, KF, SF et al.) provides a late date for New York. Tennessee Warblers are increasing sharply; 20 were at Cape May 16 Sep (TJ) and 10 at Caumsett S.P. 7 Oct (KF). Totals of 29 Connecticut Warblers 30 Aug–17 Oct and 25 Mourning Warblers 8 Aug–5 Nov were above average. Four Hooded

Warblers were seen on Long I. during Oct (SA, HM et al.). Tom Johnson counted 912 American Redstarts passing Higbees 30 Aug. Quite suddenly, Cape May Warblers were far more abundant than they have been since the 1970s: 125 were at Cape May 2 Oct (MO'B et al.), and 20 were found on Long I. through 22 Oct (SSM et al.). Three hundred Northern Parulas were at Cape May 16 Sep (CJV) and 2 Oct (MO'B), and one was late on Staten I. 14 Nov (RRV). Other peak counts from Cape May included 170 Blackpoll Warblers 7 Oct (SG), 120 Black-throated Blue Warblers 16 Sep (TJ), and 500 Palm Warblers 2 Oct (MO'B). On 22 Oct, 10,000 Yellow-rumped Warblers were at Cape May (Alex L'Amoreaux) and 11,300 at Fire I., NY (SSM). An Audubon's Warbler was at Ft. DuPont S.P., New Castle, DE 16 Oct (CB). Nine Yellow-throated Warblers were found in New Jersey away from breeding localities 20 Aug–28 Sep. A Prairie Warbler was late at Central Park, Manhattan 26 Nov (DA et al.); one inland the same day at Camp Dudley, Essex, NY (Brian McAllister et al.) was far n. of usual. An imm. male Townsend's Warbler was at Sandy Hook 28 Sep (TBo, SAB et al.) for about an 11th New Jersey record. Different female Black-throated Gray Warblers were photographed at Cape May: 29 Sep at Higbees (Jonathan Wasse, m. ob., ph.) and 3 Oct at Davey's L. (Evan Obercian). Another female Black-throated Gray Warbler tarried in Central Park, Manhattan 17-24 Nov (Peter Scully et al.) for about a 12th state record. Twenty-five Yellow-breasted Chats found on Long I. and Staten I., NY was considerably above average.

Sixty-eight Clay-colored Sparrows 24 Aug–21 Nov was considerably above the recent average for this increasingly numerous migrant, as were about 50 Vesper Sparrows 17 Sep–28 Oct and 36 Lark Sparrows 21 Aug–1 Nov. Three migrant Grasshopper Sparrows were seen at Cape May 28 Oct (MO'B et al.); 3 were on Long I. 4-15 Oct (AF, RJK). Single Le Conte's Sparrows were found at Cape May 24 Oct (CJV, Tiffany Kirsten) and at the Greig Farm, Dutchess, NY 9-10 Oct (Peter Schoenberger, Doug Kock). Eight Nelson's Sparrows were in upstate New York 6-23 Oct. Five hundred Swamp Sparrows at Staten I. 24 Oct (RRV) and 250 at Hatfield Swamp, Essex, NJ 17 Oct (Andy Lamy, Sean Sime) made high counts. White-throated Sparrows on the other hand were only recorded in moderate abundance, with a peak of only 600 at Cape May 23 Nov (TJ). The flight of White-crowned Sparrows on Long I. included 150, seen mainly in Oct–Nov (SA, SSM). A Harris's Sparrow stopped at Sandy Hook 30 Oct–4 Nov (TBo et al.), and another

was at Rochester, NY 23-26 Nov (MT, DT, BC); there are now about 20 records for New Jersey and 50 for New York.

Summer Tanager reports included singles on Long I. 27 Sep and 5 Oct (H. Fisher; Glenn Quinn) and one at Hamlin Beach 3-9 Nov (K. Frisch, A. & D. Stout). The lone Western Tanager was at Barnegat Inlet 26-28 Nov (Jake Mohlmann, Matthew Sabbatine). About 30 Blue Grosbeaks were found on Long I. and Staten I. 16 Sep–16 Oct, and a single Painted Bunting appeared at Absecon, NJ 3 Nov, in the same yard where one has wintered for the past three years (Ed Goldman). Sixty-eight Dickcissels were found Regionwide; these included 2 males at the Mercer County Sod Farms, NJ, where they continued singing until 11 Aug (Dana Eglington). The highest count of Bobolinks, 2740, came from Cape May 9 Sep (TJ, TL). Thirteen Yellow-headed Blackbirds, 7 of them imm. males, were reported 10 Sep–15 Nov, including 3 together in the Salem–Mannington area, Salem, NJ 15 Nov (S. Keller). Higher totals of the declining Rusty Blackbird included 580+ at Upper and Lower Lakes W.M.A., St. Lawrence, NY 21 Oct (JSB), 450 at Clay Marsh, Onondaga, NY 12 Oct (BPu), and 130 at Ft. Tilden, Queens, NY 19 Nov (DG, R. Bate). Four hundred Boat-tailed Grackles gathered at Jamaica Bay 3 Nov (DG, CF). Baltimore Oriole counts peaked at 271 at Cape May 23 Aug (TJ).

All winter finches made weak showings. Ten Purple Finches each were at Cape May 24 Nov (MO'B) and Fire I., NY 18 Nov (SSM). Eleven Red Crossbills were seen in the Burnt-Rossman S.F., Schoharie, NY 6 Nov (WY); 3 were at Georgetown, Madison, NY 26 Nov (BPu); and one was at Greece, Monroe, NY 26 Aug (DT). Fifty-nine White-winged Crossbills were at Fort Niagara S.P. 12 Nov (MM), 50 were in the Adirondacks 22 Oct+ (MMc et al.), and about 30 others were found elsewhere in upstate New York 26 Sep–18 Nov (KCG, WY, JSB et al.), but none were reported downstate or farther south. About 75 Common Redpolls were found in upstate New York 28 Oct+ (BPu, BC et al.). Pine Siskins were slightly more numerous: 600 or more were in the Adirondacks late Oct+ (MMc et al.), 311 were banded at Manitou 5 Oct (Braddock Bay B.O.), 410 were at Derby Hill 14 Nov (BPu), and about 20 were reported from New Jersey beginning 6 Oct (SAB, TBo et al.). American Goldfinches were generally scarce compared to recent years, but 2570 were counted at Derby Hill 2 Nov (BPu) and 437 at Ft. Tilden, Queens, New York City 24 Nov (DG). A few small flocks of Evening Grosbeaks were seen, including 10 s. to Vassar Farm, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess, NY

24 Sep (SSM), plus about 25 birds in the Adirondacks 6 Nov+ (Linda LaPan et al.).

Addendum: Unintentionally omitted from the fall 2010 report (*North American Birds* 65: 45-50) were the following from Bronx, NY 30 Oct 2010: an ad. Black-headed Gull on the Hudson R. at Riverdale; 2 Cave Swallows over the Hudson R. at Riverdale; and 3 Cackling Geese, an ad. with 2 juvs., at Pelham Bay Park, 30 Oct+ (all PAB).

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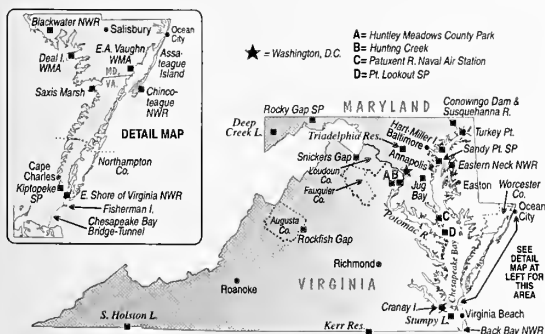
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Middle Atlantic



Mark T. Adams
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This fall season was atypical in many respects. With the exception of September, temperatures were well above normal, particularly in November, and numbers of late and lingering species were extraordinary. August and September were

very wet months, especially on the Coastal Plain and across Maryland. Lightning ignited a fire in the Dismal Swamp on 4 August that charred more than 2430 ha (6000 acres) over the next month and often blanketed a wide area with dense smoke; heavy rain from Hurricane Irene, a Category 1 hurricane that passed just off the Region's coast 27-28 August, helped to dampen the blaze, as did rain from Tropical Storm Lee, which made landfall along the Louisiana coast 4 September but also brought significant rainfall to the Region, e.g., 18 cm at Fort Belvoir, Fairfax, Virginia 8 September.

Through most of the season, the passage of cold fronts rarely brought sustained winds from the north; after frontal passage, winds quickly switched back to southwesterly, an unusual pattern and perhaps connected to

the many late records this season—and almost certainly connected to the often painfully “slow” raptor season across the Region, in which late-season species such as Red-tailed Hawk and White-throated Sparrow were often in record-low numbers. Kiptopeke Songbird Banding Station operated for its 49th consecutive fall 15 August–22 November, banding 10,036 birds of 99 species in 15,992 net-hours. The Center for Conservation Biology conducted a Bay watch from Cape Charles, 15 October–15 December, the first of its kind; the results have not yet been released and will be presented here when available.

The season's highlights included Western Grebe, Masked Booby, Yellow Rails, Long-billed Curlews, Red Phalaropes onshore, at least one Green Violetear, Allen's Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Western Wood-pewee, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Bell's Vireos,

Brown-chested Martin, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Townsend's Warblers, and MacGillivray's Warbler. Despite the distinctly western flavor to the migration in the Region (and throughout the East), several species that nest in areas that were drought stricken in 2011—especially Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Cave Swallow—were in very short supply compared to recent seasons. On the other hand, coastal counts of several "spruce budworm" warblers—Cape May, Tennessee, and Blackpoll—were the highest in decades, and many other warblers, plus Willow/Alder Flycatcher, Gray Catbird, and House Wren, were well reported in much-elevated numbers. In addition to our many individual contributors, we thank Adam D'Onofrio, YuLee Larner, Dan Perkuchin, Robert F. Ringler, Jo Solem, Calvin Brennan, Brian Taber, and Bill Williams for their assistance in compiling and interpreting this season's records.

Abbreviations: Assat. (Assateague I., Worcester, MD); Back Bay (Back Bay N.W.R., Virginia Beach, VA); Bay (Chesapeake Bay); C.B.B.T. (Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, s. Northampton); Chinc. (Chincoteague N.W.R., Accomack, VA); Craney (Craney Island Disposal Site, Portsmouth, VA); D.C. (District of Columbia); E.S.V.N.W.R. (Eastern Shore of Virginia N.W.R., Northampton); Hog (Hog Island W.M.A., Surry); Kipt. (Kiptopeke S.P., Northampton, VA).

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck continued from the summer at Chinc. through 6 Aug (MRu et al.). The 15 Greater White-fronted Geese at Hurlock S.T.P., Dorchester 29 Oct (JB, JSa) made a record high for the Maryland Eastern Shore; elsewhere, 4 were at Kershner's Pond, Frederick, MD 24-25 Oct (MBa, m.ob.), one at River Bend Park, Frederick 19 Oct (SB, JT), and one at Chestertown S.T.P., Kent, MD 23 Oct+ (JFr et al.), with 2 Greater White-fronted Goose × Canada Goose hybrids. This last site has been reliable for the species in recent years. Notable Brant included 6 at Black Walnut Pt., Talbot, MD 28 Oct (JH) and one at Pt. Lookout, St. Mary's, MD 6 Nov (ML). Six Cackling Geese at Chestertown S.T.P., Kent 23 Oct (MH et al.) and 6 at Kershner's Pond, Frederick 25 Nov (MI) were the season's high counts. A late Blue-winged Teal was at Henricus Park, Chesterfield, VA 28 Nov (AD). Early ducks included a Canvasback at Perryville, Cecil, MD 4 Aug (MJ), a Northern Shoveler at Hog 5 Aug (AD), and a Ring-necked Duck at Boat L., Richmond, VA 22 Sep (EO). Six Harlequin Ducks at Ocean

City Inlet, Worcester, MD 5 Nov (RO) made the season's high count; 2 remained through the season. The 11 Surf Scoters at Hunting Creek L., Frederick 23 Oct (JHu) and the 6 at Mill Creek L., Amherst, VA 17 Nov (MJ) were notable inland records, as were Long-tailed Duck singles at Kershner's Pond, Frederick 22-23 Nov (AW, m.ob.) and at Tridelpia Res., Howard, MD 23 Nov (JH). Though the species is expanding its breeding range in nw. Virginia and in adjoining states, a male Common Merganser was unexpected at Paper Mill Flats, Baltimore, MD 1 Aug (JC, BC), as was the pair in Fluvanna, VA 29 Aug (TJ).

An ad. Wild Turkey with 3 young at Afton, Augusta, VA 8 Sep (AL) marked an unusually late breeding record. An impressive 180 Pied-billed Grebes were counted at Back Bay 26 Oct (RLAk, SDa). Single Red-necked Grebes were in the James R. off Mariner's Museum Park, Newport News, VA 30 Oct (DY), at Triadelphia Res., Howard 12 Nov (JH et al.), and off Cape Charles, Northampton 13 Nov (AD, PGI, TTr). An Eared Grebe at a private pond near Season, King George, VA 19 Aug (ph. FA) furnished only the 3rd Aug record for the state. An Eared Grebe at Deep Creek L., Garrett, MD 9-10 Nov (SF, ABo) made a first documented county record; other singles were at Assat. 12 Nov (JB, JSa) and at Stuarts Draft W.T.P., Augusta 16-17 Nov (AL, GM). A Western Grebe at Triadelphia Res., Howard 12 Nov (p.a., Nancy Magnusson et al.) was an excellent find. The 18 Manx Shearwaters sighted on a Worcester pelagic 19 Nov (PG et al.) made a good count for recent years; the 2 Leach's Storm-Petrels seen on a 14 Aug Worcester pelagic were also of interest. As expected, no tubenoses were recorded during the passage of Hurricane Irene, whose center of circulation passed well e. of the Region's coastline.

Single American White Pelicans were at Chinc. 6 Oct (EO) and in the Bay off Kipt. on 15 Oct (KW, BCh) and 2 & 16 Nov (KW et al.). The flightless American White Pelican resident at Blackwater N.W.R., Dorchester continued through the season and was joined by 2-3 more in Nov. An ad. Brown Pelican captured on Shanks I., Accomack, VA 2 Aug had been banded in North Carolina in 1987 (JW, *vide* HTA). Researchers counted 163 Brown Pelican nests this season at Big Bay Marsh, a record for coastal Maryland. A total of 1014 chicks were banded in the cen. Bay, including 238 at Holland I., Dorchester and 776 at South Point Marsh, Accomack, a considerable decrease from the 2000-3000 nests recorded there just a few years ago. Five Brown Pelicans at Thomas Pt., Anne Arundel, MD 6 Nov (DHa) marked the start of a late

mini-incursion for this species n. of its usual areas along the w. Bay. Nine Brown Pelicans at Flag Ponds, Calvert, MD 6 Nov (ML, JAL) were notable, as were 5 at Solomons 16-17 Nov (CD). The summering Great Cormorant continued at Skimmer I., Worcester through 4 Sep (MH et al.). A Great Cormorant at Ft. Armistead, Baltimore City, MD 9 Nov (JC) was unusually far up the Bay. A Masked Booby reported on a Worcester pelagic 7 Oct (p.a., MF, ES) would establish a first record for Maryland and the Region.

A Tricolored Heron at Piney Run, Carroll, MD 19 Aug (RG, m.ob.) made just a 3rd county record. An imm. Tricolored was unusually far inland at Staunton View Public Use Area, Mecklenburg, VA 14-28 Aug (AD, PG, FD). Typically very rare in Nov, there were at least a half-dozen reports of single Green Herons during the month, the latest at Governor's Bridge, Prince George's, MD 8-19 Nov (RO). A Black-crowned Night-Heron was quite late at Henricus Park/Dutch Gap C.A., Chesterfield 27 Nov (JS). Three Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at Skimmer I. 2 Aug (MBu, BB) made a good count for Worcester. Though observers noted fewer White Ibis on Assat. than in the previous two falls, there were numerous inland White Ibis reports from Maryland, D.C., and Virginia 7 Aug-9 Oct. The 50 White Ibis at Staunton River S.P., Halifax, VA 23 Aug (RBR) made an impressive inland count. The Ramp Rd. pond at E.S.V.N.W.R. held 674 White Ibis 9 Sep (CB) and 800+ over the next several days (M. Van Clief et al.), numbers approaching the record highs of spring 2009 in this area.

The 35th consecutive fall Kiptopeke Hawkwatch documented 22,921 diurnal raptors in 764.25 hours over 88 of 91 possible count days 1 Sep-30 Nov. The peak count day, 28 Sep, totaled 1459 raptors, including 110 Ospreys, 809 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 95 Cooper's Hawks, 247 American Kestrels, 69 Merlins, and 72 Peregrine Falcons (*vide* KW). Both of the season's Northern Goshawks were recorded 5 Nov (KW), and one was also seen that day at E.S.V.N.W.R. (ESB). At Snickers Gap, Loudoun/Clarke, the hawkwatch season was also relatively quiet, with 40,759 raptors in 399.5 hours of observation 22 Aug-11 Dec, most of these (37,520) being Broad-winged Hawks. Here, as elsewhere in the Region, the count of Red-tailed Hawks (711) was incredibly low. The Rockfish Gap Hawkwatch, Augusta recorded 33,002 raptors 20 Aug-20 Nov (BTe et al.) and set several site records, including 347 Ospreys, 175 Bald Eagles, 312 Cooper's Hawks, 294 American Kestrels, and 26 Merlins. With only four previous Virginia Piedmont records, a Swal-

low-tailed Kite was an excellent discovery at Gladys, *Campbell*, VA 13 Aug (DD), and up to 2 were observed there 14 Aug–4 Sep (TD, m.ob.), often accompanied by up to 3 Mississippi Kites. One of these Swallow-taileds had been radio-tagged as a nestling in South Carolina in summer 2011 (KM et al., *vide* TD). The 5 Mississippi Kites reported from Maryland 1 Aug–17 Sep made the state's highest fall count and followed the best spring/summer ever for this species in Maryland. Breeding evidence again came from *Fairfax*, VA, where up to 7 birds, ads. and at least 2 juvs., were reported from three locations in the Springfield/Burke area in Aug (BA, DSW, SKM). Very rare in autumn in Virginia Beach, a Mississippi Kite was photographed at the productive Red Wing G.C. 8 Aug (K&TB, JMa, AMc). Two late-departing Broad-winged Hawks passed Kipt. 27 Nov (KW). A light-morph Swainson's Hawk at Kipt. 19 Sep (KW, ph. BTa) was noted later that day at Sunset Beach (RLAn, TT), then at E.S.V.N.W.R. (MBE et al.); another light-morph passed Kipt. 1 Nov (KW). A juv. light-morph Swainson's Hawk was well documented at Malvern Hill National Battlefield Park, *Henrico*, VA 18 Sep (ph. ABr, vt. PS), the first ever photographed away from the coast. The only Maryland report, a Rough-legged Hawk was at an unusual location at Violette's Lock, *Montgomery*, MD 23 Nov (DCz); one was well photographed at Lyndhurst, *Augusta* 19 Nov+ (B&GM, m.ob.; ph. BTe), but none were noted on the coast. Golden Eagles in s. *Northampton* were recorded 27 Sep (early) through 25 Nov (RLAn, KW, m.ob.), with a peak of 3 at E.S.V.N.W.R. 3 Nov (BP). A Merlin at Edgewood, *Harford*, MD 14 Aug (ph. GR) was one of the earliest ever documented in Maryland.

RAILS THROUGH SKIMMERS

An imm. Yellow Rail being stalked by a cat in a Cape Charles bed-and-breakfast garden 16 Oct (†ESB) was inside the expected fall migration window in the state, 4–25 Oct, as was another found dead in a Richmond, VA alley 20 Oct (*vide* AB). Several hundred Clapper Rails were encountered by rail hunters as strong north-northeasterly winds caused inundation of lower *Northampton* seaside marshes 28 Oct (*vide* ESB). Lingering Common Gallinules in *Worcester* included 2 at Rum Pointe 23 Oct–11 Nov (MBu, BB) and one at Bayside Development Pond 11–26 Nov (DCz, MAT). A Common Gallinule at Waynesboro, VA 3–31 Aug (AL, WL) was a first county record for fall. An aerial survey count of 11,619 American Coots at Back Bay 30 Nov (JGa) recalled the species' former abundance before the avian cholera die-offs

of the 1970s. An American Coot at Hog 5–14 Aug (AD, SD, AB) was either exceptionally early or had summered. Two Sandhill Cranes at Miflins Marsh, Chincoteague, *Accomack* 22 Sep (MHo) may have been local escapees (*vide* MRu); another was at Occoquan N.W.R., *Prince William*, VA 1 Nov (KG).

The season's highest reported Black-bellied Plover count was 1610 on the s. end of Wreck I., *Northampton* 7 Oct (HTA et al.). American Golden-Plovers were detected at multiple locations 28 Aug–16 Nov; one at Fulton Pond, *Howard* 9–16 Nov was very late (CS, m.ob.).

A Piping Plover at Assat. 12 Nov (JB, JSa)

lar I., *Talbot* 7 Oct (MG et al.) was the top Maryland count. This was an excellent year for Marbled Godwit on the Maryland Coastal Plain; the high count of 11 birds came from Ocean City, MD 20 Oct (SH, JLS). Very rare away from the coast, a Marbled Godwit was at Staunton River S.P., *Halifax* 12–28 Aug (FD, PGI, AD). A leg-tagged Ruddy Turnstone at Chinc. 3 Sep had been banded at Cooks Beach, NJ 30 May 2009 (ph. WH, BT, BW). An Eastern Willet accompanied 8 Western Willets at Sunset Beach 11 Oct (BW), the latest date on record for the nominate subspecies in the state. Red Knot reports included

SA Significant late Aug and early Sep rain produced locally excellent conditions for shorebirds stopping over in farm fields and sod/turf farms. A turf farm in Morgantown, *Charles*, MD produced many notable records: 3 Black-bellied Plovers 6–8 Sep (JH et al.), multiple American Golden-Plovers, with a peak of 7 on 11 Sep (JLS, EB), a Whimbrel 8 Sep (JLS), 2 Ruddy Turnstones 3–13 Sep (JM, m.ob.), a peak of 8 Sanderlings 10 Sep (JM), a Stilt Sandpiper 6–8 Sep (JH et al.), and several Buff-breasted Sandpipers, with peak of 3 on 6 Sep (JH, m.ob.); highest counts of White-rumped and Baird's Sandpipers came 11 Sep, with 2 and 3 birds, respectively (JLS, EB).

Turf farms in the Remington area of *Culpeper* and *Fauquier*, VA had similar excellent conditions and hosted up to 15 species of shorebirds in early through mid-Sep, many of which were likely migrants displaced or grounded by tropical cyclones *Irene* and *Lee* (these areas had not been checked before 7 Sep). The count of **36** American Golden-Plovers present 8 Sep (TMD) at a *Fauquier* farm was an exceptional count, trumped only by an amazing **50** Hudsonian Godwits, almost entirely ads., at a *Culpeper* farm 7 Sep (TMD); these birds remained for at least two more days (TMD, FD, DL, m.ob.). Astonishingly, there is no previous report of Hudsonian Godwit in the Virginia Piedmont. Other migrant shorebirds seen at Remington-area Virginia turf farms in this period included: an **American Avocet** 7 Sep (TMD); up to 17 Black-bellied Plovers; small numbers of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs; a Spotted Sandpiper; 3 Sanderlings; 2 Baird's, **14** White-rumped, 65+ Least, and 400+ Semipalmated Sandpipers; 3 Buff-breasted Sandpipers; and 2 **Red-necked Phalaropes** 7 Sep (TMD). Turf farms near Manassas Airport, at Bristow, *Prince William* produced an **American Avocet**, a Hudsonian Godwit, and 2 Baird's and 9 White-rumped Sandpipers in this period (KG, MR).

was getting late. The peak Black-necked Stilt count was 40 at Craney 11 Aug (RB et al.); one lingered at Poplar I., *Talbot* 7 Oct (JH et al.). A season high 78 American Avocets were at Craney 8 Sep (RB et al.), and at least 6 remained through 10 Nov (SD, BTa, BW). The 48 American Avocets at Poplar I. 12 Aug (KeG) made the season's high count in Maryland. Two avocets seen flying up the Potomac at Hains Pt. 27 Aug (PP) furnished a rare D.C. record. Eleven Upland Sandpipers were at Earleville, *Cecil* 15–22 Aug (MBu, BB), a very good count for this declining species and at an unusual location.

For a 4th consecutive year, a Long-billed Curlew was in Burton's Bay near Wachapreague, *Accomack* 8 Oct (RKe, ph. PMc), with 2 birds there 9 Oct (RKe); these birds were probably the same ones seen again here in mid-Dec. Eight Hudsonian Godwits at Pop-

94 at Assat. 4 Oct (MBu, BB) and 11 banded birds at Assateague I., VA 1–3 Sep (WH), including one banded in Argentina in late 1999 or early 2000 (*vide* FSm) and another banded 29 May 2005 that had been recaptured five times (four in New Jersey, once in Delaware) and re-sighted 59 times. A Sanderling at Dam #3, *Washington*, MD 3 Sep (JLS, EB) made just a 2nd county record; 13 at Staunton View, *Mecklenberg* 29–31 Aug (RBR, MJ) were unusually far inland and possibly related to the hurricane's passage. The high Semipalmated Sandpiper count was 4672 at Craney 11 Aug (RB et al.). Fourteen White-rumped Sandpipers at Summit Hall Turf Farm, *Montgomery* 8–10 Sep (DCz, m.ob.) provided the Region's high count. Nine Buff-breasted Sandpipers on the Staunton R. mudflats 5 Sep (PGI, HG, RBR; ph. Ryan Kelley) made a fine count for the Virginia Piedmont. On the Maryland

Western Shore, 2 were at Summit Hall Turf Farm, *Montgomery* 4-10 Sep (DCz, m.ob.), 12 at Pax River N.A.S., *St. Mary's* 11 Sep (KR), one at Swan Creek, *Anne Arundel* 15-16 Sep (MH, m.ob.), and one at Chuck Wade Turf Farm, *Frederick* 15-22 Sep (MBa, m.ob.). A Long-billed Dowitcher at Aldino, *Harford* 13 Aug (MJ) made a first documented county record; another at Hains Pt. 28 Aug (PP et al.) furnished a rare D.C. sighting.

Wilson's Phalaropes were recorded weekly at Craney 4 Aug-8 Sep, with a peak of 8 on 8 Sep (RB et al.); one was at Chinc. 7 Aug (WH) and 2 there 25 Aug (JBe). Single Wilson's Phalaropes were at four Maryland locations 17 Aug-8 Sep, the most notable a bird at Assat. 17 Aug (RG, m.ob.) feeding in the surf! Another was at the Summit Hall Turf Farm, *Montgomery* 8 Sep (DCz, m.ob.). Five Red-necked Phalaropes were at four Maryland locations 12 Aug-7 Sep. A Red-necked Phalarope in *Albemarle*, VA 7 Sep (SMi, PM) furnished the first county record since 1939. Red-neckeds were noted weekly at Craney 4 Aug-22 Sep, peaking at 21 birds 8 Sep (RB et al.). It was a banner season for Red Phalaropes onshore. One found at Craney 28 Jul (BT et al.) remained through 4 Aug (RB et al.), and 4 were there 6 Oct (BW et al., ph. RBR). The only other onshore Virginia record of multiples is of 2 at Craney after Hurricane *Fran* (1996). Maryland had one Red Phalarope at Jug Bay, *Prince George's* 4 Oct (RO) and one at Assat. 30 Oct (ML). In pelagic waters, 170 Red Phalaropes were at Norfolk Canyon 8 Nov (CJV).

Single ad. Franklin's Gulls were at Tydings, *Harford* 22 Aug (MH, m.ob.) and at Prince George's Community College 23 Sep (JSh). Single first-cycle Franklin's Gulls were at Schoolhouse Pond, *Prince George's* 9 Nov (FS) and Hopewell, VA 26 Nov (ABr). A Black-headed Gull at Paper Mill Flats, Baltimore 6 Nov (DT, KEC) was perhaps returning from last winter but was not seen again until Dec. Remarkably, 209 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Assat. 8 Aug made a new Maryland high count (JLS, EB); se. Virginia beaches now routinely record >400 per day, as at Back Bay/False Cape S.P., where 420 were counted 5 Aug (DH et al.). An ad. Laughing Gull with orange-red legs and bill visited multiple locations in s. *Northampton* 4-30 Sep (ph. ESB, KK, RBR). Twelve Black-legged Kittiwakes were near Norfolk Canyon 8 Nov (CJV).

A new state high count of 832 Caspian Terns at Hog 9 Sep (BTa) bested the previous record of 811 from 23 Aug 2011 at this same location; the species is increasing in several colonies in the e. extreme of its range. Five Sandwich Terns at Pt. Lookout, *St. Mary's*,

MD 13-24 Aug (ML, m.ob.) made a high count there for recent years. An impressive 874 Least Terns at Craney 11 Aug included hundreds of juvs., indicating an excellent nesting season there. Least Tern nests on the beach at Hughlett Point Natural Area Preserve, *Northumberland*, VA were raided by predators, and the ads. abandoned the site in early Aug (TS). A tally surely augmented by *Irene*, the count of 457 Black Terns at Craney 8 Sep (RB et al.) was one of the highest in decades in the state. A rare Maryland find away from *Worcester*, a Black Skimmer was at Pt. Lookout, *St. Mary's* 13 Aug (ML, m.ob.).

DOVES THROUGH WAXWINGS

A juv. Eurasian Collared-Dove with an ad. at South Boston, *Halifax* 4 Oct (RBR) provided first evidence of nesting here; one at Assat. 9 Aug (JLS, EB) marked the 3rd record from the bayside peninsula. A White-winged Dove at Castaway's Campground 13 Nov (DT, RFR, SH, m.ob.) was about the 10th record for Maryland and 3rd for *Worcester*. A White-winged Dove at Sandbridge, Virginia Beach 26 Oct (JMa) made the only Virginia report this season. A first for Norfolk, a Northern Saw-whet Owl was observed being attacked by 4 American Crows at Eastern Virginia Medical School; it was rescued and released at nearby Weyanoke Sanctuary (Terry Jenkins et al.). A Common Nighthawk at West Ocean City, *Worcester* 22 Oct (BH et al.) represented the latest Maryland record in some years. A Chuck-will's-widow was found in downtown Baltimore 4 Oct (KEC). An Eastern Whip-poor-will seen perched in the hammock at the n. end of Assat. 30 Oct (ML) was very late.

A Green Violetear at Elkton, *Cecil* 10-12 Oct (KC, m.ob.) established a first state record; possibly the same bird then appeared at Clarksville, *Howard* 24-26 Oct (DLA, m.ob.). In both instances, the plumage indicated the nominate subspecies. A large greenish hummingbird photographed in *Anne Arundel* in Aug was not identifiable to species (Joseph Bernstein). An albino Ruby-throated Hummingbird visited feeders in Staunton, VA 12-27 Aug (ph. E&NL, KS, m.ob.); likely the same bird visited a residential yard in Lyndhurst, *Augusta* 17-18 Sep (H&PD, B&HL). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was still feeding young in the nest at Newport News 21 Aug (ph. V&GB, JF). A Rufous Hummingbird present mid-Oct+ at Darlington, *Harford* and banded there made a first county record (CK, m.ob.). A Sharpsburg, *Washington* yard hosted 2 Rufous Hummingbirds and an Allen's Hummingbird mid-Oct+; all were banded. These birds were attracted to plantings of Pineapple Sage. A Calliope Hummingbird at

Easton, *Talbot* 23 Oct+ (MSt) was banded and made a 4th state record.

An exceptionally early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Kipt. 1 Sep (KW). The highest volume *Northampton* Northern Flicker flight occurred 5 Oct, with 1386 at Sunset Beach (ESB). A Western Wood-Pewee banded at Kipt. on the morning of 21 Oct (CB et al.) remained in the vicinity of the banding station through the afternoon; the Region's only other accepted record was of a banded hatch-year bird at Virginia Beach 12 Oct 2003. A Say's Phoebe at Maplewood Gardens, near Exmore, *Northampton* 7 Oct (JBz) was well photographed, the first in 15 years for the coast. Sixty-six Eastern Phoebes moved northward at the n. toll plaza of the C.B.B.T. after passage of the "perfect" cold front 5 Oct (ESB). A worn Great Crested Flycatcher at Assat. 12 Nov (KeG et al.) made the state's first documented Nov record. Single Ash-throated Flycatchers were banded at Foreman's Branch B.O., *Queen Anne's*, MD 9 & 30 Nov (DS, MG, JGr); Virginia had no reports of the species. A Western Kingbird was at a typical fall location off Rte. 600, *Northampton* 10 Sep (ph. AB), but there were no subsequent reports of the species. The 6th for Virginia, an ad. Fork-tailed Flycatcher was discovered by Lynn Davidson at Kipt. 1 Oct and noted later that day at Sunset Beach and at E.S.V.N.W.R. (HTA, HW, RLAn, KW, ESB et al.).

A Loggerhead Shrike at Hagerstown, *Washington* 25 Nov+ (JG) was at a location where the species has wintered in the past. An unidentified shrike passed the Kipt. platform 13 Sep, presumed a Loggerhead (KW). A color-banded Loggerhead Shrike at Virginia Beach 19-28 Nov (EE et al.) was very likely the bird seen 21 Nov 2010-21 Feb 2011 (DC, m.ob.). The color bands indicated that it had been banded as a second-year bird near Carden, ON in Jun 2011 (*vide* TI). An ad. Northern Shrike arrived to winter at Chino Farms, *Queen Anne's* 21 Oct (DS, MG, m.ob.) for a 5th consecutive year. Another was at Green Hill Farm, *Montgomery* 20-31 Oct (JFi, m.ob.). A Bell's Vireo at Assat. 8 Oct established an overdue first state record (ph. RO.). Remarkably, another Bell's Vireo was discovered at Turkey Pt., *Cecil* 17 Oct (vt. MH, KH, m.ob.). A Warbling Vireo at Assat. 26 Nov (RO, m.ob.) was extraordinarily late. The Purple Martin roost at Shockoe Bottom, Richmond peaked at 26,300 birds on 4 Aug (SR et al.). A potential first state record, a Brown-chested Martin was among a swallow flight at Sunset Beach, *Northampton* 28 Aug (p.a., †ESB) during the passage of Hurricane *Irene*. Late swallows included a Northern Rough-winged at Kipt. 16 Nov (KW), a Bank at Craney 20 Oct

SA Hurricane *Irene* brought a significant influx of shorebirds and especially Black Terns, which were seen at more than two dozen locations 28 Aug—essentially every site with observers. Sooty Terns are typically the only truly pelagic seabirds seen during or after hurricanes that pass e. of the Region's Atlantic coast, and this proved to be the case with *Irene* (Table 1), though Bridled Terns were also well represented. Staff at E.S.V.N.W.R. checked the beaches at Wise Pt. and Fisherman I. and found no seabirds deposited by *Irene*.

As is true during the passage of many such storms, rain and high winds ground shorebirds in unusual locations, e.g., at Tydings, *Harford*, where 4 Black-bellied Plovers, 4 Ruddy Turnstones, 6 Red Knots, 3 Sanderlings, 3 Stilt Sandpipers, and 2 Red-necked Phalaropes were seen 28 Aug (MH et al.). Also on 28 Aug, 4 Least Terns at Jug Bay (JSh) and 2 at Fort Washington, *Prince George's* (RO) had probably been grounded or displaced by *Irene*.

Bald Eagle nests along the James R. were hit hard by *Irene*, especially those near Hopewell, VA (MW). Of the 154 nests examined during a Center for Conservation Biology aerial survey 3 Sep, 36 showed visible damage and 32 were completely lost. This nest damage and loss is comparable to the impact of Hurricane *Isabel* in Sep 2003. Following *Isabel*, pairs that lost nests were less likely to breed and were less productive the following spring. Reproductive rates improved two years after the storm and returned to normal during the 3rd breeding season after *Isabel* (MW).

An ad. male Blackburnian Warbler, an ad. female Canada Warbler, and a juv. Black-billed Cuckoo were at Sunset Beach, *Northampton* 29 Aug (ESB), the day following the hurricane. Because ads. of these warbler species are seldom recorded on the outer coast, it is speculated that these were migrants displaced eastward by the strong northwesterly winds (>60 knots) that followed *Irene's* passage.

Table 1. Hurricane *Irene* terns and jaegers recorded in Virginia and Maryland, 27–29 August 2011.

Species	Number, Age	Date	Location	Observers
Pomarine Jaeger	2	28-Aug	C.B.B.T.	DSh, RLAn, ESB
Long-tailed Jaeger	1 juv.	28-Aug	North Beach, <i>Calvert/Anne Arundel</i> , MD	ML, BH
Royal Tern	2	28-Aug	Sandy River Res., <i>Prince Edward</i> , VA	MS
Royal Tern	4	28-Aug	Kerr Res., <i>Mecklenberg</i> , VA	PGI, AD
Royal Tern	1	28-Aug	Tydings, <i>Harford</i> , MD	MH
Royal Tern	1	28-Aug	Violette's Lock, <i>Montgomery</i> , MD	DCz
Arctic Tern	1 ad.	27-Aug	Cape Charles beach, <i>Northampton</i> , VA	ESB
Arctic Tern	1 ad.	28-Aug	Ferry Neck, <i>Talbot</i> , MD	HTA
Arctic Tern	1 juv.	28-Aug	Hains Pt., Washington, DC	FH
Bridled Tern	1 juv., 1 subad.	28-Aug	Oyster, <i>Northampton</i> , VA	ph. ESB
Bridled Tern	1 juv.	28-Aug	Sunset Beach, <i>Northampton</i> , VA	ESB
Bridled Tern	1	28-Aug	Ocean City, <i>Worcester</i> , MD	MH et al.
Sooty Tern	1	28-Aug	North Beach, <i>Calvert/Anne Arundel</i> , MD	ML, BH
Sooty Tern	2	28-Aug	Hemingway's, <i>Queen Anne's</i> , MD	FS
Sooty Tern	1	28-Aug	Black Walnut Pt., <i>Talbot</i> , MD	JB et al.
Sooty Tern	1 ad.*	28-Aug	Captains Cove G.C., <i>Accomack</i> , VA	ph. JBu, CM
Sooty Tern	1 ad.	28-Aug	Sunset Beach, <i>Northampton</i> , VA	ESB
Sooty Tern	2 ads.	28-Aug	C.B.B.T.	ph. DSh
Sooty Tern	2 juvs.	28-Aug	C.B.B.T.	DSh, RLAn, ESB
Sooty Tern	2 ads.	27-Aug	North Anna Power Station, <i>Louisa</i> , VA	MB
Sooty Tern	1 ad., 1 juv.	27-Aug	Sandy River Res., <i>Prince Edward</i> , VA	DS, ES
Sooty/Bridled Tern	1	28-Aug	North Beach, <i>Calvert/Anne Arundel</i> , MD	ML, BH

(BW), and a Barn at Kipt. 30 Oct (KW). Cave Swallow sightings were few, with Virginia singles at Magotha Rd., *Northampton* 17 Nov (CB) and Kipt. 19 Nov (KW); 2 at Pt. Lookout, *St. Mary's* 24–25 Nov (ML, m.ob.) made the only Maryland report.

Two Bicknell's Thrushes were banded at Kipt. each day 4 & 6 Oct (CB). A late season, predawn flight of thrushes at Cape Charles, *Northampton* 22 Oct (ESB) included an estimated 100 Swainson's, 240 Hermits, 12 Gray-cheekeds, and one Veery. A Swainson's Thrush window-killed in Norfolk 28 Oct (RLAk) was the latest. A Wood Thrush banded at Kipt. 12 Nov (CB) was similarly late. At Kipt., 1017 Gray Catbirds were banded, outdone only by the total of 1289 in 2005 and about 135% higher than the 14-year average for the species there. An ad. Cedar Waxwing feeding 2

young at McCormick Farm, *Augusta* 14 Sep (DP) made a late breeding record.

LONGSPURS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

A Lapland Longspur at Back Bay 4 Oct (RLAk) was quite early. Ten Snow Buntings in total were reported from three Maryland and five Virginia locations 7 Nov+. A strong passerine flight at Sunset Beach, *Northampton* 16 Sep included 535 Common Yellowthroats, 597 American Redstarts, 175 Northern Parulas, and 304 Magnolia Warblers (ESB). That day was also the biggest banding day at Kiptopeke for redstarts, with 104 banded making a large portion of the season total of 927—about 135% above the 14-year average there and breaking the record of 799 banded in 1998. Also setting record highs were Common Yellowthroat, with the 431 banded

(double the average) eclipsing the old mark of 334 from 2000, and Northern Parula, with 388 banded being more than nine times the 14-year average of 42. Most observers on the coast commented on the unusual abundance of parulas, even greater than in 2010, but the estimate of 320 between Sunset beach and the n. toll plaza of the C.B.B.T. 5 Oct (ESB) well surpasses totals from these areas in 2003 and 2005. Kipt. banders also processed much-above-average numbers of Ovenbirds and Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Tennessee, Cape May, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Prairie, and Connecticut Warblers. A Northern Waterthrush Monticello Park, Alexandria, VA 4 Aug (TA) was early. Single Golden-winged Warblers were excellent *Albemarle* finds 2 & 4 Sep (PB, SMi). An imm. female Lawrence's Warbler was banded at

Kipt. 23 Sep (ph. CB), only the 2nd for that station in 49 years. The latest migrant Blue-winged Warbler visited Blair Shore Rd., Cecil 14 Oct (JD). Numbers of Tennessee Warblers were much higher this season than in autumn migration of recent decades; the peak count in *s. Northampton* was 26 on 5 Oct (ESB), remarkable for a species that had been very scarce on the coast since the mid-1990s or so. Five late-season Tennessee Warblers were ticked in Hopewell and *Henrico* 22 Oct (ABr); the latest Tennessee was at the University of Maryland Central Farm, *Howard* 6 Nov (BO et al.). At least 10 Orange-crowned Warblers were tallied during the Maryland Rarity Roundup weekend 12-14 Nov (*vide* BH). Single Nashville Warblers were surprising at three Maryland locations in Nov: along Melwood Rd., *Prince George's* 4 Nov (RO), at Assat. 20 Nov (MLH), and at Pickering Creek Audubon Center, *Talbot* 25 Nov (DPa). Two late Northern Parulas were in a mixed flock at Dyke Marsh, *Fairfax* 20 Nov (MR et al.); one at Assat. 13 Nov (RO) established a new *Worcester* late date that was broken just two days later by a bird at Hickory Pt. (SH). This autumn saw the greatest flights of Cape May Warblers at the coast since 1981. Brinkley recorded 360 individuals in *s. Northampton* 15 Sep-23 Oct, with 233 recorded 5 Oct at three sites between the C.B.B.T. n. toll plaza and Kipt.; in monitoring migration in this corridor since 1998, he had never recorded more than 46 in a season. Even later than the Virginia peak, an impressive 152 Cape May Warblers passed Assat. 15 Oct (RO et al.), with one noted there 11 Nov (BH et al.) establishing a new *Worcester* late date. A Black-throated Blue Warbler at Occoquan Bay N.W.R., *Prince William* 5 Nov (MR et al.) was late; another was at Bristol, *Anne Arundel* the same day (DB). A Yellow-rumped Warbler banded at Kipt. 24 Aug (CB) eclipsed the species' Coastal Plain extreme early date by nine days. A Yellow-throated Warbler was along the C&O Canal, *Violette's Lock, Montgomery* 22 Aug (ph. DCz); one visited a Chesapeake, VA birdbath 27 Nov (MM). A Prairie Warbler lingered at Bayside Campground, Assat. 26 Nov+ (RO). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was at Pemberton Dr., *Wicomico*, MD 20 Nov (SDy). A Townsend's Warbler delighted observers at Bayside Campground, Assat. 17-19 Sep (DCz, MAT et al.). To the s., a northbound ad. male Townsend's Warbler passed the Kipt. hawkwatch platform 22 Oct but paused in the pines for a few minutes, singing full song at least four times in response to a pygmy-owl tape (ESB, RLAN, ST, BF)! An unusual frontal passage that featured gale-force west-southwesterly winds may have been

responsible for the latter bird's appearance, though multiple Townsends were reported farther n. in the weeks prior to this record. There are two prior Kipt. area records of this species. An early Black-throated Green Warbler was at Great Falls, *Fairfax* 12 Aug (RW). Blackpoll Warbler numbers in the teens were tallied both days at Hopewell and *Henrico*, VA 22-23 Oct (ABr), and multiple birds were reported into mid-Nov. Single Blackpoll Warblers at three locations tied the *Worcester* 12 Nov late date (DCz, MAT, MLH, JLS). On the Virginia coast, counts of Blackpolls were starkly higher than in recent decades, as was true of Tennessee and Cape May Warblers. Brinkley recorded the species on 39 dates s. of Cape Charles 10 Sep-9 Nov, a total of 381 birds, with strong counts very late in the season, e.g., 15 in northbound migration at the Cape Charles Natural Area Preserve 2 Nov (ESB, FSm). A late Ovenbird was at Oakton, *Fairfax* 7 Nov (SJ). Ten Connecticut Warblers were banded at Kipt. 30 Sep-20 Oct, with a peak of 4 birds 3 Oct (CB). A well-documented imm. female MacGillivray's Warbler at Hopewell 20 Nov (†ABr, ph. AB) garnered a 2nd state record. Single Yellow-breasted Chats were recorded at six locations in Maryland in Nov, the latest at Terrapin Nature Park, *Queen Anne's* 28 Nov (DHa).

It was a fine year for Clay-colored Sparrows, with at least 30 reports 22 Sep-26 Nov, primarily from the Coastal Plain. Excellent coverage also yielded over a dozen Clay-colored Sparrow reports just from Assat. Lark Sparrows were seen in good numbers 5 Sep-2 Nov, with a minimum of 10 Assat. reports. Two Lark Sparrows were just n. of E.S.V.N.W.R., *Northampton* 8 Sep (CB). A Le Conte's Sparrow at Swan Harbor Farm Park, *Harford* 25 Nov+ (MH et al.) set a first county record. Nelson's Sparrows of note included 3 at University of Maryland Central Farm, *Howard* 9-30 Oct (BO et al.), 2 at George's I., *St. Mary's* 15 Oct (ML), one at Swan Cr., *Anne Arundel* 6-10 Oct (SA, m.ob.), and one at Swan Harbor Farm Park, *Harford* 31 Oct-3 Nov (MH et al.). A Seaside Sparrow at Ft. McHenry, *Baltimore* 14-23 Nov (KEC, JP) was late away from the Eastern Shore. Maryland observers tallied at least 13 Lincoln's Sparrows in Nov, well above the state's long-term average of just one or two fall records. An Indigo Bunting at Assat. Oceanside Campground 6 Nov (SH) was late. Dickcissels continued in higher-than-average numbers, with more than two dozen reports across the Region. A female Dickcissel carrying food to a juv. at *Fairfax* 13 Aug (KG, JK, PR) made a late breeding record. An urban Dickcissel was at a Norfolk feeder 12 Nov (ph. RLAK). An

imm. male Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Kipt. 11 Nov (KW). A Yellow-headed Blackbird accompanied a blackbird/starling flock at the Hutchinson Unit of the Rappahannock Valley N.W.R., *Essex*, VA 6 Nov (PN et al.).

Exotics: Two Orange-cheeked Waxbills were surprising finds at Huntley Meadows, *Fairfax* 5 Sep (ph. LM); at least one was there 4 Oct (ph. WHi). A Nutmeg Mannakin was at Riverbend Park, *Fairfax* 14 Sep (RW). A European Greenfinch was caught and banded at a residential feeder in Bowie, *Prince George's* 17 Nov (EM).

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The hot and dry summer continued into mid-August, but moderate to heavy rains in the second half of August and into the fall eased the drought situation. Hurricane *Irene* in late August was a major weather feature, bringing welcome rain to the parched Coastal Plain, though only scattered bird highlights ensued, in part because it passed inland only over northeastern North Carolina. In early September, Tropical Storm *Lee* produced several noteworthy birds from Georgia to the mountains of North Carolina. Above-normal temperatures in the latter part of the season allowed many songbirds to linger, and seemingly every warbler species was seen somewhere in November. Winter finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches were few and far between, but western hummingbirds were many, providing excitement for feeder watchers. After ten autumn seasons with multiple records of Cave Swallow, just one was reported this season.

The rarest birds were reported from North Carolina, including Black Swift and Violet-green Swallow, both new for the Region, plus the state's second Allen's Hummingbird. Among other western rarities were Vermilion Flycatcher, Harris's Sparrow, and Anna's Hummingbird.

Abbreviations: E.L.H. (E. L. Huie Land Application Facility, Clayton, GA); S.S.S. (Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper, SC).

WATERFOWL THROUGH ANHINGA

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck was on private property in *Carteret*, NC 24 Aug (JF); it had reportedly been present for about a month. In Georgia and South Carolina, where the species is locally numerous in coastal marshes, the peak state counts were 30+ at Donnelly W.M.A., SC 30 Sep (PS et al.) and 120 at Darien, GA 22 Sep (CM). In fact, a new breeding site for this species was discovered in *Baker*, GA, where a pair with 10 downy young were observed 15 Sep (ph. GB). The latter two states had the only reports of Greater White-fronted Goose, a flock of 13 at S.S.S. 14 Oct (SC), 3 at Carter's L., GA 9 Nov (AK, SC), 3 in *Gordon*, GA 13 Nov (HG, PB, JSe), and one near Columbus, GA 28 Nov (WC). Of the many inland reports of Snow Goose, the most notable were several birds quite early at a sod farm in New Bern, NC 31 Aug–1 Sep (AG). Most inland records of Ross's Geese in North Carolina are from the mts. and w. half of the Piedmont; thus of note was an imm. at a small subdivision pond in Cary, Wake 21 Oct–14 Nov (JSc et al.).

An excellent mountain count for Gadwall was 100+ at L. Osceola, *Henderson*, NC 16 Nov (WF, RS). As usual, autumn reports of Eurasian Wigeon were limited to North Carolina, specifically Bodie I. and Pea I. 1–13 Nov (RD, JP et al.). Always exciting in the Region, a male Cinnamon Teal was at E.L.H. 1–30 Nov and later (ph. CL). An imm. Northern Shoveler on Busbee L., Conway, SC 21 Aug (ST) was quite early, as was an inland Greater Scaup at L. Lanier, GA 28 Oct (JFI), a record early date for that state's Piedmont. Also at this last lake, 150 Redheads 18 Nov and 2 Surf Scoters 17 Nov were noteworthy (JFI). Surf Scoters were seen at two other inland locales, White-winged Scoters were also reported twice inland (but only in North Carolina), and Black Scoter was reported at one site (L. Hartwell, GA). Quite an impressive sight must have been the flock of approximately 20,000 ducks at Jekyll I., GA 26 Nov (JS, CL): about 15,000 Black Scoters, 4000 Lesser Scaup, 25 Surf Scoters, and locally rare (this far south) singles of Long-tailed

Duck and White-winged Scoter.

A Ruffed Grouse was a good find in *Fannin*, GA 5 Nov (JLaF). As hard as this is to believe, there were more inland reports of Pacific Loon than of Red-throated Loon! The only Red-throated reported away from salt water was one at L. Lanier 18 Nov (JFI), with 2 there later in the month (JMS). There were 2+ Pacific Loons at L. Hartwell, on the South Carolina–Georgia border, on 20 Nov (ph. MM, EB), and one was reported at L. Lanier 29 Nov (JMS). A new state high count of 232 Pied-billed Grebes was recorded at L. Seminole, GA 30 Oct (JFI). An excellent 29+ Pied-billed Grebes came from E.L.H. 27 Aug (CL, JS, HG); this is one of the few places in the Atlanta area where this species breeds. Rare and very early, especially inland, was a Horned Grebe in *Elbert*, GA 28 Aug (JFI). Regional records of Eared Grebes have been increasing in the past decade, as is true of Pacific Loon records, but just 2 Eareds were reported in the Region: one at the species' regular wintering locale at Scherer Ash Pond, *Monroe*, GA 20 Nov (KG, JH, BS), the other at L. Hartwell, GA 25 Nov (EB).

Few pelagic trips are reported from Georgia waters; of interest off Tybee I. 13 Aug (BZ et al.) were 11 Cory's Shearwaters, 2 Audubon's Shearwaters, and 9 Wilson's Storm-Petrels. Patten's pelagic trips off Hatteras, NC turned up 2 Herald (Trinidad) Petrels 7 Aug, one light morph and one intermediate/dark morph. A Fea's Petrel was off Oregon Inlet, NC 10 Sep (JC, *vide* BP). No inland sightings were made of Wilson's Storm-Petrels after passage of Hurricane *Irene* in late Aug, though one was seen from the beach at Emerald Isle, NC 24 Aug (JV).

Few species in the Region have expanded in numbers and range (especially as post-breeding birds) as Wood Stork. Until this fall, seldom were more than one or 2 seen far inland in North Carolina, but numbers exploded in 2011; examples include a stunning peak of 53 at Falls L. (EB et al.); 20 at Popes L., near Angier, *Harnett* 20 Aug (EB et al.); and 15 at Jordan L. 24 Sep (TD et al.). A peak count of

51 storks 29 Aug near Stockbridge, GA (MM), far into the Piedmont, was remarkable. Storks ranged as far n. and inland as *Madison* and *Clarke* in Georgia, *Laurens* in South Carolina, and *Guilford* and *Washington* in North Carolina. Very unusual for an inland location was an ad. male Magnificent Frigatebird at Sweetwater Creek S.P., GA 7 Sep (PR), certainly associated with the passage of Tropical Storm *Lee*. Coastally, 3 frigatebirds at Jekyll I. 10 Oct (PA) made an excellent count; and singles were found at two coastal North Carolina sites, about average for the season. Off Hatteras I., a subad. Masked Booby was photographed 20 Aug and an ad. 24 Aug (BP et al.). Brown Booby, normally scarcer in the Region than Masked, was noted at least twice. A well-photographed juv. at Barden's Inlet, Cape Lookout, NC 11 Aug (JM, *fide* JF) was seen again on a buoy off that cape 20 Aug (JA, *fide* JF), and likely the same bird was seen near the jetty at that cape 12 Sep (RW, *fide* JF). A remarkable 5 Brown Boobies were seen on the Georgia pelagic trip off Tybee I. 13 Aug (ph. JMcN, m.ob.). Also in that state, the Great Cormorant that has frequented the Walter F. George Dam in previous seasons was again seen there 20-21 Nov (NF, JMcN). A few Great Cormorants had arrived back in coastal North Carolina as early as 12 Oct at Wrightsville Beach (DE). Quite remarkable for cen. North Carolina were 14 Anhingas near Angier, *Harnett* 20 Aug (EBe et al.). The farthest inland Anhingas were singles at the upper end of Falls L., NC 20 Aug (KF et al.) and at the E.L.H. 18 Sep (JS). A few years ago, one could practically list all American White Pelican records in the Region; now, there are even a few counts of over 40-50 birds. Peak counts in each state were a maximum of 101 at the S.S.S. 20 Oct (SC); 45+ at Eufaula N.W.R., GA 29 Nov (WC); and 42 near Engelhard, NC 24 Nov (JL). Perhaps the most surprising report of that species was of 30-40 pelicans in flight over Sawnee Mt., *Forsyth*, GA 6 Oct (*fide* JS); this county lies in the upper Piedmont, where double-digit counts are rare.

BITTERNS THROUGH COOTS

Least Bitterns are seldom seen in the mountains; thus notable was one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC 27-29 Sep (JLi, m.ob.). Single Great White Herons were found at L. Lanier off and on 6 Sep-6 Nov (ph. MM et al.) and along the Eno R., *Durham*, NC 19-30 Nov and later (TD et al.), the latter being remarkably late for this subspecies. The peak post-breeding Piedmont counts for Snowy Egret were 4 each at Falls L., NC 26 Aug (BB) and Jordan L., NC 17 Sep (WCo, JP). Reddish Egrets, seemingly becoming more numerous as post-breeders along the Region's coastal

areas each year, were reported from four sites in North Carolina n. to Ocracoke. The peak Reddish Egret tallies were of 5 at Wolf I., GA 7 Sep (TK) and 5 at Little Egg Island Bar, GA 14 Oct (TK et al.). It was not a big post-breeding season inland for White Ibis, with the peak fall tally of 9 at L. Varner, GA 9 Sep (JS, HG, PB). However, a Glossy Ibis was well inland in *Richmond*, GA 2 & 7 Aug (JHa, MMcC). Roseate Spoonbills continue in spectacular numbers along the coasts of South Carolina and Georgia, and further nesting was documented in Georgia by one pair. Calver had a high count at S.S.S. of 116 on 11 Aug. Farther up the coast, 5 were at Bear Island W.M.A. 30 Sep (PS), and 3 were present at Huntington Beach S.P. 7 Sep (BM), with one remaining at the park until at least 22 Oct (JW et al.). In Georgia, the best counts were 60-75 in the Brunswick area 29 Oct (SW), and 40 in that area 27 Aug (GK); 13 spoonbills were still in that area 26 Nov (JS, CL). Surprisingly, North Carolina observers failed to find any all season.

Both Mississippi Kites and Swallow-tailed Kites appeared in n. Georgia, at locales where the species had not been seen before. The most noteworthy of the many reports were 3 Swallow-taileds and 6 Mississippi in *White* 7 Aug (JFl) and 48 Mississippi in *Oconee* 10 Aug (MF). Rare for the mts. were 2 Swallow-taileds and a Mississippi in *Fannin*, GA 3 Sep (MD) and up to 13 Mississippi in the Mills R. area, *Henderson*, NC 20-27 Aug (WF, RS, m.ob.). Notable for North Carolina were 2 Swallow-tailed Kites 8 km s. of Morganton 17 Aug (AW, RF) and one near Columbia, *Tyrrell* 11 Aug (MK). One of the most elusive species in the Region, Northern Goshawk was detected once, an ad. at Alligator River N.W.R., NC 12 Nov (JL). Almost as rare, Golden Eagles were found at six sites: in North Carolina at Mattamuskeet N.W.R., Falls L., and Grandfather Mt.; and in Georgia near Athens, at Eufaula N.W.R., and in the nw. portion of the state. Very early were a Merlin 4 Aug and a Peregrine Falcon 3 Aug, both in *Henry*, GA (PR); and a good tally of 4 Merlins was made at Mount Mitchell S.P., NC 7 Oct (MW, MS). For the 6th consecutive fall/winter, a Peregrine Falcon returned to the sign atop the Hilton in downtown Charlotte, NC 15 Oct (AC, *fide* RC).

A juv. Clapper Rail, undoubtedly displaced by Hurricane *Irene*, was photographed as it perched on a windowsill in downtown High Point, NC 29 Aug (CLo, *fide* HH). Another juv. Clapper Rail was taken in by a wildlife rehabilitator in Huntersville, *Mecklenburg*, NC 17 Sep (*fide* TP). These two records clearly show that this species "cuts across" the Region as a nocturnal migrant, likely landing inland only when forced down by bad weather. A count

of 52 Common Gallinules was excellent far inland at E.L.H. 27 Aug (HG). Sandhill Cranes continue to migrate through Georgia in very good numbers, as evidenced by a count of 500 in *Whitfield*, along with one Whooping Crane 18 Nov (DD). A radio-tagged female Whooping (#2-11) whose transmitter had broken was photographed over Chatsworth, *Murray*, GA 19 Nov (*fide* MD). Certainly forced down by bad weather was an American Coot in a dirt parking lot on Big Bald, *Yancey*, NC 23 Oct (CK, CD et al.).

SHOREBIRDS

Sod farms have become shorebirding hotspots over the past 10-15 years. On 1 Aug, McShane had a very good assortment of shorebirds at the Marshallville, *Macon*, GA sod farms, with notables being 5 Semipalmated Plovers, 10+ Semipalmated Sandpipers, 40+ Pectoral Sandpipers, and 2 extremely early Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Scarce in the mountains, an excellent 8 Black-bellied Plovers were found at Hooper Lane, *Henderson*, NC 6 Sep (WF). Reports of the normally scarce American Golden-Plover were very widespread this season, with nine reports from North Carolina, five from South Carolina, and four from Georgia; however, the only tally over 3 was of 12 in the wetland restoration area of North River Farms, *Carteret*, NC 11 Sep (JF, JFe). Only a single inland report of Piping Plover was made, at Falls L., NC 22-28 Aug (DL, m.ob.). Also at this lake was a first *Durham* record and only the 3rd far inland state record of American Oystercatcher: one was seen 18 Sep (SS, ScW). One of the Atlantic coast's best shorebird sites is unfortunately off limits without special permission, but thankfully Calver has such permission to continue his surveys at the S.S.S., where the high count of Black-necked Stilt was 820 on 11 Aug and American Avocets was 701 on 22 Sep; no other site in the Region has numbers approaching these. Locally unusual inland was a Black-necked Stilt at Mattamuskeet N.W.R. 16 Aug (AI, MiM); high inland tallies were 32 American Avocets at E.L.H. 17 Oct (PR) and 21 at West Point Dam, GA 6 Sep (CKa). American Avocets were also found inland in North Carolina at Falls L., Jordan L., and Winston-Salem. The only inland Willet was one at Falls L. 21-28 Aug (MDa, EC, m.ob.).

Decreasing as a migrant through the Region is Upland Sandpiper; though reported at a number of sites, the only count over 5 was the 18 birds at the Marshallville, GA sod farms 21 Aug (KB, RK). Long-billed Curlew was reported at Pea Island N.W.R., NC 24 Oct (AKu, *fide* AWh, JL), Little St. Simons I., GA 14 Aug (PM), Raccoon Key, *Camden*, GA 7 Oct (m.ob.), and Little Egg Island Bar, GA 14 Oct

(TK et al.). A remarkable 9 curlews were at the last site, a Georgia state count record. Only the 4th inland record for North Carolina, a Hudsonian Godwit was grounded by Hurricane *Irene* at L. Wheeler near Raleigh 27 Aug (ph. AS). The hurricane was also responsible for additional out-of-place Hudsonians in that state on 27 Aug: 5 at Ft. Fisher (GM, SCo, HS), 3 at Mason Inlet, Wrightsville Beach (DC), and one in a parking lot on the Morehead City waterfront (JF). Three Hudsonians found foraging on the lawn at Ft. Caswell, NC 31 Aug (JE) were likely lingerers from the hurricane. Another was at Mattamuskeet N.W.R. 16 Aug (AI, MiM). *Bartow*, GA played host to a wide variety of shorebirds, with the following peak counts: 3 Ruddy Turnstones 6 Sep (CK, KM), 2 Sanderlings 6 Sep (CKa, KM), 5 White-rumped Sandpipers 6 Sep (JMcN et al.), 2 Baird's Sandpipers 7-26 Sep (m.ob.), and 4 Stilt Sandpipers 6 Sep (JMcN, NF). Of the numerous other inland records of Ruddy Turnstone, the most notable were one, probably forced down by Tropical Storm *Lee*, in montane *Watauga*, NC 6 Sep (CS); and an excellent tally of 9 at Falls Lake, NC 8 Sep (RM). Quite rare inland, a Red Knot was seen at Falls Lake 21 Aug-3 Sep (MDa, EC, MiM). Good inland totals of other small shorebirds included 12 White-rumped Sandpipers in *Bartow*, GA 7 Sep (KB, NF); 10+ White-rumped at Falls L. 8 Sep (RM); 18 Sanderlings at Jordan L. 17 Sep (*vide* WCo); 14 Sanderlings at Falls L. 28 Aug (ScW); 250 Pectoral Sandpipers at Marshallville, GA 21 Aug (RK); and 15 Dunlins in the Mills R. area of *Henderson*, NC 28 Oct (WF, RS). The scarce Baird's Sandpiper was widely reported, with the highest count being a state record 7 on Little St. Simons I., GA 1 Oct (GB, m.ob.). Calver counted 341 Stilt Sandpipers at S.S.S. 25 Aug; other notable records were 30 at Bear Island W.M.A., SC 1 Oct (PS) and one in the Mills R. area of *Henderson*, NC 28 Oct (WF, RS). After a dip in records in recent years, Buff-breasted Sandpipers seem to be bouncing back, with too many reports to mention. The most notable Buff-breasted records were up to 18 in the mts. at Hooper Lane, *Henderson* 3-6 Sep (WF) and 23 at the S.S.S. 11 Sep (SC). Two rare Eurasian shorebirds were reported this fall, a Ruff in breeding plumage near the pond at the Cedar I. ferry terminal, NC 7 Oct (BB, KK) and a Curlew Sandpiper on Little St. Simons I. 14 Aug (p.a., ph. PMcL et al.). A Long-billed Dowitcher at Falls L. 23 Oct (ScW) made the only inland report. Though increasingly scarce as a migrant in recent years, Wilson's Phalarope turned up in numbers at a few locations, including 14 at S.S.S. 5 Aug-4 Sep (SC) and 6 on Little St. Simons I. 2 Sep (LT). Inland Wilson's at E.L.H., Falls L., and Jordan L. were less expected.

Much rarer inland than Wilson's, Red-necked Phalaropes appeared at Falls L. 22 Aug-15 Sep (up to 4; SS, ScW, DL) and in *Bartow*, GA 6-9 Sep (2; m.ob.), with singles in *Walton*, GA 9 Sep (JS), at Magruder L., *Burke*, GA 23 Sep (JFI), at L. Townsend near Greensboro, NC 30 Aug (HL), and in *Henderson*, NC 5-6 Sep (ph. WF). Ten Red-necked Phalaropes at S.S.S. 11 Oct (SC) made a remarkable onshore count. Quite a surprise was a Red Phalarope feeding on a flooded lawn in Roper, *Washington*, NC 17 Sep (ph. PE).

GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

Rare onshore was an imm. Black-legged Kittiwake on the beach at North Topsail Beach, *Onslow*, NC 21 Nov (ph. GG). Hard to find offshore in recent years, a Sabine's Gull was observed on a pelagic trip off Oregon Inlet, NC 4 Sep (ph. BP et al.). Always of note and quite early, a Black-headed Gull was at S.S.S. 11-25 Aug (ph. SC). Are Franklin's Gulls increasing, or are observers now more skilled at identifying them? Records continue to accumulate, with three reports this fall: single first-cycle birds at Jordan L. 15-23 Oct (TB, m.ob.) and at S.S.S. 22 Nov (ph. SC) and an ad. at Tybee I., GA 22-23 Oct (CC, ph. DC). Other notable gull records were a far inland Laughing Gull at L. Lanier 6 Sep (JFI) and a good tally of 12 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Tybee I. 22 Oct (CC). Hurricane *Irene* was clearly responsible for a number of onshore Sooty Tern records 27 Aug: one over Mason Inlet, NC (DC), 2 over Jordan L. (KF, m.ob.), 3 over University L., Chapel Hill, NC (AI), and one at Cumberland I., GA (JMcN). Tropical Storm *Lee* was responsible for 2 Sooty Terns at Tidwell Park near Atlanta 7 Sep (JFI) and 3 more at L. Lanier 6-8 Sep (JFI). The pelagic trip off Tybee I., GA 13 Aug (BZ et al.) turned up 7 Sooty Terns, 7 Bridled Terns, and 37 Black Terns. Hurricane *Irene* brought 2 Bridled Terns to Figure Eight I., NC 27 Aug (DC); there were no inland reports of Bridleds, but *Irene* did bring other terns to inland lakes, with Piedmont high counts for Least Tern of 11 at Falls L. 28 Aug (TB) and 8 at L. Crabtree, NC 27 Aug (NS). Royal Tern, also seldom seen inland, was reported in North Carolina at L. Crabtree 27 Aug (2; NS, NFI) and L. Townsend, Greensboro 30 Aug (3; HL). As expected, there were reports of Black Tern, Caspian Tern, and Common Tern on the lakes after the passages of Hurricane *Irene* and Tropical Storm *Lee*; the latter brought many Black Terns to Georgia lakes 6-7 Sep. Two Gull-billed Terns at a sod farm in New Bern, NC 31 Aug (AG) were unusual for an inland site. South Polar Skuas were unusually numerous off Hatteras I. 20-23 Aug (BP et al.), with minimally 6 birds photographed among the large flocks

of Great and Cory's Shearwaters, some of these juvs. beginning molt of primaries. Furnishing the 4th far inland North Carolina record for Parasitic Jaeger was a dark-morph imm. at Falls L. 10-11 Sep (JP, ScW, AI et al.). Two Long-tailed Jaegers were off Hatteras I. 4 Sep (BP et al.).

Although Eurasian Collared-Dove is a widespread resident along and near the coast n. to *Carteret*, NC, it is very spottily distributed inland, and records are lacking for many if not most counties. Notable far inland was a count of 15+ in n. *Iredell*, NC 26 Aug (RU). Greatly increasing, likely in part due to the increase of the introduced Florida population, is White-winged Dove, with too many sightings to report in detail. There were at least 10 reports, all coastal or in the lower Coastal Plain, with six in North Carolina n. to Bodie I. and two each for South Carolina and Georgia. Single Northern Saw-whet Owls were banded 17 & 30 Nov in *Lamar*, GA (CM), suggesting that this owl is not overly rare in winter in parts of the Region's Piedmont province. Just as unusual, and perhaps record early for inland North Carolina, was an injured Short-eared Owl seen on the roadside of US 74 near Shelby, NC 5 Oct (RC), but it disappeared before it could be rescued. Common Nighthawks are obviously in decline in the e. half of the continent, as numbers passing through the Region in fall migration are much smaller than in previous decades. The highest count reported was an impressive 500 birds feeding on flying ants near Cartersville, GA 13 Sep (JMcN); one in the Macon, GA area 8-10 Nov (JaF, TM) was rather late. A Black Swift, observed circling overhead from Hemphill Bald (1650 m), *Haywood*, NC 19 Sep (DC), made the first report of the species for the Region. The North Carolina B.R.C. accepted the record to genus (*Cypseloides*), a new genus for the state's Provisional list. At least 10 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds remained in the greater Charlotte, NC area into late Nov (*vide* TP); the species is seldom found in midwinter in the Piedmont. An ad. male *Anna's Hummingbird* returned to a yard in Trent Woods, *Craven*, NC for a 2nd winter (A&JB), was banded 12 Nov (SuC), and remained into the winter; there is one previous state record, from Charlotte. A *Calliope Hummingbird* and a *Rufous Hummingbird* were at a Blairsville, GA feeder this season (ph. RT). The rarest hummingbird record of the season was North Carolina's 2nd, and first ad. male, *Allen's Hummingbird* at a feeder in Riverbend Park, *Catawba* 18-30 Nov and later (DM); Martin banded and photographed it 19 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

The scarce Olive-sided Flycatcher was repor-

ted at least eight times, mostly in Georgia; all were singles except for 2 each in *Cobb*, GA 4 Sep (BBE) and *Bibb*, GA 8 Sep (TPr, m.ob.). An Eastern Wood-Pewee heard singing at Mattamuskeet N.W.R. 19 Nov (JL) was extraordinarily late. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher records may have been as many as ever, though this might simply be due to increasing observer coverage. The only reports of more than one was of 2 at Jackson Park, *Henderson*, NC 8 Sep (MiM) and 2 in *Murray*, GA 17-18 Sep (m.ob.). Of the five regular *Empidonax* flycatchers, the rarest passing through the Region seems to be Alder, and birds need to be heard calling or singing to be properly identified. Single Alder Flycatchers were seen and heard calling at Jackson Park, *Henderson*, NC 7-8 Sep (RS, MiM), at L. Crabtree, *Wake*, NC 28 Sep (TB), in the Athens, GA area 9 Sep (RH), and in *Lincoln*, GA 10 Sep (JFI). A Vermilion Flycatcher was found at Altamaha W.M.A., GA 25 Nov (GK, ph. MC); it was last reported 28 Nov. Records for Ash-throated Flycatcher, at least close to the coast, are becoming annual; one was at Wrightsville Beach, NC 14-15 Oct (DE, SCo), and another was at Alligator River N.W.R., NC 11-13 Nov (JoH, JL et al.). Sadly, records of Western Kingbird are now few and far between; the species used to be seen in small numbers each fall along the coast, sometimes more than one bird per day. Was the one at S.S.S. 2 Nov (SC) really the only one seen all fall? Also disappointing were just two reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, both in Georgia: singles in *Forsyth* 20 Aug (JFI) and on Tybee I. 9 Nov (BBR, SB). By contrast, the increase in reports of Bell's Vireo is most welcome; a few years ago, it was accidental in the Region. One was photographed near the ferry landing at Ft. Fisher, NC 16 Sep (JPa); amazingly, Parnell has photographed this species on two other occasions in this same area during the past six fall migrations! In Georgia, a Bell's Vireo was at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park 13 Sep (BZ), and another was at Dug Gap Mt., *Whitfield* 18 Sep (KB). Along the coast, where very rare, individual Warbling Vireos were found at Ft. Fisher 17 Sep (GM) and at Corolla, NC 3 Oct (JL); a few were reported inland, as expected. Of the numerous Philadelphia Vireo reports, the most notable were late individuals at Henderson Park, Atlanta 8 Nov (JS) and in *Clarke*, GA 2 Nov (RH). For some reason, Common Ravens are spreading over essentially all of the Piedmont of North Carolina, though no such movements are being reported in the other two states. Ravens in *Randolph* 26 Sep (AT) and *Union* 14 Oct (BSO) may represent first county records. Eight Tree Swallows at *Clemson*, SC 30 Nov (DA SD), and 21 more in *Clarke*, GA 30 Nov (MB), were

late in departing the upper Piedmont. A Violet-green Swallow over a small pond in Chapel Hill, NC 1 Oct (acc.; ph. AI) was the Region's first and one of very few records in the East. Where were the Cave Swallows this fall? There has been a dramatic increase in numbers over the past decade, and Nov coastal sightings have been routine. One over soccer fields at Chapel Hill 1 Nov (AI) made the only report. Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce in this non-irruption year; there were fewer than 10 reports in the Region. Two Brown Creepers in the Jackson area of *Aiken*, SC 17 Sep (*vide* AnW) were somewhat early for that area.

A Sprague's Pipit at the S.S.S. 14 Oct (ph. SC) provided one of few records for South Carolina. Often not reported until the winter season, rare and early were single Lapland Longspurs at Ft. Fisher 15 Oct (DS) and West Point Dam, GA 5 Nov (PM et al.). The best of the many Golden-winged Warbler reports

bler 19 Nov (JL), a Northern Parula 12 Nov (MiM, AI), and 3 Blackpoll Warblers 19 Nov (JL), with one still there 24 Nov (JL). A Brewster's Warbler at Chapel Hill, NC 11 Sep (NS, GS) was the only hybrid warbler reported. Rare in the mts. was a Prothonotary Warbler at Hendersonville 23 Sep (WF, SH), and quite rare for the cen. Piedmont was a Swainson's Warbler at Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem, NC 16 Aug (ph. PD). In North Carolina, a very late Tennessee Warbler was on the causeway between Beaufort and Morehead City 25 Nov (JF). Extraordinarily early, and hopefully correctly identified, Orange-crowned Warblers were reported in *Graham*, NC 5 Sep (CSn) and at Mount Pleasant, SC 16 Sep (JCo). The always notable Connecticut Warbler was seen at Mount Mitchell S.P., NC 31 Aug (DM), St. Stephens Park, *Catawba*, NC 17 Sep (LO), Hendersonville, NC 23 Sep (WF, SH), Roanoke I., NC 4 Oct (AWH), and Cumberland I., GA 9

SA How do we handle reports of Bicknell's Thrush? Given the breeding range and wintering range locations, and given banding station records, we know that the species migrates routinely over the e. half or third of the Region. Photographs of a bird stunned by hitting a window in Raleigh 4 Oct (SSm) and of one on Roanoke I., NC 21 Oct (JL) appear to be Bicknell's rather than Gray-cheeked Thrush, which also migrates through the Region. Another possible Bicknell's was seen and heard calling in , NC 17 Sep (KMe). The North Carolina B.R.C. has accepted just three records. Given the difficulty in distinguishing these similar species, we should keep track of "probable" and "possible" reports, despite the impossibility of verifying identification from photographs. Banded individuals (with measurements and photographs) and specimens (as from tower kills) provide acceptable documentation, and observers are strongly encouraged to audio-record singing Bicknell's and to make recordings of large thrush flights at night, inasmuch as the flight call of Bicknell's may be distinguishable from that of Gray-cheeked, when the calls are analyzed audiospectrographically.

was a single day count of 4 in the Athens, GA area 2 Oct (JMcN, NF). Three Blue-winged Warblers at Jackson Park, Hendersonville 19 Sep (WF, RS, JSt) also made a high count. This fall saw a great number of other late-departing warblers, ones that are not often seen in Nov or later; numerous species were recorded well into winter as well. Notable such birds in Georgia were 5 Tennessee Warblers in the Columbus area 3 Nov (GMe), a Nashville Warbler at Carter's L. 6 Nov (TH), a Hooded Warbler in the Hinesville area 24 Nov (NJ), a Bay-breasted Warbler in *Fannin* 6 Nov (JLaF), a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Harris Neck 11 Nov (SF), a Black-throated Green Warbler in the Columbus area 3 Nov (GMe), and Wilson's Warblers at Eufaula N.W.R. 20 Nov (NF, JMcN) and in the Macon area 29 Nov (JFle). Late Wilson's were also seen on Roanoke I. 14 Nov (JL) and at Aynor, SC 24 Nov (ST). At Mattamuskeet N.W.R., late birds included a Northern Waterthrush 2 Nov (AB), a Blue-winged Warbler 2 Nov (AB), a Nashville War-

bler 19 Nov (JL), a Northern Parula 12 Nov (MiM, AI), and 3 Blackpoll Warblers 19 Nov (JL), with one still there 24 Nov (JL). A Brewster's Warbler at Chapel Hill, NC 11 Sep (NS, GS) was the only hybrid warbler reported. Rare in the mts. was a Prothonotary Warbler at Hendersonville 23 Sep (WF, SH), and quite rare for the cen. Piedmont was a Swainson's Warbler at Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem, NC 16 Aug (ph. PD). In North Carolina, a very late Tennessee Warbler was on the causeway between Beaufort and Morehead City 25 Nov (JF). Extraordinarily early, and hopefully correctly identified, Orange-crowned Warblers were reported in *Graham*, NC 5 Sep (CSn) and at Mount Pleasant, SC 16 Sep (JCo). The always notable Connecticut Warbler was seen at Mount Mitchell S.P., NC 31 Aug (DM), St. Stephens Park, *Catawba*, NC 17 Sep (LO), Hendersonville, NC 23 Sep (WF, SH), Roanoke I., NC 4 Oct (AWH), and Cumberland I., GA 9

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

As Clay-colored Sparrows continue to expand their breeding range eastward into the Northeast, it is no surprise that Regional sightings also are increasing. There were five reports from North Carolina, two from South Carolina, and several from Georgia; the peak count was 3 birds during the Georgia Ornithological Society meeting at Tybee I. 9 Oct. All four Lark Sparrow reports were coastal, and all were of singles; as for Vesper Sparrow, reports of Lark Sparrow are down from counts of the 1970s through early 1990s. Georgia had numerous records of Le Conte's Sparrow,

had numerous records of Le Conte's Sparrow, with a high of 6 at L. Tobesofkee, *Bibb* 20 Nov (ph. JaF, m.ob.). In the Carolinas, one was at North River Farms, *Carteret*, NC 27 Nov (JF et al.), and 2 were at S.S.S. 22 Nov (SC). Two sleuthing Georgia birders did well to find a Henslow's Sparrow 23 Oct at the Chattahoochee River N.R.A. and a Nelson's Sparrow on the same day in *Bartow* (JMcN, NF), no easy feat in the Piedmont, where both are migrants. Are Lincoln's Sparrows increasing, or are birders more sanguine in detecting them in fall? There were far too many sightings to mention; peak counts were 4 at Ferguson Fields near Bryson City, NC 9 Oct (MiM); 3 along Hooper Lane, *Henderson* 26 Oct (WF); and 3 at Eufaula N.W.R. 20 Oct (WC). A Harris's Sparrow was in a backyard in Glennville, *Tattnall*, GA 18 Nov (ph. GW). Out of season was a White-throated Sparrow in a Raleigh yard 11 Aug (JCo); it must have summered in the area. A count of 16+ White-crowned Sparrows at Ft. Fisher 15 Oct (AWi, GM) was impressive. A male Summer Tanager returned 23 Nov to a yard in Raleigh for a 2nd winter in a row (SHa, *fide* JCo). Painted Bunting is very rare in the Piedmont; thus of interest was a female, apparently killed by window strike, found at Chapel Hill 11 Oct (AI).

Four Dickcissels were at Ft. Fisher 24 Sep (JE); a few records came from the Piedmont. Rusty Blackbird, whose populations have declined over the past few decades, posted several counts of 100+ birds and several more over 25 birds. Rare for the North Carolina Piedmont was a Brewer's Blackbird in a cattle pasture in sw. *Randolph* 20 Oct (ph. AT). Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at the Alta-

maha Waterfowl Management Area, *McIntosh*, GA 9-11 Oct (JaF), and one was in *Camden*, GA 5-16 Oct (JK). This was a poor season for cardueline finches. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were scarce, Red Crossbills stayed in the mts. of North Carolina, and Evening Grosbeaks went unreported. An early Pine Siskin banded near York, SC 6 Sep (BH).

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Bird of the Year Art Contest

Here at the ABA, we continue to celebrate the 2012 Bird of the Year, the Evening Grosbeak. As the festivities continue, we now present an all-out, no-holds-barred, **multimedia art contest** for ABA members. Entries should focus on the Evening Grosbeak and may include original photography, artwork, video, music, poetry...pretty much anything that can be e-mailed and posted online. Let your creativity and imagination run wild, and have a chance to **win some really fantastic prizes!**



There is no registration fee! However, you must be an ABA member to register. For contest rules and prize information, and to view entries, check us out online:

aba.org/boy/multimedia-art-contest/





Bruce H. Anderson

Birds arrived this fall from all compass points, with some species seen in higher numbers throughout the state than have been recorded in several decades. Tropical cyclones off both coasts, together with early, strong cold fronts, made for exciting land birding and seawatching. Hurricane *Irene* passed 193 km offshore Florida's Atlantic coast 24-26 August with winds up to 108 knots; on 25 August sustained northeasterly winds, about 22-26 knots at the coast with gusts to 35 knots, extended as far inland as Lake County and Marion County. In the Gulf, Tropical Storm *Lee* extended eastward to the western panhandle 4-5 September, with 52-knot winds bringing pelagic birds near shore and 23 cm of rain to Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County. Off the Atlantic coast, Hurricane *Katia* traveled northwestward and was closest on 7 September, bringing southeasterly winds to the coast through 9 September. Several strong low-pressure areas formed off the Atlantic coast later in the season, as on 8 October, when winds up to 30 knots reached shore. Again, from 30 October through 10 November, northerly to northeasterly winds of 22-26 knots blew for eight of the twelve days, making seawatching rewarding from Volusia County to Brevard County.

An early cold front passed over the peninsula 17 September, bringing with it a fair number of typically trans-Gulf migrants such as Black-throated Green and Magnolia Warblers. The most impressive cold front in decades came through the peninsula 15-19 October. Reports of grounded migrants came from the entire peninsula and the Florida Keys. Again, most impressive were the numbers of trans-Gulf migrants, usually rare in the peninsula, such as Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers.

Goodrich relayed that a fallout at Key West, Monroe County 16 October was the largest he had ever seen there. Fierce thunderstorms and strong winds blew through the Keys 19 October. On that day, Rafael A. Gálvez, coordinator at the Florida Keys Hawkwatch, noted that "the Overseas highway today was somewhat deserted once the storm let-up. The bodies of many Yellow-billed Cuckoos and warblers were strewn about."

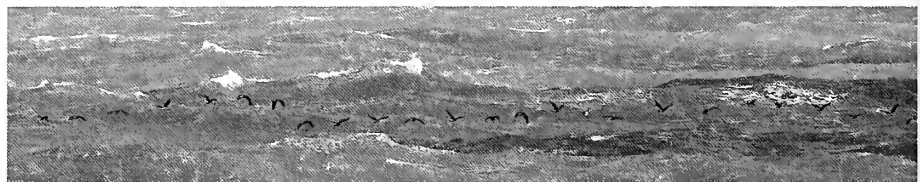
Two Marine Science Center pelagic trips, 18 September and 13 November, traveled from Ponce de Leon Inlet, Volusia County out past the Gulf Stream, producing many notable reports.

Abbreviations/definitions: big bend (the part of Florida from the Apalachicola R. and through *Jefferson*); FO.S.R.C. (Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee); L. Apopka (L. Apopka Restoration Area, *Orange* unless otherwise stated); panhandle (that part of Florida from the Apalachicola R. through *Escambia*); record (only those reports verifiable from photograph, videotape, or specimen evidence); report (any observation); S.T.A.

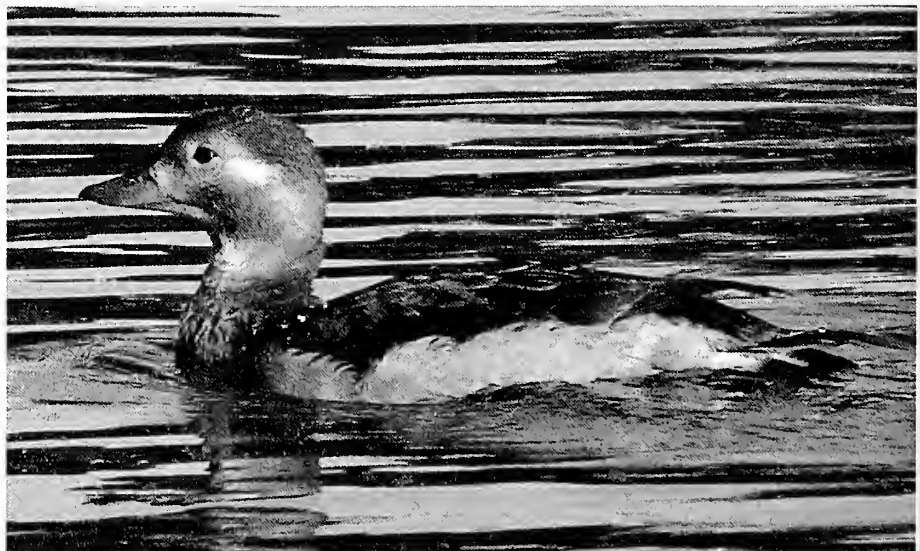
(Stormwater Treatment Area); S.T.F. (Spray Treatment Fields); UCF (University of Central Florida, Orlando); Viera Wetlands (Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands, *Brevard*).

WATERFOWL THROUGH FALCONS

A Black-bellied Whistling-Duck at Destin, *Okaloosa* 16 Jul-16 Aug (Gary Parsons) made the 7th panhandle report. Two pairs of Black-bellieds with ducklings in *Highlands* 25 Sep (GS) illustrated the protracted breeding season for this largely tropical species. Brothers photographed a line of 24 Fulvous Whistling-Duck flying southward well off the coast e. of Canaveral N.S., *Volusia* 18 Nov. There are otherwise about six reports of Fulvous in offshore migration in fall, with some birds northbound; onshore at this latitude in the state, Fulvous have not been reported except rarely at Merritt I., *Brevard*. Geese were exceptionally scarce this fall, with Greater White-fronteds in slightly greater numbers than Snows. Five Greater White-fronteds at Bald Point S.P., *Franklin* 16 Oct (JMu) were the only ones reported from the n. half of the state; in the s. part of the state, one was at John Chesnut, Sr. Park, *Pinellas* 22 Oct (BAh), 5 at Myakka River S.P., *Highlands* 11 & 29 Nov (ph. John Whitehead), one near S.T.A. 5, *Hendry* 12 Nov (Bob Zaremba), and one near Homestead, *Miami*



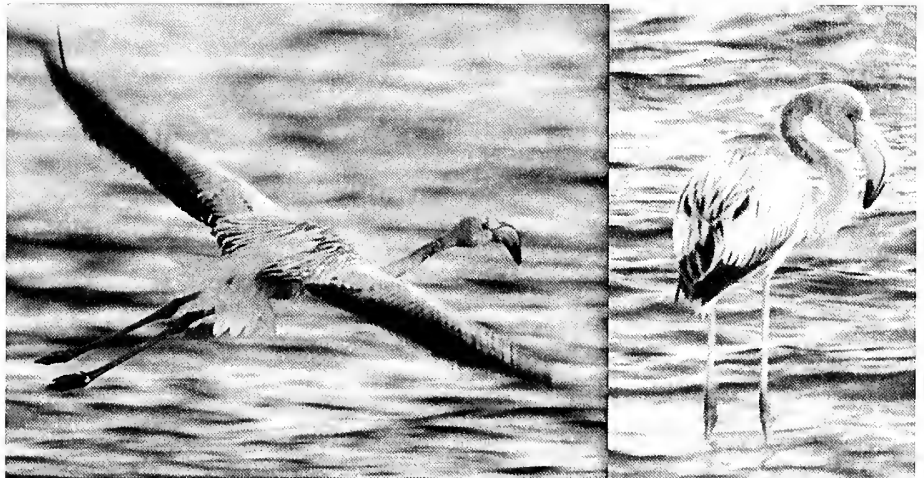
A rare find was a line of 24 Fulvous Whistling-Ducks flying southward offshore at Canaveral National Seashore, Volusia County, Florida 18 November 2011. Photograph by Michael Brothers.



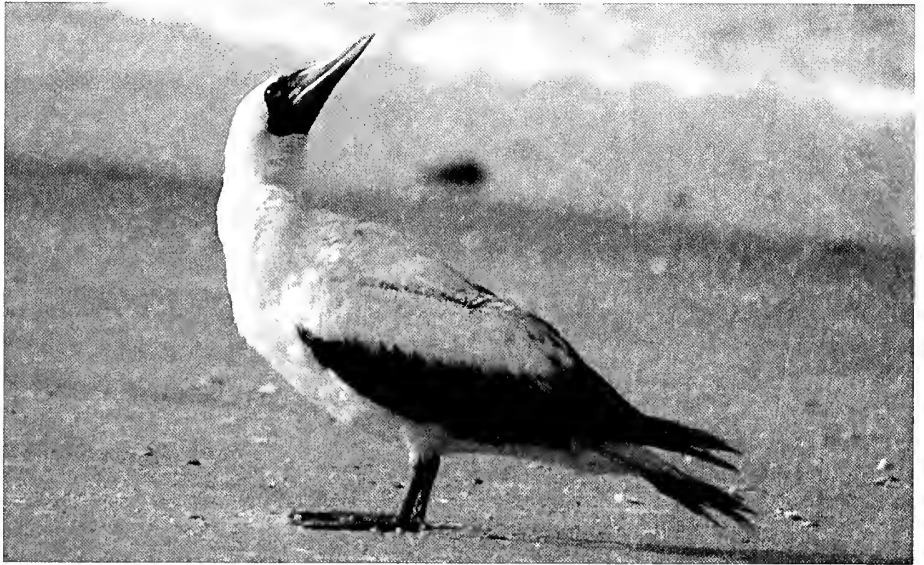
An early Long-tailed Duck was still in juvenal plumage at Orlando, Orange County, Florida 19-21 (here 20) November 2011. Photograph by Andrew Boyle.

Dade 21 Oct (ph. RoT). The few Snow Geese included one at Fort Walton Beach S.T.F 19 Nov (AlH), 2 at St. Marks N.W.R., *Wakulla* 25 Nov (AW), 3 at Guana Tolomoto Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve, *St. Johns* 9 Nov (GDa), and one at L. Apopka 11 Nov+ (HR). After last winter's drought and scarcity of ducks, summer rains brought back near-normal numbers of ducks this fall. Gadwall continued to increase throughout the state, with 360 at L. Apopka 11 Nov (HR). Up to 3 male Eurasian Wigeons at Merritt Island N.W.R. 11 Nov+ (MH) were the first there in two years. Single male Blue-winged Teal x Cinnamon Teal hybrids were identified at Viera Wetlands 23 Oct (DF) and at Green Cay Wetlands, *Palm Beach* 19-24 Nov (JHB). A Common Eider n. of Ft. Pierce Inlet, *St. Lucie* 12 Nov had been present ca. 10 days (Luke Napodano). Five single White-winged Scoters were on both coasts of n. Florida, with an additional loner inland at Hamilton County Potash Corporation's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Waterfowl Management Area 12 Nov (JKr). Also inland, the only Long-tailed Duck was noted at Orlando, *Orange* 19-21 Nov (ph. Andrew Boyle) in juv. plumage, not previously reported in Florida. A male Masked Duck at Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden, Stock I. remained 16-20 Oct (CGd).

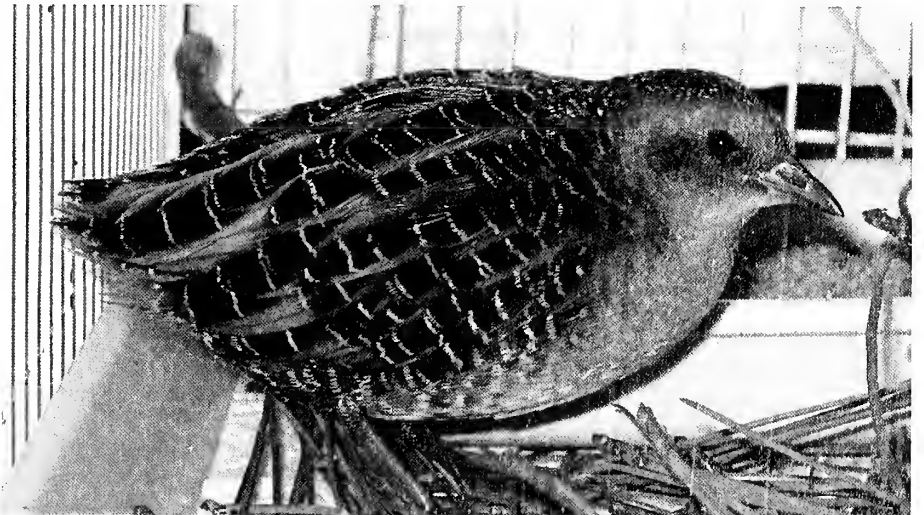
Horned Grebe numbers were in noticeably higher numbers this fall, with some individuals reaching *Miami-Dade* (JHB); one in *Santa Rosa* 12 Sep (LK) was early (RAD). Recent American Flamingo reports include one imm. that ranged from Estero I. to Sanibel I. in *Lee* 22-24 Oct (ph. Eve Haverfield), and in *Monroe*, Everglades N.P., one at Snake Bight 12 Aug (LaM) and 20 near Cape Sable 9 Nov (Pete Frezza). A panhandle first, a Black-capped Petrel was found moribund in *Walton* 6 Sep (fide RAD); 45 Black-capped in the Gulf Stream on the 18 Sep pelagic made the highest number recorded in the state in a single day. Cory's and Great Shearwaters were found in *Brevard* and *Volusia*, with 350 Cory's and 50 Greats found on the 13 Nov pelagic. Other Gulf procellariid sightings were few: one Great 11 km off Clearwater, *Pinellas* 22-23 Nov (ph. Eric Spaulding) and an Audubon's Shearwater photographed at Pensacola Beach, *Escambia* 5 Sep, associated with Tropical Storm *Lee* (fide L&RAD). Fourteen Wilson's, a Band-rumped, and 3 Leach's Storm-Petrels were identified on the 18 Sep pelagic. There were "numerous reports" of Magnificent Frigatebirds in *Escambia* and *Santa Rosa* 3-5 Sep associated with *Lee* (RAD). Although presently the only known Florida frigatebird breeding colony is at Dry Tortugas N.P., *Monroe*, thousands summer on the coasts; at two



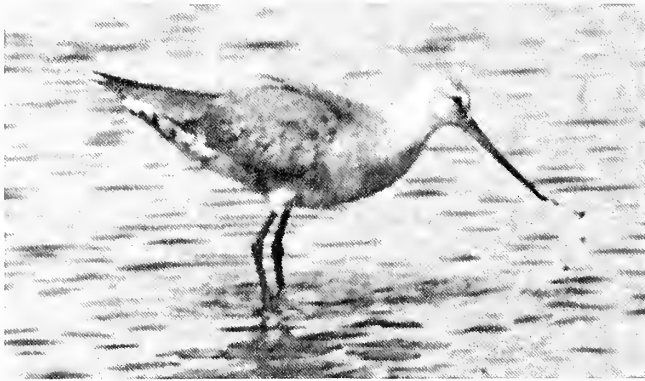
This unbanded juvenile American Flamingo roamed the Lee County, Florida coast 22-24 (here 22) October 2011; this image was taken at Fort Myers. Photographs by Eve Haverfield.



This adult Masked Booby at Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas County, Florida 19 September 2011 was one of only two reported from the mainland. Photograph by Danny Sauvageau.



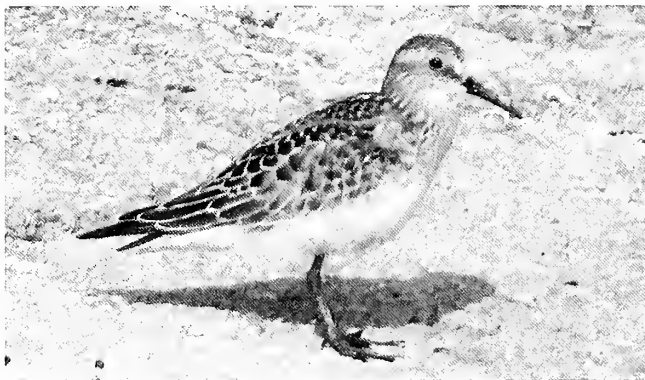
This Yellow Rail was rescued from a swimming pool at Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, Florida 19 October 2011. Photograph by David Pinning.



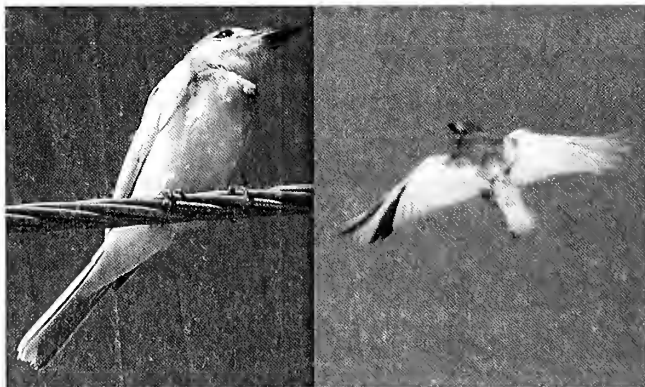
One of Florida's rarest sandpipers, this Hudsonian Godwit was well documented at Saint Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Wakulla County 31 August (here) through 4 September 2011. Photograph by Neil Lamb.



Inca Doves at Florida's St. George Island, Franklin County 10-28 (here 10) September (left) and Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County 9 October 2011 may have been the same bird. Photographs by John Murphy (left) and Alex Harper.



This juvenile Baird's Sandpiper at Virginia Key, Miami-Dade County, Florida 15-19 (here 15) September 2011 was one of three reported in the state this fall. Photograph by Robin Diaz.



This leucistic Gray Kingbird was found at Homestead, Miami-Dade, Florida 22 October 2011. Photograph by Larry Manfredi.



This Thick-billed Vireo was at Matheson Hammock Park, Miami-Dade County, Florida 6-16 (here 6) August 2011. Photograph by Larry Manfredi.

Gulf roosts, 500 were tallied at Little Bird Key, Pinellas 5 Oct (RS), and 1780 were at A.B.C. Colony, Marco I., Collier 20 Aug (TB). A Masked Booby was at Pensacola Beach 5 Sep (LD), associated with Lee, and another was photographed at Ft. De Soto Park, Pinellas 19 Sep (Danny Sauvageau). Away from s. Florida, juv. Brown Boobies were seen at, or offshore of, Ponce de Leon Inlet 6 Oct (one bird) and 13 Nov (4 birds; both MBr).

Single Great White Herons wandered n. to Orange 19-21 Aug (HR), Brevard 29 Aug-8

Nov (PH), Flagler 13 Oct (Meret Wilson), and Duval 18-19 Aug (Richard Becker). Possibly the result of a successful breeding year, post-breeding Reddish Egrets dispersed westward to St. Marks N.W.R., with 18 there 9 Aug (AW), and northward to Huguenot Memorial Park, Duval, where 5 were present 26 Aug. (Bob Richter); very rare inland, one paused at L. Apopka 25 Aug (HR). Single White-faced Ibis were identified at Ft. Walton Beach S.T.F. 23 Oct (Murray Cragin) and St. Marks N.W.R. 9 Nov (Lilian Saul, Doug

Wassmer), with up to 2 at L. Apopka 18 Sep-11 Nov (HR). Roseate Spoonbills have again commenced inland breeding in the state, and larger numbers of nonbreeders were recorded inland this season, such as 450 at Duda Farms, Palm Beach 17 Sep (CW). Post-breeding spoonbills were spotted w. to Pensacola 5 Sep (one bird; Gordon Tetlow), a 9th panhandle report, and n. to Bell River Spoil I., Nassau 3 Sep (50 birds; PL) and Columbia City, Columbia 9 Aug (one; JKr).

Single White-tailed Kites, listed as En-

dangered in the state, were reported from *Miami-Dade* 5 Sep (JHB), *Broward* 23 Aug (RuT), *Hendry* 26 Nov (Margaret English), and n. of their normal breeding range near L. Denham, *Lake* 1 Sep (ph. Tim Dellinger). From 15 Sep–13 Nov, Florida Keys Hawkwatch counted raptors and vultures at Curry Hammock S.P., Little Crawl Key, *Monroe* for the 12th year, tallying 3423 individuals of 18 species (<<http://floridakeyshawkwatch.wordpress.com>>). Locally breeding in n. Florida regularly s. to *Alachua*, Mississippi Kites and Broad-winged Hawks are rarely seen in migration in the peninsula s. of the breeding range. Only four peninsular reports s. of the breeding ranges for each of these species were received this season—yet the Hawkwatch identified 48 Mississippis and 5832 Broad-wingeds, the latter an all-time high! Up to 30 or so Swainson's Hawks winter annually in the agricultural fields near Everglades N.P. This fall, migrant Swainson's were identified at Winter Park, *Orange* 20 Oct (2; PH), Merritt I. 7 Nov (one; DF), L. Apopka 16 Oct (one; HR), near Balm, *Hillsborough* 25-28 Nov (3; DGo), and at "Frog Pond" *Miami-Dade* 25 Nov (11; MBe); the Hawkwatch recorded 156, another all-time high. That each of these large raptor species largely escapes detection during migration is remarkable. Most southbound Peregrine Falcons in autumn follow Florida's Atlantic coast; the Hawkwatch tallied a remarkable 2976, for another all-time high! Reports of a Great Black-Hawk of unknown provenance at Virginia Key, *Miami-Dade* persist into this decade, with a sighting 30 Sep (RD). Annual, but rare, a juv. Golden Eagle was photographed at St. Marks N.W.R. 17 Nov (B&JC).

RAILS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

A Yellow Rail was rescued from a swimming pool at Gulf Breeze 19 Oct (David Pinning). Lone Black Rails were reported from Shiloh Marsh, Merritt Island N.W.R., *Volusia* 9 Sep (DBa) and running across US 98 near Panacea, *Wakulla* 22 Oct (Diane Reed). Two Whooping Cranes, presumably from the non-migratory introduced population, were seen at L. Apopka 7 Aug, after which they began to roost nightly 7 Nov+ (HR). Six reports totaling 13 American Golden-Plovers included a high of 7 in *Brevard* 18 Nov (DF). Up to 40 Piping Plovers were at Crandon Park, *Miami-Dade* 21 Nov+ (RD), and 8 were on the Gulf at Three Rooker I., *Pinellas* 5 Aug (BP). Seldom is American Oystercatcher migration noticed on the Atlantic coast, where breeding is rare; this fall, 24 were seen flying southward at Flagler Beach, *Flagler* 2 Oct (MBr), while 3 were offshore heading s. at Playalinda Beach,

Canaveral N.S., *Brevard* 30 Oct (MH). Singles inland at Newnans L., Gainesville, *Alachua* 11 Sep (Dalcio Dacol) and L. George, *Volusia* 2 Oct (MBr) were unexpected. Oystercatchers are locally common as breeders on the Gulf coast; on 13 Nov, the count of 1970 was the highest tally in *Dixie*, *Levy*, and *Citrus* since surveys began there in winter 2006 (P&DL). Eighty-four Upland Sandpipers visited two locations in the big bend and six in the peninsula, with a high count of 56 in the agricultural fields of w. *Palm Beach* 7 Aug (MBe). Another high count in recent times was 33 Whimbrels at Cedar Key, *Levy* 14 Nov (P&DL); unexpected was one inland at L. Apopka 7 Sep (HR). Long-billed Curlews are rare on the Gulf in fall/winter; there were nine reports of singles from nine locations in and near *Pinellas* (P&DL, Robert Dawson, Jim Wells, RS, WY, MBe), but how many individuals were represented in these reports is not known. Two were in *Franklin* 30 Nov (JMu).

One of our rarest shorebirds, a Hudsonian Godwit was well documented at St. Marks N.W.R. 31 Aug–4 Sep (AW). Reports of Hudsonians from *Duval* and *Palm Beach* were received without details or with details that did not rule out Black-tailed. The highest Florida count of Red Knot this fall was of 345 at Redington Beach, *Pinellas* 23 Oct (RS). Banded knots included 4 found in *Pinellas*: 2 of these had been banded 27 Feb 2009 at Indian Shores, *Pinellas*, and each had been reported most recently in *Pinellas* in spring 2010; one had been banded 10 Mar 2010 at Shell Key Preserve, *Pinellas* and had been seen last at Wolf Island N.W.R., *McIntosh*, GA 23 May 2011 (all *fide* RS); and one had been banded at Stone Harbor, *Cape May*, NJ 24 May 2005 and had been last reported at Longridge Pt., James Bay, ON 10 Aug 2010



A rare breeder in Florida's panhandle and big bend, this fledgling American Robin was an unexpected discovery near Lake Alfred, Polk County 11 August 2011. Photograph by Michael Brothers.



An Audubon's Warbler was found at Sanibel Lighthouse Park, Lee County, Florida 23 October 2011. Photograph by Stan Damons.



A species regularly sold in the Miami bird trade, a male Cuban Bullfinch visited a South Miami, Florida yard 24 (here 25) October 2011 and later, feeding on beautyberry; the bird's plumage showed cage wear (right). Photographs by Larry Manfredi.

(*fide* WY). Another banding record from this fall involved a Semipalmated Sandpiper observed 28 Jul in *Alachua*, a bird banded 25 Jun 2011 in Alaska's Colville R. delta and last seen there 29 Jun 2011 (David Pavlik, *fide* Rob Norton). About 30 rare White-rumped Sandpipers were noted at eight peninsular locations, with a high count of 9 at Viera Wetlands 6 Sep (DF). Even rarer, a juv. Baird's Sandpiper was photographed at Virginia Key 15-19 Sep (ph. RD), and singles were reported at Viera Wetlands 2 Aug (DF) and near New Smyrna Beach, *Volusia* 1 Sep (MBr). A report of a Curlew Sandpiper at L. Apopka 23 & 25 Nov

(HR) was received without details. A total of 150 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was reported from 15 locations in the peninsula and in the big bend; a high count of 75 came from St. Marks N.W.R. 31 Aug (AW). A juv. Ruff was photographed at Duda Farms 17 Sep (CW), and a male in partial alternate plumage was described at Shiloh Marsh 3 Oct (DF). Wilson's Phalaropes were in greater numbers than usual, with 15 at both Viera Wetlands 16 Aug (DF) and phosphate mines in Polk 8 Sep (PT); 20 were e. of Belle Glade, Palm Beach 27 Aug (JHB). Inland Red-necked Phalaropes included one at L. Apopka 16 Nov (HR), up to 2 at Viera Wetlands 27-29 Aug (Tom Dunkerton, PH), and up to 2 e. of Belle Glade 27 Aug-5 Sep (JHB, RoT).

Single imm. Black-legged Kittiwakes visited each coast, with one found moribund at Ormond Beach, Volusia 6 Nov (MBr, *UCF) and another photographed at Riverview, Hillsborough 27 Nov (James Shadle). As usual, Sabine's Gull reports were confined to the Atlantic, with one juv. on the 18 Sep pelagic and 2 juvs. at Playalinda Beach 30 Oct (DF). Five Franklin's Gulls were seen in Volusia (ph. MBr), 3 were in Brevard (MH, DF), and one was photographed at Ft. De Soto Park (RS), a good season. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was inland at L. Apopka 18 Nov (HR), while lone Great Black-backed Gulls visited the Gulf in Pinellas at Treasure Island Beach 12 Aug (RS) and Fort De Soto Park 19-25 Sep (Judy Hopkins). Tropical Storm Lee brought Brown Noddies to Pensacola Beach 4 (2; L&RAD) & 5 Sep (one; AlH), the 6th and 7th panhandle reports. Also on 5 Sep, 180 Sooty and 4 Bridled Terns were at Pensacola (L&RAD), with smaller numbers of both in Okaloosa 5 Sep (Kelly Jones). Sixty Sooties and 4 Bridleds were spotted on the 18 Sep pelagic, and a dead Sooty was inland at L. Apopka 2 Sep (HR). Also rare inland, 17 Common Terns were at Ocean Pond, Baker 8 & 10 Sep (JKr), with up to 5 at Newnans L. 16-17 Sep (Rex Rowan). Yet another interior rarity, 45 Royal Terns were at L. George 2 Oct (MBr), 2 at the phosphate mines, Polk 8 Sep (PT), and 5 at L. Parker, Lakeland, Polk 4 Oct (Paul Fellers). Seawatches conducted for 3-6 hours/day 30 Oct-10 Nov between cen. Volusia to cen. Brevard turned in an astonishing count of 10,500 jaegers; 7 of these were identified as Long-tailed (DF, MBr, MH, Al Brayton).

Four Budgerigars at Port Richey, Pasco 1 Nov (Ken Tracey) were a rare find for this almost extirpated population. At Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P., Miami-Dade, 175 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted 17 Oct (RoT), and 110 the same day at Fort Zachary Taylor Historical S.P., Key West (CGd). A Mangrove

SA With w. White-winged Doves breeding in the Pensacola area, a count of 35 from St. George Island S.P., Franklin 20 Oct (JC) well illustrates the species' post-breeding dispersal. **Inca Doves** are not presently known to breed in Florida, but their dispersal capabilities were shown to be no less dramatic when singles appeared in the panhandle and big bend this season: one at St. George I. 10-28 Sep (ph. JMu) and one at Gulf Breeze 9 Oct (ph. L&RAD).

A breeding colony of Incas once existed at Key West 1965-1980, thought to be released birds. Other than one at Lake Worth, Palm Beach 26 Apr 1969, also considered a probable escapee (*Audubon Field Notes* 23: 240), 3 other Incas have been reported in Florida, all from the big bend: 2 at St. Marks N.W.R. 20 Jun 1972 after Hurricane Agnes (*American Birds* 26: 847-852) and one at Cat Pt., Franklin 2 Apr 1980 (Noel Wamer). The 2 birds found in 2011 were the first Incas to be evaluated by the F.O.S.R.C.

Cuckoo at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 2 Sep (RD) was n. of where the species is known to breed. Seven reports of single Black-billed Cuckoos made about twice the number usually reported in fall. Single Smooth-billed Anis were at Ft. Lauderdale, Broward 11 Aug (LaM) and Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 13 & 15 Oct (RD); the species is listed as Endangered in Florida. Four Groove-billed Anis were at Ft. Pickens, Gulf Islands N.S., Escambia 21 Oct (AlH), where casual. A Short-eared Owl at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve S.P., Okeechobee 17 Oct (Mike McMillian) may have been from a West Indies population; recent observations there have involved West Indian types. A Lesser Nighthawk, rare inland, was at L. Apopka 25 Nov (HR). Unusual hummingbirds banded included a Broad-billed Hummingbird at Eastpoint, Franklin 24-26 Sep (p.a.; Sheila Klink); single Buff-bellied Hummingbirds at Niceville, Okaloosa 21 Sep (Renee & George Gollehon) and at Carrabelle, Franklin 25 Nov (Cheryl Griffin); a Calliope Hummingbird at Pensacola 29 Nov (Larue Holtzclaw; now 20+ panhandle reports); a Broad-tailed Hummingbird at Pensacola 29 Nov (p.a.; Ann & Peanut Johnson; the 7th panhandle record); and 8 Rufous Hummingbirds 26-30 Nov in the panhandle and big bend (Fred Bassett). In addition, there were 11 reports of 13 Rufous or Rufous/Allen's throughout the peninsula.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

Rarer flycatchers reported included: single Olive-sided Flycatchers at Gulf Breeze 24 Aug

and 12 Sep (B. Duncan), 2 in Bay 6 Sep (Neil Lamb), and one at Merritt Island N.W.R. 21 Sep (MH); 8 total Yellow-bellied Flycatchers from four locations in Escambia and Santa Rosa, plus one banded at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 3 Oct (RD); a Willow Flycatcher seen and heard at Newnans L. 18-24 Sep (p.a.; Adam Kent); single Say's Phoebes at Ft. Pickens 1 Oct (Peggy Baker), Cape San Blas, Gulf 1 Oct (Carol Miller), and for the 4th fall at Astatula, Lake 30 Oct+ (Gallus Quigley; all p.a.); lone Vermilion Flycatchers at Carrabelle 30 Nov (JMu), L. Apopka 4-6 Nov (HR), and Orlando Wetlands Park mid-Nov+ (Reinhard Geisler), plus 2 at "Frog Pond" 8 Nov+ (LaM); at least 14 Ash-throated Flycatchers throughout the state as early as 7 Sep in Franklin (JC); 5 Brown-crested Flycatchers at four locations in Miami-Dade all in or near Everglades N.P. as early as 6 Nov (MBe, JHB, RD); a silent Tropical/Couch's Kingbird at "Frog Pond" 14-19 Oct (p.a.; Bob Landry); a Cassin's Kingbird at S.T.A. 5 on 12 Nov (4th fall there; p.a.; Margaret England); a very early imm. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Merritt I. 9-11 Aug (DF); and single Fork-tailed Flycatchers at Ft. Pickens 5 Oct (ph. David Sparks; a panhandle first) and at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Palm Beach 2 Nov (ph. Eric Gehring).

Matheson Hammock Park, Miami-Dade recorded a Thick-billed Vireo and a Yellow-green Vireo 6-16 Aug (acc. CS) and 3-12 Oct (acc. RoT), respectively. An amazing 5 Bell's Vireos ranged from Bald Point S.P. in the big bend 23 Oct (JMu) to A. D. Barnes Park, Miami-Dade 15 Sep (CS). A very rare migrant Warbling Vireo was carefully identified at Arch Creek Park, Miami-Dade 3 Sep (Jim King). Eleven Philadelphia Vireos reported throughout Florida were about double the normal fall total. Single Cave Swallows of the subspecies *pallida* were at Shell Mound C.P., Levy 2 Nov (Murray Gardler), Merritt I. 10 Oct (DF), and Valhalla Pond, Hillsborough 30 Oct (Ed Kwater). Thirteen Wood Thrushes at six n. and cen. peninsular locations were above average. American Robins, rare breeders in the panhandle and big bend, seldom attempt nesting in the n. and cen. peninsula, where sandy soils prevail. Unexpected was a fledgling robin near Lake Alfred, Polk 11 Aug, taken to a rehabilitator (*vide* MBr). Florida's 6th Varied Thrush was at Fort Pickens 20 Oct (p.a.; RAD), while the state's 10th Sage Thrasher visited St. George Island S.P. 11-14 Nov (p.a.; Kim Stringer). Two Sprague's Pipits appeared at their regular Apalachicola haunt, Franklin 6 Nov (JMu), where they winter, while one paused at Fort Walton Beach S.T.F. 19 Nov (AlH).

Thirty-seven species of warblers were re-

ported, many in numbers four or more times the usually fall total, including rarities such as Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Tennessee, Nashville, Kentucky, Cape May, Cerulean, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Canada, and Wilson's. A Brewster's Warbler was identified at Fort Zachary Taylor Historical S.P. 18 Oct (CGd). All 6 Nashville Warblers were at locations near the Gulf from Bald Point S.P. 4 Nov (M. & S. Kiser) s. to Sanibel I., Lee 31 Oct (VM). The rarest warbler find was an ad. male Kirtland's Warbler, an almost annual migrant, at Wilton Manors, *Broward* 20-21 Oct (acc. RuT). About 40 Cerulean Warblers from all regions except the panhandle made an exceptional total. Single Black-throated Gray Warblers visited St. George Island S.P. 29 Oct (ph. JMu) and Honeymoon Island S.P., *Pinellas* 20 Oct (ph. Charlie Fisher). From the peninsula and Keys came reports of 9 Canada Warblers (Ron Franklin, CGd), while reports of 8 Wilson's Warblers spanned the panhandle to cen. peninsula (AlH, John Mangold). A Bananaquit at Bill Baggs Cape Florida S.P. 21 Oct (Marc Kramer) was the first reported in the state since Feb 2009.

A Cuban Bullfinch at Miami remained 25 Oct+ (Joe Barros); the species is regularly kept as a cagebird in this vicinity, and this individual showed tail wear. A Green-tailed Towhee at Medart, *Wakulla* 20 Nov (ph. Sean McCool) was the first of several to visit Florida through winter. About 20 reports of Clay-colored Sparrows statewide pertained to mostly singles except for 12 at Ft. Pickens 18 Oct (AlH). Twelve reports of Lark Sparrow from throughout the state included a high of 4 at Taminco Sanctuary, *Santa Rosa* 29 Aug (Bruce Furlow). Henslow's and Le Conte's Sparrows were scarce, with a lone Henslow's at Bald Point S.P. 12 Nov (JMu), and single Le Conte's at Merritt Island N.W.R. 21 Oct (MH) and Fort Walton Beach S.T.F. 19 Nov (AlH). In continuing efforts to determine the range and abundance of Saltmarsh Sparrows that winter on the Gulf coast, Smith et al. banded 2 at Shell Key Preserve 30 Oct and recaptured singles banded there Feb 2011 and Oct 2010. Six single Lincoln's Sparrows were reported from all regions of the state except the Keys, while a Dark-eyed Junco strayed s. to Playalinda Beach 10 Nov (MH). Unlike many other passerine migrant species, Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks passed through in near-normal numbers. However, 4 Western Tanagers made a high number for fall, with singles at DeBary, *Volusia* 29 Oct (ph. Amy Evenstad), Peace River Hammock, *Polk* 17 Sep (Tom Palmer), A. D. Barnes Park 4 Sep (JHB), and Fort Zachary Taylor Historical S.P.

13 Oct (CGd). A very rarely reported Black-headed Grosbeak was a one-day wonder at Evergreen Cemetery, *Broward* 18 Oct (RuT). Twelve Dickcissels, mostly singles, were found throughout the peninsula and Keys.

Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds stopped at Destin 16 Aug (Walter Spence), Ft. Pickens 4 Oct (B&JC), Panacea, *Wakulla* 11 Sep (DGo), Hague, *Alachua* 24 Oct-9 Nov (Michael Manetz), and Cedar Key 10 Nov (Dale Henderson). A Rusty Blackbird appeared at Bald Point S.P. 24 Nov (JMu). The only Shiny Cowbird was one at L. Apopka 21 Aug (HR). Away from the restricted breeding population in extreme se. Florida, single Bronzed Cowbirds were detected at Pensacola 25 Oct (Ann & Dan Forster), Alligator Pt., *Franklin* 14 Aug (JMu), and St. Petersburg, *Pinellas* 3 Nov (Don & Lorraine Margeson), with up to 5 at Celery Fields Park, *Sarasota* 11-18 Nov (Owen Comora). A male Bullock's Oriole turned up at St. George Island S.P. 15 Oct (p.a.; JMu). House Finches continue to colonize Florida's e. coast slowly, with first reports from St. Lucie and Martin in 2011; a female at Jupiter Inlet Colony, *Palm Beach* 30 Nov (Jack & Elizabeth Hailman), an area first, may have come from the n. or from a disjunct popula-

tion that colonized s. *Palm Beach* and *Broward* during the past three decades. With American Goldfinches so scarce in the peninsula, it was surprising to receive a report of a Pine Siskin at Bald Point S.P. 11 Nov (JMu).

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Ontario



Margaret J. C. Bain

The fall of 2011 was one of the mildest ever recorded in Ontario, with only one major cold front to hasten migration. In early September, warm temperatures broke records in the northwest of the province, where it continued warmer than usual into October, and permanent snow did not arrive until the end of November. There were near-drought conditions in the northwest, with forest fires blazing all over the region, and many First Nations communities had to be evacuated. This dry, hot weather established a good seed crop in the north, with bountiful cones on the conifers and generally good but somewhat variable Mountain Ash and other berry crops. Because of this, finches were spread thinly over vast areas of the boreal forest, and only low numbers wandered to southern Ontario. Snowy Owls, however, ventured south in large numbers across a broad front in the second half of November. Cold northerly winds suddenly swept the province for a few days at the beginning of October, and radar images showed heavy southbound migration. Warmer temperatures soon returned, but bird numbers and diversity appeared lower than average in many areas for the rest of the season, in spite of the unusually clement conditions. Unfortunately, with the prolonged warm water temperatures, avian botulism once again took a considerable toll of waterfowl, cormorants, and gulls. This was obvious mainly along the north shore of Lake Ontario, but also, more unusually, on Lake Huron, where more than 5000 dead birds washed up on Allenwood Beach in Nottawasaga Bay 24 October, causing considerable media attention and public concern.

As in the fall of 2010, survey teams visited a number of sites in southern James Bay, an area of hemispheric importance to south-

bound shorebirds and waterfowl migrating from the Canadian Arctic. Excluding the visits to Netitishi Point, these surveys were a cooperative venture of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Moose Cree First Nation, and the Royal Ontario Museum. The second of two visits to Netitishi Point, from 28 October through 11 November, experienced exceptionally warm conditions, even warmer than in the late fall of 2010. Persistent southerly winds limited the number of northern and pelagic species seen, but the warm conditions provided numerous late concentrations and late migration dates. Very cold conditions arrived immediately after the survey ended.

Several exciting rarities appeared across the province during the period, and the Ottawa area in particular had a fall like no other, with a stream of noteworthy finds drawing birders from considerable distances. Chief amongst these were a Western Grebe, a Northern Gannet, and Ottawa's first ever Razorbill, a first-year bird. In November, the Niagara region hosted a small group of Black Vultures and another Razorbill, an adult. Elsewhere in the province, outstanding finds included White-faced Ibis, Purple Gallinule (possibly two), White-winged Dove, Rufous Hummingbird, Clark's Nutcracker, Northern Wheatear, Mountain Bluebird, Spotted Towhee, and Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch.

Abbreviations: B.P.B.O. (Bruce Peninsula B.O., Cabot Head, *Bruce*); H.B.M.O. (Holiday Beach Migration Observatory, Holiday Beach, *Essex*); H.C.H. (Hawk Cliff Hawk-

watch, Port Stanley, *Elgin*); H.S.A. (Hamilton Study Area); K.F.N. (Kingston Field Naturalists); L.P.B.O. (Long Point B.O., Long Point, *Norfolk*); O.B.R.C. (Ontario B.R.C.); P. E. Pt. (Prince Edward Pt., *Prince Edward*); 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.

WATERFOWL THROUGH GROUSE

Greater White-fronted Geese reported during the period included singles at Tiny Marsh, *Simcoe* 21 Sep (JAT) and Exeter, *Huron* 18 Nov (GS), and a group of 6 flying over Thickson's Bay, Whitby, *Durham* 25 Nov (WDB); 3 at Riverside Park, Pembroke 14 Nov (CR) made only the 2nd record for *Renfrew*. The 500+ Snow Geese over Rock L. 20 Oct (EAH et al.) was a very large number for Algonquin P.P., *Nipissing* and almost certainly represented only the 2nd record of Greater Snow Geese for the Park. The main movement of Snow Geese through e. Ontario was somewhat later than usual, perhaps again due to the mild fall, with high counts at Chesterville, *Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry* of only 8000 on 11 Nov (HvdZ) but much larger flocks by early Dec. In sw. Ontario, there appeared to be a movement of Snow Geese 20 Nov, with several flocks high overhead also noted in Ohio and Michigan (*vide AW*). Single ad. Ross's Geese were at Point Pelee, *Essex* 1 Oct (DJW) and at Nepean, *Ottawa* 9 Oct (TFMB, NS) and 19-27 Nov (m.ob.), with 3 ads. near Navan, *Ottawa*



A White-faced Ibis eluded most observers throughout its long stay on Gull Island, Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Northumberland County, Ontario from 15 (here 24) July through 13 September 2011. Photograph by Stephen Oswald and Jennifer Arnold.

11-12 Oct (TFMB, NS). Hamilton Harbour, *Hamilton* held 2 ad. and 2 juv. Ross's Geese 14 Nov (JLi, m.ob.); 3 were at the Tip of Point Pelee 20 Nov (AW); an ad. and 2 juvs. frequented the Long Pt. area, *Norfolk* 25-30 Nov+ (SAM, m.ob.); and single birds were observed at Rondeau P.P., *Chatham-Kent* 20 Nov (JTB, BAM) and *Oshawa Second Marsh, Durham* 27 Nov (TLH). The Brant flight was vigorous, with a high count of 887 off V.W.B. and the Stoney Creek lakeshore, *Hamilton* 26 Oct (GCP et al.); on the same date, 90 stopped briefly at the Tip of Long Pt. (MKS, m.ob.); rare in the sw., singles were at *Wheatley Harbour, Essex* 3 Oct (AW) and at the Tip of Point Pelee 26 Nov (RPC). At *Netitishi Pt., Cochrane*, Brant stayed late in unusually high numbers, with 616 on 3 Nov and 117 on 9 Nov (KGDB, MVAB, BRH, BNC). Cackling Geese were widely reported in small numbers in the s., with high counts of 12 at *Sturgeon Creek, Essex* 8-15 Nov (AW et al.), 6 at the *York Rd. ponds, Guelph, Wellington* 1 Oct (JDV) and another 6 at *Lorne Henderson C.A., Lambton* 14 Nov (SMJ). At *Moosonee, Cochrane*, 14 Canada Geese lingered very late 21 Nov (EER). The Trumpeter Swan population continues to expand, with a high count of 30 at *Narrows Lock, Leeds & Grenville* 22 Nov (MC); 2 ads., the male wing-tagged, with 10 cygnets were on *Sturgeon L., Kawartha Lakes* 7 Oct (JCM), a record number of young, according to the *Wye Marsh Trumpeter Swan Re-introduction Program*. Southbound Tundra Swans included a peak count of 323 over *Kingston, Frontenac* 6 Nov (K.EN.), while 50 at *Presqu'île P.P., Northumberland* 22 Nov (FMH) represented the highest fall total ever for that location; landlocked *Middlesex* usually misses most of the Tundra Swan fall passage, but on 25 Nov, 850 settled in fields in the s. part of the county (DAM).

Wood Ducks are rare but obviously increasing in s. James Bay, with high counts of 18 at *Moosonee S.L.* 26 Aug (AW, KRO) and 14 at *Moose Factory S.L., Cochrane* 27 Aug (AW, KRO). A male Eurasian Wigeon at *Presqu'île P.P.* 26 Oct-30 Nov (FMH, MR) marked one of only a very few fall records for the park. An imm. male King Eider was at *Pt. Petre, Prince Edward* 13 Nov (TLH), and another was at *Point Pelee* 13-15 Nov (AW, BAM, MBR, STP et al.); single King Eiders, thought to be different birds, were at *Presqu'île P.P.* 15 & 25 Nov (FMH, m.ob.). Two female Common Eiders off *Gull I., Presqu'île P.P.* 21 Sep (RDM) were the first documented for *Northumberland*; almost certainly one of these females was the bird off *Chub Pt., Grafton, Northumberland* 1-4 Oct (MJCB, m.ob.), with another or the same female at *West Lake, Prince Edward* 13 Nov (TLH). Harlequin Ducks were fairly widely reported in small numbers. The female in *Providence Bay* 21 Oct (RTh, CTB) was the first for *Manitoulin* since 1998; *Thunder Bay* had one on the *Nipigon R.* 22 Oct (GNS), 2 at *T.C.B.O.* 22 Oct (JMW et al.), and one on the *Kaministiquia R.* 11 (BJM) & 16 Nov (DNB); a very unusual inland occurrence was one at *McMillan Pit, Wellington* 6 Nov (MDC). A Surf Scoter off V.W.B. 1 Sep (RZD, CEE, BSC) provided a record-early fall date for the H.S.A. In downtown *Ottawa*, 170+ male Black Scoters along the *Ottawa R.* in stormy weather 20 Oct (BMDL) made an exceptional count. The first *Barrow's Goldeneye* of the fall was a male on the *Rideau R.* in downtown *Ottawa* 10 Oct (NvM), and a pair was on the *Ottawa R.* at *Deschênes Rapids, Ottawa* 30 Nov (BMDL); a Common Goldeneye x *Barrow's Goldeneye* hybrid was on the *Ottawa R.* at *Shirleys Bay* 12 Nov (BMDL). Single *Barrow's* were noted off *Amherst I., Lennox & Addington* 6 Nov (BMDL, BFDL), off *Oshawa Second Marsh* 23 Nov (DŠK), and at *Presqu'île* 23-30 Nov+ (FMH, m.ob.), where one had wintered the previous year. Four Common Mergansers at *Point Pelee* 27 Nov (AW) represented an extremely late first fall arrival date for the area, another result of the mild weather. A total of 23,700 Red-breasted Mergansers flew past *Cobourg harbor, Northumberland* 23 Oct (LW).

The seriously displaced *Willow Ptarmigan* first discovered at the *Darlington Nuclear Generating Station, Durham* in Jun was last seen 30 Nov (fide BEH), gradually achieving full basic plumage in spite of a complete lack of snow cover.



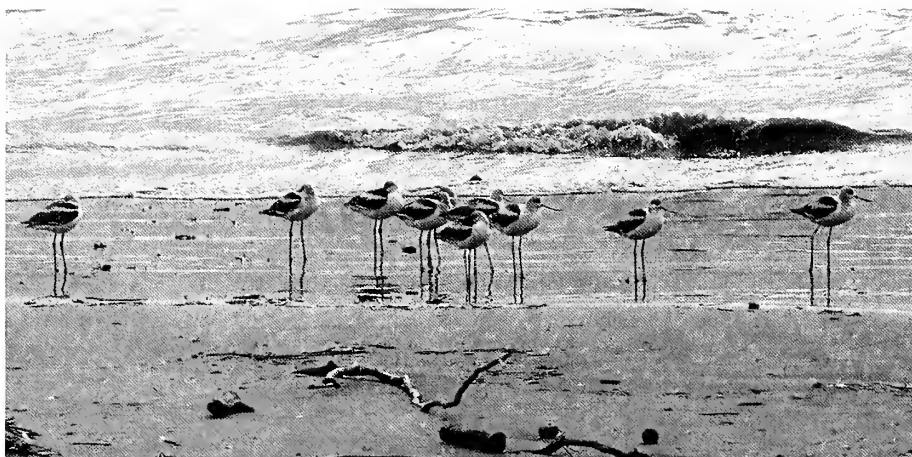
This juvenile Purple Gallinule frequented a pond at Port Weller, Niagara Regional Municipality, Ontario 9-15 (here 11) October 2011. Photograph by Sandra and Frank Horvath.



These three Black Vultures were part of a small group roosting in New York but spending much of their time during the day at Queenston, Niagara County, Ontario 12 (here 18) November through December 2011. Photograph by Tom Thomas.



This juvenile Golden Eagle was nicely photographed over Point Pelee National Park, Essex County, Ontario 4 November 2011. Photograph by Alan Wormington.



These eleven American Avocets graced the beach at Port Burwell, Elgin County, Ontario 30 September 2011. Photograph by Joseph Stephenson.



A first-winter Franklin's Gull frequented Sturgeon Creek, Essex County, Ontario 13-30 (here 23) November 2011 and later. Photograph by Alan Wormington.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

A massive movement of Red-throated Loons was noted on L. Ontario at the mouth of the Niagara R. 19 Nov, with 811 birds streaming westward in less than 30 minutes around 8 a.m. (MKP, TLH) followed by another 1200 in the subsequent two hours (GCP). Twelve Red-throated Loons were grounded due to freezing rain at Swastika, *Timiskaming* 27 Nov (MJL et al.). A Pacific Loon was seen from a kayak off Gananoque, *Leeds & Grenville* 10 Oct (AJ), an ad. was at Chub Pt., *Grafton* 19 Oct (MJCB), one was at Wellington, *Prince Edward* 30 Oct (TLH), and one was off Oshawa harbor, *Durham* 31 Oct-2 Nov (DSK, m.ob.); a juv. was off the Stoney Creek lakeshore 24 Oct (RZD, CEE), an ad. off Vineland, *Niagara* 30 Oct (RZD, CEE),

and one off Fifty Pt., *Hamilton/Niagara* 30 Oct (GEH, KD). The 269 Common Loons flying past the Tip of Point Pelee 20 Nov (AW) represented a very high count for the late date. A very late Horned Grebe was at Netitishi Pt. 10 Nov (KGDB, MVAB). Red-necked Grebes are rare in s. James Bay, with none seen during fall visits in 1981 and 2010, but an imm. was on the river at Moosonee 22-28 Oct (CJN et al.), and 8 were at Netitishi Pt. 9 Nov (KGDB, MVAB, BRH, BNC). Also rare in the sw., a Red-necked Grebe was off Hillman Marsh, *Essex* 13 Nov (KAM). An Eared Grebe, initially in alternate plumage, frequented Presqu'île Bay 8 Sep-10 Nov (WDG, m.ob.). *Ottawa's* 2nd Western Grebe, below the Deschênes Rapids, delighted many 23-29 Oct (MAG, m.ob.); another was at Etobicoke,

Metro Toronto 26-27 Nov (ML, m.ob.). On the Ottawa R., single juv. Northern Gannets were noted near Braeside, *Renfrew* 14 Oct (RPH) and over the Deschênes Rapids 22 Oct (VBL, MAG); 2 juvs. were off the ferry dock at Millhaven, *Lennox & Addington* 25 Oct (BMDL). Another juv. Northern Gannet found grounded at Dundas, *Hamilton* 26 Oct (DOa) and taken to V.W.B. for release (RLW) was likely the same bird seen off the Burlington lakeshore, *Halton* the following day (RC). Finally, a juv. was flying following the *M/V Atlantic Huron* off Pt. Petre 13 Nov (TLH). An imm. Double-crested Cormorant at Netitishi Pt. 1 Nov (BNC, KGDB) was extremely late for s. James Bay. American White Pelicans are a recent phenomenon at James Bay, where they now nest on Akimiski I., NU; birds were seen through Aug in s. James Bay, with a high count of 71 at Northbluff Pt., *Cochrane* 2 Aug (JI, MJM, ATa). Three flew over the H.B.M.O. hawkwatch 15 Sep (SRK et al.); a tardy bird walked the Trans-Canada Hwy. e. of Kenora, *Kenora* in an early snowstorm 9 Nov (CDE); and one frequented a small pond at Virgil, *Niagara* 25-30 Nov+ (DV, m.ob.)

A Great Egret at Thunder Cape 7 Aug (JMW et al.) was a new species for T.C.B.O. An ad. Snowy Egret was at Prairie Siding,

SA The Canadian Wildlife Service has been color-leg banding Great Egrets since 2001 at four sites—Nottawasaga I. (Georgian Bay), Chantry I. (main body of L. Huron), Middle Sister I. (w. L. Erie) and Motor I. (New York waters of the Niagara R.)—and have been putting on wing-tags since 2010. The largest breeding colony in Ontario and Canada is on Nottawasaga I., with about 100 nesting pairs; a U.S. colony on West Sister I. (w. L. Erie) is larger. Over 35 fall roosting sites of Great Egrets have been located in s. Ontario and adjacent New York, Ohio, and Michigan, with Luther Marsh, *Wellington* hosting the largest known egret roost in Canada. Great Egrets do not breed at Luther Marsh but roost there in good numbers starting in mid-Jun. On the evening of 28 Aug, 384 egrets were counted coming in to the roost, the greatest number ever tallied there by over 80 birds. Wing-tagged birds from both Nottawasaga I. and Chantry I. were identified among them. Winter recoveries of color-marked birds come from coastal North Carolina southward through Florida to the Caribbean islands.

Chatham-Kent 17-18 Sep (BRG et al.), and a juv. was at Lighthouse Cove, Essex/Chatham-Kent 5-9 Oct (DS, m.ob.). Two Cattle Egrets lingered in a wet pasture at Dedrick Creek, Norfolk 8-30 Nov+ (AT, m.ob.). There was a juv. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in trees beside the canal in Port Colborne, Niagara 2 Nov (BEF, JMF). Five *Plegadis ibis* flew over the Bird Studies Canada headquarters, Port Rowan, Norfolk 9 Sep (SAM). A Glossy Ibis at Lakeview Heights, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry since 23 Jul (RBS, m.ob.) was last seen 10 Aug; another was hard to find at Cranberry Marsh, Whitby, Durham 22 Aug-15 Sep (JM, m.ob.). A first-year White-faced Ibis, originally found on Gull I., Presqu'île P.P. 15 Jul (SO, JA), was extremely elusive during its long stay through 13 Sep (m.ob.).

Other sightings of single unidentified *Plegadis ibis* in the area had included one seen briefly at the Lake Street marsh, Port Hope, Northumberland 16 Aug (GL) and one flying past Frenchman's Bay, Durham 17 Aug (DBW).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Black Vulture was the bird of the day at the H.B.M.O. hawkwatch 5 Nov (SRK et al.). Three Black Vultures were at the edge of the Niagara R. at Queenston 12 Nov (MM et al.), and up to 5 were seen on some days to 30 Nov+ (m.ob.); the group appeared to be roosting with Turkey Vultures on the New York side of the river but during the day often circled over Queenston and the Sir Adam Beck Generating Station. Turkey Vulture numbers continue to grow steadily, with a record one-day count of 10,767 at H.C.H. 22 Oct contributing to a record season total of 33,703. The Tip at Long Pt. had an unusually high count of 2836 Sharp-shinned Hawks 10 Sep (MKS, m.ob.). Very rare for s. James Bay, a juv. Broad-winged Hawk was at Netitishi Pt. on strong s. winds 24 Aug (BRH, MWJ, AW). In the s., the Broad-winged flight was excellent, with record one-day totals 16 Sep at both H.B.M.O. (23,480) and H.C.H. (49,830), the latter including one dark-morph bird. Single Swainson's Hawks flew over H.C.H. 16 Sep (m.ob.) and H.B.M.O. 17 Sep (DJW, SRK et al.) and 1 (RCP et al.) & 27 Oct (SRK et al.); a first-year bird circled over Old Cut, Long Pt. 2 Oct (ALB, TMF et al.). Devlin, Rainy River had a very early Rough-legged Hawk 1 Sep (MSD). A juv. Golden Eagle over West Beach 24 Sep (BAM) was record early for Point Pelee; a record one-day total of 68 Golden Eagles was tallied at H.C.H. 28 Oct (*fide* DJB). Strong northerly winds on 1 Oct helped American Kestrels set record one-day totals at both H.B.M.O. (2472) and H.C.H. (1187). A very dark Peregrine Falcon at Netitishi Pt. 3 Nov (KGDB, MVAB, BRH, BNC) was extremely late for s. James Bay. A juv. Purple Gallinule frequented a pond at Port Weller, Niagara 9-15 Oct (DRS, JEB, m.ob.); on 16 Oct, a juv. Purple Gallinule was photographed at Hendrie Valley, Aldershot, Halton (JT), only about 65 km from Port Weller. Sandhill Cranes fed in corn stubble fields in Manitoulin, with a high count of 4604 on 5-6 Oct (EHa), slightly down from previous years. The 150 Sandhill Cranes near Navan 7 Nov (m.ob.) made a record number for the Ottawa Birding Area in fall. Extremely tardy shorebirds at Netitishi Pt. included an American Golden-Plover 9 Nov and a Semipalmated Plover 29 Oct (both KGDB, MVAB, BRH, BNC). A high count for the s., 580 American Golden-Plovers were in fields sw. of Tilbury 28 Sep (KRO, PB). Single American Avocets were at Leamington, Essex 9 Aug (DDM), the Tip of Long Pt. 21 Aug (RWW, MHD, AS, m.ob.), Fort Erie, Niagara 9 Sep (PAY, BWH), and Rondeau P.P. 1 Oct (JTB); there were 11 avocets at Port Burwell, Elgin 30 Sep (JS, ABA, AE, A&CJ). A Spotted Sandpiper lingered at Lakeside Park, Mississauga, Peel Nov 21-30+ (CEE, MHC). Single Willets were at Owen Pt., Presqu'île 14 Aug (MP), the Strathroy S. L., Middlesex 14 Aug (JMcG), Windermere Basin, Hamilton Aug 19-21 (K&AW, m.ob.), and Amherst I. 2 Sep (JC). Hudsonian Godwits were in very good numbers in the n., with high counts of 840 at Netitishi Pt. 21 Aug (AW, BRH, MWJ) and 446 at Longridge Pt., Cochrane 6 Aug (MKP, ERR, AC, RDJ); there was a peak count of 34 juv. Hudsonians along the Ottawa R. between Constance Bay and the Deschênes Rapids 9 Oct (m.ob.). Feeding along the shore at Netitishi Pt. 21 Aug were 23 Marbled Godwits (AW, BRH, MWJ); one photographed at Muskoka Highlands G.C., Bracebridge,



The Ottawa Birding Area's first Razorbill delighted many during its stay on the Ottawa River in downtown Ottawa, Ottawa Regional Municipality, Ontario 22 October (here) through 1 November 2011. Photograph by Tony F. M. Beck.



A Mountain Bluebird on the Barrie Island causeway, Manitoulin District, Ontario 19 November 2011 provided only the fourth record for the area. Photograph by Christopher T. Bell.



This immature Rose-breasted Grosbeak frequenting town feeders at Moosonee, Cochrane District, Ontario 24-31 (here 24) October 2011 was both rare and late for southern James Bay. Photograph by Christina J. Neilson.



This first-winter Harris's Sparrow visited feeders at Kincardine, Bruce County, Ontario from 27-29 (here 27) October 2011. Photograph by James A. Turland.



A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, apparently of the coastal subspecies *littoralis*, visited feeders near Stepstone, Thunder Bay District, Ontario from 22-26 (here 24) November 2011. Photograph by James Barber.

Muskoka 4-5 Sep (WY, BLT, m.ob.) furnished a new species for the Muskoka Bird Checklist. A Marbled Godwit flying over Hillman Marsh 19 Oct (DJW) was rare and late for Point Pelee. The 5 Ruddy Turnstones at Cabot Head 27 Aug (SM) were the first for B.P.B.O.

A flock of 150 Sanderlings at Hamilton Beachstrip, Hamilton 8 Sep (RZD) set a record-high count for the H.S.A. The total count of Semipalmated Sandpipers at three sites in

s. James Bay 1 Aug was 19,000 (m.ob.). There was a juv. Western Sandpiper at the Tip of Long Pt. 4 Sep (RWW, GKW), and other singles were identified at Port Colborne, Niagara 8 Sep (BEF, JMF, JEB, DRS), Presqu'île 11-13 Sep (REF, m.ob.), and Fort Erie 14 Sep (PAY, BWH). There was a one-day count of 45,457 White-rumped Sandpipers at three sites on s. James Bay 11 Aug (m.ob.); in the s., White-rumped Sandpipers have supplanted Dunlin

as Presqu'île's most numerous shorebird in late fall, with a high count of 137 on 10 Oct (DB). An ad. White-rumped Sandpiper × Dunlin hybrid was at the Tip of Point Pelee 17 Sep (KAM et al.). Baird's Sandpipers were also numerous at Netitishi Pt., with 66 noted there 23 Aug (AW, MWJ). A locally record-early Purple Sandpiper was photographed at the Tip of Long Pt. 20 Sep (TM, MKS, m.ob.); 5 Purple Sandpipers passed Netitishi Pt. 6 Nov (MVAB, KGDB, BRH, BNC). There were widely scattered reports of Buff-breasted Sandpipers in ones and twos, with higher counts of 4 juvs. at Presqu'île 31 Aug (RDM, BMDL), 5 at Windermere Basin 5 Sep (DMB et al.), and 7 at Richardson Side Rd., Essex 17-18 Sep (KS, GS, m.ob.); the 38 at the Onion Fields 4 Sep (AW) was the highest count at Point Pelee in several years. Two ad. Long-billed Dowitchers were at Tilbury, Essex 4 Aug (BRH), with single ads. at Shirleys Bay 8 Aug (BMDL) and the Townsend S.L., Haldimand 9 Aug (JKB); another ad. at the Amherstview S. L., Lennox & Addington 12 Aug-5 Oct molted gradually into basic plumage during its extended stay. Single juvs. were reported later from several locations, and up to 9 frequented Oshawa Second Marsh 13-23 Oct (DSK, TLH, m.ob.), with 3 more at Wildwood L., Oxford 18 Oct (JMH). A Wilson's Snipe was extremely late at Netitishi Pt. 4 Nov (KGDB, MVAB, BRH, BNC); none were seen during late-fall visits there in 1981 and 2010. Noteworthy numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes included 5 at Blenheim S. L., Chatham-Kent 8 Aug (GCa, LM), 40 at V.W.B. 28 Aug (RZD et al.; record-high count for the H.S.A.), 3 on Warren S.L., Sudbury 2 Sep (RT, FP, BT), and 10 at Port Stanley S.L., Elgin 4 Sep (BRH, KGDB); a Red-necked on a farm pond w. of Dryden, Kenora 31 Aug (CDE) provided only the 2nd local record. There were 3 Red Phalaropes at V.W.B. 8 Sep (GEH et al.) and singles at nearby Fifty Pt. 17 (KAM) & 31 Oct (GEH); rare for the area, single juvs. were at Shirleys Bay 3 Oct (BMDL, m.ob.), the Alfred S.L., Prescott & Russell 21-22 Oct (JMB), and the Casselman S.L., Prescott & Russell 23-25 Oct (BMDL, m.ob.).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

At V.W.B., single juv. Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen 18 (CEE), 19 (BRH et al.), & 23 Oct (ALA) and 12 Nov (RZD), with 2 there 26 Oct (GCP et al.) and another off the Burlington lakeshore 27 Oct (CEE). Other single juvs. were at Pt. Edward, Lambton 1 Oct (BAM), Thicks's Bay 14 Oct (GC), Presqu'île 6 Nov (TFMB), Point Pelee 6 Nov (CAC), Rondeau P.P. 13 Nov (JTB), and the Niagara R. Whirlpool 26 Nov (BC, GC); the only ad. reported was one flying westward along the Ottawa R.

near Dunrobin, *Ottawa* 25 Oct (RPH). At least 47 Sabine's Gulls were observed off V.W.B. 7 Sep–3 Nov (m.ob.), with 38 juvs. and one ad. 11 Sep (BRH et al.) providing a record-high count for the H.S.A.; 11 ads. off Fifty Point C.A. 11 Sep (KD, RJ) made an unprecedented number for this age class. Single juv. Sabine's Gulls were at the Deschênes Rapids 16–23 Sep (DL, EC, m.ob.), with 2 there 19 Sep (BMDL, BFDL), at Pt. Edward 1 Oct (SRC, BAM), at the Tip of Long Pt. 14 Oct (TM), at Blenheim S.L. 23 Oct (JTB), and off Burlington lake-shore 27 Oct (JKB, CEE). In s. James Bay, early sightings of single juv. Little Gulls, with the first coming from Longridge Pt. 7 Aug (RDJ), undoubtedly indicated nesting nearby, somewhere in the Hudson Bay Lowlands. Little Gulls were seen at Long Pt. throughout the period, with a high count of 13 off Old Cut 9 Nov (JRA). The only Laughing Gull reported was an imm. at the Tip of Long Pt. 6 Oct (SAM, RWW). The Wawa S.L., *Algoma* held a juv. Franklin's Gull 24 Aug (NJ), and single first-cycle birds were at Pembroke 1 Sep (MD), on the gravel bar at Amherst I. 10 Sep (K.F.N.), at Pittock L., *Oxford* 3 Oct (JMH), at Kettle Pt., *Lambton* 15 Oct (SMJ et al.), at Wheatley Harbour 18 Oct (AW), at the Tip of Long Pt. 21 Oct (MKS, m.ob.), on the Niagara R. at Queenston 6–27 Nov (m.ob.), at the H.B.M.O. hawkwatch 12 Nov (*fide* SRK), at Hillman Marsh 19 Nov (JDV), and at Sturgeon Creek 13–30 Nov+ (STP, m.ob.); an ad. was at Grand Bend, *Lambton* 9 Nov (MPA). An ad. California Gull was at Queenston 13–26 Nov (BP, WCD, m.ob.). There were 10 first-summer Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Seacliff Beach, *Essex* 6 Aug (AW, RPC). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at Netitishi Pt. 25 Aug (MWJ, BRH) was rare for s. James Bay. The Ottawa R. attracted good numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, with 16 roosting at dusk at the Deschênes Rapids 19 Sep (BMDL) and 11 at the Trail Road Waste Facility, Nepean 10 Nov (BMDL). A juv. Lesser Black-backed was at Red Rock, *Thunder Bay* 3 Oct (RZD). Caspian Tern numbers have increased in s. James Bay, with 22 at Little Piskwamish Pt., *Cochrane* 8 Aug (BNC, RDM, RR); the species now breeds on Akimiski I. and probably elsewhere in James Bay. Three juv. Black Terns were feeding offshore at Netitishi Pt. 18–20 Aug (BRH, AW, MWJ); there was a locally record-late Black Tern at the Tip of Long Pt. 2 Nov (NAP, MRI, m.ob.). A first-year Forster's Tern was n. to Britannia Bay, *Ottawa* 9 Sep (PM, m.ob.), and another visited Kincardine, *Bruce* 14 Oct (JAT). At least 18 Pomarine Jaegers were seen off V.W.B. 28 Aug–22 Nov (m.ob.); there was one off Fifty Pt. C.A. 22 Oct (GEH), and 2 juvs. were there 23 Oct (RZD). Single juvs.

were at Britannia Bay 15 Sep (RAB, CAL) and at Kettle Pt. 30 Oct (*fide* BAM) and 28 Nov (SMJ et al.); 2 juvs. flew past Netitishi Pt. 9 Nov (KGDB, MVAB, BRH, BNC), one was over Thicksen's Bay 10 Nov (GC), a dark-morph ad. was at Niagara-on-the-Lake 10–20 Nov (JDV, DMB, m.ob.), a moribund dark-morph subad. at Cobourg harbor 13 Nov (RIS, m.ob.) died the same day, probably of avian botulism, and an intermediate juv. was at Queenston 27 Nov (RWS, BRH). *Ottawa* had an early light-morph ad. Parasitic Jaeger at the Deschênes Rapids 26 Aug (BMDL) and single intermediate juvs. at Britannia Bay 7–15 Sep (BMDL, m.ob.) and 27 Oct (TFMB). A total of 59 Parasitic Jaegers was tallied at V.W.B. 28 Aug–26 Oct (RZD, m.ob.); Pt. Edward had 13 juvs. and one ad. 5 Sep–19 Oct (BAM, JRB et al.). Very rare for L. Superior, Thunder Cape had a Parasitic Jaeger 21 Sep (JMW); at Niagara-on-the-Lake, there was a dark juv. 16–20 Nov (KH, GCP et al.) as well as an intermediate-morph juv. 20 Nov (LAF, EHe). The intermediate-morph juv. Long-tailed Jaeger at Netitishi Pt. 21 Aug (BRH, AW) represented the first fall record ever for s. James Bay. At V.W.B., 22 Long-tailed Jaegers were identified 28 Aug–19 Oct (m.ob.), including only 2 ads.; Pt. Edward had one ad. and one subad. 1 Oct (SRC, BAM), and a juv. was at Point Pelee 13 Oct (AW, KAM). There were 54 unidentified jaegers at V.W.B. 28 Aug–26 Oct (m.ob.).

A first-winter Razorbill below the Deschênes Rapids 22 Oct–1 Nov (MAG, m.ob.) was the first for the Ottawa Birding Area and enjoyed by many. Amazingly, another Razorbill, an ad., was at Niagara-on-the-Lake 10–30 Nov+ (JDV, DMB, m.ob.). Four Black Guillemots flew past Netitishi Pt. 2 Nov, and 2 were there 4 Nov (KGDB, MVAB, BRH, BNC).

DOVES THROUGH GNATCATCHER

A Eurasian Collared-Dove was n. to Sault Ste. Marie, *Algoma* 7 Sep (LP), and a White-winged Dove visited Marathon, *Thunder Bay* 4–7 Sep (MTB, MLA). Netitishi Pt. had a peak count of 14 Snowy Owls 9 Nov (KGDB, MVAB, BRH, BNC), with a total of 32 birds during the period of the survey; no Snowy Owls at all were seen there in the fall 2010 visit, demonstrating just how massive the irruption was in Ontario in fall 2011. Snowy Owls started arriving in the s. portion of the province across a broad front mid-Nov; few locations had more than one or 2 birds, but these locations were many and widespread, from inland fields to city buildings, parks, and harbors. A Long-eared Owl was unexpected at Longridge Pt. 13 Aug (MKP), as was a Short-eared Owl at Killarney, *Mani-*

toulin 21 Nov (MJB). An excellent total of 27 Boreal Owls was banded at Hilliard-ton Marsh, *Timiskaming* during the period (BDM), a complete contrast to the previous fall, when none appeared; one was banded at T.C.B.O. 27 Sep (JMW et al.), a very early date. A singing male Northern Saw-whet Owl at Little Piskwamish Pt. 7 Aug (DAS, RR) was very rare for s. James Bay, recorded in neither of the two Ontario Breeding Bird Atlases for the area; Prince Edward Point B.O. banded a relatively modest 721 Northern Saw-whet Owls during the period (DO), including 37 foreign recaptures. There was a reasonably good flight of Common Nighthawks, though not of course in comparison to historical data; high counts included 45 at P. E. Pt. 17 Aug (DO), 38 near Uxbridge, *Durham* 20 Aug (AGC), up to 50 over Dryden 22 Aug (AMM), and 55 over Leamington 20 Sep (DJW). An Eastern Whip-poor-will sitting on the arm of a lawn chair in North Bay, *Nipissing* 16 Aug (KAT) was especially unusual, as the species only occurs at a few isolated locations in the region. A Chimney Swift roost of 44 birds in a single chimney in Killarney Village was the highest count for *Manitoulin* for many years (*fide* CTB). An unidentified imm. male *Selasphorus* hummingbird visited a feeder at Sturgeon Creek, *Essex* 9–10 Aug (BM). A juv. Rufous Hummingbird first observed at a feeder in Eganville, *Renfrew* 28 Sep (L&DP) was not identified as such until its continuing presence became known to birders through the local media in Dec. An imm. Red-headed Woodpecker hawked for insects at Cabot Head 18 Oct (SM), and a juv. Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen there 23 Oct (SM). Single imm. Red-headed were widely reported in the s. of the province during the period, suggesting a good breeding season for the species; one was n. to South River, *Parry Sound* in early Nov (DJ). The first confirmed Red-bellied Woodpecker nesting for *Ottawa* was in the summer of 2011, and an ad. pair was still attending a feeder near the breeding site in Pakenham 22 Sep (RPH), with 3 birds active in the area 22 Oct (RPH). Rare for L. Superior, a Red-bellied Woodpecker was at Thunder Cape 18 Oct (JMW et al.). Eleven American Three-toed Woodpeckers were observed at Thunder Cape 6–21 Oct, and 3 were banded (JMW). In Windsor, *Essex*, an ad. Western Kingbird was observed feeding 3 fledgling Western Kingbird × Eastern Kingbird hybrids 10–17 Aug (JMH, m.ob.); extensive photographs were taken. Two Eastern Kingbirds in the vicinity were never observed to interact with the parent bird. The Loggerhead Shrike population in Ontario remains problematic, with no increase in nest-

ing pairs over 2010; 21 pairs were confirmed in the province, fledging at least 48 young, but an unusually high number of single ads. was also observed (*vide* TI); there was an unbanded ad. at the Tip of Long Pt. 29 Aug (MHD, m.ob.), and one at West Beach, Point Pelee 17 Sep (RWS, BDJ, RGS, JEH). A White-eyed Vireo was banded at Old Cut, Long Pt. 24 Sep, remaining in the area through 29 Sep (L.P.B.O.), and another appeared there 28 Oct (SAM); one was at the Burlington Beachstrip 18 Oct (RZD, CEE) and one at Presqu'île 22 Oct (RDM). A Yellow-throated Vireo was n. to Eagle Junction, Kenora 19 Aug (CDE). There was a late Warbling Vireo at Old Cut 30 Oct (RWW).

A Clark's Nutcracker was reported at Vickers Heights, Thunder Bay 25 Oct (SL). A pair of Black-billed Magpies continued to frequent an area in downtown Thunder Bay through the period (*vide* BDR). Away from the areas where the species is now becoming regular, a Common Raven was at Sarnia, Lambton 24 Aug (SMJ), one flew over Turkey Point Marsh, Norfolk 1 Oct (KK, AT, m.ob.), perhaps the same bird was at the Tip of Long Pt. 4 Oct (MRI, SAM), and one at Point Pelee 7 Oct (AW, MBR) marked the first local record since 1970. At Fish Pt., Pelee I. 12 Aug there were 102 Cliff Swallows (SO, GCG). The now-anticipated Cave Swallow sweep through s. Ontario in late Oct and early Nov did not occur this season: there were no confirmed reports during the period. An imm. Barn Swallow at the Tip of Point Pelee 17 Nov (AW, MBR, KAM, RPC) was very late. A Tufted Titmouse was at P. E. Pt. 25 Sep (DO), and another was an uncommon fall migrant at Point Pelee 9 Oct (BAM, AW et al.). A territorial male Marsh Wren at Little Piskwamish Pt. 1-6 Aug (DAS, RDM et al.) was very rare for s. James Bay. A late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher frequented the Hamilton Harbour Waterfront Trail, Hamilton 21-30 Nov+ (JLi et al.).

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

A Northern Wheatear fed in a pasture n. of Sundridge, Parry Sound 10 Nov (DJ, *vide* SOD) but was gone by the next day, providing a record-late date for Ontario. A Mountain Bluebird found at the Barrie Island Causeway 19 Nov (CTB, m.ob.) was only the 4th for Manitoulin. Thunder Cape had a Townsend's Solitaire 4 Oct (JMW). A good night flight of both Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes occurred over Kingston on the night of 13-14 Sep (RDW); there were 49 Gray-cheeked Thrushes at Fish Pt., Pelee I. 15 Sep (SO, SLS). Four Varied Thrushes, all males, were seen in nw. Ontario: at Dinorwic L., Kenora 18-20 Oct (EMR), at Pearl, Thunder Bay 18-

22 Nov (IN, m.ob.), at Mission I., Thunder Bay 19-21 Nov (GK, m.ob.), and at Twin City Crossroads, w. of Thunder Bay 28-30 Nov+ (CTH m.ob.). An out-of-place and very late Gray Catbird was at Manitouwadge, Thunder Bay 9-10 Nov (TBH). A Blue-winged Warbler in riverside woods 22-23 Aug (BR, m.ob.) provided Ottawa's first fall record. The Lawrence's Warbler in Candlewick Woods 23 Aug (REF) was the 4th recorded in Northumberland, and another was at Waterdown, Hamilton 27 Aug (JLy). A first-fall male Brewster's Warbler was found in se. Middlesex 5 Aug (DAM), and one at Lucas Pt. Park, Cobourg 1 Oct (CEG) was record late for Northumberland. The 88 Nashville Warblers at Toronto I., Toronto 1 Oct (GCP) provided a new local high count for fall; a record-late individual was at Marathon 22-25 Nov (MTB), and one visited Old Cut, Long Pt. 25-27 Nov (MKS, m.ob.). A female Northern Parula lingered at Bronte, Halton 27-30 Nov+ (ES et al.). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler at Marathon 27 Oct (MTB) was very late for L. Superior. Three Blackburnian Warblers were unexpected at Longridge Pt. 8 Aug (MKP, ERR, AC, RDJ). A Yellow-throated Warbler was banded at the Tip of Long Pt. 25 Oct and observed there until it was eaten by a Merlin 28 Oct (L.P.B.O.); another was at Grimsby, Niagara 25 Nov (B&LM). Fish Pt., Pelee I. hosted 2 Prothonotary Warblers 12 Aug (SO, GCG). Observations of Connecticut Warblers seemed more frequent than usual this season, with one banded at Thunder Cape 22 Aug (JMW) and another there 24 Aug (JMW). A first-year Connecticut walked in shrubbery at the Algonquin P.P. Visitor Centre 29 Aug (EAH), only the 10th for the Park; Kingston had five reports 3-25 Sep (K.F.N.); and one was at Fish Pt. 20 Sep (SO, SLS). An imm. Yellow-breasted Chat was banded at Cabot Head 24 Sep (SM), only the 2nd for B.P.B.O.

A Spotted Towhee lingered at a feeder in Longlac, Thunder Bay 12-30 Nov+ (FJJ, m.ob.). Rare in the n., single Eastern Towhees stopped at Englehart, Timiskaming 22 Oct (MMi et al.) and Manitouwadge 26-27 Oct (TBH). Old Cut, Long Pt. had a Clay-colored Sparrow 24 Sep (SAM). Single ad. Lark Sparrows were at Singing Sands, Bruce Peninsula N.P., Bruce 24 Sep (JDV et al.) and Bronte 26 Sep (MWJ, m.ob.). A singing male Le Conte's Sparrow, found in early Jul, remained through at least early Aug near Alfred (JMB, m.o.b.). Four Le Conte's Sparrows at L. Travers 13 Oct (JHS) were the most ever recorded in Algonquin P.P.; singles were on Amherst I. 9-12 Oct (VPM, BER et al.), at the Tip of Long Pt. 28 Oct (NAP, TMF), at the Sparrow Field, Point Pelee 22-23 Oct (STP et al.), and at Binbrook

C.A., Hamilton 8 Nov (M&NP). Ten Nelson's Sparrows in L. Travers marsh 3 Oct (JHS) were the most recorded in Algonquin P.P. At the mouth of Constance Creek, on the Ottawa R., at least 12 Nelson's were present 8-9 Oct (JHS, m.ob.), and smaller numbers were reported from several traditional locations. Sparrow migration was excellent in the nw., with good numbers of Fox, White-throated, White-crowned, and Harris's Sparrows at feeders (DHE). In Bruce, single Harris's Sparrows frequented feeders at Kincardine 27-29 Oct (JAT) and Tobermory 12 Nov (SC); another was at Deep River, Renfrew 27-30 Nov+ (JMu, m.ob.). An Oregon Junco visited Bracebridge 31 Oct (D&RG); an imm. female Oriole was banded at the Tip of Long Pt. 1 Nov (L.P.B.O.).

An imm. Summer Tanager frequented Old Cut, Long Pt. 28 Oct-1 Nov (SAM, m.ob.). A singing male Northern Cardinal was very far n. at Moosonee 13 Aug (AW, MWJ, BRH), having been seen by town residents since Jun (*vide* EEH); a male and a female there 15 Aug (DAS, RR et al.) suggested the possibility of nesting at this n. location. Rare in s. James Bay, an imm. Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at Netitishi Pt. 23-24 Aug (BRH et al.); another visiting Moosonee town feeders 24-31 Oct (CJN et al.) provided an unusually late record. Single Dickcissels were at Holiday Beach 22 Sep (SRK et al.), Point Pelee 14 Oct (KAM), and Charing Cross, Chatham-Kent 22 Oct (FDW). A Bobolink at Point Pelee 8 Nov (AW) was locally record late, and there was a late Western Meadowlark at Rainy River 11 Nov (MSD). Two imm. male Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at Blenheim S.L. 14 Aug (JTB); singles were at Thunder Cape 20 Aug and 2 Sep (JMW); and a female was at Big Creek National Wildlife Area, Norfolk 15 Oct (DIB). There was a peak count of 550 Rusty Blackbirds on Amherst I. 25 Oct (BMDL). Thunder Cape had an imm. Orchard Oriole 23 Sep (JMW et al.). An ad. male Baltimore Oriole visiting feeders at Pearl 16 Nov (IN, m.ob.) was very late for n. Ontario.

A Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch of the subspecies *littoralis* visited a feeder near Stepstone, Thunder Bay 22-26 Nov (BEH, ESK); in 1994, this same feeder had also attracted a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, but it was of a different subspecies, *tephrocotis*. Most winter finches were scattered over large areas with few concentrations. Very rare for s. James Bay, 2 Red Crossbills were at Netitishi Pt. 16 Aug and 4 there 20 Aug (BRH). Large flocks of Common Redpolls started to move northward along the L. Superior coast at Marathon, Thunder Bay 13 Oct, especially on mornings with northeasterly winds (MTB, MLA); a high count of 1250 passed overhead 18 Oct,

and this steady directional passage of hundreds of birds continued until at least 9 Nov. The first Hoary Redpoll at this site was identified 27 Oct (MTB, MLA). At Netitishi Pt., there was a high count of 90 Hoary Redpolls among 253 Common Redpolls 6 Nov, and a Hoary of subspecies *hornemanni* was there 2 Nov (KGDB, MVAB, BRH, BNC). The first record of House Sparrow for James Bay proper came from the grassy dunes e. of Netitishi Pt. 16 Aug (BRH).

Corrigenda: For the fall 2009 season (*North American Birds* 64: 65-70), the White-faced Ibis at Narrows Lock should be changed to *Plegadis ibis*; and for the fall 2010 season (*North American Birds* 65: 65-71), the Sooty Shearwater at Netitishi Pt. should be changed to Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater; also in that report, delete the Northern Gannet at Durham lakeshore, and change the Glossy Ibis at Hullett Marsh to *Plegadis ibis*.

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Among waterfowl, the season was marked by substantial flights of white geese and a large flight of Brant into Lake Erie. Trumpeter Swans appear to be exploring beyond the relative confines of their respective release points. American White Pelicans were prominent feature in the western parts of the Region. White Ibis were widely reported, including the first November records for the Region. The shorebird season favored long-legged waders such as avocets and godwits, but peeps were hard to come by. Tropical Storm Irene's passage 28 August generated a number of unusual sightings in Pennsylvania, mostly in the southeastern part of the state, where reports of a Sandwich Tern and a Bridled Tern would represent state firsts. Dedicated surveys of Lake Erie continue to refine our understanding of the timing of jaeger migration. The status of Rufous Hummingbird has also become clearer, as more are banded and carefully studied (see Table 1). A White-faced Ibis in West Virginia and a Black-tailed Gull in Ohio provided first state records.

It is with great sadness that we report the deaths of Jean Stull Cunningham, a long-time bird bander at Presque Isle State Park and a lovely person, and Bob Moul, an active Pennsylvania birder who was well known in the birding community for his kind demeanor and beautiful photography.

Abbreviations: B.R.A. (Black River Audubon); Byrd Dam (Robert C. Byrd Locks and Dam, Mason, WV); Conneaut (Conneaut Marsh and Harbor, Ashtabula, OH); H.M.S. (Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Berks, PA); J.H.N.W.R. (John Heinz N.W.R., Philadelphia/Delaware, PA); Ottawa (Ottawa N.W.R., Ottawa/Lucas, OH); P.G.S.P. (Prince Gallitzin S.P., Cambria, PA); P.O.D. (Pennypack on the Delaware R., Philadelphia, PA); P.R.D. (Pine Run Dam, Bucks, PA); P.V.P. (Peace Valley Park, Bucks, PA); P.I.S.P. (Presque Isle S.P., Erie, PA); P.O.R.C. (Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee); W.B.C. (Waterbird Count, P.I.S.P. 9 Sep–30 Nov); S.R.C.F. (Conejohela Flats, Susquehanna R., Lancaster, PA);

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

A Pink-footed Goose found at P.V.P. 28 Nov (ph. AM) moved to P.R.D., where it was seen through 30 Nov; there are at least five previous reports in the county, all 1998–2002. Few Greater White-fronted Geese were noted in the Region. In West Virginia, 4 were at Tygart L., Taylor 23 Nov (DC) and one at Byrd Dam, Mason 16 Nov (WA, MG). In Pennsylvania, the species was seen at Shawnee S.P., Bedford 6 Nov (TD), Somerset L., Chester 27 Nov (W. B. Henderson, J. M. Gauthier, LL), Egypt, Lehigh 12 Nov (BW), Allentown, Lehigh 15 Nov (BW) and Trout Run Res., Westmoreland 23 Nov (R. C. Leberman). A flock of 80 Snow Geese in Montgomery, OH 22 Nov (RA) and 510 over Kelleys I., Erie, OH 20 Nov (TBA) were notable. Flocks of 40 at L. Oneida, Butler 6 Nov (MV) and 50 at Bald Eagle S.P., Centre 19 Nov (G. Lasser) were good tallies for the cen. highlands of Pennsylvania. Singles were notable in West Virginia in Preston 4 Nov (TB, DC) and Taylor 23 Nov (DC). One at Gallipolis Ferry, Mason 20 Sep (DC) was among the earliest records for West Virginia. A record 21 Ross's Geese were reported from Ohio; the high count was 13 on Kelleys I., Erie 20 Nov (ph. TBA). In Pennsylvania, single Ross's were at J.H.N.W.R. 22 Nov (TF) and Greenlick Run, Fayette 16 Nov (M. Fialkovich). One was at Byrd Dam 13-

such as 63 at Sunset Park, Willoughby, Lake (JT, DLz, DS). Ohio. At least 435 Brant passed through seven counties in Pennsylvania 2 Oct–19 Nov. An early Cackling Goose was found at Buck Creek S.P., Clark, OH 18 Sep (DO), followed by one at Rocky River Park, Cuyahoga 4 Oct (JBr). In Pennsylvania, 30+ Cacklings were reported from seven counties 3 Oct–30 Nov. Two noteworthy reports from the cen. highlands included one in Lawrence, PA 28 Oct–5 Nov (MV, M. David) and 2 in Clearfield, PA 18 Oct (J. Martini).

Single Trumpeter Swans in Clermont, OH 28 Aug (G. Cornett) and at Hoover Res., Franklin 1 Oct (Al La Sala) were well away from introduced populations. An apparent family of 5 (2 ads., 3 young) was at Dunnings Creek Wetlands, Bedford, PA 12 Nov (TD). A Eurasian Teal was at J.H.N.W.R. 25 Nov (Matt Sharp), and 560 Blue-winged Teal were at P.I.S.P. 30 Sep (JM). An early Gadwall was in Chester, PA 15 Aug (LL, KP). Late summer bay ducks included a Lesser Scaup at Killbuck Marsh, Wayne, OH 3 Aug (G. Hostetler) and a Ring-necked Duck in Washington, OH 15–24 Aug (RL). A Harlequin Duck was in Lake, OH 10 Nov (IK), 2 were at P.I.S.P. 4 Nov (R. Nugent, ST, JM), and 3 were off Rocky River Park, Cuyahoga, OH 30 Oct (LRn). The best count of Long-tailed Ducks was 95 at L. Somerset, Somerset, PA 23 Nov



A casual but increasing visitor to the state, this American White Pelican was present at Pymatuning Lake, Crawford County, Pennsylvania 17–28 (here 23) October 2011. Photograph by Geoff Malosh.

16 Nov (WA et al.). The Brant flight in Ohio along L. Erie began with small flocks of 8 at Lakeshore Metropark, Lake and 4 at Rocky River Park, Cuyahoga 1 Oct (JP, IK), with 6 at Conneaut 21 Oct (CH). One hundred twenty were at Conneaut 27 Oct (CH), with smaller concentrations farther w. along the lakeshore,

(ML). Showing a slight increase over recent years' counts, White-winged Scoters were also widely reported. In West Virginia, 18 set down on Tygart L., Taylor, WV 4 Nov (TBA, DC), and one was on the New R., Summers 18 Nov (JPs). Inland in Pennsylvania, 13 total were seen in five counties 27 Oct–25 Nov. Up

to 23 Surf Scoters were found inland in seven Pennsylvania counties 3 Oct–22 Nov. West Virginia singles were at Alpine L., *Preston* 10 Nov (DC) and Cheat L., *Monongalia* 23 Nov (DC). Totals of 250 White-winged Scoters and 274 Surf Scoters were seen on the W.B.C. (JM). Away from L. Erie, 30 Black Scoters were found in five Pennsylvania counties 23 Oct–23 Nov. Two on the Shenandoah R., *Jefferson*, WV 4 Nov (MO) were in the e. Panhandle. A high count was 1406 Buffleheads at Yellow Creek S.P., *Indiana*, PA 21 Nov (L. Carnahan). In little more than three hours, 197,000 Red-breasted Mergansers were tallied as they headed westward off Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, OH 17 Nov (JBr et al.). This level of passage has not been observed in the Region since the late 1980s.

Four Red-throated Loons were at Avon L., *Lorain*, OH 20 Nov (BRA), and 6 were farther w. at Lorain Harbor 21 Nov (Scott Loss). Four inland reports in Ohio included one Cowan L., *Clinton* 11 Nov (NC), one at Caesar Creek S.P. 29 Oct and 27 Nov (RA), and one at Clear Fork Res., *Richland*, OH 29 Nov (LK). There was a modest flight through the cen. highlands led by 5 on Cheat L., *Monongalia*, WV 23 Nov (DC). In Pennsylvania, 16 were found in nine counties away from L. Erie 30 Oct–26 Nov. Ohio's widely viewed Pacific Loon was present at Clear Fork Res., *Richland* 23-29 Nov (GC, J. Herman, LK, m.ob.). Some 1392 Common Loons were seen on the W.B.C. (JM). A modest Red-necked Grebe flight brought 6 to the Central Basin of L. Erie. Five singles at Ohio inland sites were at Deer Creek S.P., *Pickaway* 5-6 Oct (PHO, S. Williams), *Newell's Run*, *Washington* 16 Oct (B. Mankins), *Best L.*, *Geauga* 23 Oct–9 Nov (K. Savides, IK et al.), and *Mosquito L.*, *Trumbull* 31 Oct and 18 Nov (R. Golterman, DO). Eighteen were recorded on the W.B.C. (JM). Reports along the Allegheny Front were limited to singles at *Bald Eagle S.P.*, *Centre*, PA 30 Oct and 6 Nov (JV et al., CK), *Shawnee S.P.*, *Bedford* 9 Nov (CK), and *L. Somerset*, *Somerset* 10-29 Nov (up to 2 birds; ML). Single Eared Grebes were at *Headlands*, OH 12 Nov (W. Hatch, m.ob.), *East Fork S.P.*, *Clermont*, OH 25 Oct (H. Raymond), *Pymatuning L.*, *Crawford*, PA 9-13 Oct (R. Leberman et al.), and *P.I.S.P.* 23-31 Oct (JM); 2 were at *P.G.S.P.* 7-17 Sep (M. Higbee et al.). An unidentified frigatebird was seen during the passage of Tropical Storm *Irene* at Plymouth Meeting, *Montgomery*, PA 28 Aug (ph. C. Dooley). Anhinga reports in Pennsylvania included one in *Lancaster* 17 Sep (DS), 4 over Southampton, *Bucks* 18 Sep (C. Mortenson), one over Bucktoe Creek Preserve, *Chester* 24 Oct (LL, H. Davis), and one at Stone Mountain

hawkwatch, *Huntingdon* 25 Oct (D. Kyler, R. Crandel); another was reported at Walnut Creek, *Holmes*, OH 28 Aug (R. Hershberger, p.a.). Three American White Pelicans were spotted off Cedar Pt., *Erie* 24 Sep (J. VanAllen), possibly the trio reported at Magee Marsh, *Ottawa* 14 Sep (KKn) and seen intermittently in the vicinity through 16 Oct (D. Bollin, DSr, C. Pierce, m.ob.). Inland, a bird first detected in Jun was still present at Meander Res., *Mahoning*, OH through 7 Oct (J. Dolan, RL, A. Avram); this bird may have moved the short distance to *Pymatuning L.*, *Crawford*, PA, where one was present 17 Oct–5 Nov (S. Kinzey, SCs, R. Nugent, M. David, C. Gehringer, ph. GM). A late bird was at *Grand L./St. Mary's*, *Auglaize*, OH 27 Nov (C. Zacharias).

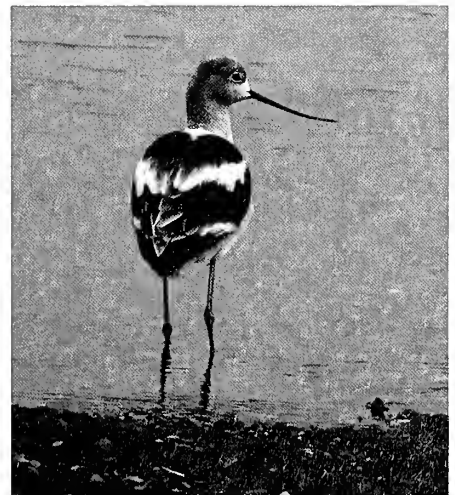
A single Snowy Egret was at Lorain Harbor, *Lorain* 28 Aug–8 Sep (GLy, J. Harvey, RKf, m.ob.). The species lingered well into Oct, with 10 still at *Ottawa N.W.R.* 21 Oct and 3 in the vicinity of *Sandusky, Erie*, OH 22 Oct (M. Gentry). Four were at *P.W.T.* 7 Aug (DF), and one was reported from *Cumberland*, PA 27 Aug (P. Dennehy). A high count of 66 Great Egrets came from *Bristol*, *Bucks*, PA 7 Aug (DF). Single Little Blue Herons away from the Western Basin were found at *Sandy Ridge*, *Lorain* 11 Aug (BRA), and the annual dispersal along the Ohio R. involved one at *Green Bottom W.M.A.*, *Cabell*, WV 1-13 Aug (RT, TDe). In Pennsylvania, 27 Little Blue Herons were reported in eight counties 1 Aug–6 Nov. In sharp contrast to recent years, only one late Cattle Egret was detected, a bird at *New Russia Township Preserve*, *Lorain*, OH 22 Nov (B.R.A.). Rare in e. Ohio, 2 were at *Mosquito S.P.*, *Trumbull* 10 Oct (D. Hochadel). Single Green Herons remained along the *Cuyahoga R.* in Cleveland until 19 Nov (A. Jones, C. Putnam, B. Winger, m.ob.), at *Delaware W.M.A.*, *Delaware*, OH until 8 Nov (M. Shoemaker, G. Winningham), and at *L. Ontelau-nee*, *Berks*, PA until 27 Nov (M. Spence). In



This banded juvenile Piping Plover present at Presque Isle State Park, Erie County, Pennsylvania 13-14 (here 14) August 2011 provided the first documented record of a juvenile Piping for that site since August 1995. It had been banded at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Michigan. Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.



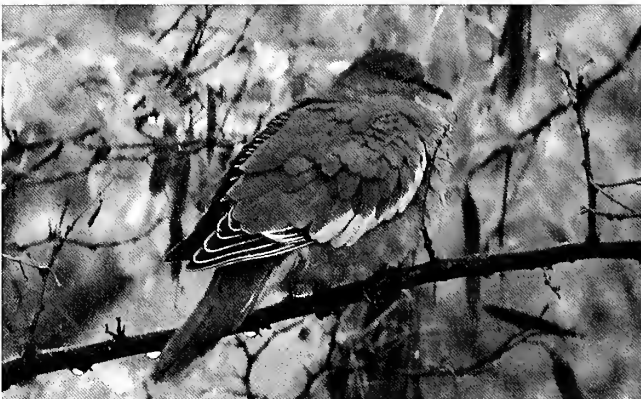
Red Phalaropes are rare fall visitors to Pennsylvania, although more probably show up at Presque Isle State Park, Erie County than anywhere else in the state. This individual photographed there 28 November 2011 was one of six noted in the state during the fall. Photograph by Jerry McWilliams.



American Avocets were reported in good numbers in the Eastern Highlands & Upper Ohio River Valley region in fall 2011, including 40+ in Ohio and 19 in Pennsylvania. This one at Beltzville Lake State Park, Pennsylvania 14 August represented a second record for Carbon County. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.



This Northern Saw-whet Owl captured at Little Gap Bird Observatory, Northampton County, Pennsylvania 29 October 2011 had been banded at Tadoussac, Québec on 3 October 2011; the bird thus covered almost 1000 kilometers in 26 days. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.

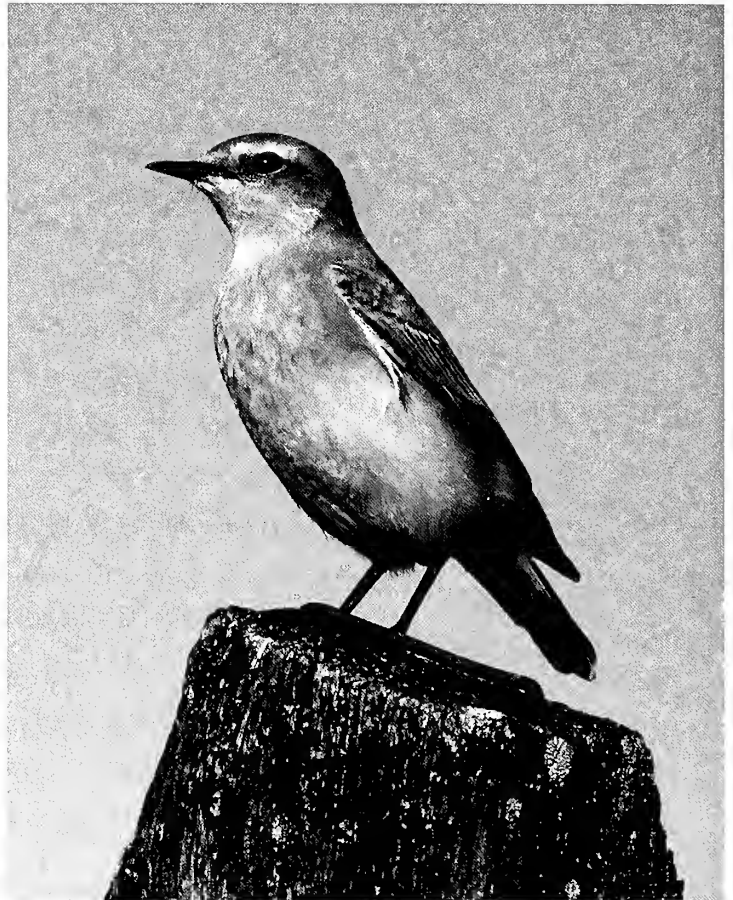


The first for Presque Isle State Park, and only the second for Erie County, Pennsylvania, this White-winged Dove was nicely documented 16 October 2011. Photograph by Shannon Thompson.

West Virginia, White Ibis were noted at Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell 5-13 Aug (RT, TDe), Stauffer's Marsh, Berkeley in the e. Panhandle 1-6 Aug (Carol Del-Colle, J. B. Churchill, J. Hubbell, m.ob.), and at Pleasant Creek W.M.A., Barbour, where 4 birds remained through 2 Aug (TB). In Pennsylvania, singles were found at West Fairview Cumberland, PA 12+ Aug (A. Markel, R. Koury, L. Carpenter), Marysville, Dauphin 11-28 Aug (B. Clifton, L. Usselman), Chambersburg, Franklin 29 Aug (L. Lehman, J. Bowen), and Kaercher Creek Park, Berks, PA 10-30 Nov (K. Haas, m.ob., ph. RW). Many Ohioans enjoyed one at Ottawa 13 Nov (IK, LK, D. Gesauldo, m.ob.), a rare record for the L. Erie shoreline. Four Glossy Ibis were well documented at Ottawa 25 Sep-13 Nov (DLz, DS, DO, IK), with 3 present 21 Nov and one remaining until 26 Nov (R. Lesniewicz). Sixteen were at P.W.T. 17 Sep (DF) and 2 at S.R.C.F. 14 Sep (BS). A

VULTURES THROUGH JAEGERS

Black Vultures continue to consolidate gains, with a flock of 9 at Byrd Dam 20 Sep (DC) and 13 at Beach City W.A., Tuscarawas, OH 8 Oct (W. Jackson). Several were n. to Tioga, PA 4 (J. Levin) & 13 Oct (B. Silverstein), and one reached Sagamore Hills, Summit, OH (B. Fissell). A pair of Mississippi Kites once again successfully bred in s. Ohio at Hide-A-Way Hills, Hocking. A single juv. was raised this season, the family party seen through mid-Aug (J. McCormac, m.ob.). Mississippi Kites in Pennsylvania included singles at Tyler S.P., Bucks 19 Aug (B. Shaffer) and Second Mountain hawkwatch, Lebanon 14 & 28 Sep (D. Schwenk, M. Cox). A season total of 13,323 Broad-winged Hawks at H.M.S. was the highest there since 1986 (LG). A dark-morph Swainson's Hawk was seen at H.M.S. 27 Sep (RK, A. Koch), and a dark-morph Western



This Northern Wheatear at Lickdale, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania 6-11 (here 7) October 2011 was discovered at a Day's Inn by Steve Patterson. It entertained many observers during its stay and represented the fourth documented state record. Photograph by Rick Wiltraut.

White-faced Ibis at Green Bottom W.M.A., Cabell, WV 25 Oct (p.a.; ph. WA) would represent a first state record.

Red-tailed Hawk was at Lehigh Furnace Gap, Lehigh, PA 23 Oct (BW). An ad. Golden Eagle was described from Lost Bridge, Hamilton 25 Nov (P. Krusling), and an equally rare L. Erie islands report came from North Pond State Nature Reserve, Kelleys I., Erie 2 Oct (R. Wolinski). The Cumberland, PA Prairie Falcon returned for the 6th consecutive winter 29 Nov (DSn, V. Gauthier). Summering King Rails at Glacier Ridge, Union, OH remained through 17 Aug (BWr, GS, m.ob.). Rare in the Cincinnati region, a Yellow Rail was flushed multiple times at Armleder Park, Hamilton 16 Oct (J. Marvin, L. Houser, M. Gilsdorf). In Pennsylvania, a Black Rail was found at State Game Lands 169, Cumberland 16 (VG) & 18 Oct (MS). An immn. Purple Gallinule was at P.I.S.P. 9 Oct (B. Morse, BB, ph.) furnished a 3rd county record. The w. flyway in Ohio had reports totaling just 300 Sandhill Cranes, with the high count of 200 over Shawnee Prairie Preserve, Darke 16 Nov (RCd).

A flock of 54 American Golden-Plovers was at Manheim, Lancaster, PA 18 Sep (L. Carpenter). A juv. Piping Plover at P.I.S.P. 14-15 Aug (B. Berchtold, ph. JM) had been banded in

Michigan earlier in the year. A Black-necked Stilt was at S.R.C.F. 7 Sep (T. Becker). Some 40 American Avocets were noted in Ohio through the season, led by 14 at Lorain Harbor, *Lorain* 9 Aug (IK) and 11 at Conneaut 10 Aug (CH), where singles were still reported 26 Aug–26 Sep (T. Webster, SCs, m.ob.) and again 29 Sep–13 Oct (RKF, IK, D. Marjamaa, m.ob.). A late avocet appeared at nearby Lakeshore Park, *Ashtabula*, OH 25 Nov (J. Shenot). In Pennsylvania, 19 American Avocets were in eight counties 5 Aug–18 Oct, including 7 at S.R.C.F. 10 Aug (JB). One at Bluestone L., *Summers*, WV 8 Sep (JPs) made an outstanding find for the s. highlands. Single Willets in Pennsylvania were at P.I.S.P. 13–14 Aug (BB, ST), P.O.D. 28 Aug (FW, TF), Bentleyville, *Washington* 4 Sep (A. Berchin), and L. Redman, *York* 27 Aug (D. Cleary). Nine Whimbrels were detected in Ohio and Pennsylvania along the L. Erie shoreline from Maumee Bay to Presque Isle 14 Aug–25 Sep (JM, ST, DW, JBr, IK, KMr, B. Krajieski, m.ob.). Away from L. Erie, Whimbrels in Pennsylvania were at Mud I., *Bucks* 14 Aug (DF), Wrightstown Sod Farms, *Bucks* 27 Aug (DF), and P.G.S.P. 6 Sep (DG). A flock of 80 Hudsonian Godwits at Ottawa 7 Oct (KKn) dwindled to 30 by 9 Oct (LK). Five were still present 21 Oct (MRz), with one lingering through 11 Nov (J. Ross). Elsewhere in Ohio, the species was noted as singles along L. Erie in *Lorain* 21 Aug (LRn, CC, IK) and *Cuyahoga* 1 & 7–9 Oct (IK, JBr). Five were at Battelle Darby Creek Metropark, *Franklin* 7 Sep (GS). The Allegheny foothills hosted single Hudsonian Godwits at Independence Marsh, *Beaver*, PA 4–5 Oct (B. Smith et al., ph. GM) and at Byrd Dam (DC), the latter a 2nd state record for West Virginia. Additional Hudsonian Godwits in Pennsylvania included one at Oley, *Berks* 11–12 Sep (injured and later died at rehabilitation center; *vide* RK), 1–2 at S.R.C.F. 6–7 Sep (BS, MS), and 3 at sod farm near Manheim, *Lancaster* 7 Sep (C. Chalfant), with one remaining until 9 Sep (B. Carl). Only 5 Marbled Godwits were found in Ohio 6 Aug–9 Oct (K. Ostermiller, JP, RKF, KKn, LK) from Ottawa to Conneaut. Two Marbled Godwits at J.H.N.W.R. 9 Aug (AG) made the only report in Pennsylvania. Away from L. Erie in Pennsylvania, 25 Ruddy Turnstones were reported in nine counties 7 Aug–14 Oct.

The L. Erie flight of Red Knots involved 23 birds from Maumee Bay S.P., *Lucas*, OH to P.I.S.P. 29 Aug–12 Oct (KKn, L. Dornan, ST, M. Sandy, m.ob.). A late bird was at Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, OH 4 Nov (JBr). The 25 Sanderlings at P.G.S.P. 12 Sep made a strong inland count (DG, J. Salvetti). A flock of 140 Semipalmated Sandpipers was at P.G.S.P. 12

Sep (DG, JS). It was a poor season for Western Sandpipers in Ohio, with fewer than 20 reported. Notable reports from the highlands included 3 in *Harrison*, OH 6 Nov (SP), one in *Hardy*, WV 7 Sep (MO), and 2 in *Huntingdon*, PA 8 Sep (JK, I. Gardner). A flock of 33 White-rumped Sandpipers was in Bedminster Twp., *Bucks*, PA 7 Sep (DF). A weak Baird's Sandpiper flight saw no more than 40 birds detected in Ohio. Locally noteworthy was one in *Hardy*, WV 7 Sep (MO). Four were at State College, *Centre*, PA 9 Sep (D. Weber, DG, JS). Three Purple Sandpipers in Ohio and 2 in Pennsylvania were recorded from Cleveland to P.I.S.P. 6–28 Nov (JBr, JM, ST, DW, KMr, m.ob.). In Pennsylvania, 19 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were recorded in eight counties 28 Aug–26 Sep. One at Pennsylvania Furnace, *Huntingdon*, PA 9 Sep (JK) provided a first county record. Exceptional in West Virginia, a rather late Buff-breasted was found among Killdeer in *Hardy* 9 Oct (K. King). A scarce fall migrant in Pennsylvania, 7 Long-billed Dowitchers were recorded in *Centre*, *Crawford*, *Erie*, and *Lebanon* 21 Sep–30 Nov. Four early Dunlins were at Lorain Harbor, *Lorain*, OH 9 Aug (IK), and 15 were there by 20 Aug (CC). High counts in Pennsylvania 27 Oct included 300 at P.G.S.P. (DG) and 243 at S.R.C.F. (BS).

Ohio recorded an average Wilson's Phalarope flight, 11 birds total, with the latest being at Pickerington Ponds, *Franklin*, OH 5 Oct (BWh) and at Ottawa 9 Oct (KK). Singles were at L. Redman, *York*, PA 12 Aug (B. Horton), Pymatuning L., *Crawford*, PA 4–5 Sep (SCs, ST, DW et al.), and Byrd Dam 20 Sep (DC). About 30 Red-necked Phalaropes across Ohio were noted in a protracted flight into Oct (BWr, GC, GS). In Pennsylvania, 35+ were tallied in nine counties 11 Aug–23 Nov, including a flock of 21 at S.R.C.F. during Tropical Storm *Irene* 28 Aug (RM, JB, J. Heller, E. Witmer). Six Red Phalaropes in Pennsylvania included singles at Tidioute, *Warren* 22 Sep (K. Nicholson), P.I.S.P. 2 Oct (MW), Harvey's L., *Luzerne* 6 Oct (ph. R. Koval), Salona, *Clinton* 8 Oct (injured; sent to Monterey Aquarium in California; D. Stoltzfus, WL), Nockamixon S.P., *Bucks* 16–17 Nov (ph. DF), and P.I.S.P. 28 Nov (ST, DW, JM). Red Phalaropes in Ohio were restricted to L. Erie, including one at Headlands 31 Oct (DLz, EB, JT, ph. R. Hannikman), 2 there 10 Nov (IK), one at Lakeshore Metropark, *Lake*, OH 16 Oct (JP), and one at Huron, *Erie*, OH 5 Oct (ph. D. Clark).

Single Black-legged Kittiwakes were at Rocky River Park, *Cuyahoga*, OH 13 Nov (E. McQuaid) and in *Lake*, OH 19 Nov (JP). Two juv. Sabine's Gulls were at Huntington Reser-

vation, *Cuyahoga*, OH 29 Sep (JBr), and a rare ad. was at Eastlake, *Lake*, OH 6 Nov (IK, JBr, RKF). Exceptional for sw. Ohio, one Sabine's was East Fork S.P., *Clermont* 16–24 Oct (ph. ACn, B. Wulker, B. Stanley, LK, JKa, m.ob.). An ad. Black-headed Gull was sporadically seen at Conneaut 17 Sep–5 Oct (JT, M. Bowman, CH, J. Harvey, m.ob.) and 19–27 Nov (K. Overman, J. Lesser, IK, m.ob.). Another was at Lake Shore Park, *Ashtabula*, OH 18 Nov (PHO). In Pennsylvania, a Black-headed was at P.W.T. 6 Nov (DF). Little Gulls were restricted to L. Erie: one at Lakeview Park, *Lorain*, OH 11 Sep (GLy); 2 at Conneaut 12–21 Oct (CH, D. Marjamaa), with one there 23 Oct (JP); one at Lorain Harbor, *Lorain*, OH 20–26 Nov (IK et al.); and one at Lakeshore Metropark, *Lake*, OH 30 Oct (JP). At P.I.S.P., 4 were detected 25 Oct–7 Nov (ST, DW, JM). A strong flight of Laughing Gulls into Ohio saw 5 birds along L. Erie 1 Aug–18 Sep in *Erie* (GLy), *Lucas* (D. Gesauldo, KKn, m.ob.), *Lorain* (CC, JBr, IK), *Cuyahoga* (M. O'Brien, L. Zematis), and *Ashtabula* (IK, M. Bowman, m.ob.). Inland records appeared 19 Sep–26 Oct at Buck Creek S.P., *Clark* (RA), Indian L., *Logan* (DSr), Caesar Creek S.P., *Warren* (RA, m.ob.), Buckeye L., *Licking* (V. Fazio), Deer Creek S.P., *Pickaway* (Pho), and East Fork S.P., *Clermont* (ACn, D. Morse, Jr., R. Foppe, P. Krusling, m.ob.). There were 17 Laughing Gulls in New Britain Twp., *Bucks* after Tropical Storm *Irene* 28 Aug (AM). The Franklin's Gull flight was weak, with only 14 birds reported in Ohio, mainly 12 Oct–5 Nov (CH, PHO, m.ob.) and late singles at Avon L., *Lorain* 13 Nov (IK et al.) and at Lorain Harbor, *Lorain* 19–26 Nov (A. Sewell, IK et al.). In Pennsylvania, Franklin's were reported at P.I.S.P. 16 Oct (ST, DW, JM), P.W.T. 20 Oct (DF), L. Arthur, *Butler* 21 Oct (MV, ph. B. Coulter), Falls Twp., *Bucks* 22 Oct (DF, MS), and Delaware R., *Philadelphia* 22 Nov (TBy). An ad. Black-tailed Gull was discovered by Craig Holt at Ashtabula Harbor, *Ashtabula*, OH 16 Nov+. This represents a first state record. Inland Ohio Lesser Black-backed Gulls are still noteworthy. Two in ne. Ohio were at Berlin Res., *Mahoning* 29 Oct (G. Bennett) and one at Pine L., *Mahoning* 19 Nov (CH). Rare were singles at Indian Lake S.P., *Logan* 19 Sep (DSr), and at East Fork S.P., *Clermont* 2 Oct (ph. ACn). Great Black-backed Gulls wandered inland to La Due Res., *Geauga*, OH 21–22 Aug (I. Schmidt), and East Fork S.P., *Clermont*, OH 22 Oct (N. Keller). One at L. Somerset, *Somerset*, PA 22 Nov (ML) was unexpected in the Allegheny highlands.

Tropical Storm *Irene* brought Sooty Terns to Pennsylvania 28 Aug, including one at L. Ontelaunee, *Berks*, PA (RK, KK, KL, MW et



An amazing 19 Rufous/*Selasphorus* Hummingbirds were reported in Pennsylvania during the fall of 2011, with five confirmed in Northampton County alone. Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center hosted these two Rufous Hummingbirds, an immature male 4-6 (here 4) November (lower image) and an adult male 11-30 (here 19) November (and later). The adult male was already banded and represented only the second foreign recapture of a Rufous Hummingbird in the state. It had been banded as an immature in River Ridge, Louisiana by Nancy Newfield on 9 January 2011. Photographs by Rick Wiltraut.

al.), one at P.W.T. (J. Vinosky, DF), 2 at P.V.P. (K. Reiker), 2 at L. Nockamixon, Bucks (D. Freiday et al.), and 2 in Philadelphia (GLA). A Bridled Tern seen during Tropical Storm Irene along the Delaware R., Philadelphia was observed crossing into Pennsylvania waters

from the New Jersey side of the river (TBy). If accepted by P.O.R.C., it would represent a first state record. A high count of 26 Least Terns was tallied during Tropical Storm Irene at P.O.D. (FW). Others in Pennsylvania included one at Blue Marsh L. 22-25 Sep (J.

Silagy, K. Lebo), one at P.V.P. 27 Aug (AM), 3 at P.W.T. 28 Aug (DF), 2 at Bristol, Bucks 28 Aug (G. & C. Dewaghe), and one at Core Creek S.P., Bucks (DF, MS, B. Keim). Reports of Gull-billed Tern during Tropical Storm Irene at P.W.T. (J. Vinosky) and at the Naval Business Center, Philadelphia (D. Beer) have not been substantiated with documentation. Arctic Terns reported during Tropical Storm Irene 28 Aug included one along the Delaware R., Delaware, PA (AG) and 3 at P.O.D. (FW, TF). Some 565 Forster's Terns were seen feeding over beds of *Hydrilla* on the Susquehanna R. at Peach Bottom, Lancaster, PA 25 Aug (BS). An excellent count, 71 Caspian Terns were noted during heavy rain along the Delaware R., Delaware, PA 14 Aug (AG). Tropical Storm Irene was responsible for an amazing 22 Royal Terns in six Pennsylvania counties 28 Aug. High counts included 4 at L. Ontelaunee, Berks (RK, KK, K. Lebo, M. Wlasniewski et al.), 6 at Penn Warner Tract, Bucks (DF), and 5 on the Delaware R., Delaware (AG). Singles were also recorded at seven other locations in Bucks, Chester, Lancaster, Philadelphia, and in Chester, where including one at Struble L. would be a county first (F. & B. Haas). A very rare Sandwich Tern along the Delaware R., Philadelphia, PA 28 Aug (GLA, M. Sharp, TF) during the passage of Tropical Storm Irene was a first for Pennsylvania. Tropical Storm Irene brought 59 Black Terns to S.R.C.F. 28 Aug (JB); a late single was at Conneaut 30 Oct (JP).

Another storm bird, a juv. jaeger, possibly Long-tailed, was at L. Nockamixon, Bucks 28 Aug (MS) and later that day at P.V.P. (MS, DF). A probable Pomarine Jaeger was at S.R.C.F. 6 Sep (JB, BS). Within L. Erie's Eastern Basin, unidentified jaegers were at State Game Lands 341, Erie 1 Oct (GM) and at P.I.S.P. 2 & 7 Oct (JM). Single Parasitic Jaegers were at P.I.S.P. 10 & 18 Nov (JM). Single Pomarine Jaegers were P.I.S.P. 6-7 Nov (JM, MW, R. Rehrig). Within the Central Basin, observers recorded a jaeger bonanza, with at least 16 Parasitics 5 Sep-29 Oct (JP, JBr, JT, GLy, m.ob.) and 11 Pominines 29 Oct-30 Nov (JP, JBr, RKf, B. Winger LK, m.ob.).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Eurasian Collared-Doves persist at two Ohio locations in Mercer and Wayne (DSr, Su Snyder, m.ob.). A White-winged Dove seen at P.I.S.P. 16 Oct (ph. ST, DW) was the 2nd for Erie. A single Snowy Owl at Ashtabula Harbor, Ashtabula, OH 27 Nov (JBr) heralded a weak flight into our Region. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Chester, PA 3 Nov was late (E. Parnum, B. Elliot, G. Tallman). A Northern Saw-whet Owl captured at Little Gap B.O., Northamp-

ton, PA 29 Oct had been banded at Tadoussac, Québec 3 Oct (T. Kita, RW). An excellent season total of 4078 Common Nighthawks was tallied over Haverford College, Delaware, PA 20 Aug–11 Sep (S. Johnson). A late Chimney Swift was seen at P.G.S.P. 27 Oct (DG). An excellent total of 427 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds passed H.M.S. during the season, including 80 on 30 Aug (LG); one was late at Orwingsburg, Schuylkill, PA 14 Nov (*vide* SW). Unidentified *Selasphorus* in Pennsylvania included one late Sep–mid-Oct in Lower Saucon Twp., Northampton, PA (S. Yerger), an imm. male at Unityville, Lycoming 5-6 Oct (ph. WL), one at West Chester, Chester 10 Oct (NP), one at Warrensville, Lycoming 23-25 Oct (ph. WL), and one at P.V.P. 8 Nov (ph. H. Brown, *vide* A. Mirabella).

A Gray Flycatcher at Headlands Beach S.P., Lake 8-10 Sep was Ohio's 3rd (JT, RH, DLz, DS, RKF, m.ob.). A late Least Flycatcher was well studied at Church Farm School, Chester, PA 25 Nov (HM, T. Johnson). A total of 241 Common Ravens was tallied at H.M.S. during the season (LG). Two Common Ravens near French Creek S.P., Chester, PA made the first county record in over 60 years (RK); 2 at Fort Washington S.P., Montgomery, PA 8 Oct were unusual there (S. Johnson). A late female-type Purple Martin was well studied at P.I.S.P. 1 Oct (ST, DW); the bird appeared to have a whitish forehead and full whitish neck collar, similar to those of the Southwest. Three Cave Swallows were reported from East Harbor S.P., Ottawa, OH 24 Nov (JP); one passed the Allegheny Front hawkwatch, Bedford, PA 1 Nov (ML). In Pennsylvania, 22 Olive-sided Flycatchers were found in 12 counties 15 Aug–12 Sep, including one found road-killed in Wayne Twp., Schuylkill 31 Aug (SW). A late one was at Bluestone L. dam, Summers, WV 25 Oct (JPs). In Pennsylvania, single Western Kingbirds were seen at Wildwood L., Dauphin 31 Aug (E. Bernot), Church Farm School, Chester 25 Oct (J. Loomis), and P.O.D. 29 Oct (FW). Single Northern Shrikes were reported in 12 Pennsylvania counties during the period. A late Philadelphia Vireo was at Allegheny Front hawkwatch, Bedford, PA 1 Nov (ML). A pair of Sedge Wrens, a rare and sporadic breeder in Pennsylvania, was present at Cherry Valley N.W.R., Monroe 7 Aug–17 Oct (ph. RW).

A Northern Wheatear entertained many observers at Lickdale, Lebanon PA 6-11 Oct, (S. Patterson, ph. RW, GM, m.ob.), the 4th documented state record. A Varied Thrush was reported near Masseyburg, Huntingdon, PA 26 Nov (JK). A late Blue-winged Warbler tarried at Villa Angela, Cuyahoga, OH 9 Oct (N. Anderson). A major fallout of migrants along the L. Erie shoreline at Huron, Erie,

Table 1. Rufous Hummingbirds verified in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, August through November 2011. Data compiled by Allen Chartier and Rob Protz.

Date(s)	Age, sex	Location	Observers, banders, notes
mid-Sep+	HY female	Allentown, <i>Lehigh</i> , PA	S. Burnett, b. SL
ca. 15 Sep+	HY female	Near Blake, <i>Medina</i> , OH	b. AC
Late Sep+	AHY female	Danielsville, <i>Northampton</i> , PA	D. & R. Wagner, B. Silfies, b. SW, ph. RW
Late Sep+	AHY female	Pen Argyl, <i>Northampton</i> , PA	T & M. Swope, b. SW, ph. RW
Sep+	HY female	Wind Gap, <i>Northampton</i> , PA	T. & S. Harrington, b. SW, ph. RW
1 Oct–23 Nov	HY male	Middleton, <i>Dauphin</i> , PA	b. SL
early Oct–10 Nov	HY male	Homeworth, <i>Columbiana</i> , OH	b. AC
10 Oct+	HY male	Hanover, <i>York</i> , PA	b. SL, ph.
14 Oct+	AHY female	Millersburg, <i>Holmes</i> , OH	b. AC
mid-Oct–8 Nov	unknown	Nickelville, <i>Venango</i> , PA	<i>vide</i> M. Leahy, b. BM, ph.
20 Oct–17 Nov	HY male	Brookville, <i>Montgomery</i> , OH	b. TT
11-16 Oct	HY female	Hummelstown, <i>Dauphin</i> , PA	J. Getgood, <i>vide</i> T. Johnson, b. SW
late Oct+	HY female	Kearneysville, <i>Jefferson</i> , WV	MO, b. B. Peterjohn
1 Nov+	AHY	Carnegie, <i>Allegheny</i> , PA	ph. S. Kinzey, b. BM
1 Nov+	AHY female	Peoria, <i>Union</i> , OH	b. AC
ca. 1 Nov+	AHY female	Mansfield, <i>Richland</i> , OH	AC; originally banded 20 Oct 2009 near Loudonville, OH, and also captured Dec 2010 in Pensacola, FL
4-6 Nov	HY male	Jacobsburg, <i>Northampton</i> , PA	ph. RW
10 Nov+	AHY female	Squirrel Hill, <i>Allegheny</i> , PA	ph. P. Keyel, b. BM
10 Nov+	AHY female	Damascus, <i>Mahoning</i> , OH	b. AC
11 Nov+	HY male	Grantville, <i>Lebanon</i> , PA	T. Becker, ph. D. & P. Puffin, b. SL
11 Nov+	AHY male	Jacobsburg, <i>Northampton</i> , PA	ph. RW, recaptured SW; originally banded as HY at River Ridge, LA 9 Jan 2011 (Nancy Newfield)
19 Nov+	HY female	Beavercreek, <i>Greene</i> , OH	b. TT
24 Nov	HY male	Devon, <i>Bucks</i> , PA	ph. J Flood
26 Nov	HY female	Near Bellevue, <i>Huron</i> , OH	Found moribund, *Cleveland Museum of Natural History
28 Nov+	HY female	Canfield, <i>Mahoning</i> , OH	b. AC

HY = hatch-year bird AHY = after-hatch-year bird

OH 10 Sep (GLy, EB) included Ohio's earliest Orange-crowned Warbler verified by multiple veteran observers. A Yellow-throated Warbler, exceptional for the location and the date, was on Kelleys I., Erie, OH 5 Nov (ph. TBa, J. Ross, V. Bingham). Late Prairie Warblers were in Butler, OH 1 Oct (JKa), Clarion, PA 9-10 Oct (C. Winslow), and Raleigh, WV 1 Oct (W. Snyder). A Black-throated Gray Warbler was discovered by Brian Zweibel at Magee Marsh W.A., Lucas, OH 24 Sep and remained another day to be studied by many observers (ph. BZ, ph. LK, IK, JBr, m.ob.).

A Green-tailed Towhee at Blue Marsh L., Berks, PA 20 Nov+ represented the 4th docu-

mented state record (J. Hey, m.ob., ph.). A Lark Sparrow was unexpected at Dublin Kiwanis River Park, Franklin, OH 6 Nov (S. Gaunt). A Henslow's Sparrow at State College, Centre, PA 22 Sep–8 Oct was unusual for that location (JV et al.). Nelson's Sparrows in Pennsylvania included 4 at Pine Run Dam, Bucks 6-25 Oct (DF, MS), one at Barrett's Meadow, Delaware 7 Oct (AG), 5 at State Game Lands 169, Cumberland 16 Oct (AM), and one at P.O.D. 18 Oct (FW, TF). A normal Ohio flight included one at New Athens, Harrison 19 Sep (SP) and up to 2 at Deer Creek S.P., Pickaway 4-22 Oct (RR), with a Le Conte's Sparrow there 17 Oct (RR). In Pennsylvania, single imm. Harris's Sparrows

were found along the Cumberland County Rail Trail, *Cumberland* 24-25 Nov (ph. VG) and near Kempton, *Berks* 26 Nov+ (P. Schoenberger, S. Rogers). Ohio Clay-colored Sparrows were along the Cleveland lakefront 26-28 Oct (JBr, IK) and at Shawnee Prairie Preserve, *Darke* 3 Oct (RCd). In Pennsylvania, 7 were found in seven counties 25 Sep–12 Nov, and one was in *Monongalia*, WV 22-26 Oct (KA). Four Bobolinks in *Hamilton*, OH 6 Nov (NC) were very late. A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Battelle Darby wetlands, *Franklin*, OH 20 Sep (I. Shulgina), and 2 were reported from *Braxton*, WV 30 Sep (W. Grafton). A Summer Tanager was at Fairmount Park, *Philadelphia*, PA 3 Oct (M. Feuerensanger). In Pennsylvania, 9 Dickcissels were reported in five counties 14 Aug–30 Oct Reports of single Red Crossbills came from Longwood Gardens, *Chester* 12 Nov (LL), David's Vista, *Centre* 20 Nov (JV), and Tussey Mt., *Huntingdon* 20 Nov (JV). Two White-winged Crossbills near *Indiana*, PA 25 Nov (G. Ference) made the only report of the species. The lone Evening Grosbeak was at H.M.S. 23 Oct (LG).

Initialed observers (subregional compilers in boldface): OHIO: Rick Asamoto (RA), Tom Bartlett (TBa), Emil Bacik (EB), Jenny Brumfield (JBr), Neil Cade (NC), Craig Caldwell (CC), Allen Chartier (AC), Allan Claybon (ACn), Robert Clifford (RCd), Gary Cowell (GC), Craig Holt (CH), Joe Kappa (JKa), Rich Kassouff (RkF), Kenn Kaufman (KKn), Laura Keene (LK), Irene Krise (IK), Robert Lane (RL), Gabe Leidy (GLy), Doreene Linzell (DLz), Kent Miller (KMr), Doug Overacker (DO), Scott Pendleton (SP), John Pogacnik (JP), Larry Richardson (LRn), Robert Royse (RR), Mark Rozmarynowicz (MRz), Dan Sanders (DS), Dave Slager (DSr), Gene Stauffer (GS), Jerry Talkington (JT), Tim Toldford (TT), Ben Warner (BWr), Bill Whan (BWh). PENNSYLVANIA: George L. Armistead, Tom Bailey (TBy), Brian Berchtold (BB), Jerry Book (JB), Susan Collins (SCs), Kevin Crilly (KC), Tom Dick (TD), David Eberly (DE), Devich Farbotnik (DF), Todd Fellenbaum (TF), Vern Gauthier (VG), Dave Gobert (DG), Laurie Goodrich (LG), Greg Grove (GG), Al Guarante (AG), Paul Hess (PH), Chad Kauffman

(CK), Jon Kauffman (JK), Rudy Keller (RK), Katrina Knight (KK), Mike Lanzone (ML), Wayne Laubscher (WL), Larry Lewis (LL), Sandy Lockerman (SL), Geoff Malosh (GM), Holly Merker (HM), Jerry McWilliams (JM), August Mirabella (AM), Bob Mulvihill (BM), Kathleen Pileggi (KP), Nick Pulcinella (NP), Matt Sabatine (MS), John Salvetti (JS), Bob Schutsky (BS), Dan Snell (DSn), Shannon Thompson (ST), Mark Vass (MV), Joe Verica (JV), Billy Weber (BW), Mike Weible (MW), Scott Weidensaul (SW), Rick Wiltraut (RW), Frank Windfelder (FW). WEST VIRGINIA: K. Aldinger (KA), Wendell Argabrite (WA), Terry Bronson (TBn), Derek Courtney (DC), Todd Deal (TDe), Mike Griffith (MG), Matt Orsie (MO), JPs (Jim & Judy Phillips), Rennie Talbert (RT).

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In contrast to the fall of 2010, fall of 2011 was very wet, with 12 cm more rainfall than average. November in particular saw close to 16 cm of rain, the third wettest on record. It was slightly warmer than average throughout the period. There was a shortage of strong migrant pushes in September, and very few strong cold fronts pushed through the Region even in November. Many shorebirds lingered

late. The fall season was full of unexpected species, which included Brant, Wood Stork, Magnificent Frigatebird, Yellow Rail, Purple Sandpiper, Green Violetear, Western Wood-pewee, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Sage Thrasher, Green-tailed Towhee, Brewer's Sparrow, and Lark Bunting.

Abbreviations: Cane Ridge (Cane Ridge W.M.A., Gibson, IN); Carlyle (Carlyle L., s. Illinois); Chau. (Chautauqua N.W.R., Mason, IL); Chicago Bird Collision Monitors (C.B.C.M.); Eagle Cr. (Eagle Creek Park, Indianapolis); Emiquon (Emiquon N.W.R., Fulton, IL); EP. (Forest Preserve); F.W.A. (Fish and Wildlife Area); Gillson (Gillson Park, Wilmette, Cook, IL); Goose Pond (Goose Pond F.W.A., Greene, IN); Hennepin (Hennepin-Hopper Lake Restoration Area, Putnam, IL); I.B.S.P. (Illinois Beach S.P., Lake, IL); Miller (Miller Beach, Lake, IN); Montrose (Montrose Point in Chicago's Lincoln Park); Rend (Rend L., Franklin and Jefferson, IL).

WATERFOWL THROUGH GREBS

Greater White-fronted Geese moved through early and in good numbers, with 311 recorded at Cane Ridge 16 Oct (LWS, KM, MRB) and 1000+ there 25 Oct (RK), the latter Indiana's highest ever Oct count and 2nd highest

fall count. A Cackling Goose in *Steuben* 13 Sep (JAH, SS) was record early for Indiana. A **Brant** was discovered 4 Nov at Clinton L., *DeWitt*, IL (ph. MEF, ph. MJW). Trumpeter Swan numbers continue to rise in the Region exemplified by 350 at Spring L., *Carroll*, IL 11 Nov (KAM, MSS). Dabbling rarities included a male Eurasian Wigeon at Rollins Savanna, *Lake*, IL 17-18 Oct (JSS, m.ob.) and a Mottled Duck at Kidd L., *Monroe*, IL 10 Aug (ph. DMK). Dabbling ducks were in excellent numbers: 1426 Wood Ducks were at LaSalle F.W.A., *Newton*, IN 15 Aug (JBH), and 4955 Northern Shovelers and 14,802 Green-winged Teal were at Chau. 11 Nov (RGB, SNB). The 1622 Gadwalls at Goose Pond 22 Nov (LWS, BF) provided Indiana's largest tally ever. A Surf Scoter at Chicago's Calumet Park 30 Sep (AAA) and 2 at Montrose 1 Oct (GAW) were early; inland reports totaled only 6 birds Regionwide. Nineteen White-winged Scoters and 11 Black Scoters were noted at Gillson 3 Nov (JIE). An inland Black Scoter was at Brookville Res., *Union*, IN 6 Nov (JkS, JyS, WHB); 2 each were in *Monroe*, IN at L. Monroe 15 Nov (DRW) and L. Lemon 16 Nov (JDH). A fine count of 3700 Ruddy Ducks came from *Hancock*, IL 22 Nov (AGD, PJR). Early mergansers included a Common at Clinton L., *DeWitt*, IL 9 Sep (MEF) and a

Red-breasted in Will, IL 24 Aug (JAS).

Red-throated Loons had a poor flight. Inland sightings included a juv. at Muscatatuck N.W.R., Jennings, IN 22-24 Oct (JR, SLW et al.) and singles at Carlyle 12 Nov (DMK, KAM, MSS), L. Lemon, Monroe, IN 22 Nov (DRW), and L. Monroe, Monroe, IN 27 Nov (DRW). Pacific Loons appeared at Carlyle 30 Oct (DMK, MSS) and Clinton L., DeWitt, IL 5 (MEF, ph. MJW, m.ob.) & 19 Nov (GSL et al.). Grebes were in good supply, highlighted by 130 Pied-billed 12 Nov (KAM) and 400 Horned Grebes 5 Nov (DMK) at Carlyle. Four Horned Grebes found at Quincy, Adams 5 Aug (AGD) were record early for Illinois. Twelve Red-necked Grebes reported across the Region was above average; the latest was in Chicago 11 Nov+ (DFS, ph. RDH, m.ob.), and away from L. Michigan, singles were at L. Decatur, Macon, IL 8-11 Nov (TAM, m.ob.), Carlyle 30 Oct (DMK, MSS), and Clear L., Steuben, IN 19 Nov (JAH, SS). The Eared Grebes that bred at Sand L., Mason, IL lingered through 23 Sep (KAM, JIN et al.); Indiana's lone Eared Grebe was at L. Lemon, Brown 23 Oct (JDH, SEH). Among 3 Western Grebes was one at Carlyle 22 Oct-19 Nov (DMK et al.).

STORKS THROUGH RAILS

Three Wood Storks were discovered near Kidd L., Monroe, IL 23-28 Aug (PAM, C&PD, m.ob.), and an imm. in Vigo 21 Aug (ph. JS) represented only the 4th modern record for Indiana and the first since 2006. An exciting find for Tim Edison and his fish survey crew was a male Magnificent Frigatebird that dropped out of nowhere into the Wabash R. in White, IL 14 Sep to take fish they had just shocked (ph. TE)! The summering Neotropic Cormorant at Burnham Prairie, Cook, IL lingered through 27 Aug (MK, ph. WJM), while another was reported from Hennepin 17 Aug (ph. GN, JRRS). Impressive were 10,000 Double-crested Cormorants at Carlyle 2 Oct (DMK) and 10,000 American White Pelicans at Chau. 13-14 Aug (KAM, m.ob.).

Among Indiana's highest fall total ever of Least Bitterns, 37, the 11 at Tern Bar Slough, Gibson 15 Aug (SG) tied the state's 3rd highest count for a single site. Exceptional tallies of 1500 Little Blue Herons 1 Aug (DMK) and 1187 Cattle Egrets 27 Aug (C&PD) were made near Kidd L., Monroe, IL. Setting a new Illinois record late date were 2 Snowy Egrets 25 Nov in Fulton (MSS, KAM), while one at Roush Res., Huntington 11 Nov (JJM) tied the latest Indiana record. An imm. White Ibis was noted in Alexander, IL 20 Aug (DDM), while 2 juv. White-faced Ibis were detected in Macon, IL 7 Oct (TAM). *Plegadis ibis* encoun-

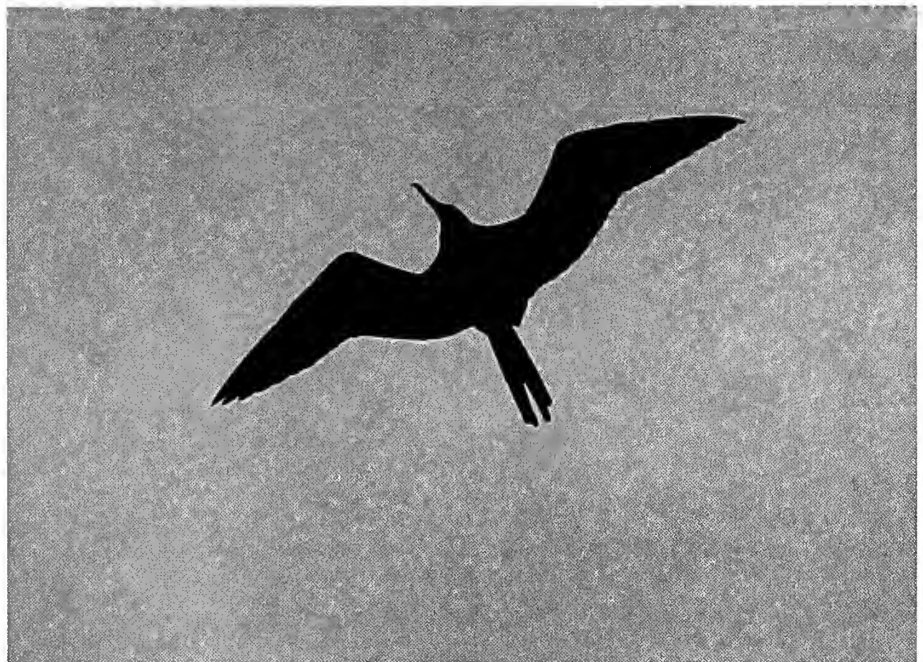
tered this season included a juv. at Emiquon 20-23 Sep (GN, APS, m.ob.), 4 at Nygren wetlands, Winnebago, IL 8 Oct (GK), and one at Carlyle 24 Oct (DMK).

Indicative of the continuing northward push of Black Vultures, one was photographed at Kankakee F.W.A., Starke, IN 13 Nov (JG, StS, JJ, TmW, ph. YSZ). The excellent flight of Mississippi Kites included several n. tier sightings: 2 in Coolspring Township, LaPorte, IN 26 Aug (LSH) in the area where a juv. was photographed 29 Aug (ph. ET), raising the possibility of local nesting; one at Greene Valley Hawkwatch, DuPage, IL 11 Oct (REF et al.); and a late bird that left the Rockford, Winnebago, IL breeding location 15 Sep (JL). A nice total of 585 Sharpshinned Hawks was recorded at the Hawkwatch at I.B.S.P. 15 Oct (PWS et al.), and 5 Northern Goshawks there 16 Nov (JSw, VB, et al.) were noteworthy, as large numbers migrating through the Region are generally not encountered. A Harlan's Hawk was found in s. Greene, IN 30 Oct (LWS) and 1 Nov (ph. MJ). At the Hawkwatch at I.B.S.P., a Swainson's Hawk 16 Nov (JSw, VB, et al.) was tardy, and a Rough-legged Hawk 11 Oct was early

King Rail included one at Eagle Marsh, Ft. Wayne, IN 1 Aug (EP), 2 at Tern Bar Slough, Gibson, IN 5 & 8 Aug (SG), one at Pigeon River F.W.A., Lagrange, IN 11 Aug-5 Sep (JAH, SS et al.), and one at Hennepin 18 Sep (JIE, GN, JRRS, KKM). An excellent fall tally of 50 Common Gallinules was made in Jackson, IL 3 Sep (DDM); another lingered at Montrose 27 Oct-4 Nov (ph. SGS, RDH, m.ob.). A huge concentration of 22,000 American Coots was noted in Whiteside, IL 25 Nov (KJM).

SHOREBIRDS

Large concentrations of Black-bellied Plovers are uncommon in the Region, making 81 noted at Chau. 22 Oct (TH) impressive. An American Golden-Plover seen at Rend 16 Nov (LWSy) was tardy. Indiana's only Piping Plover was a banded juv. at Miller 6 Aug (JKC, m.ob.); one lingered at Waukegan, Lake, IL until 14 Oct (AFS, MJW). Black-necked Stilts continue to increase throughout the Region. Fall maxima included 200 in Monroe, IL 5 Aug (DMK), 172 in Jackson, Union, and Alexander, IL 6 Aug (LWSy, DDM), and 130 at Emiquon 21 Aug (MJW, APS). The last stilt reported was at Goose



Not obviously connected to storm activity but possibly a waif of Tropical Storm Lee, this Magnificent Frigatebird was photographed in White County, Illinois 14 September 2011. Photograph by Tim Edison.

(PWS et al.). A total of 9 Golden Eagles was reported from the Region.

A Yellow Rail that flushed at Goose Pond 21 Aug (DW) provided the first Aug record for Indiana in 40 years. Others were late departing: 18 Oct at Montrose (ph. NG) and 19 Oct at Prairie Ridge S.N.A., Jasper, IL (RES). Aside from birds at Goose Pond, reports of

Pond 14 Oct (LWS, AK, DS), establishing a new late departure date for Indiana. A record fall total of 45 American Avocets in Indiana included 10 late birds at Cane Ridge 30 Oct (G&LB, VW), while 3 were last seen at Big L., Brown, IL 13 Nov (CD). A Greater Yellowlegs was equally tardy at Rend 30 Nov (LWSy). Seven Upland Sandpipers at Big L., Brown,



At Lake Charleston, Coles County, Illinois, this Little Gull was enjoyed 23-30 (here 23) November 2011. Photograph by Ron Bradley.



This Lark Bunting stopped over at Chicago's famous Montrose Point 31 August (here) through 3 September 2011. Photograph by Josh Engel.

IL 3 Aug (CD) were noteworthy for a species whose numbers are declining in the Region and rangewide. A tardy Solitary Sandpiper in Boone 28 Oct (RLH, SH) furnished Indiana's 3rd latest record.

An early Whimbrel at Emiquon 10 Jul (KBR) and another at Chau. 3 Sep (KBR) provided the only sightings away from L. Michigan. An early Hudsonian Godwit was seen in Monroe, IL 24 Jul (DMK). The peak tally of Hudsonians was 12 at Chau. 5 (REF) & 7 Sep (CD). Five were at Goose Pond 3-5 Sep (SE,

AK, NK, m.ob.), and one at Eagle Marsh, Ft. Wayne 21 Sep (JAH) provided the 3rd record for ne. Indiana. The last to depart the Region was one at Carlyle 17 Oct (KAM). Fifteen Marbled Godwits were reported, including high counts of 3 each at Carlyle 3 Sep (DMK) and at Chau. 2-5 Sep (RGB, SNB, RDH). Exciting was the discovery of a lingering Marbled Godwit at Rend 19 Nov (LWSy, DDM). Several robust shorebird counts included 40 Ruddy Turnstones at Chau. 5 Sep (RDH), 47 Sanderlings at Montrose 10 Sep (GAW), and 1553 Semipalmated Sandpipers at Chau. 12 Aug (RGB, SNB). Red Knots appeared in above-average numbers, with at least 13 individuals reported; 3 at Carlyle 28 Aug-2 Sep (DMK, KAM, CLH) and 3 at Chau. 5-11 Sep (KAM, TH, TW, CD et. al.) led the way. A molting ad. Red Knot found at Cane Ridge 11 Sep (G&LB) represented the first record of an ad. for s. Indiana. A late White-rumped Sandpiper was at Clinton L., DeWitt, IL 21 Oct (MJW). The 60 Stilt Sandpipers tallied at Goose Pond 5 Sep (JDH, SEH) constituted the 2nd highest tally for Indiana. Single Purple Sandpipers were found at L. Decatur, Macon, IL 30-31 Oct (ph. TAM, m.ob.) and Clinton L., DeWitt, IL 20-23 Nov (ph. RB, ph. GSL, m.ob.).

An incredible 75 Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Chau. 13 Sep (TW, CD) provided Illinois's all-time high count, while one lingering through 5 Nov at Clinton L., DeWitt (TH, MAM) set a record-late date for Illinois. A Wilson's Phalarope at Carlyle 10 Nov (MSS) and 3 at Rend 19 Nov (LWSy, DDM) were Illinois's 2nd and 3rd latest ever. Red-necked Phalaropes appeared in above-average numbers this fall. Maxima were 40 at Chau. 4 Sep (CD) and 22 at Carlyle 11 Sep (DMK), and high counts in Indiana included 5 each

at Tern Bar Slough, Gibson 29 Aug (SG) and Pine Creek Gamebird Habitat Area, Benton 28 Sep (WH, JM), plus a state record 6 at Goose Pond 11 Sep (AK, NK). Four Red Phalaropes were noted, the most cooperative being the one at L. Decatur, Macon, IL 30 Oct-9 Nov (AG, vt. TAM, m.ob.) that frequented mudflats with the Purple Sandpiper there!

GULLS THROUGH JAEGERS

It was not a particularly good fall for gulls in the Region. Only 5 Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported for the season in contrast to last year's 43; a juv. noted at East Fork L., Richland, IL 24-25 Nov (CLH, MSS, KAM) was the latest reported. Nine Sabine's Gulls were seen 14 Sep at Carlyle (DMK). A Little Gull was an excellent find at L. Charleston, Coles, IL 23-30 Nov (ph. RB, m.ob.). An unprecedented wave of imm. Laughing Gulls descended on Indiana from late Sep-early Oct. High counts included 3 at Mississinewa Res., Miami & Wabash, IN 30 Sep (LN) and 4 at Eagle Cr. 4 Oct (AK). Four were present at Carlyle 22 Oct (DMK, TW, CD). A California Gull was detected at East Peoria, Tazewell, IL 22 Oct (MJW, TH). A Thayer's Gull was noted at Calumet Park, Cook, IL 5 Nov (AAA). A remarkable 4 ad. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found at Eagle Cr. 25 Sep (LP et al.), the highest inland count ever in Indiana.

A record Indiana fall count of Least Terns was logged 8 Aug, when 84 were recorded at L. Gibson and Cane Ridge (CEM). Other excellent tern counts included 140 Caspian Terns at Emiquon 21 Aug (MJW, APS) and 100 Forster's Terns at Rend 18 Sep (DDM, LWSy). Rather tardy were 22 Forster's at Rend 27 Nov (LWSy, DDM). There was an excellent flight of jaegers this fall that included more than 70 birds. The 6 Pomarine Jaegers seen at Miller 29 Nov (PDRH, JCK, RJS, KJB) set a new daily record for Indiana. Of the fine total of 24 Parasitic Jaegers reported in Indiana, 8 were seen at Miller 5 Sep (KJB, PDRH, WH, LN, RJS et al.). Illinois had 2 Parasitics this fall, at Gillson 19 Oct (GN, APS) and 3 Nov (ph. JIE). The excellent total of 6 Long-tailed Jaegers in Indiana this season included 2 ads. at Miller 30 Sep (JKC, JJM, JCK et al.), and Indiana's 2nd inland bird ever, a juv. at Eagle Cr. 1-10 Oct (TWh, ph. RJS, m.ob.). Two other inland jaegers included an unidentified bird at L. Gibson 9 Sep (CEM, ES, HL) and a probable Parasitic at Cane Ridge 25 Nov (DC, DA, HDH).

CUCKOOS THROUGH VIREOS

Very late Black-billed Cuckoos were at South Bend 24 Oct (VG) and Goose Pond 5 Nov (DRW et al.). Two Barn Owls were noted at

two separate *Edwards*, IL locations 16 Aug–9 Nov (RES). A harbinger of the winter invasion, the first Snowy Owls appeared in *Starke*, IN 18 Nov (*vide* JSC) and at Montrose 19 Nov (RDH, APS, JIE, m.ob.); one in *Schuyler*, IL 23 Nov (THo) was found dead nearby 27 Nov (CM). A relatively early Northern Saw-whet Owl was banded at Dunes S.P., *Porter*, IN 2 Oct (BB); 4 at Sand Bluff B.O., *Winnebago*, IL 22 Oct (SGt) and 3 at Crab Orchard N.W.R., *Williamson*, IL 15 Nov (LWSy) made the maxima.

The Common Nighthawk flight was slightly better than average, exemplified by a tally of 400 over *Lawrence*, IN 4 Sep (NK). A *Chaetura* swift noted in Chicago 13 Nov (DKA) was presumably a Chimney Swift; it was the 2nd latest swift on record for Illinois. Three Rufous Hummingbirds appeared this fall: an imm. male at an Evansville, IN feeder 29 Nov+ (ph. SG); an imm. female in Oak Park, *Cook*, IL 21 Nov+ (EG, AG, m.ob., b. VMK); and an ad. female in Sterling, *Whiteside*, IL 12 Nov+ (R&AZ, m.ob., b. VMK). The Green Violetear in *Fountain*, IN was last seen 2 Aug (JBD, EMH, NM).

The summering Western Wood-Pewee at Hoosier Prairie State Nature Preserve, *Lake*, IN remained through at least 19 Aug (MT). Five Western Kingbirds at Chain of Rocks, *Madison*, IL 1 Aug (KAM) were probably a family group. An out-of-range Western Kingbird was noted in *Mason*, IL 17 Aug (ph. GN, JRRS). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher first seen at Sand L., *Mason*, IL 26 Aug (PF) reappeared after nearly a month's absence 23–24 Sep (AA, JAS, JIN, PAM, KBR). Four Loggerhead Shrikes were found in Indiana, including 2 on 8 Aug: one in *Gibson* and one in *Warrick* (CEM). Over two dozen Northern Shrikes made a good season; singles in *Woodford*, IL 26 Nov (MJW) and in *Whiteside*, IL 28 Nov (DH) were most noteworthy. A very tardy White-eyed Vireo was seen at Northerly I., *Cook*, IL 5 Nov (NLB, GAW, CLW). Part of a fine flight of Bell's Vireos was a record-late bird at Whitewater S.P., *Union*, IN 29 Sep (WHB). A record-late Warbling Vireo was at Mississinewa Res., *Miami*, IN 27 Oct (JAH).

SWALLOWS THROUGH FINCHES

Good numbers of swallows included 1000 Northern Rough-winged Swallows in *Cass*, IL 30 Jul (CD), 2500 Bank Swallows at Goose Pond 21 Aug (AK), and 1500 Barn Swallows at Chau. 17 Sep (MLPR). A late Barn Swallow was at Eagle Cr. 23 Nov (DG). A House Wren lingered at Carlyle 27 Nov (MSS), and a Sedge Wren lingered at Oakhurst F.P., *Kane*, IL 1 Nov (AA). A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher remained at Homer L., *Champaign*, IL through

12 Nov (ph. GSL).

Unexpected was an ad. female Mountain Bluebird at I.B.S.P. 9–14 Nov (JSw, ph. PWS, m.ob.); an imm. male joined it 15 Nov (ph. PWS, m.ob.). Also noteworthy was a Townsend's Solitaire that graced Montrose 16 Nov (ph. JIE, ph. MF, m.ob.). An excellent count of 47 Hermit Thrushes was made in Chicago's Lincoln Park 22 Oct (GAW), and one at Kankakee, IL 27 Aug (JBH) was quite early. The most exciting mimic to visit the Region this fall was a Sage Thrasher at Montrose 29 Oct–20 Nov (ph. RC, m.ob.), constituting Illinois's 5th record. Two Smith's Longspurs were at Chicago's Loyola Beach 20–21 Sep (ph. SGS, ph. JIE, m.ob.), and 1200 Lapland Longspurs were recorded at Carlyle 20 Nov (DMK).

Large numbers of migrant warblers noted 10 Sep at Carlyle included 300 Tennessees, 400 American Redstarts, and 300 Magnolias (DMK). The 8 Orange-crowned Warblers at Lincoln Park, Chicago 22 Oct (GAW) were equally impressive. Notably late warblers this season included a Golden-winged Warbler in *Cook*, IL 1 Oct (DFS), a Prothonotary Warbler at Carlyle 24 Sep (KAM), Indiana's 2nd latest Nashville Warbler ever at Bloomington 17 Nov (JTB), a Connecticut Warbler found dead in Chicago 15 Oct (C.B.C.M.), a Prairie Warbler at I.B.S.P. 9 Oct (BJS), a female Common Yellowthroat at Celery Bog, W. Lafayette, IN 24 Nov (NW), an imm. Wilson's Warbler in *Porter*, IN 14 Nov (BJG), and a Yellow-breasted Chat found dead in Warrenville, IL 3 Nov (C.B.C.M.). An excellent fog-shrouded aggregation of 60 Cape May Warblers at Celery Bog in West Lafayette 20 Sep (DR) tied Indiana's highest one-day count. Another amazing warbler accumulation at Celery Bog occurred 27 Sep when 65 Black-throated Green Warblers were counted (WH), Indiana's highest tally ever.

A few lucky observers saw a Green-tailed Towhee at Jackson Park, Chicago 1 Oct (ph. GN, ph. NG, RLS). A Spotted Towhee was a one-day wonder at L. Renwick, *Will*, IL 5 Nov (DFS). An excellent tally of 138 Chipping Sparrows was made in *Sangamon*, IL 16 Sep (HDB). Illinois's 3rd Brewer's Sparrow was found at Northerly I., *Cook* 12 Nov (ph. JIE, RLS, m.ob.). For the 2nd consecutive fall, a Lark Bunting graced Montrose 31 Aug–3 Sep (AB, ph. JIE, m.ob.). A Grasshopper Sparrow in Chicago's Lincoln Park 16 Nov (GAW et al.) was tardy, while a Le Conte's Sparrow at Zimmerman Wetland, *Brown*, IN 25 Sep (JDH, SEH, JKR et al.) was early. It was a good season for Harris's Sparrows in the Region, with 9 reported.

Lingering Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in-

cluded a bird in *Cook*, IL 3 Nov (DK) and a first-cycle male at a Warren, IN feeder 25 Nov (SU). Also tardy were Indiana's latest Blue Grosbeak ever at Kankakee Sands, *Newton* 12 Oct (JBH) and an Indigo Bunting at Carbondale, *Jackson*, IL 7 Nov (THY). A late ad. male Baltimore Oriole was present at a feeder in Georgetown, *Floyd*, IN 24–25 Nov (RH, T&CB). Despite the dismal winter finch forecast, modest numbers were seen, including 48 Purple Finches at Salt Creek Woods Nature Preserve, *Cook*, IL 6 Nov (DFS), 95 Pine Siskins at Downer's Grove, *DuPage*, IL 29 Nov (REF, KDF), and 400 American Goldfinches at Carlyle 15 Oct (DMK). Red Crossbills were scarce; however, 3–5 visited Van Patten Woods F.P., *Lake*, IL 29–30 Oct (BJS, KAM, APS, RE, m.ob.). The first White-winged Crossbill of the season dropped in at Morton Arboretum, *DuPage*, IL 5 Nov (JC), while 3 were seen at Reed-Turner Woodland, *Lake*, IL 7 Nov (ABA). The maximum count of Common Redpolls consisted of 8 at Willow Slough, *Newton*, IN 22 Nov (JBH); Illinois had one at Montrose 29 Oct (ph. JIE, m.ob.) and 2 at Van Patten Woods F.P., *Lake*, IL 2 Nov (JSS). A single Evening Grosbeak at Spring Valley F.P., *Kane*, IL 15 Nov (SAC) constituted the only report.

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Western Great Lakes



Peder H. Svingen

Very mild conditions induced a long list of passerines to linger later than usual. Shorebird habitat was scarce in Minnesota but widespread in Wisconsin and Michigan. Southwesterly air flow in late October, and probably the drought in the Southwest and southern Great Plains, facilitated an influx of vagrants reminiscent of fall 2000's "Sonoran Express," including Tropical/Couch's Kingbird and Scott's Oriole in Minnesota; Inca Dove, Broad-billed Hummingbird, and Vermilion Flycatcher in Wisconsin; and Lucy's Warbler and Black-throated Sparrow in Michigan.

Abbreviations: Detroit River (Detroit River Hawkwatch, Wayne, MI); Hawk Ridge (Hawk Ridge B.O., Duluth, MN); Park Pt. (Park Point, Duluth, St. Louis, MN); 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 CORMORANTS

Record early for Wisconsin was a Greater White-fronted Goose in *Dane* 8 Sep (KL); almost record early was a Ross's Goose in

Bayfield 13 Sep (RSB). Minnesota's 3rd highest fall count was of 16 Ross's Geese at Hawk Ridge 7 Nov (KJB). Ross's in four Michigan counties included 7 in *Allegan* 28 Nov (RBr). A male Eurasian Wigeon showed well in *Grant*, WI 10-12 Nov (KMc). An imm. male King Eider in *Milwaukee*, WI 27 Nov+ (PVG) foraged close to shore and became a media celebrity. All three states reported Harlequin Ducks on the Great Lakes; extraordinary was a male in w. Minnesota at Big Stone N.W.R. 5 Nov (BU). At Whitefish Pt., the total of 704 Surf Scoters was down from last fall's 1085, but 5079 White-winged Scoters was the site's 2nd highest. A total of 203 Black Scoters at Whitefish Pt. and ca. 90 birds in 12 Wisconsin counties were also above average, but all three scoter species were scarce in Minnesota. Whitefish Pt. tallied 23,672 Long-tailed Ducks, including 9541 on 20 Oct, and Tesen estimated 11,000 rafting on L. Michigan in *Manitowoc*, WI 11 Nov. The Region's only Barrow's Goldeneye at Duluth 19 Nov+ (PHS, KRE, JLK) was probably returning for its 4th consecutive winter. Whitefish Pt. welcomed a record high total of 15,383 Red-breasted Mergansers, including 8591 on 2 Nov.

Three reports of probably released Northern Bobwhites in Wisconsin mirrored this species' decline in Minnesota, where it is now considered extirpated. Whitefish Pt. recorded its 4th highest total of 467 Red-throated Loons, with a peak of 74 on 10 Oct (SS). In contrast to last fall's excellent showing, Minnesota had only 2 Red-throated Loons along the North Shore in *St. Louis*, but Wisconsin reported 22 birds in nine counties, including three counties? away from the Great Lakes. Michigan reported single Pacific Loons at Whitefish Pt. 21 Sep (p.a., SS) and Sterling S.P., *Monroe* 25 Nov+ (p.a., SH, MHe). Four Pacific Loons were found on the Great Lakes

in Wisconsin, while Minnesota had only one at Duluth 23-24 Sep (KJB, PHS, DBM, RZ). A total of 3412 Common Loons at Whitefish Pt. was above the seasonal average; a record-high Minnesota count of 3030 was tallied at Mille Lacs L. 23 Oct (AXH). Record high for Whitefish Pt. were 949 Horned Grebes this season. Also at Whitefish Pt., the total of 17,115 Red-necked Grebes was its 2nd highest and included 2401 on 18 Aug. Michigan reported an *Aechmophorus* grebe in *Ingham* 21-22 Oct (p.a., SW, TRW) and 2 in *Huron* 27 Oct (p.a., MKE). One of the many highlights at Whitefish Pt. was the ad. Northern Gannet first seen 6 Oct (LG), which appeared intermittently into Dec (m.ob.). This was the first record for L. Superior and the 13th for Michigan.

HERONS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

In w. Minnesota, Little Blue Herons were photographed in *Chippewa/Lac Qui Parle* 29 Aug and in *Big Stone* 18 Sep (BU). All three states reported average numbers of Cattle Egret, with at least one lingering into Dec in *Tuscola*, MI (JEV). *Plegadis* ibis were found in all three states; most noteworthy were singles at Shiawassee 11-13 Aug (DH, LH) and in *Fond du Lac*, WI 1-6 Nov (DT). Michigan's 8th Swallow-tailed Kite graced *Roscommon* 4 Aug (WJR), and Minnesota's 3rd White-tailed Kite at *Bluestem Prairie*, *Clay* 4 Aug (ph. SF) was followed by Wisconsin's 4th at *Crex Meadows W.A.*, *Burnett* 11 Nov (p.a., JHo). Another Mississippi Kite passed Hawk Ridge 15 Sep (p.a., KJB); this is the most predictable location for this species in Minnesota. Among the 260,974 raptors recorded at Detroit River were above-average totals for Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, and Golden Eagle; highlights included a record 195,858 Broad-

wingeds for the season and a record 40 Golden Eagles 29 Oct (JSt, GN). Hawk Ridge had its best season since 2004; among the 70,757 raptors were a record 5688 Bald Eagles and 6 Harlan's Hawks. In Wisconsin, Cedar Grove Banding Station netted a Swainson's Hawk 4 Oct (HM). Record late for Minnesota was a Swainson's Hawk in *Goodhue* 11 Nov (SCB, PHS). An imm. Ferruginous Hawk was photographed in *Yellow Medicine*, MN 14 Oct (BU). Another highlight at Hawk Ridge was the gray-morph ad. Gyrfalcon 3 Nov (p.a., KJB). Michigan's 5th Prairie Falcon strafed Ludington S.P., *Mason* 14 Aug (ph. CL).

Michigan's statewide survey of Sandhill Cranes in Nov tallied 19,358 birds, down 9% from the previous fall. Representing Minnesota's 4th highest count from a single location were 7000+ Sandhills at Sherburne N.W.R. 16 Nov (*fide* BAB). Rarely detected during fall migration in Minnesota, Yellow Rails were documented in *Hennepin* 10 Sep (TAT) and in *Lac Qui Parle* 20 Sep (ph. BU). A relatively late high count of 110 Black-bellied Plovers was noteworthy in *Dodge*, WI 1 Oct (DT), and a Semipalmated Plover lingered there until 7 Nov (JM). Two of Minnesota's 3 Piping Plovers represented county firsts in *Itasca* 7 Sep (PL) and *Sherburne* 22 Sep (RBJ). Wisconsin had only one Piping Plover this fall, in *Kewaunee* 17 Aug (Asi). Also in Wisconsin were 7 Black-necked Stilts at Horicon N.W.R. in mid-Sep, with 2 lingering through 9 Oct (JD, JWe). A late Whimbrel passed Whitefish Pt. 14 Oct (DJ). Wisconsin's 3rd latest Hudsonian Godwit loitered in *Dodge* 30 Nov (TW). Also remarkable was a Marbled Godwit in *Delta*, MI 2 Sep–15 Nov (JDK, CW, LD); this species is rarely found in the Region after mid-Sep. Michigan and Wisconsin reported more Red Knots than usual, but none were found in Minnesota. About four dozen were found in Michigan, including 14 in *Berrien* 31 Aug (TB) and 9 in *Delta* 3 Sep (SH). Nine knots were found in seven Wisconsin counties. Michigan reported 296 Sanderlings in *Arenac* 17 Oct (RAE).

A juv. Western Sandpiper was documented at Pte. Mouillee 17 Aug (DHe, RHe, LC). A total of 33 White-rumped Sandpipers in 13 Wisconsin counties was four times the recent 10-year average, and White-rumped were also more common in the U.P. than usual. Minnesota's 6th Purple Sandpiper in *Swift* 15-27 Oct (DBM, m.ob.) was unusually far w. and s. compared to previous records. Among Michigan's 8 Purple Sandpipers was an exceptionally early bird at Whitefish Pt. 13 Sep (ph. LMc). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were more widespread in 24 Minnesota and 15 Wisconsin counties, but the highest con-

centration was only 15 in *Racine*, WI 4 Sep (JD). Michigan also reported above-average numbers, particularly in the U.P., and Wisconsin had a record-late Buff-breasted in *Dodge* 30 Oct (TW). Above-average numbers of Red-necked Phalaropes were noted in Wisconsin (20 birds in eight counties) and Minnesota (654 in 33 counties). Michigan had 2 Red Phalaropes in *Berrien* 5 Oct (p.a., TB, ph. MHy), and Wisconsin had 3, including 2 different birds in *Racine* (RF) and one in *Sheboygan* 14-15 Nov (CSc).

GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

One of Michigan's 3 Black-legged Kittiwakes visited *Berrien* 21 Oct (TB, MHy), while the other 2 transited Whitefish Pt. A kittiwake spotted by Lubahn while searching for the Vermilion Flycatcher in *Rock*, WI 6 Nov was seen by many, despite its brief stay. Sabine's Gull numbers were back to normal, with each state recording 6 individuals. Furnishing the 13th Michigan record was an ad. Black-headed Gull photographed in *Berrien* 14 Nov (TB, MHy, WRW). Michigan had 7+ Little Gulls, slightly above average, but none were found elsewhere in the Region. Wisconsin hosted a Laughing Gull in *Manitowoc* 10-27 Aug (CSo), and Michigan had singles in *Berrien* 28 Sep and 9 Oct (ph. TB). Except for flocks of 63 and 11 at two *Berrien* locations 7 Nov (Rhj), normal numbers of Franklin's Gulls strayed into Michigan. Bardon's photographic documentation of individual Thayer's Gulls at Duluth, MN resumed this fall; the total of 33+ included an early ad. 23 Sep, with juvs. arriving 19 Oct (KJB). An early juv. Glaucous Gull was photographed at Wisconsin Pt. 7 Oct (KJB, Roj, PHS). The total of 1415 Common Terns at Whitefish Pt. was less than half of last year's 3060 but still represented its 5th highest count. Elsewhere in Michigan, a juv. Arctic Tern graced Tiscornia Park, *Berrien* 31 Oct–15 Nov (ph. TB, ph. MHy, m.ob.). Record late for Minnesota was a Forster's Tern in *Pope* 30 Oct (HD, REr). The only Pomarine Jaeger was at Park Pt. 2 Oct (KRE et al., ph. PHS). Jaeger numbers at Whitefish Pt. were back down to earth following last fall's stratospheric bonanza. Consistent coverage at St. Joseph, *Berrien*, MI produced 7 Parasitics and 23 unidentified jaegers, with 10 of the latter recorded 15 Oct (TB, MHy). A Parasitic Jaeger in *Portage* 15 Oct (RP) made the only Wisconsin report away from the Great Lakes. Five Parasitics plus several unidentified jaegers were at Park Pt. DATE(S)? (PHS, m.ob.).

Michigan's Eurasian Collared-Dove from summer coed in *Delta* through 7 Sep (JDK, JHu, MHu). Wisconsin recorded its first Inca Dove on the campus of Concordia College,

Milwaukee 28 Oct+ (PA, m.ob.). The well-publicized invasion of Snowy Owls was evident across the Region. Multiple birds were found in 27 Minnesota, 37 Wisconsin, and 24 Michigan counties. Michigan's Chuck-will's-widow in *Jackson* fell silent 7 Aug (CR). A Rufous Hummingbird in *Door* 6 Aug (GF) was one of 3 *Selasphorus* in Wisconsin. Four of the 5 Rufous Hummingbirds in Michigan were imm. females, all banded by Chartier; the other was an imm. male in *Washtenaw* 2-8 Nov (ph. BT). The hummer highlight was Wisconsin's 2nd Broad-billed Hummingbird, a cooperative female in *Ozaukee* 2-26 Nov (RBe, TK).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

In Wisconsin, a Say's Phoebe spent just a day in *Sheboygan* 29 Oct (ph. CSc), but the Badger State's 6th Vermilion Flycatcher lingered in *Rock* 5-26 Nov (QY, m.ob.). Minnesota's first Tropical/Couch's Kingbird did not vocalize during its brief visit to Duluth 28 Oct (p.a., ph. MLH, PHS). A Western Kingbird reached *Dodge*, WI 25 Aug (JL, MKR), but none strayed farther east. Wisconsin also welcomed a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in *Kewaunee* 30 Oct–6 Nov (NS). Scissor-taileds were photographed in Minnesota at the Wabasha Airport 18 Oct (BL) and at Duluth 28-29 Oct (RMD, BWF, m.ob.). Northern Shrikes were more widespread than usual in Michigan, and Minnesota recorded a record high count of 15 at Hawk Ridge 21 Oct. Remarkably tardy were White-eyed Vireos in *Milwaukee*, WI 28 Oct (SL) and *Berrien*, MI 29 Oct (LMe). Also late was the Philadelphia Vireo in *Milwaukee* 29 Oct (CH). A mind-boggling 500,000+ American Crows migrated past Lake Erie Metropark 3 Nov (JSt, GN). Also in Michigan, 2 previously reported Fish Crows lingered at Forest Lawn Landfill, *Berrien* (AMB, ST).

High counts of swallows at Metro Beach Metro Park, *Macomb*, MI included 1345 Northern Rough-winged Swallows 4 Aug and 1328 Barn Swallows 12 Aug (ATC). Boreal Chickadees showed well in Wisconsin, with 26 birds in three counties; in Michigan, about 20 were found in the McCormick Wilderness, *Marquette* 13 Aug (GP). Eight Townsends Solitaires in six Minnesota counties and 7 in four Wisconsin counties were more than usual, while Michigan recorded singles at Whitefish Pt. 7 & 22 Oct (SS). Impressive flights of 39,127 American Robins at Hawk Ridge 9 Oct and 35,740 there 12 Oct (KJB) were mirrored by 13,000+ in *Bayfield*, WI 9 Oct (RSB). An early Bohemian Waxwing reached *Otter Tail*, MN 20 Sep (DST). A cooperative Smith's

SA Birders returning to the gift shop at the conclusion of the waterbird count at Whitefish Pt. were stunned by the appearance of a **Lucy's Warbler** 12 Nov (ph. KO, AMB, BMu, KMe). There is apparently only one previous record of this desert-adapted species e. of the Mississippi—from Ipswich, MA on 1 Dec 1979 (*American Birds* 35: 139-141).

Longspur posed for photographs at Whitefish Pt. 9-10 Sep (SS, KZ).

Late Ovenbirds were found in *Hennepin*, MN 21 Oct (TPB) and *Wayne*, MI 2 Nov (KO). Seven Connecticut Warblers were more than normal for Michigan, and 15 Connecticut in nine Wisconsin counties was one of the highest totals in the last decade for the Badger State. Kentucky Warbler is rarely found during fall migration, so one in *Ozaukee*, WI 9 Sep was noteworthy (TU). Lingered much later than usual were 2 Common Yellowthroats in *Hennepin*, MN 24-30 Nov (BAF, SHF, SLC) and a Hooded Warbler in *Waukesha*, WI 9 Oct (ASz). Another species rarely discovered during fall migration, a Cerulean Warbler was in *Hennepin*, MN 2 Sep (SLC). A Northern Parula in *Milwaukee* 29 Oct (TW) was Wisconsin's 3rd latest, while one in *Olmsted* 13 Nov (LAV) tied Minnesota's latest record. Michigan also recorded a very late parula in *Sanilac* 10 & 14 Nov (GSn, KO, BMcG, MMcG). Other lingering species included a Bay-breasted Warbler in *Cook*, MN 30 Oct (KRE et al.), a Blackburnian Warbler in *Fillmore*, MN 24 Oct (ph. AN), a Yellow Warbler in *Ozaukee*, WI 9 Oct (DT), a Blackpoll Warbler in *Racine*, WI 2 Nov (SK), a Black-throated Blue Warbler in *Hennepin*, MN 3 Nov (SLC), and a Palm Warbler in *Milwaukee*, WI 23 Nov (SL). Casual in Minnesota, a Yellow-throated Warbler visited a feeder in *Crow Wing* 21-22 Oct (ph. RLM). Late and away from its usual Michigan haunts was a Prairie Warbler at *Shiawassee* 22 Oct (RN, ph. AB). Late for Minnesota was a Wilson's Warbler in *Lake* 29 Oct (RMD, ARW, JWH). Each state recorded one or more Yellow-breasted Chats. Singles in *Pipestone*, MN 4 Sep (ph. BU) and at Pte. Mouillee 5 Sep (AMB) were probably migrants; singles were also found at two locations in *Dane*, WI 4 & 27 Aug (DG, MP).

Wisconsin reported an apparent hybrid towhee 25 Sep (RFW) and a well-marked male Spotted Towhee in *Grant* 11-15 Oct (ph. RO). Michigan had a Spotted Towhee in *Marquette* 12 Oct (ph. BO), while Minnesota's 2 were away from their usual sw. locations in *Steele*

30 Sep (ph. PSu) and *Crow Wing* 9-11 Nov (ph. JDB). Also in Minnesota, Carlson tallied a record high 44 Field Sparrows in *Hennepin* 12 Oct. A Lark Sparrow at the Whitefish Pt. feeders was seen by many 15 Oct+ (p.a., PCC). Even more unusual was Michigan's 4th Black-throated Sparrow at Kitchel-Lindquist Dunes, *Ottawa* 12 Sep (CFr). Grasshopper Sparrows lingered in *Racine*, WI 12-13 Nov (ph. KW), *Marquette*, MI 20 Nov (ph. SH, ph. JDP), and *St. Louis*, MN 30 Nov (ph. EB). Nelson's Sparrows in 14 Minnesota counties and a total of 12 in Wisconsin were more than normal, so it was not surprising that one strayed to Michigan at Tiscornia Park, *Berrien* 21-22 Sep (ph. TB, ph. MHy, ph. DP).

Summer Tanager has been increasing in the Region at all seasons except winter. Minnesota had 3, plus a late imm. in *Washington* 13 Nov+ (JV, ph. LMS, ph. ALD). Wisconsin tallied 6 in five counties, including one lingering in *Dane* 28-29 Nov (ph. CFe). Michigan recorded a female in *Alger* 21 Aug (JHu, MHu), and one from summer lingered until 2 Sep in *Berrien* (CP). Furnishing Michigan's 2nd fall record was a Western Tanager in *Genesee* 23 Aug (SG). Wisconsin hosted a male Western Tanager in *Lincoln* 28 Oct-5 Nov (BMc, PMc). Continuing from summer was the singing male Blue Grosbeak in *Cass*, MI through 23 Aug (*fide* JTW). Extraordinarily late was an Indigo Bunting in *Milwaukee*, WI 25 Nov (JM). The Bachmans photographed a flock of 450-500 Bobolinks in a millet field in *Outagamie*, WI 5 Sep (JB, PB). Noteworthy in light of its continental decline was the record-high count of 13,540 Rusty Blackbirds at Hawk Ridge 29 Sep (KJB). Minnesota's 4th Scott's Oriole was photographed in *Cook* 30 Oct (p.a., JW, KRE et al.). Also in ne. Minnesota was a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch in *St. Louis* 27 Oct (SLF, ph. DBF). White-winged Crossbills were widespread in the n. parts of the Region; large flocks were seen in several locations, and 5473 flew from Manitou I. to Keweenaw Pt., MI 24 Oct (JY, WL). Despite a record-high count of 16,032 Common Redpolls at Hawk Ridge 28 Oct, only modest numbers of this and other finch species were found elsewhere in the Region. Wisconsin recorded another Eurasian Tree Sparrow in *Waukesha* 2 Aug (p.a., PH).

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Walter Wehtje

The fall 2011 season proved to be one of extremes in the Region. While Iowa experienced the driest fall since 1999 and the fourteenth driest in 139 years of record keeping, extensive flooding along the Missouri River continued into September from Sioux City, Iowa to St. Joseph, Missouri. Missouri entered August with several areas suffering near-drought conditions, but by the end of November, sufficient rain had fallen to alleviate dry conditions except for in the northwestern portion of the state. This sort of environmental contrast seemed to define the fall of 2011. In early August, the temperature in Kansas City reached 110° F, but by mid-September, the temperature at Mason City, Iowa dropped to a frigid 26°. Throughout the Region, temperatures were above average in August, dipped below average through much of September, and stayed above average for October and November.

The above-average temperatures did not translate into a memorable fall migration. Shorebirds filtered through the Region on time, finding favorable conditions along the Missouri River floodplain in both states, as high ground water levels left many agricultural fields fallow or with flood-spoiled crops. In Iowa, deliberately lowered water levels at Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge and along the central and eastern Iowa reservoir systems also helped, but away from these areas, shorebirds were scarce. Hawk migration along the Missouri River was slow in September due to mild temperatures and a lack of strong fronts. Birders in the Region lamented the low numbers of migrant songbirds that seemed to bypass the dry conditions. The situation improved after 7-8 November, when a strong cold front moved through, bringing huge numbers of waterfowl and the first of many Snowy Owls.

Unlike in fall 2010, few vagrants were found in Iowa this season. A Barrow's Goldeneye, a few Red Knots, Townsend's Solitaires, and Varied Thrushes were among the state's highlights. Missouri fared better, with Mottled Ducks, Whooping Crane, Roseate Spoonbill, Black-legged Kittiwake, California Gull, Common Ground-Doves, and Mountain Bluebird.

Abbreviations: B. K. Leach (B. K. Leach C.A., Lincoln, MO); Big Spring (Big Spring S.P., Carter, MO); Bob Brown (Bob Brown C.A., Holt); C.B.C.A. (Columbia Bottom C.A., St. Louis, MO); C.C.L. (Creve Coeur L., St. Charles, MO); DeSoto (Desoto N.W.R., Harrison, IA); D.C.L. (Dexter City L., Stoddard, MO); Eagle Bluffs (Eagle Bluffs C.A., Boone, MO); Hitchcock (Hitchcock Nature Area and Hawkwatch, Pottawattamie, IA); L.C. (L. Contrary, Buchanan, MO); I.F.P. (Indian Foothills Park, Saline, MO); L.O.S.P. (Lake of the Ozarks S.P., Miller/Camden, MO); L.W. (L. Wappapello, Wayne, MO); L.B.S.P. (Long Branch S.P., Macon, MO); L.L. (Longview L., Jackson, MO); M.S.L. (Maryville Sewage Lagoons, Nodaway, MO); Meramec (Meramec S.P., Franklin, MO); Mingo (Mingo N.W.R., Stoddard/Wayne/Bollinger, MO); M.S.U. (Missouri State University); Montrose (Montrose C.A., Henry, MO); M.W.S.U. (Missouri Western State University campus, Buchanan, MO); Otter Slough (Otter Slough C.A., Stoddard, MO); P.C.L. (Perry County L., Perry, MO); Pershing (Pershing S.P., Linn, MO); R.M.B.S. (Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary, St. Charles, MO); Smithville (Smithville L., Clay/Clinton, MO); Spirit L. (in Dickinson, IA); Squaw Creek (Squaw Creek N.W.R., Holt, MO); Swan L. (Swan Lake N.W.R., Chariton, MO); Taberville Prairie (Taberville Prairie C.A., St. Clair, MO); Thousand Hills (Thousand Hills S.P., Adair, MO); T.R.W. (Thompson River Wetlands, Livingston, MO); Union Slough (Union Slough N.W.R., Kosuth, IA); U.S.F.W.S. (United States Fish and Wildlife Service); V.S.W.P. (Voelkerding Slough Wetland Preserve, Warren, MO); Weston Bend (Weston Bend S.P., Platte, MO).

WATERFOWL THROUGH PRAIRIE-CHICKENS

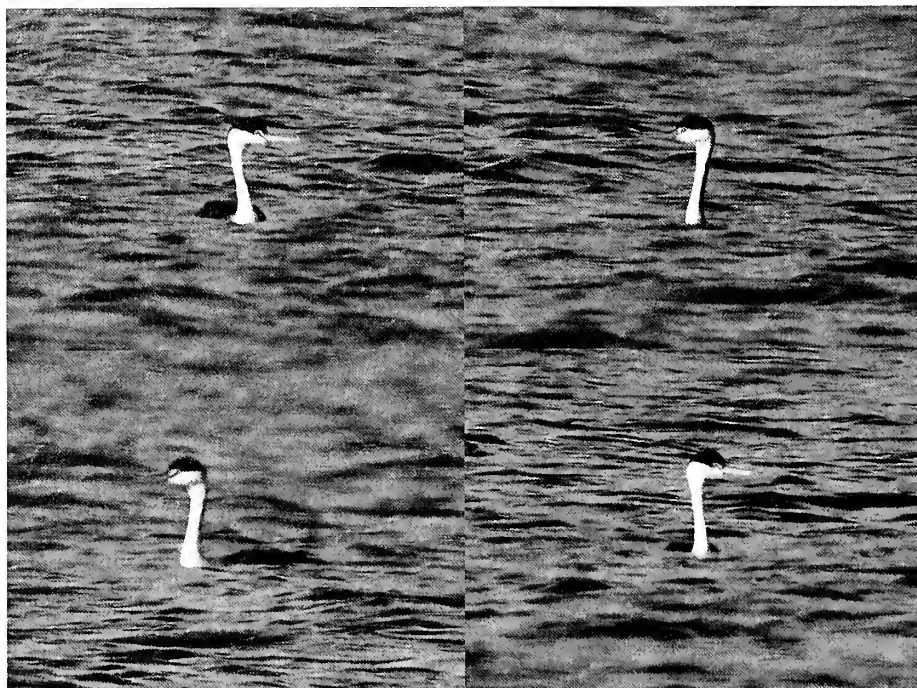
Hunters shot 5 of 8 Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Eagle Bluffs 21 Nov (*vide* VB); one was still present there 24 Nov (SH). A Greater White-fronted Goose made an early appearance in the St. Louis area at C.P.S.P. 27 & 29 Aug (JU). The high count was 6740 at DeSoto

9 Nov (U.S.F.W.S.). The earliest Snow Goose was one at Sandhill L., Woodbury, IA 6 Aug (GV). Peak numbers arrived three weeks later than in 2010. The first large flock did not arrive until 8 Nov, when 27,000 flew over Hitchcock (MO). By the end of Nov, 225,000 were at Squaw Creek (DAE). In contrast, Ross's Geese were much rarer, with a high count of 71 in Marion 25 Nov (SJD). The season's first Cackling Geese were 5 at M.S.L. 18 Sep (DAE). The count of 290 at MidAmerican Ponds, Pottawattamie 26 Nov (AB) was lower than usual. The first migrant Canada Geese (*B. c. interior*) were 500 in Cerro Gordo 27 Sep (PH). Mute Swans continue to spread, with 3 documented in Johnson 24 Oct–21 Nov (CRE, JLF, LR). Small groups of Trumpeter Swan were reported from 10 Iowa counties. A large flock of 108 was at Beemer's Pond, Hamilton 30 Nov (WO). In Missouri, numbers peaked at 150 at R.M.B.S. 26 Nov (PL), with the only report from outside the St. Louis area being of 15 birds at Squaw Creek 29 Nov (DAE). Tundra Swan numbers began building along the Mississippi R. in mid-Nov and peaked at 5380 at Pool #9, Allamakee 21 Nov (RZ, MHB, DT et al.). In Missouri, 3 were among the swans at R.M.B.S. 26 Nov (PL).



Missouri's third Mottled Duck made an appearance at Confluence Point State Park, St. Charles County on 28-29 (here 29) August 2011. Photograph by Joshua Uffman.

On 7 Nov, Ed Thelen encountered at least 250,000 dabbling ducks at Spirit L., half of them Gadwalls; all were gone the next day. In Missouri, the highest Gadwall count was 6500 in the Maryville area, Nodaway 9 Nov (DAE). A lone American Wigeon was at Lylah's Marsh, Howard 28 Aug (SJD). In Missouri, there were two definitive reports of American Black Duck from opposite ends of the state, one at Squaw Creek 20 Nov (JBo), the other at Mingo 26 Nov (CB). Two Mottled Ducks were also reported, representing the 3rd and 4th Missouri records: one at C.P.S.P. 28-29 Aug



Identifying *Aechmophorus* grebes can be challenging. This individual at Thousand Hills State Park, Adair County, Missouri 23-24 (here 24) October 2011 exhibited asymmetry in the facial pattern suggestive of a Western Grebe \times Clark's Grebe hybrid. Photograph by Peter Kondrshov.



For the second fall in a row, Whooping Cranes visited Missouri. This adult and juvenile were in Newton County 21 November 2011. The juvenile had been fitted with a GPS satellite transmitter at Wood Buffalo National Park in August, one of 29 birds being tracked to learn more about this species' migration route and life history. Photograph by Becky Wylie.

(acc. MA), the other at Otter Slough 1 Sep–30 Oct (acc. CB). A duck at Squaw Creek 1 Nov (MR, JK) was likely either a Mottled or an American Black Duck. The last Blue-winged Teal reported from Iowa was at Saylorville 19 Nov (AB). Five Northern Shovelers in Sac, IA 18 Aug (TH) were the earliest reported. The first Northern Pintail were 8 at Union Slough 31 Aug (MK). Three Green-winged Teal were early in Jasper, IA 20 Aug and 8 in Mahaska the same day (JJJ) were early.

There were no Aug or Sep reports of Canvasback, but U.S.F.W.S. aerial surveys along the Mississippi R. began detecting birds in early Oct; the peak of 450,000 at Pool #9, Allamakee 7 Nov was thought to represent close to 65% of this species' total population. A Ring-necked Duck at Burr Oak, Wineshiek 27 Aug (DC) may have been an early migrant. A high count of 32 Greater Scaup came from the Maryville area, Nodaway, MO 9 Nov (DAE); only 22 were reported from all

of Iowa. Surf Scoters made a good showing, with 39 in Iowa and 9 in Missouri. The first Surf Scoter was at Rock Creek S.P., Jasper 1 Oct (JF), the 3rd earliest date on record for Iowa. Only 17 White-winged Scoter were reported, 15 of them from Iowa. Black Scoters arrived in late Oct, with the first report of one at Clear L., Cerro Gordo 22 Oct (RG). Eighteen were reported in Iowa and 4 in Missouri. Of the 5 Long-tailed Ducks noted in Iowa, the first was at Cedar L., Linn 20 Oct (JF). The first of 2 Missouri birds was an ad. male at Smithville 10 Nov (KM). Bufflehead migration was late. Peak numbers along the Mississippi R. occurred 28 Nov, when 6810 were at Pool #13, Clinton (U.S.F.W.S.). Adding excitement was the male Barrow's Goldeneye found at Eagle Point Park, Pool #13, Clinton 30 Nov (JF). The warm weather allowed Hooded Mergansers to linger in Iowa, with 58 below the dam at Saylorville, Polk 29 Nov (DT). A female Red-breasted Merganser at Saylorville Res., Polk 27 Sep (ph. JG) set the 2nd earliest date for Iowa and was four weeks ahead of the next reported birds.

The recent severe winters have hit Iowa's Northern Bobwhite population hard, with an 80% population decline since 2009; in contrast, Gray Partridge are holding their own, being detected at the same rate as in 2010 (Iowa Department of Natural Resources). Wild Turkeys are doing much better in the state, with 306 tallied at DeSoto 29 Nov (U.S.F.W.S.). In Missouri, 34 Greater Prairie-Chickens at Taberville Prairie 4 Nov (MR, JK) made a very high count for this state-listed Endangered species. Many of these birds were most likely translocated birds from the Missouri Department of Conservation's reintroduction program (fide DK).

LOONS THROUGH FALCONS

Iowa reported 3 Red-throated Loons, the first at Coralville L., Johnson 27 Oct–7 Nov (JF, ph. LR, JLF). The only Missouri bird was at L.W. 6 Nov (ph. CB), where this species is seldom reported. A juv. Pacific Loon at Saylorville 20-21 Oct (m.ob.) provided the 3rd earliest date for Iowa; the two other sightings in the state were in Nov. In Missouri, singles were at Swan L. 5 Nov (DW, m.ob.) and at L.C. 8 Nov (LL). Peak numbers of Common Loon were 72 at Saylorville 9 Nov (AB) and 47 at Stockton L., Cedar 5 Nov (MR, JK). Four Red-necked Grebes were reported from Iowa, the first at Little Wall L., Hamilton 17 Oct (ph. SJD). The only Missouri bird was at Sever South L., Knox 19 Oct (FC, ph. PK). The Regional high count of 22 Eared Grebes at L. Manawa, Pottawattamie 20 Nov (LP, BP) was nearly twice that of all other reports

combined. Small numbers of Western Grebes were reported from across the Region. The first Iowa bird was 16 Oct at L. Manawa, *Pottawattamie* (LJP, BKP). Missouri had a record early bird at Smithville 16-18 Sep (DWi, PK). More interesting was an *Aechmophorus* grebe at Thousand Hills 23-24 Oct (FC, ph. PK). The bird exhibited asymmetry in the facial pattern and was a possible hybrid between Western and Clark's Grebes. The largest count of Double-crested Cormorant was 5000 at Hitchcock 13 Oct (MO). In Missouri, they nested at C.P.S.P., with 125 birds still present 29 Aug (JU, BR)—one of few rookeries in the state and a first in this area. Three Anhingas were reported at Mingo 28 Aug (CB), and one was at Otter Slough 12 Sep (CB). The first large numbers of American White Pelican were 80 birds at T.R.W. 3 Aug (SK). By the 4th week of Aug, 8150 pelicans were at Red Rock, *Marion* (JJD, SJD).

American Bitterns were elusive, with the only report from Bob Pyle Marsh, *Story*, IA 4 Oct (SJD). Least Bitterns were also scarce, with only one report from each state. Great Blue Herons did not congregate in large numbers in Missouri, but 548 in *Fremont* 4 Aug (SJD) was a notable number. Great Egrets lingered in Iowa below the Saylorville dam through 24 Oct (DT), and the latest Missouri sighting was at L.L. 30 Nov (SL, KS). The high count for the Region was of 920 at Mingo 14 Aug (BR, JU). For the first time since 1993, there were no reports of Snowy Egret from Iowa. The high count in Missouri was of 60 at C.P.S.P. 29 Aug; the latest report was of 2 at Squaw Creek 17 Oct (MR, JK). The same pattern held for Little Blue Heron; there were no reports from Iowa, but 200 were at R.M.B.S. and C.P.S.P. 27 Aug (BR). There were few Cattle Egrets; the last birds seen were 3 at Squaw Creek 25 Nov (JBo), with one there 29 Nov (DAE) tying the previous late date. A single Black-crowned Night-Heron lingered through 30 Nov at Owego Wetlands, *Woodbury* (TL); a juv. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Big Creek, *Polk* 11 Sep (SJD). White Ibis are becoming more common in Missouri; an imm. was at R.M.B.S. 6 Aug (JCM). A dead White-faced Ibis n. of Lone Rock, *Kossuth*, IA 18 Nov provided at a record-late date and was probably one of 2 seen there five days earlier (*vide* SJD). Up to 23 ibis near Barlett, *Fremont* 17-24 Nov (ph. KD) marked a record-late date for *Plegadis* in Iowa. A very late *Plegadis* was reported from Squaw Creek 25-30 Nov (KG, DW). A Glossy Ibis was near B. K. Leach 8 Oct (MT, AS). A Roseate Spoonbill at Otter Slough 2 Sep represents the 12th state record (acc. CB).

Twelve Black Vultures n. of Herculaneum,

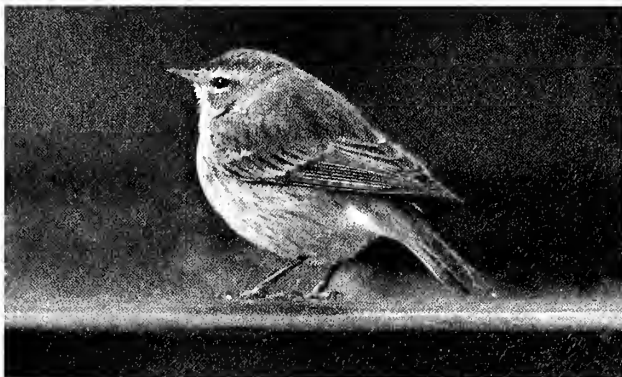
Jefferson 18 Oct (CB) were n. and e. of their expected range. The season total of 4126 Turkey Vultures at Hitchcock was 2nd only to last year's total (MO). The last reported Osprey was at George Wyth S.P., *Black Hawk* 3 Nov (DGE). All 6 Mississippi Kites at Hitchcock were seen in Sep, including the last of the season 25 Sep (MO). The hawk-watch also tallied a new high record for Bald Eagle, with a season total of 1153 (MO). Along the Mississippi R., 350 were counted at Lansing, *Allamakee* 13 Nov (RZ). A very early Northern Harrier was observed at Eagle Bluffs 13 Aug (MRC); 43 flew over Hitchcock 13 Oct (MO). The Sharp-shinned Hawk total of 878 at Hitchcock was 2nd worst ever; 766 were recorded in 2007. The 260 Cooper's Hawks recorded there were near the five-year average (JT). The first Northern Goshawks were 2 at Hitchcock 9 Oct (MO), and there were 9 other individuals reported from Iowa, with the last one at Green Bay Bottoms, *Lee* 12 Nov (JR). Red-shouldered Hawks are uncommon in the w. portion of the Region, with only 2 observed at Hitchcock this season (MO). The first big count of Broad-winged Hawk was 157 in *Pottawattamie* 19 Sep, and the last were 36 there 12 Oct (MO), an unusually large number for so late in the season. There are no established hawk-watch sites in Missouri; 500 Broad-winged at L.O.S.P. 25 Sep (JU, EW) was a very good total. The count of 143 Swainson's Hawks made the lowest total recorded in the 10 years that Hitchcock has been active (MO). A Harlan's Hawk at Eureka, *St. Louis* 18 Oct (JU) was farther e. than usual. Ferruginous Hawks are rare in the Region; an ad. that passed Hitchcock 15 Oct (†MO) was the 11th there since 2002. The first Golden Eagle was at Hitchcock 19 Oct (MO). The Gram-



Several of the Snowy Owls found in Iowa in fall and winter 2011 were picked up dead or starving, a fate this individual near Glasgow, Jefferson County 17 November was doing its best to avoid. Photograph by Aaron Helterbran.

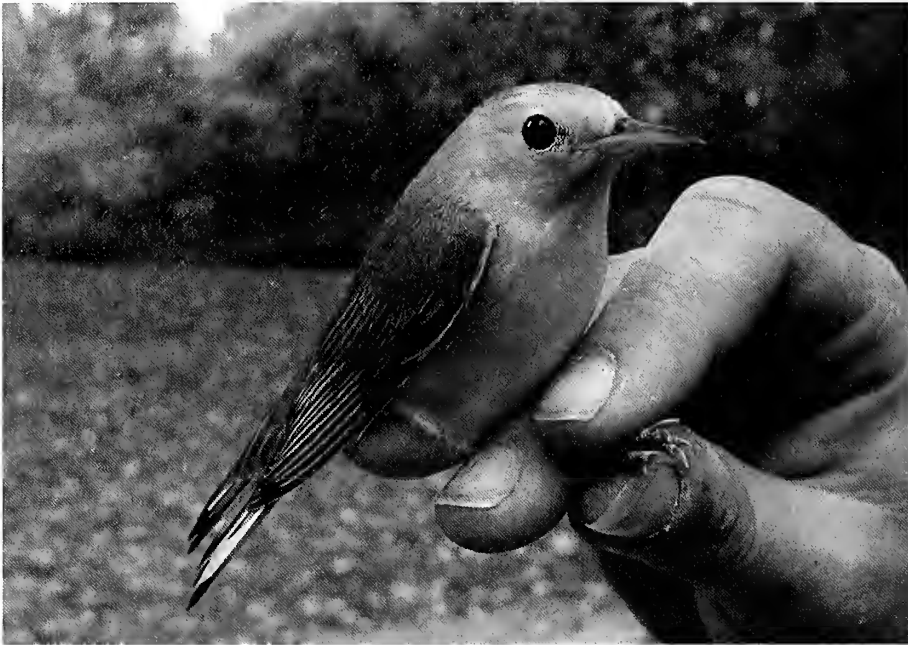


Red Knot is a very rare species in Iowa, so the five birds observed in fall 2011 made a notable total. This juvenile was at Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County 30 August. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore.



Palm Warblers do migrate later than most of their congeners, but this one at Cedar Lake, Linn County on 30 November 2011 represents the second latest record for Iowa. Photograph by Linda Rudolph.

mer Grove Hawkwatch, *Marshall* had 3 Golden Eagles 27 Nov (MP). Farther s., an imm. Golden Eagle was at Cuivre River S.P., *Lincoln*, MO 22 Oct (BR) was the first of 2 reported in the state. American Kestrel totals were low, with 16 at Grammer Grove (MP) and 85 at Hitchcock (MO). Merlins were reported from across the Region, with the first one very far s. at Mingo 28 Aug (CB). Peregrine Falcon



Prothonotary Warblers are early fall migrants. This record-late bird was banded in Missouri at Voelkerding Slough Wetland Preserve 10 October 2011. Photograph by Dana Ripper.

numbers were up, with 109 birds counted at Hitchcock, 48 of which passed 10-12 Oct (MO). Three Prairie Falcons were seen at Hitchcock, the first 23 Oct and the last 25 Nov (MO). The only report from Missouri was of one at T.P.C.A. 4 Nov (MR, JK).

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPEs

Few Soras were reported, with an unusually low peak count of 10 at B. K. Leach 8 Oct (MT, PL). Yellow Rails moved through the Region in Oct; the first of seven sightings came from Horseshow Bend, *Louisa* 7 Oct (CF), and the last was at V.S.W.P. 29 Oct (DH). A record-late Common Gallinule lingered at August Busch C.A., *St. Charles* through 4 Nov (PL). Over 71,000 American Coots were at Pool #13, *Clinton* 17-24 Oct (U.S.F.W.S.). Four Sandhill Crane pairs were in Iowa in Aug, and an ad. and 2 colts from a pair that nested at Eagle Bluffs remained through the end of the season (EW). For the 2nd fall in a row, Whooping Cranes visited Missouri. An ad. and a juv. were in *Newton* 21 Nov (†JC, ph. BW). The juv. had been fitted with a satellite transmitter at Wood Buffalo N.P., AB in Aug, one of 29 birds being tracked to learn more about this species' migration route and life history (*fide* WW).

The first Black-bellied Plover arrived 8 Aug at Hawkeye W.A., *Johnson* (JF), three weeks before the next reported birds. American Golden-Plovers showed up in great numbers—1309 were seen in Iowa. The 530 near Bartlett, *Fremont* 29 Oct (KD, LJP, BKP) made the highest fall count since 1990. A very high late count of 102 came from Squaw Creek and

Bob Brown 1 Nov (MR, JK); the last few at Bartlett and Saylorville 24 Nov (KD, AB) were the 3rd latest on record. Three Piping Plovers at the Aldrich arm of Stockton Res., *Polk* 7 Aug (GSw, m.ob.) were the only ones reported. Killdeer were present in high numbers, with 1650 at Squaw Creek and Bob Brown 1 Nov (MR, JK) and 1150 at DeSoto 9 Nov (U.S.F.W.S.). Part of the species' range expansion, Black-necked Stilts are now regular in the St. Louis region (JU, PL, PK). The season high count of 62 came from Otter Slough 27 Aug (CB). In Iowa, 5 near Mt. Pleasant, *Henry* 17 Aug–3 Sep (JLF, m.ob.) made the 3rd fall record. American Avocets were reported across the Region, with a high of 37 at Smithville 17 Oct (MR, JK). The last 2 were at L. Macbride, *Johnson* 5 Nov (JF). A very late Spotted Sandpiper was at L.W. 25 Nov (CB). A late high count of 53 Greater Yellowlegs came from Squaw Creek and Bob Brown 1 Nov (MR, JK); and a high late count of 330 Lesser Yellowlegs came from Squaw Creek 17 Oct (MR, JK). The last Lessers reported were 28 near Bartlett, *Fremont*, IA 24 Nov (KD).

A Hudsonian Godwit at the nw. end of Red Rock, *Marion* 27 Sep (DT) was a 3rd latest on record for Iowa. There were four reports of Marbled Godwit in Iowa, with the sole Missouri report from C.P.S.P. 28 Aug–4 Sep (MA, JU). Of five reports of Ruddy Turnstone, the latest was one at Saylorville through 18 Oct (SJD). Three reports of 5 total Red Knots in Iowa was high for this very rare fall migrant (ph. SJD, JF, JS). Western Sandpiper is an uncommon to rare transient in the St. Louis

area in the fall, so 2 juvs. 29 Aug at C.P.S.P. and 2 ads. there 4 Sep (JU) were noteworthy. Late Least Sandpipers included 28 at C.C.L. 5 Nov (MT); the latest report in Missouri was of 5 at Carl Junction Lagoons, *Jasper* 28 Nov (LH). White-rumped Sandpiper is a rare fall migrant in the Region. Three detailed reports came from Iowa, all at Saylorville: one on 23 Aug (AB), 3 on 31 Aug (DT), and one on 4 Sep (SJD). The two reports from Missouri were of 5 birds at C.P.S.P. 11 Sep (acc. BR) and a single at Jamestown Development, *Greene* 17 Sep (acc. GSA, *fide* BR). Pectoral Sandpipers peaked at 1379 at Saylorville 24 Aug (SJD); the last one was at Winter's Pond, *Winneshiek*, IA 22 Nov (LR), a record-late date for the county. Relatively high counts of Dunlin were noted at R.M.B.S., with 13 on 30 Oct (BR) and 35 on 3 Nov (JCM). Stilt Sandpipers were recorded regularly during Oct in Iowa and Nov in Missouri. Some 340 were at Squaw Creek 17 Oct (MR, JK). Buff-breasted Sandpipers were reported in strong numbers Aug–mid-Sep; the high count was of 48 at Saylorville 4 Sep (SJD), and one at Squaw Creek 17 Oct was record late for Missouri (MR, †JK). The 150 Long-billed Dowitchers at Squaw Creek 1 Nov made a high count for this date (MR, JK). A juv. Red Phalarope at M.C.A. 4 Nov (†MR, †JK), represents a record-late date for this casual fall migrant.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Black-legged Kittiwakes were reported at R.M.B.S. 20 Nov (JCM) and at L.W. 24 Nov (†CB). Single juv. Sabine's Gulls were at Saylorville 14 Sep (SJD) and at Red Rock 25 Sep (JG) and 22 Oct (CF). A first-cycle Little Gull was at Smithville 4-5 Nov (DWi, RD). A first-cycle Laughing Gull at C.P.S.P. 25-28 Aug (DBe, BR, JU) was along the Mississippi R., where this rare transient is most often observed in the Region. The 400 Ring-billed Gulls at C.P.S.P. 27 Aug (JU) represented a relatively high count for this early date. The gull highlight was an ad. California Gull at Aldrich, *Polk*, MO 13 Nov (MA, m.ob.). Two ad. Lesser Black-Backed Gulls were Iowa at Red Rock 10 Oct (CF) and at Fisher L., *Polk* 21 Nov (JG, PR); Missouri had an early second-cycle bird at R.M.B.S. 9 Sep (ph. JU) and an ad. there 20 Nov (JU). Away from the Mississippi R., there are fewer than 10 Missouri records of Lesser Black-backed, so a second-cycle at Smithville 28 Oct–11 Nov (KM, RD) and possibly later (KM) and an ad. at L.B.S.P. 25 Nov (PK) were of note. A first-cycle Glaucous Gull was record early 27 Oct on the Clinton waterfront, *Clinton*, MO (JLF). Three juvs. were reported from Iowa in Nov.

The first Caspian Tern arrived at Jester

Park, *Polk* 7-13 Aug (BE, JB), and numbers peaked at 198 at Saylorville 3 Sep (AB, BE, SJD). A rather late Common Tern was at South Farm R-1 L., *Boone*, MO 12 Oct (RD). Saylorville also hosted 158 Forster's Terns 3 Sep (SJD, AB). A very late bird was at L.W. 25 Nov (†CB). Black Terns were seen in numbers at several Iowa locations 3 Sep (AB, SJD, WS, JS) but were gone from the state the following day. A Pomarine Jaeger at Smithville 10 Nov (DWi, †KM) made the only report of a jaeger.

Three White-winged Doves that spent the summer in Shenandoah, IA were last seen 9 Nov (KD). Continuing the trend of southerly species moving northward, Missouri recorded its 7th and 8th Common Ground-Doves this season. One was found at Otter Slough 5 Nov (†KB), and the other was at Weldon Spring C.A., *St. Charles* 24 Nov+ (†M, ph. PK, m.ob.). A Black-billed Cuckoo in *Cerro Gordo* 13 Oct (RG) was late. A juv. male Snowy Owls in *O'Brien*, IA 7 Nov (CE) was the first of 14 birds in Iowa and 4 in Missouri, heralding a widespread winter influx. Four of the Iowa birds were picked up dead or else died shortly after being taken into care (m.ob.). Most of the birds identified to age were juvs., but a female at Smithville was at least four years old (*fide* KM). Banding efforts have shown that Northern Saw-whet Owls are a relatively common late fall migrant, with 78 captures in Iowa and 26 in Missouri 17 Oct–28 Nov (JH, DR, JT). Peak numbers included 17 at Hitchcock 30 Oct (EB) and 5 at V.S.W.P. 4 Nov (DR). The peak of 62 Common Nighthawks came from Eureka, *St. Louis* 20 Aug (JU), and the largest roost of Chimney Swifts was 1850 in *Greene*, MO 10 Sep (GSA, m.ob.). There were few late Ruby-throated Hummingbirds reported, with the last at Jackson, *Cape Girardeau*, MO 16 Oct (MH). Three Rufous Hummingbirds were reported in Missouri: a one-day bird s. of Kingdom City, *Callaway* 3 Aug (GLH); an ad. male at Stony Hill, *Gasconade* 21 Oct+ (DGB), and one in *Christian* 16 Nov+ (SD). Red-headed Woodpeckers were more common at Hitchcock than in 2010, with a peak of 61 on 8 Sep (MO). The Region's high count was of an astounding 202 birds at Weston Bend 4 Sep (MR).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH LONGSPURS

The last Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen 15 Oct at Brower L., *Woodbury* (PR), the 2nd latest date on record for Iowa. The last Eastern Wood-Pewee of the season was noted 23 Oct in *Warren*, IA (JS), tying the latest date on record. There were four reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Iowa (m.ob.) and 10 at the M.W.S.U. and V.S.W.P./I.F.P. banding stations (JH, DR), all 23 Aug–19 Sep. A vocaliz-

ing Alder Flycatcher at Polk City W.A., *Polk* 6 Aug (JB) was early, as was one at Anderson L., *Hamilton* 7 Aug (SJD). The warm fall weather encouraged Eastern Phoebes to linger, with one at Mingo through 26 Nov (CB). A rather late Eastern Kingbird bird was at Big Springs 24 Sep (MR). A high count of 45 migrating Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was recorded at Joplin, *Jasper*, MO 1 Oct (LH).

A Northern Shrike at Ada Hayden Park, *Story*, IA 19 Oct (WO) was the first of the season. The 25 distinct reports from 16 Iowa counties indicated an above-average flight of this species; all four Missouri records came from the n. third of the state (FC, KG, PK). Some 32 White-eyed Vireos made a high count at M.S.P. 13 Sep (MH). A Yellow-throated Vireo at Saylorville, *Polk* 2 Oct (ph. SJD) was rather late. Blue-headed Vireos often linger into early Nov, but the last report this season was on 17 Oct at D.C.L. (CB). A Warbling Vireo at Saylorville on 2 Oct (SJD) was a record late for Iowa record by a day. Other vireos also lingered, with a Philadelphia at Brenton Arboretum, *Dallas*, IA 8 Oct (JB) and a Red-eyed Vireo at Red Cedar W.A., *Muscatine* 26 Oct (KMc). Fish Crows are expanding their range and numbers in the Region: 83+ were reported from L.W. 2 Oct and 58 there 23 Oct (CB). Farther w., 3 were at Joplin, *Jasper* 20 Aug (MH).

Purple Martins departed Iowa very early; the last was one at Sedan Bottoms, *Appanoose* 20 Aug (RC). A mixed swallow flock of 100,000 birds was at Locust Creek Bottoms, *Chariton*, MO this fall (SK). Tree Swallows gather in huge numbers during fall migration. An estimated 20,000 were at Saylorville 14 Sep (SJD). Tree Swallows lingered into Nov, with a high late count of 40 at L.W. 26 Nov (CB). The last Barn Swallows in Iowa were 3 at Hawkeye, *Johnson* 9 Oct (WS). Just across the border, at Squaw Creek, 4 were seen 19 Nov (LL), very late. Eleven Red-breasted Nuthatches at Hampton Cemetery, *Franklin* 20 Nov (SJD) made a Regional high count this season. In Missouri, the few reports were of single individuals. Carolina Wrens are still recovering after the hard winters of 2009-2010 and 2010-2011. There were only three reports of single birds in Iowa. A House Wren at Bever Park, Cedar Rapids 25 Oct (WS) was getting late; and a Sedge Wren in *Warren* 23 Oct (JS) was also tardy. Five Marsh Wrens at R.M.B.S. 7 Aug (MT) were most likely breeding birds. An impressive high of 56 Golden-crowned Kinglets were at Eagle Pt., *Clinton* 21 Oct (KMc). An ad. female Mountain Bluebird at Pershing, *Marion* 31 Oct (†JN) furnished a 12th state record for Iowa. A late-breeding pair of Eastern Blue-

birds in *Cherokee* still had 2 young in the box with about a week to fledge on 29 Aug (DB). Townsend's Solitaires were found at Easter L., *Polk*, IA 3 Oct (AJ, RA) and s. of Guthrie Center, *Guthrie*, IA 4 Nov (SS). Flight calls of Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes heard over Algona, IA 18 Sep (MK) indicated a good flight night for these species. A Varied Thrush that appeared in a Spirit L. yard 15 Nov+ (ET) made the season's only report.

Three Smith's Longspurs at Buffalo Basins, *Franklin* 9 Oct (SJD) were the 3rd earliest fall migrants recorded in Iowa. Seventeen were at M.S.U.'s Northeast Prairie, *Jasper* 19 Nov (LH, RS). A Snow Bunting at Saylorville, *Polk* 20 Oct (SJD) tied the previous early arrival date for Iowa. The first Missouri report was of 3 birds at the Grand River Bottoms w. of Chillicothe, *Livingston* 4 Nov (SK).

WARBLERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

A Worm-eating Warbler at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. *Van Buren* 25 Sep (†RC) was the 2nd latest on record for Iowa, as was a Louisiana Waterthrush at Southwood C.A., *Woodbury* 10 Sep (†PR, TL). A Brewster's Warbler was at Otter Slough 24 Sep (CB). The only Prothonotary Warbler from Iowa was late at Huron I., *Des Moines* 19 Sep (KMc); much tardier was a record-late bird banded at V.S.W.P./I.F.P. 10 Oct (DR). A relatively late Tennessee Warbler was at Princeton Marsh, *Scott* 21 Oct (KMc). The most commonly reported warbler in Iowa was Nashville Warbler; farther s., the 19 banded at M.W.S.U. was a drop of 76% from 2010 (JH). A Northern Parula in mostly juv. plumage was mist-netted on 26 Sep at V.S.W.P./I.F.P. was most likely from a very late nesting attempt (DR). A late Blackburnian Warbler at D.C.L. 11 Oct (CB) tied the previous late state record. A Hooded Warbler at Lake Ahquabi S.P., *Warren* 23 Oct (JS) was almost seven weeks later than the previous Iowa fall record. Rare in fall was a Blackpoll Warbler at Saylorville 26 Aug (SJD). A female Black-throated Blue Warbler at Big Creek, *Polk* 11 Oct (SJD) was the latest of 3 reported from Iowa. A Yellow Palm Warbler was at Big Creek, *Polk* on 11 Oct (SJD); a Palm at Cedar L., *Linn*, IA 30 Nov (ph. LR) represented the 2nd latest state record. A juv. Pine Warbler was at Lake of Three Fires S.P., *Taylor* 4 Sep (SJD). Yellow-rumped Warblers were not seen in large numbers; the high count was only 22, in *Clinton* 21 Oct (KMc). In Missouri, an Audubon's Warbler was at Christie and Davis C.A., *Andrew* 31 Oct (EW). Three Yellow-throated Warblers at D.C.L. 10 Oct (CB) made a high late count. Eight Black-throated Green Warblers at Weston Bend 10 Sep (MR) was a significant count for nw. Missouri. A Canada Warbler at

Grammer Grove, Marshall 31 Aug (MP) was the last one reported from Iowa for the season.

A female Spotted Towhee at Pine Lake S.P., Hardin 27 Sep (MP) was the easternmost of four Iowa reports. The last Eastern Towhee reported was at Iowa City 27 Nov (JLF). The first American Tree Sparrow was seen near Nevada, Story 8 Oct, the 3rd earliest arrival date for Iowa (MM). Two late Chipping Sparrows were at P.C.L. 30 Nov (MH). There were only three reports of Clay-colored Sparrow during the season, two from Iowa and one from Missouri. About 340 Vesper Sparrows were noted in Franklin 9 Oct (SJD). Le Conte's Sparrow was reported in low numbers from Iowa, but Missouri counts were higher, with 23 at Pershing 23 Oct (SK) especially noteworthy. The 35 Nelson's Sparrows at Buckshot Marsh, Appanoose 1 Oct (TNJ) was a strong count from Iowa. White-throated Sparrows numbered 345 at Chichaqua W.A., Polk, IA 9 Oct (BE). Harris's Sparrows were also abundant, with 66 in Woodbury 9 Oct (PR). A very early Dark-eyed Junco at Bridgeton, St. Louis 3 Sep (ph. AS). An Oregon Junco was observed at Columbia, Boone, MO 20 Nov (RD).

Twelve Summer Tanagers and 12 Scarlet Tanagers were at Big Springs 24 Sep (MR). The last reported Scarlet was at Parker's Woods, Cerro Gordo 10 Oct (RG). The last Rose-breasted Grosbeak of the season was at Ventura, Cerro Gordo 29 Nov (ph. PL). A Dickcissel stayed at feeders in Andrew, MO through 30 Nov (fide JH). Bobolinks were reported in low numbers, with the last birds reported being 5 at C.B.C.A. 9 Oct (BR). A Yellow-headed Blackbird was seen at South Farm

R-1 L., Boone, MO 15 Oct (RD); the only Iowa report was of one a Spirit L. 11 Nov (LAS). The first Rusty Blackbirds were 11 at Otter Creek Marsh, Tama 2 Oct (BT), with an Iowa high count of 250 near Iowa Falls, Hardin 14 Nov (TS). In Missouri, 80 were at R.M.B.S. 5 Nov (MT). Brewer's Blackbirds were reported in good numbers from across the Region. A high early count was of 220 at Bushwhacker C.A., Barton/Vernon 12 Oct (LH). The last Great-tailed Grackle of the season in Iowa was a female at L. Manawa, Pottawattamie 26 Nov (AB). Missouri had 150 in Christian 4 Sep (GSw). The 40 birds at Eagle Bluffs on 25 Nov (fide EW) made a high count for the central part of the state. The Bryan Island Stable property in St. Louis hosted 16 birds 30 Oct (BR). The last Baltimore Orioles were 2 at Pleasant Creek W.A., Jackson 20 Sep (KMc).

Two Purple Finches at Pine Lake S.P., Hardin 9 Sep (MP) were the first reported. Seven Red Crossbills were noted feeding in spruce in Algona 6 Nov (MK). A female White-winged Crossbill was photographed 11 Nov at Ames (ph. DE, fide SJD). Common Redpolls were reported from five sites in Iowa, the most since 2004. The first was of 2 at Ottosen, Humboldt 2 Nov (JNw). Pine Siskins were scarce, with a very early bird reported 12 Aug in Boone, IA (LD). The northernmost report of Eurasian Tree Sparrow was of 3 in extreme nw. Cedar 16 Oct (SJD).

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Mark Brown (MHB), Kevin Brunke, Dan & Genie Burke (DGB), Charley Burwick (CBu), Jeff Cantrell, Dennis Carter, Frankie Cuculich, Raymond Cummins, Larry Dau, James Dinsmore (JJD), Stephen Dinsmore (SJD), Ryan Douglas, Sarah Driver, Keith Dyche, David Easterla (DAE), David Eastman (DGE), Dave Edwards, Chris Edwards (CRE), Charlene Elyea, Bery Engebretsen, James Forde, Chuck Fuller, James L. Fuller (JLF), Jacob Gilliam, Rita Goranson, Kirby Goslee, Mark Haas, Tyler Harms, Don Hays, Susan Hazelwood, Larry Herbert, Paul Hertz, Jack Hilsabeck, Garry & Larry Houf (GLH), Ann Johnson, Matthew Kenne, Dylan Kesler, Steve Kinder, Jon King, Andrew Kinslow, Peter Kondrashov, Larry Lade, Sherry Leonardo, Pat Lueders, Paulette Lugg, Tucker Lutter, Jim & Charlene Malone (JCM), Kristi Mayo, Kelly McKay (KMc), Michael Meetz, Missouri Bird Records Committee (MBRC), June Newman, Jacob Newton (JNw), Wolfgang Oesterreich, Mark Orsag, Babs Padelford, Loren Padelford, Mark Proescholdt, Larry Reis, Dana Ripper, Mark Robbins, Paul Roisen, Bill Rowe, Linda Rudolph, John Rutenbeck, Greg Samuel (GSa), William Scheible, Tom Schilke, Lee Schoenewe, Ronda Sherrill, Jim Sinclair, Al Smith, Karen Stair, Stuart Stringham, Greg Swick (GSw), Ed Thelen, Mike Thelen, Dennis Thompson, Jerry Toll, Bill Tollefson, Joshua Uffman, Gerald Von Ehwegen, Edge Wade, Walter Wehtje, Darrin Welchert, Doug Willis, Becky Wylie, Ric Zarwell. 🌐

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Weather conditions during fall 2011 were variable during the season. Overall, temperatures were relatively normal during August, although the season's high readings of 106° F and 103° F were reached at Memphis and Bowling Green, respectively, 3 August; Chattanooga also exceeded the century mark during the month (101° F on 26 August). August precipitation was slightly below normal in eastern Kentucky but excessively dry across much of the Region's western half, where Bowling Green and Paducah recorded about one-third and

one-half normal rainfall, respectively. That was nothing, however, compared to Chattanooga, where only 0.03 cm of rainfall was recorded during the month!

Despite Louisville's high of 102° F on 3 September, the month was overall cooler than normal. Most of the Region experienced more rainfall than normal in September (Louisville and Lexington recorded about two times normal amounts), but some of the east remained a bit dry. During the period 4-8 September, the remnants of Tropical Storm *Lee* stalled and fell apart over the Region; although only one coastal waif was reported in Tennessee, the stormy conditions grounded an astonishing number and variety of waterbirds across the Region, especially in eastern Tennessee.

October was cooler than normal across

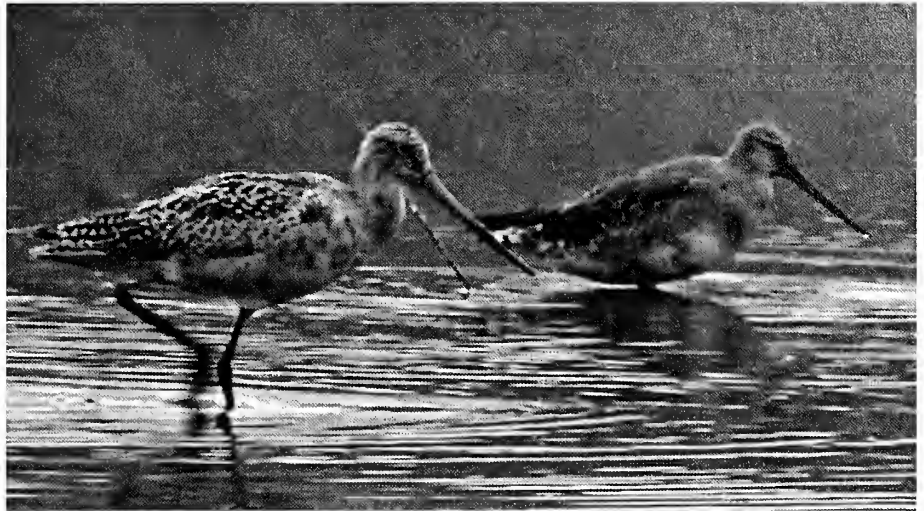
most of the Region, while precipitation was above normal in the east (Knoxville recording about two times normal rainfall) but well below normal in the southern and western parts (Nashville and Memphis recording about one-third normal rainfall). Finally, November turned warmer and wetter than normal Regionwide, with many recording stations tallying 150-200% of normal rainfall for the month.

Rarity highlights included Red-throated Loon, Anhinga, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Swallow-tailed Kite, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Jaeger, Western Kingbird, and Clay-colored Sparrow in Kentucky, and Magnificent Frigatebird, Tricolored Heron, White Ibis, White-faced Ibis, Wood Stork, Swallow-tailed Kite, Yellow Rail, Ruff, Red Phalarope, Great Black-backed Gull, Little Gull, Glaucous Gull, Parasitic Jaeger, three unidentified jaegers, White-winged Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, and Cave Swallow in Tennessee. Irruptive boreal species were relatively scarce again this fall, suggesting a limited presence during the upcoming winter season. Most natural food crops appeared to be present in below-average supply again, especially where the driest late summer/fall season conditions persisted.

Abbreviations: Barren River L. (*Allen/Barren*, KY); Duck River (Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Humphreys*, TN); Ensley (Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex and TVA L., in sw. *Shelby*, TN); Fishing Creek (Fishing Creek embayment of L. Cumberland, *Pulaski*, KY); Grassy Pond (Grassy Pond/Powells Lake Unit Sloughs W.M.A., *Henderson* [unless otherwise noted]); Minor Clark Fish Hatchery (*Rowan*, KY); Morgan Pond (s. *Christian*, KY); Rankin Bottoms (*Cocke*, TN); Paris Landing (Paris Landing S.P., *Henry*, TN); Sauerheber (Sauerheber Unit Sloughs W.M.A., *Henderson*, KY); Snow Bunting Peninsula (the boat ramps at the end of Burnett Rd., Old Hickory L., *Davidson*, TN); Standifer Gap (Standifer Gap Marsh, *Hamilton*, TN).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBIS

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, now apparently well established as a breeding species in sw. *Shelby*, TN, were present at least through early Nov; five separate broods were confirmed at Ensley, with a peak count of 39 ads. and 29 young in one pool 6 Sep (JRW). Greater White-fronted Geese began arriving across the Region slightly earlier than usual; one on Kentucky L., *Calloway*, KY 14 Oct (HC, ME) and 38 there 16 Oct (HC) were the earliest to be reported; 19 at Upper Douglas L., *Cocke*, TN 23 Oct (DK) represented an unusually large number for e. Tennessee. Early season



A Marbled Godwit (left) and a Hudsonian Godwit, both very rare in Tennessee, were at Rankin Bottoms, Cocke County 6-8 (here 8) September 2011; the Marbled was still present 9 September. In total, 31 species of shorebirds were observed at this location during the fall season. Could the arrival of these godwits have been related to the passage of Tropical Storm Lee through the region in early September? Photograph by Michael Sledjeski.

peak counts included 1500 at Sauerheber 22 Nov (*fide* RP) and 450 at Ballard W.M.A., *Ballard*, KY 30 Nov (KK, *fide* RP). Twenty Cackling Geese at Buckner, *Oldham*, KY 26 Nov (ph. MC) were the earliest to be reported. An injured (although flying) Snow Goose at Ensley 20 Aug (JRW, MT, NM) either summered or was extremely early; otherwise, 2 in *Washington*, TN 2 Oct (ph. JA) were the earliest reported. Single Ross's Geese were at Elizabethton, *Carter*, TN 11 Nov (TM) and in *Sullivan*, TN 23-24 Nov (MSm). The first of the wintering flock of Tundra Swans at Sauerheber were 13 there 16 Nov (CC), with 78 there by 26 Nov (CC); 17 Tundras at Watauga L., *Carter*, TN 10 Nov (B&JP) established a new high count for ne. Tennessee. A Mute Swan was at Hiwassee Refuge, *Meigs*, TN 4 Sep (KAC et al.).

Peak counts for most waterfowl were overall unimpressive, although 16,000 Gadwalls at Duck River 22 Oct (CAS, SSo) and 60,000 Mallards in *Ballard*, KY 23 Nov (PHs) were noteworthy. A fallout of 4100 ducks comprising 15 species—3000 of them Lesser Scaup—occurred at Boone L., *Sullivan/Washington* 17 Nov (RLK, m.ob.), one of the largest ever in ne. Tennessee. A male Ring-necked Duck at Ballard W.M.A., *Ballard*, KY 9 Aug (ph. RD) and 10 Lesser Scaup on L. Barkley, *Lyon*, KY 9 Oct (BPa) were likely continuing from summer. A flock of 62 Canvasbacks in *Marion*, TN 13 Nov (TR, GB) made an unusually high count for e. Tennessee. There were only four Kentucky reports of Surf Scoter: 3 on the Ohio R. at Louisville 28 Oct (BPa et al.), with one there 4 Nov (DSL et al.); one on Green River L., *Adair* 24 Nov (DCo); and 6 on L. Cumberland, *Russell* 30 Nov (RD). In Tennessee, Surf

Scoters were reported from seven locations in *Hamilton*, *Henry*, *Shelby*, *Sullivan*, and *Washington* 28 Oct–24 Nov, highlighted by 8 on Ft. Patrick Henry L., *Sullivan* (GE), 2-3 on South Holston L., *Sullivan*, TN (WC, MSa, RLK), and 6 on Boone L., *Sullivan/Washington* (RLK), all 17 Nov; the last were part of the duck fallout mentioned above and were accompanied by 6 White-winged Scoters (RLK). The only other scoters reported were single White-winged at Britton Ford, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Henry*, TN 19 Nov (N.T.O.S.) and at Ensley 29 Nov (JRW), and a single Black Scoter on the Mississippi R., *Shelby*, TN 5 Nov (JRW). The lone Long-tailed Duck was a juv. on the Mississippi R., *Shelby*, TN 17 Nov (JRW). The male Ruddy Duck that summered on L. Reba, *Madison*, KY was seen on several occasions in Sep–Oct (AN).

Single Red-throated Loons were on South Holston L. 10 Nov (RLK, WC); off Pace Pt., Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Henry*, TN 19 Nov (JRW); on Green River L., *Adair*, KY 24 Nov (†DCo); and off Trailer Rd., *Henry*, TN 26 Nov (JRW). The 17 Nov waterbird fallout included 260 Horned Grebes on Boone L., *Sullivan/Washington*, a noteworthy high count for ne. Tennessee. A Red-necked Grebe was off Pace Pt., Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Henry*, TN 5, 19, & 26 Nov (SSo, N.T.O.S., JRW). Peaking at 5 individuals, Eared Grebes returned to South Holston L. 11 Oct+ (RKn, WC, RLK, m.ob.) for the 18th straight year. The only other one reported was on the Mississippi R., Mud I., *Shelby*, TN 30 Sep (JRW), an unusually early date.

Anhinga remains a casual visitor to Kentucky, so 2 females or imms. seen kettling with vultures nw. of Wickliffe, *Ballard*, KY 23

SA The remnants of Tropical Storm *Lee* moved northward from the Gulf of Mexico and then stalled and essentially fell apart over the Region 4-8 Sep. Due to the unorganized nature of the circulation and slow progress of the system northward, it was actually somewhat surprising that any coastal waifs were found, but an imm. **Magnificent Frigatebird** was viewed from Snow Bunting Peninsula 5 Sep (FF, PC), representing only the 4th record for Tennessee and the Region; all three previous records were also associated with tropical storms. The dreary weather associated with the system produced was a strong fallout of fall migrant waterbirds and shorebirds. Most notable among these was a subad. **Parasitic Jaeger** photographed at Snow Bunting Peninsula 6 Sep (ph. ES, FF, SSo), 3 unidentified jaegers there 7 Sep (FF, PC, MSm), and several rare shorebirds, particularly on Upper Douglas L., *Cocke*, TN, including a **Hudsonian Godwit** 6-8 Sep (MBS, RLK, m.ob.) and a **Marbled Godwit** 6-9 Sep (MBS, RLK, m.ob.). In addition, many shorebirds and terns of interest were noted 5-9 Sep (Table 1).

Table 1. Selected reports of migrants observed in Tennessee and Kentucky 5-9 September 2012 during weather associated with Tropical Storm *Lee*.

Species (number)	Location	Date(s)	Observers
Lesser Yellowlegs (79)	Fishing Creek	5 Sep	RD
Red Knot (2)	Snow Bunting Peninsula	6 Sep	JHu, ph. ES, MSm, m.ob.
Red Knot (1)	Rankin Bottoms	7-8 Sep	DMi, m.ob.
Sanderling (14)	Rankin Bottoms	6 Sep	MBS
Sanderling (16)	Falls of the Ohio	7-8 Sep	EHu, BPa
Western Sandpiper (10+)	Rankin Bottoms	8 Sep	KDE
White-rumped Sandpiper (2)	Brainerd Levee	5 Sep	KAC, DJ
White-rumped Sandpiper (7)	Fishing Creek	6 Sep	ph. RD
White-rumped Sandpiper (1/2)	Louisville area	7 Sep;	BPa, EHu/PM, CM
White-rumped Sandpiper (14)	Rankin Bottoms	8 Sep	SSo
Stilt Sandpiper (40)	Rankin Bottoms	6 Sep	MBS, RLK, m.ob.
Wilson's Phalarope (101*)	South Holston L.	5 Sep	WC, RCr, RLw
Red-necked Phalarope (1/1)	Fishing Creek	6/7 Sep	ph. RD; different juvs.
Red-necked Phalarope (1-3)	Rankin Bottoms	6-9 Sep	MBS, RLK, m.ob.
Caspian Tern (32)	Falls of the Ohio	8 Sep	BPa
Black Tern (1-12)	various	5-9 Sep	m.ob.
Common Tern (25)	Fishing Creek	5 Sep	RD
Common Tern (15)	Snow Bunting Peninsula	7 Sep	ph. CAS, SSo
Common Tern (34)	Rankin Bottoms	7 Sep	RLK
Common Tern (8)	Nickajack L., <i>Marion</i> , TN	7 Sep	TR
Common Tern (12)	Falls of the Ohio	8 Sep	BPa

* = new record high count for Region.

Sep (MM, EHu, †BPa) were noteworthy. In *Shelby*, TN, where **Anhingas** are uncommon but regular, one to 4 were at Mud. L. on six dates 20 Aug-4 Sep (JRW et al.), a juv. was at Horn Lake Cutoff 19 Aug (JRW), and one was at McKeller L. 25 Aug (JRW). The American White Pelican continuing at the Falls of the Ohio from the summer season was last seen there 14 Aug (TBe et al.); one was at Hiwassee Refuge, *Meigs*, TN 20 Nov (BH). Two Least Bitterns e. of Morganfield, *Union* 14 Aug (BPa, EHu, AN) were the only ones reported from Kentucky. In Tennessee, single Least Bitterns were reported from *Ensley* 19 Aug (JRW), at Rankin Bottoms 30 Aug (SSo), and in *Marshall* 10 Sep (DMo). The only American Bitterns reported were 2 at Shady Valley, *Johnson*, TN 24 Sep (RKn, GE), one at Duck River 22 Oct (SSo, CAS), and one

at *Sauerheber* 29 Oct (BPa, KOS). The Great White Heron first reported 16 Jul on the *Nolichucky* R., *Unicoi*, TN remained through 24 Sep (m.ob.). Numbers of waders were again quite low in the w. portion of the Region. A Great Egret at the Falls of the Ohio 12 Nov (RLa, BBC) was tardy. Single Tricolored Herons were reported from near *Island* 13, *Lake*, TN 8 Aug (TW) and at Upper Douglas L., *Cocke*, TN 21 Sep (DK, MBS). A Cattle Egret nw. of Science Hill, *Pulaski*, KY 8 Nov (ph. RD) was late and unusual for so far east. Up to 3 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at *Grassy Pond* 2-11 Aug (ph. CC) were the only ones reported in Kentucky. There were two Kentucky reports of White Ibis: 3 juvs. at a transient pond in sw. *Logan* 13 Aug (†MBe) and an ad. s. of *Burnside*, *Pulaski* 19 Aug (†RD). Imm. White Ibis were widely reported in ne.

were seen, suggesting low productivity during 2011 (m.ob.), perhaps due to the heavy spring rains. Away from the Mississippi Alluvial Valley region, a single Mississippi Kite in *Bledsoe*, TN 10 Aug (CG) was followed by an astonishing 10 on 13 Aug (SKL, KB), likely representing the largest count ever for e. Tennessee. Eight were still present 16 Aug (CE). Single Ospreys at *L. Peewee*, *Hopkins*, KY 7 Nov (ph. CC) and at *L. Cumberland*, *Pulaski*, KY 10 Nov (RD) were a bit tardy. A flight of 7000 Broad-winged Hawks at *Big Bald Mt.*, *Unicoi*, TN 25 Sep (MHp) was remarkably large for the Region. Single **Krider's Red-tailed Hawks** were reported from *Lake* and *Dyer*, TN 22 Oct (JRW). Two Western Red-tailed Hawks, one a dark morph, were at *Ensley* 5 Nov (JRW). There were three reports of Golden Eagle in Kentucky: a juv. s. of *Mt.*

Tennessee, with one to 5 individuals reported from *Cocke*, *Greene*, *Knox*, *Roane*, and *Sullivan* 7 Aug-18 Sep, including up to 5 at Rankin Bottoms 7 Aug-1 Sep (MBS, m.ob.). One along the *Holston* R., *Sullivan/Hawkins*, TN 14-17 Oct (ph. RLM) was unusually late. A Glossy Ibis was reported at *Owsley Fork* L., *Madison*, KY 16 Sep (ph., †AN). A White-faced Ibis at *Neva*, *Johnson* 26-27 Oct (ph. MvB, m.ob.) furnished only the 3rd record for e. Tennessee. Wood Storks made a noteworthy incursion into *Shelby*, TN 19-22 Aug, with a peak count of 35 at *Mud L.* (MT, JRW, NM).

RAPTORS THROUGH JAEGERS

A Swallow-tailed Kite was reported along *Puncheon Cr.* s. of *Mt. Zion*, *Allen*, KY 15 Aug (†MBy, †JBy et al.); one in *Bledsoe*, TN 20 Jul-12 Aug (SKL, KB, m.ob.) was particularly noteworthy, both because most prior records have been one-day wonders and because one had been reported from the same location the previous year. One observer believed it likely that he saw 2 there 11 Aug (SJS). Good numbers of Mississippi Kites were seen at scattered traditional locales along the Mississippi R. floodplain during the late summer/fall season, but few juvs.



White-faced Ibis are very rare in Tennessee. This adult in Johnson County 26-27 (here 26) October 2011 represented eastern Tennessee's third record. Remarkably, it was found on a small pond in a narrow mountain valley far from the nearest sizeable body of water. Photograph by Michele von Bergen.

Zion, Allen, 31 Oct (MBy, MBc); a juv. ne. of Red Hill, Allen 8 Nov (†JBb); and one at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery 13 Nov (†BWu). It was a good season for Merlin, with reports one to 2 individuals from 12 locales in Kentucky and eight locales in Tennessee 3 Sep–19 Nov. It was a similarly good season for Peregrine Falcons, with at least 13 reports of one to 2 presumed migrants at a dozen locales in Kentucky and at least 13 reports of one to 2 at 12 locations in Tennessee, all 15 Sep–17 Nov.

A Yellow Rail was at Duck River 19 Oct (CF). A King Rail at Sauerheber 22 Oct (BPa et al.) was the only one reported from Kentucky. A Virginia Rail heard at Pumphouse Pond, Pulaski 22 Oct and 12 Nov (RD, RD; AN) was the only one reported from Kentucky; in Tennessee, singles were at Kingsport 18 Oct (SSo, DK) and Standifer Gap 15 Nov (KAC), and 2 were at the Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Greene 22 Oct (DMi). It was yet another down year for Soras, with only one to 4 reported from six Kentucky locales 13 Aug–22 Oct (m.ob.). In Tennessee, there were a few noteworthy counts: 6 were at Kingsport 18 Oct (SSo, DK) and at Duck River 19 Oct (CF), and an impressive 2-3 dozen were heard calling at Duck River 13 Sep (CF). A presumed family group of 4 Common Gallinules were e. of Morganfield, Union, KY 14 Aug (BPa, EHu, AN); singles were at Kingsport, TN 8 Sep (DHu) and John Sevier L., Hawkins, TN (SHb). A few summering American Coots lingered at Morgan Pond and Swallow Spring Pond, Christian, KY through 17 Aug (RD).

A flock of about 30 Sandhill Cranes over Nelson, KY 25 Sep (JSs) was remarkably early.

In addition to the high counts of several shorebird species noted during early Sep (Table 1), additional peak shorebird counts included 1000 Killdeer at and near Morgan Pond 10-17 Aug (RD, BPa, EHu, AN); 14 American Avocets at Mud L., Shelby, TN 16 Oct (MT); at least 25 White-rumped Sandpipers (a new record fall high count for the Region) at Ensley 12 Sep (ph. MT, JRW); 450 Pectoral Sandpipers at Morgan Pond 11-13 Aug (AN, BPa; EHu, AN); 52 Dunlins at Austin Springs, Washington, TN 31 Oct (RLK); 8 Buff-breasted Sandpipers at Millington Regional Airport, Shelby, TN 17 Sep (MT); and 12 Long-billed Dowitchers at Duck River 22 Oct (CAS, SSo). Tardy shorebirds included 2 American Golden-Plo-

vers at Jonathan Creek 23 Oct (ME) and 4 at Austin Springs, Washington, TN 29 Oct (RLK); a Solitary Sandpiper at Owsley Fork L., Madison, KY 29 Oct (†RF, RB); 6 American Avocets and a Semipalmated Sandpiper along the Great River Rd., Dyer, TN 30 Oct (JRW); a Semipalmated Plover at Freeman L., Hardin, KY 2 Nov (BF, BBC); a Stilt Sandpiper at Ensley 5 Nov (JRW); a White-rumped Sandpiper at Eagle Creek, Henry, TN 5 Nov (†SSo); a Pectoral Sandpiper at Austin Springs, Washington, TN 6 Nov (RLK); and 3 Greater Yellowlegs at Sauerheber 16 Nov (ph. CC).

A few family groups of Black-necked Stilts continued at and near Morgan Pond through 17 Aug (RD); a family group of 2 ads. and 2 juvs. lingered at Obion W.M.A., Fulton, KY through 25 Aug (BPa, EHu, AN, HC, ME); a flock of 6 at the Paradise Power Plant, Muhlenberg, KY 23 Sep (MY, BY) surely comprised a migratory family group. There were six Kentucky reports of American Avocet: one at Morgan Pond 1-3 Aug (TD, C&SRo); one below Smithland Dam, Livingston 13 Aug (BPa, EHu, AN); one near the Grassy Pond/Powells Lake Unit Sloughs W.M.A., Union, 17 Aug (ph. CC); 2 along Horseshoe Rd., Henderson 22 Aug (ph. CC), with one still there 24 Aug (ph. CC); one at Obion W.M.A., Fulton 25 Aug (HC, ME); and one at the Falls

of the Ohio 28-29 Aug (RLa, BBC, TBe, CBk). In Tennessee, in addition to those mentioned elsewhere in this report, there were six reports of one to 7 American Avocets from four counties 19 Aug–9 Sep.

Only 4 Willets were reported: one each from Rankin Bottoms 2-9 Sep (DMi, RLK, m.ob.); Ensley 4-12 Sep (JRW); Limestone, Washington, TN 10 Sep (JA); and Snow Bunting Peninsula 26 Sep (ph. JHu). Upland Sandpipers were reported on six occasions: 3 at Morgan Pond 4 Aug (BPa, EHu, MM) with one nearby 13 Aug (BPa, EHu, AN); one heard over Obion W.M.A., Fulton, KY 14 Aug (BPa, EHu, AN); 2 at Ensley 4 Sep (JRW) with one there 11 Sep (JRW); and a relatively tardy bird near, Richmond, Madison, KY 4 Oct (†AN, MBu). A Ruddy Turnstone at Jacobson Park, Lexington 10 Sep (AN, ph. JSn, ph. MBu) was the only one reported in Kentucky. In Tennessee, one to 3 were reported from five locations 4-12 Sep. In addition to those mentioned elsewhere in this report, a Red Knot was at Ensley 11-12 Sep (JRW, MT). Above-average numbers of Sanderlings were reported in e. Tennessee, with one to 14 counted at six locations 27 Aug–2 Oct; 2-4 at Austin Springs, Washington, TN 30 Oct–4 Nov (DK, RLK) established a new late date for ne. Tennessee. It was another down year for Western Sandpipers in Kentucky, with only one to 4 reported at mostly traditional locales 1 Aug–27 Sep.

Additional reports of White-rumped Sandpiper not listed elsewhere in this report included one on Green River L., Adair 30 Aug (RD); 2 at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery 16 Sep (†BWu), with one still there 17 Sep (ph. AN); one still at Brainerd Levee, Hamilton 10 Sep (DCn); one at Ensley 4-6 Sep (JRW); and one at Austin Springs 14 Sep and 30 Oct (DHu, DK). One to 4 Baird's Sandpipers were reported from eight mostly traditional Kentucky locales 4 Aug–1 Oct (m.ob.); reports of greatest



This juvenile Red-necked Phalarope was one of two (distinguished by different plumages) seen 6-7 (here 6) September 2011 on the Fishing Creek embayment of Lake Cumberland, Pulaski County, Kentucky. Photograph by Roseanna Denton.

SA'Tis a rare season in Tennessee when the most noteworthy shorebird location is anywhere other than Ensley, but such was the case this season, with a slew of remarkable sightings on Upper Douglas L., *Cocke*, particularly at Rankin Bottoms. In addition to the rarities reported during early Sep when the remnants of Tropical Storm *Lee* fell apart over the Region (previous S.A.; Table 1), the rarity headliner was an ad. female **Ruff** present 27 Aug–1 Sep (RLK, m.ob.). Overall diversity and numbers, too, were impressive. For example, Buff-breasted Sandpipers were present nearly continuously 19 Aug–5 Oct, including a record high count for Tennessee of 42 tallied 30 Aug (SSo). Other noteworthy observations included one to 5 White-rumped Sandpipers 1–18 Sep and 2 Oct (DMi, RLK, MBS, m.ob.) and over 200 Dunlins 2 Nov (*vide* MBS). In total, 31 species of shorebirds were reported during the season.

Shorebirds were not the only noteworthy visitors to this area. A first-cycle Bonaparte's Gull there 30 Aug was record early for e. Tennessee and among the earliest ever reported from the state. Other records of note included a first-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull 22 Aug–11 Sep (RLK, MBS, DMi, m.ob.); a **Tricolored Heron** 21 Sep (DK, MBS); up to 5 imm. **White Ibis** 7 Aug–1 Sep (MBS, m.ob.); and one to 5 Laughing Gulls 17 Aug–23 Oct (MBS, RLK, m.ob.).

interest included up to 2 at Fishing Creek 25 Aug–5 Sep (RD et al.), with 3 there 26–27 Aug (RD); 4 at Crocker Pond, *Logan*, 3 Sep (MBe); one at Jacobson Park, Lexington 10 Sep (AN); and singles at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery 16–17 Sep (BWu, AN) and 1 Oct (BWu). In Tennessee, one to 5 at Rankin Bottoms and Upper Douglas L., *Cocke* 23 Aug–9 Oct (MBS, RLK, m.ob.) were the only ones reported away from Ensley, where one to 2 were reported on nine dates 6 Aug–12 Sep (JRW, MT).

Juvenile Pectoral Sandpipers were reported in nearly record-low numbers at Ensley during the season, suggesting a poor reproductive season. Buff-breasted Sandpipers put in an average showing in Kentucky, with one to 12 reported at six mostly traditional locales 7 Aug–30 Sep (m.ob.); the peak tally of 12 came from along Horseshoe Rd., w. *Henderson* 29 Aug (ph. CC). In Tennessee, one to 2 at Ensley 17 Aug–12 Sep (JRW, MT) was below average. Elsewhere in Tennessee, Buff-breasted were reported with greater frequency than normal. One to 3 were reported from two middle and four w. Tennessee counties 30 Aug–29 Sep, including a first record for *Bradley* 30 Aug (DCn) and a 2nd for *Hamilton* 7–8 Sep (DJ et al.). Single Short-billed Dowitchers were reported at only six Kentucky locales 1 Aug–4 Sep; one to 5 were at Rankin Bottoms 16 Aug–15 Sep (MBS, RLK, m.ob.). A Long-billed Dowitcher e. of *Sauerheber* 22 Oct (BPa et al.) was the only one reported in Kentucky. A Wilson's Phalarope at the Falls of the Ohio 23 Sep (TBe, CBk) was the only one reported in Kentucky. In Tennessee, aside from the high count previously reported, one to 3 were at Rankin Bottoms 27–29 Aug and 7–9 Sep (RLK, MBS, m.ob.); single individuals were at Ensley 9, 10, & 21 Aug (JRW); and 3 were there 12–13 Aug (JRW). A molting juv. **Red Phalarope** was at John Sevier L., *Hawkins* 4–9 Nov (ph. SHu, m.ob.).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Single first-cycle Bonaparte's Gulls at the Falls of the Ohio 31 Aug (DSL) and at Barren River L., KY 7 Sep (BPa, EHu) were the earliest to be reported in Kentucky. Single Laughing Gulls were reported on four occasions in Kentucky: a juv. below Smithland Dam, *Livingston* 5 Aug (BPa, EHu, MM); a juv. at the Falls of the Ohio 30 Sep (DSL); and singles at two locales on Kentucky L., *Marshall* and *Calloway*, both 14 Oct (HC, ME). In Tennessee, other than those previously mentioned for Rankin Bottoms, single Laughing Gulls were at Snow Bunting Peninsula 21 Sep (TW); Paris Landing 12 Oct (TW); Pace Pt., Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Henry* 23 Oct (TW, CSm); and South Holston L. 10 Nov (RLK). There were five Kentucky reports of Franklin's Gull: singles at the Falls of the Ohio 23–24 Sep (TBe, CBk; TBe, BPa), 27 Sep (GH, MAu), and 20 Oct (EHu), with 3 there 4 Nov (DSL); and one in along the Ohio R., w. *Union* 26 Nov (ph. CC). In Tennessee, Franklin's Gulls were unreported away from w. Tennessee, where one to 26 were reported on seven dates from *Benton*, *Henry*, *Lake*, *Obion*, and *Shelby* 9 Oct–18 Nov. One to 2 Lesser Black-backed Gulls representing at least 3 individuals were noted at traditional locales on L. Barkley and Kentucky L., KY 20 Sep+ (m.ob.). A second-cycle Lesser Black-backed Gull was accompanied by a first-winter Glaucous Gull at *Pickwick* L., *Hardin*, TN 26 Nov (ph. JRW). Other reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls in Tennessee consisted of an ad. and a second-cycle bird at Paris Landing 12 Oct (TW), a third-cycle bird there 22 Oct (JRW), and a first-cycle bird at Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Benton/Henry* 23 Oct (JRW). A first-cycle Great Black-backed Gull was at Paris Landing 26 Nov (JRW). A first-cycle Little Gull was at *Reelfoot* L., *Lake*, TN 18–25 Nov (JRW).

Only a few Least Terns were seen at traditional locales in Kentucky on the lower Ohio R. and Mississippi R. during the late summer season, suggesting low productivity, probably a result of widespread flooding from spring through summer (m.ob.). One to 12 Black Terns were reported on 12 occasions at seven mostly traditional Kentucky locales 6 Aug–14 Sep. In Tennessee, above-average numbers were reported, particularly during the passage of the remnants of Tropical Storm *Lee* in early Sep, with one to 20 reported 7 Aug–7 Sep from nine counties across the state. Apart from the most notable reports associated with the presence of the remnants of Tropical Storm *Lee* noted previously, other notable reports of Common Tern included one to 6 on several occasions at the Falls of the Ohio 5–23 Sep (BPa, EHu et al.); one at Owsley Fork L., *Madison*, KY 6 & 9 Sep (AN, PHr; CSp) that was a county first; one to 3 at Kentucky Dam 20–21 Sep (HC, BPa, EHu, MM), with at least 14 on Kentucky L., *Marshall* 23 Sep (BPa, EHu, MM); 2 at the Falls of the Ohio 20–21 Oct (†DSL; EHu, TBe); and 12 at South Holston L. (RLK) and 22 at Austin Springs, *Washington* (RLK), both 28 Oct; the last two are noteworthy counts, especially for so late in the season. Peak counts of Forster's Tern in Kentucky included 76 at Kentucky L., *Marshall* by 30 Aug (HC, ME), with 180 there 14 Oct (HC); and at least 200 at Kentucky L. above the dam 21 Sep (BPa, EHu, MM), with the same number from Kentucky Dam to the mouth of Big Bear Cr., Kentucky L., *Marshall* 23 Sep (BPa, EHu, MM). Single Forster's Terns at John Sevier L., *Hawkins*, TN 4 Nov (SHb) and Robco L., *Shelby*, TN 27 Nov (JRW) were late. A juv. Parasitic Jaeger was present at Barren River L. 11–14 Sep (vt. BY, ph. MY, HC et al.) and represents a long-anticipated first state record for Kentucky. A juv. Long-tailed Jaeger was present at Barren River L. 10–14 Sep (AH, vt. BY, ph. MY, HC et al.) and represents a 2nd state record. Both appeared after the weather had cleared following Tropical Storm *Lee* remnants (Tennessee reports of jaegers were all made during that period; see S.A.).

DOVES THROUGH SWALLOWS

White-winged Doves, apparently present since spring, continued at President's I., *Shelby*, TN through at least 3 Sep; a juv. first photographed there 10 Aug (ph. JRW) suggests that they may have bred, which would be a first for the Region. The peak count was 5 individuals 28 Aug (JRW). Six Black-billed Cuckoos were found in Kentucky as follows: at Windhover Farm, *Oldham*, 23–24 Aug (ph. MC); at Craigmoor Estates, *Scott* 27 Aug (DL, BLa) & 9 Sep (DL); in Land Between the

Lakes N.R.A., *Trigg* 8 Sep (BLi); at Anchorage, *Jefferson* 14 Sep (JBe, PB); and at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson* 8 Oct (BPa). One heard at Shelby Farms, *Shelby*, TN 16 Aug (VR) was the only one reported for Tennessee.

There were three Kentucky reports of Barn Owl: one near Dot, *Logan*, during late Aug (*vide* FL); one heard at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson* 24 Oct (BPa, MM); and a pair sw. of Bloomfield, *Nelson*, during late Nov (ph. TH). Two were reported in *Sullivan*, TN 30 Aug (WC et al.). A Short-eared Owl at the Henderson, KY airport 28 Nov (†KM) was the only one reported in Kentucky. A total of 24 Northern Saw-whet Owls was banded in eight nights at Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson*, KY 24 Oct–17 Nov (MM, BPa et al.) with a peak night of 15 birds captured on 16–17 Nov. Also, 2 were heard but none caught at the same locale 23–24 Nov (BPa, MM), and a day-roosting bird (unknown if banded) was found about 0.3 km from the banding station 6 Nov (ph. BPa et al.). In Tennessee, away from known breeding areas, one was banded in *Marshall* 29 Oct (ph. SSo, DMO) and a second bird may have also been present.

Two Whip-poor-wills were seen almost nightly in a yard in *Trigg*, KY until about 13 Oct (ph. KT). Tardy Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Kentucky included singles at Florence, *Boone* to 2 Nov (JR), at Louisville to 3 Nov (RT), and s. of Haywood, *Barren* 3–6 Nov (R&LY, LC, ba. BPa). It was a good season for Rufous Hummingbirds with 6 individuals banded in Kentucky 18 Oct+ with reports in the following counties: *Barren* (2 birds in one yard) (R&LY, LC, ba. BPa); *Boyd* (S&SS, ba. BPa, MM); *Logan* (FL, AL, ba. BPa); *Pulaski* (SHF, RD, ba. BPa); and *Simpson* (S&ATr, ba. BPa). Eight Rufous Hummingbirds were documented in Tennessee, including one returnee in Brentwood by 8 Aug (*vide* CAS). An imm. male Allen's Hummingbird was banded in *Hamblen*, TN 19 Nov (MAr).

Red-headed Woodpeckers were quite numerous by late Nov at some locales such as Land Between the Lakes N.R.A., *Lyon/Trigg*, KY suggesting at least an average presence during the upcoming winter. An exceptionally early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Lexington, KY 23 Aug (†RO) represented a new early arrival date for the state by three weeks.

One to 2 Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported on eight occasions at seven Kentucky and three Tennessee locales 4 Sep–5 Oct with one at Nettleroth Sanctuary, Cherokee Park, Louisville, KY 12 Oct (†GH, DSt, SD, BPI/†GH, DSt) representing a new late departure date for the state.

It was an exceptional season for Yellow-bellied Flycatchers with singles reported on

16 occasions at eleven locales in Kentucky and on eight occasions at eight locales in Tennessee 13 Aug–10 Oct (m.ob.); the 13 Aug bird was relatively early and found at Anchorage, *Jefferson*, KY (JBe, PB et al.), and the latest bird was found at Iroquois Park, Louisville 10 Oct (GH, DSt). A calling Alder Flycatcher was seen at Lake No. 9, *Fulton*, KY 13 Aug (BPa, EHu, AN, BY, MY). A Great Crested Flycatcher heard calling at Douglass Hills, Louisville, 16 Oct (†MY) represented a new late departure date for Kentucky by nearly two weeks. Western Kingbird remains a casual visitant to Kentucky, so one near Dot, *Logan* 3 Oct (ph. FL) was noteworthy. There were three Kentucky reports of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 2 s. of Smiths Grove, *Warren*, 9–16 Aug (ph. AH et al.); one n. of Hickman, *Fulton*, 22 ep (ph. BPa, EHu, MM); and one e. of Auburn, *Logan*, 25 Sep (STy, ph. DT).

Two Blue-headed Vireos at Lexington, KY 27 Aug (RO) were exceptionally early away from breeding areas. Philadelphia Vireos are much less common in e. Tennessee than elsewhere in the state, so 10 different reports represented an exceptional number. Nine Tree Swallows at Robco L., *Shelby*, TN 5 Nov (JRW) and 2 in w. *Henderson*, KY 11 Nov (CC) were a bit tardy. Five Fish Crows were reported at Nickajack L., *Marion*, TN 11 Nov (TR). "Hundreds" of Bank Swallows were present along Horseshoe Road, w. *Henderson*, KY 24 Aug (CC). A concentration of ca. 4000 Cliff Swallows foraging and loafing at Morgan Pond 17 Aug (RD) was remarkable. Single Cave Swallows, representing the second and third records for the Region if accepted, were reported in Memphis, TN 17 Sep (JRW) and Tiptonville Landing, *Lake*, TN 18–19 Sep (JRW).

NUTHATCHES THROUGH FINCHES

Single Red-breasted Nuthatches at Jefferson Memorial Forest, *Jefferson*, KY 22 Sep (BWo) and at Evergreen Cemetery, *Campbell*, KY 25 Sep (FR) were the first of only a few reported during the season; by mid-Nov, it was apparent that only a light flight was going to occur into the Region this year. Two Bewick's Wrens were reported nw. of Burkesville, *Cumberland*, KY 15 Nov (†BZ). Single Sedge Wrens were reported on six occasions in Kentucky 5 Aug–24 Oct (m.ob.), with none accompanied by evidence of nesting. In Tennessee, 2 were at Shelby Bottoms, Nashville, TN 28 Sep (PC), and singles were at Standifer Gap 8–9 Oct (DP et al.) and in *Hamilton* 6 Nov (KAC). One to 4 Marsh Wrens were reported on seven occasions in Kentucky and six occasions in Tennessee 9 Sep–30 Oct. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Ellington Agricultural Center, Nashville,

TN 21 Oct (SSo) was somewhat tardy. A Golden-crowned Kinglet at Melbourne, *Campbell*, KY 30 Aug (†DMr) was exceptionally early and represented a new early fall arrival date for the state by three weeks. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Million, *Madison* 30 Aug (†MBu) was also exceptionally early. Swainson's Thrushes sw. of Fisherville, *Jefferson*, KY 18 Oct (ph. EHu) and at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt*, KY 17 Nov (ph. DMn) were tardy, the latter establishing a new late departure date for the state. A Wood Thrush at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, KY 27 Oct–4 Nov (BPa, MM) also established a new late departure date for the state. Gray Catbirds at Central Park, *Boone*, KY 5 Nov (LM et al.) and at Creasey Mahan Nature Preserve, *Oldham*, KY 13 Nov (PM, BBC) were tardy. Cedar Waxwings were most numerous and widespread during Sep and the first half of Oct, with numbers declining somewhat during Nov.

Reports of early migrant warblers included a Tennessee Warbler in Knoxville, TN 16 Aug (KDE) and one at Anchorage, *Jefferson*, KY 22 Aug (JBe, PB); an Orange-crowned Warbler at L. Cumberland W.M.A., *Pulaski*, KY 9 Sep (RD); 3 Cape May Warblers at Roan Mt., *Carter*, TN 18 Aug (MSa) and one at Lexington, KY 27 Aug (RO); a Chestnut-sided Warbler at Anchorage, *Jefferson*, KY 22 Aug (JBe, PB); single Blackburnian Warblers at Joe Creason Park, Louisville 14 Aug (DSt) and at the Alpine Recreation Area, Daniel Boone N.E., *Pulaski*, KY 18 Aug (RD); single Canada Warblers at different locales in *Pulaski*, KY 18–19 Aug (RD); and a Mourning Warbler at Craven's House, *Hamilton*, TN 30 Aug (ph. TJ). Reports of tardy warblers included Prothonotaries at Owsley Fork L., *Madison*, KY 8 Oct (AN) and along Straight Line Rd., w. *Henderson*, KY 12 Nov (†KM), the latter representing a new late departure date for Kentucky by more than a month; a Tennessee Warbler in Johnson City, *Sullivan/Washington*, TN 12 Nov; a Cerulean Warbler at Gunpowder Creek Nature Park, *Boone*, KY 10 Sep (LM) and 2 along Scott Creek Forestry Rd., *Rowan*, KY 17 Sep (†AN); a Magnolia Warbler in Hohenwald, *Lewis*, TN 2 Nov (BPu); a Common Yellowthroat at Craven's House, *Hamilton*, TN 31 Oct (KAC); and a Yellow-breasted Chat at Floyds Fork Park, *Jefferson*, KY 7 Oct (EHu, MY). A male Lawrence's Warbler was reported at Cherokee Park, Louisville 13 Sep (†BPI); another bird, either an imm. female Lawrence's or similar backcross, was reported at Walton, *Boone*, KY 8 Sep (†TY). Two Brewster's Warblers were found: one in *Adair* 30 Aug (RD) and one in *Boone* 3 Sep (JR). It was an unprecedented season for migrant Golden-winged Warblers in Kentucky, with no fewer

than 62 individuals reported from more than 20 locales 30 Aug–24 Sep (m.ob.). Single Connecticut Warblers were found in Kentucky on three occasions: at Floyds Fork Park, *Jefferson* 17 Sep (EHu); at Anchorage, *Jefferson* 21 Sep (PB); and at Cherokee Park, Louisville 21 Sep (CBs). It was an especially good season for Mourning Warblers in Kentucky, with 12 reports of one to 2 individuals 26 Aug–2 Oct (m.ob.). In Tennessee, in addition to the early individual previously mentioned, only one to 2 were reported on three dates from three locations 16–20 Sep. Blackpoll Warblers are generally scarce in the Region during fall; there were four reports, all from Kentucky: at Walton, *Boone*, 9 Sep (ph. TY); ne. of Cumberland Falls, *Whitley*, 13 Sep (†KO, HO); along Scott Creek Forestry Rd., *Rowan* 17 Sep (AN); and at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski* 12 Oct (ph. RD). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler, rare away from the higher elevations of e. Tennessee, was at Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Nashville, TN 10 Oct (FF).

Two Clay-colored Sparrows were reported at Anchorage, *Jefferson*, KY 18 Oct (JBe, PB). Single Vesper Sparrows in *Hart*, KY 23 Sep (†SKi) and at Obion W.M.A., *Fulton*, KY 24 Sep (MY, BY) were quite early; otherwise, relatively normal numbers were reported. There were two reports of Lark Sparrow in Kentucky: an imm. at the Louisville landfill 4 Aug (RA) and an ad. at Travis W.M.A., *Carlisle* 14 Aug (BPa, EHu, AN). Single Savannah Sparrows at two locations near Richmond, *Madison*, KY 6 (AN) & 10 Sep (AN, MBu) were relatively early. Grasshopper Sparrows near Richmond, *Madison*, KY 4–15 Oct (AN et al.) and in s. *Jefferson*, KY 30 Oct (ph. MY) were the latest to be reported. A very unexpected Bachman's Sparrow was at Hohenwald, TN 30 Sep (†BPu). A juv. Henslow's Sparrow in the company of 2 ads. ne. of Red Hill, *Allen*, KY 28 Aug (TBr, AB, JHo, MHv et al.) confirmed breeding in the county for the first time; also reported were a likely migrant at Hampton Creek Cove, *Carter*, TN 3 Sep (MSa); one at Sauerheber 22 Oct (SHa, AN, BPa et al.); and one to 2 at the *Allen*, KY locale noted above 24–25 Oct (AB, JBb, JBy, TBr). Single Le Conte's Sparrows at Sauerheber 22 & 29 Oct (BPa et al.; BPa, KOS) and ne. of Red Hill, *Allen* 13 Nov (†AB, JHo, EHo, JBb) were the only ones reported in Kentucky; in Tennessee, singles were in *Fayette* 12 Oct (SM), at Duck River Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Humphreys* 22 Oct (CAS, SSo); and at Britton Ford, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Benton* 23 Oct (JRW); and at least 2 were at Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee N.W.R., *Henry* 22 Oct (CAS, SSo). A Nelson's Sparrow at the Melco Flood Retention Basin, s. *Jefferson*, KY 26 Sep (ph.

MC) was the only one reported. A Fox Sparrow heard at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, KY 4 Oct (BPa) was the earliest to be reported. A Lincoln's Sparrow at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery 12 Nov (BWu) was tardy.

A very tardy Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in a Lexington, KY yard 21–23 Nov (ph. DCt). Two at Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Nashville, TN 31 Oct (FF) were also tardy. An active Blue Grosbeak nest at Schochoh, *Logan*, KY contained three eggs 23 Aug (STy); a tardy bird at Sauerheber 31 Oct (ph. CC) established a new late departure date for Kentucky. A Dickcissel near Richmond, *Madison*, KY 19–24 Oct (AN) and 2 at Sauerheber 22 Oct (BPa et al.), with one still there 29 Oct (BPa, KOS), were the latest to be reported. Kentucky reports of Bobolink of interest included a flock of 50 at Lexington 12 Sep (DL); 10 in w. *Scott* 22 Sep (LG); 8 at Lexington 8 Oct (DL, ASK); and one ne. of Red Hill, *Allen* 22 Oct (JBy, AB, JBb). A Rusty Blackbird at Jacobson Park, Lexington 25 Oct (AN) was the earliest to be reported. Single Orchard Orioles at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, KY 6 Sep (BPa) and at Lexington, KY 12 Sep (RO) were quite tardy. Two Purple Finches at Ellington Agricultural Center, Nashville, TN 3 Oct (RCo) and one at Cherokee Park, Louisville 5 Oct (†GH, DSt, SD, BPi) were quite early; next earliest were a few birds at scattered locales during the last few days of Oct. Two Red Crossbills were at Roan Mt., *Carter*, TN 29 Aug and 13 Sep (RLK; RKn). Three Pine Siskins at Anchorage, *Jefferson*, KY 21 Oct (JBe et al.) and singles heard at Douglass Hills, Louisville, 3 Nov (MY) and at Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, KY 6 Nov (BPa) were the earliest to be reported away from Roan Mt., *Carter*, TN, where they breed; additional reports through the remainder of the month were relatively few in number, indicating a modest flight at best.

Errata: The fall 2010 report erroneously stated that there were only four reports of Cape May Warblers from Tennessee during the season; in fact, Cape May Warblers are relatively common in fall in e. Tennessee, particularly in the higher elevations.

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Greg D. Jackson

Birding was moderately productive if erratic this fall. Several excellent rarities and a tropical system compensated for weak fronts and low numbers of migrants until a mid-October surge. Temperatures were warmer than usual in August but cooler than average in September and October; precipitation was above average in September, mostly as a result of Tropical Storm *Lee*, then variable through the remainder of the season.

Abbreviations: Dauphin (Dauphin I., *Mobile*, AL); Delta (Mississippi Delta of nw. and w.-cen. Mississippi); Ft. Morgan (Fort Morgan State Historical Park, *Baldwin*, AL); G.C. (Gulf Coast Region, *Mobile/Baldwin*, AL; not "Golf Course"); 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 WADING BIRDS

Comical and increasing, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continued to delight observers in both the Delta and coastal Alabama. Breeding was documented for the 3rd consecutive year at Blakeley I., *Mobile*, AL 21 Aug (ph. BS, KH), with a new state maximum of 26 birds reported 15 Sep (JAB). Seven Black-bellieds n. of Grand Bay, *Mobile*, AL 19 Oct (LR&RAR) were less expected. Delta sightings were of a pair with 6 young in *Sharkey* 23-24 Aug (MW, SW, ph.) and 3 birds in *Tallahatchie* 27 Aug (GCK, SGK, NL). Late and in an unusual area, 2 Black-bellieds were spotted at *Tupelo*, *Lee*, MS 20 Nov (ph. WRP). Locally impressive numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese included 75 at *Noxubee* 17 Oct (TLS) and

up to 85 in *Lauderdale*, AL 25 Oct–25 Nov (TMH, m.ob.). Ross's Goose continues to increase slowly in the Region, with singles reported at *Wheeler* 12 Nov (SRM), at *Noxubee* 21 Nov+ (TLS), and in *Lauderdale*, AL 25 Nov (ph. AP). A count of 150 Mallards, most undoubtedly "home grown," set a new M.R. maximum in the Birmingham area 24 Sep (B.A.S.). Ahead of schedule, 2 Northern Pintails were in *Adams*, MS 7 Sep (JVR, JC, NW, RH), and 4 Green-winged Teal were spotted in *Chickasaw*, MS 20 Aug (WRP). Rare in the I.C.P., a Greater Scaup was in *Barbour* 12 Nov (JAT). Notable inland, a lone Surf Scoter was in *Chickasaw*, MS 4 Nov (WRP). Two Long-tailed Ducks, difficult to find in Alabama, were noted in *Baldwin* 11 Nov (CL). Increasing moderately after several years of marked scarcity, a Common Merganser was spotted in *Colbert*, AL 30 Nov (DJS).

Occasional in the T.V., a Wood Stork appeared in *Madison* 11 Aug (ph. BF, fide JG). Neotropical Cormorant continues to increase in the Delta, with an excellent tally of 165 in *Adams* 11 Aug (JVR, EA, MH, NW). American White Pelican follows that trend, with a new Alabama maximum of 1400 at *Wheeler* 12 Nov (KW, N.A.B.S.). The observation of 350 Great Egrets in *Colbert* 5 Aug (DJS) gave n. Alabama a new high count, and 167 found in the Birmingham area 24 Sep (B.A.S.) provided the highest M.R. count. Rare inland, a Tricolored Heron was at *Noxubee* 23 Aug (F&KD). A new fall T.V. maximum, 150 Cattle Egrets were in *Colbert/Lawrence* 10 Aug (GDJ). Rare but regular in the T.V., 21 White Ibis in *Colbert* 5 Aug (ph. BC) set a new n. Alabama top count. Up to 37 rare White-faced Ibis were in *Adams*, MS 11 Aug–22 Sep (JVR, RT, NW, RH); singles were identified in *Mobile*, AL 7

SA "I fetched my sea-borne treasures home."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Each and All*

Huge and lethargic, Tropical Storm *Lee* created a stir 3-5 Sep on the coast, appearing in the n. Gulf and crawling ashore in s. Louisiana. Observers in coastal Mississippi and Alabama were fortunate to be able to have access to many areas during this low-level storm, enjoying a bounty of storm-driven birds; coastal and inland observers also reaped rewards in the form of shorebirds downed by torrential rains.

Several high-profile species were driven ahead of the churning winds, some lingering briefly on the coast. Rare in the Region, a small shearwater (likely Audubon's) appeared 3 Sep at *Pascagoula*, *Jackson*, MS (p.a.; JNW). Surely an amazing sight, 300 Magnificent Frigatebirds wafted through the skies of *Hancock*, MS 3 Sep (SE). Multitudes of pelagic terns materialized in our coastal areas with the storm. Most exciting were at least 2 imm. **Brown Noddies** 4-5 Sep at *Ocean Springs*, *Jackson* (p.a.; ph. JD, JNW), a species with only five prior Mississippi records. Sooty and Bridled Terns became quotidian during the period. Minimum Mississippi daily counts 3-5 Sep were 12, 19, and one for Sooty and 2, 20, and 19 for Bridled (p.a.; JNW, DJR, NRB, ph.). At least 8 Sooties and 2 Bridleds were noted on *Dauphin* 5 Sep (JK, CH, DWD, HEH, m.ob., ph.); another Bridled was in *Baldwin*, AL that day (ph. MJJ). Away from the coast, and establishing a maximum for n. Alabama, 71 Caspian Terns were in *Marshall* 7 Sep (LB&RAR).

Shorebirding is always exciting during and immediately after the massive precipitation unleashed by tropical systems. Rare in the M.R., a Black-bellied Plover was in *St. Clair* 6 Sep (GDJ). Only occasionally found inland in Alabama, up to 2 Piping Plovers were in *Montgomery* 4-5 Sep (LFG). An inland plum, 12 American Avocets appeared at *Wheeler Dam*, *Lawrence/Lauderdale*, AL 6 Sep (SWM, DJS). A dozen Willets in *Montgomery* 4 Sep (LFG) set a new I.C.P. high count. Rarely noted in recently years, a Long-billed Curlew was in *Hancock*, MS 4 Sep (ph. SE). Three Hudsonian Godwits were a brief delight at *Leighton*, *Colbert* 5 Sep (DJS, JP), furnishing the 3rd and 6th fall records for the T.V. and Alabama, respectively. Scarce inland, a Ruddy Turnstone was in *Lafayette*, MS 5 Sep (GCK, SGK, JH). A Baird's Sandpiper, rare in the I.C.P., was in *Montgomery* 4 Sep (LFG). Inland Wilson's Phalaropes are unusual in Alabama, so singles were notable 5 Sep in *Colbert* (DJS) and *Montgomery* (LFG). Rare Red-necked Phalaropes appeared on the Mississippi coast, with 2 in *Harrison* 3 Sep (ph. DJR) and 3 others to the w. in *Hancock* 4 Sep (NRB). Another notch up the rarity pole, a Red Phalarope was an excellent find at *St. Catherine's Creek N.W.R.*, *Adams*, MS 7 Sep (p.a.; JVR, NW, JC, ph. RH). Thought also related to *Lee*, a flock of 75 Northern Rough-winged Swallows on the *St. Clair/Talladega* line 6 Sep (GDJ) furnished a fall M.R. high count.



For a third consecutive year, the increasing Black-bellied Whistling-Duck nested at Blakeley Island, Mobile County, Alabama (here 2 August 2011). Photograph by Bill Summerour.



Rare but now regular in autumn on the Alabama coast, this juvenile Swainson's Hawk was near Magnolia Springs, Baldwin County on 17 October 2011. Photograph by Bill Summerour.

Oct (HEH, JAT, AP, m.ob.) and in *Quitman*, MS 16 Oct (GCK, WRP). Though increasingly seen in recent years, I received only one report of Roseate Spoonbill this season: a lone bird was on Dauphin 3-4 Aug (TP et al.).

RAPTORS THROUGH JAEGERS

The embodiment of grace, a Swallow-tailed Kite was unexpected at Noxubee 23-29 Aug (JB, m.ob.). A Sharp-shinned Hawk in s. *Mobile* 15 Aug (BCG, ph. PR) was either an occasional G.C. summering bird or an unprecedentedly early migrant. Swainson's Hawk is rare but regular in the G.C. from

mid- through late fall, and juvs. were observed at a favored site s. of Magnolia Springs, *Baldwin* 16-17 Oct (DP, ph. BS) and 10 Nov (WM, DP). Occasional in the Region, Mississippi's 6th Prairie Falcon was a surprise near Arkabutla Dam, *Tunica*, MS 27 Nov (p.a.; ph. JRW). Six Soras on the Wheeler area count 1 Oct set a new T.V. maximum.

Unusual inland, single American Avocets were in *Chickasaw*, MS 20 Aug and 6 Nov (WRP). A group of 10 Willets in *Barbour* 13 Nov (LW, KJ) established a late date for inland Alabama. Six Solitary Sandpipers in *Colbert* 10 Aug (GDJ) tied the previous fall T.V. maximum. At least 70 Upland Sandpipers in *Baldwin* 16 Aug (DP, BS) provided a new fall maximum for Alabama. Mississippi's 9th Hudsonian Godwit was a thrill near Belzoni, *Humphreys*, MS

8 Oct (p.a.; RC, MS, PW, m.ob.). A Ruddy Turnstone, infrequent away from the coast, was observed in *Adams*, MS 11 Aug (JVR, EA, MH, NW). Rare in autumn, a White-rumped Sandpiper was in *Mobile* 7 & 17 Oct (HEH, BCG). Unusual for the I.C.P., a Baird's Sandpiper was in *Montgomery* 27 Aug (LFG). A Red Phalarope, occasional in the Region, was a prize on Dauphin 16 Sep (CB, LR&RAD).

Rare but regular in fall in Alabama, 13 Franklin's Gulls were not-

ed at three sites beginning as early as 24 Sep in *Marshall* (SWM); up to 8 were in *Baldwin* 19 Oct (BS). Alabama's 10th California Gull was record early 15 Sep at Guntersville, *Marshall* (p.a.; MM, m.ob., ph.) and remained through the period; this site has produced half of the state's records. Always exciting, and the 11th for Alabama, an imm. Iceland Gull brightened a *Baldwin* landfill 28 Nov+ (ph. BS). Still rare but continuing to increase, five Alabama localities yielded 9 Lesser Black-backed Gulls starting 18 Sep (DCB, DJS, ECS, BS et al., ph.). Great Black-backed Gull is scarce in Mississippi; a subad. was in *Harrison* 9-10 & 30 Aug (p.a.; MBB, SE, m.ob., ph.) and 28-30 Nov (p.a.; SM et al., ph.). Now regular at Dauphin, a third-cycle bird was observed 14 Sep+ (DWD, m.ob., ph.). Jaegers are rarely reported from shore in the Region, so a probable Pomarine in *Baldwin* 15 Nov (JS) was notable.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Inca Dove has visited Mississippi for several years, but the first confirmation of nesting was obtained in *Tallahatchie* 27 Aug (p.a.; GCK, SGK, NL, ph.). Rare reports of Black-billed Cuckoo in the I.C.P. came from Montgomery 11 Oct (LFG) and *Bullock* 18 Oct (JAT). Occasional in Alabama, a Groove-billed Ani was a crowd pleaser 14-15 Oct at the Alabama Ornithological Society meeting on Dauphin (J&JD, m.ob., ph.). A Short-eared Owl, scarce on the Alabama coast, was a surprise on Dauphin 5 Nov (HEH et al., ph.). One of only a handful of Mississippi records, and earliest, a Northern Saw-whet Owl was heard repeatedly in *Oktibbeha* 15 Oct (p.a.; ZL, JL). Banding efforts for this tiny owl were productive again this season, with 9 netted (8 b.) at Clay, *Jefferson*, AL 30 Oct-23 Nov (RR&MBS, ph.). Alabama's 6th Broad-billed Hummingbird was a treat in *Baldwin* 28 Nov (p.a.; FB, JE et al., b., ph.). Calliope Hummingbird is rare but becoming regular in our area; an imm. in *Mar-*



Furnishing Mississippi's six record, a juvenile Prairie Falcon was discovered 27 November 2011 in Tunica County. Photograph by Jeff R. Wilson.

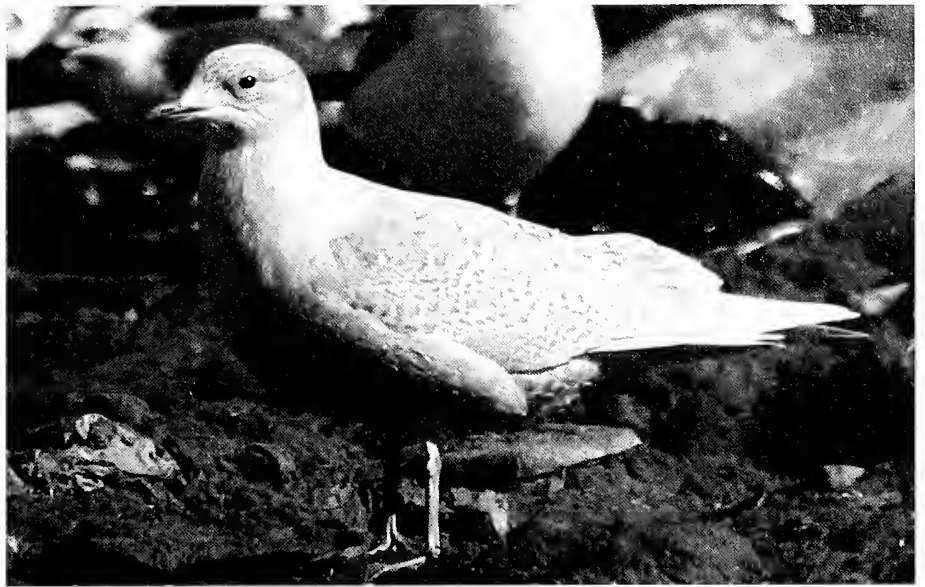
shall 12-17 Nov (RR&MBS, AS, CHa, b., ph.) was the northernmost for Mississippi, and one was banded in *Mobile*, AL 21 Nov (FB, RF et al., ph.). An ad. male Broad-tailed Hummingbird in *Lauderdale* 14 Nov+ (SW, RR&MBS, m.ob., b., ph.) provided Alabama's 14th record. A rare Allen's Hummingbird was at *Mobile*, AL 28 Nov (FB, B&CS et al., b., ph.).

The Wheeler area count 1 Oct furnished a new T.V. maximum with 82 Eastern Wood-Pewees. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is a regular, low-level fall transient; at least 19 individuals were reported from 10 sites, mostly in Alabama, including a good count of 4 in *Colbert* 16 Sep (DJS et al.). Rarely identified conclusively in our Region, vocalizing Alder Flycatchers were in *Choctaw*, MS 12 Sep (p.a.; ZL), at *Montgomery* 30 Aug-4 Sep (LFG) for the 7th I.C.P. occurrence, and in *Lauderdale* 19 Sep (DJS), providing the 3rd T.V. record. Rare but more regularly noted, a calling Willow Flycatcher was at *Dauphin* 4 Sep (BCG), and another was singing in *Marshall*, AL 29 Sep (ECS). A tally of 53 Eastern Phoebes in the Wheeler area 1 Oct provided a fall T.V. maximum. Scarce and stunning, an ad. male Vermilion Flycatcher was a show-stopper 16-22 Nov in *Mobile*, AL (MR et al.). A rare Ash-throated Flycatcher was a good find on *Dauphin* 30 Oct (J&JS, ph. PR).

VIREOS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS

Rare in Alabama, early Warbling Vireos were spotted 28 Aug on *Dauphin* (HEH) and in *Jefferson* (GDJ), the latter for a new M.R. arrival date, and in *Lee* 4 Sep (JHo). The Philadelphia Vireo at *Montgomery* 13 Sep (LFG) gave the I.C.P. a new early record. Now rare in the I.C.P., 2 Horned Larks were a surprise in *s. Lee* 19 Nov (JHo). Showing the value of carefully perusing large congregations of hirundines, a Cave Swallow was discovered in *Lauderdale* 19 Sep (DJS, DCB) providing a first record for the T.V., a 3rd inland report for Alabama, and only the 2nd autumn sighting for the state. Setting fall T.V. maxima, 10 Wood Thrushes were noted on the Wheeler area count 1 Oct, and 10,000 European Starlings were in *Madison* 7 Nov (HP). Rare but now regular near *Magnolia Springs*, *Baldwin*, AL, up to 3 Sprague's Pipits were observed 29-30 Nov (DP, ph. BS).

A Golden-winged Warbler in *Calhoun* 17-18 Oct (ph. DM) was the latest for the M.R. Furnishing a new local arrival date, an Orange-crowned Warbler was spotted in *Oktibbeha*, MS 3 Oct (ZL). Infrequent in the I.C.P., a Nashville Warbler was in *Covington* 24 Sep (TWS). Rare in the Region in autumn, but especially in Mississippi, a Cape May Warbler was carefully observed in *Scott* 9 Oct (TLS, JNW, GCK,



This Iceland Gull at *Magnolia Springs*, *Baldwin County* 28 (here 29) November 2011 made Alabama's eleventh record. Photograph by Bill Summerour.

m.ob.). A Mourning Warbler yielded a rare record in *Colbert*, AL 20 Sep (DJS, DCB). The total of 70 Common Yellowthroats on the Wheeler area count 1 Oct set a fall T.V. maximum. Quite a surprise in *Jefferson* 24 Nov was an ad. male Hooded Warbler (ph. H&NF), giving Alabama a new departure date. An inland Alabama high count, 150 *Magnolia* Warblers were in the Wheeler area 1 Oct. Only occasionally noted in fall away from the coast, a Blackpoll Warbler was studied in *n. Lee*, AL 23 Sep (JHo). Rare in the M.R., a Black-throated Blue Warbler was in *Shelby* 10 Sep (GJH, LB), and up to 2 were present in *Calhoun* 9-18 Oct (ph. DM). Yet another fall T.V. maximum fell in the Wheeler area 1 Oct, when 32 *Palm* Warblers were tallied. Five *Yellow-throated* Warblers on the *Birmingham* area count 24 Sep (B.A.S.) bested the previous fall M.R. total. Providing a new arrival date for the T.V., a *Wilson's* Warbler appeared in *Colbert* 1 Sep (DJS).

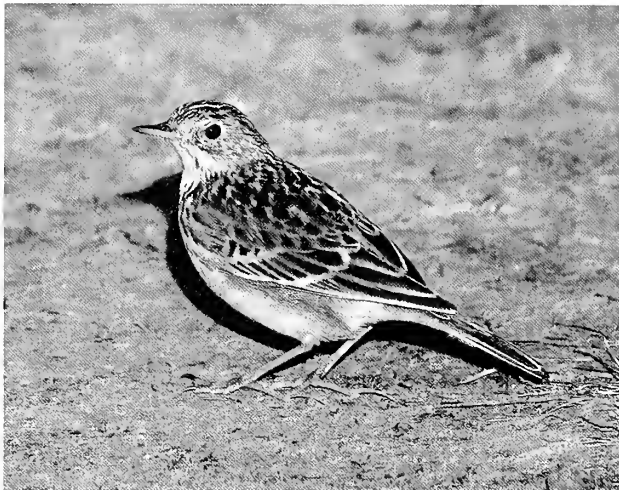
Alabama's 4th *Green-tailed Towhee*, in a *Mobile* suburb 14-16 Nov (p.a.; EF, m.ob., ph. PR), set the Internet abuzz. Rare in the T.V., a *Le Conte's Sparrow* was at *Wheeler* 22 Oct (CG). Mississippi's 6th inland record, a *Nelson's Sparrow* was a fine discovery 14 Oct in *Chickasaw* (ph. WRP). The Wheeler area count 1 Oct produced a fall maximum for *n. Alabama* with a total of 357 *Indigo Buntings*. Occasional in Alabama, though surprisingly with four reports in 2011, calling *Western Meadowlarks* were on *Dauphin* 6 Nov (HEH)



A vagrant *Groove-billed Ani* was a delight to many on *Dauphin Island*, *Alabama* 12 October 2011. Photograph by Bala Chennupati.

and in *s. Lee* 19 Nov (JHo). A rare *Yellow-headed Blackbird* was at *Ft. Morgan* 1 Oct (ph. GDJ). Quite behind schedule, an *Orchard Oriole* was unexpected at *Ft. Morgan* 16 Oct (DC, FB et al., b.).

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Rare but regular now near Magnolia Springs, Baldwin County, Alabama, a Sprague's Pipit posed obligingly 30 November 2011. Photograph by Bill Summerour.

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Loman, Zachary Loman, Nick Lund, William Matthews, Steve W. McConnell, Debbie McKenzie, Sharon Milligan, Matt Morrow, Sue R. Moske, North Alabama Birdwatchers Society, Wayne R. Patterson, Jack Paul, Ashley Peters, Harold Peterson, Tom Piper, David Plumb, J. Van Remsen, Linda B. & Richard A. Reynolds, David J. Ringer, Patsy Russo, Robert R. & Martha B. Sargent, Thomas W. Savage, Ter-



Only the fourth for Alabama, a Green-tailed Towhee thrilled a lucky few at Mobile 14-16 (here 15) November 2011. Photograph by Patsy Russo.

ence L. Schiefer (Mississippi), Jeff Shenot, Damien J. Simbeck, Barbara & Chuck Sleeman, Eric C. Soehren, Allen Sparks, Mary Stevens, John & Jenny Stowers, Bill Summerour, Ryan Terrill, John A. Trent, Jake N. Walker, Ken Ward, Pullen Watkins, Lorna West, Michael Whittington, Shelton Whittington, Jeff R. Wilson, Nick Wirwa. ☺

ence L. Schiefer (Mississippi), Jeff Shenot, Damien J. Simbeck, Barbara & Chuck Sleeman, Eric C. Soehren, Allen Sparks, Mary Stevens, John & Jenny Stowers, Bill Summerour, Ryan Terrill, John A. Trent, Jake N. Walker, Ken Ward, Pullen Watkins, Lorna West, Michael Whittington, Shelton Whittington, Jeff R. Wilson, Nick Wirwa. ☺

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Arkansas & Louisiana



Steven W. Cardiff

Relatively serious drought persisted through the period across most of western and coastal Louisiana, despite temporary relief for some areas, thanks to rains from Tropical Storm *Lee*.

I want to thank Joseph C. Neal for his service as the Arkansas subregional editor and Curator of the Arkansas Audubon Society bird record database. Joe will be stepping down to concentrate on enjoying his retirement, and his assistance will be sorely missed. I look forward to continuing to receive sage advice from Joe in the future. Dick Baxter has volunteered to step up to the plate and assume the role of the Arkansas Audubon Society's Curator, Arkansas subregional editor, and, hopefully, co-author of these summaries.

Abbreviations: B.K.N.W.R. (Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge, White, AR); B.R.A.S.S. (Baton Rouge Audubon Society Sanctuary,

Johnsons Bayou, Cameron, LA); C.F.H. (Craig Fish Hatchery, near Centerton, Benton, AR); C.F.P. (Craighead Forest Park, Craighead, AR); C.N.F. (Camp Nine Farm, Desha, AR); L.S.U.M.N.S. (Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science); M.S.F. (Morganza Spillway Forebay, Pointe Coupee, LA); T.E.F. (Treadway Fish Farm, near Hickory Plains, Prairie, 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; see <<http://www.arbirds.org/searchspecies.asp>>). Significance for Louisiana records is based on the Important Bird

SA Tropical Storm *Lee* formed over the n.-cen. Gulf of Mexico at the beginning of Sep, becoming impressively large in diameter and producing plenty of rainfall in our area and limited storm surge in se. Louisiana but with relatively weak winds that peaked around 50 knots (95 km/h). The ill-defined storm center made landfall about 80 km sw. of Lafayette during the early morning of 4 Sep, with maximum winds of 40 knots (75 km/h). The storm then meandered slowly northward, then eastward, weakening to a depression and exiting the Region overnight.

Lee was unique among recent tropical cyclones to hit the Region in that birders were able to venture out in advance of and during the midst of the storm, and the onshore winds over much of s. Louisiana were strong enough to drive large numbers of interesting birds inland. Storm-birds were detected as far w. as Lafayette and as far n. as the Alexandria area, but most of the action was farther e., in the vicinity of L. Pontchartrain and the Baton Rouge area. The relatively weak winds impacted mostly highly aerial and/or smaller coastal and pelagic seabirds. Most numerous were Magnificent Frigatebirds, with at least 370 reported inland, highlighted by 250 at Lake Ramsey Savannah W.M.A., *St. Tammany* 3 Sep (ph. MME, TT et al.), followed by Black Tern (at least 166), Least Tern (at least 120, including up to 63 in *Pointe Coupee* 5 Sep; SWC, DLD), and Sooty Tern, of which at least 57 were noted, including 20 at L. Ramsey 3 Sep (ph. MME, TT) and one n. to Cotile L. 4 Sep (JVH); these four species accounted for 99% of obvious storm waifs. There were zero inland reports of Brown Pelican and surprisingly few reports of Laughing Gulls and the other common species of medium-sized and large coastal terns (except Caspian Terns, which could have been grounded southbound migrants). Exceptions included a Black Skimmer over Lafayette 4 Sep (ph. PEC), a Pomarine Jaeger at L. Martin 4 Sep (ph. DP), and 2 Royal Terns near St. Gabriel 5 Sep (JVR). The few sightings of rarer species mostly went unconfirmed due to the extenuating weather conditions, including a possible Red-billed Tropicbird and several shearwaters along the s. side of L. Pontchartrain and a possible Bridled Tern in *St. Tammany*.

Record database (see <<http://birdoffice.lsu.edu/index.html>>) 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, Dickson).

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORKS

Six Fulvous Whistling-Ducks strayed far ne. to T.F.F. 10 Aug (ML), and 2 at M.S.F. 5 Sep (SWC, DLD) may have been some of the same individuals present there since summer; the species is generally rare outside sw. Louisiana and the small breeding population at C.N.F. and vicinity. Arkansas's first Eurasian Wigeon, an ad. male, was discovered at Benwood L., *Crittenden* 16-17 Oct (MT, ph. JRW et al.). Twenty Northern Pintail at B.K.N.W.R. 27 Aug (DS, Samantha Schieman, JRW, MP et al.) was a high count for such an early date. A male Cinnamon Teal was a good find n. of Kaplan, *Vermilion*, LA 19 Nov (EIJ). A female Greater Scaup near Indian Bayou, *Vermilion* 16 Oct (ph. PEC, DP) was very early for so far s. and also a rare sight in a flooded field in Loui-

siana's sw. rice-growing region. Two Red-breasted Mergansers at Kincaid L., *Rapides*, LA 23 Nov (JVH) furnished the only inland report of the species; a summering female Ruddy Duck there was last reported 30 Aug (both JVH).

An Eared Grebe at C.F.H. 20 Aug (ph. JBr) made the 2nd earliest record for Arkansas. The 315 Pied-billed Grebes at L. Fayetteville, Fayetteville, Washington 14 Sep (MAM, HDC) was among the highest counts ever for Arkansas; one in the Gulf of Mexico 24 km ssw. of Southwest Pass of the Mississippi R. mouth during a 25 Sep pelagic trip out of Venice, lower *Plaquemines*, LA (RDP) was presumably a trans-Gulf migrant. Two Western Grebes in Arkansas included a relatively early individual at L. Dardanelle, *Yell* 22 Oct (K&LN) and one at Beaver L., *Carroll* 16-30 Nov (JCN, JoR). Two American Flamingos (ad., juv.) at Pass A Loutre W.M.A. in the Mis-



The newest addition to the Arkansas avifaunal list was this adult male Eurasian Wigeon at Benwood Lake, Crittenden County, Arkansas 16-17 (here 16) October 2011. Photograph by Jeff R. Wilson.



These two American Flamingos, which frequented Pass A Loutre Wildlife Management Area, lower *Plaquemines* Parish, Louisiana 22 September through 22 October (here 22) 2011, became the subject of considerable debate regarding wild versus captive origin. Photograph by George Wood.



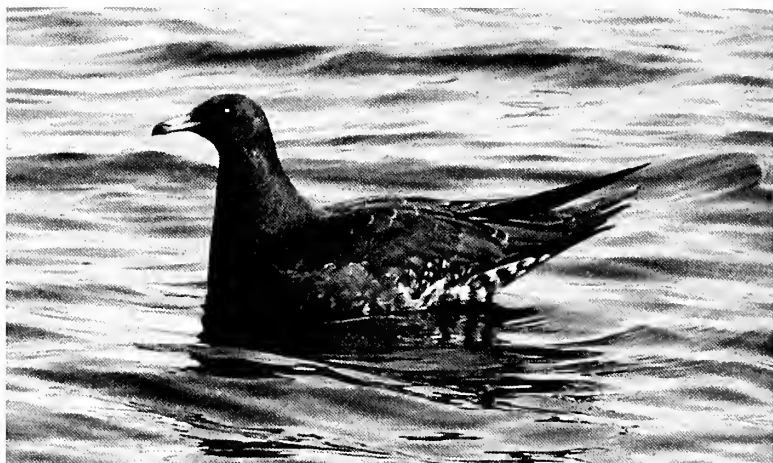
Although Cory's Shearwaters are probably regular in fall in the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana, pelagic coverage remains spotty, and there are still relatively few well-documented occurrences, now including this bird over Mississippi Canyon off the Mississippi River mouth's Southwest Pass found 25 September 2011. Photograph by Erik I. Johnson.

issippi R. delta, lower *Plaquemines* 22 Sep-22 Oct (Trebtor Victoriano, ph. JBo, ph. DBo, ph. George Wood, ph. JPS et al.) provided no clues as to their provenance. A Cory's Shearwater and an Audubon's Shearwater over Mississippi Canyon off Southwest Pass 25 Sep (ph. JPS, ph. DP, ph. RDP, ph. EIJ).

An estimated 5000 American White Pelicans at C.N.F. 22 Oct (DB) smashed the previous Arkansas high count. Post-breeding counts of 1130 Neotropical Cormorants at



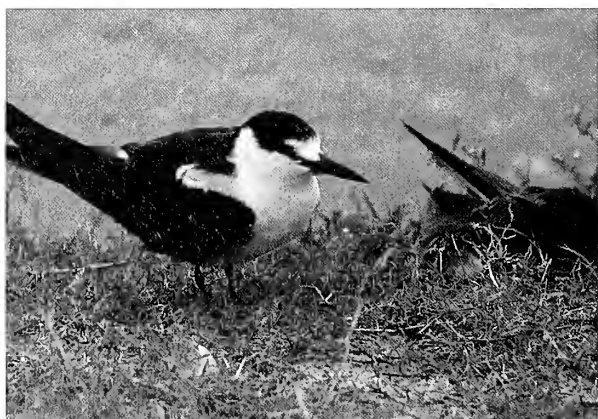
Hundreds of Magnificent Frigatebirds were swept inland into southern Louisiana by Tropical Storm Lee 3-5 September 2011. The largest concentration, estimated at 250 individuals (a portion of them shown here), was at Lake Ramsey Savannah Wildlife Management Area, St. Tammany Parish 3 September 2011. Photograph by Mary Mehahey.



Another exciting bird found on the 25 September 2011 pelagic trip out of Venice, Louisiana was this juvenile Parasitic Jaeger at Mississippi Canyon off Southwest Pass. Photograph by Dave Patton.



One of about 290 Yellow Rails found in the Thornwell area of southwestern Louisiana's Jefferson Davis Parish 20 October through 18 November 2011, this individual was captured and banded on 20 October while investigating the feasibility of including a banding operation during the Yellow Rails & Rice Festival. Photograph by Donna L. Dittmann.



At least 57 Sooty Terns were blown inland into southern and central Louisiana by Tropical Storm Lee 3-5 September 2011. These two, an adult accompanied by a begging juvenile, were at City Park Lake, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish 4 September. Photograph by Donna L. Dittmann.

M.S.F. 7 Aug (JVR, AS) and an estimated 1600 there 5 Sep (SWC, DLD) were the latest testaments to the species' amazing increase at the site (which is about 75-100 km ne. of the primary distribution in sw. Louisiana) over the past few decades. An imm. Neotropic at SWEPCO L., Benton 10 Aug-23 Sep (JCN) was a first for nw. Arkansas and also relatively late for the state; other singles at L. Claiborne, Claiborne, LA 3 Sep (JD) and near Sorrento, Ascension, LA 12 Nov (JVH) were also unusually far n. and e., respectively. Seldom seen in the act of migration, a fly-by American Bittern was observed near St. Gabriel, e. Iberville, LA 25 Oct (JVR). Roseate Spoonbills continue to spread and increase as breeders and post-breeding dispersers northward and eastward in the Region, but 210 at the Sherburne W.M.A.'s South Farm Unit near Ramah, Iberville, LA 14 Aug (JVR et al.) was still a very impressive count away from sw.

Louisiana. Exceptional numbers of Wood Storks reported at the M.S.F. area during the early fall, including an estimated 2300 on 7 Aug (JVR, AS) and a similar number still present 5 Sep (SWC, DLD), were presumably attracted to abundant food resources concentrated by receding spring and early summer floodwaters; an amazing 1450 were observed migrating w. over Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 29 Sep (ph. PEC); 6 at Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge, LA 20 Nov (JVH) and one at L. Martin, St. Martin, LA 24 Nov (ph. Danny M. Dobbs) were very late.

KITES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

There were three widely scattered Arkansas reports of single migrant Swallow-tailed Kites, including a relatively long-staying bird in the nw. near Clifty, Benton ca. 10-29 Aug (ph. Steve Maruart, Darrell Frazier, JCN et al.), one at Cane Creek S.P., Lincoln 26 Aug (Geoff Wright), and a relatively late bird in the sw. near De Queen, Sevier 16 Sep (David Arbour). A White-tailed Kite at Raceland 26 Nov (ph. PEC, John Conover) provided possibly only the 2nd record for Lafourche, LA. Until fairly recently, Bald Eagles were generally absent in Louisiana summer through early fall; however, recent records suggest extended/year-round presence, e.g., one at Cotile L., Rapides 9 Aug, 2 there 29 Aug (both JVH), and a pair already at a nest at M.S.F. 5 Sep (SWC, DLD). A Rough-legged Hawk in Yell 13 Nov (KN) represented Arkansas's first fall record in over a decade, and a Golden Eagle at Mt. Magazine, Logan 15 Sep (Don Simons) was record early for the state. A respectable 290 Yellow Rails were counted on five dates 20 Oct-18 Nov during late rice-harvesting operations near Thornwell, Jefferson Davis, LA (SWC, DLD, MAS, EIJ, DFL, m.ob.). An ad. Purple Gallinule and 3 young were found at Arkansas Post, Arkansas on the relatively late date of 13 Aug (K&LN). A Whooping Crane spotted near Eunice, Acadia, LA 26 Oct (ph. RS, Mary Ellen Lewis) was a wayward marked individual from the small flock introduced at White Lake Wetland C.A., Vermilion, LA during the early spring; sadly, 2 other wandering individuals were shot and killed by hunters near Lake Arthur, Jefferson Davis, LA 9 Oct.

A breeding-plumaged Black-bellied Plover near Baton Rouge 5 Sep (JVR, AS) was a local rarity that may have been grounded by Tropical Storm Lee; one near Linwood, Jefferson, AR 21 Oct (DB) was somewhat unusual and

relatively late for the Region's far interior. American Golden-Plovers appeared in unprecedented numbers for fall, with at least five reports, including 9 at Catahoula L., *La Salle*, LA 21 Sep (ph. Jason Olszak, Steve Smith) and up to 24 near Thornwell 20-29 Oct (ph. SWC, DLD). Up to 4 Piping Plovers at T.F.F. 3-21 Aug (K&LN) were the only ones reported from the interior. The 520 Black-necked Stilts at M.S.F. 7 Aug (JVR, AS) was an exceptional count for the Region away from sw. Louisiana. Interesting inland reports of American Avocets included 19 at M.S.F. 7 Aug (JVR, AS) and 12 there 5 Sep (SWC, DLD). A late Spotted Sandpiper was at Fayetteville 18 Nov (MAM, MP et al.). A Whimbrel at M.S.F. 7 Aug (JVR, AS) was a good bird for the Baton Rouge area and the only inland report of the season. Hudsonian Godwits are casual fall migrants through the Region and, in fact, an ad. at Benwood L. 15-17 Oct (ph. JRW, MT et al.) made only the 2nd autumn record for Arkansas. There are substantially more fall records for Louisiana, but the species is still less than annual there, so one at Bonnet Carré Spillway, *St. Charles* 23 Sep (ph. MW) was also exciting. Rare inland Marbled Godwits included up to 4 at T.F.F. 3-21 Aug (K&LN) and 2 between Indian Bayou and Kaplan 16-18 Oct (ph. PEC, DP, DBo). Inland Sanderlings included one at C.N.F. 13 Aug (DB), a high of 10 at T.F.F. 21 Aug (K&LN), and singles at B.K.N.W.R. 10 (KN) & 27 Sep (DB, Adam Leslie); the species is a rare but annual fall transient in the interior. White-rumped Sandpiper is another common spring migrant but is a less-than-annual fall migrant in the Region; this season, one was at B.K.N.W.R. 10 Sep (KN), and up to 4 were at Benwood L. 8-19 Oct (ph. JRW et al.). A Baird's Sandpiper at C.F.H. 19 Nov (MAM et al.) extended the late date for Arkansas. Wilson's Phalaropes s. of Baton Rouge 4 Sep (JVR) and near New Roads, *Pointe Coupee* 5 Sep (SWC, DLD) may have been grounded by *Lee*; one near Thornwell 28 Oct (SWC, DLD et al.) was late. A Red-necked Phalarope between Indian Bayou and Kaplan 16-17 Oct (ph. PEC, Jeff W. Harris) was especially unusual, as most Louisiana records are from the immediate coast or offshore; the species is somewhat more regular in Arkansas, but 5 at T.F.F. 21 Aug (K&LN) was exceptional. A Red Phalarope at Benwood L. 8 Oct (JRW) was only about the 12th for Arkansas and only the 4th in the past 25 years or so.

GULLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

An ad. Laughing Gull at Kincaid L. 3 Aug (JVH) and a juv. at T.F.F. 7 Aug (K&LN) were the only inland reports not coinciding with Tropical Storm *Lee*. Very similar to a report from the previous fall, a total of 54 Franklin's Gulls combined at Holly Beach and near Sabine Pass, *Cameron* 1 Oct (PEC, BMM) was a high number for this relatively early date. A very early Bonaparte's Gull was at Holly Beach 3 Oct (MW). Adult California Gulls were documented at Rutherford Beach 9 (SWC, ph. DLD; *L.S.U.M.N.S.) & 22 Oct (ph. PEC). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull at L. Dardanelle, *Yell* 8-10 Oct (K&LN) represented Arkansas's first Oct record, and an imm. Glaucous Gull in *Faulkner* 24 Nov (ML) was only about the 13th for Arkansas and just the 3rd during the fall period. Two Sabine's Gull reports included a juv. at Benwood L. 30 Sep (ph. JRW) and a late juv. at L. Dardanelle, *Pope* 23 Oct (KN). Excellent photographs helped to identify a juv. jaeger found on the 25 Sep pelagic trip to Mississippi Canyon (ph. JPS, ph. DP, RDP, ph. EIJ) as a Parasitic, the rarer of our two "regular" jaeger species.

Noteworthy reports of Common Ground-Doves well n. included singles at Kelso, *Desha*, AR 22 Aug (DB) and at Overflow N.W.R., *Ashley*, AR 1 Nov (B. Schat, Michael Budd, R. Woods); one strayed about as far se. as possible in Louisiana at Pass A Loutre W.M.A. headquarters 21 Oct (JBo). A Long-eared Owl was a one-day wonder at Hackberry Ridge, w. of Johnsons Bayou, *Cameron* 10 Nov (ph. JBo, ph. DBo, ph. TF) and added to the handful of previous fall records for Louisiana. A Burrowing Owl at Holly Beach, *Cameron* 20 Aug (ph. PEC) was the earliest fall migrant for Louisiana by almost seven weeks. A Chuck-will's-widow near *Cameron* 14 Aug (PEC) was relatively early for a migrant on the coast. After a "late" male Eastern Whip-poor-will was initially flushed from a day roost near *St. Gabriel* 11 Nov, 2 territorial individuals were subsequently monitored at the site 13 Nov+ (SWC, DLD). Northeastern Louisiana's first Anna's Hummingbird was an imm. male at Oak Grove, *West Carroll* 4 Nov+ (Roselie Overby, ph. SLP).



This Burrowing Owl at Holly Beach, Cameron Parish 20 August 2011 eclipsed Louisiana's previous early fall arrival by almost seven weeks. Photograph by Paul E. Conover.



This Long-eared Owl was flushed at Hackberry Ridge, near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish, Louisiana 10 November 2011, during passage of a cold front. The species is very rare in Louisiana and seldom detected as a fall migrant. Photograph by Tom Finnie.



This wood-pewee at Grand Isle, Jefferson Parish 24 September 2011 was well described as a Western Wood-Pewee, and documentation included a recording of it singing in response to playback—convincing evidence in support of Louisiana's first non-specimen occurrence and the first well documented for southeastern Louisiana. Photograph by Erik I. Johnson.



Just the second for Louisiana, this Gray Flycatcher at White Lake Wetland Conservation Area, south of Gueydan, Vermilion Parish 17-18 (here 17) November 2011 was also the state's first fall occurrence and a first for southern Louisiana. Photograph by Michael A. Seymour/Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.



An apparent family group of three Tropical Kingbirds, including this adult (right) and juvenile (left) plus a second juvenile not shown, near Cameron, Cameron Parish 13-20 (here 14) August 2011, represented about the seventh occurrence for Louisiana and was possibly suggestive of local breeding. Photograph by Dave Patton.



An unexpected surprise was this Cassin's Sparrow at Woolsey Wet Prairie, near Fayetteville, Washington County 22 October 2011, furnishing Arkansas with its second record, just months after the first in southwestern Arkansas in spring. Photograph by Joseph C. Neal.

WOODPECKER THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

A very early Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was at Black Bayou N.W.R., *Ouachita*, LA 21 Sep (William Matthews). Olive-sided Flycatchers at Grand Isle, *Jefferson* 13 Aug (vt. PAW)

and at Trinity I., *Isles Dernieres*, *Terrebonne* 8 Sep (ph. JBo) were relatively far e. and added to the few previous records from the outer coast away from *Cameron*; one near L. Claiborne 10 Sep (JD) was a noteworthy find for n.-cen. Louisiana, another near St. Gabriel 25 Sep (JVR) was unusual for the Baton Rouge area and very late for the interior, and one at B.R.A.S.S. 10 Oct (ph. DBo) tied for Louisiana's 2nd latest ever. An apparent singing (playback provoked) Western Wood-Pewee at Grand Isle 24 Sep (p.a.; ph./vr. EIJ, vt./vr. JBo) may have been the same bird first reported there 19 Sep (MW); this would be the first confirmed non-specimen record for Louisiana as well as the first well documented for se. Louisiana. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher near Johnsons Bayou 6 Aug (PEC) ranked among the earliest ever for Louisiana. A late Least Flycatcher was at Triumph, *Plaquemines* 27 Nov (RDP). A Gray Flycatcher at White Lake Wetland C.A. s. of Gueydan, *Vermilion* 17-18 Nov (ph. MAS, ph. DLD, ph. JVH, SWC) furnished Louisiana with its 2nd record. Six Say's Phoebes in Louisiana during fall 2011 was unprecedented. All were found in the s. portion of the state during a 51-day period 29 Sep-18 Nov, beginning with the easternmost bird at Bonnet Carré Spillway, *St. Charles* 29-30 Sep (ph. MW, CGB, ph. JR). More expectedly, the next 5 turned up in the sw.: near Sabine Pass 1 Oct (ph. PEC), between Holmwood and Bell City in se. *Calcasieu* 9 Oct (ph. PEC, ph. DLD, SWC), w. of

Thornwell 28 Oct+ (ph. EIJ, CGB, m.ob.), ne. of Thornwell 29 Oct (ph. DLD, SWC et al.), and at Cameron Prairie N.W.R., *Cameron* 18 Nov+ (PS, ph. DBo). An excellent find on the cen. barrier islands, and very early, was a Ver-

milion Flycatcher at Whiskey I., *Isles Dernieres* 7 Sep (JBo); an ad. male at Fontainebleu S.P. near Mandeville, *St. Tammany*, LA 25 Oct+ (TT, ph. MMe et al.) was also a good find for the n. shore of L. Pontchartrain. Ash-throated Flycatchers were confirmed at B.R.A.S.S. 9-10 Oct (ph. PEC, vt. PAW, DBo et al.), near Sabine Pass 17 Oct (with possibly the same bird there 5 Nov; ph. PEC, BMM, RB), at Thibodaux, *Lafourche* 22 Oct (ph. DOM), and at Bayou Sauvage N.W.R. 20 Nov (vt. PAW). A Great Crested Flycatcher near Baton Rouge 2 Oct (JVR, vt. CF) was relatively late for Louisiana's s. interior. A Great Kiskadee at Oak Grove, *Cameron* 3-9 Oct (ph. MW, DBo, ph. DLD, SWC) was presumably one of the 2 detected there off and on since 2009; more intriguing was one just w. of Thornwell 4 Nov (ph. JBo), a first for *Jefferson Davis* and the northernmost for Louisiana. A trio of Tropical Kingbirds just s. of *Cameron* 13-20 Aug (p.a.; ph. Gary Broussard, ph./vr. DP, ph. PEC, ph. Matthew T. Pontiff, ph. JVH, Stefan Wolman) appeared to represent a family group, with an ad. accompanied by 2 full-sized, non-dependent juvs.; if accepted, the record could be interpreted as providing circumstantial evidence of breeding in *Cameron* or elsewhere in adjacent sw. Louisiana, although the possibility of eastward wandering from Texas cannot be discounted. More Scissor-tailed Flycatchers that usual were reported e. of normal in e.-cen. Louisiana, including up to 9 in *St. Tammany* 12-15 Oct (TT, GO et al.); 5 near Lake Charles, *Calcasieu* 11 Nov (DBo, JBo) were rather late.

VIREOS THROUGH LONGSPUR

Migrant Bell's Vireos were documented at B.R.A.S.S. 1 (ph. PEC) & 29 Oct (vt. PAW). A Bell's Vireo near Baton Rouge 13 Nov (JVR) could have been a migrant or a wintering bird; it added to the few records for the Baton Rouge area. A Blue-headed Vireo at B.R.A.S.S. 1 Oct (DBo) was relatively early. Cave Swallows made their first serious incursion into Arkansas, where up to 10 per day were observed at C.N.F. on four dates 21 Aug-17 Oct (ph. DB, Sarah Baxter); one was found at another *Desha* location 5 Sep (DB); and one was documented at T.E.F. 10 Sep (ph. K&LN). There were only five previous Arkansas records, all since 2005 and mostly from the Millwood L. area. Cave Swallows also made another decent showing in sw. Louisiana, with a noticeable influx 8-9 Oct, when 15 were counted among thousands of mixed swallows moving eastward near Lowry and the Lacasine N.W.R. headquarters, *Cameron* 8 Oct (ph. DLD, SWC, PEC) and 75 were tallied in coastal *Cameron* 9 Oct (PEC et al.). A Rock

Wren at Fayetteville 16-17 Oct (ph. Aubrey Shepherd, JCN) made the only report; the species has been almost annual in Arkansas over the past two or three decades. A Bewick's Wren near Cameron 9 Oct (DPM, ph. PEC, DP) was among the top ten earliest records ever for Louisiana and one of few recent reports from the coast; one at Black Bayou Lake N.W.R. 8 Oct+ (ph. SLP) was much farther n. but also very early, and singles at Fayetteville 25 Sep (MAM) and at B.K.N.W.R. 1 Nov (RH) were considered locally unusual. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was very late at Chesney Prairie, Benton 19 Nov (MP, TS, JR). A Gray-cheeked Thrush at Wapanocca N.W.R., Crittenden 16 Sep (ph. RH) represented only about the 7th confirmed Arkansas fall record in the past 25 years. Two relatively early Lapland Longspurs were encountered at separate locations near Thornwell 29 Oct (SWC, DLD, MAS).

WARBLERS

One of our earliest species to depart in fall, a Louisiana Waterthrush near Erbie, Buffalo National River, Newton 10 Sep (JaS, Pam Stewart et al.) was one of the latest on record for Arkansas. Two Orange-crowned Warblers near Baton Rouge 2 Oct (JVR, ph. CF, Jane Patterson) were very early. Late Nashville Warblers were observed near Milton, Lafayette, LA 8 Nov (EIJ) and near Johnsons Bayou 10 Nov (DBo, JBo). The only reports of Cerulean Warbler, increasingly scarce in the Region, especially as fall transients, were of females at C.F.P. 6 Sep (RH) and at L. Fayetteville 15 Sep (MAM, Joanie Patterson); the latter was also record late for Arkansas. A late Northern Parula in Washington, LA 12 Nov (JRo) was especially noteworthy away from the coast. A one-day Tropical Parula at Hackberry Ridge 10 Nov (DBo, JBo, ph. TF) was Louisiana's 9th, the first since winter 2007-2008, and just the 2nd fall record (the others involving wintering birds). A Magnolia Warbler at C.F.P. 26 Aug (RH, DB) was record early for Arkansas, and a Bay-breasted Warbler at L. Fayetteville 14 Sep (MAM) was also very early and only the 2nd for nw. Arkansas since 1986. A Yellow Warbler at L. Fayetteville 6 Oct (MAM) was late for the Region's far interior. Very rare in fall versus spring, three reports of Blackpoll Warbler included singles near Sabine Pass 1 Oct (ph. PEC, ph. DBo), at Grand Isle 1 Oct (ph. DO'M, TB), and at Thibodaux 22 Oct (ph. DO'M). In contrast to the previous fall, only 2 Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported, a male and female at Grand Isle on the relatively early date of 24 Sep (ph. EIJ). A male Townsend's Warbler at B.R.A.S.S. 1 Oct (DBo, ph. BMM) made two consecutive falls the species has been docu-

mented there and represented only the 5th fall Louisiana record supported by evidence. A Black-throated Green Warbler at Milton 15 Aug (EIJ) was relatively early, although there are previous Louisiana records from as early as 19 Jul. A Canada Warbler at L. Fayetteville 17 Aug (MAM) was the earliest ever for Arkansas (although there are a number of earlier s. Louisiana records starting 2 Aug), and one near Sabine Pass 22 Oct (PEC, BMM) was among the five latest on record for Louisiana.

SPARROWS THROUGH ORIOLES

Prior to this season, Green-tailed Towhees had been found only about ten times in Louisiana, and never had more than one been found during a single year. This season, 5 were discovered in cen. and sw. Louisiana 29 Oct-30 Nov, all photographed: near Patoutville, Iberia 29 Oct (ph. Matt Conn); w. of Thornwell 4 Nov+ (ph. DFL, JCC et al.); near Alexandria 7 Nov+ (JVH, ph. RS); at the Bayou Pierre Unit, Red River N.W.R., Red River 12 Nov (TD, ph. JT et al.); and s. of Crowley, Acadia 30 Nov+ (ph. MAS). The vanguard of a strong winter Spotted Towhee invasion involved distinctly different singles at B.R.A.S.S. 30 Oct (ph. RS), 4 Nov (ph. TF), and 10 Nov (DBo, ph. JBo). Just months after the first record in the state's sw. corner May-June, Arkansas's 2nd Cassin's Sparrow was discovered at Woolsey Wet Prairie near Fayetteville 22 Oct (MAM, ph. JCN). American Tree Sparrows are rarely detected in the Region during the fall season, so five reports involving a total of at least 6 individuals at three locations in Benton and Washington 17-29 Nov (MAM, Bob Madison, MP, TS, HDC, JCN) was fairly remarkable. Clay-colored Sparrows at Grand Isle 24 Sep (EIJ), at South Pass 23 Oct (JBo), and at New Orleans 24 Oct (GO) made for a good showing in se. Louisiana, where the species tends to be much scarcer than in the w.; one



Brewer's Sparrow was first recorded in Louisiana back in 1952, but there were no subsequent occurrences until this individual was found on 8 October 2011 at Hackberry Ridge, near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish. Photograph by Paul E. Conover.



A regular but rare fall migrant through the Central Flyway, and seldom detected after October, this male Bobolink at Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge, Cameron Parish 18 November 2011 was not only record late for Louisiana (excepting two well-documented winter occurrences) but was still inexplicably in breeding plumage! Photograph by Paul Suchanek.

at Wapanocca N.W.R. 28 Oct (RH) was also unusual for far e. Arkansas. Fourteen Clay-colored scattered along the w. Cameron coast 1 Oct and again 17 Oct (both ph. PEC, BMM) were exceptional fall totals; 3 in w. Cameron 5 Nov (ph. PEC), one at B.R.A.S.S. 10 Nov (DBo, JBo), and 2 at Johnsons Bayou 12 Nov (ph. PEC) were getting late. Two Field Sparrows at separate locations in w. Cameron 17 Oct (ph. PEC, BMM) were apparently record early for the coast. Louisiana's 2nd Brewer's Sparrow, and the first in almost 60 years, was discovered at Hackberry Ridge 8 Oct (PEC, vt. PAW et al.; *L.S.U.M.N.S.). Six Lark Sparrows at four locations along the e. Louisiana

coast 23 Aug–24 Sep (JBo, DBo) made a high fall total so far e.; most noteworthy was one at Whiskey I. in the seldom-covered cen. barrier islands 8 Sep (JBo). Two Henslow's Sparrows at Woolsey Wet Prairie 23 Oct (ph. JBr, ph. David Oakley, MAM et al.) were considered to be transients. Inland Nelson's Sparrows were found at Woolsey Wet Prairie 5 Oct (MAM), at B.K.N.W.R. 16 Oct (DS, Jim Dixon, Sam Dixon, Karen Holliday, MP), at Fayetteville 29 Oct (MAM), and near Thornwell 29 Oct (ph. EIJ et al.). A White-crowned Sparrow near Cameron 2 Oct (DBo) was about the 2nd earliest on record for Louisiana; the earliest fall date is 30 Sep, also on the immediate coast. A dramatic coastal fallout of White-throated Sparrows was noted 10 Nov in the Johnsons Bayou area of Cameron (DBo, JBo), with an estimated 500+ at two locations and flocks noted moving westward. The vast majority of Western Tanagers in fall are found on the sw. Louisiana coast, so even more unusual were singles in *St. Tammany* 9 Oct (JCC et al.) and at Diamond, *Plaquemines* 22 Oct (ph. DBo). Two Summer Tanagers in the Johnsons Bayou area 5 Nov (PEC) were fairly late, as was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak there the same day (ph. PEC). An imm. male Black-headed Grosbeak visiting a feeder at River Ridge, *Jefferson*, LA 20 & 23 Sep (ph. Craig Mineo), and another, probably a female, at B.R.A.S.S.

29-30 Oct (vt. PAW, ph. RS) were the only two convincing reports. An Indigo Bunting at Grand Isle 13 Aug (DBo, JBo) was quite early for the outer se. coast; an Indigo near Leroy, *Vermilion* 18 Nov (EIJ) was late, as was a Painted Bunting at Big Lake W.M.A., *Mississippi*, AR 22 Oct (RH, Linda Howard).

Bobolink is another species that is fairly common in spring but rare in fall in the Region, so it was surprising to receive multiple reports of small flocks, including 13 at Red River N.W.R., *Red River* 17 Sep, with 10 still present there to 24 Sep and one through 1 Oct (TD, ph. JT, RS, Hubert Hervey), plus 7 near Sabine Pass 25 Sep (ph. PEC). Five Bobolinks were found at two locations near Thornwell during rice-harvesting operations 27 Oct (SWC, DLD, Simon Thompson); and a late male at Cameron Prairie N.W.R. 18 Nov (ph. PS) was, perplexingly, still in breeding plumage! Small numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from nw. Arkansas and sw. Louisiana, where now verging on regular in fall, but 6 at Boothville, lower *Plaquemines* 22 Sep (DBo) and one at Pass A Loure W.M.A. 22 Oct (JBo) were more unusual in se. Louisiana. A male Shiny Cowbird at Venice 13 Sep (ph. DBo) provided the first well-documented Louisiana record from between 26 Aug–9 Oct. Another species that departs the Region relatively early in fall, an Orchard

Oriole in *Newton* 10 Sep (JaS, Sally Jo Gibson) was apparently Arkansas's 2nd latest. An imm. male Bullock's Oriole was present at B.R.A.S.S. 30 Oct (ph. RS), and an ad. male was briefly sighted at Milton, *Lafayette* 7 Nov (EIJ).

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Northern Canada & Greenland



Cameron D. Eckert

Water levels were fairly high in much of the western Northwest Territories at the start of the period, but in parts of mainland Nunavut, pond and lake levels were low by early August. Fall

temperatures were unusually mild over much of the Region through November. There seems to be no end to the flow of extralimital wanderers that capture the attention of residents in the North. This season's show-stoppers included a Great Blue Heron in Nunavut, a Rufous Hummingbird in central Yukon, a Cattle Egret and a Turkey Vulture in Northwest Territories, and a Brambling in the Yukon.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

An impressive flyby of 5789 Greater White-fronted Geese was recorded at Teslin L., s. Yukon 29 Aug (SVD, JJ); one narrowly escaped the talons of an ad. Bald Eagle over Ekahli L. near Jean Marie R., NT 1 Oct (DT, ScC). Large congregations of Snow Geese were observed near Rankin Inlet during the week of 5 Sep, and the majority had passed through that part of Nunavut by

25 Sep (BZ). Some 600 Canada Geese were in the Nisutlin R. delta, s. Yukon 10 Sep (CE, PSi), and a sizable staging flock of 1000 was in Whitehorse, s. Yukon 20 Sep (CE). A Cackling Goose of subspecies *minima*, casual in s. Yukon in fall, was seen at Whitehorse 28 Sep (CE). Swan migration in the North offers ideal opportunities to hone identification skills; such was the case when 2 Trumpeter Swans and 5 Tundra Swans visited Tate L., w. of Tulita, NT 12 Sep (DW). Two flocks totaling 700 southbound Tundra Swans were seen at Marsh L., s. Yukon 9 Oct (CE); and a flight of 745 Tundras was recorded at Whitehorse 11 Oct (CE). A Blue-winged Teal was observed near Rankin Inlet 16 Oct (ph. BZ). A trip to Admiralty Inlet, NU 3 Sep produced 31 King Eiders, 14 Common Eiders, and 2 Long-tailed Ducks (CK, TK). A flock of 389 King Eiders flew past Arctic Bay, NU 18 Oct (ph. CK, TK). A female Harlequin Duck with ducklings confirmed breeding at Brintnell Cr., Nahanni N.P. 3 Aug (JT, MC, AO, VG); a pair had been recorded there in Jun. A high

count of 92 Ruddy Ducks came from Whitehorse, s. Yukon 8 Oct (CE).

Ten Rock Ptarmigan were at Meladine L., NU 26 Oct (PM). Three family groups totaling 25 White-tailed Ptarmigan, as well as 10 Willow Ptarmigan, were seen on Montana Mt., s. Yukon 8 Sep (BD, CE, GPi). The annual fall migration of Yellow-billed Loons through s. Yukon yielded one at Johnson's Crossing 8-22 Oct (AS; AH, JJ; CE), 4 on Teslin L. 11 Oct and one there 12-13 Oct (JJ), and one at Marsh L. 22 Oct (CE) and 5 Nov (CE, JJ). An impressive concentration of Red-necked Grebes on Marsh L., s. Yukon numbered 477 on 17 Aug (JJ), with 407 still present 12 Sep (CE). Some 700 Northern Fulmars were estimated at Admiralty Inlet 3 Sep (CK, TK). The American White Pelican colony on the Slave R. near Ft. Smith, NT had a good year; an Aug count tallied 336 chicks from 604 nests (SI). An American White Pelican w. of its range at Nahanni Butte, NT 31 Aug (PC, ph. GT) captured the interest of village residents.

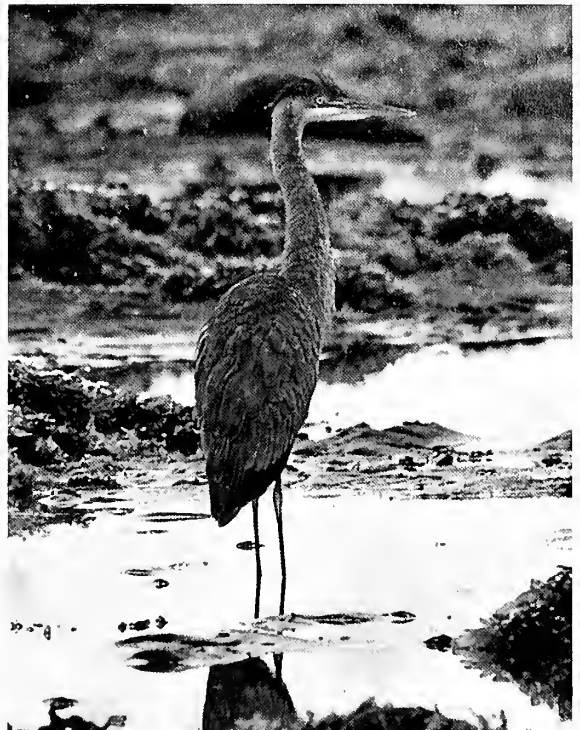
A juv. Great Blue Heron was unexpected in Pangnirtung, NU 11-23 Oct (ph. DK). Likewise, a Cattle Egret being harassed by Common Ravens was a surprise at Ft. Simpson, NT 26 Oct (CL, DV, NL, ph. DA, DT). A Turkey Vulture at Paulatuk, NT caused quite a stir among local residents when it showed up in early Aug (ph. DR). Migrant Rough-legged Hawk reports included 2 near Nahanni Butte, NT 23 Oct (ph. DT), 2 at Rankin Inlet 23 Oct (BZ), and one over Hay River, NT 7 Nov (ph. GV). Other raptors reported from Rankin Inlet were a juv. Golden Eagle 24 Sep and a movement of Peregrine Falcons 19-25 Sep (BZ). Increasing concerns about American Kestrel in the North have placed greater emphasis on getting good counts during migration; this season, a total of 239 was recorded at the Teslin Lake banding station, s. Yukon (BS, JJ). A flight of 1000 Sandhill Cranes passed over Watson L., se. Yukon 28 Sep (SD). A concentration of migrant shorebirds comprised of 16 Semipalmated, 37 White-rumped, and 157 Baird's Sandpipers and 5 Common Ringed Plovers attracted the attention of a Peregrine Falcon at Marcil L., NU 10 Aug (CK). A count of 72 White-rumped Sandpipers was recorded at Iqaluit, NU 6 Oct (GaP). Two juv. Sanderlings, a rare migrant in sw. Northwest Territories, were along the Mackenzie R. at Ft. Simpson 31 Aug (ph. DT). A Purple Sandpiper was at Marcil L., NU 27 Aug (CK). Rare Yukon shorebirds included a bright juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper at Whitehorse 1 Oct (ph. CE), a juv. Buff-breasted Sandpiper at Herschel I. 22 Aug (CE), and a juv. Red Phalarope at Whitehorse 6 Oct (ph. CE).

GULLS THROUGH FINCHES

A Long-tailed jaeger was noted during an exploratory hike from Babbage Falls to Fish Hole Cr., Ivavik N.P., n. Yukon 31 Jul-6 Aug (LS). A juv. Little Gull, casual in s. Yukon, was at Teslin L. 24 Sep-9 Oct (ph. JJ, AH). A late imm. Glaucous Gull was at Rankin Inlet 11 Nov (BZ). A Lesser Black-backed Gull, the Yukon's 2nd, was seen at Whitehorse 24 Aug-2 Sep (ph. JJ, JP, HG, PSi; CE). A check of the gulls at Iqaluit, NU 6 Oct produced 2 Herring, 15 Thayer's, 30 Iceland, 4 Lesser Black-backed, a Great Black-backed, and 200 Glaucous Gulls (GaP). Two ad. Black-legged Kittiwakes, a rare fall migrant off the Yukon's North Coast, were seen flying westward past Herschel I. 18 Aug (CE). A juv. Ivory Gull was at Admiralty Inlet near Arctic Bay, NU 14 Sep (ph. CK).

A widespread movement of Snowy Owls throughout the Region set the stage for a significant winter invasion in the south; reports included one e. of Ft. Simpson, NT 31 Oct (EM), singles at Norman Wells, NT 31 Oct and 27 Nov (DW), one at Shallow Bay, s. Yukon 21-22 Nov (ph. MB, PB, BD, CE), one at Ft. Simpson, NT 24 Nov (LM, ShW), one at Pangnirtung 25 Nov (DK), and at least 8 at the Yellowknife, NT airstrip during the season (SL, DC), including 2 killed in airplane collisions 28 Oct and 2 Nov (SL). Great Gray Owls, all singles, were reported along Liard Hwy. n. of the Nahanni Butte access road, NT 24 Oct (ScW), along the Mackenzie Hwy. near the Jean Marie R. access road 29 Sep (DT, ScC), at Trout L., NT 18 Nov (ScW), and w. of Sambaa Deh Territorial Park, NT 18 Nov (ScW). A noteworthy count of 25 Common Nighthawks was recorded along a 20-km stretch of Hwy. 3 s. of Behchoko, NT 6 Aug (DT). A Rufous Hummingbird was at km 2.4 of the Dempster Hwy., cen Yukon 22 Aug (TB).

Single Northern Shrikes were at Ekahli L., NT 29 Sep (DT) and at Norman Wells, NT 30 Oct, 1 Nov, and 13 Nov (all RP). A Blue-headed Vireo was netted at the Albert Creek banding station, se. Yukon 1 Aug (ph. TMK). A significant invasion of Steller's Jays across s. Yukon began in mid-Sep and continued through the season, with reports from Haines Junction, Marsh L., Carcross, Tagish, Teslin, and many locations around Whitehorse; similar fall invasions occurred in 1994 and 2006. American Crow continues to increase and



Sensationally out of place in the High Arctic, this Great Blue Heron did not go unnoticed at Pangnirtung, Nunavut 11-23 (here 11) October 2011. Photograph by David Kilabuk.

expand along the n. edge of its range; record-high counts included 30 at Ft. Providence, NT 28 Aug (DT), 24 at Ft. Simpson, NT 8 Sep (DT), 14 at Watson Lake, se. Yukon 27 Sep (ph. SD), and 19 at Whitehorse, s. Yukon 7 Oct (CE). An impressive flock of about 1000 Common Ravens was seen flying in a line at dawn over Whitehorse 24 Nov (PSt).

Venturing into the land dominated by its boreal cousin, a Black-capped Chickadee at Norman Wells, NT 23 Oct (RP) was n. of the species' range. A Chestnut-backed Chickadee, casual in s. Yukon, stopped in briefly at the Teslin L. banding station 15 Oct (ph. JJ). Single Brown Creepers, rare in s. Yukon, were at Tagish 29 Sep (SVD), Teslin L. 15 Oct (ph. JJ), and Johnson's Crossing 19 Oct (JJ). An imm. Northern Wheatear, rarely seen on migration in n. Yukon, was at Herschel I. 23-24 Aug (ph. CE). Some 64 migrating Mountain Bluebirds were noted at Teslin L., s. Yukon 23-24 Sep (JJ, CE et al.). Storms in the first week of Nov brought a Mountain Bluebird and American Robin, both unexpected, to Rankin Inlet (JCA). Late Hermit Thrushes included 2 at Ekahli L., NT 1 Oct (DT, ScC) and one at Wolf Cr., s. Yukon 18 Oct (JH). Nearly 60 years has passed since the last Yukon report of Brown Thrasher; this season, one appeared briefly at Whitehorse 8 Nov (JJ).

Large flocks of Snow Buntings gathered at

Rankin Inlet, NU 19-25 Sep (BZ). Two late warblers, an Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped, were seen at Ft. Simpson, NT 15 Oct (DT). An imm. Chipping Sparrow at Whitehorse, s. Yukon 6 Oct (ph. CE) tied the previous late date. Single juv. Brewer's Sparrows, rare in fall migration, were recorded at Teslin L., s. Yukon 22 Aug and 8 Sep (SVD, JJ). An automated recording device set up at Yohin L. established the first record of Le Conte's Sparrow for Nahanni N.P., NT 19 Jun (v.r., *fide* DT); its congener, Nelson's Sparrow, was heard on a B.B.S. route 20 km n. of Ft. Providence, NT 14 Jun (v.r. CM). A White-throated Sparrow, w. of its range, was at Whitehorse, s. Yukon 16 Sep (LC). A Rusty Blackbird, n. of its range, was at Rankin Inlet from the first week of Nov+ (ShC, DC, BC).

The Yukon's 5th Brambling was a crowd pleaser in Whitehorse 31 Oct–1 Nov (HG, ph. CE, BS, PS, BD, m.ob.). A flock of Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches was seen in the alpine area above Shaniabaw L., s. Yukon 16 Sep

(ph. JK), while singles appeared at a Mayo, cen. Yukon feeder 17-21 Nov (MOD) and a Whitehorse feeder 30 Nov–1 Dec (HG, ph. CE). An abundant White Spruce cone crop in sw. Northwest Territories this summer supported good numbers of White-winged Crossbills; some crossbills feeding juvs. at Ft. Simpson 13 Oct (DT) indicated late breeding. Birch seed crops were abundant throughout much of the Northwest Territories, supporting high numbers of early winter redpolls; a flock of about 500 redpolls was in Norman Wells, NT 11 Oct (RP). A total of 6515 migrant Common Redpolls, along with 5786 unidentified small finches, were recorded at Teslin L., s. Yukon 4-16 Oct (JJ), though very few were seen at local feeders at the time.

Observers (subregional editors in boldface): Danny Allaire, Mary Beattie, Pete Beattie, Chuck Blyth, Tara Borin, Linda Cameron, Scott Cameron (ScC), Pauline Campbell, Bernadette Chislett, Devaro Chislett, Shilo

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Prairie Provinces



Rudolf F. Koes
Peter Taylor

The Prairie Provinces experienced a mild and dry fall, punctuated by an October heat wave, late thunderstorms, and occasional high winds, but real wintry weather did not arrive until mid-November, with only marginal snow cover in many areas by season's end. Migrant waterfowl and shorebird numbers were generally in high numbers, but the passerine migration was spotty at best, especially in southern Manitoba. A poor insect and berry crop may have been to blame for low breeding productivity, while the placid weather allowed for the unseen departure of many songbirds. Alberta attracted by far the lion's share of rarities, including two provincial firsts.

Abbreviation: Last Mountain L. (includes Last Mountain Lake Regional Park, Regina Beach, and Last Mountain B.O., SK).

GEESE THROUGH FALCONS

A tally of 22 Ross's Geese near Lac du Bonnet, MB 14 Sep was high so far east (PT). Single blue-morph Ross's Geese were noted at Oak Hammock Marsh, MB 19 Sep (Rko) and at Reed L., SK 25 Sep (TK). A Ross's Goose × Cackling Goose hybrid was an unusual find at Regina 22 Oct (BL, KM). Cackling Goose numbers were higher than usual in s. Manitoba, e.g. 500+ at Grosse Isle 14 Sep (KG)

and 2000 at Neepawa 3 Nov (CC). An apparent Redhead × Greater Scaup hybrid was photographed at Chain Lakes P.P., AB 22 Nov (TK), and a Redhead × Lesser Scaup hybrid was photographed at Langdon, AB 12 Nov (TK, KJ et al.). Four Harlequin Ducks at Hecla P.P., MB 7 Sep were unexpectedly early (A&SC, DS, RS). Scoter numbers were low throughout the Region; best were 16 Surfs near The Pas, MB 1 Oct (DR) and lone Blacks at Last Mountain L., SK 11 Oct (BL) and at Eagle L., AB 30 Oct–4 Nov (RW). A tally of 7 Barrow's Goldeneyes at Radisson L. 9 Oct (NH) was high for Saskatchewan; elsewhere

SA Whitewater L. in sw. Manitoba is a large, slightly alkaline, body of water with no natural outlet. As recently as the 1980s, the lake was completely dry, but during the current wet cycle, the water levels are extremely high, which has created great habitat for waders. As early as 2003, Cattle Egrets were seen carrying nesting material, and breeding was confirmed in 2007. The province's first breeding White-faced Ibis were found in 2005. During the summer of 2011, Ken De Smet located a mixed breeding colony in a row of drowned shrubs and trees, but access (by canoe) could not be gained until 15 Aug, when he found 50+ Double-crested Cormorant nests, 16+ Great Egret nests (the province's 3rd active colony), a **Snowy Egret** nest with 5 juvs. (Manitoba's first), 43+ Cattle Egret nests, and over **400** juv. Black-crowned Night-Herons. Three Little Blue Herons were also seen, but there was no evidence of their nesting detected.

Elsewhere in Manitoba, Great Egret numbers skyrocketed near L. Manitoba and in the s. Interlake region. High counts included 59+ at E. and N. Shoal Lakes 7 Aug (KG), 50 at Dog L. 14 Aug (PT, Rko), 63+ near Langruth 28 Aug (AD), 58 in the Lynch Point/Delta area 10 Sep (GB, GW, JW), and 123 at W. Shoal L. 10 Sep (BC, WC, MW).

in the province, up to 4 were at Last Mountain L. 24 Oct–11 Nov (BL, m.ob.) and one was at Katepwa L. 27 Oct–29 Nov (BL).

Saskatchewan Cattle Egret reports included 5 near Eyebrow Marsh 5 Aug (BL, JC), up to 5+ at Last Mountain L. 16 Aug–9 Oct (AS, m.ob.), and up to 13 at Reed L. 28 Aug–2 Oct (MDu). An unusually large flock of 75 White-faced Ibis was at Frank L., AB 17 Aug (SM, VB). At Whitewater L., 26 Plegadis ibis were rather tardy 17 Oct (LV). A Black



This duck at Langdon, Alberta 12 November 2011 was identified by one of the observers as a Redhead × Lesser Scaup hybrid. Others have suggested Ring-necked Duck instead of scaup as one of the parents. Photographs by Kay Janes.



Vulture at Raymond 22 Sep furnished the first documented record for Alberta (KS, LS, NS, PS, TS, ph.). A Sharp-shinned Hawk at Churchill about 17 Sep was locally rare (DB). The mild weather enticed Swainson's Hawks to linger into Oct in all three provinces. Rough-legged Hawks were prominent in s. Alberta, e.g., 40 between Calgary and Pine Coulee Res. (TK) and 56 between Medicine Hat and Brooks (MSp, BV), all on 20 Nov. The single-day tally of 556 Golden Eagles at Mt. Lorette, AB 8 Oct was a record for the site (JD et al.). An errant Prairie Falcon wandered far n. to Seal River, MB 8-10 Aug (JO, ph.); 5+ Prairie Falcons were at Whitewater L. 8 Oct (NM).

RAILS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

A Sora at FortWhyte Alive, Winnipeg 19 Nov was late (RE). Whooping Cranes peaked at 39 at Muskiki L., near Saskatoon, 10 Oct (fide GK). A beautifully photographed Pacific Golden-Plover at Lac Ste. Anne, AB 8 Oct provided the 2nd accepted record for the province (SK, GR, ph.). A Solitary Sandpiper lingered at Grand Beach, MB until 8 Oct (CC, m.ob.). Notable shorebird tallies included 1000 American Avocets at Miquelon L., AB (MS), 600 Lesser Yellowlegs at Weed L., AB 14 Aug (TK), and a peak of 150 Buff-breasted Sandpipers near Oak Hammock Marsh 17 Aug (RPo, RC), likely the highest count ever in s. Manitoba. Concentrations of 1000 Red-necked Phalaropes at Strathmore, AB 14 Aug (TK), 1200 at Weed L. the same day (TK), and 1000+ at Oak Hammock Marsh 1 Sep (RS, DJ) were also noteworthy, as was a tally of 450 Wilson's Phalaropes at Weed L. 8 Aug (TK). An Ivory Gull was reported without details at Churchill 16 Oct (fide BCh). Sabine's Gulls were noted in all three provinces: singles at Cold L., AB 26 Aug (BB), Elk Island N.P., AB 10 Sep (BSs et al.), Vermilion Lakes, AB 10-11

Sep (JR), Hecla P.P., MB 15 Sep (BS), and up to 2 each at Cold L. late Sep–early Oct (RK) and Buck L., SK 30 Sep–9 Oct (BL). White-winged gulls were scarcer than usual this season (TK, m.ob.). Lesser Black-backed Gulls of different ages were at Calgary 26 Sep (GY et al.) and 10-11 Oct (IP). There was not a single report of a jaeger this season.

Snowy Owls were quite prominent in s. Manitoba, but Great Gray Owls and Northern Hawk Owls were very scarce, though a hawk owl at Regina, SK 7-30 Nov was outside its usual range (m.ob.). Scant details were received on a late Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Winnipeg, MB 17-18 Oct (SA) and a Rufous Hummingbird at Grande Pointe, MB 28 Sep (SV). Furnishing Alberta's 2nd accepted record, a Red-bellied Woodpecker was present at High River, AB from about 9 Oct+ (E&KS) but not discovered by other birders until 12 Dec.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH FINCHES

A Say's Phoebe at Mowbray, MB 10 Sep (RP, JSw, LV) was at the e. edge of its range, while another bird at Frank L. 29 Oct (IH, CH) was probably record late for the Region. An extremely late Red-eyed Vireo was at Winnipeg 4-6 Nov (PF). Red-breasted Nuthatches were exceptionally scarce in s. Manitoba, even at the edge of the boreal forest. A Marsh Wren at Taber L. 24 Nov was record late for Alberta (LB). Alberta's 4th Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was present at Cypress Hills P.P. 9 Aug–14 Sep (JK, CD, m.ob.). A Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Banff, AB 17 Nov was very late (JR). A North-



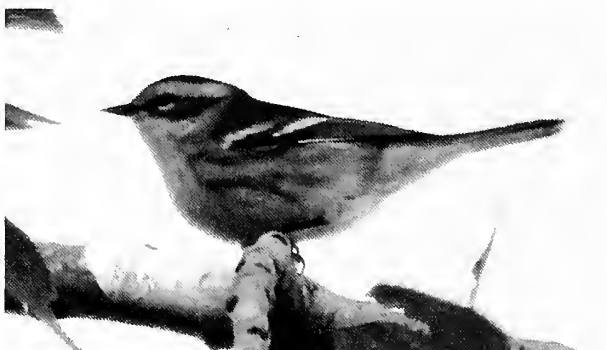
Found by local children, this Black Vulture at Raymond, Alberta on 22 September 2011 furnished the first confirmed record for the province. Photograph by Nyree Smith.



Alberta's second Red-bellied Woodpecker, at High River, was first seen around 9 October 2011 but not discovered by other birders until 11 (here 12) December. Photograph by Kirk Davis.



Cypress Hills Provincial Park hosted this Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Alberta's fourth, from 9 August (here) through 17 September 2011. The tail pattern, studied during banding, indicated it belonged to the southwestern population. Photograph by Yousif Attia.



One of two Townsend's Warblers noted in Saskatchewan during fall 2011, this bird was at Hodgeville 12 September. There are over a dozen previous records for the province. Amazingly, the species has never been reported in Manitoba. Photograph by Joel Priebe.



This Prothonotary Warbler at Water Valley, Alberta 31 October (here) through 1 November 2011 represents the province's first record. Photograph by Keith Logan.

ern Mockingbird was a good find at Medicine Hat 4 Aug (BV). Two Bohemian Waxwings at Calgary 7 Sep were extremely early (TK). Single Smith's Longspurs n. of Cypress Hills P.P. 15 Sep (YA) and s. of the park 17 Sep (JD) were unexpected.

A Prothonotary Warbler s. of Water Valley 31 Oct-1 Nov was a first for Alberta (K&SL, ph.). Other rare and/or late warblers were: an American Redstart at Churchill 29 Aug (RS,

(MT), a pair feeding a juv. at Prince Albert, SK 4 Sep (DH), and a pair with young in the nest near Winkler, MB on the late date of 9 Sep (RKn). Locally rare was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Vermilion Lakes 1 Sep (JR).

At least 120 Bobolinks flew over Oak Hammock Marsh 28 Aug (RKO). In mid-Aug, a record-high 16 Orchard Orioles were banded at Last Mountain L. (AS). A Baltimore Oriole first noted at Matlock, MB 22 Nov was still



In a few areas of downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba, the presence of shrubbery and food has induced a variety of sparrows to linger into late fall or winter in recent years. This very late Savannah Sparrow was at one such spot on 22 November 2011. Photograph by Ward Christianson.

DJ); a Cape May Warbler at Peace River, AB 17 Nov (fide PC & MM); a Magnolia Warbler at Calgary 23 Oct (PC); a Black-throated Blue Warbler at Medicine Hat 16 Nov (MD et al.); single Townsend's Warblers at Swift Current, SK 27 Aug (RD, MDu), Hodgeville, SK 12 Sep (JP), and Jasper 17 Oct (2 birds) (JR); a Canada Warbler at Winnipeg 10 Oct (PF); and a Yellow-breasted Chat near Elkwater, AB 2-5 Oct (JS). Migrant American Tree Sparrows were scarce in s. Manitoba. Tardy sparrows included a Savannah Sparrow at Winnipeg until at least 22 Nov (WC), a locally rare Baird's Sparrow at Bow L., AB 11 Oct (DL), and a Lincoln's Sparrow at Jasper 21 Nov (JR). A Summer Tanager was near Saskatoon 10 Oct (fide SS); another was at Winnipeg 18-19 Nov (AW, RPo, ph.). Northern Cardinal reports of note included one at Yorkton, SK 12-14 Aug (CB), one at Calgary 21 Aug (LH et al.), a northerly bird at Gillam, MB 4 Sep

going strong late in Dec (B&BS, m.ob.). An unusually large flock of 15 Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches was at Elk Island N.P. 28 Oct (fide JL). Winter finches were scarce in s. Manitoba but quite prominent in s. Alberta, where an abundant cone crop was likely responsible for excellent numbers of Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills, Common Redpolls, and Pine Siskins. A minor incursion of Red Crossbills took place in s. Manitoba 13-20 Oct (KAG, RKO, RP, PT).

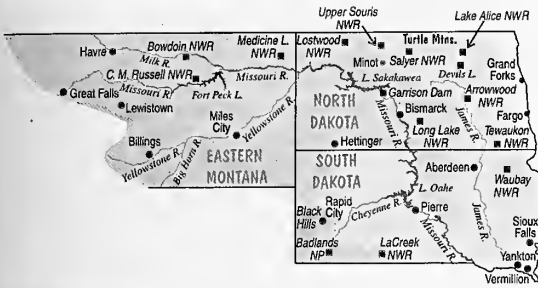
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The floodwaters finally receded in North Dakota in August. Much of the Souris River valley and associated refuges were inundated for over four months. The fate of the oak-ash forest in the valley is unknown. The flooding was followed by a warm, dry fall, with little snow cover and an unusual amount of open water at the end of the season.

Possibly the most rarity-free season in memory was coupled with a generally poor migration. With the warm weather, numerous late dates were recorded, along with some interesting peak counts. There was a notably late hatch of some waterbird species.

It is with regret that we note the unexpected passing of Paul Van Ningen, long-time United States Fish and Wildlife Service employee in North Dakota. Paul had been the Project Leader at Long Lake National Wildlife Refuge for the past 19 years and before that was the manager at Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge. Paul was a long-time contributor of sightings to this journal.

SWANS THROUGH IBIS

A Mute Swan 30 Aug at Chase Lake N.W.R. provided the 2nd report for North Dakota (NRS). Twenty-five Surf Scoters was a good showing for North Dakota 15 Oct–11 Nov, with a peak of 11 at Upper Souris N.W.R. 15 Oct (REM, SDL); two South Dakota reports included an early individual 8 Oct in Sully (BJU). Thirteen White-winged Scoters were reported from seven locations in North Dakota 23 Oct–20 Nov, with a peak of 6 at Grand Forks 23 Oct (DOL). Five Black Scoters were noted in North Dakota 24 Oct–8 Nov. A Common Goldeneye was early 8 Oct in Hughes, SD (BJU), and a Barrow's Goldeneye was at Yankton 27 Nov (MRZ). A brood of Common Mergansers 27 Aug at the International Peace Gardens, ND (KCJ) provided the first breeding record for the Turtle Mts. The sole report of Pacific Loon came from Sully, SD 8 Oct (BJU). Providing the 2nd latest record for North Dakota, an Eared Grebe was in Oliver 30 Nov (HCT). Late nesting Western Grebes with dependent young were noted 5 Sep in

McLean, ND (REM) and at Freezout L., MT 30 Sep (MS). A probable 4th record for South Dakota, a Neotropical Cormorant was in Potter 8 Oct (p.a., BJU).

Providing the 2nd latest observation for the state, a Least Bittern was in Walworth, SD 9 Oct (BJU). A new high count for North Dakota, 345 Great Egrets were in Stutsman and Dickey 6 Aug (CDE). The Tricolored

Heron reported in the summer season from Brown, SD continued until 6 Aug (RDO). The latest record for South Dakota, a Glossy Ibis was in Hand 7 Nov (DB). The 4th through 6th reports for North Dakota, a Glossy Ibis was in Dickey 5 Aug (p.a., KB), 6 were in Dickey 6 Aug (p.a., REM, CDE), and 4 were in Barnes 15 Aug (p.a., TG). The 2nd highest count for North Dakota, 355 White-faced Ibis were in Stutsman and Dickey 6 Aug (PRS, SLW). Three White-faced Ibis in Stutsman, ND 21 Nov provided the 2nd latest record for the state (HAK).

HAWKS THROUGH GULLS

A peak of 256 Swainson's Hawks was in Morton, ND 2 Oct (HCT), and an individual 6 Nov in Charles Mix, SD furnished a rare Nov record for the Region (RM). A flock of 17 Whooping Cranes in Emmons, ND 29 Oct made the 2nd highest state total ever (*vide* MJR). The only South Dakota report was of 9 birds in Sully 5 Nov (RDO). Rare in fall in North Dakota, 4 Black-necked Stilts were in Dickey 5 Aug (KB). Rare in Montana, a Hudsonian Godwit was at Freezout L. 2–13 Aug (MS); 20 were in McHenry, ND 7 Aug (REM). Casual in fall in Montana, a Red Knot was at Freezout L. 3 Aug (MS). Late shorebirds in South Dakota included a Least Sandpiper 5 Nov in Charles Mix (KP), and a Stilt Sandpiper 31 Oct in Charles Mix (RM). A peak of 60 Buff-breasted Sandpipers was at Long Lake N.W.R., ND 16 Aug (PCV).

The earliest on record for South Dakota, a Black-legged Kittiwake was at Pierre 7 Oct (RDO). Sabine's Gulls made another strong showing this season, with 12 in North Dakota 21 Sep–23 Oct. Five South Dakota reports spanned 16 Sep–9 Oct. In Montana, singles were at Freezout L. 3–5 Oct (MS, LC), and a late individual was at Great Falls 15 Oct (NK). The 15th report for South Dakota, a Little Gull was in Stanley 16–24 Sep (DB, RDO). A new high count for North Dakota, 340,000 Franklin's Gulls were on L. Sakakawea near Garrison Dam 11 Sep (REM). Early Thayer's Gulls were at Garrison Dam, ND 25 Sep (DNS) and in Walworth, SD 9 Oct (BJU). A potential 7th record for South Dakota, a Great Black-backed Gull was at Pierre 7–27 Nov

(p.a., RDO). The only Iceland Gull reported was at Garrison Dam, ND 19 Nov (DNS).

NIGHTHAWKS THROUGH WRENS

The first Snowy Owl report came from Burleigh, ND 10 Nov (PCV); by late Nov, a large winter invasion was well under way. Late Common Nighthawks were in Brookings, SD 9 Oct (KCJ) and in Morton, ND 15 Oct (HCT). Hummingbirds also made a late showing, with single Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Grand Forks, ND 1 Oct (DOL) and at Ft. Peck, MT 11 Oct (CC). A Broad-tailed Hummingbird was late 4 Sep in Custer, SD (DS, JSP). The 3rd record for Montana, a Red-bellied Woodpecker was at Sidney 1 Nov+ (JN). A Red-naped Sapsucker was a rare migrant at Ft. Peck, MT 10 Oct (CC).

Emphasizing the perilous state of affairs for Loggerhead Shrike in North Dakota, only six reports were received for this once-common species. A Northern Shrike in Hughes, SD 28 Aug would provide the earliest fall record for the state by six weeks (p.a., DB). Seldom reported in migration in North Dakota, a Bell's Vireo was at Bismarck 27 Aug (CDE). Late Bell's Vireos were reported from three South Dakota counties 10 Sep. Common Ravens continued their southward push: a single was in Morton, ND 15 Oct (HCT), and 5 were at Medora, ND 15 Oct (NH). A Marsh Wren in Charles Mix, SD 21 Nov was late (RM), and 2 in Pierre, ND 25 Nov (WE) provided the latest record for the state.

THRUSHES THROUGH FINCHES

Reports of Wood Thrush came from Marshall, SD 30 Aug (BJU) and Jamestown, ND 18 Oct (ALI). Tying the earliest record for North Dakota, a Varied Thrush was at Bismarck 26 Sep (CDE). An American Pipit in Lake, SD was late 12 Nov (JSP), and a single 23 Nov in Grand Forks, ND provided the latest record for the state by six days (EEF). The only highlights of a dreadfully poor warbler migration were from North Dakota. A Blue-winged Warbler photographed in Traill 20 Sep (SAW) provided the 19th report for the state, and a Prothonotary Warbler described from New Town 18–20 Aug (BCH) furnished the 17th report for the state. The latest record for South Dakota, a Lark Sparrow was in Yankton 19 Nov (DS). The 3rd latest record for North Dakota, a Savannah Sparrow lingered through 18 Nov in Grand Forks (EEF). Rarely reported in South Dakota in fall, a Baird's Sparrow was in Walworth 9 Oct (BJU). Late Nelson's Sparrows were in Walworth and Brookings, SD 9 Oct (BJU, RDO, KCJ). A Black-headed Grosbeak was well e. of the species' usual range in Cass, ND 13 Sep (CM). A late Indigo Bunting

was in *Hand*, SD 19 Oct (DB).

A new high fall count for North Dakota, 80 Purple Finches were at Denbigh Experimental Forest, *McHenry* 25 Nov (REM). Casual at Ft. Peck, MT, a Cassin's Finch was studied there 23 Oct (CC), and one in *Harding*, SD 5 Sep (DB) was well n. of the species' usual range in the s. Black Hills. Six Red Crossbill reports came from the Dakotas, and the only reported White-winged Crossbills reported were 4 at West Fargo, ND 13 Oct (MAO). Fair numbers of Common Redpolls had moved

into the Region by the end of Nov. Pine Siskin numbers were low. A Lesser Goldfinch was late 4 Sep in *Fall River*, SD (DS, JSP).

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Southern Great Plains



Joseph A. Grzybowski
W. Ross Silcock

Within the Southern Plains, conditions were hot and dry in the south, reflecting even more severe drought conditions to the southwest of the Region. Large-scale wildfires more typical of the Southwest occurred: during September, almost 60% of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Oklahoma burned. Many ponds dropped to very low levels or simply dried up. Cold fronts in October brought more moderate temperatures and some rain. Nevertheless, the timing late in the growing season left much woody vegetation dead, and seed and insect production were below normal levels. By contrast, to the north, the rainfall was more normal, and the Missouri River valley still showed the influence of the heavy floods of spring and summer.

This contrast between the dry southern part of the Region and wet northern area

surely contributed to what was a memorable fall migration, but establishing connections between the breeding season's results, weather/climate, food resources, and other factors is always difficult in this Region. Numbers of some groups, such as sparrows that nest in the southern Plains, seemed low, but at least some species that nest mostly farther north were noted in higher numbers than average. Westerly half-hardy species, such as Townsend's Solitaire, Mountain Bluebird, Sage Thrasher, and Chestnut-collared Longspur were detected in places a bit east of usual range. Red-breasted Nuthatch and Pine Siskin did not irrupt southward into the Region, but Snowy Owls were out in force by the end of the period. With milder weather than is usual into middle and even late autumn, many observers reported late nesting attempts and late-lingering migrants.

Abbreviations: Cheyenne Bottoms (Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Barton, KS); Hackberry Flat (Hackberry Flat W.M.A., Tillman, OK); 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

A summering Snow Goose was seen in *Hodgeman*, KS 13 Aug (PJ, MG, WCT, TE). Mottled Ducks continue their intriguing isolated presence in cen. Kansas, with 4 at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 Aug (JWi), one at Quivira 5 Sep (MG, NA, WCT, CF), and singles at two locations in *Sumner* 5 & 15 Aug (GY, MT);

one was noted at Red Slough 8 Sep (DA), probably from the ne. Texas population. Cinnamon Teal is difficult to detect in late summer because of molt into its Blue-winged Teal-like eclipse plumage; one such bird was in *Logan*, KS 12 Aug (PJ, MG, WCT, TE). Only occasional as a breeder s. to Kansas, 2 Canvasbacks, likely a pair, were in *Ellsworth* 2 Aug (MR); an early migrant was in *Clay*, NE 24 Sep (CNK), with an impressive 3000+ on Wilson L., *Russell*, KS 30 Oct (MR, ER). Small groups of Greater Scaup began appearing in the Region by 6 Nov in Nebraska and by 13 Nov in Oklahoma (*fide* WRS, JAG). Some 2000 Lesser Scaup were estimated in *Lancaster*, NE 8 Nov (JGJ), a large group. This was a good fall for Surf Scoter in the Region, with at least 20 reported 19 Oct–26



Very rare and sporadic in the southern Great Plains, this immature White-tailed Kite was spotted at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area, McCurtain County, Oklahoma 2 August 2011. Photograph by Dave Arbour.

Nov (*fide* WRS, LM, MC, JL); the highest count was of 5 in *Tulsa* 15 Nov (JWA et al.). White-winged Scoter was also reported from all three states 11–30 Nov (*fide* WRS, LM, MC, JL), but only 7 in total. Only 4 Black

Scoters were reported, singles in *Reno*, KS 20 Nov (PJ), *Russell*, KS 20 Nov (MR), and *Tulsa* 15-26 Nov (JWA). A Long-tailed Duck was in *Lancaster*, NE 16 Nov (JGJ), singles were in *Sedgwick*, KS 22 Nov (PJ) and *Tulsa*, OK 22 Nov (PSe et al.), and 6 were in *Cedar*, NE 25 Nov (MB). Single Barrow's Goldeneyes appeared in Kansas in *Reno* 20 Nov (PJ), *Russell* 20 Nov (MR), *Sedgwick* 23 Nov (fide KG), and *Cowley* 29 Nov (MT). In *Sedgwick*, KS, 365 Hooded Mergansers were counted 8 Nov (PJ). A high count was the 1186 Ruddy Ducks in *Lancaster*, NE 29 Oct (LE).

Three-digit counts of Greater Prairie-Chicken make news these days, such as the 104 in *Custer* and *Lincoln*, NE 27 Nov (TJW); this species is still doing fairly well in Nebraska. A covey of Scaled Quail, a species expanding into the sw. portions of the Region, was found in *Stanton*, KS 4 Sep (PJ, KG). Perhaps surprisingly, the only Red-throated Loon reported was in *Reno*, KS 13 Nov (SS et al., PJ). Pacific Loons, on the other hand, were located in all three states, with 9+ birds 22 Oct-23 Nov (fide WRS, LM, MC, JL); 3 at L. Tenkiller, *Cherokee*, OK 1 Nov (JM, JWA et al.) made the highest count. Six Red-necked Grebes were reported, 4 in Nebraska 28 Oct-3 Nov (DL, RSt, GR, LE, KS) and singles in *Reno*, KS 14 Nov (MH) and *Russell*, KS 23 Nov (MR); only about 20 records exist for Kansas. Clark's Grebes, rare in Kansas, were noted in *Russell* 11 (MR, DKL) & 20-23 Nov (MR), *Morton* 11 Nov (GC), and *Reno* 25 Nov (PJ).

The severe flooding in the Missouri R. valley provided excellent conditions for waterbirds as the waters receded, including 3000 American White Pelicans in *Washington*, NE 19 Sep (NR). Neotropic Cormorant is being reported more often in the Region in recent years, this season n. to *Harlan*, NE 23-24 Sep (CNK, JJ) and *Sherman*, NE 23 Sep (LE); up to 4 were in *Canadian*, OK 9-18 Sep (JAG) and *Red Slough* 2-16 Aug (DA et al.), one w. to *Rooks*, KS 3 Sep (JVK), and the latest in *Pottawatomie*, KS 28 Oct (CMo, BM). A near-record 10,000 Double-crested Cormorants were at Harlan County Res., NE, a favored staging area, 14 Oct (G&WH). An impressive 104 Anhingas were at *Red Slough* 7 Aug (DA), the only regular site for the species in the Region.

HERONS THROUGH CRANES

A tardy American Bittern was in *Barton*, KS 3 Nov (JRa), and a Least Bittern carried in *Clay*, NE until 23 Sep (CNK). A very large rookery containing 5000 egrets of various species was active in *Sedgwick*, KS 25 Aug (PJ). Westerly were 2 Great Egrets in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 4 Sep (KD). A tardy Snowy Egret was at *Tulsa* 23 Oct (TMI). More Little Blue Herons than usual were noted n. of typical range; 2-3 were in Nebraska 15-28 Aug (JGJ, LR, RH) and 25 were in Kansas, including 18 in *Douglas* 2 (DLA, RB) & 10 Aug (JB, PG). Tricolored Heron was reported from *Red Slough* 6 Aug-6 Sep (up to 2 birds; DA), with 2 in *Cleveland* 5 Aug (RG) a surprise. The 12,000 Cattle Egrets at *Red Slough* 6 Sep (DA) must have been an amazing sight; 300+ at *Cheyenne Bottoms* 2 Aug (MR) was also a significant gathering; and 6 in *Lancaster*, NE 29 Oct (LE) were tardy. Westerly was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in *Geary*, KS 27 Aug (CO); another made it to *Clay*, NE 24 Sep (PD). Glossy Ibis reports in Nebraska were limited to a single in *Clay* 15 Aug (JGJ). Five *Plegadis* ibis were still present in *Sequoyah*, OK 20 Nov (JNe et al.), and a White Ibis wandered to *Sequoyah*, OK 17 Sep (SB et al.). Roseate Spoonbills away from *Red Slough*, where expected, were in *Creek*, OK 17 Sep (JW, NV) and w. to *Johnston*, OK 11 Aug-2 Sep (up to 2; BA, JRo) and *Carter*, OK 7 Sep (4; JRo). Similarly, Wood Storks wandered westward to *Johnston*, OK, with 5 there 11-14 Aug (BA), while *Red Slough* hosted its usual group, this fall as high as 220 on 13 Sep (DA).

Continuing its spread in the Region, a Black Vulture was seen in *Sedgwick*, KS 30 Aug (JC). An Osprey in *Sherman*, NE 3 Aug (WF) was likely a nonbreeder. White-tailed Kite, a sporadic visitor, was found at *Red Slough* 2 Aug and 8 Sep (DA). Mississippi Kites at *Ogallala*, NE, a northerly breeding outpost, peaked at 34 birds 2 Sep (JO); nesting birds were noted in *Johnson*, KS 8 Aug (NC); 7 were at *Lawrence*, KS 14 Aug (DC);



This juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger at Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Alfalfa County 6 September 2011 made the second record for Oklahoma; the first was an adult, also photographed at Salt Plains during September. Photograph by Steve Metz.



Mountain Plovers are almost never observed east of the Panhandle in Oklahoma. This one was nicely documented at Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge, Alfalfa County 15 September 2011. Photograph by Steve Metz.



This Philadelphia Vireo south of Boise City, Cimarron County, Oklahoma 23 September 2011 furnishes one of very few westerly records for the southern Great Plains. Photograph by Dan Robinson.



Among the westerly species pushing eastward in autumn 2011 was this Brewer's Sparrow at a most unexpected locality—Red Slough Wildlife Management Area, McCurtain County, Oklahoma 27-28 (here 27) September 2011. Photograph by Dave Arbour.



Most photographs purporting to document the elusive Baird's Sparrow are actually of Savannah Sparrows. This legitimate Baird's was photographed at Optima National Wildlife Refuge, Texas County, Oklahoma 12 October 2011. Photograph by David Wiggins.

and 3 record-late birds were in *Nance*, NE 1 Oct (SM). Rare Crested Caracaras were reported from *Washington*, KS 2 Aug (p.a.; WB, DT) and in *Seward*, NE 20-21 Aug (p.a.; GN); Oklahoma singles in *Bryan* 2-7 Aug (JA et al.) and *Choctaw* 13 Oct (KW) were exceptional. Single Sharp-shinned Hawks in *Saline*, NE 17 Aug (CNK) and *Logan*, KS 12 Aug (PJ, MG, WCT, TE) were probably early migrants. The only Northern Goshawk reported was in *Sedgwick*, KS 28 Nov (JN). Red-shouldered Hawk is expanding westward in the Region; most notable this season was one in *Lincoln*, NE 27 Aug (TJW). Westerly reports of Broad-

winged Hawk in Nebraska and Kansas are increasing, mostly during fall migration, and this season included singles in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 17 Sep (KD) and *Morton*, KS 25 Sep (TC, MH). The 4800 Broad-wingeds at Red Slough 27 Sep (DA) made a very high count for the Region, which has no known significant funneling points to concentrate migrants. A Ferruginous Hawk was easterly in *Tulsa*, OK 26 Oct (JS), as was a Golden Eagle in *Shawnee*, KS 19 Nov (fide LM, MC). Two Peregrine Falcons were early in *Morton*, KS 6 Aug (TC), and 4 were in *Knox*, NE 8 Oct (MB), a high count. Prairie Falcons in *Riley*, KS 22 Oct (ER) and *Coffey*, KS 13 Nov (MG et al.) were somewhat easterly.

The only report of Yellow Rail came from *Douglas*, KS 9 Oct (MA, WCT, MO). The 4-6 Virginia Rails in *Wallace*, KS 13 Aug (PJ, MG, WCT, TE) probably indicate local breeding. Essentially restricted to Red Slough in the Region, 5-6 Purple Gallinules were there as late as 12 Oct, with 2 there through 2 Nov (DA, BH). Sandhill Cranes seem to be lingering farther n. and later, with large numbers (4000-5000) still present in the cen. Platte R. valley, *Hall*, NE as late as 25 Nov (JLL). Whooping Cranes ran the Region in a normal fall pattern, with a "moderate" 35 through Nebraska 20 Oct-13 Nov (fide JGJ), 19 at Cheyenne Bottoms 11 Nov (CWo), and up to 22 at Salt Plains 30 Oct-12 Nov (fide GH). Unexpectedly westerly were 2-6 Whooping Cranes in *Mitchell*, KS 8-10 Nov (HA).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH JAEGERS

Tardy Black-bellied Plovers included 12 at Cheyenne Bottoms 14 Nov (MR) and 3 at Hackberry Flat 22 Nov (L&MT); the highest count was of 60+ at Cheyenne Bottoms 2 Sep (MR). Fewer American Golden-Plovers pass through the Region in fall than in spring, so the 839 at Cheyenne Bottoms 30 Sep (MT, GY) and 338 in *Washington*, NE 25 Oct (Jri, JED, CNK) were noteworthy. The 32 Semipalmated Plovers in *Knox*, NE 29 Aug (MB) made a high count; 10 at Cheyenne Bottoms 13 Oct (SS) were late. Piping Plovers were reported in cen. Kansas 1 Aug-15 Oct (7; JW, PJ, SS, MR), with the last at Cheyenne Bottoms quite tardy; one in *Knox*, NE 8 Oct (MB) also tardy; only one was reported in Oklahoma, in *Johnston* 14 Aug (BA). Most unexpected was

a Mountain Plover at Salt Plains 15 Sep (SM, GH). Numbers of American Avocet in Nov have increased to astounding levels in recent years; this season, 12 were still in *Knox*, NE 2 Nov (MB), with 450+ still at Cheyenne Bottoms (PJ, ER), 400 in *Johnston*, OK 5 Nov (JSAG), and 60 at Salt Plains 15 Nov (GH). An Upland Sandpiper in *Cowley*, KS 23 Sep (MT) was rather late, as was a Marbled Godwit at Cheyenne Bottoms 13 Oct (SS). A Ruddy Turnstone was in *Knox*, NE 30 Aug (MB) and 2 each were in *Douglas*, KS 28 Aug (WCT, MG, NA) and at Cheyenne Bottoms 2 Sep (MR). Single Red Knots, another rare fall migrant, were in *Douglas*, KS 28 Aug (JK, WCT), *Reno*, KS 28-29 Aug (PJ), and *Knox*, NE 9 Sep (MB). A Western Sandpiper and a Semipalmated Sandpiper were late in *Canadian*, OK 22 Oct (JAG), as were 2 Baird's Sandpipers in *Lancaster*, NE 3 Nov (LE). The 1200 Pectoral Sandpipers in *Knox* 27 Aug (MB) made a record count for Nebraska in fall. Late Pectorals were singles in *Sarpy*, NE 16 Nov (LE) and at Cheyenne Bottoms 17 Nov (MR). As expected, there were numerous reports of Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Aug, with highest count being 200 in *Johnston*, OK 6 Aug (MP et al.); one in *Johnston*, OK 9 Oct (DW) was very late. Exceptionally late Wilson's Phalaropes were at Salt Plains 29 Oct (3; CMs, m.ob.), at Cheyenne Bottoms 1 Nov (one; MR) and in *Haskell*, KS 6 Nov (2; PJ, ER). Red-necked Phalaropes at the e. edge of the Region were in *Cass*, NE 29 Aug (one; CNK), *Douglas*, KS 30 Aug (2; BM, CM), and at Red Slough 16 Aug (3; DA). A Red Phalarope at Salt Plains 15 Sep (GH, SMe) and 2 in *Lancaster*, NE 22 Sep (LE) made the only reports.

A Black-legged Kittiwake was noted in *Douglas*, KS 5 Nov (JK). Fourteen reports of one or 2 Sabine's Gulls from Nebraska and Kansas 14 Sep-22 Oct (fide WRS, LM, MC). A first-cycle Laughing Gull in *Douglas*, KS 15 Oct-5 Nov (JK, WCT, m.ob.) furnished the only report this season. Single ad. Mew Gulls were in *Harlan*, NE 11 Nov (PD) and *Reno*, KS 20 Nov (PJ). A California Gull at Cheyenne Bottoms 5 Nov (PJ, ER) was the only one reported. An exceptionally early juv. Thayer's Gull appeared in *Lancaster*, NE 1 Oct (JGJ); up to 2 ads. were in *Lancaster*, NE 14-18 Nov (LE) and another juv. was in *Johnson*, KS 27 Nov (MG). Single Lesser Black-backed Gulls were in *Rooks*, KS 8 Oct (JVK), *Sequoyah*, OK 12 (JNe, JBr) & 23 Nov (SB, DG), and *Oklahoma*, OK 12-25 Nov (BD). The first Glaucous Gulls for the winter arrived in *Harlan*, NE 24 Nov (KS), with up to 2 juvs. in *Cedar*, NE 25-26 Nov (MB, BFH, BG). Common Terns were less commonly reported this fall than usual; 4 were in *Knox*, NE 9 Sep (MB),

one in Oklahoma, OK 29 Sep (JAG), 2 in Ellsworth, KS 30 Sep (JK, MA, CW), one in Reno, KS 9 Oct (PJ), and 2 in Douglas, KS 3 Oct (JK, MA, CW). A Pomarine Jaeger was in Reno, KS 13 Nov (PJ), and a juv. Long-tailed Jaeger was at Salt Plains 5 Sep (SMe, GH), with another found dead at Cheyenne Bottoms 30 Sep (*fide* M&EL).

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Furnishing one of fewer than 10 Regional records, a Band-tailed Pigeon visited Red Slough 14 Sep (ph. DA). Inca Dove is moving northward, but slowly; this season, singles were in Stevens, KS 3 Sep (PJ, m.ob.) and Barton, KS 28 Oct (JMa). A Common Ground-Dove, still rather rare, was in Johnston, OK 26 Sep (DS), while Red Slough had one 12 Oct and 2 on 30 Oct (DA). Nine Snowy Owls had reached the Region by the end of Nov, the first in Saline, NE 8 Nov (*fide* JGJ) and the most southerly in Dickinson, KS 15 & 22 Nov (*fide* KR) and Barton, KS 28 Nov (CWo). A tardy Burrowing Owl was in Stafford, KS 1 Nov (MR). A Long-eared Owl at Hackberry Flat 30 Nov (L&MT) was a rare sight. As is true of Eastern Whip-poor-will, Common Poorwill is rarely reported in fall. Two Eastern Whip-poor-wills were a bit late in Cedar, NE 18 Sep (MB), and single poorwills were in Pontotoc, OK 2 Sep (JT) and Sedgwick, KS 13 Oct (PG). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds lingered quite late, through 22 Nov in Sedgwick, KS (PG et al.) and through 24 Nov in Pawnee, OK (PR). Slowly expanding eastward and northward, Black-chinned Hummingbirds were in Pawnee, KS 29 Aug (DK), Barton, KS 29 Aug (RW), Harvey, KS 15 Sep (RW), and Cleveland, OK 16 Sep (BD). Single Calliope Hummingbirds appeared in Barton 13 Aug (JMa, KE) and Sedgwick 20 Aug (PG); the species has recently become "semi-regular" in the Region. Broad-tailed Hummingbirds were found in Scotts Bluff, NE 7 Aug (KD) and in w. Kansas 30 Aug–17 Sep (6 birds; *fide* LM, MC). There were at least 23 Rufous Hummingbirds reported, most, as expected, in the w. parts of the Region (*fide* WRS, LM, MC, JL) but also e. to Lancaster, NE 13 Sep–10 Nov (JGJ), Geary, KS 29 Aug (CO et al.), Noble, OK 10 Aug (CSt), and Muskogee, OK 18 & 25 Aug (AV). A westerly Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was in Scotts Bluff, NE 3 Oct (AK), and an easterly Red-naped Sapsucker was quite unexpected in Carter, OK 2 Nov (BF). Rare but not unprecedented in Kansas was a Hairy Woodpecker of the Rocky Mountains subspecies *monticola* in Morton 6 Aug (TC). A Pileated Woodpecker in Jefferson, NE 13–19 Nov (DRs, *fide* JGJ) was w. of the known Nebraska range, whereas Kansas sightings in

Riley 23 Sep (2; JR), Reno 6 Aug (2; JC), and Kingman 10 Sep (MR et al.) defined the current w. edge of range in that state.

An Olive-sided Flycatcher arrived early in Tulsa 11 Aug (TMi). Rarely reported in fall, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was in Sarpy, NE 28 Aug (ph. PS). Cordilleran Flycatcher is seldom identified in migration in the Region, even in Nebraska, where the species breeds; one was banded 13 Sep in Dawes (MHa), and another was found in Stevens, KS 3 Sep (PJ, m.ob.). A Black Phoebe was noted 31 Aug in Cimarron, OK (MP), where almost a specialty. Part of an apparent eastward surge of Say's Phoebe were singles in Dixon, NE 25 Aug (JJ), Buffalo, NE 23 Sep (CNK), Harvey, KS 23 Sep (CS), and Johnston, OK 19–28 Nov (BA, JRo, DS). The only Vermilion Flycatcher reported was a tardy and out-of-place bird in Tillman, OK 19 Sep (L&MT, K&SM). A Great Crested Flycatcher was westerly in Cimarron, OK 4 Sep (JW, DR). A late Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was in Comanche, OK 28 Nov (K&SM).

SHRIKES THROUGH LONGSPURS

The first Northern Shrike appeared in Graham, KS 27 Oct (SS). West of the known breeding range in Oklahoma were single Bell's Vireos in Cimarron 4 Aug (VF) and Beaver 5 Aug (VF). Another fall migrant seen mostly in the extreme w. edge of the Region is Cassin's Vireo; one in Morton, KS 25 Sep (TC, MH) made the only report. Only the 6th Blue-headed Vireo for the Nebraska Panhandle ever was a hatch-year bird banded in Scotts Bluff 16 Sep (CWy). Philadelphia Vireo showed well in e. Nebraska, with 12 reports involving 15 birds (*fide* WRS); another was quite westerly in Cimarron, OK 23 Sep (ph. DR). Western Scrub-Jay dispersed slightly eastward from their mesa haunts, with 5 in Morton, KS 25 Sep (TC, MH) and up to 3 in Grant, KS 4–29 Nov (*fide* LM, MC). More than 100,000 American Crows were estimated at a roost in Wichita, KS 30 Nov (PJ). Fish Crow continues to consolidate range gains in se. Kansas; several were in Woodson 1 Aug (MM). Like Western Scrub-Jay, Common Raven is found reliably in the Region only in Cimarron, OK and Morton, KS; 2 ravens were in the latter county 25 Sep (TC, MH), and 2 were in neighboring Stanton, KS 4 Sep (PJ, KG). Four Tree Swallows were still pres-



Among the species pushing their range edges eastward this season was Chestnut-collared Longspur, including this individual at Red Sough Wildlife Management Area, southeastern Oklahoma 30 October 2011. Photograph by Dave Arbour.

ent in Tulsa 6 Nov (TMi). The only reports of Mountain Chickadee, a rare visitor to the extreme w. edge of Region, were up to 20 in Grant, KS 31 Oct–11 Nov (SG, KH, PJ, ER). Fifteen Pygmy Nuthatches in Banner, NE 19 Aug (JGJ) were at the e. edge of the species' range in the Wildcat Hills.

The easternmost Rock Wrens were in Clay, NE 23 Sep (MB) and Cowley, KS 31 Oct (JC). A rather late Carolina Wren nest in Sarpy, NE had four eggs 4 Aug (RS), while 4 young fledged from a different Sarpy nest 14 Aug (AR). A Winter Wren in Lincoln, NE 5 Sep (†DL) was the 3rd earliest on record. A Sedge Wren was westerly in Phillips, KS 11 Sep (GC, JMa); another was late in Lancaster, NE 15 Nov (†KC). Also tardy was a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Brown, NE 6 Nov (WF). A Mountain Bluebird was easterly in Sequoyah, OK 24 Nov (JNe, MM, *fide* JM). A bit early were Townsend's Solitaires in Texas, OK 24 Sep (RR), Morton, KS 25 Sep (TC, MH), and Grant, KS 26 Sep (KH). Rarely reported on fall migration in the Region, single Swainson's Thrushes were noted 18 Sep in Oklahoma (JBa) and 8 Oct in Muskogee, OK (DG). A late breeding Wood Thrush with a newly fledged juv. was in Sarpy, NE 11 Aug (CNK); 2 first-year birds there 14 Sep (JRi) may have been migrants or fledged locally. An irregular visitor in Kansas, a Varied Thrush in Edwards 30 Oct (†HA) made the Region's only report of the season. A Sage Thrasher in Cheyenne, KS 22 Oct (HA) was very late, as was a Brown Thrasher in Barton, KS 3 Nov (JRa). Single Curve-billed Thrashers in Morton, KS 25 Sep (TC, MH) and Stevens, KS 25 Sep (TC) were e. of typical range. An early American Pipit was in Morton, KS 25 Sep (TC, MH). Reports of Sprague's Pipit are increasing in the n. part of the Region, as observers work out where and how to find this species; reports came from

Nebraska 23 Sep–26 Oct (*vide* WRS) and from cen. Kansas 29 Sep–13 Oct (*vide* LM, MC). Reports of Chestnut-collared Longspurs were up this season as far s. as cen. Oklahoma, with one exceptional bird e. to Red Slough 30 Oct (DA et al.). Smith's Longspur was widely reported in e. Kansas (*vide* LM, MC), including 200+ in *Lyon* 13 Nov (MG, m.ob.); the only report from Nebraska, where it is a difficult species to locate, was of 11 in *Otoe* 1 Nov (CNK). A Snow Bunting in *Rush*, KS 26 Nov (SS) was well s. of usual range; 2 were early in *Douglas*, NE 28 Oct (ph. JED), and 3 were in *Platte*, NE 11 Nov (SM).

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

An Ovenbird was westerly in *Comanche*, OK 2 Oct (K&SM). An early Northern Waterthrush was in *Tulsa* 13 Aug (TMi, BC); a late one was in *Reno*, KS 31 Oct (K&MH). Rare in the Region, single Blue-winged Warblers were in *Pawnee*, KS 29 Aug (SS), *Tulsa*, OK 4 Sep (TMi, BC), *Lancaster*, NE 15 Sep (LE), and at Red Slough 11 Oct (DA). A Golden-winged Warbler in *Oklahoma* 24 Sep (KGo) made the only report this season. A Common Yellowthroat in *Otoe*, NE 25 Oct (LF, SQ) was the 6th latest ever recorded in Nebraska. The last Northern Parula was noted 10 Oct in *Tulsa*, OK (TMi, KM). Westerly Hooded Warblers were in *Morton*, KS 5 Sep (PJ, KG) and *McPherson*, KS 8 Sep (TW). An early American Redstart appeared in *Tulsa* 10 Aug (TMi). A first-year male Cape May Warbler in *Lancaster*, NE 11 Sep (†LE) was only the 7th in fall for Nebraska; an equally rare imm. male Cerulean Warbler in *Dixon*, NE was also extremely late 24 Oct (†JJ). A Magnolia Warbler banded in *Ellis*, KS 14 Sep (TM et al.) was westerly; one in *Tulsa* 23 Sep (BC) and 2 there 11 Oct (BC) were unusual; most migrate well e. of Oklahoma in fall. A Blackburnian Warbler in *Scotts Bluff*, NE 17 Sep (AK) was the 8th in fall for the Panhandle. This species is also a rare fall migrant in Kansas and Oklahoma; 3 were reported in extreme e. Kansas 25–30 Aug (JK, JB, DLa), and one was in *Rogers*, OK 1 Sep (GM, ML). A Palm Warbler in *Douglas*, KS 9 Oct (NL, HH) was one of a few reported this season. A Chestnut-sided Warbler in *Reno*, KS 18 Sep (PJ), a Pine Warbler in *Pawnee*, KS 13 Sep (SS), and single Yellow-throated Warblers in *Hall*, NE 11 Nov (TJW) and *Cimarron*, OK 7 Sep (DR) were all w. of usual fall migration corridors. The only Black-throated Gray Warbler reported was in *Cimarron*, OK 7 Sep (DR). Single Townsend's Warblers were at two locations in *Morton*, KS 3 Sep (PJ, m.ob.). There were more reports of Black-throated Green Warbler than usual, including a record-early bird for Nebraska in

Sarpy 4 Aug (†RS) and westerly Oklahoma singles in *Comanche* 4 (K&SM) & 23 Oct (PV, TU), *Cleveland* 10 Oct (AH et al.), and *Johnston* 9 Oct (DW).

Cassin's Sparrows, which usually depart early in the period, were still singing and displaying in *Wallace* and *Greeley*, KS 13 Aug (PJ, MG, WCT, TE), and another easterly bird was singing in *Marion*, KS 10 Sep (TW). Rather late Chipping Sparrows in Nebraska were in *Sarpy* 26 Nov (AR) and *Douglas* 27 Nov (CH). An exceptional find was a Brewer's Sparrow at Red Slough 28 Sep (DA); this species is expected in Oklahoma only in the w. Panhandle. Lark Buntings also shifted eastward this season into cen. portions of the Region (*vide* WRS, JL). Very difficult to detect as migrants in the Region, single Baird's Sparrow were found in *Smith*, KS 24 Sep (MR), *Barton*, KS 2 Oct (MG, NA, JG), *Geary*, KS 2 Oct (MA, CW, JK), and *Texas*, OK 12 Oct (DWi). There were more reports of Henslow's Sparrow than usual; likely breeding were 1–2 in *Lancaster*, NE 1–20 Aug (GJ, RSt), 3 in *Richardson*, NE 28 Aug (JSc), and 9 in *Douglas*, KS 25 Aug (JK). Seven others were reported, probably all migrants (*vide* WRS, LM, MC): late singles 16 Oct in *Lancaster*, NE (JCa, SSc, LE) and *Sumner*, KS (PJ), plus 5 at Red Slough 23 Oct (CB et al.). A late Le Conte's Sparrow was in *Otoe*, NE 1 Nov (CNK). Seven Nelson's Sparrows were reported 2–25 Oct, typical fall dates, from all three states (*vide* WRS, LM, MC, JL). A Fox Sparrow arrived early in *Cass*, NE 30 Sep (WF), and an early White-crowned Sparrow was in *Lincoln*, NE 20 Aug (RL). A Harris's Sparrow banded in *Dawes*, NE 4 Oct (MHa) was a rare find that far west.

A Western Tanager was in *Comanche*, OK 4 Oct (K&SM); a Scarlet Tanager lingered until 8 Oct in *Leavenworth*, KS (JB). A late-nesting Northern Cardinal pair in *Lincoln*, NE had a very young fledgling 5 Sep (JGJ). Easterly were a Black-headed Grosbeak in *Cleveland*, OK 18 Aug (NRe) and single Lazuli Buntings in *Reno*, KS 11 Sep and 9 Oct (PJ) and *Pawnee*, KS 16 Sep (DK et al.). A late-nesting Indigo Bunting pair was seen feeding 2 fledglings in *Sarpy*, NE 11–21 Aug (CNK, L&BP). Rare in the Panhandle, a westerly Painted Bunting was in *Cimarron*, OK 4 Aug (VF). Dickcissels often linger rather late in fall; singles were in *Buffalo*, NE 21 Oct (KS) and *Bryan*, OK 6 Nov (DW). Bobolinks generally depart early, but one at Red Slough 3 Oct (DA) was tardy. Single Orchard Orioles in *Seward*, NE 26 Sep (JGu) and *Cleveland*, OK 30 Oct (RG) were very late, and a Baltimore Oriole was still around in *Ottawa*, KS 27 Nov (DRY, KR). Single Purple Finches were westerly in *Morrill*, NE 20–21 Oct (LJH), *Dixon*,

NE 17 Sep (early; BFH, MB), and *Texas*, OK 10 Nov (RR). Cassin's Finches appear irregularly along the very w. edge of the Region; single first-year birds were banded in *Scotts Bluff*, NE on the early dates of 8 & 16 Sep (CWy). Red Crossbills recaptured Sep–Oct at the same banding station in *Scotts Bluff* (CWy) were also suggestive of local breeding. Pine Siskin reports were scanty. Lesser Goldfinch is fast becoming a regular summering species in the Nebraska Panhandle: an amazing 45 were banded in *Scotts Bluff* Sep–10 Oct (CWy), up from 6 in 2010.

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OKLAHOMA: Bill Adams, David Arbour, James W. Arterburn, John Ault, Jim Bates (JBa), Jacque Brown (JBr), Sandy Berger, Chris Butler, Bill Carrell, Bill Diffin, Vic Fazio, Brush Freeman, David Gill, Kelsey Gocke (KGo), Joseph A. Grzybowski, Richard Gunn, Berlin Heck, Glen Hensley, Angie Holt, Jo Loyd, Mike Ludewig, Kathy McAnally, Jeri McMahon, Kurt & Sharon Meizenzahl, Steve Metz

(SMe), Terry Mitchell (TMi), Mike Mlodi-now, Gerald Mobley, Clyde Morris (CMS), Joe Neal (JNe), Mark Peterson, Rachelle Randedell, Nancy Reed (NRe), Paul Ribitzki, Justin Roach (JRo), Dan Robinson, Pat Seibert (PSe),

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The fall season was marked by the truly amazing movements of several primarily western species into the central and eastern portions of the state. The most spectacular of these incursions was of Sage Thrashers, particularly the large counts from central Texas. High numbers of Say's Phoebes, Bewick's Wrens, Mountain Bluebirds, Green-tailed Towhees, Spotted Towhees, Lark Buntings, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds also added the western flavor to eastern parts of the state. One must assume that this is at least partially tied to the record-breaking drought conditions in southern New Mexico and the western third of Texas. There was no seed crop produced in the Trans-Pecos, and similar conditions were noted eastward into the western High Plains and Edwards Plateau, making these areas unsuitable for sustaining normal winter bird populations. Fortunately, the fall months also saw much-needed rain in the eastern two-thirds of the state. Although precipitation amounts were not even close to sufficient to ease effects of the drought, habitats in the east were at least in better shape than those in the west. Another side effect of the drought conditions was the concentration of shorebird habitat: while large areas of the west lacked suitable habitat, it was available

in many areas where it is often at a premium, particularly in East Texas, where many species were noted in high numbers this season.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SPOONBILLS

A Cackling Goose visited McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 19-21 Nov (JKi, JPa). The 2400 Redheads on Follett's I., *Brazoria* 28 Nov (JT) made a large concentration for the Upper Texas Coast (hereafter, U.T.C.). Early were 3 Greater Scaup at San Jacinto Battleground S.P., *Harris* 23 Oct (MKu). A White-winged Scoter was inland near Goodrich, *Polk* 13-16 Nov (LTa, TTa); one near San Benito, *Cameron* 24 Nov+ (TFu, m.ob.) provided a rare Lower Rio Grande Valley (L.R.G.V.) record. A rare inland Black Scoter visited El Dorado, *Schleicher* 10-15 Nov (ph. SJo). Unseasonably early, a Red-breasted Merganser was at L. Gilmer, *Upshur* 5 Aug (DB, LBr). Furnishing a first record for the Central Brazos Valley was a male Masked Duck near Zionsville, *Washington* 16 Aug-3 Sep (RSm, ph. NM, †m.ob.); another was at Santa Ana N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 23 Nov (†LM). Single Red-throated Loons were at L. Meredith, *Hutchinson* 20 Nov (BP) and between Port Aransas and Aransas Pass, *San Patricio* 28 Nov (JMc). A Pacific Loon lingered at Ransom L., *Lubbock* 3-6 Nov (CC, SCo); another was at L. Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* 14 Nov (RRa). Six Least Grebes at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 20 Oct (CoS) were likely the result of successful breeding there. A lone Least Grebe was at Rio Grande Village, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 22 Aug-7 Sep (GP, BrT) and again 21-23 Nov (HT, MY et al.). A Least Grebe continued from the summer and through the season at The Woodlands, *Montgomery* (LC). Quite early was a Western Grebe at L. Grapevine, *Tarrant*

21-27 Aug (SG, GCo, EW); easterly was one at Joe Pool L., *Dallas* 26 Nov (KN).

Up to 5 Wood Storks wandered w. to Cook's Slough, *Uvalde* 5-9 Aug (BR); another was there 8-20 Sep (BR). The high Wood Stork count for the U.T.C. was 1070 at Bear Creek Park, *Harris* 26 Sep (GP). Unexpected was a Brown Pelican at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 26 Oct (JAn); another was at L. Livingston, *San Jacinto* 23 Oct (GR). An American Bittern was a rare find at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 21 Nov (HT, MY). A presumed Snowy Egret × Little Blue Heron hybrid was at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 24 Aug (ph. BZ) and 18 Sep (JPa). Tricolored Herons dispersed to Lub-



One of the truly stunning finds of the season was this Hook-billed Kite at Smith Point, Chambers County, Texas on 29 October 2011. This record lends credence to an earlier report from this hawkwatch location. Photograph by Joseph Kennedy.



An obliging American Woodcock was an odd sight as it foraged below the cottonwoods at Big Bend's Cottonwood Campground, Brewster County 19 (here 25) November through 2 December 2011. It provided about the tenth record for the Trans-Pecos. Photograph by Susanna Meriwether.



Although Little Gull is a very rare but annual visitor to north-central Texas, the species is casual in the remainder of the state. This first-winter bird frequented the bay at the San Jacinto Battleground State Park, Harris County 19-23 (here 20) November 2011. Photograph by Michael Lindsey.



Always a rare find in Texas, a Varied Thrush put in a brief appearance at Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Randall County 5 November 2011. There are ten or so prior records from the Panhandle. Photograph by Barrett Pierce.



An unprecedented incursion of Sage Thrashers occurred in central Texas in autumn 2011. Large numbers of birds were noted in the eastern Hill Country and to a lesser extent farther east and along the coast. This individual was one of many found in Bell County (here 29 October). Photograph by Randy Pinkston.



Bay-breasted Warblers are quite rare in the western half of Texas and particularly rare in the Trans-Pecos, so this cooperative bird was a real highlight during its stay at Marathon, Brewster County 25 October through 8 (here 4) November 2011. Photograph by Carolyn Ohl-Johnson.

bock, *Lubbock* (hereafter, *Lubbock*) 15-16 Aug (DU, m.ob.), White River L., *Crosby* 20 Aug (AH), McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 5 Sep (JPa), Amarillo, *Potter* 5 Sep (BSh), and L. Ransom Canyon, *Lubbock* 15 Sep (SCo). Several Reddish Egrets were also found at inland locations, including one at L. Buchanan,

made a rare L.R.G.V. appearance at Santa Ana N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 12 Nov (LTh). A highlight of the season was a Northern Goshawk at Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall* 17-18 Nov (KS, †BP). Red-shouldered Hawks moved westward, with single birds at *Lubbock* 25 Aug-3 Oct (CC, SCo), Cottonwood Camp-

Llano from the summer that remained until 20 Aug (m.ob.), 3 at Granger L., *Williamson* 17 Aug-23 Sep (DC, CSe, m.ob.), one at L. Bastrop, *Bastrop* 28 Sep (BF), one at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 16 Oct (ML), and one at L. Lavon, *Collin* 20 Nov (MP, AP, m.ob.). The farthest-flung Roseate Spoonbills were 2 at Ft. Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 4 Oct (BZ).

RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES

Completely unexpected was a Hook-billed Kite at the Smith Point Hawkwatch, *Chambers* 29 Oct (ph. JoK). Wide-ranging Swallow-tailed Kite singles were in sw. *Dallas* 13 Aug-3 Sep (EW, m.ob.), at Marfa, *Presidio* 3 Sep (MEa, ph. ME), and near Granger L., *Williamson* 10-25 Sep (JLe, m.ob.). Two pairs of White-tailed Kites attempted to nest at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso*, with one successfully fledged about 22 Oct (JSp). A late imm. Mississippi Kite was present on w. *Galveston I.*, *Galveston* 25 Oct (ph. JSt). A Bald Eagle

ground, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 20 Sep (MA), L. Ransom Canyon, *Lubbock* 24 Sep (CC, SCo, m.ob.), Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 30 Sep (MF), White River L., *Crosby* 2 Oct (AH), and Marathon, *Brewster* 14 Oct (HT, MY). An early movement of 14 Broad-winged Hawks passed Smith Pt., *Chambers* 2 Aug (BSa). Out-of-range Gray Hawks were at Utopia, *Uvalde* 14 Aug (MH) and Del Rio, *Val Verde* 26 Oct+ (ph. KG). A Swainson's Hawk was late on *Galveston I.*, *Galveston* 27 Nov (CTL). Single Ferruginous Hawks were at Smith Pt., *Chambers* 21 Oct (JoK) and 7 Nov (WBu, JBo). Wandering Golden Eagles included singles at *Brazoria N.W.R.*, *Brazoria* 5 Nov (PF, TFr), near Brazos Bend S.P., *Fort Bend* (SJe), and in *Throckmorton* 27 Nov (SG, DMO). Two Merlins in *Angelina* 7 Sep (DW, SuL) were early. Also early was a Prairie Falcon at Granger L., *Williamson* 11 Sep (TFe). Rarely detected as a migrant, a Yellow Rail was near Wilson, *Lynn* 22 Oct (RLe). Two Sandhill Cranes passed over s. *Nacogdoches* 30 Oct (MoW), where rare. Migrant Whooping Cranes were detected inland, with 3 near Brenham, *Washington* 13 Nov (DV, RoM), 2 at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 17 Nov (KW), 4 at Granger L., *Williamson* 14 Nov (ph. fide JC), 2 near Rosebud, *Falls* 17 Nov (SS, JES), and 3 near Thorndale L., *Williamson* 21 Nov (RaB). The last three reports may pertain to the same individuals.

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS

A Black-bellied Plover was well w. at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 2 Oct (JPa). American Golden-Plovers made a strong showing in cen. Texas, with up to 3 at Granger L., *Williamson* 12 Sep-9 Nov (CSe, TFe), one at Lometa Res., *Lampasas* 22 Sep (CSe), up to 5 sporadically at L. Buchanan, *Llano* 24 Sep-20 Nov (TFe,

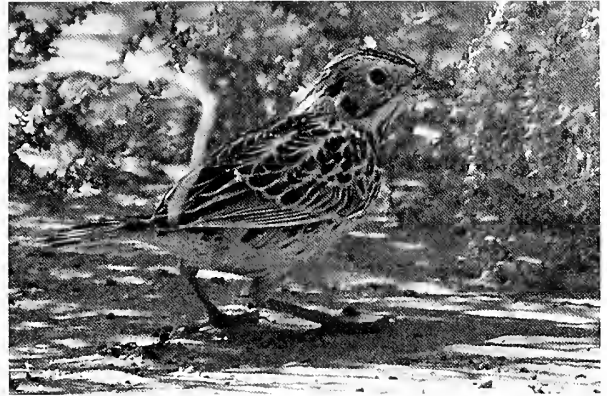
CSe, ByS), one at Uvalde, *Uvalde* 1 Oct (MH), 5 on L. Belton, *Bell* 3 Oct (GE), and one at Union Grove W.M.A., *Bell* 11 Oct and 1 Nov (RP). A late Snowy Plover was at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 20-29 Nov (RKi, CR). Inland Piping Plovers included one at Belton L., *Bell* 10 Aug (GE), one at Cooper L., *Delta* 13 Aug (MaW, NW), and up to 5 at L. Sam Rayburn, *Angelina/San Augustine* 7-16 Aug (DW). A late Piping Plover was at L. Tawakoni, *Rains* 30 Oct-14 Nov (RKi, GCo, EW, CR). Rare for the Pineywoods, single Black-necked Stilts were in *Bowie* 8 Oct (DB, LBr, WBr), and *Trinity* the same day (RiB, TTh). An injured Upland Sandpiper lingered at Paul Rushing Park, *Harris* until at least 21 Nov (GP, m.ob.). Extremely rare in ne. Texas, a Whimbrel stopped at the Angelina County Airport 19 Sep (LD). Unexpected in the fall in the Pineywoods, a Long-billed Curlew was at L. Sam Rayburn, *Nacogdoches* 7 Aug (DW), and four Marbled Godwit reports came from three sites around L. Sam Rayburn in *Angelina*, *Nacogdoches*, and *San Augustine* 16 Aug-15 Sep (DW). Two Red Knots were at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 7 Aug (RRa); 3 were there 10 Oct (STh). Westerly Sanderlings included singles at Balmorhea L., *Reeves* 17 Sep (ML), McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 18 Sep (JPa), and Ft. Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 2 Oct (JPa); 22 made a remarkable total in *Hunt* and *Van Zandt* 24 Sep (RKi), while 3 at Gibbons Creek Res., *Grimes* 18 Sep (ph. BrT) provided an apparent first county record. Lingering Pectoral Sandpipers were at El Franco Lee Park, *Harris* 20-21 Nov (CTL) and at w. Galveston, *Galveston* 29 Nov (DP). Up to 2 Dunlins were at Ft. Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 30 Oct-3 Nov (JPa, BZ); 24 made an impressive tally in *Hunt*, *Rains*, and *Van Zandt* 21 Nov (RKi), and one at Gibbons Creek Res., *Grimes* 6 Nov (†BrT) was thought to be a county first. An impressive concentration of 1000+ Buff-breasted Sandpipers was stopped over at the Progreso Sod Farm, *Hidalgo* 12 Sep (RSt). A cooperative female Ruff was at El Franco Lee Park, *Harris* 31 Oct+ (†JO, †m.ob.). A juv. Short-billed Dowitcher was at Ft. Hancock Res., *Hudspeth* 5 Sep (JPa). American Woodcocks made a strong push w. and s., with singles at Lubbock 16 Nov (JD), Palo Duro Canyon S.P., *Randall* 18 Nov (KS), Alamo, *Hidalgo* 21 Nov (JM), near San Benito, *Cameron* 20-30 Nov (TFu), and Cottonwood Campground, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 19 Nov-2 Dec (DSc, m.ob.). Lingering Wilson's Phalaropes included one at Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria* 10-20 Nov (RW, JF) and 2 at San Jacinto Battleground S.P., *Harris* 19-21 Nov (CTL, m.ob.). Red-necked Phalaropes had a better-than-average showing in the e. half of the state, with one at L.

Ray Hubbard, *Dallas* 30 Aug (CR), one at L. Buchanan, *Llano* 3 Sep (TFe, ByS), singles at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 7 & 24 Sep (RRa, GCo, SG), one at Granger L., *Williamson* 11 Sep (TFe), singles at Hornsby Bend, *Travis* 15-19 Sep and 12 Oct (EC, m.ob.), 18 at Port Aransas, *Nueces* 18 Sep (DMu), and one at Mitchell L., *Bexar* 15-16 Oct (DDO, m.ob.).

Sabine's Gulls were found in typical numbers for the season: 2 were at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 30 Sep-4 Oct (ph. BZ), one at Lubbock 17 Oct (AH), 2 at L. Grapevine, *Denton/Tarrant* 17 Sep (GCo, SG), and one at L. Tawakoni, *Hunt* 24 Sep (RKi). A Little Gull was at San Jacinto S.P., *Harris* 19-23 Nov (†CTL, †m.ob.). Large concentrations of Franklin's Gulls included 600 at L. Palestine, *Henderson* 19 Oct (PB), 750 at Quintana, *Brazoria* 28 Oct (RW), 1500 at L. Tawakoni, *Van Zandt* 7 Nov (RKi), and 1500 at Cedar Creek L., *Henderson* 11 Nov (DDC, DL). A first-cycle Mew Gull at Lubbock 22 Nov (ph., †SCo) provided a first record for the South Plains. It was a banner fall for Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the U.T.C., with the first found at Quintana, *Brazoria* 26 Aug (JF) and the peak count of 36 between the Quintana Jetty and Brazos R. mouth 22 Oct (MBa). Two ad. Sooty Terns were over L. Sam Rayburn, *San Augustine* 4 Sep (DW, †PB et al.) following passage of Tropical Storm *Lee*. Three Sooty and up to 20 Bridled Terns were tallied on the South Padre I., *Cameron* pelagic trip 27 Aug (BM, m.ob.). Inland Caspian Terns included 12 at Cooper L., *Delta* 30 Aug (MaW). A lingering Black Tern was at the Texas City Dike, *Galveston* 27 Nov, and 2 were at Apffel Park, *Galveston* the same day (both CTL). A Common Tern was at L. Benbrook, *Tarrant* 4 Sep (GCo).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

An imm. Band-tailed Pigeon was in El Paso, *El Paso* (hereafter, El Paso) 24-25 Sep (ph. BZ). Common Ground-Doves well n. of the normal range included up to 2 in *Wilbarger* 6-8 Sep (BSu), one in *Navarro* 20 Sep (ph. ShL), and another at Hagerman N.W.R., *Grayson* 30 Sep (HK). A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Quintana, *Brazoria* 28 Oct (RW) was late. Black-



Although Baird's Sparrows are known to winter locally in the central Trans-Pecos, they are always difficult to locate. This bird foraged beneath saltbush at McNary Reservoir, Hudspeth County 5 September 2011. Photograph by Jim Paton.



This Fox Sparrow not only found its way well south of the normal winter range in Texas, it also wandered out onto South Padre Island, Cameron County 13 November 2011, providing an unexpected record for the barrier island. Photograph by David Irons.

billed Cuckoos of note included singles near Mission, *Hidalgo* 3 Sep (DDa), Lubbock 4-11 Sep (CC, SCo, AH) and Odessa, *Ector* 1 Oct (MN). A surprising find was a Groove-billed Ani 40 km w. of Ft. Stockton, *Pecos* 12 Sep (ph. HF). The 2nd ever for *El Paso*, an Elf Owl was picked up at El Paso 5 Sep (ph. SCu). Long-eared Owls made a good showing this fall, with one at Quintana, *Brazoria* 19 Oct (SO, DSh et al.), 2 at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 11 Nov (JW, JHa, SM et al.), one at Elgin, *Bastrop* 28 Oct (ph. CA), one at Austin, *Travis* 19 Nov (ph. AJ), one on Mustang I., *Nueces* 11-12 Nov (ph. CAI), and 4 at Rio Bosque Wetlands Park, *El Paso* 20 Nov+ (JSp). Two Lesser Nighthawks were at Nederland, *Jefferson* 13 Oct, and another was at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 13 Oct (both GD). Common Poorwills in unexpected locations included singles on South Padre I., *Cameron* 5 Sep (BB), near Elgin, *Travis* 5 Nov (KA, EC), and in *Dallas* 6 Nov (DH). A lone *Chaetura* over s. Austin, *Travis* 18 Nov (JAr) was intriguing. Astounding easterly reports of White-throated Swifts included approximately 30 at Estero Llano Grande S.P., *Hidalgo* 8 Nov (†DI) and one



The incursion of Harris's Sparrows seen in Texas in fall 2011 was mostly focused on the coastal prairies, but this first-winter bird found its way west to Alpine, Brewster County from 28 October through the end of the season (here 26 November). Photograph by Mark W. Lockwood.



In recent years, Blue Buntings have been found in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas almost every winter. However, striking males such as this bird near Alamo, Hidalgo on 17-22 (here 22) November 2011 are always crowd pleasers. Photograph by Erik Breden.

over Smith Point Hawkwatch, *Chambers* 14 Nov (†JBo). Only one White-eared Hummingbird was detected this season in the Davis Mts., *Jeff Davis* 10-15 Aug (ph. BH). A Buff-bellied Hummingbird visited *Montgomery* 3 Oct (ph. SDa). A Lucifer Hummingbird at El Paso 25 Aug (BZ) was the 3rd confirmed for El Paso in 2011. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird was farther w. than usual at El Paso 9-10 Oct (BZ). Rare in the Pineywoods, a Black-chinned Hummingbird visited feeders in Nacogdoches, *Nacogdoches* 25 Oct-8 Nov (ph. MSm); another made a late departure from China Spring, *McLennan* 14 Nov (FB, JBu). Anna's Hummingbirds moved eastward, with 3 near Ingram, *Kerr* in mid-Sep (MI, TG), one near Utey, *Bastrop* 28 Oct+ (BF), one near Yorktown, *Dewitt* 30 Oct (DMu), 2 near Spring Branch, *Blanco* 5-20 Nov (LLi), one at Quintana, *Brazoria* 9-12 Nov (JT, RW), one at Millican, *Brazos* 19 Nov+ (ph. TH), up to 2 at Lafitte's Cove, *Galveston* 11 Nov+ (JT), one at Lake Jackson, *Brazoria* 24 Nov (SHe), and one at Chappell Hill, *Washington* 29 Nov+ (DV). A Calliope Hummingbird visited The Woodlands, *Montgomery* 25 Nov+

(KM, ph. KCl, GCl) for a first county record; another visited feeders at Harker Heights, *Bell* 27 Nov+ (ph. TL). Five Broad-tailed Hummingbirds in early Sep near Ingram, *Kerr* (MI, TG) was impressive. A Ringed Kingfisher was in nw. *Dallas* 1-13 Nov (AGa et al.). A Lewis's Woodpecker was near Ft. Davis, *Jeff Davis* 5-6 Nov (BH). Acorn Woodpecker made surprising appearances near Baker's Crossing on the Devils R., *Val Verde* 12 Oct (RKO) and at Lubbock 15 Oct (SWe, WW), while up to 6 were at El Paso 22 Oct+ (DAB, JPa). Always a good find as a lowland migrant, a female Williamson's Sapsucker was in an El Paso yard 27 Sep-7 Oct (ph. BZ). Red-naped Sapsuckers pushed eastward, with singles at Paradise Pond, *Nueces* 24 Nov (MBe) and Magic Ridge, *Calhoun* 23 Oct (*vide* BF). A Ladder-backed Woodpecker at Corps Woods, *Galveston* 29 Aug (CTL) was away from known U.T.C. locations.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 21 Oct (FC et al.) was on the late side. A Greater Pewee was at Boot Canyon, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 15 Aug (†JG). A Western Wood-Pewee was present on w. Galveston I., *Galveston* 9 Sep (JSt), and another vocalizing bird was on Mustang I., *Nueces* 1-2 Oct (ph. MKo, †MC). An Eastern Wood-Pewee at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 8 Nov was late (*vide* JW). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Balmorhea S.P., *Reeves* 17 Sep (ML) made for a very rare Trans-Pecos record. Lingering *Empidonax* at Lubbock included a Gray Flycatcher 13-15 Nov (JC) and a Dusky Flycatcher 22 Nov (ph. SCo). A Black Phoebe visited Buffalo Lake N.W.R., *Randall* 28 Sep (CF). A mini-invasion of Say's Phoebes occurred on the U.T.C., with 7 scattered in four counties 14 Oct+ (m.ob.). Single Say's Phoebes were also in *Throckmorton* 1 Oct (GCo, EW, SG), at Village Creek Drying Beds, *Tarrant* 1 (CDS) & 19 Nov (GCo) and in *Stephens* 20 Nov (GCo, SG). A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was at Anzalduas, *Hidalgo* 23 Nov (DJ). Four Great Crested Flycatchers, an above-average total for the Trans-Pecos, were at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 9 (MA) & 14

Sep (MF), El Paso 12 Sep (ph. BZ), and the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 27 Sep (GE, RKO). A Great Kiskadee was at Willow Creek, *Potter* 14 Nov (BP). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher visited Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 15 Sep (ph. LBa); another was at Paradise Pond, *Nueces* 12 Oct (†ND, JMc). A Tropical Kingbird was also at Paradise Pond 26 Sep-15 Oct (JMc, MC). The *Galveston* Tropical Kingbirds were still present through the season (JoK, JaR). The Hutto, *Williamson* nesting pair of Couch's Kingbirds was observed feeding a fledgling 10 Aug (TFE). A Cassin's Kingbird in *Cameron* 14 Nov (ph. SF) provided a rare L.R.G.V. record. An Eastern Kingbird was w. to the Christmas Mts., *Brewster* 5 Sep (ph. KBr, COJ). Female Rose-throated Becards were at Santa Ana N.W.R., *Hidalgo* 16-21 Sep (ph., †MR) and Estero Llano Grande S.P., *Hidalgo* 9 Nov+ (†m.ob.). A Northern Shrike was found at Bugbee Canyon, *Hutchinson* 6 Nov (BP). A Plumbeous Vireo stopped at Corpus Christi, *Nueces* 15 Oct (ph. WS, DMu). Cassin's Vireos joined the western theme this season, with singles photographed at Houston, *Harris* 5 Nov (ph. CTL, JBe, BiT, EB) and at Damon, *Brazoria* 11 Nov+ (JF, ph. TFi, RW). A Philadelphia Vireo at Brazoria N.W.R., *Brazoria* 25 Nov (CM) was quite late. Two Red-eyed Vireos were reported in the Trans-Pecos: one at El Paso 19 Sep (BZ) and another at Marathon, *Brewster* 24 Sep (HT, MY). A Yellow-green Vireo made a remarkable find at Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 23 Sep (MF). A Chihuahuan Raven was reported from Addicks Res., *Harris* 27 Nov (AW). A lingering Purple Martin was at Galveston, *Galveston* 22 Oct (DP). Two easterly Violet-green Swallows were near Utey, *Bastrop* 9-12 Sep (BF). An astounding concentration of Barn Swallows, estimated at 500,000, was estimated at the John Bunker Sands Wetlands, *Kaufman* 16 Oct (GCo, SG).

CHICKADEES THROUGH WARBLERS

The only lowland report of Mountain Chickadee was of one at w. El Paso 27 Nov+ (JKi). A Red-breasted Nuthatch at El Paso 13 Aug (JKi) was early. Freeman noted 13-17 Brown Creepers at Bastrop S.P., *Bastrop* in daily surveys 16-18 Nov. Rock Wrens well out of their normal range included singles at Smith Pt., *Chambers* 4 Nov (JBo) and South Padre I., *Cameron* 4 Nov (ph. TB). A Canyon Wren was seen 3 Aug at Gonzales, *Gonzales* (GL, EI), where the species has been found on two previous occasions since 2007. A Sedge Wren was at Mertzon, *Irion* 22 Oct (AH). Mountain Bluebirds made a small eastward push; most notable were 13 in *Stephens* 20 Nov (GCo, SG), 3 in *Parker* 24 Nov (PC), one near Three Rivers, *Live Oak* 25 Nov (ph. WS), and 2 near

SA An invasion of Sage Thrashers to the east occurred this season, with individuals found seemingly everywhere except the Pineywoods. An early sign of what was to come was one on Galveston I., *Galveston* 21 Sep (*fide* ST). By late Oct, unprecedented numbers were present in Central Texas, with more than 100 individuals reported from the e. Hill Country during the season. Birds were found as far s. as the L.R.G.V., with up to 10 birds reported from Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., *Cameron* in mid-Nov (*fide* MG). By the end of the season, numbers had dropped off in most areas, but a few individuals were still being seen.

San Juan, *Hidalgo* 29-30 Nov (ph. BW). A Townsend's Solitaire was at w. *Travis* 27-30 Oct (ph. CWo). Rarely detected inland, single Veeries were at Lubbock 4-7 Sep (CC, SCo, ph. AH) and 3 Oct (CC). A Varied Thrush was at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., *Randall* 5 Nov (ph., †BP). A Gray Catbird at Hueco Tanks State Historic Site, *El Paso* 8-9 Aug (ML) was notably early.

Single Brown Thrashers were far to the w. at El Paso 12 Oct (ph. BZ) and 11 Nov (ph. JPa). A Long-billed Thrasher was on Galveston I., *Galveston* 20 Oct (DP). A Sprague's Pipit was at Muleshoe N.W.R., *Bailey* 22 Oct (SCo). An unusually early Cedar Waxwing was at Pleasure Acres L., *Smith* 11 Sep (PB). A flock of up to 40 Lapland Longspurs seen on the Katy Prairie, *Waller* 12 Nov (PF, TFr), and one was picked up near Marathon, *Brewster* 30 Nov (ph. MY).

Ovenbirds farther w. than usual included singles at Midland, *Midland* 13 Sep-6 Oct (DMe, JMe), El Paso 25-28 Sep (ph. BZ), the Davis Mountains Preserve, *Jeff Davis* 27 Sep (GE, RKO), and El Paso 15 Oct (SHo). A late Golden-winged Warbler was in *Lee* 1 Oct (HB). An extremely early Orange-crowned Warbler was at Pleasure Acres L., *Smith* 3 Sep (MBL). A Nashville Warbler at El Paso 2 Nov (ph. JPa) was late. A MacGillivray's Warbler at Quintana, *Brazoria* 20 Oct (JT, ph. SO, DSh) provided a rare fall record for the U.T.C. Single Cape May Warblers were found at San Jacinto Battleground S.P., *Harris* 29 Sep (ph. GP) and Galveston, *Galveston* 25 Oct (JT). A Northern Parula was at El Paso 25-27 Sep (ph. JPa). What was apparently the same Tropical Parula was at LaFitte's Cove, *Galveston* 9 Nov (JT) and Quintana, *Brazoria* 12-13 Nov (JF, ph. JaH et al.). Magnolia Warblers of note included one at Morton, *Cochran* 25 Sep (AH) and a lingering bird at LaPorte, *Harris* 19 Nov (CDa). Of particular interest

were Bay-breasted Warblers at Marathon, *Brewster* 25 Oct-8 Nov (HT, MY, m.ob.) and Lubbock 18 Sep (AH). A Blackburnian Warbler was at Canyon, *Randall* 25 Sep (MSc). A Blackpoll Warbler lingered at Austin, *Travis* 29 Sep-3 Oct (CSe, ph. KA, m.ob.). A male Black-throated Blue Warbler brightened Marathon, *Brewster* 23-24 Sep (HT, MY). An early Palm Warbler was at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 17 Sep (SM). A Pine Warbler was unusual at Del Rio, *Val Verde* 20 Oct (KG). A Prairie Warbler was in *Brazos* 14 Aug (ph. SWi). A highlight of the season was a Grace's Warbler n. of Junction, *Kimble* 18 Sep (ph. NB). Black-throated Gray Warblers at unexpected locations included singles at Dallas, *Dallas* 19 Sep (CWA) and Alazan Bayou W.M.A. 20 Oct (DW). Townsend's Warblers were found e. to San Antonio, *Bexar* 5 Sep (ph. TN) and Houston, *Harris* 5 Oct and 2 Nov (CTL, ph. MKu et al.), while one at El Paso 19 Nov (ph. JPa) was a month past expected departure dates. Astounding were single Golden-cheeked Warblers in Boot Canyon, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 4 Aug (ph. AP, JaP) and Midland, *Midland* 30 Jul-2 Aug (PD, BRD, ph. m.ob.). Another Golden-cheeked was near Utey, *Bastrop* 2 Aug (BF). Black-throated Green Warblers were seen at El Paso 24 Sep (ph. AI) and Rio Grande Village, *Brewster* 27 Nov (StL). A Golden-crowned Warbler was discovered near Mission, *Hidalgo* 20 Nov+ (†PK, m.ob.). An early Canada Warbler was noted at Seabrook, *Harris* 2 Aug (AB, CB); one at Lubbock 4 Sep (CC, SCo, ph.) provided a rare subregional record.

Another w. species that made a significant eastward incursion was Green-tailed Towhee. One at Quintana, *Brazoria* 3 Oct (CSm) was a harbinger of an unprecedented invasion of the species. Numbers began to build in late Oct, with birds seen all the way e. to *Jefferson*. Sightings of particular interest included one in *Tarrant* 4-7 Oct (MM, m.ob.), 10 at Damon, *Brazoria* 6 Nov (JF), one at Gibbons Creek Res., *Grimes* 6 Nov (†RLa, SaL), and one in *Waller* 20 Nov (HL). Spotted Towhee also made a good showing e. of the normal range, with early sightings including singles at Bentsen S.P., *Hidalgo* 20 Oct (MG) and Damon, *Brazoria* 25 Oct (SHe, RW, TFi). An early Eastern Towhee arrived at Damon, *Brazoria* 25 Oct (JF). Three Chipping Sparrows found at Addicks Res., *Harris* 5 Sep (JiH) were likewise early. Clay-colored Sparrow made a notable eastward movement, beginning with 2 at Addicks Res., *Harris* 11 Sep (JiH, SO, HS). Well-above-average numbers were noted on the U.T.C. and in the Pineywoods, with reports from at least eight counties 11 Sep-10 Nov (m.ob.). Eastward-wandering Brewer's

Sparrows included one near Yorktown, *Dewitt* 8-27 Sep (DMu), 2 at Bastrop, *Bastrop* 20 Oct (BF), one at South Padre I., *Cameron* 20 Oct (DJ), another near Yorktown, *Dewitt* 1-18 Nov (DMu), and one at Estero Llano Grande S.P., *Hidalgo* 8 Nov (RSn). An early Field Sparrow was at Addicks Res., *Harris* 30 Sep (KP). In step with the theme of the season, Lark Buntings pushed eastward as well. Above-average numbers were in evidence in the e. Hill Country, n.-cen. Texas, and the Blackland Prairies, but amazing numbers were found on the U.T.C., with a high count of 42 at the Laas Ranch, *Waller* 27 Nov (HL). Early Savannah Sparrows included 3 at Paul Rushing Park, *Harris* 14 Sep (JBe, JiH, DDi) and one at L. Sam Rayburn, *Angelina* 11 Sep (DW, CIS et al.). A Baird's Sparrow at McNary Res., *Hudspeth* 5 Sep (ph. JPa) was early. Always a good find in the Central Brazos Valley, a Henslow's Sparrow was near Shiro, *Grimes* 1 Oct (†JBa). An early Le Conte's Sparrow was at L. Sam Rayburn, *Angelina* 6 Oct (DW). A Nelson's Sparrow was detected at John Bunker Sands Wetlands Center, *Kaufman* 5 Nov (GCo, DDC, DL, RiM, BoS). A Fox Sparrow on South Padre I., *Cameron* 11-13 Nov (m.ob., ph. DI) provided a 2nd record for the L.R.G.V. Early Lincoln's Sparrows were found 15 Sep at Houston, *Harris* (CTL) and Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* (LBa). A Swamp Sparrow at Sabine Woods, *Jefferson* 15 Sep (JW) was early, as was a Harris's Sparrow at Central Heights, *Nacogdoches* 30 Oct (MHW). The latter foreshadowed concentrations on the coastal prairies such as of 32 Harris's at Quintana, *Brazoria* 28 Nov (JT) and "several hundred" in w. *Waller* 30 Nov (JoK). Elsewhere, a first-winter bird settled in at Alpine, *Brewster* 28 Oct+ (ph. ML), and one made it all the way to Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., *Cameron* 28 Nov (ph. DDi). An Oregon Junco was at Houston, *Harris* 29 Oct (ph. CTL).

Notably late was a Summer Tanager at Dugout Wells, Big Bend N.P., *Brewster* 21 Nov (HT, MY). A Scarlet Tanager at Central Heights, *Nacogdoches*, 18 Aug (DW) was very early. Rare in the e. half of the state were single Western Tanagers early at Webberville, *Travis* 11 Aug (KCh) and Spring, *Harris* 26 Aug (DMA). Two Crimson-collared Grosbeaks were at Weslaco, *Hidalgo* 21-2 Nov (ph. DJ), and one was at Estero Llano Grande S.P., *Hidalgo* 25 Nov (†LF, SHa); the species has been recorded annually in recent years. A Pyrrhuloxia at Quintana, *Brazoria* 15 Oct-20 Nov (JF, CM, DDo, GB) provided an early date for the U.T.C. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks wandered to Midland, *Midland* 8 & 20 Oct (DMe, JMe) and El Paso 11 Oct (ph. BZ). Black-headed Grosbeaks in the e. half of the

state and away from the coast included singles at Fort Worth, *Tarrant* 23-25 Sep (BaT, m.ob.) and Bryan, *Brazos* 2 Oct (†SDi, CDi). Blue Buntings were documented near Alamo, *Hidalgo* 17-22 Nov (†JM et al.) and on South Padre I., *Cameron* 14 Oct (ph., †LLe). A Blue Grosbeak found at Quintana, *Brazoria* 20 Nov (DSh, JT) was late. A male Varied Bunting was spotted several times at Hueco Tanks State Historic Site, *El Paso* 8-21 Aug (ML, RH).

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found in above-average numbers on the U.T.C., with the high count of 10 at Anahuac N.W.R., *Chambers* 2 Oct (JoR); in the Pineywoods, one was rare at Diboll, *Angelina* 15 Sep (RT). A concentration of 100 Rusty Blackbirds at Kilgore, *Gregg* 21 Nov (LP) was encouraging. A Black-vented Oriole returned to Bentzen S.P., *Hidalgo* 13 Oct+ (SaS, †m.ob.). An Orchard Oriole at Quintana, *Brazoria* 1 Nov (JF) was late. An Audubon's Oriole at Del Rio, *Val Verde* 27 Oct (KG) furnished a rare county record. Baltimore Orioles in the Trans-Pecos included singles at El Paso 10 Sep (ph. JPa), in the Christmas Mts., *Brewster* 10 Sep (ph. COJ), and at Marathon, *Brewster* 13 Sep (MY). A Scott's Oriole at El Paso 19 Nov (ph. BZ) was late. A Lesser Goldfinch was at Quintana, *Brazoria* 28 Nov (JT). Early American Goldfinches included singles in *Dallas* 19 Sep (JeK) and *McLennan* 24-25 Sep (ph. AGo).

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The season began warm in the Region, with Wyoming's Yellowstone drainage and Colorado's Arkansas and Rio Grande drainages establishing record warmest averages for August. The remainder of Colorado and the entire southern half of Wyoming were ranked much above normal temperature-wise for August. September's hottest drainages were those of Wyoming's Green River and Bear River, ranked "much above normal" during the time that most of the Region was ranked above normal. Colorado's temperature rankings returned to normal excepting the Rio Grande drainage (below normal) in October, while all of Wyoming stayed above normal. In November, Wyoming cooled, with most of the state normal or below normal, with the exception of the Belle Fourche drainage, which was above. Colorado stayed near normal temperature-wise in November except for the Republican and Arikaree drainages, which were above normal. Standout drainages for precipitation this season in Wyoming were the Upper Platte (much below normal in August), Snake and Yellowstone (much below normal and record driest, respectively, in August), Big Horn and Lower Platte (much above normal in September), and Yellowstone (much above normal in October). Colorado didn't see any extraordinarily wet or dry conditions this season, but the state's drought picture began with essentially the entire southeastern quadrant and San Luis Valley classified as extreme, with a few small patches even worse—under the "exceptional drought" categorization. By the end of November, conditions were less dire though still troubling, as the worst areas improved to mostly "severe drought" levels. Wyoming and the rest of Colorado were free

of any drought classification this season.

Among the avian highlights in this prolonged season were White-rumped Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Common Ground-Dove, Costa's Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, the continuing Rufous-collared Sparrow, and a one-minute-wonder Streak-backed Oriole. We thank eBird users for their submissions, as we rely more and more on these valuable data to compile this report.

After seven years on the regional editorial team for Colorado & Wyoming, Bill Schmoker will be stepping down as regional editor, to pursue other tasks in the world of birding and bird records. We thank him for all his excellent editorial work and anticipate presenting many more fine records and photographs from Bill in the future. Steve Mlodinow, whom many readers know as a long-time editor for the Washington & Oregon region, and as author of many seminal articles in this journal, has moved to Colorado and will be joining the Region's editorial team. Steve brings extensive experience and expertise to the job, and we look forward to his co-work and many contributions.

Abbreviations: Adobe Creek (Adobe Creek Res., *Bent/Kiowa*); Antero (Antero Res., *Park*); Barr (Barr L., *Adams*); Bonny (Bonny Res. and S.W.A., *Yuma*); Chatfield (Chatfield Res. and S.P., *Douglas/Jefferson*); Cherry Creek (Cherry Creek Res., *Arapahoe*); Crow Valley (Crow Valley campground, Pawnee National Grassland, *Weld*); D.F.O. (Denver Field Ornithologists); DeWeese (DeWeese Res., *Custer*); Prewitt (Prewitt Res., *Washington*); Rock Canyon (Rock Canyon, Lake Pueblo S.P., *Pueblo*); Timnath (Timnath Res., *Larimer*); Totten (Totten Res., *Montezuma*); Valco Ponds (Valco Ponds S.W.A., *Pueblo*). "West Slope" denotes locations w. of the Rockies. Due to report-

ing biases, all locations can be assumed to be in Colorado; Wyoming locations are noted as such the first time they appear. Only the observer or observers initially finding and identifying cited records are listed. Undocumented reports from Colorado of Colorado B.R.C. (C.B.R.C.) review species (<www.cfbirds.org>) that are deemed probably correct are summarized at the end of this report.

GEESE THROUGH GREBES

Single Greater White-fronted Goose at Nuclea, *Montrose* 23-24 Oct (BW), near Mancos, *Montezuma* 15 Nov (JDB), and near Allison, *La Plata* 26 Nov (JDB) were rare on the West Slope, particularly away from Mesa and Delta. A Snow Goose at Goshen's Hole, *Goshen*, WY 4 Aug (MF) had likely summered nearby. A Snow Goose × Lesser Canada Goose hybrid was at Greeley 26 Nov (ph. BS, SGM); this hybrid is recorded annually in the Region. Richardson's Cackling Goose numbers peaked at 4500 at Dodd Res., *Boulder* 22 Nov (CLW, JBa), though the count of 4000 at Luna Res., *Weld* 26 Nov (SGM, BS) was considerable. A few Taverner's were carefully picked out from the hordes of Richardson's, with 3 at L. Loveland, *Larimer* 13 Nov and one at Greeley, *Weld* 26 Nov (all SGM, BS). The estimated 47,700 Canada/Cackling Geese swirling around and near Barr 27 Nov (JH) must have been spectacular. Of the five Colorado reports of 14 Trumpeter Swans, the single at and near Jumbo Res., *Logan* and *Sedgwick* 12 Nov (SGM, TS) was e. of normal, while one on the West Slope at Spring Park Res., *Eagle* 26-30 Nov (T. McConnell, L. Vidal) and 7 ads. at Barr 2 Nov (J. Schmoker) were locally quite rare. Colorado had eight reports of Tundra Swans involving 10 birds, the most noteworthy of which was one at DeWeese 28 Nov (RMi) at unusually high elevation. Odd-

SA Despite spectacular numbers detected by the continental survey of breeding waterfowl, largely the result of exceptional breeding habitat availability in the prairie pothole region (<<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/NewReportsPublications/PopulationStatus/Waterfowl/2011WaterfowlStatusReport.pdf>>), Regional waterfowl numbers were mediocre at best this season, with few unusual concentrations anywhere. In drought-stricken se. and s.-cen. Colorado, total waterfowl numbers must have been affected by low water levels. Though high counts are just one metric for assaying passage rates, and one fraught with analytical problems, we consider it noteworthy that only two of the 26 duck species reported this season were found in exceptional concentrations: 2300 Redheads and 1700 Lesser Scaup at Jumbo Res., *Logan/Sedgwick* 6 Nov (SGM, CN, NM). The Redhead number made an exceptional count for fall but pales when compared to the higher tallies typical of spring; the Lesser Scaup count, however, was exceptional for any season. As for non-prairie breeders, 178 Red-breasted Mergansers at Valmont 27 Nov (TF et al.) made a strong if not record-breaking count. What happened to all those prairie-breeding dabbling ducks is beyond our ken, but perhaps the mild autumn encouraged them to linger in the north.



Three Canada Warbler reports in autumn 2011 represent a strong showing for the Colorado & Wyoming region, including this bird at Last Chance, Washington County, Colorado 11 September. Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.

ly, we received only four reports of Tundras from Wyoming. Reports of single male Wood Ducks in *La Plata*, where the species is fairly rare, came from Durango 5 Oct (RMO) and Vallecito Res. 29 Oct (JDB) and may or may not pertain to the same individual. A male Gadwall × Northern Pintail hybrid that visited Baseline Res., *Boulder* 24 Nov may have been a first for the Region (TF, SGM, CN), while a Ring-necked Duck × Lesser Scaup at Loloff Res., *Weld* 26 Nov is a cross that may be semi-regular (SGM, BS). The 9 White-winged Scoters at Terry L., *Boulder* 10 Nov likely set a Colorado record high count (SGM).

Red-throated Loons were noted at three Colorado locations, including 3 at Cherry Creek: different juvs. 17 & 28 Oct and an oddly plumaged individual 17-29 Oct that may have been a second-year bird (ph. GW). An ad. graced Pueblo Res., *Pueblo* 3-4 Nov (BKP), and a juv. at Baseline Res. 8 Nov (CN, †B. Kaempfer) provided well-birded *Boulder* with its first record. About average, we received 11 reports of 14 Pacific Loons, all in Colorado; unfortunately, potentially the most interesting occurrence, of a single on the West Slope went undocumented. The Common Loon flight was also about average, with some 35 reports of 116 or so individuals, with 56 of those birds residing on Buffalo Bill Res., *Park*, WY 14 Oct (L. Barber). An incredible concentration of Pied-billed Grebes at Timnath peaked at around 220 birds 8 & 18 Sep (SGM, CW). Horned Grebes at Timnath were very early from 14 Aug (one ad. in mostly basic plumage) and early from 8 Sep (3 ads. in basic plumage) (all SGM); the high count was of 200 at Union Res., *Weld* 30 Oct (D.F.O.). Of the 10 reports of 11 Red-necked Grebes

detected, the only Wyoming bird was on the Shoshone R., *Park* 23 Aug (DR), while an individual at Trinidad Res. 20 Nov (MP) provided a first for lightly birded *Las Animas*; the only report of multiple birds came from Pueblo Res., with 2 on 4 Nov (BKP). Eared and Western Grebes stayed late in relatively large numbers, a phenomenon that carried into the winter. The 50 Eared Grebes on Catamount Res., *Routt* 6 Nov (T. Litteral, N. Merrill) was a particularly large number for so late on the West Slope, while 150 were still at Union Res., *Weld* 26 Nov (SGM). The high count of specifically identified *Aechmophorus* grebes was 1500

Westerns tallied from a kayak on Union Res. 10 Sep, while 2500 *Aechmophorus* were undifferentiated there five days earlier (both BS). *Aechmophorus* hybrids were noted at Timnath 14 Aug (one) and 8 Sep (2); at Union Res. 20 Oct and 17 & 27 Nov; McIntosh Res., *Boulder* 22 Oct (all SGM); at Jumbo Res., *Sedgwick* 6 Nov (SGM, CN); and at Chatfield, *Douglas/Jefferson* 21 Nov (JBa, CLW).

CORMORANTS THROUGH CRANES

Four Neotropical Cormorants were documented: 2 imms. at Prewitt 6 Aug (ph. SGM) and single ads. at Timnath 14 Aug (TF) and Cherry Creek 22 Oct (C. Aid, †K. Niyo). Double-crested Cormorant numbers peaked at 1020 at Timnath 28 Aug (SGM). Migrant American Bitterns away from known breeding locales were found in seven Colorado counties, 4 Sep–30 Nov; one at Belmar Historic Park 30 Nov was exceptionally late and out of place (there are but a few prior records from well-birded *Jefferson*); another late bird was in *Boulder* 6 Nov (BS). Least Bitterns at Holcim Wetlands at least 3 Aug–2 Sep (RMi, ph. †BM) provided a first for *Fremont* and included ads. of both sexes—and rumors of fledglings, which, if true, would account for a very rare Regional breeding record. The 291 Snowy Egrets counted 1 Aug at the Glenmere Park heron colony, *Weld* (JH) made a very high number. The Cattle Egret at Hotchkiss, *Delta* 14 Aug (K. Ross) provided the first Colorado West Slope record in the Jun–Oct period; one found moribund at Eagle, *Eagle* 4 Nov (S. Bouricius) occurred during the typical West Slope peak for the species. The latest Green Heron, and the only one found away from known or suspected breeding locales,

was at Sweitzer Res., *Delta* 26 Oct (AC).

As Regional breeding populations of Osprey continue to climb, individuals are being found ever later into fall, with this season's truly laggard individuals found 27 Oct in Wyoming in *Albany* (CB) and *Natrona* (AH; 19° F!) and in Colorado in *Larimer* 16 Nov (CW) and *Douglas* 26 Nov (JK). The latest Mississippi Kites were noted 17 Sep at both the most northerly (*Logan*; K. Kranik) and most southwesterly (*Pueblo*; fide DS) "normal" locations. A juv. Red-shouldered Hawk was well seen at Bonny 3 Oct (SGM), one of only a few well-documented early fall records; most have been recorded Nov–Jan. The only Wyoming Broad-winged Hawk was at Woodhouse W.M.A., *Laramie* 10 Sep (C. Seniawski), while only 8 were reported from e. Colorado. At least 46 southbound Swainson's Hawks were noted over a s. Prowers yard 26 Sep (JS), while the 7 individuals in Oct (5 of which occurred 1-3 Oct) were late, particularly the singles at Castle Rock, *Douglas* 13 Oct (T. Bunker) and Union Res. 20 Oct (SGM). The famous ad. light-morph Harlan's Hawk returned to Hygiene, *Boulder* by 9 Nov (BS) for at least its 5th winter. A brown Merlin was early at Longmont, *Boulder* 18 Aug (SGM), continuing the recent trend. Five Peregrine Falcon reports made for a better-than-typical Nov for the Region.

The 3500 American Coots at Jackson L., *Teton* 5 Oct (D. Richardson) and a like number at Bonny 15 Oct (SGM, MP, TS) provided fairly high counts for both states. Even though huge numbers of Sandhill Cranes stage during migration in the San Luis Valley, one at Salida 14 Oct was rare just to the n., in *Chaffee* (RMi). The fall high count of Sandhills was of 2810 southbound birds over *Phillips* 16 Oct (SGM, TS).

PLOVERS THROUGH JAEGERS

The only Regional report of Black-bellied Plover away from e. Colorado came from Antero 21 Sep (CW). Among the good showing of American Golden-Plovers this season, up to 6 at BYO Playa on the Pawnee N.G., *Weld* 24 Sep–2 Oct were a big hit (ph. R. Nuissl); another at Big Johnson Res. 23 Oct (ph. M. Goff) was in *El Paso*, where very rare. A Snowy Plover was very late 31 Oct at Adobe Cr., *Bent* (RMi). Semipalmated Plovers at high elevation included singles at DeWeese (2377 m) 25 Aug (RMi) and Silver Jack Res., *Gunnison* (2694 m) 2 Sep (KN), but the bird at Taylor Park Res., *Gunnison* (2896 m) 13 Aug (S. Ploster) provided a new high-elevation record for the West Slope and possibly for Colorado. A late Mountain Plover was at BYO Playa 1-2 Oct (†NK).

Rarely seen in sw. Colorado, a Solitary Sandpiper was a nice find at Totten 13 Aug (RMo, HM). Despite field guides generally ignoring the subject, we strongly encourage subspecific identification of juvs. of this species, as little is known of the distribution of the two taxa in space and time; thus, this fall's data on such were appreciated: all but one of 23 reported to subspecies in *Weld*, *Morgan*, and *Washington* (28 Aug–17 Sep; SGM) were of the w. subspecies *cinnamomea*. Late were a Greater Yellowlegs in *Albany*, WY 27 Oct (CB), a Willet at Hutton Lake N.W.R., *Albany* 15 Oct (M. Churchill), and a Lesser Yellowlegs at Totten 14 Oct (JDB). Migrant Upland Sandpipers were noted 4-28 Aug in *Boulder*, *Prowers*, *Washington*, *Weld*, and *Yuma* and in *Albany* and *Goshen*, WY. A Marbled Godwit at Totten 26 Oct eclipsed the prior West Slope late date by about a month (JDB). This season's only Red Knot was a juv. at Jumbo Res., *Logan* 2 Sep (ph., †GW, JK). This season's maximum of Baird's Sandpipers was only 450 and came not from Colorado's e. plains but from montane Antero 21 Sep (CW), a clear indicator of the poor conditions for shorebirds on the plains. Amazingly, a White-rumped Sandpiper at Prewitt 8 Oct (p.a.; SGM) would, amazingly, provide a first accepted Colorado fall record. Five West Slope occurrences of Pectoral Sandpiper made for a banner season there, with three reports involving 5 birds at Fruitgrowers Res., *Delta* 25 Aug–29 Sep (JBn, LA), plus singles at Navajo Res., *Archuleta* 8 Oct (RMo, HM) and Totten 26 Oct (JDB); additionally, one was at unusually high elevation at DeWeese 10 Oct (RMi), and another was late at Adobe Cr., *Bent* 31 Oct (J. Thompson, D. Russell, JS). The only Dunlin of the season visited the BYO Playa 1 Oct (SGM). A Stilt Sandpiper at Totten 26 Oct (JDB) was late and on the West Slope, where very uncommon; 6 Long-billed Dowitchers there 6 Nov (JDB) were also late. The shorebird of the season was the American Woodcock photographed on lawns in Burlington 28-30 Nov (S. Murphy; ph., †JD), a *Kit Carson* first and the state's 9th. Red Phalarope records with details included an early molting ad. at Empire Res., *Weld* 7 Aug (ph., †R. Garcia), a molting juv. at Boulder Res., *Boulder* 15-20 Sep (CN, †N. Lewis), and a juv. at Antero 20 Sep (BM).

The Sabine's Gull show was subpar, with at least 33 (including 2 ads.) at 15 Colorado locations, plus one in Wyoming, a juv. at Lake Hattie Res., *Albany* (SB); noteworthy juvs. were on the West Slope at Ridgway Res., *Ouray* 14 Sep (CD, BW) and in the mts. at Antero 21 Sep (CW). Bonaparte's Gull put on a better-than-average showing on the West

Slope, where 7 were found at five locations in *Archuleta*, *Delta*, *Mesa*, and *San Miguel*. The largest concentrations of Franklin's Gull numbered a mere 750 at each of two n. Colorado sites in mid-Sep. After removal from the C.B.R.C. review list in e. Colorado, this fall produced "only" 3 Mew Gulls (*Arapahoe*, *Douglas*, *Weld*) 30 Oct–17 Nov. A first-summer Herring Gull at Jackson Res., *Morgan* 6 Aug (SGM) was six weeks early. A juv. Iceland Gull split its time between the North Weld County Landfill and Timnath 10-13 Nov (CW, †SGM, ph. BS). This report is currently one of seven circulating in the C.B.R.C. of reports spanning 2000-2012; there are 12 previously accepted state records. At least 29 Lesser Black-backed Gulls at approximately 15 locations (high count 7 at L. Loveland, *Larimer* 9 Nov; CW) made for a relatively poor fall showing in Colorado; as usual, none were reported from Wyoming. However, an ad. at San Luis L., *Alamosa* 26 Oct (p.a.; MP, †J. Rawinski) would be the San Luis Valley's first and one of very few records from w. of the Front Range in Colorado. The 6 Glaucous Gulls at four locations (13 Nov+) presaged a spectacular winter for the species in Colorado. The ad. Great Black-backed Gull had returned to Pueblo Res. by 16 Nov (BKP). Single ad. and juv. Least Terns were late at Adobe Cr., *Bent* 5 Sep (MP, DN et al.). Seven reports of 12 Caspian Terns (7 Aug–29 Sep) made a better-than-average showing. A juv. Arctic Tern was thoroughly enjoyed 18-30 Oct at Boulder Res. (p.a.; NM, CN), and a juv. Pomarine Jaeger (the "expected" species and age in fall in Colorado) delighted the masses at Chatfield 19 Nov–6 Dec (JK, m.ob.). However, 3 Long-tailed Jaegers stole the show this season. The first was a lovely ad. at Cherry Creek 10-11 Sep (C. Teuton, †BM, †JD), and the others were light-morph juvs., one each at Antero 20 Sep (MP, †BM) and at Pueblo Res. 13-24 Oct (BKP).

PIEGONS THROUGH RAVENS

A Band-tailed Pigeon, rare in *Moffat*, was in the Elkhead Mts. 14 Aug (C. Dodson). A superb indication of Eurasian Collared-Dove abundance in e. Colorado was provided by the count of 275 at the cemetery in Berthoud, *Weld* 22 Oct (SGM). White-winged Dove occurrences spanned the period, but most reports (13 of 25) were from 1-12 Aug and 21-27 Nov. A Mourning Dove at Silverton 11 Sep (JDB) made for an unusual occurrence in high-elevation *San Juan*. A Common Ground-Dove at Julesburg, *Sedgwick* 13-30 Nov (ph. SGM, TS) provided the first Colorado record (of five) of the species that was not a one-day wonder.

Two juv. Black-billed Cuckoos were found

in *Washington* 11 Sep, one at Prewitt (SGM), the other at Last Chance (D. Faulkner). A Flammulated Owl seen near L. Isabel, *Custer* 10 Sep (BKP) provided a late record for s. Colorado; however, given the scant effort applied to finding these owls, their true temporal pattern not known. The latest date for the Burrowing Owls at Craig, *Moffat* was 4 Oct (FL); one of the rare *Boulder* Burrowing Owls lingered through 7 Nov (CN). Late Common Nighthawks were in *Yuma* 3 Oct (SGM) and *Albany* 4 Oct (CB), while a Common Poorwill pushed the envelope on departure date 10 Oct in *Boulder* (CN). The last Black Swifts of the year were 2 at low elevation at Paonia, *Delta* 7 Sep (JBn). The count of 250 Chimney Swifts roosting in Pueblo 19 Aug (V. Truan) shattered the previous Colorado maximum. An ad. male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was an excellent find at Prewitt 8 Sep (J. Roller, †GW) but was surpassed by a female at 2758 m in the Wet Mts., *Custer* 1 Sep (†BKP). Occurrences of rarer western hummingbirds included single Anna's Hummingbirds at Lakewood, *Jefferson* 14-16 Oct (imm. male; ph. M. Chavez) and Ft. Collins, *Larimer* 23-25 Oct (female; B. Biggerstaff, †NK) and a female Costa's Hummingbird at Rye, *Pueblo* 3 Sep (DS). Hummingbirds lingered longer than typical, with the latest individuals of Colorado's two breeding hummingbird species, Black-chinned and Broad-tailed, noted 11 Oct (Grand Junction, *Mesa*; LA) and 20 Oct (*Boulder*; D. Waltman), respectively, while those of the two regular migrant species, Rufous and Calliope, were seen 19 Oct (*Douglas*; K. Metz) and 8 Oct (Grand Junction; LA), respectively.

The 2011 Red-headed Woodpecker story continued into fall, with numerous reports w. of typical Colorado range, including birds in *Teller* (2) and *Custer* (one) during early Aug, plus 2 very late juvs. at the Bobcat Ridge N.A., *Larimer* 13 Nov (Ft. Collins Natural Areas) that were nw. of this species' usual Colorado haunts. The Durango colony of Acorn Woodpeckers continues, with as many as 9 there 17 Sep (*vide* JDB). A male Red-bellied Woodpecker at Crow Valley 29 Sep+ (GW, LK) was also w. of normal. A Williamson's Sapsucker was quite late in *Park*, WY 29 Oct (DR). A montane Downy Woodpecker was exceptionally far e. at Haxtun, *Phillips* 20 Nov (CLW, JBa, SGM, BS). An Eastern Hairy Woodpecker at Walden Ponds, *Boulder* 11 Aug was unusual for the Front Range at such an early date, while a montane Hairy Woodpecker at Crow Valley 28 Aug was farther e. than normal (both SGM). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Rock Canyon 27-28 Aug would provide Colorado's 5th record (p.a.; BKP). Of at least 32 accepted Colorado records of Alder Flycatcher, only five

SA Our understanding of raven distribution in Colorado is hampered by the difficulty in distinguishing Common and Chihuahuan. Recently, nesting birds considered by habitat and range to be "good" Chihuahuan Ravens were photographed well (BM) and found to have nasal bristles shorter than expected. Extensive searching through photographs of the species taken in Colorado reveal that a) there are not that many good pictures from Colorado of the species and b) the state's apparent Chihuahuan Ravens typically sport relatively shorter nasal bristles than do those in the core of the species' range. While summer distribution of the two species seems straightforward—Chihuahuans are mostly restricted to open grassland and semi-desert habitats, whereas Commons breed in montane and canyon country—the two meet where the grasslands transition into the foothills. If these species were hybridizing, how we would know?

A calling Common Raven at Sand Draw S.W.A., *Sedgwick*, CO 12 Nov (SGM) was well ne. of the species' normal range. Even more notable were 2 ravens documented as Chihuahuans at Bonny 15 Oct (†SGM, BKP, MP). While this report may seem outlandish, the species was historically common in ne. Colorado, at least during the great bison slaughter (Andrews, R., and R. Righter. 1992. *Colorado Birds*. Denver Museum of Natural History). Additionally, Bonny is closer to regular Chihuahuan Raven breeding range than it is to that of Common Raven, and any raven in *Yuma* these days is extralimital.

are from fall, so the one at Crow Valley 28 Aug (ph. SGM) was noteworthy. A Hammond's Flycatcher at Boulder 8 Oct (CN) was record late. It would be of interest to know the breeding source of the Gray Flycatchers occurring in fall in ne. Colorado, such as the single in *Boulder* 11 Aug and *Weld* 20 Aug (both SGM). An Eastern Phoebe at Barr 4 Oct (ph. SGM) provided one of very few records for well-birded *Adams*, while one at *Chico, Pueblo* 11 Nov (ph. BM) was late. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was n. of typical at Lyons, *Boulder* 9 Sep (J. & M. Such), while a Great Crested Flycatcher was w. of typical at Rock Canyon 8 Sep (ph. BKP). A Cassin's Kingbirds at Bonny 3 Oct (SGM) was late and in *Yuma*, which had only about two previous records.

Three White-eyed Vireos, more than usual, were located this fall: a singing male at *Colorado City, Pueblo* 7 Aug–12 Sep (DS, ph. BKP); one at Palmer Park, *El Paso* 23–29 Aug (JD); and an incredibly late bird at Last Chance 13 Nov (ph. BM). Rarely found on fall migration, single Bell's Vireos were unexpected a bit w. of normal at Prewitt 5 Sep (LK, K. Huffstater) and well w. of normal at *Chico, El Paso* 4 Sep (ph. BM). A Plumbeous Vireo at *Chico, Pueblo* 11 Oct was late (G. Koehn). The only Wyoming Cassin's Vireo was in *Teton* 29 Aug (L. Keene), while the 23 Colorado birds spanned 14 Aug–23 Oct, with one at *Kodak S.W.A., Weld* (ph. BS, SGM) being exceedingly late. Four documented Blue-headed Vireos spanned 5–8 Oct: singles at Valco Ponds 5 & 7 Oct (both ph. BKP), at *Boulder* 8 Oct (CN), and on the West Slope, where incredibly rare, at *Ridgway, Ouray* 8 Oct (CD). A Cassin's/Blue-headed was at Valco Ponds 8 Oct (BKP). A Philadelphia Vireo graced *Stalker*

Pond, Yuma 3 Oct (†SGM). The 2 Wyoming Red-eyed Vireos, both in the nw., occurred 20–21 Aug, while the 21 Colorado individuals spanned 3 Sep–26 Oct, with the most interesting being the record-late West Slope bird at *Nucla* 25–26 Oct (CD, ph. BW). The only stray Steller's Jay this season was just downhill at Valco Ponds 1 Oct, while 2 Blue Jays were well uphill at 2758 m in the Wet Mts., *Custer* 30 Sep; a Western Scrub-Jay was uphill at the latter location 22 Sep (all BKP).

SWALLOWS THROUGH WARBLERS

A juv. Purple Martin at Big Johnson Res. 7 Sep (BM) was quite unexpected. If it were not already clear that Wyoming and Colorado are quite different from each other, the temporal distribution of Violet-green Swallow this season would make the point: eBird reports of the species extend through 30 Aug in Wyoming but through 8 Oct in Colorado. The 2500 Barn Swallows at Greenlee Preserve, *Boulder* 12 Sep (TF) may account for a new state maximum, while 2 Bank Swallows at Prewitt 24 Sep (SGM) were late. Two Black-capped Chickadee × Mountain Chickadee hybrids were noted at *Cañon City, Fremont* 19 Nov (ph. SGM, CN). This was not a flight year for montane species, as evidenced by only three plains reports of Mountain Chickadee, in w. parts of *Adams* and *Arapahoe*, and a single Pygmy Nuthatch at low elevation in *Pueblo*. Eastern White-breasted Nuthatches w. of normal included up to 2 at *Crow Valley* 1–9 Oct and one at *Chatfield, Jefferson* 27 Nov (both SGM), while a mountain bird was well e. at *Haxtun* 20 Nov (CLW, JBa, SGM, BS). A singing male Carolina Wren was w. of normal at Prewitt 1 Sep–2 Oct (CW). The Sedge

Wren at *Chico, Pueblo* 30 Sep (ph. BM) was the only one documented. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was late in *Sedgwick* 14 Nov (CW).

A male Eastern Bluebird at *Nucla* 12 Nov+ (ph. CD, BW) provided only the 2nd *Montrose* report, highlighting yet another excellent fall for the species in areas w. of normal. In *Fremont*, at least 52 were found at three locations 27 Oct+ (RMi), while a male at *Salida* 3 Nov (SY) was *Chaffee's* 2nd; the previous was in Feb 2011. Single Wood Thrushes were at *Chico, El Paso* 21 Sep (ph. †BM) and a month late at *Haxtun* 18–19 Nov (†BKP). All 5 Varied Thrushes were documented: a male at *Ft. Collins* 15 Oct (D. Leatherman, †R. Hopper), a male at *Duck Creek State Wildlife Area, Logan* 27 Nov (K.M. Dunning), a female at *Two Buttes State Wildlife Area, Baca* 16 Oct (D. Kibbe, M. Goldthwaite), a female at *Colorado Springs, El Paso* 7 Nov (J. Hayes, †BM), and a female at *Aurora, Arapahoe* 2–25 Nov (B. Schaumberg, †S. Stachowiak). A Gray Catbird at *Wetmore, Custer* 4 Nov (RMi) was at fairly high elevation for that late date. A Sprague's Pipit was early 10 Sep and w. of normal at *Union Res. (SGM)*, while the other documented occurrences were of singles in *Yuma* at the *Fox Ranch* 7 Oct (BM, TF, B. Patrick) and near *Hale* 15 Oct (BKP, SGM). Both Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs were w. of normal in *Boulder* and *Douglas*, but 5 Chestnut-collareds were up in the mts., where very rare, at *Spinney Mountain Res., Park* 20 Sep (ph. BM).

The count of only 2 Ovenbirds, both in *Washington* 5–7 Sep, was abysmal, while a Worm-eating Warbler at *Cañon City* 5–19 Nov (RMi) was exceptional for fall and incredibly late. The seasonal counts of Northern Waterthrush (8; 19 Aug–17 Sep) and Black-and-white Warbler (6; 27 Aug–20 Sep), all in Colorado, were low. Four Prothonotary Warblers made more than usual, and all were of interest. A male at *L. Estes, Larimer* 16–29 Sep (G. Matthews) was possibly the longest-staying individual on record and was in the mts., where quite rare. One at the *Thompson Ranch* 2 Oct (P. Gaede) was on the plains, where regular, but was in lightly birded *Lincoln*, while a female at *Brush Hollow Res., Fremont* 4 Oct (RMi) was in the foothills; and the last was a very late female at *Dixon Res., Larimer* 17–18 Nov (†B. Baker). The 11 Tennessee Warblers, all in Colorado (5 Sep–28 Oct), included one on the West Slope, where unusual, at *Ouray, Ouray* 9 Sep (KN). Single Orange-crowned Warblers of subspecies *lutescens* were at Prewitt 17 Sep (acc. SGM) and Bonny 3 Oct (acc., ph. SGM), the latter among a horde of 51 other Orange-crowned, a number approaching the state maximum; the status of this subspecies

in the Region is poorly understood. The 17 Nashville Warblers (all Colorado, 30 Aug–20 Oct) made for a good count, with single West Slope birds (16–18 Sep) gracing *Mesa*, *Montrose*, and *La Plata*. Hooded Warblers are much less frequent in fall than spring, so fall records are always noteworthy, this year's particularly so due to their tardiness: a male at Rock Canyon and Valco Ponds 20–24 Oct (ph. BKP) and a female at Holyoke, *Phillips* 18 Nov (BKP). The 42 Regional reports of some 74 American Redstarts (10 Aug–2 Oct; maximum of 10 at Prewitt 7 Sep, CW) made for a good showing, with singles away from typical e. sites in *Custer* (10 Aug, RMI), *Gunnison* (2 Sep, KN), *Pitkin* (8 Sep, S. Sorkin), *La Plata* (10 Sep, S. Allerton), and *Chaffee* (16 Sep, SY; 23 Sep, RMI) in Colorado and in *Teton* (10 Sep, J. Langford; 17 Sep, A. Nolan) in Wyoming. Fairly typical counts were the 7 Northern Parulas, 4 Magnolia Warblers, 11 Chestnut-sided Warblers, 5 Blackpoll Warblers, 6 Palm Warblers (all Westerns, as usual), 8 Black-throated Blue Warblers, and 3 Black-throated Green Warblers. However, individual records of particular interest include single Northern Parulas in *Chaffee* (3 Oct, RMI) and *Phillips* (18–19 Nov, BKP), the latter a month late; a montane Chestnut-sided in *Clear Creek* (2 Sep, NM); a West Slope Blackpoll in *Montrose* (29 Sep, CD, BW); and a Black-throated Green late and w. in *Fremont* (7 Nov, BKP). Sightings of review species were many. A male Blackburnian Warbler was at Prewitt 4 Sep (m.ob., †JD). Four Pine Warblers were detected at Pueblo City Park: an ad. male 27 Oct, different imm. females 30 Oct and 3 Nov, and an imm. male 3 Nov (all ph. BKP). A Yellow-throated Warbler was quite late at Chico, *Pueblo* 12–13 Nov (ph., †JD). A Prairie Warbler was banded at Clear Springs Ranch, *El Paso* 20 Aug (†D. Elwonger). Single Canada Warblers in *Washington* were at Last Chance 5 Sep (ph. GW, ph. SGM) and at Prewitt 23 Sep (J. Vanderpoel). Oddly, the only report that we received of Black-throated Gray Warbler came from the nw. corner of the Region, at Grand Teton N. P., *Teton* 20 Aug (C. Artuso). Townsend's Warbler is one of the first parulid migrant species to arrive in fall and often lingers deep into the season, so the span of dates this fall of 4 Aug–5 Nov was not unusual; however, 6 reported in *Clear Creek* 4 Aug (K. McAnally) would make a high count so early in the season.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

In Wyoming, a Chipping Sparrow in *Laramie*, WY 30 Oct (B. Gorges) was apparently record late. Spotted Towhee × Eastern Towhee hybrids were detected at Prewitt 8 Oct and Crow Valley 9 Oct (both SGM); this hybrid is rarely

reported in the Region, particularly during migration. Clay-colored Sparrows were reported 4 Aug–23 Oct, with notable records including an early bird in *Boulder* 4 Aug (SGM) and West Slope occurrences in *Archuleta* 15 & 27 Sep (JDB), in *Moffat* 17 Sep (FL), and at Grand Junction 27 Sep (b. AC). Sage Sparrows are rare spring migrants in e. Colorado but are much rarer there in fall, so singles 13 Oct at Lykins Gulch, *Boulder* (b. M. Boswell) and Bear Creek Lake Park, *Jefferson* (MH) were eye-popping. A Lark Bunting was in sw. Colorado, where quite rare, at Navajo S.P., *Archuleta* on the modestly late date of 8 Oct (RMO, HM), while a very late bird graced Little Jumbo Res., *Logan* 20 Nov (CLW, JBa, SGM, BS). A Le Conte's Sparrow was at Chico, *Pueblo* 17 Sep–5 Oct (one; BM), and 2 were documented from the Brett Gray Ranch, *Lincoln* 2 Oct (2; MP, †BM). Red Fox Sparrows were encountered in normal numbers, with singles 16 Oct at Frenchman Hills State Wildlife Area, *Phillips* (†SGM) and Two Buttes State Wildlife Area (†BKP). The only Wyoming Swamp Sparrow visited Hutton Lake N.W.R., *Albany* 21 Oct (SB). The long-staying Rufous-collared Sparrow was noted four times, 3 Aug–3 Sep. The Red Rocks Park, *Jefferson* Golden-crowned Sparrow arrived for its 2nd winter 3 Nov (MH). Two Gray-headed Juncos at Sand Draw State Wildlife Area 20 Nov (SGM) were very far e. of normal, particularly for the time of year, and accounted for the first eBird record for *Sedgwick*. Though Gray-headed is rare so far east, oddly, most such records occur late in spring or early in fall when any junco near the e. Colorado border is rare.

Summer Tanager is almost plentiful in spring in e. Colorado, but rare in fall, so 6 this fall was extraordinary, including a yellow bird 9 Aug in Loveland, *Larimer* (E. Coley), an apparent ad. male 3 Sep and a mostly red male 17 Sep at Cañon City (both RMI), a yellow bird at Rock Canyon and Valco Ponds 18–19

Oct (BKP), and a late ad. male w. of Walden, *Jackson* 13 Nov (D. MacLachlan). Three reports of Scarlet Tanager made for a good fall showing, with 2 at well-birded Valco Ponds, single yellow birds 8 & 19–23 Oct (ph. BKP). An ad. male Scarlet was seen feeding and defending a fledgling tanager with white wing bars, but with no other tanagers present, in North Cheyenne Canyon, *El Paso* 10–12 Aug (M. Walker, ph. †BM)—a remarkable record. A male Northern Cardinal at Valco Ponds 18–22 Oct was joined by another male on the last date (both †BKP). The 5 low-elevation e. Colorado Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (8 Aug–16 Oct) represented a low tally, but three other reports were of particular interest: the summer *Custer* bird continued through 19 Aug (ph. BKP), one at La Veta, *Huerfano* was late 29 Oct (LA), and the only West Slope individual was quite late 13 Nov at Cedaredge, *Delta* (C. Day). A Rose-breasted Grosbeak × Black-headed Grosbeak hybrid visited Crow Valley 28 Aug (SGM). Two Blue Grosbeaks at Fruitgrowers Res., *Delta* 11 Oct (LA) were record late for the West Slope, while one at Colorado City 15 Oct (DS) was possibly record late for the Region, although there is a Colorado C.B.C. record from last winter. Dickcissel occurrence extended through 10 Oct and included one in Wyoming in *Goshen* 4 Aug (MF). Only 2 Bobolinks were reported this season, including a late bird 3 Sep in *Weld* (SGM). Rusty Blackbirds were recorded in six e. Colorado counties 6 Nov+. The Orchard Oriole at Valco Ponds 17 Sep (BKP) was late. The bird of the season had, unfortunately, vanished by the time of the frantic arrival of many would-be ogles: a Streak-backed Oriole at Fountain Creek Regional Park, *El Paso* 25 Nov (†MP). The only previous Regional record was from Loveland, *Larimer* 8 Dec 2007–2 Jan 2008. A Bullock's Oriole × Baltimore Oriole hybrid at Prewitt 6 Aug and a female Baltimore Oriole 5 Sep in *Lincoln* (both SGM)

SA Some have pondered the possibility of eastern White-crowned Sparrows (nominate *leucophrys*) occurring in Colorado. The seminal *Birds of Colorado* (Bailey, A. M., and R. J. Niedrach. 1965. Denver Museum of Natural History) followed Banks (1964. Geographic variation in the white-crowned sparrow, *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. *University of California Publications in Zoology* 70) in merging Rocky Mountain *oriantha* with *leucophrys*, so notes no records of the latter. Pyle (1997. *Identification Guide to North American Birds*, Part I. Slate Creek Press) accepts the two as valid subspecies and lists the nominate subspecies as a vagrant to Arizona. However, as noted by Banks (1964), these taxa are exceedingly similar, and we question whether distinguishing them in the field is possible. Mlodinow noted 16 individual dark-lored White-crowned Sparrows at six sites in four ne. Colorado counties (*Logan*, *Phillips*, *Washington*, *Yuma*) 8–16 Oct. Because *oriantha* essentially departs the state before Oct (last report in 2011 was on 5 Oct), at least some of these dark-lored birds could well be *leucophrys*. The subspecific identity of the few dark-lored birds that winter each year is also an open question.

were w. of normal. Brown-capped Rosy-Finch breeding range barely extends into Wyoming, so 2 noted at Medicine Bow Peak, *Albany 7 Aug* (J. Lautenbach) were of interest. The only White-winged Crossbill reports came from *Park, WY 24 Aug* (8; D. Foreman) and, quite surprisingly, well out on the e. plains at *Holyoke 13 Nov* (one; MP, B. Steger).

Undocumented rarities: The following review species were reported in the period from Colorado without documentation: Pacific Loon (*Garfield*), Tricolored Heron (*Otero*), Reddish Egret (*Kiowa/Bent*), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Boulder*), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Bent*), Red Phalarope (*Arapahoe*), jaeger sp. (*Boulder/Larimer, Denver*), White-winged Dove (*Clear Creek*), Lesser Nighthawk (*Montrose*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Montrose*), Costa's Hummingbird

(*Mesa*), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Otero*), Yellow-throated Vireo (*Ouray*), Blue-headed Vireo (*Prowers, Washington*), Philadelphia Vireo (*Adams*), Sedge Wren (*Boulder, Larimer, Lincoln*), Sprague's Pipit (*Boulder*), Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Montrose*), Prairie Warbler (*Delta*), Canada Warbler (*Prowers*), Eastern Towhee (*Pueblo*), Field Sparrow (*Fremont, Lincoln*), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Routt*), Red Fox Sparrow (*Bent*), Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Prowers*), Summer Tanager (*La Plata*).

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Idaho & Western Montana



David Trochell

The autumn 2011 season was warm and unusually dry through October and then quite variable across the Region in November. Reservoir water levels remained high from last year's copious precipitation, effectively eliminating potential shorebird feeding habitat. The season's abundance and diversity of migrants seemed unusually poor, and reports of vagrants were the fewest in memory. The highlight of an otherwise lackluster season was a widespread irruption of Snowy Owls, which made their debut into the Region in mid-November.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Four extralimital Greater White-fronted

Geese stopped at Bozeman, MT 13 Oct (ML), and another was in Moscow, ID 27 Nov (CS). The season's Eurasian Wigeon tally was subpar, with only one reported in Idaho. Harlequin Ducks are not typically reported after summer, making one in *Shoshone, ID 12 Sep* (GM) and 3 at Mann L., ID 22-26 Oct (KCs) especially noteworthy. At least 23 Surf Scoters and 10 White-winged Scoters came through the Region, representing an above-average fall season tally. Two Black Scoters, not annual, stopped at Warm Springs, MT 25-28 Oct (GS). Long-tailed Ducks also made an unusually good showing, with singles in *Canyon, ID 1 Oct* (AM), at Warm Springs, MT 10 Nov (NK), in *Owyhee, ID 12 Nov* (JC), and in *Valley, ID 13 Nov* (JC). It was Idaho's best showing ever for Red-throated Loons, with 2 at C. J. Strike Res. 29 Oct (ph., †JC), one near Roberts 7-8 Nov (ph., SB, DCl), and 2 in *Kootenai 7-13 Nov* (†SS). There are only ten accepted records of this casual species. Reports of 8 Pacific Loons 20 Sep-12 Nov represented an average fall total.

Always rare in w. Montana, a Cattle Egret was near Wilsall 7 Sep (EH, RW). A near-record 74 Broad-winged Hawks were detected at the Region's hawkwatches. The only Gyrfalcons reported were singles in *Flathead, MT 2 Nov* (DC) and in *Butte, ID 29 Nov* (†JO). An amazing 24 Peregrine Falcons were tallied at the Bridger Ridge, MT hawkwatch, representing the Region's highest seasonal total ever. Locally rare American Golden-Plovers

came through Mann L., ID 20 Aug and 4 Sep (KCs) and Wilsall, MT 22 Sep (EH, JP, RW). Three Short-billed Dowitchers at Mann L., ID 27 Aug-1 Sep (ph., †KCs) made it an above-average season. A species not recorded annually, single Red Phalaropes graced both states: at Mann L. 22-23 Oct (ph., †KCs), representing Idaho's 8th record, and at Silver L. 30 Oct-1 Nov (AG, RI), Montana's 14th.

JAEGERS THROUGH FINCHES

The only report of Parasitic Jaeger came from Harrison Res., MT 2 Sep (JP). The tally of rare-but-regular larids was fairly typical, with 4 Mew, 8 Thayer's, 2 Lesser Black-backed, 3 Glaucous-winged, 3 Glaucous, and 3 Sabine's Gulls reported. There was a widespread irruption of Snowy Owls, as evidenced by four reports in Idaho and two in w. Montana in Nov. Three Vaux's Swifts tallied at the Bridger Ridge, MT 21 Sep (BC, JM) represented a first fall record for sw. Montana. Now rare but expected in autumn, at least 6 Anna's Hummingbirds were detected in Idaho and one in Montana. Only 3 Blue Jays were discovered in Idaho. Always rare, a Northern Mockingbird was a nice find at Nampa, ID 5 Sep (HK).

Rare reports of Tennessee Warbler were the highest ever in Idaho, with singles near Boise 11, 18, & 24 Sep (†JC) and at Camas 24 Sep (DCl). Chestnut-sided Warblers, rare but regular, graced Missoula, MT 27 Aug (AG) and Glacier N.P., MT 9 Sep (EH). Interestingly, Bozeman, MT hosted the only rare Blackpoll



On 22-23 (here 23) October 2011, a Red Phalarope stopped at Mann Lake near Lewiston, Idaho, providing the Gem State's eighth record. Photograph by Keith Carlson.

and Black-and-white Warblers, 12 Sep (EH) and 4-5 Oct (RW), respectively, and was also the location for record-late MacGillivray's 4 Oct (EH) and Wilson's Warblers 30 Nov (JW). Also unusually late near Bozeman was a Western Tanager 30 Oct (KH). A Swamp Sparrow in Park 22 Sep (EH, JP) was notable, as there are fewer than 20 records in Montana. The rare *Zonotrichia* fall tally was fewer than usual, with only 4 White-throated, one Harris's, and 2 Golden-crowned Sparrows reported. An exciting discovery was an Indigo Bunting, not annual, w. of Idaho Falls, ID 31 Aug (KS). A pair

of Lesser Goldfinches documented at Missoula, MT 1-4 Sep (ph. RL) provided about the 6th record for w. Montana.

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New Mexico



Sartor O. Williams III

Environmental conditions in New Mexico, already grim through the summer, continued so into autumn 2011, with record or near-record dry conditions statewide. The drought centered in the southern Great Plains may have been responsible for forcing many migrants west into New Mexico, and numbers and diversity of typically scarce vagrants were nothing short of extraordinary. A banding program at Boone's Draw, conducted by Matt Baumann and Nick Pederson, added much to our understanding of migration through the state's the eastern plains.

Abbreviations: B.D. (Boone's Draw, sw. of Portales, *Roosevelt*); B.L.N.W.R. (Bitter Lake N.W.R.); Bosque (Bosque del Apache N.W.R.); E.B.L. (Elephant Butte L.); G.G.P. (Granite Gap Preserve, near Cotton City, *Hidalgo*); L.V.N.W.R. (Las Vegas N.W.R.); Maxwell (Maxwell N.W.R. and vicinity); N.R.T. (n. *Roosevelt* migrant trap w. of Melrose); P. O. Canyon (Post Office Canyon, Peloncillo Mts.); R.G.V. (Rio Grande Valley); R.S. (Rattlesnake Springs and vicinity, *Eddy*).

WATERFOWL THROUGH IBISES

Two Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks found at Clovis 29 Aug (ph. SC) continued there through 21 Nov (m.ob., ph. JO, ph. NH, ph. CW, ph. JB). Five imm. Trumpeter Swans were at B.L.N.W.R. 20-21 Nov (ph. JS), and an ad. and imm. were at Clayton L. 23 Nov (ph. DEW); a Tundra reached L.V.N.W.R. 10 Nov (C. Ruge). Noteworthy for *Cibola* was a female Greater Scaup at Bluewater L. 19-20 Nov (JEP, MB, NP, CR, ph. JO). A record Surf Scoter season began with a female at Bosque 22-30 Oct (J. Henley, ph. SF), one at Clovis 28 Oct (WWi, ph. JO), and 3 at Red L. n. of Carrizozo, *Lincoln* 30 Oct (JO), followed by 2 at Maxwell 5 Nov (JEP, ph. JO), 3 each at L.V.N.W.R. 6 Nov (ph. SF) and Quemado L. 16 Nov (WWi), and an ad. male at Bosque 17-19 Nov (ph. RV, m.ob., ph.). Two White-winged Scoters were at Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo 22 Oct (ph. L. Seth), and one was at

Clayton 28-29 Nov (ph. WWi, DWe). Our rarest scoter, a female Black Scoter was at Brantley L. 24-26 Nov (ph. JO, JEP, ph. RV, CR). A "flock" of 3 Long-tailed Ducks was at Cochiti L. 5-6 Nov (WH, DK), and one was at E.B.L. 24 Nov (ph. DC). Unseasonable was a Common Goldeneye at Cochiti L. 20 Aug (WH); a female Barrow's Goldeneye was at Maxwell 12 Nov (PB). An impressive 57 Hooded Mergansers were on Sumner L. 27 Nov (CR); some 3000 Ruddy Ducks were estimated at L. Avalon 1 Oct (BF).

Scaled Quail reproduction suffered from the drought, although a few successfully nested late, including ads. seen with small chicks at E.B.L. 27 Aug (DC) and at San Luis, *Sandoval* 5 Sep (WH). A survey for Lesser Prairie-Chickens near drought-stricken Milnesand found 71 birds 15 Oct, down from 288 there last Oct (P. McDaniel). Rare in New Mexico, a Red-necked Grebe at Bluewater L. 19-20 Nov (ph. MB, NP, JEP, ph. JO, ph. NH) provided a *Cibola* first. An ad. Neotropic Cormorant was ne. to Clovis 9 Sep-8 Oct (JEP, m.ob.), and another was nw. to Acomita L. 13 Aug (CR) Two Double-crested Cormorants flying over N.R.T. 6 Aug (LM) furnished an unexpected addition to that well-studied site's list. Late for the n. were 17 American White Pelicans at San Ildefonso 8 Nov (ph. E. MacKerrow). Absent from E.B.L. since the Feb freeze, one or 2 ad. Brown Pelicans appeared there by 4 Aug (ph. DC, m.ob.), and one was at nearby



Trumpeter Swan reports are on the rise in New Mexico; these five were at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Chaves County 20-21 (here 21) November 2011. Photograph by Jeffrey I. Sanchez.



In northeastern New Mexico, this Reddish Egret was an unexpected wanderer to Ute Lake, Quay County 9 August 2011. Photograph by William F. Wittman.



One of the latest ever found in New Mexico, this White Ibis was at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Chaves County 4-30 (here 27) November 2011. Photograph by Cole J. Wolf.

Caballo L. 9 Nov (ph. DC); noteworthy for Grant was one at Bill Evans L. 12-13 Oct (K. Muller, ph. RS). A Great Egret was n. to Cherry L., Mora 30 Oct (JB); a high 180 were estimated at Caballo L. 5 Sep (DC). Increasingly scarce, an ad. Little Blue Heron at E.B.L. 20 Aug (CW) provided the only report.

Purvis, CMB, ph. NP, m.ob., ph.); this furnished a Bernalillo first, the 2nd New Mexico report for 2011, and the 4th in the past three years. A White-tailed Kite was near Truth or Consequences 25 Oct (L. Halsey); others in more regular areas were singles at Mesilla Bosque S.P. 3-21 Aug (BO, CG) and Rodeo

Single Tricolored Herons were at three Pecos Valley locales: Bosque Redondo 20 Aug-5 Sep (JEP, m.ob., ph. JO, ph. NP), B.L.N.W.R. 6 Aug (JEP), and L. Avalon 24 Aug (SW). A Reddish Egret was n. to Ute L. 9 Aug (ph. WWi). Up to 2 Cattle Egrets were late at Sandia Pueblo 20-24 Nov (ph. WH, CR); a Green Heron was below E.B.L. Dam 23 Nov (DC). Another strong season for Yellow-crowned Night-Heron found single imms. at Las Vegas 13 Aug (L. Dominguez, ph. D. Obelkevich), at Bosque, continuing through 15 Aug (ph. NH), and at Ute Cr., Harding 10 Oct (DH). Unreported in New Mexico since 2006, an ad. White Ibis was late at B.L.N.W.R. 4-30 Nov (ph. RH, ph. JS, m.ob., ph.).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Swallow-tailed Kite in Albuquerque's South Valley 31 Aug (J. Hartzan, D. Landau) was eventually relocated and seen by many 14-16 Sep (R.

25 Sep (RW). One to 2 Mississippi Kites were n. to Clayton 2-14 Aug (DH, DWe); w. was one along the Gila R. below Riverside 13 Sep (R. Greenspun). Migrant Common Black-Hawks were singles at Quemado L. 11 Sep (CH), G.G.P. 28 Sep (TG), and Percha 15-18 Sep (ph. CG, SW); lingering summering birds were 2 near Santa Rosa 5 Oct (WWe) and one at Isleta Pueblo 3 Oct (DH). A Harris's Hawk was n. in the R.G.V. to Sandia Pueblo 19-22 Nov (ph. WH); another was n. to E.B.L. 30 Aug (ph. DC). An imm. Red-shouldered Hawk at the Texico marsh 11 Sep (DH) provided a Curry first; another imm. was at Hobbs 30 Sep (ph. JO). Scarce so far w., a Broad-winged Hawk was at Zuni's Black-rock 28 Sep (JT). Zone-tailed Hawks were in evidence in the Sacramento Mts., with singles at San Patricio and Monjeau lookout 1 Sep (WWe) and Elk 11 Sep (SW); unusual was one at Deming 8 Sep (LM). Scarce in recent years, single Rough-legged Hawks were s. to Brantley L. (JEP, WWi, CR) and Jal L. (CR) 26 Nov. Migrant Virginia Rails where seldom reported were singles at Tyrone 18 Sep (EL) and near Ruidoso 9 Oct (CR); migrant Soras numbered 10 at Tatum 2 Oct (CR) and 30 at Six Mile Dam 22 Sep (SW). An aerial survey counted 24,980 American Coots in ne. New Mexico 11 Oct, including 10,000 at Stubblefield L. (M. Watson). Three Sandhill Cranes reached B.L.N.W.R. 21 Sep (JS), where the population rapidly swelled to a record 30,020 by 27 Oct (JS).

A Black-bellied Plover near Otto 15 Sep (WWi, RC, ph. JB) provided a Santa Fe first. A good American Golden-Plover season produced one at Cochiti L. 7 Oct (WH) and 3 juvs. at Clovis 14 Oct (MB, ph. CW), plus single ads. at E.B.L. 4 Aug (DC) and B.L.N.W.R. 31 Aug (WWe). An ad. Snowy Plover was tending 3 chicks at E.B.L. 27 Aug (MB, NP). Noteworthy for Harding were 3 Black-necked Stilts on Ute Cr. 16 Aug (WWi); one lingered at Bosque 8 Nov (JO). Late for the n., single American Avocets were at Cochiti L. 30 Oct (ph. WH) and Maxwell 23 Nov (DK, JR); 12 lingered at E.B.L. 28 Nov (DC). Other lingering shorebirds included a Greater Yellowlegs n. to Maxwell 23 Nov (DK, JR) and a high 15 Greater at B.L.N.W.R. 25 Nov (JEP), and one to 2 Lessers at E.B.L. 19-21 Nov (JEP, DC). Upland Sandpipers where seldom reported were 2 w. to L.V.N.W.R. 27 Aug (CR) and one at La Joya 1 Sep (HT). A strong Whimbrel season found one near Otto 21 Aug (RC), 2 at Lordsburg Playa 21-27 Aug (DG, BO), 3 at B.L.N.W.R. 31 Aug (WWe), and 2 at Bosque Redondo 5 Sep (DK). A Long-billed Curlew was feasting on tadpoles at Santa Teresa 27 Aug (JNP); late were 19 at Clovis 18 Nov

(JEP) and one at Oasis S.P. 26 Nov (J. Lofton). A juv. **Ruddy Turnstone** at the Alameda wetland 4-8 Sep (ph. RV, m.ob., ph.) attracted so many Albuquerque area birders that it garnered a feature article in the *Albuquerque Journal*. Up to 4 **Red Knots** were at E.B.L.'s Monticello Pt. 4-26 Sep (ph. DC, ph. NH, m.ob.). Noteworthy for Curry was a Dunlin at Clovis 21 Oct (JEP, WWi). A high 77 **Stilt Sandpipers** were w. to E.B.L. 21 Sep (DC, WWe). Often reported but seldom adequately documented, the status of **Short-billed Dowitcher** in New Mexico remains vague; detailed reports this season were a juv. at Springer L. 27 Aug (ph. RV, CR), a juv. at Clovis 3-4 Sep (JEP, JO, MB, NH), and 2 juvs. at Caballo L. 22 Sep (WWe). An early **Red Phalarope** was at Santa Rosa 31 Aug (WWe); others were 2 at E.B.L. 11-14 Oct (ph. DC) and one at Clovis 4 Nov (WWi, JEP, ph. JO).

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Sabine's Gulls were unusually scarce, with single juvs. at Stanley 15 Sep (RC) and Conchas L. 2 Oct (NP) and 3 at Caballo L. 22 Sep (WWe) the only reports. A **Laughing Gull** at Ute L. 28 Oct (ph. JO) provided a local first. Late Franklin's Gulls were single ads. at Sunland Park 16-18 Nov (JNP) and E.B.L. 27 Nov (ph. DC). Two ad. California Gulls reached Sunland Park 16 Nov (JNP), where the species is more common in fall migration than in winter; others in the s. included singles at Deming 8 Nov (LM) and L. Avalon 27 Nov (CW). A third-cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at E.B.L. 24 Sep-24 Nov (ph. DC) was one of the earliest autumn migrants ever recorded in New Mexico. Caspian Tern, annual in New Mexico over the past two decades, had another strong season, with singles at Ute L. 27 Aug (ph. JO) and Sumner L. 27 Oct (ph. JO), plus 5 at E.B.L. 25 Sep (ph. DC, JEP) and 2 others there 15-16 Oct (ph. NH, ph. DC). A juv. **Pomarine Jaeger** in the Brantley-Avalon area 26-27 Nov (RV, JEP, ph. JO, MB, NP, ph. CW, JB) provided one of the few to be confirmed in New Mexico.

A **Band-tailed Pigeon** wandered far e. to Eunice 22-30 Oct (ph. PM); late was one at Socorro 24 Nov (JEP). Remarkable were 2 **Inca Doves** at a Los Alamos feeder in aspen habitat at 2240 m 19 Oct-4 Nov (ph. C. & Y. Keller). Two vocal **Common Ground-Doves** were in Guadalupe Canyon 12 Aug (JEP), and singles were noted at San Simon Cienega 1 Sep (RW), P. O. Canyon 5 Oct (CL), San Antonio 23 Sep (CMB), and La Union 27 Aug (DB). A **Ruddy Ground-Dove** was at La Union 4 & 18 Aug (ph. DB), and 2 were together along Tierra Blanca Cr., w. Sierra 27 Aug (ph. DC). Present near Albuquerque's

Alameda bridge since spring 2010, the presumably lonely **Monk Parakeet** was adding to its nest/roost structure 13 Oct (CH).

A record season for **Black-billed Cuckoo** found single juvs. at Hobbs 28 Sep (S. Severs) and N.R.T. 30 Sep (MB, m.ob., ph. JO), plus singles banded at B.D. 8-9 (ph. MB, NP) & 16 Oct (MB). A substantial migration of **Flammulated Owls** across the e. plains was evidenced by 8 individuals netted at B.D. on four nights 1-22 Oct (MB, NP); assuming similar turnover, 6-8 individuals passed through N.R.T. 1-14 Oct (JB, JEP, ph. JO, ph. CW). A **Short-eared Owl** was hunting near I-25 at Tinaja, Colfax 17 Oct (CLB). **Common Nighthawks** were scarce statewide; late were 2 at Taiban 5 Oct (WWe). An unidentified whip-poor-will was at N.R.T. 30 Sep (ph. JO, JEP, MB, NP), where New Mexico's only verified Eastern was documented in fall 2010. **Broad-billed Hummingbirds**, perhaps refugees from nearby fires, were unusually numerous in P. O. Canyon, where present 5 Aug-15 Sep, including a peak of 10 birds 5 Aug (CL). **Magnificent Hummingbirds**, probably from the burned Chiricahua Mts., also invaded P. O. Canyon, with 18 records during 5-28 Aug (CL); late was a male at Silver City 25 Nov (K. Beckenbach). Still unverified in New Mexico, a **Plain-capped Starthroat** was seen at G.G.P. 21 Aug (C. Noble); this provided the state's 3rd sighting, all in *Hidalgo* and all in Aug. Close attention to hummingbirds at N.R.T. produced a young male **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** 30 Sep-1 Oct (MB, JEP, NP, ph. NH, JB, ph. JO) and a female 14-15 Oct (JO, ph. CW, JEP). Anna's Hummingbirds were much in evidence in P. O. Canyon, reaching a peak of 18 on 5 Oct, and where on 13 Oct a female was building a nest (which ultimately failed) on a hanging



Providing the fourth New Mexico record in the past three years, this Swallow-tailed Kite lingered at Albuquerque, Bernalillo County 31 August through 16 September (here) 2011. Photograph by Cole J. Wolf.



Another roadside attraction, this Ruddy Turnstone entertained many at Albuquerque's Alameda wetland, Bernalillo County, New Mexico 4-8 (here 5) September 2011. Photograph by Nicholas D. Pederson.



Seldom so well documented in New Mexico, this juvenile Pomarine Jaeger was at Lake Avalon, Eddy County 26-27 (here 26) November 2011. Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

boat hook in a garage (CL). Farther e., single Anna's reached E.B.L. 4 Oct (DC), the Florida Mts. 29 Oct (HT), Radium Springs area 4 Nov (MS, JZ), and Las Cruces 6 Nov (DG); one was n. to Escondida late Oct-Dec (ph. S. LaBrier). Lewis's Woodpeckers dispersed s. into Grant, including singles at Pinon Altos 23 Sep (*vide* RS), Silver City 11-12 Oct (P.



Four Black-billed Cuckoos were found in New Mexico in 2011; this juvenile was at the north Roosevelt County migrant trap 30 September. Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.



A record seven Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were documented in eastern New Mexico this season, including this one at Milnesand, Roosevelt County 24 September 2011. Photograph by Matthew J. Baumann.

Boucher), up to 5 at Tyrone 25 Sep–27 Nov (EL), and one in the Burro Mts. 20 Nov (ph. R. Shantz); noteworthy for *Doña Ana* was one n. of Radium Springs 14 Oct (NS). Scarce e. to *Roosevelt*, a Williamson's Sapsucker was at B.D. 21 Oct (JEP), and up to 2 were at N.R.T. 27–28 Oct (ph. JO). An ad. male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was w. to Mimbres 5 Oct (LM). An American Three-toed Woodpecker was observed feeding a juv. at Sandia Crest 1 Sep (B. Zachman).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS

Our understanding of the relative abundance of *Empidonax* flycatchers passing through

New Mexico's e. plains was advanced by a banding program at B.D. during the period 3 Sep–8 Oct (MB, NP; see Table 1). The 7 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers documented in the e. more than doubled the number of accepted state records, with 3 netted at B.D. 4 Sep and singles there 9 & 18 Sep (ph. MB, NP), plus one at N.R.T. 4–5 & 9 Sep (JEP, m.ob., ph. JO, ph. NH, ph. DK, ph. JB) and one at Milnesand 24 Sep (ph. MB). Least Flycatcher was the most numerous

Empidonax flycatcher species on the e. plains in early Sep, including a "fallout" of some 100 at B.D. 4 Sep (MB, NP), at least 8 at N.R.T. 5 Sep (JEP, DK), and additional reports from *Curry* and *De Baca*. Adding to the excitement at B.D. was an Eastern Wood-Pewee netted there 9 Sep (MB, NP). Peripheral Black Phoebe were singles n. to El Rito 6 Aug (JP) and e. to N.R.T. 6 Oct (ph. JO). An Eastern Phoebe was w. to Acoma L. 20 Nov (CR). Vermilion Flycatchers in the ne. included singles at Tucumcari 8 Aug (WWi), Conchas Dam 18 Sep (MB, NP), Trigg Ranch, e. *San Miguel* 22 Sep (MM), and B.D. 10 Sep (MB, NP). There are few lowland records for Dusky-capped Flycatcher, so noteworthy was one at G.G.P. 10 Aug (RW). An impressive Great Crested Flycatcher season

found at least 8 at B.D. on various dates 3–24 Sep (MB, NP) and singles at Mesa Rest Area 3 Sep (CW), N.R.T. 10–11 (JEP, JO, DH, CR, ph. WH) & 16 Sep (JEP, JO), Ned Houk Park near Clovis 4 Sep (JEP, ph. JO), and Tatum 9 Sep (JEP). A vocal Couch's Kingbird was well documented at Broad Canyon Ranch n. of Radium Springs 14–15 Oct (NS, ph., v.r. D. Simonetti); a silent Tropical/Couch's Kingbird was at Tatum 9 Sep (JEP, ph. JO). Very late was a Cassin's Kingbird at Cannon A.F.B. 17 Nov (ph. DWh). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was w. to Albuquerque 15 Sep–14 Oct (CW, m.ob., ph. JO), and another was at Yeso, w. *De Baca* 2 Oct (JO).

Single Northern Shrikes reached *Union* and *San Miguel* 23 Oct, *Colfax* 29 Oct, *Sandoval* 9 Nov, and *Santa Fe* 21 Nov (m.ob.); 8 were in *Union* by 20 Nov (DWe). Two White-eyed Vireos—an ad. and an imm.—were at N.R.T. 30 Sep–2 Oct (JEP, m.ob., ph. MB, ph. JO, ph. NH), and another imm. was there 7–8 Oct (JEP, JO); one at Ruby Ranch n. of Las Vegas 29 Sep (WWe, ph. W. Munro) provided a *San Miguel* first. Single Bell's Vireos at Tolar 5 Sep (DK) and at N.R.T. 23 Sep (JEP, JO) and 10 Oct (M. O'Donnell, ph. J. Schelling) were probably of the nominate subspecies. At least 2 Gray Vireos were at Albuquerque's Manzano Open Space 14 & 27 Aug (DH, ph. JJ). A Yellow-throated Vireo at the Maljamar Rest Area 2 Oct (CLB) furnished the lone report. Blue-headed Vireo was much in evidence in the e., with well-detailed birds including singles at Ned Houk Park 4 Sep (JEP, ph. JO) and 1 Oct (CR, ph. NH) and B.D. 8 Oct (CR, ph. NH), and 2 at Lovington 2 Oct (CR, ph. NH); at N.R.T., singles were reported 31 Aug (RC), 5 Sep (JEP, JO, ph. NH), 9 Sep (JEP, JO), 30 Sep–2 Oct (JEP, JO, NH), and 7–8 Oct (JEP, JO). Single Philadelphia Vireos were described at Sile, *Sandoval* 10 Sep (WH), Sumner Dam 2 Oct (JMB, J. Nelson-Moore), and Fort Stanton 9 Oct (CR). Single Red-eyed Vireos were netted at B.D. 18 & 23 Sep (MB, NP), and other reports with details came from Trigg Ranch 23 Sep (MM), Galisteo 11 Sep (ph. JB), and Los Alamos 21–25 Oct (ph. SF). Twelve Black-billed Magpies were s. to Sandia Pueblo 23 Nov (DK, JR). Noteworthy at 2990 m were 4 American Crows at the Brazos Summit Rest Area 10 Aug (ph. JP); garbage cans, not the view, were the attraction.

Rare on the e. plains, single Violet-green Swallows were at N.R.T. 4 & 9 Sep (JEP, JO). A perfect storm of environmental events—deep freeze in Feb, hot, dry, and windy in spring, large fires in Jun, and subsequent lack of summer rain—lead to massive failure of the Carlsbad Cavern Cave Swallow population, where number of birds netted was about half of normal, and juvs. amounted to less than 5% of birds handled (SW). A White-breasted Nuthatch of the nominate (eastern) subspecies group was netted at B.D. 15 Oct (MB, NP). Continuing their spread to the nw., single vocal Cactus Wrens were at two new locales w. of Rio Rancho 2 Aug (WH). Continuing from Jul, up to 2 Carolina Wrens were observed at Bosque through 24 Sep (m.ob., ph. NH); elsewhere, singles were at N.R.T. 25 Sep (ph. JO) and Sumner Dam 30 Oct (JO). The only Pacific Wren was a vocal one in upper Diener Canyon, Zuni Mts. 30 Sep (JT); a vocal Winter Wren was in the same general area 26 Nov

(MB, NP). Other Winter Wrens with details were at five sites from the R.G.V. eastward: up to 2 at N.R.T. on various dates 14 Oct–4 Nov (JEP, JO, MB, ph. CW), 2 at B.D. 14–15 Oct (MB, NP), and singles in Sulphur Canyon, Sandia Mts. 26 Nov (A. Johnson, *vide* MB), Albuquerque's South Valley 17 Nov (DH), and R.S. 25 Nov (JEP, JO). Single Black-tailed Gnatcatchers at two E.B.L. sites 30 Sep–20 Nov (DC) were the first detections there since the Feb freeze.

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS

Rarely detected in migration, a vocal Veery was seen at Milnesand 9 Sep (JEP, ph. JO). Single Swainson's Thrushes were late at N.R.T. 2 Oct (JEP, NP) and R.S. 16 Oct (CR). A rufous Hermit Thrush of the *e.* subspecies *faxoni* was netted at B.D. 16 Oct (MB, NP). An early Wood Thrush was at N.R.T. 16 Sep (JEP, ph. JO), and another was there 30 Sep–7 Oct (m.ob., ph. JO); elsewhere, singles were at Sumner Dam 23 Sep (JEP, JO) and B.D. 1 Oct (CLB). The Varied Thrush season got off to a good start, with single males at R.S. 18 Oct (ph. J. Hattfield) and B.L.N.W.R. 26 Oct (ph. J. Truetken). Gray Catbirds migrating through the *e.* plains were noted in *De Baca*, *Curry*, *Roosevelt*, *Eddy*, and *Lea* 9 Sep–25 Nov (m.ob.). Another strong Brown Thrasher season found one to 2 at nine sites in seven counties from the R.G.V. eastward 4 Sep and later; w. were singles at G.G.P. 24 Sep (J. Holway) and P. O. Canyon 18 Oct (CL). Crissal Thrasher continued to spread in *Santa Fe*, with one n. of Cerrillos 30 Oct (ph. S. Noseworthy). Furnishing the only reports for two scarce grassland species were a Sprague's Pipit at B.L.N.W.R. 15 Oct (CR) and single Lapland Longspurs at Springer L. 29 Oct (JEP) and Clayton L. 6 Nov (DWe).

An impressive warbler season produced reports of 38 species, with eastern vagrants well represented. Leading the parade were

single Worm-eating Warblers at B.D. 23 Sep (MB, NP) and Galisteo 21–23 Oct (ph. JB, BF, ph. NH) and single Louisiana Waterthrushes at Eunice 11 Aug (WWi) and N.R.T. 29 Aug (SC). Single male Golden-winged Warblers were at B.D. 18 Sep (ph. SC) and Sumner Dam 21–22 Sep (M. Hilchey, ph. SB), and a Blue-winged Warbler was at N.R.T. 25 Sep (JO). A good Prothonotary Warbler season found one at the Tatum treatment ponds 9 Sep (JEP), where, coincidentally, New Mexico's only baldcypress tree grows; elsewhere, singles were at N.R.T. 31 Aug (RC, WWe), Bosque 21 Sep (ph. S. King), E.B.L. dam 29 Sep–13 Oct (ph. DC), and Percha 5 Sep (J. Groves). Tennessee Warblers with details were at Conchas Dam 18 Sep (MB, ph. NP), B.D. 23 Oct (MB, NP), and w. to Zuni's Nutria Canyon 26 Sep (JT). Single Hooded Warblers were at Galisteo 30 Aug (RC) and Albuquerque's Alameda bridge 11 Sep (PB). American Redstarts flooded the state 13 Aug–9 Oct, with often multiple reports from at least 14 counties, including w. to *McKinley*, *Grant*, and *Hidalgo* (m.ob.). Two Northern Parulas were at Albuquerque's Tingley bosque 23 Oct (ph. NH); others were one at N.R.T. 15 Oct (JEP), an early one near Radium Springs 22 Aug (MS), and a late one at Las Cruces 4 Nov (R. Castetter). Among the rarities at N.R.T. were a late Magnolia Warbler 18–20 Nov (JEP, ph. SC), a Blackburnian Warbler 30 Sep–1 Oct (MB, NH, JB, CR), and single Blackpoll Warblers 4 Sep (JEP, ph. JO, ph. NH) and 14–15 Oct (JEP, MB, ph. CW). In the rare-but-regular category, single Chestnut-sided Warblers were at Ned Houk Park 16 Sep (JEP), E.B.L. Dam 28 Sep (LM) and at N.R.T. 7–9 (JEP, ph. JO, MB, NP) & 15–16 Oct (JEP, JO). An early male Black-throated Blue was at N.R.T. 18 Aug–4 Sep (RH, JEP, ph. JO, m.ob.), a female was there 5 Sep (DK), with another female w. to Los Alamos 15 Oct (BL, KS) and a male at Bosque 22 Oct (A. & L. Gorbet). A Palm Warbler of the nominate subspecies was at N.R.T. 24 Sep (JEP, JO), and a Pine Warbler was detailed at R.S. 22 Sep (SW). Recently recorded annually in New Mexico, single Prairie Warblers were at Santa Rosa 26 Aug (JEP, ph. JO) and Tolar 5 Sep (DK). Hermit Warbler was unusually scarce, with one on lower Blue Cr., *Grant* 4 Sep (JJ) and 3 in Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mts. 4 Sep (DH) the only reports. Black-throated Green



Providing a Guadalupe County first, this Le Conte's Sparrow was at Santa Rosa, New Mexico 22–23 (here 23) October 2011. Photograph by Jerry R. Oldenettel.

Warblers showed an affinity for N.R.T., with up to 2 there 26–31 Aug (JEP, ph. JO, RC, WWe), none 1–3 Sep but then up to 3 on 4–5 Sep (JEP, ph. JO, ph. NH, ph. DK) followed by singles 9 (JMB) & 30 Sep (MB); one at Cerrillos 7–8 Oct (ph. JB, BF) provided the only additional report. Late was a Wilson's Warbler at Albuquerque 3 Nov (NP).

TOWHEES THROUGH FINCHES

Eastern Towhees again found their way to N.R.T., with a male there 28–30 Oct (ph. JO) and a female 21–27 Nov (ph. L. Leckman, CR). At least one Rufous-winged Sparrow was singing in Guadalupe Canyon 12 Aug (CLB, JEP). Single Botteri's Sparrows were singing s. of Road Forks and n. of Rodeo 11 Aug (CMB), in the Animas Valley 4 Sep (DH), and ne. of Hermanas 12 Aug (DG). Among the very few American Tree Sparrow reports were 2 far s. to Brantley L. 27 Nov (ph. CW, MB, NP, JB). Clay-colored Sparrows, perhaps refugees from dry conditions farther *e.*, were surprisingly widespread and numerous w. to the R.G.V. 4 Sep–9 Oct; noteworthy in the w. were one at Zuni 3 Sep (JT) and 2 at Tyrone 11 Sep (EL). A strong Field Sparrow season found one in *Curry* s. of Cannon A.E.B. 14 Nov (ph. DWh), 10 or more at N.R.T. 15 Oct–27 Nov (m.ob.), one to 2 at B.D. 21–23 Oct (JEP, MB, NP), 4 near Milnesand 11 Nov (JO), and one at R.S. 16 Oct (CR). Providing a *Guadalupe* first was a Le Conte's Sparrow at Santa Rosa's Blue Hole 22–23 Oct (ph. NP, MB, JEP, ph. JO). Most red Fox Sparrows winter *e.* of New Mexico, so astounding were 6 together at N.R.T. 18 Nov (JEP); others included single reds at Tatum 17 Nov (ph. CLB) and Las Cruces 29 Nov (ph. AT), a gray one at Eunice 30 Oct (ph. PM), and an undetailed one at Sumner Dam 5 Oct (WWe). Surprisingly early were single White-throated Sparrows at B.D. 23 Sep (MB, NP) and Corrales 25 Sep (DK, CR).

Table 1. *Empidonax* flycatchers netted in eastern New Mexico at Boone's Draw, Roosevelt County, 3 September through 8 October 2011 (MB, NP).

Species	No.	Inclusive Dates
Least Flycatcher	45	3 Sep–8 Oct
Willow Flycatcher	16	3–18 Sep
Dusky Flycatcher	13	9 Sep–8 Oct
Hammond's Flycatcher	8	10 Sep–8 Oct
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	5	4–18 Sep
Cordilleran/Pacific-slope Flycatcher	5	3–18 Sep
Gray Flycatcher	2	4–11 Sep

An early Harris's Sparrow was at Eunice 22 Oct (ph. PM); others were one to 2 at N.R.T. 3-27 Nov (ph. JO, ph. CLB, CR) and one at Albuquerque 17-18 Nov (ph. NP). An ad. Golden-crowned Sparrow reached Embudito Canyon, Sandia Mts. 12 Nov (MB).

A strong Scarlet Tanager season began with an early female at San Ysidro 14 Aug (CR) followed by single males at Socorro 23-28 Sep (G. Froehlich, JEP, ph. CLB, ph. JO, DK, DH), Milk Ranch Canyon, Zuni Mts. 30 Sep (JT), and B.D. 1 Oct (CLB, ph. JO). A Pyrrhuloxia wandered n. to Albuquerque's West Mesa 7 Nov (HT); earliest to disperse n. to N.R.T. was one 22 Sep (SB), where up to 4 were found 7 Oct-27 Nov (m.ob.). Relatively scarce in fall, single Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were at Los Alamos 2-5 Nov (BL, KS, SF, ph. T. Hodapp), Bosque 24 Sep (DH) and 10 Nov (ph. M. Winks), and R.S. 29 Sep (T. Hines). Migrant Painted Buntings, conspicuous in Jul, continued much in evidence throughout the e. and across the s.; peripheral were singles at Albuquerque's Tingley bosque 28 Aug (CR) and Rio Grande Nature Center 9-10 Sep (D. Paez, N. Cox) and at Tyrone 21 Aug (EL). Dickcissels were widespread from the R.G.V.

eastward 27 Aug-16 Oct, including one at Sevilleta N.W.R. 7-8 Sep (ph. K. Granillo); w. were singles at Los Alamos 14-15 Oct (ph. SF) and G.G.P. 15 Sep (TG) and 4 at San Simon Cienega 5 Sep (DH).

A Bobolink was a surprise at Las Cruces 15-17 Sep (NS, DG, MS, ph. JZ). An early Rusty Blackbird reached Conchas Dam 23 Oct (MB); other singles were at Maxwell 23 Nov (DK, JR) and Clayton 28 Nov (WWi). Noteworthy for the Hondo Valley, a Bronzed Cowbird was at San Patricio 1 Sep (WWe). An Orchard Oriole was n. to Albuquerque 22 Sep (ph. NP, ph. CW, MB, JEP); noteworthy for *Lincoln* was one near Glencoe 1 Sep (WWe). An ad. male Bullock's Oriole enjoyed balmy Portales through 30 Nov (ph. D. Batten). Baltimore Oriole reports began with one at Bosque Redondo 31 Aug (WWe) followed by one at Ned Houk Park 4 Sep (ph. JO) and 2 at N.R.T. 4 Sep (JEP, JO, ph. NH); farther w., singles were at Cerrillos 9 Oct (JB, BF) and near Radium Springs 8 Sep (MS, ph. JZ). Among the very few Cassin's Finch reports were singles far s. to P. O. Canyon 17 & 22 Nov (CL) and 8 in nearby Owl Canyon 20 Nov (CL).

Initialed observers: Jonathan Batkin, Matthew Baumann, Dan Belcher, Phred Benham, Charles L. Black, James M. Black, Sam Brayshaw, Celestyn M. Brozek, Roger Clark, David Cleary, Steve Collins, Stephen Fettig, Bernard Foy, Tony Godfrey, Coleman Goin, David Griffin, David Hawksworth, Chuck Hayes, Nancy Hetrick, William Howe, Ron Hurd, James Joseph, David Krueper, Brian Larsen, Eugene Lewis, Carroll Littlefield, Martin MacRoberts, Larry Malone, Pat McCasland, Jerry Oldenettel, Bruce Ostin, John E. Parmer, James N. Paton, Nicholas Pederson, James Pike, Christopher Rustay, Janet Ruth, Jeffrey Sanchez, Karla Sartor, Marcy Scott, Roland Shook, Nancy Stotz, Hank Taliaferro, John Trochet, Al Trompler, Raymond VanBuskirk, Richard Webster, Donald Weidemann, Douglas E. Weidemann, Steve West, William West, Deb Whitecotton, William Wittman, Cole Wolf, James Zabriskie. ☉

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It was a banner fall for rarities, with a particular diversity of larks and warblers across the state. Good coverage of the lower Colorado River Valley produced impressive results again, with a state second Little Gull,

an area first Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and many other rarities. Shaun Putz was active in Coconino County, turning up many birds of interest. At the opposite end of the state, Peña Blanca Lake attracted many rare passerines in addition to repeat nesting by Least Grebes. Also more numerous than usual were Red-throated Loons, Red-necked Grebes, and Lapland Longspurs.

Abbreviations: A.B.C. (Arizona Bird Committee), A.T.P. ('Ahakhav Tribal Preserve, Parker), B.T.A. (Boyce Thompson Arboretum S.P.), B.W.D. (Bill Williams Delta, L. Havasu), G.R.P. (Glendale recharge ponds), G.W.R. (Gilbert Water Ranch), H.R.P. (Hassayampa River Preserve), L.C.R.V. (lower Colorado R. valley), Sweetwater (Sweetwater Wetlands, Tucson), Whitewater (Whitewater Draw W.A.)

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

Migrant Greater White-fronted Geese arrived 29 Aug at L. Havasu (LHa, DVP), an early date for the L.C.R.V. and state. The largest concentration reported was of 150 at B.W.D. 5-30 Sep (D. Rankin et al.). A group of 215 Ross's Geese at Havasu N.W.R. 25 Nov (PEL et al.) was

near the all-time high count for the L.C.R.V. The only report of Cackling Goose was of 2 at Havasu N.W.R. 11 Nov (LHa, DVP); this species is a sparse fall and winter visitor to Arizona. The resident Canada Goose remained at Tucson all season (J. Higgins). A Tundra Swan was at Willow L. 12 Nov+ (MN; ph. SBu), and a dozen flew over Babbitt Tank, *Coconino* 29 Nov (ph. JW). Gadwall is a rare nesting species in the L.C.R.V., so a female with 2 ducklings at Beal L., Havasu N.W.R. 27 Aug (LHa, DVP) was notable. Still rare statewide, male Eurasian Wigeons were at B.W.D. 1 Nov (LHa, DVP) and at Flagstaff 5 Nov (ph. SP), and a female was at Sweetwater 25 Nov (JBo, T. Staudt, ph. LH). Astute observers spied a few out-of-range Mexican Mallards, with one at Beal L. 26 Aug (DVP, LHa), 2 at Willow L. 4 Sep (W. Anderson), and one at L. Havasu 14 Sep (DVP, LHa). Greater Scaup arrived on L. Havasu 25 Oct (LHa, DVP), and numbers built to 140 at B.W.D. 29 Nov (DVP et al.), continuing the recent pattern of high numbers there. Elsewhere, 4 were at Saguaro L. 11 Nov (TC), one was at Imperial Dam 13 Nov (PEL, BC), with 8 at Imperial Dam 28 Nov (PEL). Surf Scoters were more numerous than usual, with

21 reported. Notable among them were one at Big Warren Res., *Mohave*, 28 Oct (SP) and up to 4 at B.W.D. 10 Nov+ (JWe; ph. DVP). White-winged Scoters were found at Willow Springs L. 6 Nov (EH), up to 3 at B.W.D. 7-9 Nov (DVP, LHa), and one at B.W.D. 21 Nov+ (ph. J. Lawrence). A Black Scoter was a fine find at Granite Reef 8 Nov (ph. J. Miller). Single Long-tailed Ducks were at Peña Blanca L. 4-8 Nov (ph. AS) and below Glen Canyon Dam 25 Nov (T. Blows). Barrow's Goldeneyes were at their typical locations of Glen Canyon Dam 28 Oct+ (G. Nealon) and B.W.D. 9 Nov+ (DVP). Lone outliers were at Pintail Slough, Havasu N.W.R. 11 Nov (LHa, DVP) and n. L. Havasu 23 Nov (DVP).

Red-throated Loon has been reported with greater frequency in recent years, and at least 2 were on L. Havasu this season: a juv. was at Rotary Park 31 Oct-2 Nov (ph. JWe; ph., †DVP; †LHa); a juv. flew by Site 6 on 8 Nov (†LHa; ph., †DVP); and a juv. was at B.W.D. 9 Nov+ (JWe; ph., †DVP), with another there 29 Nov+ (†DVP, LHa). Pacific Loons were more numerous than usual. One on n. L. Havasu 2-4 Sep (DVP, LHa) was early enough that it may have summered; 2 were present there 28-31 Oct (DVP, LHa). At B.W.D., numbers built from one to at least 4 by 29 Oct (DVP, LHa). Away from the L.C.R.V., singles were at Watson L. 5 Nov (CST), Granite Reef 9-16 Nov (CMC; ph. TD), Kansas Settlement 26-28 Nov (ph. R. Fray), and Benson 29 Nov+ (ph. AR). Away from the L.C.R.V., 8 Common Loons were reported, including one that crashed at Kartchner Caverns S.P. 5 Nov (ph. M. Kumi-ega). The Yellow-billed Loon that summered along the Parker Strip was last reported 4 Aug (m.ob.). At Peña Blanca L., Least Grebes continued to do well: a pair with 5 young was there 2 Aug (D. Sebesta), at least five pairs with young were observed 9 Oct (JS et al.), and a peak count of 23 birds later in the period (m.ob.). Despite this swarm, there were no reports from other locations. Horned Grebes were also more numerous than usual. The first report came on the early side, with 2 on L. Mohave 10 Oct (LHa, DVP) followed by one on n. L. Havasu 16 Oct (LHa, DVP). Peak counts in the L.C.R.V. were 6 on n. L. Havasu 28 Oct (DVP, LHa), 4 on Martinez L. 29 Oct (CMC), and up to 5 above Davis Dam 30 Oct-12 Nov (DVP, LHa). Away from the L.C.R.V., 7 were reported. Four total Red-necked Grebes made an impressive showing: singles were at Wahweap, L. Powell 29 Oct-13 Nov (ph. SP; ph. J. Logan), above Davis Dam 11-12 Nov (ph. LHa, DVP), at Long L. 12 Nov (SP), and off Pittsburgh Pt., L. Havasu 30 Nov+ (ph., †LHa, †DVP). Seven Clark's Grebes were found away from large reservoirs 6 Aug-18 Nov. Small

numbers of Neotropical Cormorants were again found peripheral to the established range, with a notable increase in reports from *Cocconino*. Singles were at Willow L. 19 Aug-12 Sep (B. Patrick, S. Drown), at B.W.D. all season (continuing bird; K. Blair, m.ob.), on Long L. 27 Aug (SP), at Flagstaff 18 Sep (E. Morral; ph. J. Coons), and at n. L. Havasu 25 Sep and 28 Oct (DVP et al.); 2 were at Navajo Bridge 1 Sep (SP), and up to 2 were at Headgate Rock Dam through 1 Oct (DVP et al.). Moderate numbers of Brown Pelicans strayed northward from Mexico 4 Aug+. The highest count was of 15 at B.W.D. 9 Nov (DVP), while the farthest flung were singles at Page 25 Oct (M. Blake, *fide* G. Nealon) and Coolidge Dam 27 Nov (D. Jenness). An American Bittern was an odd sight at Morgan City Wash 8 Oct (TC), as was a Least Bittern there 11 Sep (TC). Vagrant ardeids were few. Single Tricolored Herons were at n. L. Havasu 10 Aug-1 Oct (LHa, ph. DVP) and Willcox 11 Aug-8 Sep (DS; ph. JS), and a Reddish Egret was at Paloma 7 Nov (ph. WG). There are still fewer than 20 Arizona records of Glossy Ibis, so one at Willcox 4 Aug (ph. B. & B. Labio) was noteworthy. The long-staying Roseate Spoonbill at Palo Verde was last reported 4 Aug (MH, m.ob.).

Another Mississippi Kite was reported at Rio Rico 2-18 Aug (S. N. G. Howell), and one lingered at Saint David through 13 Sep (m.ob.). Reports of Red-shouldered Hawks ticked upward, with singles continuing at H.R.P. 2-21 Oct (TD), along the Verde R. near Hwy. 87 on 23 Oct (†D. Herring), at San Bernardino N.W.R. 25 Oct (v.r. REW), and in sw. Pheonix 3-6 Nov (ph. WG; ph. MH). There was no official hawkwatch at Grand Canyon N.P. this fall, but 6 Broad-winged Hawks were spotted from Yaki Pt. 23 Sep (ph. SP et al.). Notable Gray Hawks included one s. of Safford 14 Sep (ph. T. Temple), another at Duncan 25 Sep (JS et al.) and one ready to winter again at Amado 6 Nov+ (LH). The only Short-tailed Hawk reported from the mts. continued on Mt. Lemmon through 26 Aug (m.ob.), while in the lowlands, one passed through San Bernardino N.W.R. 21 Sep (ph., †REW); one returned to residential Tucson for its 5th winter 30 Oct-28 Nov (DS) but abandoned its usual roost and was infrequently reported. Though not unexpected in n. Arizona, Rough-legged Hawk is seldom reported on the Arizona Strip so one at Flattop Res. 20 Nov (LHa, ph. DVP) was notable. Straying Crested Caracaras were around again, with singles near Patagonia L. 7 Nov (C. Morris), at Green Valley S.T.P. 12 Nov (MP, MMS), at Sweetwater 18 Nov (MMS, MP), and at Bog Hole W.A. 22 Nov (SH) forming a pattern of late fall dispersal.

RAILS THROUGH JAEGERS

Following on the spate of summer reports, a Purple Gallinule was on Ak-chin Tribal Lands 19 Sep (ph. N. Lange). Black-bellied Plover is rare away from the L.C.R.V.; singles were at Parks L., *Graham* 30 Sep (DS, ph. AC), Willcox 20 Oct-5 Nov (EW), and Paloma 7 Nov (WG). An American Golden-Plover at Willcox 23 Oct-1 Nov (ph. ML, CMc) was the only one reported. A golden-plover at G.R.P. 11 Sep (ph. MH) was not identified to species. A Snowy Plover at G.R.P. 19 Aug-12 Sep (TD) and 6 found in the L.C.R.V. 12 Aug-12 Sep (m.ob.) were the only reports. Late Semipalmated Plovers were in Dome Valley 13 Nov (PEL, BC) and at Palo Verde 19-25 Nov (MH). The only report of Mountain Plover was a flock of 39 in the Santa Cruz Flats 24 Nov+ (R. Fray). A total of 550 American Avocets divided among three lakes e. of Flagstaff 14 Oct (SP) was a large number for this area. At Mormon L., 27 Avocets were on the late side 17 Nov (JWL). A Solitary Sandpiper stayed on at Sweetwater 28 Sep+ (PK; ph. AC), and another was at Granite Reef 2 Nov (J. Kopitzke, ph. J. Miller); there are very few state records after mid-Oct. Four Lesser Yellowlegs were late at G.R.P. 11-12 Nov (PEL, BC), as was a single at Havasu N.W.R. 11 Nov (LHa, DVP). With only eight prior Arizona records, an Upland Sandpiper was a good find at Evergreen Turf, Santa Cruz Flats 29 Aug (†MP, †MMS; †W. Sutton). Casual in Arizona, a Red Knot was at Willcox 5 Aug (JS; ph. AC; †J. & M. Hirth). Nine Sanderlings were seen foraging on aquatic vegetation at B.W.D. 11 Sep (MMS, MP), a large group for Arizona. Ten Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported 3 Aug-6 Sep. A report of a White-rumped Sandpiper at Willcox 20 Aug (†J. Wilson) will be reviewed by the A.B.C.; all previous state records are from late spring. The value of Parks L. to migrating shorebirds was reflected in the 250 Baird's Sandpipers and 15 Pectoral Sandpipers there 30 Sep (DS et al.). An above-average 22 Dunlins was reported 10 Oct-28 Nov. A first for the L.C.R.V. and just the 6th for Arizona, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was on a ball field at Lake Havasu City S.T.P. 3 Oct (ph., †LHa; ph., †DVP; ph., †JWe). Short-billed Dowitcher is a regular fall migrant in small numbers, so the 34 in the Mohave Valley, at Beal L. and along the Colorado R., 27 Aug (DVP, LHa) made a remarkable tally; an additional 9 were seen across the river in Nevada. Elsewhere, an above-average 31 were reported. Notable among them were 3 at Page S.T.P. 26 Aug-2 Sep (ph. SP), up to 6 at Palo Verde 27 Aug-5 Sep (ph. MH), 3 at Saint Johns S.T.P. 28 Aug (EH et al.), 3 at Tuba City S.T.P. 28 Aug (JWL), and one at

Parks L. 30 Sep (DS et al.). A casual migrant, single Red Phalaropes were at n. L. Havasu 11-15 Oct (ph. LHa; ph. JWe) and at Pasture Canyon Res. 14 Oct (ph. SP).

While Arizona is sometimes viewed as a larophile's purgatory, this fall was among the best seasons ever for larid diversity, with 11 species of gulls and all 3 jaegers found. A cooperative Black-legged Kittiwake was a great find on Vil-lago L., Casa Grande 31 Oct-9 Nov (ph. CMc; ph. AC). Sabine's Gulls were numerous, with nearly 20 reported. Notable among them, up to 4 at a time were on L. Havasu 7-26 Sep, one was in a parking lot in San Simon 23 Sep (ph. H. Snyder), one was at Parks L. 26 Sep (REW), and 3 were at Wahweap 1 Oct (ph. SP). Arizona's 2nd Little Gull was a juv. on n. L. Havasu 10 Sep (†DVP, †LHa); what was probably the same bird was seen the day before (LHa). The state's first record, from Sep 2010, was also a juv. on L. Havasu. Considering that Mew Gull is recorded less than annually in the state, the 4-5 first-cycle birds found this season made an amazing total: at Wahweap 6 Nov+ (ph. SP), Site 6, Lake Havasu City 7 Nov (ph. JWe), B.W.D. 12-14 Nov (JWe; ph., †DVP), G.R.P. 17-20 Nov (ph. TD; †ph. PD), and Bullhead City by the Laughlin bridge 25 Nov (ph., †LHa; †DVP). The records from Site 6 and B.W.D. could have been of the same bird. A Herring Gull was on the early side at L. Havasu 25 Sep (LHa, DVP). The only one reported away from the L.C.R.V. was at Palo Verde 28 Oct (ph. MH). A species also showing a recent increase in occurrence, a juv. Thayer's Gull was at Site 6, L. Havasu 9 Nov (ph., †DVP), and a different juv. was at the Lake Havasu City S.T.P. 21 Nov+ (CMc; ph., †DVP et al.). Just as rare, a juv. Glaucous-winged Gull was at G.R.P. 9-19 Nov (ph. TC; ph., †CMc; ph., †PD, †PEL). A Pomarine Jaeger at Rotary Park, Lake Havasu City 13 Nov (ph., †DVP; ph. JWe) was re-found the next day at B.W.D. (DVP, JWe, †LHa). A jaeger at L. Powell 2 Sep (ph. SP) was thought to be a Parasitic. At L. Havasu, a Parasitic Jaeger was at Mesquite Bay 6 Sep (ph., †DVP et al.), and 2 were off Pittsburgh Pt. 19 Sep (D. Rankin, †DVP). Also off Pittsburgh Pt., a Long-tailed Jaeger was studied 9-15 Sep (ph., †LHa); another was on L. Powell 11 Sep (ph. SP).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Seldom seen in the lowlands, single Band-tailed Pigeons were at B.T.A. 30 Sep (JS), Marana 1 Oct (CLu), and Arlington 29 Oct (ph.



With twelve gull species detected, this fall was among the best ever for larid diversity in Arizona. Emblematic was this juvenile Thayer's Gull found by Chris McCreedy at Lake Havasu City 21 November 2011 (here), the second Thayer's found there this season. Photograph by David vander Pluym.

KR). Ruddy Ground-Doves were numerous again, with 23 reported. Beyond their usual range, one was at Rotary Park, Lake Havasu City 20 Oct (LHa, ph. DVP), and another was at Cameron 21-29 Oct (ph. SP). Among the remainder, 11 were in se. Arizona, 8 were in Yuma (PEL), and 2 were in Maricopa. A Groove-billed Ani was at Hereford 29 Oct-3 Nov (R. Keiller; ph. V. Fairchild). Late Lesser Nighthawks included 2 in nw. Tucson 8 Nov (MMS, MP) and 3 at G.R.P. 10-12 Nov (TD). A Black Swift reported at Nogales S.T.P. 12 Sep (†J. Stewart) will be reviewed by the A.B.C.; while there are accepted records, there is as yet no physical evidence of this species in Arizona. Vaux's Swifts e. of the Huachuca Mts. included one at Duncan 25 Sep (m.ob.), one at San Simon Cienega 1 Oct (REW), and 4 at San Bernardino N.W.R. 5 Oct (REW). One at Sweetwater 5 Nov (M. Weber, ph. LH) was late, and another *Chaetura* swift there that day was not identified to species (ph. LH). More evidence of the spread of Broad-billed Hummingbird, one was in a Mesa yard 15-27 Sep and 16 Oct+ (J. Miller), one at Morgan City Wash 17 Oct (CMc, TD), and one at G.W.R. 31 Oct (S. Ganley). At Yuma, one seemed set to winter 15-29 Nov (A. Borgart). Berylline Hummingbirds included singles continuing at Madera Canyon through 14 Aug (m.ob.), at Ramsey Canyon Inn 4-8 Aug (J. Royer; ph. S.N.G. Howell), and in upper Madera Canyon 5-14 Aug (MH). Among scattered wandering Violet-crowned Hummingbirds, notables were at Tumacacori 27 Sep (DS), back for a 5th winter at Tucson 18 Oct+ (R. Hoyer), and in Green Valley 5-12 Nov (ph. A. Carnahan). Several locations on the e. flank of the Hua-

chuca Mts. hosted Plain-capped Starthroat: Ash Canyon 13 Aug-1 Sep (K. LeMay et al., ph. RBe), Ash Canyon Bed & Breakfast 2 Sep (MJB), and lower Ramsey Canyon 5 Sep (†J. & M. Hirth); it is possible that all records were of the same individual. Lucifer Hummingbird numbers were up again in the Portal area, with up to 5 at several feeding stations (D. Johnson, REW). A Lucifer at Vail 17 Aug (ph. T. Seto) was n. of the species' usual range. Calliope Hummingbird is considered "casual" after mid-Sep; 5 were reported in Oct, with the latest on 17 Oct at Carmen (DS). Similarly, 4 Rufous Hummingbirds were found in Nov, with the latest in Ash Canyon 10 Nov (MJB). Four Allen's Hummingbirds were detected, at Harshaw Cr. 5 & 19 Aug (L. Rogers, S. Wethington), Patagonia 6 Aug (ph. E. Horvath), and atop Mt. Lemmon 4 Sep (E. Fazio).

Green Kingfisher remains sporadic, with only a single sighting of 2 along the San Pedro R. near Charleston 22 Aug (J. Withgott). A Lewis's Woodpecker was in the L.C.R.V. at Katherine Landing 16 Oct (LHa, DVP). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were again more numerous than usual, with 14 reported statewide 1 Oct-29 Nov. The Red-breasted Sapsucker in Tucson was last reported 3 Nov (m.ob.); another returned to Madera Canyon 6 Nov+ (S. Ladouceur; ph. LH). Seven yellow-shafted Northern Flickers 15 Oct-20 Nov made an above-average showing.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH LONGSPURS

A Greater Pewee was seen 6 Nov along the Santa Cruz R. near Tubac (CLu), where this species has wintered previously. A Western Wood-Pewee near Imperial Dam 22 Oct (PEL) was considered late. An excellent find was an Eastern Wood-Pewee along the Santa Cruz R. near Carmen 7-8 Oct (v.r., †DS; v.r. MP, MMS; †CMc); the individual was calling, and the voice recorded; if accepted, this would represent only a 5th Arizona record. No fewer than 15 Eastern Phoebes were detected during the fall season, a greater-than-usual number for this rare regular visitor. A Vermilion Flycatcher at Kingman 10 Oct (DVP, LHa) was away from normal breeding areas in the state. Three Dusky-capped Flycatchers along the Santa Cruz R. near Carmen 17 Oct (DS) were considered casual this late in the season. Considered even later was a Brown-crested Flycatcher near Tumacacori 9 Oct (WR); this species is typi-

cally gone from breeding areas in Arizona by late Sep. Remarkable were 2 Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers along the Santa Cruz R. near Tumacacori 1 Oct (WR) and another one heard at San Bernardino N.W.R. 5 Oct (REW); this species winters in Amazonia and is virtually unknown from the Arizona lowlands in fall. Tropical Kingbirds continue to "spread" in s. Arizona, being detected in a number of unusual locations; the most noteworthy reports included successful nesting confirmed at A.T.P. 17 Aug (DVP, LHa), 2 ads. feeding a fledgling at Granite Reef Recreation Area 25 Aug–9 Sep (JHo), and one n. of Tacna 21–22 Oct (ph. PEL, BC). Up to 3 Thick-billed Kingbirds were along the Santa Cruz R. near Tubac 30 Aug–18 Sep (DS, MMS, DT), one near Carmen 21 Sep (DS), and one near Patagonia 2 Oct (M. Marsden); all were considered casual at these locations this late in the season. A very late Western Kingbird was reported n. of Nogales in Peck Canyon 15 Nov (CMc, ML). The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher of the season was near Whitewater 9–10 Aug (ph. CDB); this species is considered rare but regular in the state.

A White-eyed Vireo was captured and banded at Cibola Valley C.A. 10 Aug (ph. B. Zyla; †S. McNeil); in recent years, this species has become rare but regular in Arizona and was removed (Dec 2011) as a review species by the A.B.C. A Bell's Vireo at A.T.P. 26 Oct (DVP, LHa) was considered very late for anywhere in the state. Individual Yellow-throated Vireos were at Huachuca Canyon 7 Aug (†R. Weissler), along the Verde R. near Fossil Springs 18 Aug (ph. CLu), at Herb Martyr in Cave Creek Canyon 19 Sep (JY), and in the Dome Valley near Yuma 10 Oct (BC); this is another species that has become rare but regular in the state. Several Warbling Vireos lingered into mid- and late Oct, when this species is casual in the state, with the latest reported being at A.T.P. 26 Oct (DVP, LHa) and along the Santa Cruz R. near Carmen 9 Nov (J. Karp). A Red-eyed Vireo, still casual in the state, was at Fort Lowell Park, Tucson 2 Aug (v.r. MMS, MP). A rarer bird for the fall season was a Yellow-green Vireo found at Portal 2 Aug (ph. E. Horvath; ph., v.r., †REW); all ten previous Arizona records have occurred between late May and mid-Aug, compared to most of the California records which have occurred much later in the fall.

One of the better reports of the

fall was a stunning Blue Jay that appeared at Cave Creek Ranch, Portal 6 Nov (R. Peters; ph., †J. Lewis); there are fewer than ten previous records for Arizona. Small numbers of Western Scrub-Jays were detected statewide away from breeding areas during the entire fall. A Black-billed Magpie was seen in House Rock Valley in extreme n. Arizona 3–27 Oct (ph. SP); through the years, there have been scattered reports from the nw. portion of the state, which is not too surprising, given that this species breeds not too far away in sw. Utah. The only area in which magpies have bred in Arizona is the extreme ne. corner of the state near Tec Nos Pos, and the population there has declined.

A female Purple Martin was found feeding young in a nest at Black Canyon, Navajo on the very late date of 26 Aug (TC). Numerous Tree Swallows were found in early to mid-Nov in s. Arizona, with 3 at Amado 12 Nov (LH) the last reported. Also casual in s. Arizona in Nov, several Violet-green Swallows lingered (or passed through) nearly to the end of the month. More interesting was a Bank Swallow at Sweetwater 3–8 Nov (ML, CMc; ph. PK); there were apparently no previous Nov reports from se. Arizona. Intriguing was a report

of a Cave Swallow at the Bill Williams River N.W.R. 26 Aug (†D. Rankin); if accepted, this would represent only the 2nd record from that far n. and w. in Arizona. Three Black-capped Chickadees were found along both sides of Kanab Cr., Fredonia 27 Nov (ph. SP); there have been only 11 previous reports from Arizona, and only two since 2001, despite the fact that this species breeds nearby along the Virgin R. in sw. Utah. A Verdin near Sedona 23 Oct (ph. SP) was at an unusually high elevation for this species in Arizona. After last year's plethora of Winter Wren reports from Arizona, only two were received this fall, one near Carmen 28 Oct (CMc, ML) and one along the San Pedro R. near Hwy. 90 on 23 Nov (R. Romea). We received "typical" numbers of Pacific Wren reports (no fewer than 10), suggesting that last year's large number of Winter Wren reports have been an anomaly. Black-capped Gnatcatchers continued to be reported from a number of known breeding localities, including Patagonia L., Montosa Canyon, Leslie Canyon, and Florida Canyon.

No fewer than 10 Rufous-backed Robins were found in Arizona late Oct–Nov, a greater-than-usual number for a season; this species has become a rare but regular fall and winter visitor to Arizona. The northernmost was near New River 9 Nov (ph. P. & G. Halesworth). Another rare but regular species, 6 Varied Thrushes reported statewide was about average for a single fall. Up to 2 Aztec Thrushes frequented upper Madera Canyon 1–13 Aug (N. Armstrong, J. Royer, L. Rydell; ph. LH, A. Amici, K. Ross), and after a lull of more than two weeks, 2 (possibly new individuals) were found farther up the canyon 29 Aug (M. DeFelice; ph. C. Hayward). Another was in Garden Canyon 20 Aug (H. Hansen; ph. B. Toleno). Although there are nearly 25 records for Arizona, Aztec Thrush remains an irregular, casual visitor from the mountains of nw. Mexico. Single Brown Thrashers were at different locations near Portal 10 (JY) & 22 Oct (CMc, ML), and another was near Carmen 14 Nov (AS); this species is rare but regular in Arizona, with most reports from late fall and winter. An American Pipit at Parks L., Graham 17 Sep (REW) was very early. A Sprague's Pipit near Imperial Dam 10 Oct (PEL, BC) provided one of the few re-



With just four prior Arizona records, this Blue Jay at Portal 6–7 (here 7) November 2011 made a remarkable find. Photograph by Jackie Lewis.



Among the trove of rarities at Arizona's Peña Blanca Lake in autumn 2011, this Blue-winged Warbler on 22 October was likely the rarest. Photograph by Allen Clark.

cords ever from the L.C.R.V.

A wave of Lapland Longspurs appeared in the state, beginning with one at G.R.P. 18 Nov (ph. S. Hosmer). Thereafter, 2 were at Evergreen Turf sod farm in the Santa Cruz Flats 19 Nov (ph. V. Fairchild), with one still there 30 Nov (G. Owings); 2, possibly 3 were at Avra Valley S.T.P. 24 Nov–1 Dec (ph., †AC; ph. MMS, MP); 2 were at Babbitt Tank, *Coconino* 24–30 Nov (K. Bader; ph. J. Wilder); and 2 were in the Mohave Valley s. of Bullhead City 27 Nov (†LHa, †DVP). Historically, there have been surprisingly few Arizona records of this species in comparison to adjacent states, with fewer than 20 total records prior to 2011. Both Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspurs were found in greater-than-average numbers in areas n. and w. of their normal winter ranges in Arizona.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Seven Ovenbirds were reported this fall in Arizona, about normal for a single season; notable were individuals at Agua Fria N.M. 23 Oct (M. Reighner, ph. DVP) and Dewey 1–7 Nov (ph. L. & N. Ewart). Single Louisiana Waterthrushes were at Sweetwater 8 Oct (R. Poulson; ph. B. Beatson) and at the adjacent Roger Road S.T.P. 14 Oct (D. Dunford); although this species winters along streams in s. Arizona in small numbers, they are seldom seen as migrants away from streams or rivers. A Golden-winged Warbler was at Peña Blanca L. 17–18 Oct (G. Seabrook, S. Ladouceur; ph. J. Smith, M. Sharon, LH); there were 20 previous records for the state. Rather amazingly, a Blue-winged Warbler was found at Peña Blanca L. 22 Oct (ph. A. Clark; D. McWhirter), providing a 12th record for the state. Considered rare but regular, 2 Prothonotary Warblers were noted this fall, near Tubac 30 Sep (ph. CMc, ML) and at Tucson 28–31 Oct (ph. L. Manowitz). Tennessee Warblers are increasing in fall in Arizona in recent years; 5 singles were recorded this season, at Roger Road S.T.P. 3 Oct (†CMc), Yuma 10 Oct (†PEL, BC), A.T.P. 26 Oct (†DVP), and Tucson 11 (BGi, JB, B. Pollock) & 21 Nov (ph. B. Percival.). A late Nashville Warbler was at San Bernardino N.W.R. 1 Nov (REW). Kentucky Warbler is still casual in the state, particularly in fall; one was at A.T.P. 2 Sep (†D. Rankin), and another was reported from E. Whitetail Canyon, Chiricahua Mts. 27 Sep (RT). Three Hooded Warblers were noted this fall, at Flagstaff 6 Sep–16 Oct (ph. EH), in Rucker Canyon around 22 Sep (R. Hunt), and along the Gila R. in sw. Phoenix 26 Nov (TC). A Cape May Warbler was discovered at Peña Blanca L. 22–26 Sep (ph. S. Birky, J. Edison, B. Koenig et al.; †ML, †LH, †AC),

providing about a 15th record for the state, and the first since 1998! Remarkably, another Cape May Warbler was located at Sweetwater 5 Oct (ph. ML; †MMS, †CMc). Three Magnolia Warblers were found during the fall, with one at Willcox 16 Sep (†LH), one at B.T.A. 29 Sep–1 Oct (ph. CMc), and one at H.R.P. 1–2 Oct (J. Arnett; ph. TD); there are now about 30 accepted records for the state. A Blackburnian Warbler visited Portal 12 Oct (†REW); there are fewer than 20 accepted records for Arizona. A Blackpoll Warbler, still in breeding plumage, was in Pasture Canyon, *Coconino* 4 Sep (ph. SP), and another was at G.W.R. 30 Oct (ph. B. Howe); there have been fewer than 25 total records accepted for Arizona. Single Palm Warblers were at Peña Blanca L. 24–25 Sep (ph. LH) and at Tolleson 15 Oct (WG); after a decline in reports, numbers have increased again, and Palm Warbler has been removed from the A.B.C. review list. A Yellow-throated Warbler was near Tumaacori 11–12 Nov (†PEL, BC); there are now about 25 total records for Arizona. There were scattered late Yellow-breasted Chats and lingering Townsend's, Hermit, and Wilson's Warblers in s. Arizona.

A singing Botteri's Sparrow was found at Whitlock Cienega, *Graham* 27 Aug (REW); this location is well n. of known breeding areas, but the habitat appeared good, and the observer ascribed their paucity n. of I-10 in this part of Arizona to overgrazing by cattle. Up to 3 were found lingering late near Patagonia L. 19 Oct–1 Nov (AS). This fall produced nearly 40 total Clay-colored Sparrows 6 Sep–12 Nov; this species is typically considered a rare but regular migrant, but its migration corridor apparently shifted westward this fall. A Field Sparrow was discovered near Yuma 29 Nov (ph., †PEL); this will represent an 8th Arizona record. Quite exciting was the discovery of up to 3 singing Five-striped Sparrows in Montosa Canyon on the sw. side of the Santa Rita Mts. 2 Aug–11 Sep (M. Kehl, LH et al.), plus another singing on private property s. of Patagonia 27 Aug (ph. CDB); both of these locations are near to locations that supported Five-striped Sparrows in the 1970s but that have not had records of the species in decades. No fewer than 7 Grasshopper Sparrows were detected at odd locations statewide away from known breeding areas in Oct. This fall appeared good for wandering sparrows, with healthy numbers of Fox (11, all Slate-colored), Swamp (9), White-throated (19), Golden-crowned (7), and Harris's (3) Sparrows being detected statewide; all in the rare but regular category.

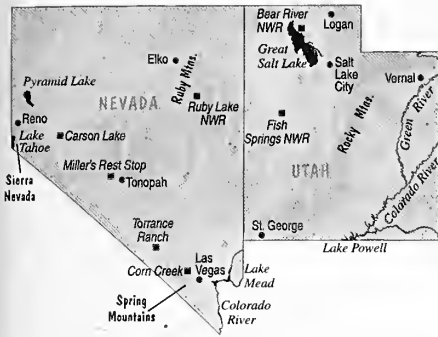
At least 5 Scarlet Tanagers were found dur-

ing the fall, including an ad. male at Portal 8 Sep (ph. T. MacJannet), one at San Simon Cienega 1 Oct (ph., †REW), one at Cameron 23 Oct (†DS), another at Portal 5–11 Nov (JY, M. Jackson, M. Decker; †NMC), and one at Rio Rico 13–16 Nov (J. Stewart; ph. CMc); there were about 25 previous accepted records for the state. Varied Buntings lingered later into Oct than usual, with the latest report coming from Arivaca Cienega 11 Oct (CMc). It has been impossible to calculate the exact number of Painted Buntings seen in s. Arizona this fall; an impressive 70 were reported, mostly Aug–Sep. This continued the trend that began in late summer. Unprecedented numbers of Dickcissels were detected statewide, with at least 40 individuals reported.

Four Boblinks were reported this fall, including one at B.T.A. 31 Aug (CST), one at Lake Havasu City 21–26 Sep (D. Rankin; †LHa; ph., †DVP), one at Peña Blanca L. 24 Sep–4 Oct (GB et al.), and one near Willcox 15 Oct (†J. & M. Hirth); this species is a casual visitor to the state. A Rusty Blackbird, also casual in the state, was at Kansas Settlement 27 Nov (ph., †REW, RAR). No fewer than 6 Orchard Orioles were found around Arizona; this species has recently been removed from the A.B.C. review list. A Baltimore Oriole, another species that is casual in the state, was at Yuma 12 Oct (†PEL, BC). Lawrence's Goldfinches were present in s. Arizona in better-than-average numbers this fall. An Evening Grosbeak was heard flying over a Tucson yard 3 Oct (DS), another sign that this species was on the move in the West.

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Rick Fridell

Full migration in the Great Basin was rather typical with the exception of overall low numbers and very few vagrant species of shorebirds reported. Otherwise, it was an outstanding season for finding vagrants, with many unusual species turning up across the Region. Nevada highlights included a Black-legged Kittiwake and the state's first Sedge Wren. Utah highlights included Harlequin Ducks, the state's fifth Common Ground-Dove, third Philadelphia Vireo, and second Baird's Sparrow. It was a great season for eastern warblers, highlighted by a Connecticut Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, two Prairie Warblers, and a Black-throated Green Warbler. A late November Common Redpoll at the Great Salt Lake was a harbinger of the winter irruption.

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); 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); Floyd Lamb (Floyd Lamb Park, Las Vegas, Clark, NV); H.B.V.P. (Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, Clark, NV); L. Mead (Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Clark, NV); Lytle (Lytle Ranch Preserve, Washington, UT); Miller's R.A. (Miller's Rest Area, Esmeralda, NV); Pahrnagat (Pahrnagat N.W.R., Lincoln, NV); Quail Creek (Quail Creek S.P., Washington, UT); Red Hills (Red Hills G.C., St. George, Washington, UT); Zion (Zion N.P., Washington, UT).

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

A male Mexican Duck was captured and banded at Carson L., Churchill, NV 18 Sep (CN), and Mexican Duck × Mallard hybrid was photographed at Mesquite, Clark, NV 19 Nov (DV, LH). Harlequin Ducks returned to Antelope I. (28 Sep–26 Nov) after an 18-year absence.

An imm. female showed up 28 Sep (†BO, ph. N&GJ), followed by an imm. male on 12 Oct (ph. PH, KW, RF), and a second female 10 Nov (ph. PH et al.). Surf Scoters were observed at Pyramid L., Washoe, NV 13 Oct–14 Nov (DS, RL, MM), Walker L., Mineral, NV 6–13 Nov (GS et al.), Panguitch L., Garfield, UT 14 Nov (RF), and Hyrum S.P., Cache, UT 27 Nov (ph. RO). White-winged Scoter observations included 3 at Antelope I. 4–24 Nov (ph. NJ, ph. BO et al.), 3 at Otter Creek S.P., Piute, UT 14 Nov (RF), and an ad. male at Strawberry Res., Wasatch, UT 21 Nov (BMA). The only Black Scoter reported this fall visited Antelope I. 4 Nov–1 Dec (ph. NJ, †RO et al.). Surprisingly, the only Long-tailed Duck reported in the Region lingered at H.B.V.P. 10–23 Nov (MTo, SP, JBr et al.). Barrow's Goldeneyes were detected farther s. in the Region than typical, with 3 at Quail Creek 13 Nov–8 Dec (ph. RF et al.) and male at the Hilldale Sewer Ponds, Washington, UT 31 Nov (ph. RF).

Red-throated Loons also made a strong showing in the s. portion of the Region, with juvs. at H.B.V.P. 3 Nov+ (RM et al.), Quail

(PL, BC), and a Zone-tailed Hawk was there 18 Aug (DHe). It was a relatively uneventful shorebird season in the Great Basin, with few rare and vagrant species. American Golden-Plovers were found in Nevada at Frenchy L., Key Pittman, Lincoln 5 Sep (ph. GS) and University Farms, Reno, Washoe 9–10 Oct (ph. KD et al.). A Hudsonian Godwit visited Farmington Bay 6–12 Nov (†J&KB et al.), and a Ruddy Turnstone was found at Antelope I. 14 Sep (K&BE). A late Semipalmated Sandpiper was at Pyramid L., Washoe, NV 22 Oct (RL, RS, DG). Stilt Sandpipers made a strong showing: singles were at Duck Creek 8 Aug (AL), Logan, Cache, UT 20 Aug (RO), Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT 24 Aug (KP), Ponderosa Dairy, Nye, NV 10 Sep (GS), and Antelope I. 9–10 Oct (EL et al.). Short-billed Dowitcher sightings included a flock of 9 along Aztec Rd., Colorado R., Clark, NV 27 Aug (DV, LH) and singles at Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT 5 Sep (PH) and Ponderosa Dairy, Nye, NV 10 Sep (GS). Five Red Phalaropes were observed as singles at Silver Peak, Esmeralda, NV 25 Aug (ph. GS), Quail Creek



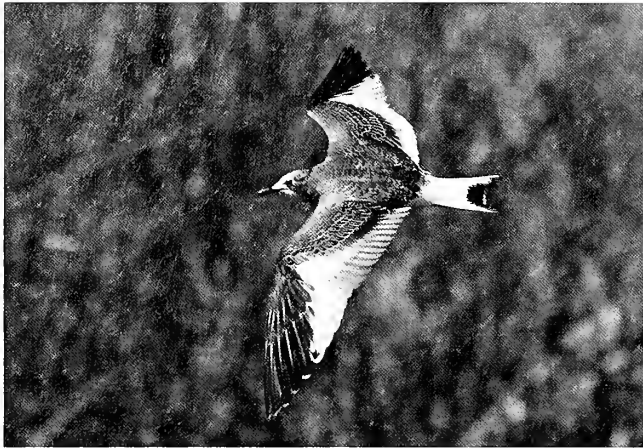
Harlequin Ducks were observed for the first time in eighteen years along the causeway to Antelope Island State Park, Davis County, Utah between 28 September and 26 November (here 12 October) 2011. Photograph by Rick Fridell.

Creek 13–19 Nov (ph. RF), and Duck Creek 16–25 Nov (DVa et al.). Pacific Loons were found at East Canyon S.P., Morgan, UT 16–23 Oct (ph. NJ et al.), Hyrum S.P., Cache, UT 30 Oct–7 Nov (CF, ph. RO, BA), Starvation Res., Duchesne, UT 18 Nov (BMA), and L. Mead 18–21 Nov (AL). A wayward Brown Pelican visited Las Vegas Bay, L. Mead 18–25 Nov (ph. AL et al.). A Neotropic Cormorant lingered at Bear River through 9 Oct (KP). A Green Heron at Sparks Marina, Washoe, NV 7 Oct (CC) was n. of expected range.

White-tailed Kites continued through the season at Pahrnagat, where 2 ads. and 2 juvs. were observed (DHe, MM). A late Swainson's Hawk was at Pahrnagat 30 Oct

2 Oct (RF), Antelope I. 7 Oct (ph. PH) and 19 Nov (BS, CF et al.), and Pahrnagat 25–26 Nov (GC, †PL, BC).

A Black-legged Kittiwake photographed near Boulder Beach, Lake Mead 18–19 Nov (ph. GS, AL) was a rare find. Fall Sabine's Gull sightings included 4 in Nevada and 5 in Utah 14 Sep–14 Nov. Nevada sightings included juvs. at Ash Meadows 18–29 Sep (GS, SB, LM), H.B.V.P. 28 Sep (WP), Virginia L., Washoe 14 Oct (FP), and Boynton Slough, Washoe 19–28 Oct (MA, ph. MM et al.). Utah sightings included juvs. photographed along the La Sal Manti Scenic Loop Rd., Grand 14 Sep (EB), at Antelope I. 30 Sep–9 Oct (DHa, BM), at Quail Creek 2 Oct (RF), and on L. Powell, Glen



Sabine's Gulls are rare regular fall migrants through the Great Basin. There were nine fall sightings, including this juvenile at Boynton Slough, Washoe County, Nevada 19-28 (here 21) October 2011. Photograph by Martin Meyers.



A Prothonotary Warbler graced the pond at Tonaquint Park, St. George, Washington County, Utah 5-7 (here 5) October 2011. Photograph by Rick Fridell.



Utah's third accepted Philadelphia Vireo was observed at the Salt Lake International Center, Salt Lake County 17 September 2011. Photograph by Jeff Cooper.



Nevada's first Sedge Wren was found at a ranch near Dyer, Esmeralda County 15 October 2011. Photograph by Greg Scyphers.

Canyon National Recreation Area, Kane 9 Oct (SP), plus an ad. at Otter Creek S.P., Piute 14 Nov (ph. RF). Two juv. Mew Gulls were at Virginia L., Washoe, NV 1-28 Nov (CB, MM, FP), and an ad. was at Quail Creek 5 Nov (DT, ph. RF). Single Thayer's Gulls were reported at Pyramid L., Washoe, NV 8-13 Nov (MM) and

rare in the Region outside of e. Nevada, so sightings at H.B.V.P. 25 Sep (JB) and at Provo Airport Dike, Utah, UT 10 Oct (+EH et al.) were notable. An imm. male Ruby-throated Hummingbird was photographed at Sandy, Salt Lake, UT 10 Sep (ph. IA), and a very late Black-chinned Hummingbird visited a feeder

Piute S.P., Piute, UT 15 Nov (RF), and 3 were at Otter Creek S.P., Piute, UT 15 Nov (ph. RF). Washoe, NV Glaucous-winged Gulls were at Pyramid L. 4-20 Nov (MM et al.) and Sparks Marina 23 Nov (DS). Unidentified jaegers were reported from Willard Bay S.P., Box Elder, UT 10 Sep (RO, MTa, WS) and Pyramid L., Washoe, NV 16 Sep (AdQ).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The out-of-range flock of White-winged Doves continued at Price, Carbon, UT (SC) throughout the season; one at Arlemonte Ranch, Esmeralda, NV 18 Sep (GS, MM, RS, DG) was well n. of expected range. The first documented for San Juan, and the 5th ever for Utah, a Common Ground-Dove struck a window in Cow Canyon, near Bluff 5 Nov (JP, +JH, ph. LH). The only Yellow-billed Cuckoo reported this season was at Lytle 30 Sep (RF, S&CS). Vaux's Swifts are

at Fallon, Churchill, NV 9 Nov (KF). An Anna's Hummingbird visiting Carson City, Carson, NV 28 Sep-6 Oct (RL) was n. of expected range. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported from Lytle 9-21 (male; LT, J&KB) & 22 Oct (female; ph. RF). A juv. female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was banded at the Rio Mesa Center, Grand, UT 22 Oct (KB), and a juv. male was found at Pahrnagat 30 Oct (PL, BC). An American Three-toed Woodpecker made a rare appearance in Washington, UT again this fall at Lava Pt., Zion 18 Nov (ph. RF).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS

Single Least Flycatchers were reported at Garr Ranch, Antelope I. 23 Aug (JB) and Leidy Cr., Esmeralda, NV 8 Oct (ph. GS). Eastern Phoebe were found at Dyer, Esmeralda, NV 15-16 Oct (GS, DG, RS) and Corn Cr. 9 Nov (GS). Notable Eastern Kingbird records included singles at H.B.V.P. 5 Sep (J&MC), Pahrnagat 11 Sep (ph. SB, LM, BD), and Duck Creek 12 Sep (PV). Philadelphia Vireos were reported from the Salt Lake International Center, Salt Lake, UT 17 Sep (ph., †JC) and Garr Ranch, Antelope I. 10 Oct (JB). A very late Plumbeous Vireo lingered at Lytle 8 Nov-4 Dec (RF, DW et al.). Red-eyed Vireos were at Floyd Lamb 9 Sep (ph. CR) and Garr Ranch, Antelope I. 2 Oct (JB).

Steller's Jays are seldom, if ever, observed outside of montane habitat, so one found at a lowland Lincoln, NV ranch 30 Oct was particularly noteworthy. An albino Barn Swallow was photographed at the Provo Airport Dike, Utah, UT 25 Sep (EH). A Verdin at Pahrnagat 10-30 Oct (RF, PL, BC) was slightly n. of typical range. Representing the 2nd accepted record for Nevada, a cooperative Winter Wren lingered at Pahrnagat 9-28 Nov (ph. RF, GS et al.). Nevada's first documented Sedge Wren was photographed at Dyer, Esmeralda 15 Oct (ph. GS, DG, RS)

but was not be relocated. A Swainson's Thrush of the nominate subspecies group at Corn Cr. 29 Oct (PL, BC) and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher photographed at Springville, Utah, UT 4 Nov (JCo) were late. Gray Catbirds turned up at a few unusual Nevada locations, including Floyd Lamb 30 Sep–2 Oct (AL), Miller's R.A. 7-8 Oct (GS), and Corn Cr. 29 Oct (PL, BC). A Brown Thrasher, rare in the Region, visited Lytle 30 Sep (ph. RF, S&CS). Chestnut-collared Longspurs were found at Key Pittman W.M.A., Lincoln, NV 23 Sep (GS, MM, CT et al.) and Miller's R.A. 14 Oct (GS, DG, RS).

Despite few birders and very limited coverage, 32 species of warbler were observed in the Great Basin during the fall season. Fewer Northern Waterthrushes than normal were reported 26 Aug–3 Oct from Clark and Esmeralda, NV (GS), Box Elder, UT (KP), Davis, UT (JS), and Utah, UT (KC). Black-and-white Warblers turned up at Floyd Lamb 10 Sep (GS), Pahrana-gat 12 Sep and 3 Oct (DWo), Rendezvous Park, Cache, UT 18 Sep (AK), Gunlock S.P., Washington, UT 30 Sep (ph. RF), and Corn Cr. 3 Oct (RSa). Prothonotary Warblers graced Floyd Lamb 3-4 Sep (ph. AL), Washoe Lake S.P., Washoe, NV 7 Sep (DWa), and Tonaquint Park, Washington, UT 5-7 Oct (DT et al.). Tennessee Warblers were widespread, with Nevada sightings at Floyd Lamb 8 (GS) & 30 Sep (AL), Dyer, Esmeralda 11 Sep (GS), and Dyer Pond, Esmeralda 8 Oct (GS) and Utah sightings at Lytle 11 Sep (LT), Red Hills 30 Sep (ph. RF), and Springville, Utah 15 Oct (JB). Very late Nashville Warblers were noted at Lytle 8 Nov (RF, DWh) and Springs Park, Washington, UT 29 Nov (ph. RF). A cooperative Connecticut Warbler at Floyd Lamb 3-4 Sep (ph. AL et al.) was one of the highlights of the season. A late Common Yellowthroat visited Springs Park, Washington, UT 23 Nov–17 Dec (RF). Fifteen American Redstarts were found 23 Aug–25 Nov in four Nevada counties (Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye) and two Utah counties (Davis, Washington). Northern Parulas turned up at Indian Springs, Clark, NV 10 Sep (GS), Ash Meadows 10 Sep (GS), Floyd Lamb 17-19 Sep (ph. AL), Corn Cr. 24 Sep (CL et al.), Red Hills 2 Oct (ph. RF et al.), and 2 at Pahrana-gat 22 Oct (GS). Late parulas were found at Pahrana-gat 9-10 Nov (RF, GS) and Ash Springs, Lincoln, NV 13 Nov (GS). The only Magnolia Warbler reported this season was found at Miller's R.A. 8 Oct (GS). A Blackburnian Warbler brightened Pahrana-gat 23-25 Sep (ph. GS, MM, CT, CL et al.). Provo Airport Dike, Utah, UT hosted a late Yellow Warbler 19-22 Nov (EH, ph. JCo). Single Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported from Pahrana-gat 13 Sep (DWo), Red Hills 16 Sep (ph. RF, DT, KW, RD), and Spring Mountain S.P., Clark, NV 26 Sep (ph. AL), and 2 were at Tonaquint Park, Washington, UT 5-7 Oct (ph. RF, DT et al.).

Blackpoll Warblers were present at Floyd Lamb 9 Sep–5 Oct (ph. GS, ph. RSa, ph. AL, C&RT), Crystal Springs, Lincoln, NV 9 Oct (ph. RF), and Provo Airport Dike, Utah, UT 11 Oct (+EH). Black-throated Blue Warblers turned up in Nevada at Pahrana-gat 17 Sep (ph. PW, KW et al.) and 25-26 Nov (GC et al.) and at Floyd Lamb 21 Oct (ph. AL). Nevada Palm Warblers were observed at Miller's R.A. 16 Sep (FP), Dyer, Esmeralda 29 Sep (F&GP, DM), and Pahrana-gat 17 Oct (GS, DG, RS). A Pine Warbler was reported at Lytle 7 Nov (LT) but was not relocated. Prairie Warblers, always rare in the Great Basin, turned up at Dyer Pond, Esmeralda, NV 13 Sep (DM, ph. FP, GP) and Red Hills 22-25 Sep (ph. RD, RF), the latter being the first photographically documented Prairie Warbler for Utah. An out-of-range Hermit Warbler was at Lava Pt., Zion 1 Sep (ph. RF), and a Black-throated Green Warbler made a rare Regional appearance at Pahrana-gat 22 Oct (ph. GS). A late Wilson's Warbler at Provo Airport Dike, Utah, UT 26 Nov (EH, NB, KC) was unexpected.

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

Nevada Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from H.B.V.P. 31 Aug–3 Sep (WP), Miller's R.A. 21 Sep (DS), and Sunset Park, Las Vegas, Clark 6 Oct (ph. AL). Wayward Lark Buntings turned up at Mt. Nebo, Utah, UT 25 Aug (DMe) and Arlemonte Ranch, Esmeralda, NV 17 Sep (GS, MM, RS, DG). The first Baird's Sparrow ever documented by photograph in Utah was found along Swede Lane, Utah 9 Sep (ph. TA). Red Fox Spar-



This bird, the first of three fall 2011 Chestnut-sided Warblers found at St. George, Washington County, Utah, was photographed 16 September. Photograph by Rick Fridell.



Prairie Warblers were photographed in both Utah and Nevada in fall 2011. This young male was found at Dyer Pond, Esmeralda County, Nevada 13 September. Photograph by Fred Petersen.



This Prairie Warbler, observed at St. George, Washington County on 22-25 (here 22) September 2011, is the first documented in Utah with photographic evidence. Photograph by Rob Dobbs.

rows were found at Fernley, Lyon, NV 31 Oct (DS), at Lytle 8 Nov (DWh), and in Lincoln, NV 13 Nov (GS). Nevada Swamp Sparrows were documented at Dyer, *Esmeralda* 16 Oct (MM) and Pahrnatagat 30 Oct (PL, BC) and 25 Nov (GC). Utah White-throated Sparrows were found at Antelope I. 7 Oct (S&CS), Lytle 21 Oct (ph. RF), and Provo Airport Dike, Utah, UT 1-5 Nov (EH, ph. JCo). There was a strong showing of White-throated Sparrows in Nevada, with 5 at Pahrnatagat 22 Oct-10 Nov (GS, PL, BC), 2 at Floyd Lamb 29 Oct (PL, BC), 2 in Dyer, *Esmeralda* 6-8 Nov (GS), and 2 at Pyramid L., Washoe, 8 Nov (MM). The only Harris's Sparrow found in the Region was at Lytle 31 Oct-2 Nov (PL, BC). Unexpected Golden-crowned Sparrows in Utah turned up at Lytle 9 Oct (LT) and Syracuse, Davis 14 Nov (ph. PH).

Scarlet Tanagers were documented this fall at Beck Spring, Millard, UT 16 Oct (ph. RF, KW), Spring Mountain S.P., Clark, NV 16 Oct (ph. AL), and Coyote Springs, Clark, NV 26 Nov (ph., †PL, BC). Surprisingly, the only Rose-breasted Grosbeak reported was an imm. male at South Ogden, Davis, UT 4-12 Oct (ph. KE). A Painted Bunting at Dyer, *Esmeralda* 11 Sep (GS) and a Dickcissel at Ash Meadows 10 Sep (GS) were rare discoveries in Nevada. Two Bobolinks were a rare sight

at H.B.V.P. 25 Sep (D&RS, N&KM). Vagrant orioles included a female Orchard Oriole at Floyd Lamb 17 Sep (ph. AL) and a Baltimore Oriole at Summerlin, Clark, NV 23 Sep (JR). A Common Redpoll was photographed at the Garr Ranch, Antelope I. migrant trap 25 Nov (ph. ER, †CF). Clark, NV Lawrence's Goldfinch sightings included one in e. Las Vegas 15 Oct (GZ) and a flock of 10 at Spring Mountain S.P. 16-20 Oct (ph. AL et al.).

Corrigenda: The following should be corrected in *North American Birds* 65: 325. The birds reported as Winter Wrens at Ash Meadows (9 Dec 2010) and Zion (13 Feb 2011) were in fact House Wrens; and the Lapland Longspurs reported observed at Ash Meadows (5 Dec) were in fact observed in nearby Pahrnatagat Valley, Nye, NV.

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Alaska



The de Tobish

Early autumn 2011 saw a series of low-pressure events in August and early September, but while storms continued with reasonable consistency, most tracked to the southward, into the Gulf of Alaska or farther north across the Arctic. Lehman's annual Gambell sojourn showed potential in August

and early September, when winds included a southerly component on the "tail" end of the lows; however, perhaps because of a strong high-pressure area over much of the mainland, the middle to northern Bering Sea fell too often between systems, and the dreaded northerly winds took over for the remainder of the autumn season. The Aleutians and North Gulf had their share of decent low-pressure events, and many of these storms ended up in the southern Bering Sea, which clearly contributed to one of the finest rarity seasons at the Pribilofs on record. That remote island group, with coverage mainly at St. Paul, had birds coming and going from all directions well into October. Long after field crews went home and the bulk of the migration had ended, November weather was punctuated by two of the Re-

gion's strongest storms in years, both of which produced sustained winds of up to 100 knots. These may have resulted from a deepening Aleutian Low, which typically consolidates at this time of the season and advects or causes strong late-season systems. The season ended with bitter cold and plenty of snow across the entire state.

Across the Region, reporting was at its best in many years, highlighted by extended field coverage at all sites but especially from the Region's peripheral hotspots. This year provided possibly the Region's best October field season ever, which offered a slew of new late dates from many locations. Included in this season's coverage were ship transects into the Gulf and through the Bering Sea and into the Beaufort Sea. Seabird highlights were robust, and a new procellariid was added the Alaska list. For the first time, field crews established a month-long banding station at remote Middleton Island in the Gulf of Alaska. This effort produced a fascinating cross-section of a trans-Gulf, offshore drift of passerines. In

just a 24-day effort, the crew captured 1697 birds. It was clear that mist-nets in the island's impenetrable western thickets allowed for a much-improved detection for passerines. We look forward to the continuation of this effort.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HERONS

Although Emperor Geese seemed to arrive on time at regular winter sites, a single at Kodiak's Narrow Cape 28 Aug (RAM, BR) was considered very early, and 2 were notable on the Homer Spit 5-20 Nov, with one remaining into Dec (LLR, MC). None were detected at Gambell all season. A lone Snow Goose at Homer 1-8 Nov (LLR, AJL) represented a new late date for the Kenai and one of South-coastal Alaska's latest for this uncommon fall migrant. This season's Wood Duck, now expected, was a male at Pt. Agassiz, just n. of Petersburg 11 Nov (ph. TST). As witnessed at Middleton I., there appeared to be significant influx of dabbling ducks into the North Gulf Coast at the end of the first week of Sep, earlier than usual. Middleton high counts for the season for most common dabblers included synchronous 7 Sep arrivals of 300+ American Wigeon, 35 Northern Shovelers, 800 Northern Pintail, and 100+ Green-winged Teal. Also in this surge were 2 Eurasian Wigeons, only the 2nd Middleton record. Thirty-six Eurasian Wigeons for the season was a strong showing at Gambell, where 17 on 6 Sep provided a new fall high count and 2 on 7 Oct established a new late date (PEL, PSc). A male Garganey in eclipse plumage was a surprise at Adak 28 Aug (ph. IH); this Asian species had been seemingly annual in autumn at times in the 1980s but has since proved casual and sporadic. Imagine a hunter's surprise when one of his first ducks of the newly opened waterfowl season turned out to be an ad. Baikal Teal in full eclipse plumage. This bird was taken 1 Sep (*AR) in the Twenty Mile R. wetlands near Portage, about 70 km s. of Anchorage. Although there are plenty of Baikal Teal specimens and recent sight records from the w. Aleutians, the very few mainland records have come from peripheral sites in n. and nw. Alaska. A Canvasback at St. Paul I. 10-14 Oct (DG) was described as only the 2nd ever for the Pribilofs, while a male Tufted Duck there 9 Aug (FR) was exceptionally early for a fall migrant and may have summered in the vicinity. The season's Spectacled Eider passage off the Point at Gambell again proved impressive on the heels of 2010's magnificent fall migration. As last season, only a few Spectacleds were noted until 27 Sep, when big numbers appeared, moving in westerly and southwesterly directions at both Gambell and Savoonga through mid-Oct. Ad.

males made up the bulk of these numbers, which included 1700 at Gambell for the season (26 Sep-11 Oct versus 18,000 in 2010), another 2840 counted from Afeftapak Lagoon 30 Sep (PSc), and a tally of 12,300 from Savoonga for the 20 Sep-9 Oct period (AB). Gambell residents have for years talked about a large, late Oct-Nov passage of Spectacled Eiders, but until 2010, Lehman's highest one-day count was of just 20 birds. White-winged Scoters shattered the previous one-day maximum count off Gambell, with 76 tallied moving by the Point on 7 Oct (PSc) and an amazing 150 birds in the Kitnepaluk area to the s. 25 Sep (PSc). Another 350 White-wingeds along the coast near Nome 25 Oct (MT, JV) was a strong late-season count and a new late date for the Seward Pen., as were the 12 Black Scoters located the same day (MT, JV). This season's extra-limital Hooded Mergansers were the usual few reaching South-coastal Alaska, all singles, from Kodiak 24 Aug (JW), Anchorage 20 Sep (AB), and at Seward 28 Oct-17 Nov (CAG). Ruddy Ducks again bred at Kenny L., where several combined broods were seen into early Sep (SW). Single Pied-billed Grebes surfaced at Juneau's Mendenhall Wetlands 5-8 Sep (PMS, PAR et al.) and in the Ketchikan harbor 14-15 Nov (AWP, SCH). Two Pied-billeds lingered on Sitka's Swan L. 23 Sep-30+ Nov (MRG), one of which was a hatch-year bird at this summer's nesting site. The Kenny L. Eared Grebe, seen for the 2nd year in a row there, was last reported from 4 Sep (SW).

Although the summer's sea surface temperatures appeared average to cool, there must have been a spike, as most of the Region's rarer procellariids made a strong showing in Sep.



This Great Shearwater, photographed 15 kilometers west of Cape Fairweather 7 August 2011, provided only the third Alaska record. Photograph by Nick R. Hajdukovich.



This hatch-year Dusky Flycatcher at Hyder, Alaska 29 August 2011 was carefully distinguished from Hammond's Flycatcher, a fairly common breeder at Hyder. Note the bird's short primary projection and long-tailed look; Hammond's Flycatcher has noticeably longer primaries and appears to have a shorter tail. This bird also gave a dry "whit" call note, very different from Hammond's sharp "peek" call note. Photograph by Andrew W. Piston.



Golden-crowned Kinglets reached St. Lawrence Island, Alaska for the first time in fall 2011, with singles noted at the villages of Savoonga and Gambell. This individual was the first one found at Gambell on 9 October. Photograph by Peter Scully.

Up to 25 Solander's Petrels were the season's highlight, seen inside the international border off the w. Aleutians 15 Sep (GM, BC; see *North American Birds* 65: 704-708). Mottled Petrels were driven inshore by strong storms in the Pribilofs, and the 24 counted from the sw.



This American Pipit, photographed at Ketchikan, Alaska 4 November 2011, exhibits characters consistent with the eastern Asian subspecies *japonicus*. Compared to taxa that breed in North America, *japonicus* has darker, more olive-colored upperparts, contrasting white wing bars, bolder black streaking below (particularly on the flanks), and heavier black malar markings. The widespread Alaska subspecies *pacificus* shows paler, grayer upperparts, less contrasting buff wingbars, and duller streaking on the underparts. Not readily apparent in this photograph, *japonicus* also has pinkish legs, whereas *pacificus* has dark legs. Photograph by Luke H. DeCicco.



This Pribilof Islands' first Magnolia Warbler was this bird, which frequented Zapadni Ravine on St. Paul Island 3-5 (here 4) October 2011. Photograph by Doug Gochfeld.

Point at St. Paul 11 Sep (DG) furnished the island's 2nd record and certainly a new high count. The Middleton I. seawatch off the nw. point produced single Pink-footed Shearwaters 12 & 25 Sep (LD, CWW, PP, BM, EM, DP, BD), and at least one Pink-footed was noted to the w. off Kodiak's Cape Chiniak 1 & 13 Aug (†RAM). One was seen w. of Yakobi I. 18 Sep (MT, ST), and 10 were offshore of Cape Edgecombe 14 Sep (TA, JBP). Collectively, these provided an above-average showing of this scarce pelagic visitor. The 3rd ever for the Region, a Great Shearwater was photographed 15 km w. of Cape Fairweather 7 Aug (CWW, †NRH); both previous records are also from the n. Gulf of Alaska. An unprecedented 1280 Buller's Shearwaters were carefully estimated at the Middleton I. seawatch 9 Sep (CWW), just a few days after a period of strong winds. The Region's previous high count was of about 300 from Middleton in Sep 2005. Other notable Buller's included one in Akutan Pass in the e. Aleutians 22 Sep (†BT), where the species is casual in early fall; 84 from the pelagic sur-

vey known as the "Seward Transect" 16-18 Sep (TAB); one in Resurrection Bay w. of Hive I. 19 Sep (TAB); and 2 off Cape Chinak near Kodiak 2 Oct (RAM, JDL, ph. DK). In Southeast, Buller's 30 were counted off Cape Edgecombe 14 Sep, and up to 150 were seen off the w. side of Chichagof I. 18 Sep as far n. as the entrance to Cross Sound, including a single flock of 120 about 8 km w. of Yakobi Island. Three Short-tailed Shearwaters were noted off Barrow 7 Oct (AJL), at the extreme ne. limit of the species' regular summer dispersal range; one was seen in the vicinity on the previous day as well. Up to 2 Manx Shearwaters per day were detected on nine days 24 Aug-16 Sep off the w. shore of Middleton I., where the species has been observed annually since 2005. At least 4 were counted there 9 Sep (ph. LHD et al.), and up to 4 were encountered in Icy Bay almost daily 1-6 Aug (NRH, CWW), adding to previous sightings from this area from midsummer. Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels sporadically disperse northward into the s. sections of Cook Inlet, and a few have been recorded even farther n., including at least one well up the lower Susitna River. Some 40 seen in the lower reaches of the Kenai R. 25-26 Sep (TAB, LKB, KT) seemed an unprecedented tally for the upper inlet.

Helmericks was more than a little surprised to find a Great Egret at Adak 12 Nov (ph. IH) long after the fall migration had ended. The only previous Adak record was also a Nov bird. The photographs show a delicately proportioned individual, indicative of the ne. Asian subspecies *modesta*.

HAWKS THROUGH ALCIDS

A few Osprey were reported in Oct, with a very late single at Juneau 28 Oct (ph. PMS); there are several Nov records in the Region. Casual in Southeast, a Swainson's Hawk was documented at Juneau's Mendenhall Wetlands 1 Sep (ph. PAR). A Harlan's Hawk at Palmer Hayflats just s. of Palmer 19 Nov (RW) became the latest for Upper Cook Inlet

and one of the latest for the Region, although this subspecies has occasionally been found in winter at coastal sites. Two Rough-legged Hawks on St. Lawrence I. 8 Oct (PSc) established a new late departure date there.

Overall, the shorebird passage seemed weak and early across the Region, with fewer rarities than average. Highlights included mostly new local late dates. A flock of 7 Black-bellied Plovers at Gambell 4 Sep (PEL et al.) made St. Lawrence I's 3rd record ever in fall. Gambell coverage yielded 4 Lesser Sand-Plovers for the season, with the single 27-29 Sep (PEL) providing a new late date for that locality. Common Ringed Plovers made an average showing, including an ad. at St. Paul 6-7 Aug (FR), unusual both for being early and an ad., and a juv. at St. Paul 6-9 Sep (ph. DG). The season's only notable Upland Sandpiper report was one over Juneau's wetlands 17 Aug (GBV), where casual in fall. A flyby Bristle-thighed Curlew at Gambell 26 Aug (PEL) added a 5th fall record from that site, all records being from Aug. An ad. Bar-tailed Godwit at Juneau 2 Aug (PMS, PAR, ph. MWS) added to the handful of Southeast records, which now includes records from four of the past five years. A lone Marbled Godwit at Middleton I. 20 Sep (LHD, †CWW) represents a first island record and perhaps supports the notion that the Alaskan subspecies crosses the Gulf of Alaska in fall migration. Notable Red Knot sightings included one at Gambell 28 Aug (PEL), a 4th local fall report, and 2 at Middleton I. 4 Sep (ph. LHD), which constituted that island's first record. Seven Sanderlings at Gambell, including 6 on 29 Aug (PEL), made for a better-than-average showing there; one at Nome 1 Oct (MT, JV) became the latest for the Seward Pen. and one of the latest for the n. half of the Region. Little Stint reports included single juvs. at Adak 13 Sep (ph. IH) and St. Paul 3-16 Aug (FR), a decent fall showing of this still-not-annual fall migrant. Three Long-toed Stints at St. Paul 25 Aug-4 Sep (FR, DG) made a decent Bering Sea showing. A White-rumped Sandpiper, another North Slope specialty breeder that is casual in the Bering Sea and North Gulf, was reported at Gustavus 17 Aug (BPP). Two sets of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers bracketed perfectly the species' fall dates of occurrence for the Kenai Peninsula: 2 at Kenai 31 Aug (TAB, LKB) and 2 at Homer 2 Nov (MR, ph. AJL). Other locations offered mostly typical numbers and date ranges. Extralimital Stilt Sandpipers included one at St. Paul I. 29 Aug-15 Sep (FR, DG), where casual, and up to 8 at the expansive Kenai R. mouth 15-27 Aug (TAB, LKB, TDE, KT). Elsewhere, Stilt Sandpipers showed well in Southeast, including 26 at Gustavus 17 Aug (NKD, ph. BPP), which ties the previous local

high count, 21 in Juneau 20 Aug (PMS), and 8 at Haines 12 Aug (PMS), where the species is very rare. This North Slope nester has become annual in very small numbers from s. Bering Sea sites and across the North Gulf coast. Extralimital Buff-breasteds included singles at St. Paul 25 Aug (FR); at the Anchor R. mouth on the w. side of the Kenai Pen. 21-23 Aug (TAB, LKB, KT, MMM ph. AJL); in s. Anchorage 5-8 Sep (AB), a first for Upper Cook Inlet; and in n. Southeast at Gustavus 6 Sep (NKD, ph. BBP), which has produced quite a few records over the past decade. Kodiak's 6th fall Ruff was found with a Pectoral Sandpiper near Kalsin Bay 7 Oct (RAM, JBA); few others were noted. A Common Snipe at Gambell 27 Aug (PEL, MJB) established a 4th fall record at that location. Very late single Red-necked Phalaropes were at St. Paul 27 Sep (DG), Homer 8 Oct (DWS, MR, DC; a new local late date), and Ketchikan's Clover Pass 6 Nov (JLD et al.), the latest for Alaska by probably at least two weeks. An inland Red Phalarope on Long L. along the McCarthy Rd. 20 Oct (ph. MV) was one of the latest for the interior. Similar waifs are occasionally found on larger mainland lakes near freeze-up.

Notable in the Bering Sea, where this taiga breeder is casual, was a Bonaparte's Gull at St. Paul I. 1-2 Aug (FR). The season's only Black-headed Gull of note was an ad. at Anchorage 15 Aug-9 Sep (ph. LHD, TGT et al.), where there were six previous records. A Mew Gull near Nome 1 Oct (ph. MT, JV) likely established a new late date for the Seward Peninsula. Ring-billed Gulls made a subpar showing away from s. Southeast, with only the ad. in Anchorage 16-26 Sep (AB et al.) being noteworthy. An ad. Thayer's Gull at Gambell 19 Sep (PEL) brought that site's total records to five in fall. Juneau birders did not find the "resident" Lesser Black-backed Gull in 2011; at least one ad. has been regular there since 1991. This individual was normally around Juneau in the breeding season, where it was found paired with a Herring Gull at a nest with two eggs 12 Jun 1993. The bird was at least four years old in 1991, so it would have been at least 23 in 2010. A Glaucous-winged Gull onshore at Nome 25 Oct (JV) also established a new late date for that location, where birders are hard to find after late Sep. South Polar Skuas were seen in numbers into the North Gulf: singles were off Middleton I. 13 & 16 Sep (LHD); 5 were tallied along the continental slope s. of the Kenai Pen., with one 83 km s. of Rugged I. 16 Sep and 4 on the "Seward Line" 18 Sep (TAB); and one seen harassing Buller's Shearwaters 15 km w. of Yakobi I. 18 Sep (MT, ST). Distinctly casual in the Bering Sea s. of St. Lawrence I.,

except for winter records associated with extreme southerly surges of sea ice, was an ad. Black Guillemot in basic plumage at St. Paul I. 7 Oct (DG). This constitutes a first Pribilof fall record and may represent an unusually early winter arrival date. Kachemak Bay's 3rd substantiated Long-billed Murrelet 6 Aug came from near Aurora Lagoon across from Homer, where a few were photographed earlier in the summer (RAM, DWS, ph. AJL). Six Kittlitz's Murrelets for the season at Gambell 5-28 Sep (PEL) was considered a strong showing, while singles were noted at Savoonga 28 Sep and 8 Oct (AB), the latter a new late date for St. Lawrence Island. After showing in small numbers early in the season at Gambell, Ancient Murrelets exploded into the n. Bering Sea in unprecedented numbers, highlighted by high counts of 91 on 23 Sep (PEL et al.) and a record 265 the next day (PSc et al.). Farther e., 20 Ancients were tallied at Savoonga 22 Sep-8 Oct (AB). Gambell fall season counts have increased consistently over the past decade.

DOVES THROUGH WAGTAILS

Juneau birders found a Band-tailed Pigeon 24 Sep (MWS, ph. PAR), a 3rd local record and well n. of the species' regular range in Southeast. Alaska's 6th ever and the first since 1996, a crisp Oriental Turtle-Dove visited Gambell 7-22 Oct (ph. PSc, CI, ph. BP, ph. JV et al.), a first in fall and first for the n. Bering Sea. Northern Pygmy-Owls were widespread in n. Southeast this fall, with numerous sightings of singles through the period at Gustavus and Juneau, plus one at Haines 15 Oct (MM). Elsewhere in Southeast, singles were reported from Wrangell on at least six occasions 31 Aug-25 Nov (KC, CLR, WM) and in the Ketchikan area 9 Oct and 27 Nov (SCH, AWP, WTY). As the fall season progressed, it became clear from the growing numbers of Northern Hawk Owls and Great Gray Owls that food resources on the w. side of the Kenai Pen. were drawing raptors. At least 4 Northern Hawk Owls were regularly seen in



This waif Palm Warbler was still migrating to who knows where on Alaska's North Slope near the Colville River Delta 18 October 2011. Amazingly, this location has had previous late fall season reports. Photograph by James Helmericks.



A Ketchikan feeder hosted this White-crowned Sparrow 5 November 2011. The bird shows features consistent with subspecies *pugetensis*, as yet unconfirmed in Alaska. The color image shows a yellow bill, tan wash on the chest, and duller pattern of blackish-brown streaks on tan back. Birds showing these characters have been documented from Southeast sites in fall. Photograph by Luke H. DeCicco.

the Homer area, and several more were observed near Kenai after early Oct (m.ob.), while at least 4 Great Grays were reported during that period between Homer and Sterling. A Long-eared Owl was a surprising find near Juneau 19 Nov (BAA, LAL, ph. PAR), the Region's 10th record, with most records from late autumn. The 3rd year of an owl-banding program on a private lot in Homer produced even more astounding results than those of the past two fall seasons. Open for 55 nights 7 Aug-31 Oct, this station captured and banded 256 Northern Saw-Whet Owls and 54 Boreal Owls (JS). After three years with similarly impressive data, it is clear that we grossly underestimate what "normal" numbers of these two species are, at least in South-coastal areas, and that fall dispersal or migration can include huge numbers of these secretive species.

Large numbers of staging Vaux's Swifts were again found in the Juneau area, including 125 at Point Bridget 25 Aug (PMS, MWS) and 85 over the wetlands 28 Aug (CWW, GBV). These numbers follow similar triple-digit counts from the same time period

in the Juneau area since 2003. The Anna's Hummingbird that visited nasturtiums in Homer 31 Aug–18 Sep and 24 Sep (PB, ph. AJL, TE) marked one of South-coastal Alaska's earliest fall arrivals. Another Anna's appeared farther e. in Homer 25 Sep (AJL). This fall's Anna's in Southeast included up to 5 at Ketchikan 7 Nov+ (JFK, JEP et al.), 3 at Sitka 24 Oct–8 Nov (GJ, ph. MRG), and up to 2 at Gustavus 26 Sep–18 Nov (NKD, DL, TDV). This year's Anna's tallies continue the species' increase of the past decade. The season's latest Rufous Hummingbird reports both came from Oct, far later than typical, with a female at Homer 11 Oct (AJL) followed by a male 27 Oct–5 Nov at a nectar feeder. There are a few late Oct Kodiak records; a lone bird that lingered into Dec at Gustavus is the only other later Alaska record. Kodiak produced 3 Red-breasted Sapsuckers, 7-9 (ph. JS), 8 (ph. RAM), & 26 Oct (EW, ph. RAM). This Southeast breeder occasionally disperses westward in fall, fairly regularly to Kodiak, where MacIntosh now recognizes 40 records.

Two Least Flycatchers were detected in the Middleton I. thickets, 10 Sep (ph. LHD) and one captured 14 Sep (LHD); there are only three prior fall records for the Region, including one from Middleton. A migrant calling Dusky Flycatcher was observed at Hyder 29 Aug (MTY, SCH, ph. AWP), one of very few fall records in the Region. This species, which is known to range into cen. British Columbia as close to Hyder as the Skeena R. drainages, has been recorded fewer than 10 times in Alaska. Casual in the Bering Sea, a Say's Phoebe wandered offshore to St. Paul 2 Sep (DG), where there is one previous photographic record from Aug. Better known as occasional Jun overshoots in Southeast, single Western Kingbirds turned up this season at Tyndal Glacier in Icy Bay 2 Aug (NRH, ph. CWW), at Gustavus 4-5 Aug (NKD ph., BBP, JFS, MDS), and at Wrangell 17 Sep (ph. BJN). There are about five prior fall Alaska records. Very rare in the Bering Sea was a Northern Shrike, a juv. at St. Paul 2-13 Oct (DG) that successfully hunted resident passerines and shrews. The season's only extralimital Warbling Vireos were on Middleton I., where 3 were detected 11 & 15-16 Sep (LHD); there are three prior island fall records.

The only notable late swallow reports included 2 Violet-green Swallows at Ketchikan 28 Aug (SCH), which tied the local late date, and a Bank Swallow at St. Paul I. 27 Sep (DG), which provided a new late Pribilof date. A single Barn Swallow that ventured to Middleton I. out in the North Gulf 29 Aug (LHD) provided an island first. Casual in the Region, a Common House-Martin appeared

at St. Paul 4 & 12-13 Aug (ph. FR), where the bulk of Alaska's previous eight records have originated. Red-breasted Nuthatches continued their now regular fall incursions into the Bering Sea, with singles at St. Paul 19 Sep and 13 Oct (DG) and 4 found around Gambell sites 12-14 Sep (AJL, PEL). Given that there was only one prior fall report, 20 Brown Creepers captured in Middleton I. mist nets 8-27 Sep (LHD) made an astounding number. Where these individuals were headed is puzzling: this island is nearly 80 km offshore. It was a big Golden-crowned Kinglet year, with several locations producing significant extralimital reports. Thirty was the peak one-day total from Middleton 25 Sep (LHD). The first records for St. Lawrence I. were singles at Savoonga 1 Oct (ph. AB) and Gambell 9 & 22-23 Oct (ph. JV), and a first for the Aleutians was one at Unalaska near Dutch Harbor 17 Sep (ph. SG). Even more remarkably, 3 Golden-crowneds were observed around St. Paul 11 Oct (DG), making only the 2nd Pribilof record ever. Two Willow Warblers reached Gambell this season, 23 (PEL) & 28-30 Aug (PEL, ph. MT, ph. MJB), bringing the Region's total records to nine. A Willow Warbler at St. Paul 29 Sep (ph. DG) became the Region's 10th—and the only record away from Gambell. Observations of an interesting dull *Phylloscopus* that eluded observers in Dutch Harbor 4 Oct (BT, SG), where any member of the genus would be exceptional, were inconclusive but could have been yet another Willow. A Dusky Warbler at Gambell 3-7 Sep (PEL, m.ob.) brings the fall cumulative total from Gambell to an impressive 20 birds since 1997. Sixty Arctic Warblers at Gambell 23 Aug (PEL) made that locale's 2nd highest fall count. A Dark-sided Flycatcher nicely documented at St. Paul 23 Aug (ph. FR) was only the Region's 2nd ever in autumn; most records of this casual migrant come from late May–mid-Jun. Aug 23 was a standout fallout day at Gambell: 25 Bluethroats represented a new local fall high count, as did the season total of 37 from 23 Aug–10 Sep (PEL). Two imm. Taiga Flycatchers were located at St. Paul 29 Aug (FR) and 21 Sep (ph. DG); there is only one other fall record for the Pribilofs, and the Region's first fall report came in 2009 at Gambell. A male Stonechat (*stejnegeri* type) caused excitement at Gambell 2-3 Sep (ph. MJB, ph. MT et al.); there are two prior fall records there.

Typically seen in fall mostly on the Southeast mainland, a lone Mountain Bluebird was a rare find offshore at Ketchikan 18 Sep (GMG). Perhaps because of unfavorable winds, only 4 Gray-cheeked Thrushes

reached Gambell this season, all 23 Aug–12 Sep (PEL). Seven Gray-cheekeds at Middleton I. was a strong showing there 29 Aug–21 Sep (LHD); there were only two previous island sightings. Single Gray-cheekeds spanned the season at St. Paul 29 Aug (FR) and 8 Oct (DG), the latter establishing a new late date by two weeks. Following stormy conditions, 11-14 Eyebrowed Thrushes fell out at St. Paul 3 Oct (DG), including a group of 5; and one lingered in Zapadni Ravine there 5-14 Oct. The Region's 2nd fall Eyebrowed came from this locality in early Oct 1962, and all but a few fall reports are from early Oct. Two Dusky Thrushes were reported, one at Gambell 3-4 Oct (ph. PSc), a first St. Lawrence I. fall report, and one very late at Adak 7 Nov (ph. IH). The bird of the season had to be Alaska's first Redwing at Seward's Lowell Pt. 15-26 Nov (ph. CAG ph. LHD, AJL et al.). This hardy bird was first located feeding in the wrack line on the beach in subzero conditions and later seen feeding at local berry bushes. This bird's arrival may have been related to a series of intense storms that traveled up the Bering Sea coast in early Nov. Rare at any season on the North Slope and especially in fall was an American Robin in the snow at Barrow 7 Oct (ph. AJL). Spring overshoots are expected in late spring, but there are few records in fall n. of the taiga. Fifty-five American Robins made a record one-day total for Kodiak 25 Nov (RAM, DH), where the species does not breed.

Two Siberian Accentors were reported this fall, one at Gambell 1 Oct (ph. PSc), the 15th fall record from that outpost, and one at St. Paul 29 Sep–3 Oct (DG), where the species is casual. Bound for Nearctic winter sites, single extralimital Eastern Yellow Wagtails were along the Anchor R. on the w. Kenai Pen. 23 Aug (TAB) and at Middleton I. 3-4 Sep (LHD, CWW, ND). There are only about a half-dozen yellow wagtail records from the Cook Inlet Basin. Extreme late White Wagtail reports came from St. Paul 6-10 Oct (DG) and Gambell 1 Oct (ph. PSc). Both of these are new local late records. Pechora Pipits have become occasional, if irregular, in fall at Gambell since 2003, and this year's singles 26 Aug and 13 Sep (PEL et al.) bring the new fall total to 15 individuals. The lone Red-throated Pipit that lingered at Gambell 29 Sep–16 Oct (ph. PSc, PEL, WLP, BP) beat that site's previous late date by 17 days. Southeast birders documented *japonicus* American Pipit at Ketchikan, a single hanging with a group of local *pacificus* 4-5 Nov (RLS, TGT, ph. LHD et al.). This marks the Region's first record of this Palearctic subspecies away from the Aleutian/Bering Sea zone.

WAXWINGS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

At least 8 Cedar Waxwings were detected at Middleton I. 8-26 Sep (LHD), and one juv. was w. to Kodiak 13-17 Nov (RAM). Because of deepening winter conditions near the end of the season, there were fewer reports of late warblers than usual. Nonetheless, it was a good showing for rarities and lesser-known migrants. Not only did the Northern Waterthrush at St. Paul I. 6 Oct (DG) provide a notable 3rd fall season Pribilof report, but it established the Region's latest ever in fall. The season's only Tennessee Warblers were from Middleton I., 2 in the thickets 26 Sep (ph. LHD, BM); there are four previous fall records of this very rare spring and fall migrant, mainly from Southeast. As expected, both *lutescens* and nominate *celata* comprised the season total of 41 Orange-crowned Warblers on Middleton I., all 24 Aug–28 Sep. There are very few American Redstart records for Alaska beyond the last few days of Sep, so one at Juneau 29 Oct (PMS) was easily the latest ever for the Region by weeks. New for the Bering Sea was a hatch-year Cape May Warbler in the umbel thickets at St. Paul 12 Sep (DG ph.). Amazingly, 2 more hatch-year Cape Mays, a drab female and a male, were documented at Middleton I. 18 & 21 Sep (ph. LHD), where there are two older records. Two exceptional Magnolia Warbler records this fall included one at Gambell 20 Oct (CI), a 2nd fall record for that area, and one at Ketchikan 7 Nov (TGT, SCH, DDG, ph. AWP et al.), a first local record and the latest ever for the Region. The season's latest Yellow Warbler was at Homer 21 Oct (AJL), that site's latest ever. Extremely large Yellow Warbler numbers were detected in the Middleton I. thickets, with peak day fallout counts of 200+ on 24 Aug and 209 on 30 Aug. For the season, 497 Yellows were captured in the nets through 27 Sep (LHD). These numbers dwarf previous fall counts from that locality. Unusual Blackpoll records included a local record-late bird at Anchorage 18 Oct (*vide* TGT) and one at St. Paul 3-8 Oct (DG), the Pribilofs' 2nd. Palm Warblers were detected at Barrow 4-5 Oct (JP), farther e. on the Arctic coast at the Colville R. delta 18 Oct in the snow (ph. JH), and an even later bird at Juneau 13 Nov (BAA, PAR). Gambell's 9th Yellow-rumped Warbler in fall showed up there 12 Sep (AJL et al.); otherwise a few lingered in Southeast, mainly at Ketchikan, into mid-Nov. A late Townsend's Warblers made news at Dutch Harbor 27 Oct (ph. SG, LA) and was joined by another through 7 Nov (*vide* SG). At least three singles were around St. Paul 21 Sep–5 Oct (DG), where casual, and unusually high numbers were recorded at Middle-

ton Island. The Dutch Harbor birds represent the Aleutians' 3rd report, while the peak day tally at Middleton was an amazing 32 on 10 Sep (LHD); singles have been the historical norm there. Wilson's Warblers highlights included singles at Dutch Harbor 27 Oct (BT, LHD, SG) and 2-6 Nov (ph. SG), where extremely rare, and a very bright individual at Ketchikan 6 Nov that appeared to be of the Pacific Northwestern coastal subspecies *chryseola* (JLD, ph. LHD et al.), unknown in Alaska; a specimen would be required to confirm subspecific identification.

At least 60 American Tree Sparrows in the Gustavus area 18 Nov (NKD) was an astounding concentration and one of the highest counts for a single location in Southeast. Extralimital Chipping Sparrows reached Gambell, again, where one 29-30 Aug (ph. MJB, PEL) brought the fall total from that location to 22 birds since 1998. Elsewhere, single juvs. reached St. Paul I. 21 Sep and 10 Oct (DG), and 2 singles were on Middleton I. 12 & 13 Sep (LHD). Fox Sparrows were the most abundant migrant passerine on Middleton I. this season; 531, mostly hatch-year birds, were banded 24 Aug–27 Sep (LHD). Interestingly, nearly all birds in the hand or seen well were considered the common South-coastal subspecies *sinuosa*, which exhibits only minor variation in plumage and size. Gambell's 9th fall Lincoln's Sparrow appeared there 7 Oct (ph. PSc), record late for that site by 11 days. A migrant Swamp Sparrow first found at the n. end of Ketchikan 6 Nov ended up at a nearby feeder system through 25 Nov (RLS, ph. LHD, JK et al.). The species has been recorded in 15 of the past 20 years, with 22 of the 41 documented birds being from the Ketchikan area. White-throated Sparrows made an excellent showing at Ketchikan, where at least 9 were found 16 Sep–19 Nov (m.ob.). Unlike most fall reports, which involve migrants that stay for much of the winter, nearly all of this year's crop departed the area. A Juneau bird 5 Oct (GBV) was the only other report from Southeast. Another White-throated resided at a Kodiak feeder 18 Oct–30 Nov (ph. CH, RAM), that site's 8th record. Gambell harbored above-average numbers of White-crowned Sparrows, with 15 for the season 30 Aug–12 Oct, with a high count of 5 on 15 Sep (PSc, PEL) and the 2 still present 12 Oct establishing a new late date for St. Lawrence Island. An ad. White-crowned Sparrow with a junco flock at a Ketchikan feeder 5+ Nov (JLD, ph. LHD et al.) appeared to be of the southerly coastal subspecies *pugetensis*, which ranges along the coastal fringe from nw. California to sw. British Columbia (similar range to the above-discussed *chryseola* Wilson's

Warbler). Heil has photographs of other fall birds showing some of these plumage characters; if accepted, these would provide the first documentation of *pugetensis* for Alaska. Nine Dark-eyed Juncos made a new high count for the season at Gambell, with 5 recorded 4-20 Sep (m.ob.), one on 30 Sep–5 Oct (ph. PSc), 2 on 10 Oct (PSc), and a late bird 23 Oct (JV). Oregon Juncos made a splash in the Bering Sea at St. Paul, where birders chased up to 11 birds around local hotspots from 21 Sep through 15 Oct (DG, m.ob.). Prior to this season's reports, the *oreganus* subspecies group was considered casual in the Bering Sea region, with just two prior St. Paul records.

Two Little Buntings at Gambell 27-31 Aug and 10 Oct (MJB ph., ph. PSc) bring the St. Lawrence I. fall records total to 23 since 1993. Rustic Buntings made a fair fall showing, including a single at Gambell 10 Oct (ph. PSc), a 2nd autumn record, and singles at St. Paul 29 & 30 Sep, plus 2 on 4 Oct (DG). A Pallas's Bunting again appeared at the Gambell hotspots 3-4 Sep (PEL, ph. AJL, JV, ph. BP et al.), a 4th local fall record since 2006. Black-headed Grosbeak, increasing as a fall vagrant, showed up again this season, with singles at Dry Bay 15 Sep (JK) and at Petersburg 21-28 Sep (CP, ph. JP). Photographs of another *Pheucticus* grosbeak at Ketchikan 24 Sep (ph. KMR) were not sufficient to establish identification. The Hyder tide flats supported a flock of 75 Red-winged Blackbirds 1 Aug (SCH, AWP, MTY), one of the largest aggregations ever recorded in the Region, whereas a single on the w. Kenai Pen. at Anchor R. 23 Aug (TAB, LKB) made a notable find for this section of South-coastal Alaska, where the nearest nesters are at Anchorage. Apparently the Pribilofs' 2nd Rusty Blackbird was a single that showed up in an umbel thicket on St. Paul 23 Sep (DG); the species is casual in the Bering Sea. The season produced the usual scattering of Brown-headed Cowbirds from Southeast; a juv. being attended to by an ad. Song Sparrow at horse stables near Juneau 8 Aug (GBV) was of particular interest. This follows sightings of males displaying to a female in this area in Jun. Although the species is known as a rare migrant and is presumed to be a breeder, this Juneau observation provided conclusive nesting evidence for Alaska. A similar observation of a juv. associating with a White-crowned Sparrow family in the late 1980s comes from Anchorage.

It was a rather quiet year for Bramblings: the sole Gambell record occurred 10-12 Oct (PSc), established a new local late date, whereas one at a Ketchikan feeder 5-6 Nov (JFK, ph. SCH et al.) provided a 3rd area record. At least 3 Purple Finches were docu-

mented in the Ketchikan area, including 2 in female plumage 2 Oct–6 Nov (KMR, ph. JFK) and an ad. male 17 Nov+ (JFK). Gambell's 3rd Purple Finch in fall was a single very late bird there 22 Oct (ph. JV). Gambell claims all four Bering Sea records of Purple Finch, including the first from Jun 1984. Pine Siskins irrupted out of their South-coastal breeding range into the Bering Sea in strong numbers, as far as Gambell, where about 30 were recorded for the season 27 Aug–11 Oct (PSc), and St. Paul, where birders counted huge numbers 13 Sep–15 Oct (DG et al.), with a peak of 284 on 5 Oct. Previous St. Paul records included a daily maximum of 6 birds; this year's high count dwarfed all the prior Bering Sea records combined. Following periods of stormy conditions and favorable winds, at least 3 Eurasian Bullfinches turned up at St. Paul, with a female-type first located 28 Sep–4 Oct, a male 9 Oct, and a different female-type 15 Oct (ph. DG, ph. MT et al.). There had been only one previous record for the Pribilofs. It was a banner Evening Grosbeak season in Southeast, with singles at Wrangell 24 Sep and 21 Oct (ph. KC, ph. BHD) and at Juneau 24–27 Nov (ph. MLK, ph. JDL). This nomadic species is casual in Southeast, where there are scattered records for all seasons. Evening Grosbeak numbers were reported to have increased in w. Canada in winter 2010–2011 compared to the

previous winter, which may have accounted for these sightings. Equally exciting was the male Hawfinch that showed up 3 Oct above town at St. Paul and was seen subsequently at other nearby locations through 5 Oct (DG). This St. Paul report may represent only the 2nd fall Hawfinch record for the Region.

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British Columbia



Chris Charlesworth

Throughout the first three months of the autumn period, the strong ridge of high pressure over the Great Basin shunted incoming frontal systems northward up the coast of British Columbia, resulting in a strong west-east gradient of precipitation. The North Coast received copious rainfalls in August, spreading southward gradually along the coast through September and October. The first cold snap of the season covered the province in Arctic air beginning in mid-November but was pushed back to the northern tier by the last week of the month. The first snowfalls of the late autumn fell as the cold air retreated.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

A group of 4 ad. Pacific Loons, rare in interior of British Columbia, made a surprising find on Okanagan L. near Kelowna 3 Oct (CC, MF). Between Prince Rupert and Haida Gwaii

in Hecate Strait, an impressive 19 Yellow-billed Loons were tallied 18 Oct (RC, RM, IP). Another Yellow-billed was found at Gravelly Bay on Denman I., in the Gulf Island chain, 8 Oct (Daniel Donneck). Up to 4 Clark's Grebes remained on Shuswap L., near Salmon Arm, where they breed in small numbers, 2 Oct (CC, CS, MF). In the Okanagan, where Clark's Grebes are casual, one on Okanagan L. in Penticton 4 Oct (LN) was of note. Also casual in coastal areas, single Clark's Grebes were noted at Whiffen Spit in Sooke on Vancouver I. 31 Oct–1 Nov (RC, JK, AB et al.) and at the White Rock Pier s. of Vancouver 6 Oct (*vide* Gareth Pugh). Greater White-fronted Geese are rare but annual in the interior of British Columbia. An imm. was at Robert L., Kelowna 3 Oct (CC, MF), and 72 Gr. were over Vaseux L. 11 Oct, a high count for the Okanagan (RC, DB). At Creston, where the species occurs more regularly, a flock of 400 made an exceptionally high count 18 Sep (LVD). Also a rare but regular fall migrant in

the interior, a juv. Snow Goose was at Trout Creek near Summerland 27 Nov (LN). Three Mute Swans on Okanagan L., Penticton 15 Nov (LN) provided one of very few records in the valley in recent years. While regular along the British Columbia coast in fall, Eurasian Wigeon is fairly rare in the interior then. A male in eclipse plumage was at Robert L., Kelowna 3 Sep (CC). At Salmon Arm, an eclipse male was seen along the foreshore 2 Oct (CC, CS, MF). At Creston, a male was at Duck L. 22 Oct (LVD). A female Tufted Duck at Cordova Bay, Victoria 16 Oct (MMc) made the only report of the season. While this species was found quite regularly throughout the 1980s and 1990s in coastal British Columbia, Tufted Duck reports have declined sharply over the past decade. Interior records of migrant Long-tailed Ducks included one at Dorothy L. near Invermere 19 Aug (Randy Hopkins) and one at Duck L., Creston 24 Nov (Marc-Andre Beaucher).

Three Brown Pelicans, including 2 ads., were near Victoria at Race Rocks 27 Sep (JG). On Vancouver I., 2 juv. Brown Pelicans were off Chesterman Beach near Tofino 19 Nov (AD). Providing an extremely late date for the West Kootenays, a Swainson's Hawk was seen over the Castlegar Hawk Watch 29 Oct (MM). Coastal records of this species included one at the Rocky Point B.O. near Victoria 7 Oct (IC et al.) and an imm. light morph at Beechey Head, Sooke 8 Oct (DA). A Broad-winged Hawk over the Castlegar Hawkwatch 24 Sep was an exciting find (GD, MM et al.). On Vancouver I., 3 Broad-wingeds were counted 21 Sep (JK), and 3 passed the Beechey Head Hawkwatch 8 Oct (DA). At South Surrey, near Vancouver, a Gyrfalcon was at Serpentine Fen 29 Nov (MTa).

Fifteen Black-bellied Plovers counted on the mudflats at Salmon Arm 2 Oct provided a respectable total for this species at an interior location (CC, CS, MF). A juv. American Golden-Plover was seen at Robert L., Kelowna 8 Sept (Janna Leslie et al.). Most likely a different individual appeared at Robert L. 21 Sep–1 Oct (CC, m.ob.). At West Kelowna, a group of 5 American Golden-Plovers at the mouth of Power's Creek provided a local high count for this species 5 Oct (Scott Thomson). A juv. American was on the mudflats at Salmon Arm 11 Sep (RC). Two Spotted Sandpipers at Cordova Bay in Victoria 16 Nov (MMc) were very late. Along Boundary Bay near Vancouver, the godwit-fest continued this fall: a juv. Hudsonian Godwit was present 1 Sep (MTa), and by 13 Sep, there were up to 4 Hudsonians (MTa, m.ob.), 2 of which lingered until at least 8 Oct (*vide* RC). A juv. Bar-tailed Godwit at Boundary Bay 4-13 Sep (John Tabak

et al.) provided the 5th record of the species for the Vancouver area this year alone! A juv. Ruddy Turnstone frequented the shores of Okanagan L. at Kopje Park in Lake Country 11-13 Sep (MF et al.). Two juv. Stilt Sandpipers were at Robert L., Kelowna 31 Aug–5 Sep (CC, m.ob.). Along the foreshore in Salmon Arm, a juv. Sanderling was an uncommon find 1 Sep (RC); 2 juvs. were along the beach at Penticton 6 Sep (DCa). On Vancouver I., a juv. Red-necked Stint at Witty's Lagoon near Victoria 27 Aug (NH, JG et al.) was a one-day wonder. Along the coast, the usual smattering of juv. Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were seen, including one on mudflats at Tofino on Vancouver I. 14 Sep (AD) and 2 at Boundary Bay 5-16 Oct (Mark Wynja, RF, m.ob.). In the interior, where the species is ultra-rare, a juv. was at Pantage L., nw. of Quesnel, 26 Sep (Rod Sargent). A juv. Ruff visited Witty's Lagoon near Victoria 25 & 27 Aug (JF, NH et al.); another was at Boundary Bay 2 Sep (John Ireland, Brian Self). A tardy Long-billed Dowitcher was seen at the Tofino Airport 7 Nov (AD). The Okanagan's only Short-billed Dowitcher of the fall was a juv. at Robert L., Kelowna, 7 Sep (CC et al.). Two Short-billeds lingered at Boundary Bay through 29 Nov (MTa).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Franklin's Gulls are rare visitors to British Columbia away from the Peace region, where they occur regularly. An imm. was at Salmon Arm 2 Oct (CC, CS, MF). This fall was exceptional for Sabine's Gulls in the British Columbia interior. A juv. was at the Arrow Lake Res. near Revelstoke 4 Sep (RC, James Bradley). In the Okanagan, a juv. Sabine's Gull was on the beach at Penticton 17 Sep (LN). Two juvs. were seen on Okanagan L., Peachland 3 Oct (CC, MF), and another was at Skaha L. near Penticton 8 Oct (RC, CC, MF). At Salmon Arm, another juv. was reported along the foreshore 6 Oct (Ted Hillary). In the West Kootenay, an ad. Glaucous Gull was at Duck L. near



Larger numbers of Arctic Terns than usual moved through the British Columbia interior in autumn 2011; this bird was one of three along the Kelowna waterfront 14 September. Photograph by Chris Charlesworth.



Ancient Murrelet is a rare fall visitor to large interior lakes in British Columbia. This bird was a one-day wonder on Okanagan Lake in Penticton 3 October 2011. Photograph by Chris Charlesworth.

Creston 25 Nov (LVD). The Okanagan Valley continues to be a hotbed of activity for Lesser Black-backed Gulls. A second-cycle bird was photographed at the mouth of Mission Cr., Kelowna 3 Oct (CC, MF). Possibly the same bird was seen at Robert L. 28 Nov (MF). An ad. Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Penticton 21 Oct (LN); on 21 Nov, presumably the same bird was there (Brandon Holden). Arctic Terns are normally very rare to casual migrants through the British Columbia interior. This fall, Arctic Terns were reported in numbers: a juv. was at Allison L. near Princeton 3 Sep (ph. Trish Reid); 3 juvs. were along the shore of Okanagan L., Kelowna 14 Sep (CC, m.ob.); and 2 were over Okanagan L., Peachland 29 Sep (CC). In the Vancouver area, an Arctic Tern was at the Iona South Jetty 3 Sep (Tak Shibata). Parasitic Jaegers also turned up in the interior in greater numbers than usual, with an astonishing 21 counted flying southward on Okanagan L. near Kelowna 28 Sep (CC, Jeff Reddekopp). A single ad. Parasitic was over Okanagan L., Peachland 14 Sep (MF). An ad. Long-tailed Jaeger provided the first record of this species for the



In British Columbia, this female Magnolia Warbler was banded 10 September 2011 at Vaseux Lake Banding Station in the Okanagan Valley, where the species is a casual fall migrant. Photograph by Doug Brown.



This immature male Summer Tanager at Parksville, British Columbia delighted birders 19 (here 23) November 2011 through the end of the fall season. Photograph by Guy Monty.

SA The big story in British Columbia this season, and into winter, was the Snowy Owl irruption, especially evident around Vancouver, where up to 50 individuals could be seen by the end of Nov. The first one appeared 12 Nov at Iona I., Vancouver (RC, JK). Photographs of a half-dozen or 8 birds in the same frame were taken by many along Boundary Bay dykes. Media coverage of the owl irruption was huge, and large crowds of people from far and wide visited the area to see the owls, which were for the most part immes. Away from the Vancouver area, Snowy Owls were fewer but still evident. Three were found in grasslands around Kamloops 20 Nov (Rick Howie). Near Merritt, one was along Pennask Lake Rd. 23 Nov (ABu). In the West Kootenay, a Snowy was at Waneta 22 Nov (Steve Arndt). Across the Straight of Georgia, on Vancouver I., a Snowy Owl could be seen from Victoria on Trial I. 9-10 Nov (*vide* Agnes Lynn et al.). Also in Victoria, a Snowy visited the Gonzalez neighborhood, where it was seen atop a house 21 Nov (Michael Shepard). Near Nanaimo, a Snowy was at Nanoose Bay 13 Nov (Rhys Harrison).

Tatlayoko B.O. 22-24 Aug (AB et al.). Extremely rare in the interior, an ad. Pomarine Jaeger was seen briefly on the Salmon Arm foreshore 2 Oct (MF, CC). Surprising the few lucky observers who got to see it during its stay, an Ancient Murrelet graced the waters of Okanagan L., Pentiction for a few hours in the morning on 3 Oct (LN et al.).

OWLS THROUGH GRACKLES

Other than on the coast and in the s. Okanagan Valley, Barn Owls are rare in British Columbia; thus, one in the Kane Valley near Merritt 6 Nov (ABu) was a marvelous discovery. Northern Hawk Owl reports were few this fall, with one seen on Frosty Mt., Manning P.P. 29 Oct (Dave Beeke). A Boreal Owl was heard calling at the exceptionally low elevation of 700 m at Johnson's Landing in the West Kootenay 12 Sep (GS). This species usually inhabits boreal forests well above a 1000 m in the s. portions of British Columbia. An imm. Anna's Hummingbird visited a feeder on Silver Star Mt., Vernon (1000 m) 15 Aug (DC). Present throughout the autumn period was the long-staying male Costa's Hummingbird in the Dunbar area of Vancouver (Meg Brown, m.ob.). A rare fall visitor to coastal regions of British Columbia,

single Lewis's Woodpeckers turned up in the Comox Valley, Vancouver I. 19 Sep (Art Morgan), at Port Alberni, Vancouver I. 6-10 Nov (Nigel Jackett et al.), and on Westham I., near Ladner, at the Alaksen Wildlife Refuge 28 Sep (Pablo Jost). Two Lewis's were at Maplewood Flats, North Vancouver 3-8 Sep (Sigal Blay et al.). Three Chimney Swifts reported near Tumbler Ridge in the ne. section of the province provides just the 2nd report for British Columbia (MT, GM).

Just s. of the species' normal breeding range, an Alder Flycatcher was seen and heard near the mouth of the Salmon R. in Salmon Arm 1 Aug (DC). Another was seen in the Fraser Valley at Island 22 near Chilliwack 5 Sep (GG). Also at Island 22, a Black Phoebe was reported 8 Nov (GG). The only Tropical Kingbird of the fall was on at the s. tip of Vancouver I. at Jordan River 3 Nov (JK). The Okanagan Valley's first Blue-headed Vireo was carefully described along Beaver Lake Rd. near Lake Country 14 Sep (CC). Also a first for the Okanagan, a Philadelphia Vireo was a great find along Mill Cr., Kelowna 23 Sep (MF). Out-of-range Blue Jays were at Coldstream near Vernon 19 Oct (Simone Runyan), at Sardis in the Fraser Valley 30 Sep (*vide* GG), and at Langley 20-27 Oct (Rocky Hill). Western Scrub-Jays continue to trickle into the province's Lower Mainland, with one in a woodlot along 72nd Street, Burnaby 19 Sep (RC) and one at Greendale near Chilliwack 24 Sep (GG); one seen in Neilson Park near Mission 8 Nov (GG) has been present since 2010. The rapid spread of Bewick's Wrens into the Okanagan continues, with one seen at Inkameep P.P. near Oliver 8 Oct (RC, MF, CC). Two were found along the oxbows at Road 22 near Osoyoos 8 Oct (CC, MF, RC). In the West Kootenay, where there are very few records of Bewick's, one was at Creston 22 Oct (LVD).

An imm. Northern Wheatear found at Iona I., Vancouver 31 Aug was the first for the local checklist area (RF, m.ob.). A Mountain Bluebird at Johnson's Landing, West Kootenay 29 Nov (GS) provided a very late local date. A Tennessee Warbler found at Island 22, Chilliwack 13 Oct (GG) was the only one reported out of range this fall. At the Rocky Point B.O., a Nashville Warbler seen 10 Aug was exciting, as this is a rare migrant on s. Vancouver I. (IC). An imm. female Chestnut-sided Warbler was at the s. end of Long Beach near Tofino 20 Sep (George Bradd et al.). A Palm Warbler was banded at the Rocky Point B.O. near Victoria 16 Sep (Jessie Fanucchi). A single Palm Warbler was at Iona 22 Sep (Wayne & Brent Diakow). Rare in the Okanagan, single Palms were reported along River Rd. near Oliver 8 Oct (RC, MF, CC) and at Haynes Pt.,

Osoyoos 15 Nov (DB). A female Magnolia Warbler banded at Vaseux Lake B.O. 10 Sep was exciting, as this is a casual migrant in the Okanagan (DB et al.). On Haida Gwaii, a Cape May Warbler found at Sandspit 14 Oct (RC, RM, IP) furnished the first record for the archipelago. Observers were surprised to find the 3rd Black-throated Blue Warbler for the Okanagan Valley at the Winfield Creek Habitat Preserve, Lake Country 25 Sep (CS, MF et al.). Another exciting find in the Okanagan was a Prothonotary Warbler in a backyard at the base of Silver Star Mt., Vernon 10 Oct (CS). At Rocky Point B.O. near Victoria, a Northern Waterthrush was found 14 Aug (JK); 2 were in Victoria area at Swan L. 29 Aug–12 Sep (CSa et al.). An imm. male American Redstart surprised an observer in his backyard in Duncan 30 Aug (Derrick Marven). Late reports of single Wilson's Warblers came in from two West Kootenay locations, with one at Nelson 22 Nov (Chris Drysdale) and another at Nakusp 28 Nov (GD). A Wil-

son's Warbler lingered at Jericho Park in Vancouver through at least 30 Nov (RC et al.).

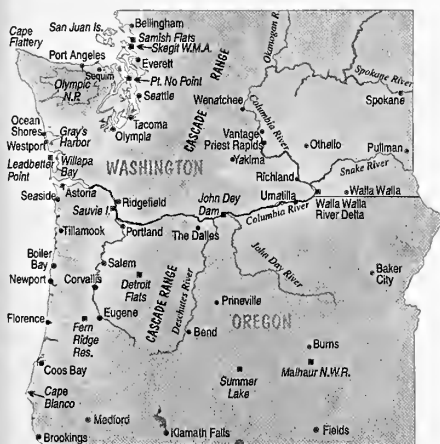
On the s. tip of Vancouver I., a female-type Lark Bunting was an exceptional find 16-17 Oct (Louis Havilland et al.). Rare on Vancouver I., a Clay-colored Sparrow visited Swan L., Victoria 31 Oct–4 Nov (CSa, m.ob.). In the Okanagan, a Swamp Sparrow was banded at the Vaseux Lake B.O. 9 Oct (DB); one was in a marshy area along Vernon Cr., Vernon 8 Oct (CS, CC, MF); and several turned up in the Victoria area this fall, including one at the Chinese Cemetery 10 Oct (Jon Carter). Other Swamp Sparrows were found at Reifel Refuge 29 Sep (RC), Viaduct Flats 16 Oct (JG, JK), Panama Flats 5 Nov (JK), and Swan L. 23 Nov (IC). White-throated Sparrows appeared in large numbers this year, with up to 20 sightings in the Lower Mainland and a similar number in the Okanagan Valley. A male Painted Bunting visited a feeder in North Vancouver 17-23 Nov (Ann Neiwirth, m.ob.). An imm. male Summer Tanager fre-

quented a feeder at Parksville 19 Nov+ (Bashir El-Khalafawi, m.ob.), furnishing the 3rd record for British Columbia, all within the past five years. A Hoary Redpoll at Nelson 28 Nov (Paul Prappas) presaged an exceptional winter irruption of this species.

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Following a cool and somewhat wet summer, a drier and warmer August and September than normal helped those who felt cheated out of summer. October and November brought cooler conditions than average and below-average precipitation. The season was devoid of major storms. After spending most of the fall 1-4° F above normal, sea surface temperatures returned to average in November. Pelagic reports chronicled 20 offshore day trips, including nine off

Westport and six off Oregon. One observer joined a four-day tuna fishing trip off Oregon, and others passed 50-100 km off Oregon aboard a southbound cruise ship.

Though the season provided a fair spectrum of unusual records, shorebirds captured the headlines. For the second consecutive fall, western Washington was bestowed a state-first shorebird, as a Wood Sandpiper thrilled birders for two days in early August. Another mega-rare shorebird, the state's second Common Ringed Plover, made an all-too-brief visit in October. And then there were the shorebird haves and have-nots. While Bar-tailed Godwits showed well among the coastal Marbled Godwits, Buff-breasted Sandpipers went undetected for the first time since 1995.

In addition to the shorebird mega-rarities, this fall provided a mixed bag of events and non-events. Eastern vagrant passerines showed modestly, and inshore pelagic species were mostly scarce. On the plus side, westside Broad-winged Hawks, numerous wayward flycatchers, late-lingering passerines, and harbingers of impending Snowy Owl and Common Redpoll irruptions created excitement at the period's end. Goodly numbers of late and record-late passerines on both sides of the Cascades characterized the season.

Abbreviations: Baskett Slough (Baskett Slough N.W.R., Polk); Finley (William L. Finley N.W.R., Benton); F.R.R. (Fern Ridge Res., Lane); Nisqually (Nisqually N.W.R., Thurston); 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); Smith and Bybee L. (Smith and Bybee Lakes, Multnomah); Summer L. (Summer Lake W.M.A., Lake); W.W.R.D. (Walla Walla R. delta, Walla Walla).

WATERFOWL THROUGH STORM-PETRELS

A Tule Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons elgasi*) was at Bainbridge I., Kitsap 26 Sep (ph. BW), and another visited Ridgefield 10 Oct (ph. L. Topinka); there are now about a dozen records (most Sep–Dec) from Washington, most during the past six years. It is well established that the southbound passage of Greater White-fronted Geese through w. Oregon peaks during the last week of Sep, but the flight over Coos 30 Sep was truly something special. Called "one of the most remarkable in years" by the sub-regional editor (TR), the numbers were too great to quantify, as geese pushed through all day and then were heard calling throughout the night (TR, H. Schubothe); it was believed that "tens of thousands" were involved in this



Shorebird habitat created for The Nature Conservancy's Farming For Wildlife project on the Samish Flats, Skagit County attracted Washington's first Wood Sandpiper on 5-6 (here 5) August 2011 within days of being flooded. Photographs by Ryan Merrill.

spectacle. A Greater White-fronted Goose × Cackling Goose hybrid (the Cackling probably of subspecies *taverneri*) visited Bay Center, Pacific 29 Sep (ph. RM, T. Mansfield); this represents the 2nd Regional record of this cross. Single Emperor Geese were at Lafayette, Yamhill 23 Nov (DI) and O.S. 25 Nov+ (ph. BW, DW, R. Waggoner); surprisingly, the latter was the first in nearly three years for Washington, where historically annual in fall. A single Snow Goose at Portland 19 Sep (AF) may have summered there, as it was fully a month early. In recent autumns, e. Washington Snow Goose numbers have grown steadily, including last year's record count of 5000; thus, this fall's high—250 at Sprague L., Adams 15 Oct (TL, JJ)—was surprisingly paltry. A flock of 200 Snows at Bandon 2 Oct (RL) was unprecedented for Coos; reports from Oregon's s. coast rarely involve more than one or 2 birds. Blue-morph Snow Geese again fraternized with the s. Skagit/n. Snohomish Snow Goose flock, but only 2 were noted 7-31 Oct (RM); 5+ have been typical since 2007. Six Ross's Geese were noted in e. Washington 15 Oct+, topping the seasonal average there, while 3 Ross's 5-26 Nov was typical for the westside. Aleutian Cackling Geese (subspecies *leucopareia*) are generally rare away from the outer coast, but P.T. and W.V. reports of this taxon have been increasing in recent falls. This season, one inhabited Nisqually 27 Oct+ (ST), and 6 were at Vancouver L., Clark 30 Oct (SM, BT). Southbound Brant rarely arrive before mid-Oct, thus 16 at Nisqually 6 Aug (RS) were presumed to have summered in the Puget Trough. A Gray-bellied Brant detected on Padilla Bay, Skagit in Jul continued through 24 Aug (RM). An above-normal inland showing include 3 Brant in the W.V. 29 Oct–25 Nov, and e. Washington's 17th graced Wenatchee 19 Oct (S. Ballinger, J.

Lowe); nearly all prior eastside records have occurred late Sep–Jan. A summering Tundra Swan persisted at Juanita, King through Nov (m.ob.), and a Trumpeter Swan summering at P.S.B. was last reported 21 Aug (*vide* M. Jordan); southbound swans rarely arrive before late Oct or Nov.

A Eurasian Wigeon at Bingen, Klickitat 3 Sep (+BT) was record early for e. Washington, and eclipse-plumaged males were at Siletz Bay 19 Sep (ph. D. Villaescusa) and Redmond, Deschutes 20 Sep (KO). Molt timing likely explains why Eurasians are rarely reported in the Region before mid-Oct; presumably, early arriving males are still in cryptic plumages. Washington's 5th Mallard × American Wigeon hybrid (all since 2008) visited Seattle 26–28 Nov (ph. EH). No Eurasian Teal were reported this fall, and the only Eurasian Teal × Green-winged Teal hybrid was at Magnuson Park, King 28 Nov (R. Hibpshman). Not annual during fall, a Tufted Duck enlivened Bradley L., Pierce 18 Nov+ (CW, RS). The female King Eider at O.S. (first noted Jul 2009) went undetected Jun–Aug but was seen 1 Sep+ (D. Moore). Transient Harlequin Ducks inland included one near Richland 19 Oct (D. Harris) and another at Hood River 1 Nov (SJ); this species is a rare but annual as a transient

along the Columbia R., which serves as a conduit for birds moving to and from inland breeding sites.

Eleven inland White-winged Scoters in Oregon 25 Oct–27 Nov were nearly equally split between the eastside and westside, while 8 in e. Washington approximated recent fall tallies there; 2 at McNary N.W.R. through 1 Oct were holdovers from summer (MD, MLD). Only two White-wingeds were away from saltwater in w. Washington; one at Alder L., Lewis/Pierce 6-7 Aug (S. Schlick) was exceptionally early and another hopped over the state line along the Columbia R. near Stevenson, Skamania 25 Oct (SF, JW). Eastside Long-tailed Duck detections were again below average, with just 5 noted 23 Oct–15 Nov; prior to 2009, e. Washington averaged 7-8 per fall. A female Long-tailed inhabited Portland's Smith and Bybee L. 20 Nov+ (E. Gropp); inland birds are not annual in w. Oregon. The Region's 3rd Hooded Merganser × Common Goldeneye, which swam off Snee Oosh Beach, Skagit 25 Nov (RM), was a likely returning bird.

Two Red-throated Loons at W.W.R.D. 29 Oct (MD, MLD) were very rare for the eastside. Four Red-throateds along the Longview-to-Hood River reach of the Columbia R. 25

SA Surf Scoters may be changing their status away from the Region's marine waters, as this fall was marked by yet another exceptional flight in the interior. The Region has averaged 135 inland Surfs per fall since 2008, which is roughly triple the long-term seasonal average. Formerly, modest numbers of scoters moved through the Region's interior, mostly during Oct. Of late, larger numbers have become the norm, with the first inland birds often appearing in early Sep and small flocks persisting through the end of the period and into the winter season, particularly along the Columbia River. This fall, at least 89 inland birds graced the westside 14 Oct+ and no fewer than 124 were detected e. of the Cascades 6 Sep+. Twenty Surfs at Portland 23 Oct (SF, DI) and 20 more at Hagg L., Washington the same day represented the westside maxima, while 46 on Soap L., Grant 8 Oct (MD, MLD) made the eastside high count.

Oct–25 Nov were the only westside birds away from salt water. The southbound Pacific Loon passage at Boiler Bay 8 Nov was called one of the best flights over the past 12 years (PP); at its peak, 30,000 flew by in 40 minutes (<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9DGxm0BDfQ>>). Five Yellow-billed Loons—2 at Port Townsend, *Jefferson* 27 Oct (SM, BW) and 3 off of the Elwha R. mouth, *Clallam* 28 Nov (BW, SM)—was above average for Washington. Thirty-three transient Red-necked Grebes were detected inland. All but 6 were w. of the Cascades, with groups of 5 at Vancouver L., *Clark* 30 Oct (SM, BF, BT) and 13 at Cascade Locks, *Hood River* 7 Nov (JW) being truly exceptional. At the peak of their annual build-up, 10,860 Eared Grebes gathered on L. Abert, *Lake* 12 Aug (SD). Seven Clark's Grebes detected 26 Oct–12 Nov was about normal for w. Washington. An apparent Western Grebe × Clark's Grebe was at Vancouver L., *Clark* 30 Oct (SM, BT); though this hybrid is not often reported, mixed pairs with young are often seen at locales where both species breed.

A Laysan Albatross off Westport 28 Aug (SMi, RS) was fully six weeks early. Six others, including a dead bird at Pacific City, *Tillamook* 3 Nov (M. Smith), were noted 15 Oct+; Laysans are most expected Oct–Mar in the Region's waters. Black-footed Albatross numbers were unremarkable, with a high of 590 off Westport 28 Aug. Northern Fulmars abounded; Westport trips averaged about 1000, with a maximum of 3152 on 27 Aug (BT). The 623 fulmars out of Newport 23 Oct topped Oregon counts (GGi). A Hawaiian/Galapagos Petrel 64 km w. of Reedsport, *Douglas* 24 Aug (p.a., †RN) would represent Oregon's 3rd record of this species pair; Washington has one record of Hawaiian Petrel. Westport trips averaged 316 Pink-footed Shearwaters, with a high of 837 on 28 Aug (RM, RS), while 28 per Oregon trip was abysmal. Conversely, 375 Pink-footeds from shore at Boiler Bay 11 Oct (PP) made an exceptional number. Flesh-footed Shearwater numbers were low for the 4th consecutive fall, with only one trip encountering multiple birds; 4 were off Westport 15 Oct (RS, BT). A Flesh-footed seen from shore at N.S.C.B. 2 Oct (TR) was highly unusual. Buller's Shearwaters were scarce, with a high of 28 off Westport 15 Oct (RS, BT). As usual, the highest tally of Sooty Shearwaters came from shore; 352,000 were estimated at Ocean Shores 16 Sep (N. Paulson), similar to recent fall high counts. The only report of multiple Short-tailed Shearwaters was 28 seen on the 15 Oct Westport trip (RS, BT). Twelve Manx Shearwaters were detected from shore 19 Aug–7 Nov, with a max-

imum of 3 off Ruby Beach, *Jefferson* 4 Sep (AS). A Manx was 50 km off Waldport 6 Aug (*fide* M. Force); another was 3 km w. of Charleston, *Coos* 24 Aug (RN). Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel numbers off Westport were above normal in Aug, with five of that month's seven trips recording 1000+ birds; 1701 were logged 13 Aug (RM, RS). Seasonal high counts don't top 1000 in some years. A Leach's Storm-Petrel at Fort Flagler, *Jefferson* 19 Aug (L. Rutter) was very rare for the P.T.; most records there occur mid-Oct–mid-Nov. Fifteen Leach's were inshore at Cape Arago, *Coos* 18 Nov (RN).

PELICANS THROUGH CRANES

American White Pelicans, formerly rare at any time in w. Washington, are now recorded annually along the lower Columbia R. in autumn. This season's reports included 2 at Ridgefield 4–6 Aug (M. Clarke), 47 at Grays Bay, *Wahkiakum* 27 Aug (C. Dale), 65 near Vancouver, *Clark* 9 Oct (DI, SF), and one at Ridgefield 11 Nov (D. Small). Hundreds of post-breeding pelicans amassed in the Portland area Aug–Oct. Most departed in mid-Oct, including a group of 350+ kettling over Lake Oswego, *Clackamas* 17 Oct (DI, B. Hinrichs). Late birds lingered at Portland through 7 Nov (AF) and 8 Nov at Fernhill Wetlands, *Washington* (SN). A Washington record 5000 Brown Pelicans gathered off of Cape Disappointment, *Pacific* 13 Sep (RK); the Regional record of 8000 occurred on the Oregon side of the mouth of the Columbia R. in Jul 2004. A Brown Pelican at Hoodsport, *Mason* 31 Aug (ph. D. Castorina), one at Luhr Beach, *Thurston* (BT), and 3 off of West Pt., *King* 19 Nov (M. Bond) provided the only reports from the P.T., which has averaged 10 per fall in recent years. A Brown Pelican at Fernhill Wetlands 28 Nov (SN) adds to a recent string of inland reports. On 30 Oct, a Pelagic Cormorant was nearly 130 km up the Columbia R. near Woodland, *Cowlitz* (JJ); Pelagics rarely stray from the coast.

A Snowy Egret inhabiting Ridgefield 14



Washington's fifth Vermilion Flycatcher attracted much attention along the drive loop at Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, Clark County 24 October (here 5 November) 2011 through the end of the autumn period. Photograph by Ryan Shaw.



This flight photograph of a Tropical Kingbird near Dungeness Bay, Clallam County, Washington on 29 October 2011 reveals a rather indented outer primary (p10), indicative of an adult. Virtually all vagrant Tropical Kingbirds in North America, excluding returning individuals, have been first-year birds (of those that have been aged). Photograph by Steven G. Modinow.

Aug–2 Sep was Washington's first since 2007 (R. Windemuth, K. Meier); prior to 2003, Snowies were considered annual and increasing in Washington. The Ridgefield bird may well have ended up at nearby Smith and Bybee L., where a Snowy was present 6–9 Oct (JW, m.ob.). Five Snowies at Ladd Marsh W.M.A., *Union* 26 Aug–1 Sep (TB, CN) were rare for ne. Oregon. Cattle Egrets, mostly absent from the Region over the past decade, staged a mini-invasion; one was at Malheur 4–16 Sep (*fide* HN), and singles enlivened Waatch R., *Clallam* 30 Oct (NB) and Sauvie I. 26 Nov (JD, DI). Aside from a small irruption in fall 2008, Cattle Egrets have declined steadily in the Region, where they were annual during fall from the early 1970s through 2001. A Green Heron at Elgin 24 Oct was just the 2nd for *Union* (TB). White-faced Ibis lingered late at several sites, particularly on the westside, which yielded reports from three locales. Ten were at F.R.R. on 31 Oct (R. Adney et al.), and singles visited Sauvie I. 9

Nov (SC), Ridgefield 9-13 Nov (SC, G. Ellis), and Baskett Slough 13-17 Nov (R. Gerig, E. Knight). The Ridgefield bird furnished an exceptionally rare fall record for Washington, where even the expected spring or summer reports have been nonexistent over the past two years. The lone late ibis on the eastside was still at Malheur 6 Nov (N. Strycker).

Single White-tailed Kites at Ridgefield 21 Oct (G. Mayfield) and Willow Grove, Cowlitz 6-25 Nov (G. McWethy, R. Bjorkland) were this fall's only reports from w. Washington, where this species' population has plummeted since the winter of 2008. A goodly 8 Red-shouldered Hawks were noted in w. Washington 13 Aug-25 Nov; the northernmost was at Nisqually 12 Oct (ST, D. Richardson). In cen. and se. Oregon, where formerly rare, Red-shouldered are now expected in late summer and early fall; 7 there 3 Aug-11 Sep are representative of the new norm. An imm. e. of Biggs 29-30 Oct (CK, PS) was likely a first for Sherman. A very early Broad-winged Hawk photographed at Naches, Yakima 7 Aug (*fide* DG), may have summered nearby, as fall migrants are unrecorded before the last week in Aug, and there are no Jul records. A well-described Broad-winged over Neah Bay, Clallam 11 Sep (†N. Ball) was unprecedented for coastal Washington. Although hawkwatches along the e. slope of the Cascades record Broad-wingeds annually in fall, this species remains quite rare on the westside, so singles over Mt. Herman, Whatcom 3 Sep (RK) and Cascade Pass, Skagit 28 Sep (ph. RM) were noteworthy. Singles at Peone, Spokane 29 Sep (TL) and Steens Mt. 23 Oct (*fide* HN) were the only eastside Broad-wingeds away from hawkwatches. A late Swainson's Hawk passed over Pacific City, Tillamook 12 Nov (ph. W. Gross); although now annual in the W.V., outer-coastal records remain very few. A Gyrfalcon at Lynden, Whatcom 20 Oct (*fide* RK) and one near Stanwood, Snohomish 22 Nov (M. Westervelt) represented a typical fall for w. Washington; 3 Gyrfalcons 10 Nov+ was near normal for the eastside. Only 2 Prairie Falcons were found along the Cascade crest 3 Aug-5 Oct; small numbers of southbound migrants are known to follow this ridgeline during late summer and fall. None were reported in w. Washington lowlands. A Sandhill Crane at Bandon 1 Oct (RL) was on the s. Oregon coast, where barely annual at any season. A hatch-year Sandhill was unusually late at Ladd Marsh W.M.A. 21-23 Nov (TB, CN).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH GULLS

A Black-bellied Plover at W.W.R.D. 5 Nov was nearly record late for e. Washington (MLD, MD); one at Soap L., Grant 10 Nov 2005 is

the latest. Following a dismal 2010 showing, golden-plover numbers rebounded this fall. Fifty westside Pacific Golden-Plovers were detected 2 Aug-30 Nov, with a high count of 20 at O.S. 24 Sep (JD). All but 4 of the 18 westside American Golden-Plovers noted 22 Aug-6 Nov were in Washington, with a maximum of 3 at O.S. 1 Oct (BW, DW). Three Americans in e. Washington was about par for season; 2 at Burbank, Walla Walla 12 Nov were about two weeks tardy (ph. J. Parrish). As with recent falls, only a handful of golden-plovers were left unidentified. Washington 2nd Common Ringed Plover visited Nisqually 7 Oct (†RS). A single American Avocet at F.R.R. 30-31 Aug (JW et al.), 2 there 18 Sep (D. & A. Heyerly) and up to 2 at Gold Beach, Curry 4-17 Sep (M. A. Sohlstrom, P. Bernardi, G. Maschmeyer) were the only westside strays. Staging avocets at L. Abert built to 14,358 on 15 Sep (CC). Washington's first Wood Sandpiper, which enlivened Samish Flats, Skagit 5-6 Aug (ph. RM); this Eurasian *Tringa* is a regular spring migrant and occasional breeder on the outer Aleutians of Alaska, but it has only been recorded five times previously in w. North America s. of Alaska and just once before in the Region. Sixty-seven Solitary Sandpipers 9 Aug-17 Oct marked a return to near normal after back-to-back spectacular autumn showings, which included a record 148 in 2010. As has been the case in recent years, Washington yielded most of the eastside birds (35 of 42 reported), while Oregon produced 60% of the westside sightings. Singles at Fields, Harney 9 Oct (RN) and Swanson L. Lincoln 17 October were about three and four weeks late, respectively; in most fall seasons, the latest Solitaries appear during the 3rd week of Sep. A Wandering Tattler, barely annual in the P.T., visited Tacoma 31 Aug-2 Sep (M. Roening). Single Willets at Samish I., Skagit 30 Aug (ph. RM) and Belfair 1 Oct (MH) were in the P.T., where not annual. On 3 Aug, a Whimbrel graced Summer L. (H. Horvath et al.), and Crook's 2nd visited Houston L., Crook (CG); southbound Whimbrels are less than annual on the eastside. A Long-billed Curlew, rare in the P.T., graced Samish Flats, Skagit 6 Aug (RK, K. Wiggers, J. Wiggers). Rare, especially for the P.T., but now nearly annual in w. Washington, a Hudsonian Godwit graced Skagit W.M.A. 18 Aug (ph. RM, EH). A Hudsonian Godwit at W.W.R.D. 20-21 Aug (MD, MLD) was the first in autumn since 2003 in e. Washington, where there were five prior fall records. An unprecedented 7 Bar-tailed Godwits were detected among the Marbled Godwits at Tokeland, Pacific, Bottle Beach, Grays Harbor, and Westport, Grays Harbor

7 Aug-23 Oct. Bar-tailed are distinctly rarer away from the outer coast, so one at Tulalip Bay, Snohomish 15-25 Sep (M. Reid) was particularly noteworthy. Eastside Marbled Godwits included a single at W.W.R.D. 3-4 Sep (K. Waagan), 2 more there 25 Sep (MD, MLD), and 5 at Summer L. 5 Sep (PL); Marbleds are rare-but-regular migrants e. of the Cascades. They are similarly expected in the W.V. during fall, but 12 Marbleds at F.R.R. 17 Aug (JS) were exceptional, and one at Philomath 8 Oct (WDR) furnished just the 2nd for Benton. All but 5 of a goodly 80 Sanderlings on the eastside were in Washington, including a maximum of 59 at Potholes Res., Grant 11 Sep (MD, MLD). Singles at McNary N.W.R. 23 Oct (MD, MLD) and Prineville 28 Oct (R. Halverson, CG) were the latest ever e. of the Cascades. Four inland Sanderlings on the westside 10 Aug-17 Sep was typical. The daily maximum for Semipalmated Sandpiper was a sub-par 7 at P.S.B. 9 Aug (RM, BW); this site often yields double-digit counts in fall.

Near record-late Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted 28 Sep at both Ridgefield (RH) and Samish Flats (RM). Following a two-month stay, the much-debated basic-plumaged Red-necked Stint discussed in our summer 2011 report finally disappeared from its favored stretch of beach at New River, Coos 15 Sep (TR). Pectoral Sandpipers showed well again on the westside, with daily maxima of 64 at Smith and Bybee L. 16 Sep (JW) and 45 at Samish Flats 3 Oct (RM). Following a major flight in 2010, this season's eastside counts were unremarkable, with a high of 30 at Malheur 17-19 Sep (RN). Late Pectorals included a single bird three weeks tardy at Skagit W.M.A. 20 Nov (RM) and another on the eastside at Burbank, Walla Walla 25 Nov (MD, MLD) that was nearly record late for Washington. Six Sharp-tailed Sandpipers in w. Washington 24 Sep-16 Oct was a typical showing, but this species nearly no-showed in Oregon; a single at S.J.C.R. 17 Sep (MP) was about two weeks early. Forty-one Stilt Sandpipers 12 Aug-3 Oct was a slight uptick after a steady decline in reports over the past five autumns. Six Stilts at F.R.R. 31 Aug (RR) and 9 at Lind Coulee, Grant 10 Sep (AS) represented the westside and eastside maxima, respectively. Clearly, Buff-breasted Sandpipers had not "bottomed out" as stated in our fall 2010 report; this season, they went unreported for the first time since 1995. Thirteen Ruffs 14 Aug-21 Nov approximates the recent seasonal norm. The lone eastside report came from Malheur 17-19 Sep (RN m.ob.), and a late female was near Tangent, Linn 19-22 Nov (J. Harding); this species has wintered in the Willamette Valley. The apex

of Red-necked Phalarope tallies at L. Abert was 18,000 on 15 Sep (CC). Excellent numbers of Red Phalaropes were noted off Westport in Aug, averaging 223, with a high of 748 on 14 Aug (BT). The inshore maximum for Reds was 200 at Boiler Bay 9 Oct (PP). Rare but annual in inland marine waters, singles were off Edmonds, *Snohomish* 15 Nov (DD, J. Parrott), off the Elwha R. mouth, *Clallam* 19 Nov (CW, RM, RS), and near Olympia 23 Nov (M. Syrch). A Red at Potholes Res. 5 Sep (ph. RS) was on the eastside, where this species is not annual.

A hatch-year Black-legged Kittiwake enlivened Baskett Slough 12 Nov (†R. Peterson); this species is less than annual away from salt water. A goodly 28 eastside Sabine's Gulls 29 Aug–23 Oct, included a maximum of 6 at Soap L., *Grant* 12 Sep (R. Friesz) and a partial carcass (possibly a Peregrine Falcon kill) at the mouth of the Klickitat R. 20 Sep (SJ). An above-average 9 westside Sabine's were nearly evenly split between the P.T. and the W.V. One at Detroit L. 25 Aug (M. Schneider) was both early and a *Marion* first; the interior passage typically occurs 10 Sep–10 Oct. On 29 Oct, 2225 Bonaparte's Gulls were counted going to roost at Klamath Falls (KS), far surpassing any other eastside gathering. Fifteen Franklin's Gulls were noted away from se. Oregon breeding locales. Eleven w. of the Cascades 5 Aug–16 Nov, included 5 on the outer coast, where they are least expected. The 10,000 Heermann's Gulls congregated at Cape Disappointment, *Pacific* 13 Sep (RK) represented Washington's 2nd highest count ever; 20,000 gathered off of the Elwha R. mouth, *Clallam* in Sep 2009. Despite their coastal abundance, Heermann's are less than annual in the W.V.; thus one at Beaverton 20 Oct (JW) was noteworthy. A Black-tailed Gull, likely a returning bird from fall 2009, enlivened Tacoma 14 Sep–2 Nov (S. Thorp); all five prior Washington records have come since 2004. Mirroring last fall, 4 Western Gulls were noted in the Columbia Basin 11 Sep–29 Oct; it's unclear to what degree Western × Glaucous-winged hybridization was considered in identifying these birds. A major flight of California Gulls on 23 Oct produced counts of 20,000 at Cape Arago, *Coos* (RN) and 10,000 at Boiler Bay (PP). A Thayer's Gull at Richland 4 Oct (C. Merley) tied the record early date for e. Washington, where this species normally arrives in early Nov. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was near Asotin, *Asotin* 23 Oct (ph. T. Gray); Lesser Black-backeds have been annual in e. Washington since 2000. A Glaucous-winged Gull at Tumalo Res. 1 Oct (L. Rems) was an exceptional find for *Deschutes*; this species is rarely found in e. Oregon away from the

Klamath Basin and the Columbia River. Five Glaucous Gulls, all in Washington, included 2 on the eastside. As is typical, all but one appeared in late Nov; a remarkably early bird graced Ocean Park, *Pacific* 27 Aug–17 Sep (ph. RS, ph. RM).

TERNS THROUGH ALCIDS

A Black Tern, not annual during fall on the westside, inhabited P.N.P. 12–25 Sep (VN). Fifty Common Terns on the eastside 26 Aug–10 Oct was one third the seasonal norm. Twelve inland Commons on the westside 6 Aug–8 Oct was similarly sub-par. After several lackluster fall showings, Arctic Terns were found on all six Westport trips, with a maximum of 53 on 14 Aug (BT); 32 seen from a cruise ship 26 Sep represented the Oregon high (JG, JW). Arguably the most astonishing report of the season involved a flock of 15 Common/Arctic Terns that flew past a trio of experienced observers at Smith and Bybee L. 26 Nov (†AH, †CH, E. Scattaregia); any *Sterna* on this exceptional date is fully six weeks late in the Region. Details submitted were most suggestive of Arctic Tern, for which there is a 25 Nov Oregon report. Elegant Terns invaded the Region for the first time since 2008, with hundreds inhabiting the *Curry* coast throughout Aug; daily maxima climbed to as high as 1000 at Brookings and Gold Beach 14–31 Aug (DM, TR). Reports from farther n. were few, and numbers dropped off quickly after 1 Sep, with just a handful remaining at the Winchuck R. mouth through 12 Sep (AC). South Polar Skuas peaked at 15 off Westport 28 Aug (RM, RS), with most other trips recording single-digit totals. A skua seen from shore at N.S.C.B. 2 Oct (TR) was unusual. Offshore numbers of other jaegers ranged from unremarkable to poor. Four Parasitic Jaegers inland (away from the P.T.) 27 Sep–2 Nov was slightly sub-par; *Union*'s first visited LaGrande 11 Oct (ph. T. Bray). Pelagic Long-tailed Jaeger tallies were exceptionally low; 15 Long-taileds off Coos Bay 27 Aug (GG) was the only double-digit count. Although hundreds of this species are often seen from cruise ships in Oregon waters during Sep, none were recorded during a 26 Sep passage. A Long-tailed at Bainbridge I., *Kitsap* 8 Sep (BW) was in the P.T., where not annual. Casual on the eastside, a Long-tailed Jaeger was near Centerville, *Klickitat* 30 Aug–1 Sep (ph. Roger Baker), while one at Lake Wenatchee S.P., *Chelan* 1 Oct (A. Jacobs, M. Thorbeck) made the latest fall record for e. Washington; there is one winter record for this species at Hanford Res., *Benton* 17 Dec 1982.

Swimming Marbled Murrelets are rarely detected away from marine waters; one on

L. Washington, *King* 23 Oct (EH, ph. RM) was closely scrutinized, as Long-billed Murrelet is the more expected *Brachyramphus* at freshwater locales. Nine Xantus's Murrelets were detected in Oregon waters 10 Aug–10 Sep (RN, TS), and 2 were off Westport 15 Oct (RS, BW), though none was identified to subspecies. A Xantus's Murrelet of the nominate subspecies at Westport 9 Oct (K. Brown, ph. P. Damron) made just the 4th from-shore record for Washington. An early Ancient Murrelet was at Green Pt., *Skagit* 15 Aug (RM); this species normally arrives in inland marine waters in early Oct. An Ancient near Stevenson, *Skamania* 23 Oct–2 Nov provided a rare interior record for Washington (B. Cady, SF, SJ, JW). Cassin's Auklets, rare in the P.T., included one off Edmonds, *Snohomish* 22 Oct (DD) and one off Pt. Wilson, *Jefferson* 19 Nov (CW); most P.T. records are from Jul–Dec. In recent years, oceanic surveys off the Washington coast by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have shown Parakeet Auklets to be present in small numbers in early spring. However, little is known as to their timing of arrival and the extent of their numbers. One found dead on a beach near Westport, *Grays Harbor* 19 Nov (*fide* CW) indicates this species is likely present earlier than previously suspected; most records of dying or dead birds are from birds found after Dec. A dead Horned Puffin was at O.S. 14 Nov (*fide* CW). Live birds seen from land typically occur May–Aug, whereas most at-sea or beached birds appear Nov–May.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Band-tailed Pigeons, rare in e. Washington beyond their *Klickitat* and *Kittitas* strongholds, are increasingly found elsewhere along the e. slope of the Cascades. This fall's reports included 3 near Leavenworth, *Chelan* 4 Sep (M. Thorbeck), 2 at Bear Creek, *Yakima* 28 Aug (S. Ramos), and 2 at Sheep L., *Yakima* 24 Sep (RK, JJ). Incredibly, six days after *Multnomah*'s first Flammulated Owl was found stunned in sw. Portland on 25 Oct (*fide* J. Deshler), another was picked up injured near Bonneville Dam at the e. edge of the county 31 Oct (*fide* JW); given their highly migratory nature and abundance in the e. reaches of the Region, one wonders how many of these tiny owls pass unnoticed w. of the Cascades. By period's end, it was clear that the winter of 2011–2012 would feature the Region's first major Snowy Owl invasion since 2006–2007; 33 were noted 8 Oct+, 22 of which were in w. Washington. A Northern Hawk Owl at Harts Pass, *Okanogan/Whatcom* 6 Nov (T. Pieper) marked the 5th record in this area over the past six fall seasons. This autumn's westside Burrowing Owls

enlivened Newport 30 Sep (S. Kupillas), Tangent, Linn 1 Oct (J. Harding), and Langlois, Curry 5 Nov (KA). Common Poorwills are not encountered annually in the Willamette R. drainage, so one high in the Cascades at Rock Slide Lake, Linn 26 Aug (NS) and a stunned bird at Clackamas, Clackamas 8 Oct (L. Whittemore) were significant. Two Black Swifts, rare so far e., overflowed Washtucna, Adams 8 Sep (T. Mansfield). A White-throated Swift over Riffe L., Lewis 19 Sep (†P. Koyama) and 6 at Bay View S.P., Skagit 20 Sep (†M. Westervelt) add to about five well-documented records from w. Washington.

Anna's Hummingbird, which continues to redraw the boundaries of its eastside range, seems to be gaining a foothold beyond *Klickitat* into *Benton* and *Yakima*, with 3 noted in each county 17 Aug+ (eBird). More easterly Anna's were near Walla Walla 27-28 Sep (G. Shoemake), College Place, Walla Walla 10 Oct (MLD), La Grande 8-23 Oct (DT), and Enterprise, Wallowa 25 Nov (RN). A singing male Anna's at Fish L. (elevation 2255 m), high on Steens Mt. in extreme se. Oregon 7 Aug (RN), was the farthest afield. Although northbound Calliope Hummingbirds pass through the westside in numbers, fall records remain few; this season's singles visited Bellevue, King 11 Sep (R. Rowlett) and Gresham, Multnomah 14 Sep (J. Gatchet). A Calliope at College Place 23 Sep was the 2nd latest for Washington (MLD). Lewis's Woodpeckers again showed well in w. Washington, with 10 noted 8 Sep-3 Nov. A Lewis's at Toledo, Lincoln 3 Nov (CP) was rare for Oregon's coastal slope. An extraordinary 6 Red-naped Sapsuckers were noted in w. Washington 1 Oct-29 Nov; Oregon's lone westside Red-naped was at Portland 20 Oct (MD). Similarly, Red-breasted Sapsuckers strayed eastward; 2 at Sentinel Bluffs, Grant 19 Sep (BW) were in the Columbia Basin, where very rare. Oregon's eastside Red-breasted inhabited Malheur N.W.R. headquarters 2-15 Oct (RN, BTa). Surprisingly, no hybrid sapsuckers were reported. A Williamson's Sapsucker at Horseshoe L., Lane 23 Aug (NS) was w. of the Cascade crest, where not annual; this species is an uncommon breeder along the e. slope of the Cascades.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH LONGSPURS

An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Brookings 15 Oct (RN) was at least two weeks tardy. A Least Flycatcher graced Snoqualmie, King 15 Aug (ph. J. Sproul), and a singing bird was recorded at Capital Forest, Grays Harbor 9 Sep (T. Factor); well-documented fall records of Least from w. Washington are few. Four Least 4 Aug-17 Sep matched recent fall to-

tals for e. Washington. Oregon's only Least was extremely late at Rockaway, Tillamook 29 Nov+ (D. Bailey, ph. NS). A Gray Flycatcher at Corkindale, Skagit 15 Aug (†RK) and another near Vancouver, Clark 4 Sep (†BF) provided the 2nd and 3rd fall records for w. Washington. Black Phoeebes persisted at their sw. Washington stronghold, with 2 noted at Ridgefield throughout the fall (RH); rarer northerly birds inhabited Lacey, Thurston 13 Nov+ (BT, W. Johnson) and Stanwood, Snohomish 18 Nov+ (M. Willison). A Black Phoebe lingering at Bend 29 Nov (T. Crabtree) was in an area where this species is not presumed to winter. Three Eastern Phoeebes in Oregon 14 Oct-9 Nov was remarkable given that there were only about 20 prior records for the Region. Nine westside Say's Phoebe's 29 Sep+ was slightly above average; 3 were in Washington, where not annual in fall. Washington's 5th Vermilion Flycatcher visited Ridgefield 24 Oct+ (ph. C. Gordan, J. Wilmott); prior records fall Oct-Mar. The majority of 20 Tropical/Couch's Kingbirds 15 Oct-20 Nov appeared at coastal locations; 4 others were in the P.T., where decidedly rarer. Excellent photographs of a Tropical Kingbird in flight at Dungeness, Clallam 24 Oct-12 Nov (ph. D. Lambert) revealed the notched outer primaries indicative of an ad. bird. Excluding returning birds, virtually all vagrant Tropical Kingbirds in North America whose age has been determined have been first-fall birds (see *Field Notes* 52: 6-11). Five Eastern Kingbirds in w. Oregon 13 Aug-11 Nov were quite unexpected, as this species is not annual on the westside in fall.

Seven westside Blue Jays 13 Oct+ and 8 e. of the Cascades 4 Aug-16 Nov were slightly above average for a non-invasion year. Western Scrub-Jays again wandered this fall, including 7 northerly birds at Foulweather Bluff, Kitsap 24 Sep (BW) and one elevationally out of place at 2150 m near Mt. Rainier, Pierce 24 Sep (S. Giles); this species was all but unknown in the Cascades up until the last few years. On the eastside, scrub-jays continue their northerly expansion beyond *Klickitat*, with a small population now established at Yakima and singles noted at L. Wenatchee, Chelan 1 Oct (*vide* RM) and Ellensburg, Kittitas 19 Nov (P. Mattocks). Given that Clark's Nutcrackers offered no evidence of an irruption elsewhere in the Region, a stray at Beaver Creek State Natural Area, Lincoln (CP), 3 on Marys Peak 27 Oct+ (S. Maulding, WDR), and another at Port Angeles, Clallam 11 Nov (R. Schneider) defied a convenient explanation. A Bank Swallow at N.S.C.B. 25 Aug (TR) was just the 4th in fall for heavily birded Coos. Three Cliff

Swallows at P.N.P. 12 Nov were about five weeks late (BW). Two Barn Swallows still at Malheur 2 Nov (NS) were roughly a month late for the eastside.

Although Rock Wrens are known to nest in the nearby Siskiyou Mts., a family group near Humbug Mt., Curry 12 Aug (K. Saylor) was unexpected along the outer coast. Other Rock Wrens in the westside lowlands included singles at Ediz Hook, Clallam 1 Nov (C. Grattan) and Sunset Beach, Island 20 Nov (C. Corin). A House Wren at Ridgefield 6 Nov+ (G. McWethy) was almost certainly one of 2 that wintered there in 2010-2011, while another at Central Ferry Canyon, Douglas 20 Nov (DW) was e. Washington's latest ever; this species typically vacates the eastside by late Sep. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at O.S. 20 Oct+ (K. Brady) was Washington's 12th, most of which have been from late fall or winter. Two gnatcatchers at Prineville Res. 6 Aug (CG) and another near there 4 Sep (CG) were in *Crook*, where they have been recorded annually since 2003. However, another at Cline Falls S.P. in neighboring *Deschutes* 17 Sep (*vide* J. Moodie) was in an area where they are not known to be regular. A Northern Wheatear at Pistol River 17 Oct (p.a., †TR) would be Oregon's 5th and the Region's 6th; all but one of the prior records have spanned 17 Sep-28 Oct. Large flocks of bluebirds are hardly the norm, thus 80 Western Bluebirds atop Marys Peak 11 Nov (AC, T. Meinzen) and 250-300 Mountain Bluebirds in a single field at Mann L., Harney 7 Nov (NS) were surprising. A Mountain Bluebird at Neah Bay, Clallam 25 Nov (NB) was extremely rare for Washington's outer coast; most westside Mountains appear during spring. A Swainson's Thrush lingering at Port Townsend, Jefferson 3 Nov was the 2nd latest on record for Washington (D. Smith, L. Smith). A stealth migrant in the Region, 94 Varied Thrushes were among a major movement of southbound migrants over Portland's West Hills 8 Oct (JW); most of these passed over shortly after dawn (JW).

A Gray Catbird at Nisqually 4-5 Nov (S. Bennett, ph. J. Pruske) provided w. Washington's 6th fall record and was the 2nd latest ever for the state; presumed southbound catbirds, which were unrecorded in w. Washington prior to 2006 and are extremely rare in w. Oregon, have now appeared w. of the Cascades each fall since 2004. The only eastside catbird was at Fields 9 Oct (TR). More than half of the 9 westside Northern Mockingbirds 28 Aug+ were in sw. Oregon, where they occasionally breed; the lone eastside bird was at Klamath Falls 22 Oct+ (J. Tufts). A Sage Thrasher still at Touchet, Walla

Walla 3 Nov (MD) was near record late for e. Washington. A **Brown Thrasher** that inhabited Cape Disappointment, *Pacific* 12-14 Sep (†RK) was Washington's 16th and 5th in fall, and another visited Malheur 9 Oct (RN); these are the first fall reports in the Region since 2008. Five **Bohemian Waxwings** near Silver Star Mt., *Skamania* 1 Oct (K. Knittle, T. Mansfield) and 3 at Sauk Prairie, *Skagit* 7 Oct (RM) were early for w. of the Cascades in Washington; this species is now rare on the westside, where formerly somewhat regular. **Chestnut-collared Longspurs** are virtually annual on the Oregon coast during Oct; this season's birds appeared at Floras L., *Curry* 18 Oct (TR) and at Cape Blanco 26 Oct (TJW). Oregon's 3rd **McKay's Bunting**, discovered at Seven Devils Wayside, *Coos* 25 Nov+ (DL, ph. *vide* CW), was thought to be a very pale **Snow Bunting** when first seen (without optics), but photographs of the bird 28 Nov confirmed its identity.

WARBLERS THROUGH FINCHES

Three **Northern Waterthrushes** were detected in w. Washington this fall 1 Sep–20 Nov; this species is now rare but annual in w. Washington. Single **Northerns** nw. of Terrebonne, *Deschutes* 9 Dec (KO) and at L. Abert 10 Sep (SD) were presumed migrants, as they were away from known breeding sites on Oregon's eastside. Three **Black-and white Warblers**, all in Oregon 30 Aug–25 Sep, made a typical fall showing. A **Tennessee Warbler** at Finley 4 Oct (WDR) was late, while another passing through Malheur 9 Nov (NS) was at least five weeks later than the typical fall "window" for this species; most of the Region's fall records are from early–mid-Sep. Three **Nashville Warblers** were detected 24 Aug–2 Oct in the w. Washington lowlands, where generally rare in autumn. A **MacGillivray's Warbler** near Tenino, *Thurston* 3-4 Nov (B. Sundstrom) was a month tardy and only the 3rd Nov record for w. Washington. Though now recorded annually May–Jun, a **Hooded Warbler** at Cold Spring Campground, *Deschutes* 12 Sep (S. Shunk) was the Region's first southbound bird since 2002. Five **American Redstarts** 22 Aug–12 Oct included 3 on the westside, where less than annual in fall; one at Davenport, *Lincoln* 29 Sep (M. F. Mathis) was e. Washington's latest ever. For the 3rd consecutive fall, multiple **Northern Parulas** were noted, with singles at L. Abert 10 Sep (SD) and Fields 11 Sep (RN); nearly all of the Region's fall records are from Sep. This season's **Magnolia Warbler** graced Malheur 2 Oct (RN, BTa). A **Yellow Warbler** at Richland 13 Nov was about a month late (J. Abel). A female **Chestnut-sided Warbler** at

Floras L. 6 Sep (TR) fit the expected window for this vagrant; the earliest of nearly 1000 fall records from California is 2 Sep. Another **Chestnut-sided** at Davenport, *Lincoln* 10 Sep (ph. JI) was Washington's 24th, most of which have come during Jun. Three eastside **Blackpoll Warblers** included singles at Turnbull N.W.R. 1 Sep (M. Frobe), Malheur 4 Sep (J. Broadus, ST), and Fields 2 Oct (RN, BTa); the former furnished e. Washington's first fall report since 2008. Both **Black-throated Blue Warbler** reports came from w. Oregon: an imm. female was at E. E. Wilson W.M.A. 2 Oct (†J. Geier), while a male landed on a boat 32 km w. of Newport 8 Oct (GG). The only **Black-throated Gray Warbler** detected in e. Washington, which averages 2 per fall, visited Hood Park, *Walla Walla* 17 Sep (MD, MLD). Although only two or three weeks tardy, a **Black-throated Gray** at Vancouver L., *Clark* 1 Nov represents just the 4th Nov record for Washington (BW). A **Hermit Warbler** on Vashon I., *King* 20 Sep (E. Swan) was a fall rarity in Washington's westside lowlands. A **Hermit Warbler** × **Townsend's Warbler** hybrid graced Sequim, *Clallam* 28 Oct (ph. SM, BW); this cross is rarely found after Sep in w. Washington. Nearly two-thirds of the 25 **Palm Warblers** reported 24 Sep+ were in *Curry*; up to 9 were near Floras L. 20 Nov+ (TR). **Wilson's Warblers** generally depart the Region by the 2nd week of Oct, so singles lingering at Neskowin, *Tillamook* 13 Nov (W. Gross), in Mill Canyon, *Lincoln* 20 Nov (TO), and at Browns Pt., *Pierce* 25 Nov (RS) were well behind schedule. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** at Big Flat, *Franklin* 18 Sep (ph. BW) was nearly record late for Washington, while one at Richland 21 Sep (L. Hill) tied the record-late date.

A **Green-tailed Towhee** at Pistol River, *Curry* 12 Sep (AC) marked the 2nd straight autumn with a westside stray; this is just the 2nd fall bird w. of the Cascades since 2006. An **American Tree Sparrow** near Coupeville, *Island* 8 Oct (P. Clapham) and one at Corkindale, *Skagit* 27 Oct (RK) were the only reports this fall in w. Washington, which has seen declining numbers in recent fall seasons; one at Floras L. 29 Nov (TR) was the only report from w. Oregon, where barely annual. For 2nd consecutive fall, westside numbers of **Clay-colored Sparrows** were more than double the seasonal norm, particularly in Oregon, which accounted for 12 of 14 detections. As is typical, all of the Oregon birds appeared 8 Oct or later, while the earliest—at Marymoor Park, *King* 1-2 Sep (MH, G. Olliver)—was in Washington, which gets most of its westside **Clay-colored**s before Oct. **Migrant Clay-colored**s in e. Washing-

ton, on the other hand, occur late Aug–mid-Sep, and 3 noted during that time frame represented a typical fall count. One lingering at Colville, Stevens 2 Oct was e. Washington latest ever (ph. JI). An apparent **Timberline Sparrow** visited Davenport, *Lincoln* 17 Sep (ph. BW, JI); this subspecies (*taverneri*) of **Brewer's Sparrow** is rarely identified away from montane breeding sites, which extend from se. Alaska to nw. Montana. Though a few westside **Brewer's** are expected during Aug, this species mostly vacates the Region by mid-Sep, thus three detections in the window 3 Oct–Nov were unusual. While the first, at Corkindale, *Skagit* on 2 Oct (RK) added to just two previous fall reports from the w. Washington lowlands, singles at Salem 18 Nov (ph. J. Harding) and Port Townsend, *Jefferson* 17-19 Nov (R. Sikes, ph. D. Gluckman) provided the latest records ever for Oregon and Washington, respectively. Continuing a recent trend in w. Washington, 6 migrant **Vesper Sparrows** were reported 3 Sep–9 Oct, all in *Skagit*; formerly, **Vespers** were reported less than annually in fall, but increased coverage in ne. *Skagit* has modified our understanding of their status in w. Washington. A **Lark Sparrow** at Roseburg, *Douglas* 23 Aug (J. Hein) provided one of few **Umpqua Valley** reports since a small breeding colony disappeared more than two decades ago. Another **Lark Sparrow** visited Cape Disappointment 12-13 Sep (RK); this species is rare at any season in w. Washington. Adding to about 20 antecedent Oregon records, an imm. **Lark Bunting** at Yachats, *Lincoln* 23 Sep (ph. R. Friesz) was the first in fall in the Region since 2005. **Grasshopper Sparrows** are virtually unknown from the outer coast; one at S.J.C.R. 29 Oct (ph. R. Leinen) was therefore noteworthy. **Grasshoppers** nest are at multiple locales in the **Umpqua Valley** and s. **Willamette Valley**, but they rarely appear elsewhere on the westside. Single **Red Fox Sparrows** (subspecies *iliaca/zaboria*), which are now detected annually in the Region, graced Malheur 9 Nov (NS) and Monroe, *King* 30 Nov (ph. RM). **Swamp Sparrows** showed well in w. Washington this fall, with 9 detected 23 Oct+. Five **Harris's Sparrows** on the westside 27 Oct+ was above average, but again none were noted from the eastside, where formerly annual. A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** × **White-crowned Sparrow** was at Aberdeen, *Grays Harbor* 13 Nov (ph. DG); this hybrid is now found annually in w. Washington.

Fully six weeks tardy, a **Western Tanager** was in Portland 26 Nov (R. Neyer); this species is now nearly annual in the Region during winter. Single **Black-headed Grosbeaks** at

Seattle 13 Nov (A. Larson) and Scappoose, *Columbia* in early Nov (*vide* H. Horvat) were at least six weeks late. Formerly very rare, Blue Grosbeak has found nearly annually in the Region of late; this season's bird enlivened Cutler City, *Lincoln* 9 Sep (JG). An Indigo Bunting at Sauk Prairie, *Skagit* 6 Oct represented only the 7th Washington record for fall (ph. RM); Washington has more than 30 records, with most from Jun–Jul. A late Indigo was at Tillamook 13–14 Nov (CK, PS). Both of the season's Dickcissels were on the Oregon coast, with one at Nestucca Bay N.W.R., *Tillamook* 10 Sep (D. Demarest, J. Hurt) and another at Cape Blanco 11 Nov+ (TJW, TR). A nearly record-late Bobolink, rare at any season in w. Washington, inhabited Nisqually 19–23 Oct (ST, ph. R. Stoner); there are about 30 fall records and one winter record for w. Washington. Tricolored Blackbirds have appeared sporadically around F.R.R. over the past decade; one was there 4 Aug (RR). Yellow-headed Blackbirds, historically rare on the outer coast, now appear annually in *Coos* and *Curry*. Four were at Floras L. 3 Sep (TR), and one was at N.S.C.B. 17 Sep (TR), while another spent all of Nov. at Cape Blanco (TJW). Nine westside Rusty Blackbirds 9 Oct–19 Nov was thrice normal; 8 were in Washington, including *Cowlitz's* first at Woodland Bottoms 3–12 Nov (DW). A flock of 5000 Brewer's Blackbirds at Sequim, *Clallam* 28 Oct (SM, BW) was an all-time high for Washington. Washington's 10th

Hooded Oriole and first from fall brightened Kelso, *Cowlitz* 8–10 Aug (ph. M. Hill); antecedent Washington records have fallen late Apr–late Jul. Additional Hoodeds were at Newport 3 Nov (M. Savage) and Seaside, *Clatsop* 20 Nov (H. Peterson). A Bullock's Oriole, rare on the outer coast and nearly two months late, was at Neah Bay, *Clallam* 4 Nov (ph. BW); although there are about 10 winter records for Washington, there are just two from Nov.

Oregon's 12th Brambling was a two-day wonder at Scappoose, *Columbia* (L. Pierce, ph. GG). Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches, not annual in the westside lowlands, included 2 at Sunset Beach, *Island* 9 Oct (C. Corin) and one near Sedro Woolley, *Skagit* 19 Nov (GB). Pine Grosbeaks, very rare in the w. Washington lowlands, included one at Bangor, *Kitsap* 28 Sep (J. Campbell) and one at Brier, *Snohomish* 29 Nov (T. Brooks). Cassin's Finches are now being reported regularly in small numbers just w. of the crest of the Washington Cascades, especially in *Skagit*, but lowland w. Washington records are few, so one at Lyman, *Skagit* 19 Nov (GB) was noteworthy. Rare w. of the Cascades in Washington, 4 White-winged Crossbills were seen at three locations 2–7 Sep, but a flock of 75 at L. Tapps, *Pierce* 29 Nov (A. Richards, A. Musche) was utterly unprecedented for the lowlands. Common Redpolls showed signs of irrupting, with a handful of westside reports during Nov.

Initialed observers (subregional editors in boldface): Knute Andersson, Nigel Ball, Range Bayer (*Lincoln*), Gary Bletsch, Trent Bray, Marv Breece, Wilson Cady, Chris Carey, Alan Contreras, Jim Danzenbaker, MerryLynn Denny, Mike Denny, Steve Dougill, Dennis Duffy, **Shawneen Finnegan** (Oregon), Bob Flores, Andy Frank, George Gerds, Jeff Gilligan, **Greg Gillson** (Washington, Oregon pelagics), **Denny Grandstrand** (*Yakima*), Adrian Hinkle, Christopher Hinkle, Michael Hobbs, Evan Houston, Jon Isacoff, Jeff Jendro, **Stuart Johnston** (*Hood River, Klickitat, Skamania*), Carol Karlen, Randy Knapp, Terry Little, Peter Low, Roy Lowe, Scott Mills, Steven Mlodinow, Don Munson, Russ Namitz, Vic Nelson, Steve Nord, Cathy Nowak, Tim O'Brien, Kim Owen, Mike Patterson (*Clatsop*), Chuck Philo, Phil Pickering, Roger Robb, W. Douglas Robinson, Tim Rodenkirk (*Coos, Curry*), Ryan Shaw, Bill Shelmerdine, Kevin Spencer, Andy Stepniewski, Noah Strycker, Paul Sullivan, Barbara Taylor, Shep Thorpe, Dave Trochlell (*Union, Wallowa*), Bill Tweit, Dan Waggoner, Terry J. Wahl, Jay Withgott, **Charlie Wright** (eBird). ☺

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Recalling conditions last fall, fog prevailed along the coast through September, keeping numbers of landbird migrants down during the first half of the season. Unlike last fall, though, the pattern broke in early October, with a series of storms that dropped rain across the Region and cleared fog from the immediate coast. Perhaps this change made a difference. By the end of the season, birders had turned up decent numbers of landbirds overall, including good numbers of rare and vagrant warblers. Highlighting the warbler migration was the highest number of Cape May Warblers in a quarter century. In contrast, offshore birders found the abundance of tubenoses to be as low as it had been in decades.

Despite those low numbers, some outstanding rarities were found, including California's third White-chinned Petrel and its fourth and fifth Great-winged Petrels. Closer to shore was California's second Common Eider, coincidentally in the same location as the first one seven years earlier. The season's main attraction was California's first Common Ringed Plover. It lingered for more than a week, was admired by hundreds of birders from throughout the state and beyond, and routinely provided side-by-side comparisons with numerous Semipalmated Plovers. Rounding out the ultra-rarities were the Region's second Winter Wren and an apparent Cave Swallow, the Region's first.

Abbreviations: C.B.R.C. (California B.R.C.); C.V. (Central Valley); FL. (Southeast Farallon I., *San Francisco*); H.R.S. (Hayward R.S., *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, California 91933.

WATERFOWL

An ad. Emperor Goose was seen on the ocean off Rodeo Lagoon, *Marin* 27 Nov (†William Legge, Dave Wiechers), the first documented in the Region since 2007. Four blue-morph Ross's Geese at Sacramento N.W.R., *Glenn* 11 Nov (ph. B&CY) provided one of the highest counts of this morph in our notebooks. A one-year old Brant in Benicia 15-22 Aug (RMu et al.) was unexpected in *Solano*; perhaps the same bird was seen farther inland at Sherman 1. 16 Aug (DaW), providing only the 2nd record for *Sacramento*. Two Dusky Canada Geese (*B. c. occidentalis*) were found at the Morgan Hill Community Park 9 Oct (SCR), the 3rd year in a row that this subspecies has returned to this part of *Santa Clara*. Coastal Tundra Swans included one over Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz* 1 Nov (AGa), 6 over Struve Slough, *Santa Cruz* 13 Nov (EFe et al.), and imms. that lingered at Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* 31 Oct–25 Nov (JGE, m.ob.) and Pomponio S.B., *San Mateo* 5 Nov+ (Mark Kudrav, m.ob.). A Bewick's Swan at Crowley L., *Mono* 23 Nov+ (Ken Wells, ph. Steve Brad) may have been the same bird seen about annually at this location since 2004.

A male Eurasian Wigeon at Goffinet Res., *Amador* 13-18 Nov (DMr, TS, FS) may have been the same bird seen there and at a nearby pond annually since Mar 2006. It was joined by another male 18 Nov (TS, FS). A total of 4268 Northern Pintail moving southward past Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 16 Oct (RSTh, LBt) was a notably high count for the immediate coast; a pair along White Rock Rd. 9 Nov (DLSu) was an unusual find for *Mariposa*. Eurasian Teal were found at the Salinas W.T.P., *Monterey* 16 Oct (†BTM) and at Redwood Shores, *San Mateo* 29 Nov (a returning bird; RSTh). A tally of 581 Redheads in Alviso 30 Oct was the highest total ever for *Santa Clara* (MMR, RGJ, MJM). An apparent Ring-necked Duck × Lesser Scaup hybrid, a female, was photographed at L. Hennessey, *Napa* 29 Nov–2 Dec (ph., †MBe; ph. Alex Merritt). Tufted Duck reports included those of a male at Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* 2-7 Nov (STu, Dan Maxwell, Carolyn Longstreth et al.), the returning male at L. Merritt, *Oakland, Alameda* 7 Nov+ (Kristi Whitfield, Noah Arthur, m.ob.), and 2 different females at L. Hennessey, *Napa* 19 Nov (MBe) and 23 Nov–2 Dec (Alex Merritt, MBe). Lesser Scaup bred at Sunnysvale, *Santa Clara* again, with at least two broods detected 31 Aug (WGB). California's 2nd Common Eider, a female, spent 20-29

Nov in Crescent City, *Del Norte* (ph. ADB, ph. m.ob.), the same location that hosted the first state record, a male, 5-18 Jul 2004. The Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* Harlequin Duck entered its 10th year at this location 9 Aug+ (RSTh et al.). Several inland Surf Scoters were noted, including 4 at Lewiston L. 3 Nov (*Trinity's* 7th record; DRs, SRs), one in Redding 12 Nov (*Shasta's* 9th record; Frank & Darliss Sanderson, Bea Currie, Connie Word et al.), one at Clear L., *Lake* 21 Nov (FHa et al.), *Madera's* first at Madera W.T.P. 4 Nov (Chris Hiatt, ph. GaW), one at Grant L., *Mono* 22 Oct (Susan Steele), and 2 at Grant L., *Mono* 24 Nov (Steve Brad, Ken Wells). *Shasta's* 6th White-winged Scoter was found in Redding 27 Nov (Roger Zachary, BiO). Completing *Shasta's* scoter trifecta, the male Black Scoter continued through the season at Kutras L., Redding (first county record; present since 14 Apr; DMr, m.ob.). Seventeen Long-tailed Ducks were found in six coastal counties 9 Oct+. A Common Merganser at FI. 18 Nov (OsJ, JTz, ph. Sam Roberts, Elizabeth Ames) was the first ever found on the island. A female Ruddy Duck with 8 ducklings at the Ukiah W.T.P., *Mendocino* 11 Oct (CEV) was notable both for the location and the very late date.

LOONS THROUGH PELICANS

Two Red-throated Loons at S. Lake Tahoe 27 Nov (WRi) provided only the 2nd occurrence for the Tahoe Basin and for *El Dorado*. Eagle L., *Lassen*, our only regular inland stopover site for Pacific Loons in fall migration, hosted 17 Pacifics 8 Oct (KAb, LOr) and 56 on 22 Oct (DMr). Among 14 others inland, *Stanislaus's* first was at Woodward Res. 30 Nov (SSa, †John Harris); one se. of Tracy 20 Nov (MtB) was *San Joaquin's* first away from L. Camanche; and 3 at Clear L. 29 Nov (JRW) provided *Lake's* highest count. Yellow-billed Loons included an apparent ad. at Battery Godfrey, *S.F.* 14 Oct (HuC, †PSar, †MWE); *Santa Clara's* first at Sunnysvale 25 Oct–4 Nov, a likely subad. that died on the last date (Pete Dunten, ph. m.ob.); and a juv. in Santa Cruz 10 Nov, *Santa Cruz's* first (ph., †SGe). Five of 48 reported Red-necked Grebes were inland, including a new high count for *Lake* of 3 at Clear L. 21 Nov (JCS, FHa).

A juv. or subad. Short-tailed Albatross at FI. 6 Sep (†OsJ, †JTz et al.) was only the 2nd record for the island—and the first since 1887! In contrast, a juv. at Bodega Canyon, *Sonoma* 19 Nov (ph. DSg et al.) was in an area that has hosted about 10 recent records. Despite the low abundance of tubenoses this fall, four *Pterodroma* species were recorded in the Region for the first time since 2005, when five species were found. The Region's 2nd White-chinned Petrel, and the first for *Marin*, was

near Cordell Bank 16 Oct (ph. TMcG et al.). Great-winged Petrel was reported twice: *Santa Cruz's* 2nd was on Monterey Bay 26 Aug (ph. Abe Borker, JML et al., ShJ), and *San Mateo's* first was off Half Moon Bay 17 Sep (Phil Hansbro, †Douglas Koch, ShJ). The Region has only three prior records, all of subspecies *gouldi*. A Mottled Petrel near Davidson Seamount, *Monterey* 25 Oct (†JND) and a Cook's Petrel 93 km w. of Rocky Pt., *Monterey* 27 Sep (JWtg et al.) rounded out our reports of gadfly petrels. *Marin's* 2nd Streaked Shearwater was 76 km w. of Pt. Reyes 27 Sep (p.a.; †Jeff Gilligan et al.). Two Manx Shearwaters were found, one on Monterey Bay, *Monterey* 11 Sep (ph. BLS et al., ShJ) and one at FI. 16 Nov (†OsJ). Seventeen Wilson's Storm-Petrels on 10 offshore trips included *Humboldt's* 3rd off Trinidad 27 Aug (†TKz, †RbF et al.); that same trip produced high *Humboldt* counts of 15 Fork-tailed and 70 Leach's Storm-Petrels. An Ashy Storm-Petrel attracted to the lights of a night football game at Stanford University 1 Oct (MMR, Alma Rogers) furnished *Santa Clara* with its 2nd record.

Red-billed Tropicbird is not recorded annually in the Region, but one was in Monterey Bay 75 km sw. of Sand Hill Bluff, *Santa Cruz* 27 Sep (ph. Owen Schmidt et al.). Brandt's Cormorants continued nesting at Seacliff S.B., *Santa Cruz* through 3 Oct, when one nest was fledging young and five others had incubating ads.; however, no nesting activity was seen on subsequent visits (DLSu). Single ad. Brown Boobies were recorded at Sutro Baths, *S.F.* 1 Aug (ph. DMO et al.), on FI. 5-10 Aug (ph. Adam Fox), on Monterey Bay, *Santa Cruz* 9 Sep (Wes Fritz, ShJ, ph. RF et al.), and at Seacliff S.B., *Santa Cruz* 17 Sep (DLSu); it is possible that some of these occurrences represented repeat observations of the same individual. A booby at the s. jetty of Humboldt Bay, *Humboldt* 5 Aug (*vide* TWL) was likely an ad. Brown Booby as well. At least 7 juv. Brown Pelicans inland included *Lake's* 2nd at Clear L. 9-23 Aug (JRW et al.); *Yolo's* 2nd in West Sacramento 24 Aug+ (Cliff Feldheim, Dan Airola) and 3rd in Woodland 3 Sep+ (TEa); and *Stanislaus's* 5th on W. Gaffery Rd. 14 Oct (ph. MtB).

BITTERNS THROUGH CRANES

The only Least Bittern reported was near Alpaugh, *Tulare* 21 Sep (SAL). Few coastal Cattle Egrets were noted, with a single bird in *Contra Costa* 25 Sep followed by 5 in three other coastal counties 1-19 Nov. In contrast, large numbers of White-faced Ibis were reported in nearly all coastal and S.F. Bay counties from *Humboldt* to *Monterey* 21 Aug+. An inland ibis at L. McClure 29 Sep (DLSu) was notable for *Mariposa*. Broad-winged Hawks were noted in

large numbers over Hawk Hill, *Marin*, with 202 counted 17 Sep–28 Oct, including a high of 38 seen 26 Sep (G.G.R.O.). Away from Hawk Hill, one at Bear R. Ridge 7 Oct (DCo, †LTu) was notable for *Humboldt*; 16 more were reported in seven other coastal counties 23 Sep–7 Nov. The count of Swainson's Hawks passing Hawk Hill was likewise impressive, with 13 tallied 23 Sep–4 Dec, half coming after mid-Nov (G.G.R.O.). Harlan's Hawks included birds near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* 25 Nov (ph. RCP, Bruce Mast), returning to Arcata, *Humboldt* 10 Nov+ (DCo, TKz, m.ob.), at the Jacoby Cr. mouth, *Humboldt* 27 Nov (RbF), near Jenner, *Sonoma* 26 Oct (ScC, RoM), and 12 km sw. of Madera, *Madera* 7 Nov (ph. GaW). The Crested Caracara continued through the season near Ft. Dick, *Del Norte* (ADB, m.ob.). Early returning Merlins included singles in *Santa Cruz* 23 (Nanci Adams et al.) & 31 Aug (DLSu) and one in *Mendocino* 29 Aug (KHv). A young Gyrfalcon visited *Humboldt*, with sightings at S. Arcata Bottoms 26 Sep and 26 Oct (†KI) and at the Redwood Cr. mouth 29 Sep–2 Oct (p.a.; †KI, †TWL, †DCo, LTu, RHw), providing the earliest fall record for the state. The Heron's Head Park Clapper Rails, now present for over a year, were seen with 2 chicks 8–14 Aug (DMo, ph. MWE, m.ob.), supplying S.F. with its first breeding record. Migrant flocks of Sandhill Cranes in unexpected locations included 5 birds over Eureka, *Humboldt* 30 Sep (COg), 7 over Lighthouse Field S.B., *Santa Cruz* 25 Oct (MSc), 10 over Halls Valley, *Santa Clara* 7 Oct (ph. Owen Holt), and 8 along La Paloma Rd., *Mariposa* 30 Sep (ph. DLSu).

SHOREBIRDS

A notable 15 American Golden-Plovers were reported from 11 counties 16 Aug–15 Nov, but only four reports were accompanied by documentation. Inland reports included those of juvs. near Hanford, *Kings* 10 Sep (ph. MSy, SDS, JSy), at the Modesto W.T.P., *Stanislaus* 9 Oct (ERC, †HMR), in Woodland, *Yolo* 4–6 Nov (ph. TEa, JCS), and at the Fresno W.T.P. 15 Nov (*Fresno*'s 2nd record; ph. MtB, ph. GaW). California's first Common Ringed Plover, a well-marked ad., was enjoyed by hundreds at the Davis Wetlands, *Yolo* 19–26 Aug (ph. TEa, ph. m.ob.); it was last seen flying southward at the nearby Yolo Bypass W.A. late on 26 Aug (TEa). A Mountain Plover reached the coast at the Pajaro R. mouth, *Santa Cruz* 17 Oct (CRE); although not far from regular wintering areas in *Solano*, 26 at Sherman I. 10 Nov (DaW) were the first found in *Sacramento* since 2002. An out-of-place American Avocet visited Sequoia L., *Fresno* (1637 m elevation) 4 Sep (GWPo). Twenty-one Solitary Sandpipers reported from 11 counties included late single birds in *Mer-*

ced, at San Luis N.W.R. 28 Oct (MP) and at Merced N.W.R. 5 Nov (MDo, Eric Goodill, SSa). A Wandering Tattler along the Napa R. at American Canyon 4 Sep (ph., †MBe, Dave McMullen) was the first ever for *Napa*. A Ruddy Turnstone was far inland near Alpaugh, *Tulare* 9 Sep (SAL). A Black Turnstone at Mono L. 2 Sep (KNN, ph. Ann Greiner) provided the first confirmed record for *Mono*.

Inland Red Knots were at Lemoore, *Kings* 6 (MSy) & 10 Sep (5 juvs.; GaW). Sanderlings far inland included one in Surprise Valley, *Modoc* 29 Aug (JSL) and 4 Sep (SCR), as well as somewhat more expected birds in *Madera* (2; ph. GaW), *Kings* (4; MSy), and *Tulare* (one; SAL). Two juv. Western Sandpipers along White Rock Rd. 29 Sep (†DLSu) provided only the 2nd record for *Mariposa*. On the heels of last season's 2 birds, 2 more Little Stints, the 9th and 10th for the Region, were found in *Humboldt*. An alternate-plumaged ad. was seen 15–16 Aug at the Eel R. mouth (†DCo, RHw, TWL) and a different ad. was studied at the Mad R. estuary 21 Aug (TKz, †DCo, †RbF, RHw). Baird's Sandpipers were widely reported, with large concentrations of 31 at Mare I. 8 Sep (*Solano*'s highest count; RMu), 20 at Centerville, *Humboldt* 7 Sep (TEa et al.), and 20 at Mono L., *Mono* 9 Sep (CHw). Pectoral Sandpipers were likewise widely reported; notable were *Mariposa*'s first along Merced Falls Rd. 16 Sep (†DLSu) and a late straggler at Merced N.W.R., *Merced* 27 Nov (Tom & Jo Heindel, Darrin Heindel, Kelli Heindel-Levinson). Five Sharp-tailed Sandpipers made for an above-average showing, with juvs. at Centerville, *Humboldt* 7–8 Sep (TEa, DCo, m.ob.), Shollenberger Park, *Sonoma* 4–19 Oct (2 birds 10–11 Oct; Corey Gregory, Eugene Hunn, m.ob.), Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 5 Sep (Rich Cimino), and Alameda N.W.R., S.F. and *Alameda* 12 Oct (JSL, LRF). Fourteen Stilt Sandpipers in nine counties 11 Aug–27 Oct was above average; *Mendocino*'s first inland record was at the Ukiah W.T.P. 7–13 Sep (CEV, ph. RJK et al.) and *Madera*'s 2nd was at the Madera W.T.P. 25–27 Oct (BBR, LyH, PFa, ph. GaW, m.ob.). Eight Buff-breasted Sandpipers included up to 4 in Centerville, *Humboldt* 7–11 Sep (TEa, m.ob.); the others were at L. Talowa, *Del Norte* 28 Aug–8 Sep (LuB), at Lincoln W.T.P. 29–31 Aug (first *Placer* and 2nd C.V. record; DCa, EP, DeR, ph. JCS, ph. BWb, m.ob.), at Abbotts Lagoon, *Marin* 3–4 Sep (CCo, m.ob.), and at Napa-Sonoma Marshes W.A. 25 Sep–3 Oct (first *Solano* record; ph. RMu). Nineteen Ruffs in nine counties 6 Aug+ was the most in the Region since 2007, more than doubling the total from each of the prior three falls. Three Red-necked Phalaropes along Merced Falls Rd. 16 Sep (DLSu) were unusual for *Mariposa*.

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS

Thirteen inland Sabine's Gulls, above average for recent years, were found in five counties 21 Aug–18 Oct; they included *Lake*'s first record, of 1–2 juvs. 17–19 Sep (JCS et al.). The Modesto W.T.P. hosted 2 hatch-year Little Gulls, one still in juvenal plumage, 13 Oct (p.a.; †SSa, ph. HMR), providing *Stanislaus*'s 2nd record. *Marin*'s Laughing Gull, which has resided at Las Gallinas W.T.P. for more than a year, continued through the period (m.ob.). Only 3 Franklin's Gulls, well below our recent average, were reported, with single first-cycle birds at Lookout, *Modoc* 2 Sep (SCR), w. of Glenn, *Glenn* 24 Sep (†CPD, Dennis Vroman, Tim Rodenkirk), and s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 24 Sep (MSy). Several hundred Western Gulls again frequented a waste recycling facility on W. Gaffery Rd. in n. *Stanislaus* 14 Oct+ (MtB, m.ob.). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls on Clear L. 21 Nov., one at Redbud Park and the other s. of Lakeport (FHa, BJM, JCS), provided the 3rd and 4th records for *Lake*. Another was s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 7 Sep–8 Oct (ph. MSy et al.). *Alameda*'s 3rd Slaty-backed Gull, an ad., was in Fremont 17–29 Nov (ph. Noah Arthur, †ADeM et al.).

Least Terns breeding at the Sacramento Regional W.T.P., *Sacramento* lingered into Aug, with one ad. and up to 3 juvs. seen through 12 Aug (ph. CCo et al.). An ad. at the White Slough W.T.P., *San Joaquin* 7 Aug (WEH, JRow) may have been one of the ads. from the *Sacramento* site. Post-breeding Least Terns around S.F. Bay included 3 at Huichica Creek W.A., *Napa* 7 Aug (Linda Pittman, TFi, MkM, Karen Zumwalt), 3 at Coyote Pt., *San Mateo* 9–23 Aug (RSTh), and up to 11 in Alviso, *Santa Clara* 3–16 Aug (WGB, MDo, Kelly Dodder), whereas one at the Aptos Cr. mouth, *Santa Cruz* 21 Aug (DLSu) was a migrant. About 80 Common Terns were coastal, with a high of 30 at Salmon Creek Beach, *Sonoma* 16 Sep (RPH). Among 46 reported inland, 12 at the Davis W.T.P. 24 Aug (ph. JCS) furnished *Yolo*'s highest count, and one at Sherman I. 14 Oct (†DaW) provided one of few reports for *Sacramento*. Arctic Terns away from coastal areas included singles at Davis W.T.P. 24 Aug (first *Yolo* record; ph. JCS), H.R.S. 13 Sep (RJR), n. Lake Tahoe, *Placer* 4 Oct (WRi), and Shollenberger Park, *Sonoma* 10 Oct (TEa). Seven Arctic Terns at Ocean Beach, S.F. 17 Sep (MWE, PSar) provided a high onshore count, and 240 Elegant Terns at Pt. Reyes, *Marin* 16 Oct (RS) represented a very high number for such a late date. Two Black Skimmers around Elkhorn Slough/Moss Landing, *Monterey* 11–14 Sep (Greg Meyer, YG) furnished the only report away from S.F. Bay.

Fifteen South Polar Skuas off Half Moon

Bay, *San Mateo* 15 Oct (TMcK et al., ShJ) provided a high total. *Modoc* and *Lake* were the inland jaeger hotspots. On 4 Sep, Middle and Lower Alkali L. in *Modoc's* Surprise Valley hosted 5 Long-taileds (first county record) and 2 Parasitics (both ph. SCR). Clear L., *Lake* also had 5 Long-tailed Jaegers, with singles on 5 & 18 Sep (BJM, FHa et al.) and 3 on 15 Sep (JSL). Two juv. Parasitic Jaegers on Clear L. 15-19 Sep (FHa, JSL et al.) provided *Lake's* 3rd and 4th records. The only other inland jaeger was a Long-tailed s. of Corcoran, *Kings* 31 Aug (ph. JLD). Of 7 Xantus's Murrelets recorded offshore or at FI., individuals of the less common subspecies *hypoleucus* included one off Half Moon Bay, *San Mateo* 11 Sep (ph. EWP et al.) and 2 near Cordell Bank, *Marin* 10 Oct (Jeff Miller, Eugene Hunn et al.). This species is rarely seen from shore, so 2 at Pigeon Pt., *San Mateo* 11 Aug (Jonathon Batkin, RSTh) and 2 at Centerville Beach, *Humboldt* 15 Oct (MWA, †DCo) were noteworthy.

DOVES THROUGH THRUSHES

Almost every recess of the state has witnessed the invasion of Eurasian Collared-Doves. Emblematic was Yosemite N.P.'s first record with a bird at El Capitan Meadow, *Mariposa* 15 Sep (DLSu). White-winged Doves included singles at Capitola, *Santa Cruz* 25-26 Aug and 1 Nov (both DLSu), *Solano's* first at Birds Landing near Montezuma Hills 17 Nov (ph. Zach Smith), one on FI. 13 Sep (MtB, JTz, DJM, Elizabeth Ames, Rebecca Green), and another at Arcata, *Humboldt* 15 Sep-12 Oct (GAB, TKz). A Common Ground-Dove near Antonelli Pond 30 Sep-2 Oct (Christian Schwarz, Adam Searcy, Chris Lay, m.ob.) was the 3rd for *Santa Cruz*, whereas another s. of Corcoran 2 Oct (MSy) was the 2nd for *Kings*. Inexplicably, a Greater Roadrunner took up residence in an urban area of Clovis, *Fresno*, at least 6 km from normally occupied habitat, 19 Sep+ (fide JND).

Radio-tracking studies have shown that some Spotted Owls breeding in mid- to high elevations of the Sierra move downslope in winter. Such birds generally do not drop below about 400 m elevation. Therefore, a Spotted Owl calling in Sanger, *Fresno*, at about 122 m elevation, 31 Oct (BBr) provided an exceptional record. More exceptional was that this was not the first time this species had been detected in this area. Another bird was heard near this location 5 Dec 1998 (fide BBr). A Short-eared Owl flying s. along White Rock Rd. crossed the county line 10 Oct (†DLSu), establishing a first record for *Mariposa*. Accenting the Common Poorwill migration was a high count of 8 birds on a 10-km section of road in Watts Valley, *Fresno* 23 Oct (JND).

Two Black Swifts over La Grange Bridge Trail 6 Oct (†SSa) furnished the 2nd record for *Stanislaus*. Chimney Swift reports involved those of singles at Ft. Bidwell 4 Sep (*Modoc's* first; ph., †SCR) and San Bruno Mt., *San Mateo* 18 Sep (LBt, RSTh) and 2 each at Davis W.T.P. 6 Oct (*Yolo's* 2nd; †TEa) and FI. 7 Oct (†Elizabeth Ames, JTz). Estimates of peak numbers of migrant Vaux's Swifts at traditional roost sites included 7200 at Rio Lindo Academy, *Sonoma* 13-23 Sep (Dave Barry, m.ob.) and 9000 at McNear Brickyard, *Marin* 27 Sep (Rich Cimino). Representing a large, single-locality count for the Region, an estimated 350 White-throated Swifts foraged over Foresta, *Mariposa* 15 Sep (DLSu). *Marin's* 2nd record of Broad-billed Hummingbird was established when a female found its way into a mist net in Bolinas 6 Oct (fide RDIG, ph. PRBO). Illustrating the species' remarkable capacity to breed at any season, a female Anna's Hummingbird carried nesting material at Sacramento N.W.R., *Glenn* 25 Nov (MJM). Single Allen's Hummingbirds captured ne. of Scotts Valley, *Santa Cruz* 23 Aug (Rita Colwell) and at Lanphere Dunes, *Humboldt* 17 Sep (fide Brendan Higgins) were unusually late, as was one putative Rufous Hummingbird in Ukiah, *Mendocino* 22 Oct (CEV). Two other Rufous Hummingbirds at Santa Cruz, *Santa Cruz* 24 Oct+ (SGe) had apparently settled in for the winter.

Much like last fall, oaks in *Lassen* produced almost no acorns, apparently prompting nearly all Lewis's Woodpeckers to abandon the county by mid-Sep (KAb). Perhaps some of those made it to *Mariposa*, where the only sizable numbers were reported, including a high count of 81 along a 3-km stretch of White Rock Rd. 29 Sep (DLSu). Three Acorn Woodpeckers attending a nest with begging young in Yosemite Valley, *Mariposa* 15 Sep (DLSu) provided an unusual fall breeding record for Yosemite N.P. Fall breeding in this species is generally correlated with low reproductive success in spring and summer and a large annual acorn crop. Single Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were found in *Humboldt*, *Mendocino*, *Lake*, *Sacramento*, and *Tulare* 26 Oct+. Six Red-naped Sapsuckers included presumptive returnees in *Mendocino* and *Lake* and newbies in *Del Norte*, *Sonoma*, *Alameda*, and *Santa Clara*.

A total of 9 Willow Flycatchers at Lost Lake C.P., *Fresno* 13 Sep (JND) was a high count. We received reports of 5 Least Flycatchers: one in *Santa Cruz*, 2 in *Santa Clara*, and 2 on FI., about half of our recent 10-year average. Providing a first fall record for *Yuba*, a Gray Flycatcher was at Spenceville W.A. 4 Sep (ClH, JRy, Peggy Macres). A total of 11 transient Black Phoebe on FI. 3 Nov (PRBO) was a new high count for the island. Curiously, it

was also about one month later than typical high counts of this species there. Seven Eastern Phoebes included *Del Norte's* 2nd at L. Earl 13 Nov (Gary Maschmeyer), 2 on FI., and singles in *Humboldt*, *Marin*, *San Mateo*, and *Santa Cruz*. *Alameda's* first Vermilion Flycatcher, a first-year male, was in Fremont 30 Oct+ (ph. Cedric Duhalde, ph. m.ob.). *Humboldt* turned up an impressive total of 10 Tropical Kingbirds; the overall total of 23 reported in eight coastal and S.F. Bay Area counties, however, was below our recent 10-year average of 28. Eight Eastern Kingbirds included one inland at Yolo Bypass W.A. 30-31 Aug (*Yolo's* 3rd and first since 1973; Mary Schiedt).

Santa Cruz's 2nd Bell's Vireo sang at Natural Bridges S.B. 18 Sep (†LTu). Birders reported single Plumbeous Vireos at Babel Slough 23 Sep (*Yolo's* 3rd; TEa), Basalt Campground, *Merced* 1 Oct (KVV), Ogier Ave. ponds 6 Oct (*Santa Clara's* 6th; SCR), and along Bull Creek Rd. 20 Oct (*Mariposa's* first; †DLSu). Our only Blue-headed Vireo was at Shay Park, *Humboldt* 19 Sep (†DCo, RHw). Establishing the latest fall Island record by 21 days, a Hutton's Vireo made landfall on FI. 29 Nov (Sam Roberts). Nearly double our recent 10-year average, a total of 8 Philadelphia Vireos was reported: 3 in *Humboldt*, 2 in *Marin*, 2 in S.F., and one in *San Mateo*. In contrast, a total of 7 Red-eyed Vireos (3 in *Humboldt*, 3 in S.F., and one in *San Mateo*) was roughly half our recent 10-year average. A Yellow-green Vireo at Neary Lagoon 16-19 Oct (ph. SGe, JRy, Peggy Macres et al.) provided *Santa Cruz's* 3rd record, while another on FI. 18 Oct (Elizabeth Ames, †MtB, ph. †Mark Dettling, DJM, Megan Elrod, Pete Warzybok) furnished the 7th record for the island.

The Region's first Cave Swallow was over Mountain View Forebay, *Santa Clara* 4 Aug (p.a.; ph. Tom Johnson). A Black-capped Chickadee at the Dyerville Overlook on the Eel R., *Humboldt* 26 Nov (KBu) furnished one of the southernmost records for the state. An apparent Oak Titmouse × Chestnut-backed Chickadee hybrid at Union City, *Alameda* early Sep-7 Nov (ph. Joanne Smith) was the first of its kind to be reported. In fact, aside from cases of Oak Titmouse hybridizing with the formerly considered conspecific Juniper Titmouse, hybrids of either species are unknown. We received few reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch, and those that were submitted did not suggest any sort of irruption. The Region's 2nd Winter Wren was well documented in a remote portion of C.R.P. 27 Nov (p.a.; v.r., vt., †CCo). Establishing first records for *Mendocino* and S.F., single Northern Wheatears dropped in at Anchor Bay 2-5 Oct (Pat Kirkpatrick, RGT, ph. R. Kuehn, ph. RJK et al.) and India Basin 28 Oct (p.a.; Jennifer Rycenga,

Brooke McDonald). More than 50 Mountain Bluebirds along Hammonton-Smartville Rd. 26 Nov (DRs, SRs) represented the highest total from Yuba in more than a decade, whereas "thousands" in Martis Valley, Placer 5 Oct (WRi) constituted an impressively large assembly by any standard.

MIMIDS THROUGH WARBLERS

Two Gray Catbirds were in Humboldt in mid-Sep, one on the n. spit of Humboldt Bay 16-20 Sep (TWL, m.ob.), the other at Orick 18 Sep (KI). Ten Sage Thrashers, right on our average, included 2 in Kings: one at Atwell I. 2 Oct and the other at Reef City 12 Oct (both MSy). Our only Brown Thrasher was on FI. 29 Aug-12 Sep (PRBO) and was probably the same bird found there in Jul. Red-throated Pipits, all singles, were on FI. 18-19 Oct (DJM et al.), at Pt. Reyes, Marin 26 Oct (RS), and at Arcata, Humboldt 13 Nov (KI). Santa Clara's 5th and 6th Red-throated Pipits came in quick succession at Sunnyvale W.T.P. 1-7 Nov (ph. MMR, Diane Finke, ph. m.ob.) and 26 Nov-6 Dec (ph. SCR). Humboldt's first well-documented McCown's Longspur was at Arcata 26 Oct-10 Nov (†KI, †DCo, †COg, LTu). Lapland Longspurs were widely reported from coastal counties, but the only inland bird was near Woodland, Yolo 17-23 Nov (SCH). Single Chestnut-collared Longspurs were at H.R.S. 11-15 Oct (RJR), at L. Talowa, Del Norte 14-18 Oct (TKz, ADB), on FI. 18 Oct (MtB et al.), and at Pt. Reyes, Marin 30 Oct (RS). Snow Buntings were at Pt. Reyes, Marin 6 Nov (p.a.; Pete Myers, Steward Davidson) and near Redwood House Rd., Humboldt 15 Nov (p.a.; ph. M. J. Mazurek, *vide* SMcA).

The warbler season was rated good to excellent by most coastal subregional editors, with Humboldt the most productive county. Four Ovenbirds were on FI. between 5 and 30 Sep (PRBO) with our only other Ovenbird in Bolinas, Marin 25 Sep (Renee Cormier). Sixteen Northern Waterthrushes included the latest ever recorded on FI. 19 Nov (PRBO, *vide* JTz). All 25 Black-and-white Warblers were in coastal or S.F. Bay Area counties. Prothonotary Warblers were at the Big Sur R. mouth, Monterey 8 Sep (Pat O'Connor), at Capitola, Santa Cruz 24 Sep (DLSu), and at Pescadero Marsh, San Mateo 20 Oct (M. DeFelice, C. Hayward). A total of 48 Tennessee Warblers was well over our average of 30, the 3rd highest total for the past 25 years, and included a rare C.V. record along Putah Cr., Yolo 1-2 Oct (Michael Strom, KvG). We rarely get more than one or 2 Lucy's Warblers reported, so a total of 4 was unusual, and 2 in one spot in S.F. (14 Nov+; Mark Raunon, Jack Hayden, m.ob.) was particularly surprising. The other Lucy's were at the Big Sur

R. mouth, Monterey 4 Sep (DR) and Natural Bridges S.B., Santa Cruz 9 Oct (SGe, John Garrett, m.ob.). A Virginia's Warbler in Yosemite N.P. at 2000 m elevation 9 Aug (DLSu) furnished one of few records for Mariposa, or for any w. side Sierra county. Other Virginia's Warblers included one on FI. 12 Sep (PRBO), 2 in Humboldt at Elk R. Wildlife Sanctuary 14-16 Sep (TKz, m.ob.) and Orick 18 Sep (KI), and another at Pt. Reyes, Marin 18 Oct (SSa). A Connecticut Warbler was at Pt. Reyes, Marin 12-13 Sep (SCH), and another was on FI. 20 Oct (Elizabeth Ames, †Mark Dettling, †MtB), where 60% of the state's records have been found. A Mourning Warbler was at Elk River Wildlife Sanctuary 14-16 Sep (†KMS, †SBT, TWL, †Jesse Sargent, ph. SMcA, m.ob.), Humboldt's 3rd. Our only Hooded Warbler was at Orick, Humboldt 18 Sep (KI).

The only inland American Redstart among the 27 reported was also Mono's only vagrant warbler of the season, at Paradise 18 Sep (DHo). A total of 7 Cape May Warblers was remarkable and matched the highest total reported in the past 25 years. One Cape May was at Pt. Reyes, Marin 11-25 Sep (SBT, m.ob.), singles were in S.F. near L. Merced 14 Sep and Ft. Mason 26 Sep (both DMo et al.), singles were on FI. 28 Sep (KNN et al.) and 1 Oct (MtB et al.), and singles were in Santa Cruz at Lighthouse Field S.B. 30 Sep and the University of California at Santa Cruz Arboretum 23 Oct (the 4th and 5th for Santa Cruz; ph. Jean Myers and John Garrett, respectively). Northern Parulas were at Arcata, Humboldt 17 Aug (GAB), on the n. spit of Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 16 Sep (TKz, DCo, RHw, GAB), at Rancho Del Oso, Santa Cruz 22 Sep (JRy), at Sue Bierman Park, S.F. 23 Sep-11 Oct (Jack Hayden, m.ob.), and at Capitola, Santa Cruz 4 Oct (DLSu). All 9 Magnolia Warblers were in coastal counties. Mendocino's first well-documented Bay-breasted Warbler was at Usal Campground 16 Sep (JRW, CEV, KHv). Other Bay-breasteds were on FI. 16 Sep (JTz, MtB, DJM) and along Tunitas Cr., San Mateo 21 Sep (ADeM). Two other Bay-breasted reports from Humboldt could only be put in the "probable" category. Humboldt hosted 6 of our 14 Black-burnian Warblers and 11 of our impressive total of 60 Chestnut-sided Warblers. Notable among the 61 Blackpoll Warblers was Lake's 2nd at Anderson Marsh 8 Sep (FHa et al.) and a C.V. bird along Putah Cr., Yolo 16 Sep (SCH). Nine Black-throated Blue Warblers was right on our average, with the sole inland bird at Lost Lake Park, Fresno 18 Sep (LyH). Our total of 107 Palm Warblers included a Yellow Palm on FI. 1-3 Nov (JTz et al., ph. Sam Roberts), only the 2nd documented record of subspecies *hypochrysea* for the island. In most autumn

seasons, we miss Yellow-throated Warbler altogether, so having 2 in S.F., 5 Sep (ph. HuC) and 13 Sep+ (Jack Hayden, ph. Martijn Verdoes, m.ob.), was astounding. Seven Prairie Warblers was a little under our average of 11. A Black-throated Green Warbler, our only one this season, was a first for Alameda at Coyote Hills R.P. 9-11 Oct (ph. Jerry Ting, JLx, JSL, m.ob.). San Mateo produced Canada Warblers at Moss Beach 13-15 Sep (RSTh et al.) and along Gazos Cr. 15 Sep (GrH). Canadas were also on the n. spit of Humboldt Bay, Humboldt 11 Sep (DCo, m.ob.) and at Ft. Dick, Del Norte 30 Sep-1 Oct (ADB).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

A Green-tailed Towhee at MacKerricher S.P. 23 Sep (David Assmann) marked the 2nd record for coastal *Mendocino*. American Tree Sparrows were in Arcata, Humboldt 26 Oct (LTu, DCo, RHw), at Pt. Reyes, Marin 2 Nov (STu, DJM), and along Stage Rd., San Mateo 7 Nov (RSTh). It was a banner showing for Clay-colored Sparrows, with 95 reports, 50% above average, from 14 counties. Although absent some years, when Black-throated Sparrows make incursions into the Region away from breeding areas, they tend to be widespread, and that was the case this season. We received reports of single birds from nine counties 4 Sep+, Monterey, Plumas (Quincy, well w. of normal breeding range), Santa Cruz, Mariposa, Butte, S.F., San Mateo, Yolo (Esparto 21 Oct+; 2nd record; SCH), and Tulare. A Sage Sparrow on Sherman I., Sacramento 7-22 Nov (ph. DaW, m.ob.) was an excellent find for the C.V. floor. A total of 10 Lark Buntings was nearly twice our recent average and included Trinity's first at the Big Flat R. access in Helena 21 Aug (KMS, Greg Gray). A Large-billed Savannah Sparrow (subspecies *P. s. rostratus*) was at Bolinas, Marin 27 Sep (JsC), and a Nelson's Sparrow was at H.R.S. 25-26 Oct (RJR, Bob Dunn). Among a total of 42 Swamp Sparrows was a bird along Slate Gulch Rd. 9 Nov (†DLSu), providing one of very few records for Mariposa. White-throated Sparrow reports (128) were about 20% above our average. Harris's Sparrows were at Arcata Bottoms, Humboldt 4 Oct (LTu) and Antonelli Pond, Santa Cruz 16-18 Nov (Kathy Kuyper, PDB, ph. m.ob.).

Five of our 7 Summer Tanagers were in S.F., 3 in the City and 2 on FI. Monterey's 4th or 5th Scarlet Tanager was at El Carmelo Cemetery, Pacific Gove 25-26 Oct (ph. BTM, ph. BHL, ph. S. Lane). A total of 10 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks was well below our average, but Yolo managed to turn up 2: one along Putah Cr. 6 Oct (SCH) and another the next day at Davis, 26 km e. of the first (Alison Kent). Although a total of 10 Indigo Buntings was above average, Mon-

terey reported none, an unusual fall absence. We recorded a remarkable 5 Painted Buntings, the highest total in at least the past 25 fall seasons. *Mono's* first was photographed at Simis Ranch 8-9 Sep (KNN), and others were on FI. 10-12 Sep (MtB et al.), at Lighthouse Field S.B., Santa Cruz 15-23 Sep (SGe, m.ob.), along Stevens Cr. n. of Hwy. 101, Santa Clara 30 Sep-12 Nov (2nd county record; ph. MMR, ph. m.ob.), and at Asilomar, Monterey 12 Nov (†MP). Five Dickcissels included *Mendocino's* first, in Manchester 4 Oct (†BBu, †DSi). Although Bobolinks breed off and on in *Modoc's* Surprise Valley, they are rarely encountered in fall there, so the bird found along New Pine Cr. 3 Sep (SCR) was notable among the 6 reported this season in the Region. Consistent with the overall decline in its population, we have received no more than two Rusty Blackbird reports in any fall since 1994. The one documented report this year was *Lake's* first at Clear Lake Riviera 23-28 Oct (Vicki Miller, JRW, m.ob.). Ten Orchard Orioles were all in coastal or Bay Area counties, including Santa Clara's 2nd along Stevens Cr. at La Avenida 30 Sep (ph. SCR). Baltimore Orioles were on FI. 28 Sep (PRBO), at Pacific Grove, Monterey 29 Sep (BTM), at Moss Beach, San Mateo 1 Oct (AJ et al.), and at Ft. Mason, S.F. 8 Nov (David Bell, ph. Bob Gunderson). Our lone Scott's Oriole was also in S.F. in Corona Heights 6-7 Nov (Mark David Herr, DMO, m.ob.).

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Southern California



Guy McCaskie
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The season was uneventful weather-wise, being very dry and generally a bit warmer than average in August but cooler in October and November; minor storm fronts passed through in early and late October and periodically during a relatively wet November. The only strong "Santa Ana" (offshore) wind events occurred in November, and no major wildfires occurred in the Region. Marine conditions were dominated by a re-developing La Niña (cool water) event as the fall progressed.

Many common species seemed late in arriving, with Yellow-rumped Warblers not detected in any numbers until the second week of October in most of the Region. Fallouts of vagrants were noted on the Channel Islands during the third week of September. There was little movement of irruptive species, with virtually no Red-breasted Nuthatches or crossbills and very few Pine Siskins in the lowlands during the period.

Outstanding rarities included the Region's first White-chinned Petrel, a Black Vulture in Ventura County, an Eastern Wood-Pewee in Inyo County, a Northern Wheatear in coastal Los Angeles County, two coastal migrant Gray Vireos, and three Cape May Warblers. The first Thick-billed Kingbird for the Channel Islands was found on Santa Catalina Island.

Abbreviations: B.S. (Butterbredt Spring at the s. end of the Sierra Nevada above Cantil, e. Kern); C.L. (China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, extreme ne. Kern); E.A.FB. (Edwards A.FB., se. Kern); F.C.R. (Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley N.P., Inyo); G.H.P. (Galileo Hill Park, extreme e. Kern); N.E.S.S. (n. end of the Salton Sea, Riverside); P.P. (Piute Ponds on Edwards A.FB., ne. Los Angeles); P.M.N.A.S. (Point Mugu N.A.S., Ventura); S.B.N.W.S. (Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station, Orange); S.C.R.E. (Santa Clara R. estuary near Ventura, Ventura); S.E.S.S. (s. end

of the Salton Sea, Imperial); S.F.K.R.P. (South Fork Kern River Preserve near Weldon, Kern); S.J.W.A. (San Jacinto Wildlife Area near Lakeview, Riverside); V.A.FB. (Vandenberg A.FB., nw. Santa Barbara); V.C.G.P. (Ventura County Game Preserve near Pt. Mugu N.A.S., Ventura). Museum collections abbreviated in the text are: LACM (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County) and SDNHM (San Diego Natural History Museum). 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 (<www.californiabirds.org>) is forwarded to the C.B.R.C. and archived at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in Camarillo.

WATERFOWL THROUGH FRIGATEBIRDS

A Brant at Senator Wash Res., Imperial 20 Nov (HD) is one of a very few found inland anywhere in California in fall. Two Tundra Swans at S.J.W.A. 10-11 Nov (NRP, HBK) were early for so far south. The earliest of the wintering Eurasian Wigeons on the coast was a male on Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo 2 Oct (MLS); one at C.L. 31 Oct (SLS) was in the ne. part of the Region, where scarce. A Greater Scaup at Desert Center, Riverside 28 Oct-19 Nov (CAM) was unusual, as most inland are on larger lakes and reservoirs. The 2 summering Harlequin Ducks on the coast of San Luis Obispo remained into Aug (DLK, MLS, J&CVanB) but not thereafter. Reports of 5 Surf Scoters inland from 16 Oct through 29 Nov were fewer than expected but included one at 2483 m elevation in the Sierra Nevada above Bishop, Inyo 26 Nov (SLS). Four White-winged Scoters on L. Isabella, Kern 3 Nov (RAB) and another on Quail L., Los Angeles 25 Nov+ (KLG) were inland; however, on the coast, only 10 were reported in Nov, with 9 of these n. of Pt. Conception, Santa Barbara, illustrating the continuing decline of this duck on the coast of s. California. Three Black Scoters in Nov made a low number; and a Long-tailed Duck at Imperial Beach, San Diego 11-19 Nov (DDiT) was the southernmost of the 4 reported along the coast.

Single Red-throated Loons, rare inland, were on the San Bernardino side of L. Havasu 8 Nov (LH, DVP) and 30 Nov (LH, DVP). Three Pacific Loons were found inland, with single migrants at C.L. 23 Nov (SLS) and on

Castaic Lagoon, Los Angeles 5 Nov (KLG), along with a summering bird on Lake Havasu present through 30 Nov (DVP). A Galapagos/Hawaiian Petrel 145 km sw of San Clemente I. 16 Aug (PEL, JSF) and a Cook's Petrel near this location 16 Aug (PEL, JSF) were the only *Pterodroma* species found on deep-water pelagic trips this fall. However, a White-chinned Petrel 3 km ne. of San Miguel I. 6 Sep (TMcG) provides the 2nd record for California, the previous one being off San Mateo 18 Oct 2009. A Wilson's Storm-Petrel, rare in s. California waters, was 32.4 km w. of Pt. Loma, San Diego 15 Aug (PEL, JSF).

A Red-billed Tropicbird 24 km w. of Pt. Loma 8 Oct (ZB) was unusually close to shore. A flock of 13 Brown Pelicans at Desert Center 5 Nov (CMcG) was unexpected considering the date and location. A Brown Booby 29.6 km w. of Pt. Loma 17 Oct (PEL) was the only one reported in s. California waters. Single Neotropic Cormorants were at L. Havasu 28 Oct (DVP, LH), Fig Lagoon near Seeley, Imperial 2 Sep-30 Nov+ (GMcC), and at Ramer L., Imperial 13 Aug-3 Sep (TAB, BMi); this species is clearly expanding its



Seen over Highway 395 at the northern edge of Lone Pine, Inyo County, 5 August 2011, this Black Vulture is the first to be recorded in the eastern half of California. Photograph by Jon L. Dunn.

range westward into se. California. A frigatebird, probably a Magnificent, was at Pt. Loma 30 Oct (PW); the status of Magnificent Frigatebird in California has declined from "rare but annual in late summer" in the 1980s to "casual or accidental" today.

HERONS THROUGH PHALAROPEs

A Tricolored Heron at L. Havasu 10 Aug-17 Sep (LH) was the first in San Bernardino. A Reddish Egret moving between Pismo Beach and San Simeon, San Luis Obispo 6 Aug-14 Sep (PL, MLS) and another at P.M.N.A.S. 17-18 Nov (DP) made the only coastal records n. of Orange; one at N.E.S.S. 11 Aug (CMcG) was inland. Two long-staying Yellow-crowned Night-

Hérons were still at P.M.N.A.S. 17 Nov (DP), and at least 9 were around Imperial Beach/San Diego during the period (GMcC, JP).

A Black Vulture n. of Lone Pine 5 Aug (JLD) was the first for Inyo, and another at Lake Casitas, Ventura 15-23 Oct (KRe) may have been the one present in this general area since Sep 2009. An imm Northern Goshawk, very rare away from the mts., was in the Saline Valley, Inyo 13 Oct (REM), but a juv. on Mt. Pinos, Ventura 27 Aug (AV) was in an area where the species is known to nest. A Harris's Hawk present around Borrego Springs, San Diego since 11 Apr was still there 30 Nov (PJ), up to 5 were around Jacumba, San Diego through the period (PEL, JKe), and a migrant was over Pt. Loma 29 Oct (TRS). Two migrant Broad-winged Hawks were on the coast at Lopez L., San Luis Obispo 11 Oct (DGS), another was at Imperial Beach 7 Oct (TL), and 3 were together on Pt. Loma 15 Oct (GMcC); inland, single birds were at G.H.P. 23 Sep (SES) and 14 Oct (LJ). Migrant Zone-tailed Hawks were at Desert Center 14 Sep (NM) and Fallbrook, San Diego 7 Oct (KW), while singles at Ojai, Ventura 24 Nov+ (BT), near Escondido, San Diego since 22 Jul (KRo), and near El Centro, Imperial 13 Sep-30 Nov+ (KZK) were returning wintering birds. Only 2 Rough-legged Hawks, now rare anywhere in s. California, were reported, with an unusually early migrant at China Lake 29 Oct (SLS) and the other quite far s. at S.J.W.A. 20 Nov+ (JT). A Crested Caracara in the Tijuana R. valley, San Diego 25 Sep-1 Oct (GN, MSt) was in the same area frequented by one 9 Sep 2006-14 Nov 2009.

Three Sandhill Cranes at Desert Center 20 Oct (CAM) and one at Lompoc, Santa Barbara 11-13 Nov (LL) were away from any areas of regular occurrence. Single juv. American Golden-Plovers at Goleta, Santa Barbara 14-17 Oct (PAG) and at Playa del Rey, Los Angeles 22-26 Oct (DD) made the only coastal reports, and singles were noted inland, where casual, at Owens L. Inyo 24-25 Sep (KH-L) and S.J.W.A. 1-11 Oct (DF, CMcG). Two Pacific Golden-Plovers at Goleta 13-15 Oct (NAL) and one at Huntington Beach, Orange 19-21 Aug (GLT) were evidently migrants, while 2 at Guadalupe, Santa Barbara 27 Sep+ (MLS), up to 4 on the Oxnard Plain, Ventura 23 Aug-31 Oct (LSa, KRe), one at S.B.N.W.S. 12 Nov (JF), and one near Imperial Beach 14 Aug-30 Nov+ (MSa) were at known wintering localities; one at S.E.S.S. 13 Sep-30 Nov+ (JLD) was inland, where much rarer. Unexpected were 3 Mountain Plovers on the beach at Pismo Beach 27-28 Oct (RHZ) and another at Huntington Beach 14-18 Oct (BED, RAE). A black-and-white oystercatcher on



In a most unexpected setting was this Xantus's Murrelet, photographed on the first day of its 9-13 August 2011 stay in a narrow river channel 3 kilometers inland from the beach at Imperial Beach, San Diego County. Photograph by Anthony Mercieca.

Santa Cruz I. 28 Oct (SH) and 2 on Pt. Loma 7 Aug-8 Oct (PEL) appeared to be close to "pure" American Oystercatchers.

Solitary Sandpipers appeared scarcer than normal, with only 20 along the coast and an equal number inland 5 Aug-8 Oct, along with a late straggler at Cayucos, San Luis Obispo 17-22 Oct (BAB). A Black Turnstone, casual inland in fall, was at S.E.S.S. 13 Aug (HBK), and another was at N.E.S.S. 5 Sep (CMcG). A Red Knot near Kern N.W.R. 9 Sep (SLS) was the only one inland away from the Salton Sea. Some 30 Sanderlings inland away from the Salton Sea included 16 juvs. together at Owens Lake 2 Oct (JLD). Semipalmated Sandpipers appeared scarcer than normal, with only 16 along the coast and 3 inland 1 Aug-5 Sep, with a late migrant at Imperial Beach 21-24 Sep (GN, MSa). Reports of Baird's Sandpipers included 25 near Calipatria, Imperial 18 Sep (GMcC, GN), and an unusually late individual at Klondike L. near Lone Pine 8 Nov (T&JH). Reports of about 225 Pectoral Sandpipers included an unprecedented 50 together near Calipatria 18 Sep (GMcC, GN). Away from the Salton Sea, 2 Stilt Sandpipers were at Goleta 8 Sep (NAL), one at the V.C.G.P. 6-10 Aug (LSa) followed by up to 3 there 11-19 Sep (LSa), one at Long Beach, Los Angeles 7-9 Aug (M&JS), 2 at Huntington Beach, Orange 15-17 Sep (BED), 2 at Orange, Orange 18 Sep-1 Oct (DRW), and 3 at Imperial Beach 10-14 Sep (GN), with 2 inland near Kern N.W.R. 23 Sep (SES) and one on the Colorado R. below Parker Dam 27 Sep (DVP). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper at V.C.G.P. 29 Aug-4 Sep (JA, LSa) was the only one found this fall. Single Ruffs, regular in small numbers every fall, were along the coast at Santa Maria, Santa Barbara 2-3 Sep (WTF) and nearby Guadalupe 30 Sep-4 Oct (WTF),

at Long Beach 27 Sep-4 Oct (JSB) and 4 Oct (RB), at Orange 26 Sep-1 Oct (JKa), with 2 together at V.C.G.P. 5-11 Sep (LSa) and one inland at S.E.S.S. 13 Aug (TAB). Single Red Phalaropes on L. Havasu 2 (TAB) & 11 Oct (LH) represented the only inland reports.

GULLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

About 20 Sabine's Gulls were reported inland 16 Aug-8 Oct; most were on L. Havasu, where the species is seen annually in small numbers. A juv. Little Gull at C.L. 29 Aug (SLS) was the 4th to be found in Kern (and 3rd at this site), and another juv. was on L. Havasu 10 Sep (DVP). Franklin's Gulls were exceptionally scarce, with only one on the coast at Morro Bay 29 Sep (MLS) and one on L. Havasu 8 Nov (LH) and no more than 5 at S.E.S.S. 13 Aug-25 Sep (GMcC). Reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls included an ad. near Lakeview, Riverside 19 Nov+ (HBK), a second-cycle bird there 20 Nov (HBK), and an ad. at S.E.S.S. 18 Sep-9 Nov (GMcC). A Least Tern photographed at Big Bear L., San Bernardino 15 Aug (SR) was exceptional, as the location is not only inland but at 2025 m elevation. A juv. Arctic Tern at Tinemaha Res. near Big Pine, Inyo 1 Oct (JLD) was the only one found inland this fall. Inland Parasitic Jaegers on included up to 2 on L. Havasu 6-19 Sep (DVP, LH) and at least 8 on the Salton Sea 5 Sep-2 Oct (JFG, GMcC). Juv. Long-tailed Jaegers were seen near Kern N.W.R. 9 Sep (SLS), on L. Havasu 9-15 Sep (DVP, LH), and at L. Palmdale, Los Angeles 7-13 Sep (CDY), and single ads. were at Guadalupe, Santa Barbara 28 Aug (WTF) and Lancaster, Los Angeles 19 Sep (RJN), all inland.

A juv. Pigeon Guillemot at Newport Beach, Orange 12 Aug-2 Sep (BED) was unusually far south. Six Marbled Murrelets at Pt. Pie-



This short-staying Northern Wheatear at Malibu Lagoon in Malibu, Los Angeles County 23 September 2011 provided the third record for Southern California. Photograph by Daniel Tinoco.

dras Blancas 5 Sep (TME) was a high count for *San Luis Obispo*, and up to 4 at North V.A.F.B. 28 Aug–8 Nov (NAL) were at the s. limit of this species' normal range, so one at West Cove Pt., San Clemente I. 28 Nov (JTS, NJD) was exceptional. A healthy Xantus's Murrelet of the nominate subspecies on the Otay R. channel at Imperial Beach 9–13 Aug (MSa) was 3 km inland, possibly only the 2nd such record for this highly pelagic species.

At least 15 White-winged Doves were found along the coast after 23 Aug, with the northernmost being one near Oxnard, *Ventura* 30 Aug (CK). A Ruddy Ground-Dove at F.C.R. 9–29 Oct (C&RH) was the only one reported. A Flammulated Owl caught by a cat at Palm Springs, *Riverside* 5 Nov (KL) was no doubt a migrant. A calling Common Nighthawk on Santa Barbara I. 20 Oct (WTF) provides one of only a very few records for coastal s. California. An ad. male Broad-billed Hummingbird frequented a feeder at San Diego 6 Nov–2 Dec (MPo). A Black-chinned Hummingbird at Arroyo Grande, *San Luis Obispo* 15–16 Oct (CDL) was unusually late. A Calliope Hummingbird at Pine Wood in the San Jacinto Mts., *Riverside* 12 Sep (PU) appears to be the latest ever in the s. California mountains. A dozen Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported after mid-Oct, with most in the e. part of the Region, as expected. Single Gilded Flickers were seen in e. *San Bernardino* at the Cima Dome 23 Oct (DK), where probably still resident, and at Parker Dam 24 Nov (DVP); we believe this species is close to vanishing in California and requires close monitoring.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH PIPITS

A vocalizing Eastern Wood-Pewee at Bircham Canyon n. of Bishop, *Inyo* 22–26 Oct (J&DP) was only the Region's 5th. A very late wood-pewee at Carpinteria, *Santa Barbara* 20–22 Nov (EC) was not identified to species. Late Willow Flycatchers were at N.E.S.S. 10 Oct (RMcK) and Malibu, *Los Angeles* 28 Oct (DSC). Least Flycatchers were at Pt. Loma, *San Diego* 16 Sep (BMu), *Santa Barbara* I. 17 Sep (NAL), Ridgecrest, *Kern* 7–8 Oct (SLS), Round Valley, *Inyo* 9 Oct (J&DP), and Glen Helen R.P., *San Bernardino* 9–10 Oct (DG). Seven Eastern Phoebes found after 25 Oct included at least 2 returning wintering birds. A Great Crested Flycatcher at Zzyzx 21–22 Sep (BSi) was the 4th for *San Bernardino*. A Dusky-capped Flycatcher was at Shoshone, *Inyo* 5–7 Nov (LSW), and another returned to Bell Gardens, *Los Angeles* for its 2nd winter 5 Nov (RB). Twenty Tropical Kingbirds after 23 Sep were concentrated along the coast and included returning wintering birds; another returning bird was somewhat inland at Prado R.P., *San Bernardino* 23 Oct+ (ME). A Thick-billed Kingbird at Middle Ranch on Santa Catalina I. 19 Nov+ (LF) established the first record for the Channel Is.; another at Chula Vista, *San Diego* 25 Oct+ (RN) had returned for its 2nd winter. Late Western Kingbirds were on San Clemente I. 13 Nov (JBR), at e. Irvine, *Orange* 17 Nov (DRW), in the Baldwin Hills, *Los Angeles* 22 Nov (A&EB), and at San Diego 30 Nov (PEL). The only Eastern Kingbirds were at Baker, *San Bernardino* 7–14 (DR) & 23–24 Sep (JEP) and at C.L. 10 Sep (AH). The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was reported at *Ventura* 2–6 Sep (ET-G).

Gray Vireos are very local breeders in the Region, wintering only at a single desert site, and migrants are virtually unknown here (though there is no shortage of claims); so 2 photo-documented coastal records this fall were astonishing: one was on Santa Barbara I. 17 Sep (NAL), and another was on the Oxnard Plain near Port Hueneme, *Ventura* 1–6 Oct (JiM et al.). A migrant Bell's Vireo at Niland, *Imperial* 13 Aug (SBT) was at an unexpected locality, as was one at Montaña de Oro S.P., *San Luis Obispo* 18–21 Sep (MLS); one at Riverside 25 Nov+ (HBK) was wintering. Blue-headed Vireos, casual in California, were on Santa Barbara I. 16–17 Sep (NAL) and at San Diego 24 Oct (PEL), along with a returning wintering bird at Pt. Loma 20 Nov+ (PEL). Philadelphia Vireos were at G.H.P. 8 Oct (AEK, TEW), Desert Hot Springs 9 Oct (RAH), and Gordon's Well 12 Oct (GMcC), the latter two new for *Riverside* and *Imperial*, respectively. A Red-eyed Vireo was on Santa Barbara I. 17 Sep (NAL); 3 more were on the deserts of e. Kern 10 Sep–15 Oct, and a late bird was near Tecopa, *Inyo* 29 Oct (CAM). The only Yellow-green Vireo was at Goleta, *Santa Barbara* 23 Oct (DMC).

Pinyon Jays staged a significant movement into the mts. of interior *San Diego* 28 Sep+ (EE, PM, PEL et al.), with flocks of up to 180 birds; singles at G.H.P. 11 Sep and 16 Oct (TEW) constituted the only other evidence of any movement within the Region, leading to speculation that the *San Diego* birds probably came from montane Baja California. Increasing numbers of Common Ravens continue to be noted in coastal *San Luis Obispo*; a flock of 11 at Arroyo Grande 8 Oct (BKS) is the largest number ever recorded in the w. part of the county.

Establishing one of the few truly extralimital records for the Region, a Verdin was at Bolsa Chica 22 Nov+ (RAE), the 2nd ever for *Orange*. A flock of 11 Bushtits at N.E.S.S. 26 Nov (DG) was in an area where the species is casual. A Winter Wren was well described and photographed in the Santa Ynez Mts., *Santa Barbara* 14–26 Nov (ARA); such well-documented records are few in the Region, but the species may well prove to be regular. A California Gnatcatcher at Marina del Rey, *Los Angeles* 16 Aug (RAH) marked yet another excursion well away from known occupied habitat for this threatened species in the urban Los Angeles region.

A Northern Wheatear was photographed at Malibu Lagoon in the late afternoon of 23 Sep (DTi), but it was gone by the next morning; it was the Region's 3rd, the 2nd for *Los Angeles*, and the first in California since 2001. Late migrant Swainson's Thrushes included

one at Santa Ana, *Orange* 8-18 Nov (DRW) and another found freshly dead at Pasadena, *Los Angeles* 11 Nov (MF; *LACM). Two Wood Thrushes, casual in the Region, appeared on the deserts, with one at G.H.P. 1 Oct (SLS), the other at Shoshone 25 Oct-7 Nov (LSW). A Rufous-backed Robin at Picacho S.R.A. 13 Nov (GCH) was the Region's 17th and the 4th for *Imperial*. Gray Catbirds were at Baker 1-3 Oct (LSc) and Bishop 11 Nov (R&NO). Brown Thrashers were at Baker 25 Sep (SR) and Quail Hollow on the Colorado R., *San Bernardino* 1 Oct (TAB). The Curve-billed Thrasher returned for its 3rd winter to Black Meadow Landing on the Colorado R., *San Bernardino* 23 Nov+ (EP). There was a poor flight of Red-throated Pipits this fall, the only sightings being of one on San Clemente I. 8 Oct (JTS) and up to 2 in the Tijuana R. valley, *San Diego* 18 Oct-21 Nov (PM, GMcC).

LONGSPURS THROUGH WARBLERS

Nine Lapland Longspurs 19 Oct+ and 26 Chestnut-collared Longspurs 21 Oct+ in coastal and desert areas were complemented by a good showing of McCown's Longspurs: 3 in the Santa Ynez Valley 19 Nov (with 2 overwintering; NAL), one at Mission Bay, *San Diego* 11-19 Nov (JMCM), and 3 near Blythe, *Riverside* 11 Nov (RMcK).

Most vagrant and scarce migrant warbler species occurred in average to above-average numbers this fall; we generally compare numbers in a given year to the mean number for the most recent ten-year period, but note that we make no attempt to account for observer effort, which probably increases somewhat annually. The raw numbers, therefore, might obscure trends. It was clear, however, that this fall saw relatively good numbers of "spruce budworm" warblers. Six Ovenbirds were in coastal areas 16 Sep-13 Nov; in the interior, one was at Horse Thief Spring, *San Bernardino* 7-8 Oct (JB), one was on the lower Colorado R. below Imperial Dam, *Imperial* 8 Oct (MN), and one was at 2550 m elevation in the San Jacinto Mts., *Riverside* 15 Oct (KL). A Worm-eating Warbler at Ramer L. near Calipatria 26-27 Nov (CS) was the first ever found in *Imperial*. Fifteen Northern Waterthrushes were on the coastal slope 29 Aug-11 Oct, with 9 more on the deserts 21 Aug-1 Oct; a late desert bird was at California City, *Kern* 7 Nov-15 Dec (PC). A total of 33 Black-and-white Warblers were on the coastal slope 1 Sep+ with 5 more on the deserts 21 Sep-16 Oct. Prothonotary Warblers were on San Clemente I. 21-25 Sep (AAA), at Imperial Dam 10-11 Oct (PEL), and at Baker 31 Oct (PEL). Twenty-eight Tennessee Warblers were on the coastal slope 15 Sep-26 Nov, with another 5 on the deserts 18

Sep-21 Oct. Ten Lucy's Warblers were found as vagrants on the coast 1 Sep-25 Nov; 8 were around the Imperial Valley 5 Aug-13 Sep, and another at Ramer L. 27 Nov (CAM) established by far the latest fall record for the Salton Sink. The decline of Virginia's Warblers as fall vagrants to the Region continues, with only 10 reported on the coastal slope 10 Sep-12 Oct; in the interior, 2 were near Heap's Peak in the San Bernardino Mts. 30 Aug (ET), one was at Zzyzx 14 Sep (SR), and one was at Twentynine Palms, *San Bernardino* 1 Oct (SJM). A Connecticut Warbler on the Oxnard Plain near Pt. Hueneme 2-6 Oct (SC, MPa) was only the 3rd to be found in *Ventura*. Kentucky Warblers were near Desert Center, *Riverside* 11 Sep (BH), at Barker Dam in Joshua Tree N.P., *Riverside* 18 Sep (CMcG), and at Pt. Loma 25 Sep (DTr, TRS).

Hooded Warblers in coastal areas were at Eaton Canyon, Pasadena 27 Sep (EMcP) and e. *Orange* 5 Nov+ (DW); in the interior, Baker had singles 24 Sep (BD) and 14 Oct (MSM, Jr.), and one was at Lancaster, *Los Angeles* 12 Nov (D&KK). Fifty-three American Redstarts on the coastal slope after 31 Aug, and another 17 on the deserts 5 Sep-27 Nov, were well above the recent 10-year mean. Three Cape May Warblers were the first fall records in the Region in five years and the best showing since the late twentieth century, with birds at Laguna Niguel, *Orange* 17 Sep (RBMcN), Twentynine Palms 30 Sep (TAB), and on Santa Barbara I. 22-25 Oct (PAG). Seven Northern Parulas, all on the coastal slope, were noted after 16 Sep, with 2 remaining to winter. Fourteen Magnolia Warblers were on the coast 10 Sep-1 Nov, with another 6 on the deserts 23 Sep-12 Nov; this total was well above the recent 10-year mean. Bay-breasted Warblers were on San Clemente I. 21-25 Sep (NJD) and at Playa del Rey, *Los Angeles* 25-27 Oct (DS) and inland at G.H.P. 22 Sep (SLS) and Baker 7 Nov (ET). Blackburnian Warblers were at Montaña de Oro S.P. 10 Sep (JPS), in the Tijuana R. valley 12-14 (male; RJN) & 14-16 Oct (female; RN), and on San Clemente I. 24-25 Oct (JTS); another was on the desert at California City 22 Sep (DG). An



This Wood Thrush in Shoshone, Inyo County, California was present 25 October through 7 (here 4) November 2011; it was one of two found in the northeastern part of Southern California this fall. Photograph by Nancy Overholtz.

above-average 26 Chestnut-sided Warblers were on the coastal slope 14 Sep+ (at least one remaining to winter), and 7 more were on the deserts 10 Sep-12 Nov. Blackpoll Warblers were once again clearly below average, with 30 on the coast 11 Sep-31 Oct and 4 more on the *Kern* deserts 21 Sep-1 Oct and one at Bard, *Imperial* 10 Oct (PEL). Black-throated Blue Warblers were below average, with 5 on the coastal slope 13-28 Oct and 3 more on the deserts 8 Oct-28 Nov (but none in *Kern* for the first time in at least eight years). Fifty-three Palm Warblers on the coastal slope and islands 18 Sep+, and 5 more on the n. deserts 7-27 Oct were well above the recent 10-year mean. Returning Pine Warblers were at Palos Verdes Estates, *Los Angeles* 31 Oct+ (MJB) and at Hansen Dam, *Los Angeles* 11 Nov+ (KLG); another was at Laguna Niguel 12-13 Nov (RBMcN). The only Yellow-throated Warbler was on Santa Barbara I. 19 Oct (NAL). Six Prairie Warblers were found 5 Sep-16 Nov, all coastal and half of them on San Clemente Island. A Grace's Warbler returned for its 4th winter to Goleta 26 Oct+ (HPR), and a different bird was in a nearby part of Goleta 5 Nov (DMC). The only Black-throated Green Warbler was at n. Glendale, *Los Angeles* 2 Oct-12 Nov (KLG). Canada Warblers were at Desert Center 19-22 Sep (BMA) and La Mirada, *Los Angeles* 20 Sep (JoR). A migrant Painted Redstart was at G.H.P. 18 Sep (TEW), and wintering birds were at Bonita, *San Diego* 19 Nov+ (RP) and Elysian Park, *Los Angeles* 30 Nov+ (RB).

SPARROWS THROUGH FINCHES

The only American Tree Sparrow was at F.C.R. 2 Nov (KB). It was a banner fall for Clay-colored Sparrows, with at least 56 on the coastal slope after 11 Sep and another 18 on the deserts 16 Sep–16 Nov. Six Black-throated Sparrows were noted as wanderers to the coast, with the northernmost at Morro Bay 13 Sep (KLP); 20 in the White Mts. near Laws 20–23 Nov (J&DP) marked an unprecedented concentration for so late in the fall in *Inyo*. Nineteen Lark Buntings were found in seven of the Region's counties 10 Sep–18 Nov, including one on Santa Barbara I. 18 Sep (NAL) and 4 on San Clemente I. 21 Sep–13 Nov (JTS, NJD). Migrant Grasshopper Sparrows at unusual localities were at Morro Bay, *San Luis Obispo* 14 Nov (RHZ), Desert Center 20 Oct (CAM), and F.C.R. 29 Oct–7 Nov (CAM). Savannah Sparrows of the coastal salt marsh subspecies *beldingi* were once again found at Malibu Lagoon (where the species does not breed), with 2–3 birds there 28 Sep (JLF). Eleven Swamp Sparrows were on the coastal slope 15 Oct+, with 3 more on the n. deserts 20–29 Oct. Harris's Sparrows were at Cambria, *San Luis Obispo* 31 Oct (CA), G.H.P. 5–6 Nov (TEW), and Blythe 12 Nov (RMcK).

A male Hepatic Tanager was well described from Corn Springs, *Riverside* 11 Oct (JaM); in *San Diego*, one returned for its 2nd winter at Balboa Park 30 Oct+ (SES), and the Imperial Beach bird was back for its 6th winter 12 Nov+ (MSt). As typical of recent years, Summer Tanagers were seen widely on the coastal slope after mid-Aug; in the interior, singles were at Aspendell, *Inyo* 20 Aug (BSt, SLS), Birchim Canyon near Bishop 26 Sep (J&DP), and El Centro, *Imperial* 20 Nov (BK), and a returning bird was at Palm Desert, *Riverside* 28 Oct+ (KL); observers generally do not identify Summer Tanagers to subspecies, so much remains to be learned of the status of nominate birds vs. locally breeding *cooperi* in the Region. An unprecedented 13 Scarlet Tanagers were found this fall, at Pt. Loma 15–16 Oct (GLR), 24–29 Oct, 7 Nov, and 27 Nov (GN); Jacumba, *San Diego* 22 Oct (HBK); Nestor, *San Diego* 26–28 Oct (PEL); Balboa Park 23 Nov+ (PEL); San Clemente I. 23 Nov (male and female together; JTS); Laguna Niguel 24–28 Nov (RBMcN); and well inland at the Carrizo Plain N.M., *San Luis Obispo* 28 Oct (KS), Bard 11 Oct (GMcC), and G.H.P. 23–24 Oct (KH-L). A Pyrrhuloxia at Niland 5–12 Aug (FB) was the 26th to be found in the Region. Ten Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were found on the coastal slope 10 Sep–22 Nov, with an earlier bird at San Elijo Lagoon, *San Diego* 13 Aug (JaR) possibly summering

locally; on the deserts, at least 3 were in e. Kern 16 Sep–8 Oct. A Black-headed Grosbeak near El Centro 3–4 Oct (GMcC) was the latest to be found in fall in the Salton Sink. A very late Lazuli Bunting was at Rancho Bernardo, *San Diego* 6–11 Nov (JN). Fourteen Indigo Buntings were found on the coastal slope 23 Aug–24 Oct, with 8 more on the deserts 4 Sep–1 Oct, plus a very late bird at Desert Center 19–27 Nov (CMcG, CAM). Painted Buntings, all felt to be hatch-year birds, were in the Tijuana R. valley 20 Aug (PEL), at Goleta 10–11 Sep (HPR), on San Clemente I. 12–25 Sep (AAA), on Santa Barbara I. 18 Sep (PAG), and at Montaña de Oro S.P. 23 Sep (BAB). Dickcissels appeared in greater-than-average numbers, with 6 on the coastal slope 14 Sep–21 Oct and another 6 on the deserts 1 Sep–9 Oct.

Fifty-six Bobolinks were on the coastal slope and Islands 10 Sep–29 Oct; 10 more were on the deserts 12 Sep–22 Oct. Rusty Blackbirds are casual late fall and winter visitors to California; singles were at Ridgecrest 5–14 Nov (TEW), G.H.P. 18 Nov (SLS), and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary, Irvine 26 Nov (BAA). A Common Grackle at Cypress 9 Nov (KSG) was the first to be found in *Orange*. Five migrant Orchard Orioles were along the coast 16 Sep–19 Nov, along with a returning wintering bird at Nestor 19 Nov+ (JKe); inland, a female was in Morongo Valley, *San Bernardino* 30 Sep (TAB), and an ad. male was at Niland 12 Sep (JLD). Fifteen Baltimore Orioles were found along the coast 25 Sep+, with some remaining to winter. Four Scott's Orioles at Valyermo, *Los Angeles* 12 Nov (M&JS) were in an area normally abandoned by this species in fall; 4 were feeding on prickly-pear fruits on San Clemente I. 13–22 Nov (JBR). A Red Crossbill on Santa Barbara I. 19 Oct (NAL) was quite a surprise, given the absence of any movement of this species in the Region this fall.

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Dave Furseth, Peter A. Gaede, Kimball L. Garrett (*Los Angeles*), Karen S. Gilbert, Dave Goodward, John F. Green, Robb A. Hamilton, Steve Hampton, Brooks Hart, Lauren Harter, Gjon C. Hazard, Tom & Jo Heindel (*Inyo*), Kelli Heindel-Levinson (*Kern*), Chris & Nancy Howard (C&RH), Andrew Howe, Oscar Johnson (*Ventura*), Lee Jones, Paul Jorgensen, Chris Kahler, Doug Karalun, Joe Karow (JKa), Dave L. Keeling, Jay Keller (JKe), David & Kenny Kimbrough (D&KK), Howard B. King, Alexander E. Koonce (*San Bernardino*), Barbara Krause, Kenneth Z. Kurland, Penny Lancaster, Lois Lebowitz, Paul E. Lehman, Vic Leipzig, Nick A. Lethaby, Tony Leukering, Kurt Leuschner, Cheryl D. Lish, Barry Mantell (BMA), Curtis A. Marantz, Paul Marvin, Robert E. Maurer, Guy McCaskie (*Imperial*), Chet McGaugh (*Riverside*), Todd McGrath, Robert McKernan, Jimmy McMorrnan, Robert B. McNab, Elaine McPherson, Bob Miller (Bmi), Jake Mohlmann (JaM), Jim Moore (JiM), Nathan Moorhatch, Brennan Mulrooney (BMu), Stephen J. Myers, Michael Nicosia, Jan Nordenberg, Richard Norgaard, Richard J. Norton, Gary Nunn, Ron & Nancy Overholtz (R&NO), Matthew Page (MPa), Jim & Debby Parker (J&DP), Jim Pea, Dave Pereksta, Kaaren L. Perry, Nicholas R. Peterson, Rick Phillips, James E. Pike, Mark Polinsky (MPo), Ernie Psikla, Hugh P. Ranson, Kay Regester (Kre), Sandra Remley, Geoffrey L. Rogers, Kim Roth (KRo), Jonathan Rowley (JoR), Janet Roxburgh (JaR), Jethro B. Runco, Don Ryan, Matt Sadowski (MSa), Michael San Miguel Jr., Larry Sansone (LSa), Mark & Janet Scheel (M & JS), Larry Schmahl (LSc), Brad K. Schram, Kathy Sharum, Brad Singer (BSi), James P. Smith, Maggie L. Smith, Justyn T. Stahl (*San Clemente Island*), Trent R. Stanley, Don Sterba, Douglas G. Stinson, Mark Stratton (MSt), Bob Steele (BSt), Susan L. Steele, Craig Swolgaard, Bob Tallyn, Elisa Taylor-Godwin, Scott B. Terrill, Daniel Tinoco (DTi), Eric Tipton, Jennifer Tobin, Gerald L. Toman, David Trissel (DTr), Philip Unitt, Jim & Chris Van Beveren, David Vander Pluym, Alexander Viduetsky, Donelda Warhurst, Len S. Warren, Kenneth Weaver, Phillip White, Douglas R. Willick (*Orange*), Thomas E. Wurster, Callyn D. Yorke, Roger H. Zachary. An additional 30± observers who could not be individually acknowledged submitted reports; all have our thanks. ☺

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Two Old World birds—a Marsh Sandpiper and a returning Wood Sandpiper—provided by far the most unusual observations this season. Both individuals represent first records for Mexico. October is typically the most exciting month for local students of bird migration, and 2011 brought a good one. Several species from north and northeast of the Region were found in exceptional numbers, particularly Least Flycatcher, Lucy's Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Orchard Oriole, and Baltimore Oriole. American Robins and Townsend's Solitaires also showed well. Waters in the southern Gulf of California were visited again—producing sightings of Christmas Shearwater and 175 Red-footed Boobies—but there were almost no offshore reports from the Pacific.

DUCKS THROUGH JAEGER

Few Canvasbacks have been found in recent years away from the n. third of Baja California, so 2 at El Rosario 11 Nov and one at Guerrero Negro 13 Nov (all ph. MJB, RAE, EDZH) were noteworthy. Also very rare in Baja California Sur was the female Mallard at Guerrero Negro 13 Nov (ph. MJB, EDZH). The s. Gulf of California waters off of Los Barriles and Punta Arena were visited again by boat this year (5-6 Sep; MAP, DMP, BDSP, LST, RST, SBT). Maximum one-day counts included 13 Pink-footed Shearwaters, 120 Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, 2 Black-vented Shearwaters, 17 Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels, 25 Black Storm-Petrels, 70 Least Storm-Petrels, 2 Red-billed Tropicbirds, 4 Masked Boobies, 2 Blue-footed Boobies, 110 Brown

Boobies, 175 Red-footed Boobies, 10 Black Terns, 4 South Polar Skuas, and one Parasitic Jaeger. The least expected species were a Christmas Shearwater (ph. DMP, ph. SBT et al.) and a white-rumped Leach's Storm-Petrel, both on 5 Sep. Wood Storks continued their trace presence in the Cape District, with one at Lagunas de Chametla 27 Jul (ph. MJB, ph. RMA) and 2 at Estero San José 14 Aug (ph. ME). At the n. end of the Region, up to 2 Little Blue Herons at Estero Punta Banda 12 Oct–10 Nov (SNGH, ph. MJB et al.) and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Lagunita El Ciprés 21 Aug (MJB, ph. RMA) were n. of their normal ranges.

The Miraflores Mississippi Kite mystery continues: at least 2 were there 3-7 Sep (ph. SBT et al.). Broad-winged Hawk matched its best previous autumn in the Vizcaíno Desert (2005) with 5 seen 9-19 Oct. But only 2 Swainson's Hawks were found: one at Guerrero Negro 17 Oct (ph. MS, ph. RMA, MJB), the other at Leyes de Reforma 30 Nov (ph. AEM, JM). Golden Eagle is rarely reported in Baja California Sur, where it remains an enigma. Different individuals were seen at the base of the Vizcaíno Pen. 9 Oct (ph. SNGH, MJB, JEP) and 13 Nov (EDZH, ph. MJB, RAE). Crested Caracaras have produced an amazing spread of extralimital records across much of w. and cen. North America in recent years, but Baja California has not really been involved. Two birds were belatedly reported from the Río Colorado delta in 2005 (JJB), a long-staying bird in San Diego was seen crossing the border into Tijuana in Sep 2006, and this year, one was at Leyes de Reforma 8 Sep (ph. AEM, JM). All of these locations are within approximately 130 km of the California border and do not argue against a s. United States/mainland Mexico origin—rather than Baja California Sur—for the spate of wandering birds. There are still no recent records for most of the length of Baja California.

Golden-plovers are remarkably scarce in the Region. The only ones seen this fall were a Pacific Golden-Plover at Bahía San Quintín 28 Nov (AEM, JM) and a bird at Lagunas de Chametla 4 Sep not seen well enough to identify to species (MAP). Like last year, the genus *Tringa* provided the seasonal highlight this fall. Last

year's Wood Sandpiper returned for another winter at Lagunas de Chametla 27 Jul+ (ph. MJB, RMA et al.), but incredibly, that bird was surpassed by the juv. Marsh Sandpiper present at Estero Punta Banda 12-16 Oct (ph. MJB, ph. SNGH, JEP et al.). The few previous New World records are from the islands of w. Alaska in fall. The season's other rare sandpipers were pale by comparison: 11 Solitary Sandpipers, one Semipalmated Sandpiper (Lagunas de Chametla 4 Sep; MAP, BDSP), 3 Baird's Sandpipers, 8 Pectoral Sandpipers, 5 Stilt Sandpipers, and single Ruffs at Guerrero Negro 30 Sep (ph. VA, NA) and 6-10 Oct (ph. SNGH, ph. MJB, JEP) and at Lagunas de Chametla 15 Oct (ph. KAR). Except for 5 of the Solitaires, all of these birds were in Baja California Sur. Sabine's Gull was found again in the Colorado Desert, with 3 at the Cerro Prieto geothermal ponds 23 Sep (ESM).

DOVES THROUGH FINCHES

Out-of-range doves finding Bahía de los Angeles included an Inca Dove 29-31 Oct and



Mississippi Kite sightings continue to accumulate at Miraflores, Baja California Sur, but the species' actual status there remains unclear. Records come from the months of July through October. This was one of two young birds seen on 7 September 2011. Photograph by Scott B. Terrill.



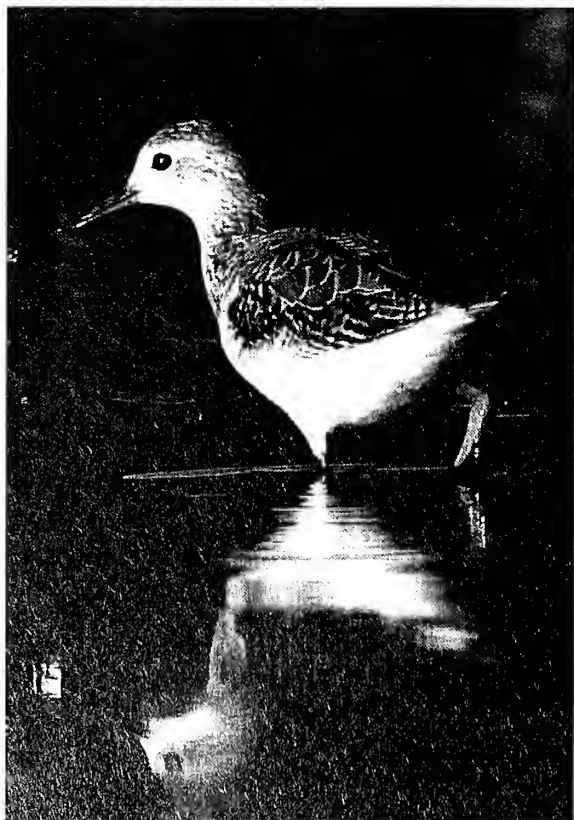
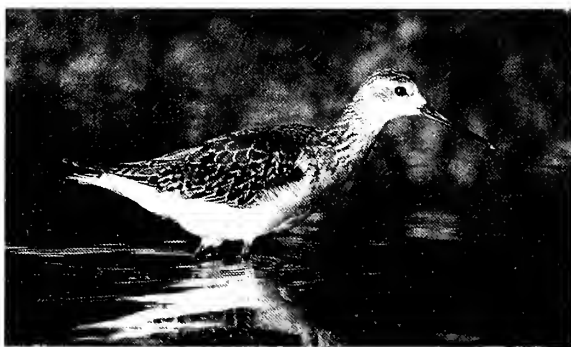
Swainson's Hawk is now considered a regular wintering species in Baja California Sur, but there is no known specimen, and this photograph of one at Guerrero Negro 17 October 2011 is the first to be published for the state. Photograph by Ryan M. Abe.



Golden Eagle, the national bird of Mexico, is rare in Baja California Sur. This young bird west of Gavilán on 14 November 2011 was one of two seen around the base of the Vizcaino Peninsula this season. Photographs by Matt Sadowski.



Inca Dove is well established in northeastern Baja California, but no specimen has been taken or photograph published for the state. This bird was well out of range at Bahía de los Angeles 29-31 (here 29) October 2011. Photograph by George Flicker.



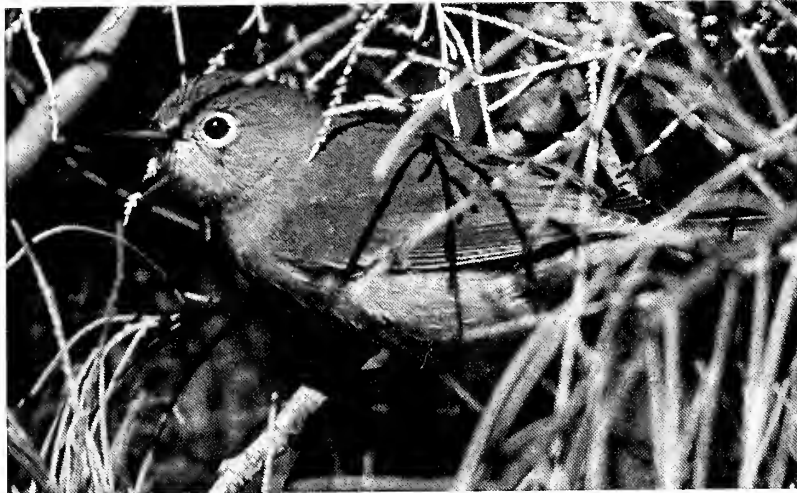
A first for Mexico, and the only one recorded south of Alaska in North America, this juvenile Marsh Sandpiper was a stunning discovery at Estero Punta Banda, Baja California 12-16 (here 12) October 2011. Photographs by Matt Sadowski.



Louisiana Waterthrush is a very early migrant, so this bird at desolate Punta Eugenia, Baja California Sur 18-19 (here 18) October 2011 was especially remarkable. Photograph by Ryan M. Abe.



Finding shade at Bahía Tortugas was this Prothonotary Warbler on 9 October 2011, representing the fifteenth record for Baja California Sur but first photographic record. Photograph by Steve N. G. Howell.



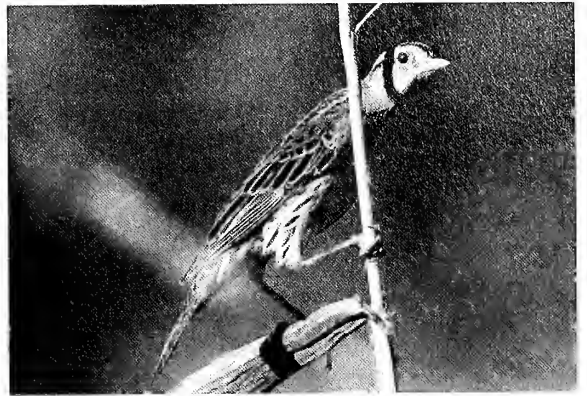
This Virginia's Warbler at Bahía Asunción 8-10 (here 8) October 2011 was the eleventh found in Baja California Sur and first to be photographically documented. *Photograph by Steve M. G. Howell.*



Although apparently a regular migrant, especially in spring, Hermit Warbler had not been documented by photograph in Baja California Sur until this image was captured at Rancho San José de Castro on 18 October 2011. *Photograph by Ryan M. Abe.*



Twelve Scarlet Tanagers were found in the Baja California Peninsula region this fall, more than five times the ten-year average. This immature male at El Rosario, Baja California 2 October 2011 was early. *Photograph by Ryan M. Abe.*



Bobolink has been recorded in Baja California every fall this century except in 2006, yet no photograph had been published from the state. This image of a bird at Rancho El Águila II on 16 October 2011 will serve to correct that. *Photograph by Ryan M. Abe.*

up to 2 Ruddy Ground-Doves 10 Oct–20 Nov (ph. GF, MF). Another wayward Ruddy Ground-Dove was at El Rosario 6 Oct (ph. MJB, SNGH). A Hairy Woodpecker at Tecate 5-26 Nov (ph. JS) appears to represent the first record away from Regional strongholds in the Sierras Juárez and San Pedro Mártir. More than the usual number of Willow and Hammond's Flycatchers were seen, with at least 12 and at least 6 found, respectively, all from Cataviña northward; Least Flycatcher numbers were also above average (Table 1, for this and selected other regularly recorded migrants). An apparent late pulse of Pacific-slope Flycatchers was indicated by 13 seen at Guerrero Negro and on the Vizcaíno Pen. 12-13 Nov (MJB, RAE, EDZH). An Eastern Phoebe at Bahía Asunción 12 Nov (RAE, ph. MJB, EDZH) was the first to be found in Baja California Sur since 2004. It was a fairly typical fall for Tropical Kingbirds, except for one in the interior northeast at Valle de la Trinidad 7-9 Aug (AEM, JM) that broke traditional geographic and temporal boundaries. In Baja California Sur, 2 Western Kingbirds were seen on the Vizcaíno Pen. and 2 more in the Cape District. The Eastern Kingbird at El Rosario 2 Oct (ph. MJB, ph. RMA, MS) provided the first Regional record since 2006.

A Gray Vireo at Nopoló 13 Oct (TH) was on the e. side of Baja California Sur, like virtually all other state reports to us, but surprisingly established the earliest record from the Regional wintering grounds. Three each Plumbeous and Cassin's Vireos in Baja California were slightly better

SA After receiving two successful visits in May, Isla Natividad received one more this season (9 Oct; MJB, SNGH, JEP). The results at this small island off the tip of the Vizcaíno Pen. were even more dramatic, with 18 species added to the island list: Snowy Egret, Broad-winged Hawk, Surf-bird, Short-billed Dowitcher, Elegant Tern, White-winged Dove, Nashville Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Prairie Warbler (2), Chipping Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, and Lesser Goldfinch. Among the other species seen were Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Table 1. Autumn occurrence on the Baja California Peninsula of selected species primarily from Canada and the eastern United States, 2001-2011.

	2011 Total	2001-2010 Average		2011 Total	2001-2010 Aver- age
Least Flycatcher	7	1.2	Indigo Bunting	15	2.9
Red-eyed Vireo	0	1.3	Dickcissel	10	5.8
Summer Tanager	23	13.0	Bobolink	13	8.5
Scarlet Tanager	12	2.2	Orchard Oriole	8	2.7
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5	5.1	Baltimore Oriole	9	2.4

Table 2. Autumn occurrence on the Baja California Peninsula of vagrant warblers primarily from Canada and the eastern United States, 2001-2011.

	2011 Total	2001-2010 Average		2011 Total	2001-2010 Average
Blackpoll Warbler	22	9.9	Canada Warbler	2	1.0
Tennessee Warbler	13	7.2	Yellow-throated Warbler	1	0.7
Palm Warbler	15	6.2	Painted Redstart	0	0.5
Lucy's Warbler	17	4.0	Mourning Warbler	0	0.5
Blackburnian Warbler	2	3.0	Bay-breasted Warbler	0	0.5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	5	2.6	Pine Warbler	0	0.4
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2	2.6	Cape May Warbler	2	0.3
Ovenbird	3	2.4	Grace's Warbler	0	0.3
Northern Parula	2	2.4	Blue-winged Warbler	0	0.3
Magnolia Warbler	0	2.3	Kentucky Warbler	0	0.1
Prairie Warbler	7	2.1	Connecticut Warbler	0	0.1
Virginia's Warbler	1	1.9	Worm-eating Warbler	0	0.1
Hooded Warbler	0	1.7	Cerulean Warbler	0	0.0
Black-throated Green Warbler	0	1.4	Golden-winged Warbler	0	0.0
Prothonotary Warbler	2	1.1	Louisiana Waterthrush	1	0.0
	91	50.8		6	4.8

than average, but Red-eyed Vireo went unrecorded Regionwide. A Blue-headed Vireo w. of Gavilán 19 Oct (MJB, ph. RMA, MS) established only the 6th Regional record but the 3rd in Oct from areas at the base of the Vizcaíno Peninsula. Warbling Vireos at Tecate 14 Oct–6 Nov (JS) and at Rancho El Descanso 14 Nov (RAE) were late. Yellow-green Vireos were on the Maneadero Plain 14 Oct (MJB, ph. RMA et al.) and at Bahía Tortugas 19 Oct (ph. RMA, MS). At least 7 Townsend's Solitaires in Oct made the best showing yet in the Vizcaíno Desert and included 2 on the Vizcaíno Peninsula. American Robins were also well represented; reports included 50 at El Rosario 11 Nov and 2 on the Vizcaíno Pen. the next day (MJB, RAE, EDZH). The only Varied Thrush found was at Rancho El Aguila II on 11 Nov, and the best mimid of the sea-

son was the Gray Catbird at Punta Eugenia 12 Nov (both RAE, ph. MJB, EDZH). The Region's endemic Gray Thrasher was found again at the ne. edge of its range. One was at Valle de la Trinidad 23 Nov (AEM, JM) and one approximately 50 km s. of San Felipe (at 30° 35') 29 Nov–7 Dec (ph. KK et al.) was at a new location. Rare ground birds made a poor showing, with one Red-throated Pipit at Rancho El Aguila II on 16 Oct (MJB, RMA, MS), one Lapland Longspur at Villa Jesús María 11-13 Nov (RAE, MJB), and one Chestnut-collared Longspur near Algodones 25 Nov (KAR, CR).

From the Regional perspective on vagrant warblers (and probably globally, as these numbers should track reproductive success on the breeding grounds for the most part), the fall of 2011 was good—the best since at

least 2006, and possibly 2001. And note there was essentially no coverage in September. The 31 species recorded this year was less than or equal to the numbers recorded from 2001-2006, but 97 individuals of selected species (Table 2) exceeds all other years this century except for 2001 (36 species, 104 "table" individuals). In the table, notice the strength of the four most numerous species (Blackpoll, Tennessee, Palm, and Lucy's Warblers); the only other real overproducer was Prairie Warbler. On the down side, Magnolia, Hooded, and Black-throated Green Warblers went missing; the last species hasn't been recorded in the Region in fall since 2006. Standout rarities included a Louisiana Waterthrush at Punta Eugenia 18-19 Oct (ph. MJB, ph. RMA, MS), Cape May Warblers at Bahía Asunción 12 Nov and Guerrero Negro 13 Nov (both RAE, ph. MJB, EDZH), and an apparently returning Yellow-throated Warbler at Bahía Asunción 8 Oct–12 Nov (JEP, ph. MJB, ph. SNGH et al.). Also notable were a late surge of 9 Nashville Warblers on the Vizcaíno Pen. 12-13 Nov and another extralimital Mangrove Warbler, this one at Bahía Asunción 18 Oct (ph. MS).

It was a banner year for Clay-colored Sparrows n. of their usual range in s. Baja California Sur. For example, in the fall of 2010, none were seen in Baja California, where at least 30 were found this year. Lark Buntings at La Bufadora 16 Oct (ph. KAR) and Cantamar 28 Nov (MJB, RMA) were also unusually far to the nw., while Grasshopper Sparrows were simply well represented, with singles at Bahía Asunción 18 Oct (ph. MJB, ph. RMA, MS), Villa Jesús María 13 Nov (ph. MJB), and Estero Punta Banda 25 Nov (AEM, JM). Keeping alive the string of noteworthy reports of Regional Song Sparrows was a bird away from nesting habitat at Villa Jesús María 11 Nov showing characters of the subspecies *heermanni* (RAE). Less than 40 km to the s., the first such bird for Baja California Sur was found at Guerrero Negro 16 May–1 Jun 2011. Rounding out the Regionally rare sparrows found were White-throated Sparrows at Rancho El Descanso 11 Nov and Cataviña 14 Nov (ph. MJB, RAE, EDZH), a Slate-colored Junco at Punta Banda 10 Nov (ph. MJB, RAE), Pink-sided Juncos at Punta Banda 10 Nov and Rancho El Descanso 11 Nov (RAE, ph. MJB, EDZH), and a Gray-headed Junco w. of Gavilán 19 Oct (ph. RMA, ph. MJB, MS). Another gray-headed-like junco at Bahía de los Ángeles 28 Oct (ph. GF, MF) showed signs of introgression with Pink-sided Junco. As is normally the case, Oregon Junco was not recorded outside the California and mountain districts.

Vagrant Summer Tanagers and especially

Scarlet Tanagers and Indigo Buntings were found in high numbers (Table 1). Notable among the buntings were singles in the Cape District at Miraflores 3 Sep (SBT, LST, DMP) and at Lagunas de Chametia 8 Oct (KAR). An ad. male Painted Bunting was at Rancho El Descanso 20 Oct (MS, ph. RMA, ph. MJB). Most notable among 10 Dickcissels was one early and away from traditional locations at Valle de la Trinidad 9-10 Sep (ph. AEM, JM). Red-winged Blackbird is one of a number of species that winter in some numbers in the Cape District and appear to migrate across the Gulf of California to get there. Attesting to this species' rarity in the mid-peninsula Vizcaino Desert was the fact that 2 at Villa Jesús María 13 Nov were the only ones seen by Billings, despite spending 18 days afield in the desert in Oct/Nov. Orchard and Baltimore Oriole numbers were good (Table 1), as were Bullcock's Oriole numbers in the Vizcaino Desert (7 found from El Rosario southward). Purple

Finch presumably still winters regularly in the Region's mountains—although reports are not annual—but one at Cataviña 14 Nov (RAE, ph. MJB, EDZH) was the first to be found in the Vizcaino Desert since one was seen at the same location in Oct 2004. Three Pine Siskins were also seen in the Vizcaino Desert in Oct.

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NORTHERN MEXICO

René Valdés's monitoring project in the desert environments of western San Luis Potosí at Ejido San Francisco and Charcas continue to produce interesting records of birds away from typical habitats or migration routes, as do other sites in northern Mexico.

IBISES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

Three ad. White Ibis were seen in a pond in La Gallareta, 5 km s. of Durango, Dgo. 29 Nov (ph. BS). In San Luis Potosí, an imm. Mississippi Kite was seen soaring over Ejido San Francisco, Santo Domingo 7 Sep (ph. RV, JC); in Nayarit, another imm. was photographed at Singayta 15 Sep, followed by an ad. at nearby San Blas 4 Oct (MS ph.). A

Roadside Hawk remained at San Pedro in the urban section of Monterrey, Nuevo León 22 Sep-13 Nov (ph. RG, ph. JO). A Gray Hawk was seen in Parque Guadiana, Dgo. 19 Nov (BS, BR, HR). Single Red-shouldered Hawks were recorded near the Santiago Bayacora R., at km 12.5 of the Durango-Mezquital Hwy., Dgo. 11 & 26 Nov (ph. JHMG, EN).

A Semipalmated Plover and a Semipalmated Sandpiper were at Parque Ecológico Luis Donaldo Colosio, Dgo. 20 Aug (BS, BR, AA, BH, HR, JN). A Broad-billed Hummingbird was at Ejido San Francisco 6 Sep, and 2 were there 10 Oct (RV). There were four extralimital sightings of Anna's Hummingbirds: 3 males at Parque Las Auras in Ciudad Lerdo, Dgo. 18 Sep (MRL, FVP ph.); a male at Ejido

Francisco Montes de Oca, 18 km e. of Durango 1 Nov (ph. JHM); 2 imm. males feeding in a *Nicotiana* at Ejido San Francisco 10-11 Nov (ph. RV); a female and an imm. male in Parque Ecológico Luis Donaldo Colosio, Durango, Dgo. 19 Nov (ph. BS); and an imm. male in La Gallareta, Dgo. 29 Nov (ph. BS). Reports of Anna's increased in the winter season. Rarely recorded in desert environments, a Buff-breasted Flycatcher was photographed at Ejido San Francisco 10 Aug (ph. RV). A Great Kiskadee was at Charcas 3 Oct (RV).

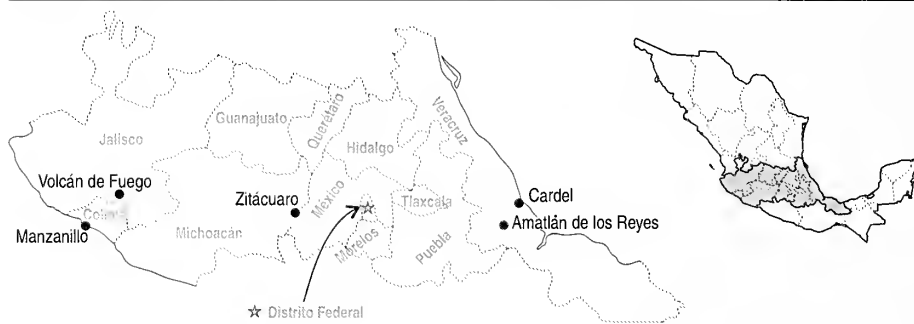
VIROES THROUGH FINCHES

Rarely recorded as migrants in the deserts, a Philadelphia Vireo and a Gray Catbird were photographed at Ejido San Francisco 11-13 Oct (ph. RV, ph. JC). A Winter Wren was heard calling on the Mexican banks of the Río Grande/Río Bravo from Salineño, Texas 16 Nov (MR). In Sonora, a Black-throated Blue Warbler visited El Pedregal Nature Lodge, Alamos 4 Nov (DM). A Black-throated Green Warbler was recorded at Ejido San Francisco 12 Oct (ph. RV, JC), and another was in Parque Sahuataba, Durango 15 Oct (BS, BR). A Louisiana Waterthrush was recorded in a pond 5 km s. of Ejido San Francisco 11 Ago (ph. RV), and a Dickcissel was there 9 Sep (ph. JC, ph. RV).

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CENTRAL MEXICO



HAWKS THROUGH ORIOLES

A Broad-winged Hawk was at Lomas Altas, D.F. 21 & 24 Nov (ph. HCL). A Prairie Falcon was photographed in Valle de Perote, Ver. 7 & 25 Oct (ph. LyS, LS, DS, JVD, AB). A Spotted Sandpiper was 33 km n. of Paraíso, Gro. 6 Sep (DB, HGdS, MPV). An inland Pomarine Jaeger was a surprise at Laguna de Sacyula, Jal. 9 Nov (RC, ph. JG). Five Eurasian Collared-Doves were widespread: 5 were at Cardel, Ver. 2 Aug, one at Coyuca de Benítez, Gro. 4 Sep, 2 at nearby El Cayaco, Gro. 7 Sep, 2 at Cuajin Icuilapa, Gro. 7 Sep, 2 near Acayucan, Ver. 21 Sep, and 2 at Lerdo, Ver. 22 Sep (HGdS). At least 6 Common Nighthawks

were at Las Barrancas, Ver. 1 Aug (HGdS, MPV, RC). Two Short-crested Coquettes were just above San Vicente de Benítez, Gro. 7 Sep (MPV, HGdS, DB). A Long-billed Starthroat was at Amatlán, Ver. 2 Aug (HGdS). A male Costa's Hummingbird was photographed at Teuchistlán, Jal. 20 Nov (JAAR).

A Chihuahuan Raven was photographed

soaring with Turkey Vultures over Cardel, Ver. 27 Oct (ICDn LyS, ph. JVD). Two American Dippers were seen at San Bartolo, Hgo. 10 Nov (RD, RP ph.). At least 10 Aztec Thrushes were at Parque Nacional El Chico, Hgo. 8 Nov, with one there 12 Nov (ph. RP, ph. RD). A Sprague's Pipit was detected at Playa Juan Ángel, Ver. 15 Nov (LS, JvD). An Ocellated Thrasher visited Epazoyucan, Hgo. 5 Nov (RP, RD). In Colonia del Valle, D.F., a male Prothonotary Warbler was in a small ubra park at the corner of Avenid Coyoacán and Morena 30

Aug (HGdS, MPV). A first-year male Prairie Warbler was near Minatitlán, Ver. 4 Sep, and an Audubon's Warbler was there 11 Sep (ph. MG, PLM, MAM). A male Lazuli Bunting in Parque Ecológico Xochimilco 1 Sep provided the first D.F. record (RW). A male Red-breasted Chat was 15 km n. of Iguala, Gro. 4 Sep (HGdS, MPV, DB). A Rusty-crowned Ground-Sparrow was high in the upper part of Nueva Dehli, Gro. 6 Sep (HGdS, MPV). Two Brewer's Sparrows were photographed 22 Nov near Tepexehualco, Pue., far s. of mapped range (ph. LS). A Clay-colored Sparrow was near Minatitlán 10 Sep (ph. MG, PLM, JAM), and a Lark Sparrow was there 22 Sep (MG). A female Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Boca del Río, Ver. 10 Oct (ph. LI). Outstanding was a Bobolink photographed near Laguna de Tecocomulco, Hgo. 29 Sep (ph. RP). Single Ochre Orioles were in groups of Orchards at Las Barrancas 1-2 Aug (HGdS, MPV, RC).

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This Red-shouldered Hawk on the margins of Santiago Bayacora River near the city of Durango 11 November 2011 was in a part of Durango where this species was not known to occur. Photograph by José Hugo Martínez Guerrero.



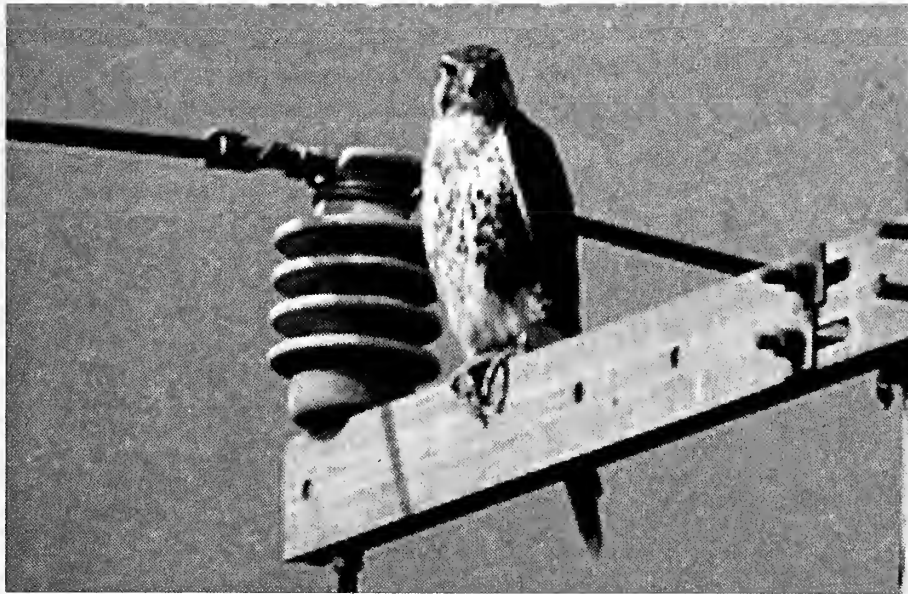
This juvenile Broad-winged Hawk at the golf course on Cozumel island, Quintana Roo 4 November 2011 was the island's first. Photograph by Rafael Chacón.

SOUTHERN MEXICO



Two Buffy-crowned Wood-Partridges were heard above Talquián, Chis. 11 Sep (v.r. HGdS, MPV, DB). Six Ring-necked Ducks were in a small pond n. of La Ventosa, Oax. 8 & 10 Nov, and 2 were at Barra de la Cruz,

Oax. 12 Nov (AM, JM, FA, RA). Seven Ruddy Ducks were at the w. lagoon at Santa María Xadani, Oax. 27 Aug, and 3 were there 31 Aug (AM, JM). Two juv. Pied-billed Grebes were in a pond in s. Juchitán, Oax. 31 Aug



This Prairie Falcon photographed at Valle de Perote, Veracruz 7 (here) and 25 October 2011 was south of its mapped range and is the first documented from this area. Photograph by Lynn Schofield.



This photograph of two Brewer's Sparrows near Tepexehualco, Puebla 22 November 2011 documents this species for the first time in central Mexico. The individual on the right shows the brown rump, lack of light central crown stripe, drab face without a dark lore, and even the slightly flecked (as opposed to clear gray) collar, all of which differentiate this species from Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrows. Photograph by Lynn Schofield.

(AM, JM). At least one Black-vented Shearwater was off Santa Cruz Huatulco, Oax. 12 Nov (ph. JM, AM, FA, RA). An American Bittern was seen patrolling an overgrown wetland at Barra de la Cruz, Oax. 11-12 Nov (ph. AM, JM, FA, RA).

An ad. Harpy Eagle was photographed near Yaxchilán, Chis. 19 Aug (ph. SLG); in the 1980s, the caretaker of the ruins site claimed the species was still occasionally seen in the area. An ad. Zone-tailed Hawk was near Jaltenango, Chis. 1 Aug (AM). A high count of at least 2000 American Coots were along a 2.5-km stretch of road at Santa María Xadani, Oax. 15 Nov; a Dunlin was there 15 Nov, and 2 Franklin's Gulls were there 27 & 31 Aug (ph. JM, AM). Six Pacific Parakeets were at La Venta, Oax. 9 Sep, and at least 500 were estimated at a roost in Arriaga, Chis. 10 Sep (HGdS, MPV, DB). A Scaly-breasted Hummingbird was along the lower Tzendales R., Chis. 14 Sep, and one was at Lacanjá 15 Sep (ph. HGdS, vt. MPV, DB, CC). A Black-crested Coquette was near Laguna Bélgica, Chis. 20 Sep (HGdS, MPV, DB). A female Golden-crowned Emerald was 10 km n. of Arriaga 10 Sep (HGdS, MPV). A Strong-billed Woodcreeper was in a coffee finca at Puente Chalcapilla n. of Pochutla, Oax. 13 Nov (AM, JM, FA, RA). A Scaled Antpitta was at a nest in Huitepec Reserve near San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chis. 18 Sep (JLR, HGdS, MPV, DB); another was seen at Laguna Bélgica 20 Sep (HGdS, MPV, DB).

Rare in se. Oaxaca, an Eastern Phoebe was se. of La Venta 10 Nov (AM, FA), a Say's Phoebe was s. of La Ventosa 17 Oct (AM, FA, RA), an American Pipit was s. of Santo Domingo 30 Oct (AM, JM, FA, RA), and a Clay-colored Sparrow was nw. of La Ventosa 3 Nov (AM). Two Common Ravens were at Tehuantepec, Oax. 9 Sep (HGdS, MPV, DB). A Cinnamon-tailed Sparrow was heard 4 km w. of Concepción Bamba, Oax. 9 Sep, probably the westernmost record on the Pacific coastal plain (HGdS). Six Guatemalan Junco including an imm. were at Papales above Talquián 11 Sep (HGdS, MPV, DB). Six Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted in a mixed flock of blackbirds n. of La Ventosa, Oax. 30 Oct. (ph. AM, JM, FA, RA). Two Brewer's Blackbirds were nw. of La Ventosa, Oax. 15 Oct, and 5 were there 23 Oct (ph. AM, ph. JM, FA, RA).

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YUCATÁN PENINSULA



This fall brought the subregion's first documentation of Tricolored Munia for the state of Campeche, as well as a second of Broad-winged Hawk, this one on Isla Cozumel. The first major wave of migrant warblers and shorebirds reported took place 8-9 September at Celestún, Yucatán, while Magnolia Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Least Flycatcher were abundant 9 km south of Progreso, Yucatán 20 September, and more warblers were evident 2 km from Dzilam Bravo, Yucatán, where some continued to overfly the area (70 m up), while others, including a rare Canada Warbler, made landfall and foraged before continuing. Another migration movement was noted in the same area 16 November, where mixed flocks of 150 warblers and 350 granivores, mostly Indigo Buntings, passed through. The buntings came down into the cattle pastures to feed on grass seeds.

WATERFOWL THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS

The season's first Blue-winged Teal was a female at Rancho Viejo, 10 km n. of Cancún, Q. Roo 2 Sep, and within the month 15 were there (ph. AP). On the other side of the penin-



The first documented record for the state of Campeche, this photograph taken 17 September 2011 shows seven Tricolored Munias feeding on grass seeds at the roadside around Kilometer 4 of the road leading to Palizada from Chabé. Photograph by Héctor Gómez de Silva.

sula, 70 were at the former shrimp farm on the road to Chunchucmil, Yuc. 29 Sep (AD). At Rancho Viejo, the first record of Northern Shoveler was confirmed 11 Oct (AP). A nice surprise this fall was a report of a pair of Redheads, rare in the subregion, photographed at the Yoluc lookout in the estuary in the Ria Lagartos Biosphere Reserve, Yuc. 14 Nov, where they fed with the flamingos (ph. DN). Equally unusual for n. Yucatan was a King Vulture seen 22-30 Nov in dry forest of the private reserve of Chuecab, 30 km sw. of Espita, Yuc., where the species was first reported a year ago (CA, MT). American White Pelican has been on the increase in the subregion for years, and this fall was no exception: 10 showed up at Celestún 16 Oct, and by 28 Oct, at least 3500 were present (AD). Reports of Black-crowned Night-Heron are more common in recent years, but this species' status over most of the peninsula is still not clear, so we continue to report on it. One was seen flying eastward at a location 9 km w. of Celestún, Yuc. 12 Sep (AD). The most recent reports on the Jabiru nest in the Ria Lagartos Biosphere Reserve suggest that the Jabiru pair did not return, probably due to the lack of rain in 2010.

Nevertheless, with the sighting of an individual near the remains of the former nest 18 Oct and 26 Nov, perhaps a mate will show up (DN).

A pair of Swallow-tailed Kites passed Tulum, Q. Roo 6 Aug (AP), and a flock of 18 was noted 19 Aug over the ranch at km 12 on the road to Vigia Chico (AD). More evidence of White-tailed Kites in n. Yucatán, 2 were noted a few km s. of Tizimin 22 Aug (AD). A Crane Hawk was seen perched along entrance road at Komchen de los Pájaros, Yuc. 14 Aug (BM), while a new record for Cozumel, Q. Roo was a juv.

SA Yellow-billed Cuckoo, documented nesting at Celestún in the past, apparently nested at multiple additional sites in late summer in the subregion. At Komchen de los Pájaros near Dzemul, one was seen at the cenote 14 Aug (BM). At a location referred to as Paraíso, 9 km inland from Progreso, three pairs were tallied along a 2-km stretch of low scrub forest at 19 Aug, one with a caterpillar in its bill and another leaving its nest. In the same stretch, 7 were observed 7 Sep, 3 of which were together (BM, WS), and 3 were noted there 12 Sep–10 Oct 3, with one still present 2 Nov (WS). At a location 5 km ne. of Hunucmá, inland from Celestún, 4 were observed together 11 Sep, with another about 150 m away; 2 were within 50 m of each other at the same location 8 Oct (BM). About 5 km inland from the coast at Chicxulub, near Progreso, single Yellow-billed Cuckoos were noted 13 & 29 Sep and 11 Nov (WS). About 2 km inland from San Crisanto, Yuc., singles were seen 18 Sep and 13 Nov (WS). Finally, one cuckoo was at Yaxcopoil 13 Sep (GT) and one about 3.7 km inland from Dzilam Bravo 16 Oct (WS).

Birds observed in Sep–Nov surely included some recently arrived migrants, but Aug sightings, including confirmed nesters, raise the question of whether some "local" birds were in fact migratory double-breeders, such as apparently occurs with Yellow-billed Cuckoos that nest in late summer in w. Mexico, after having nested or attempted to nest farther n. (see Rohwer, S. et al. 2012. Assessing migratory double breeding through complementary specimen densities and breeding records. *Condor* 114: 1-14).

Broad-winged Hawk photographed perched in a tree at the golf course 4 Nov (ph. RC) and again 14 Nov at San Gervasio (RC, TB). A Swainson's Hawk was seen in flight 3.7 km s. of Dzilam Bravo on the coast 13 Nov (WS), and a Barred Forest-Falcon was photographed at Hormiguero, 16 km s. of Xpujil, Camp. 20 Nov (AD, AA, ph AN, MP). An unusually early Peregrine Falcon was photographed at Rancho Viejo n. of Cancún 31 Aug and could have been the same individual seen in the area in Jul, a date suggestive of local summering (AP). Another Peregrine was at Yaxcopoil, sw. of Mérida, Yuc. 23 Nov (GT). A

SA Extraordinary numbers of Lesser Nighthawks were reported this fall. The first report came 13 Sep, of 150 birds feeding over the road to Chicxulub Pueblo, Yuc. and moving in a southwesterly direction (WS). Later the same morning, several more were seen flying southward along the coastal road nearby (WS). Hundreds were noted over the road to Celestún predawn on 14 Sep, but none were visible 16 km s. of the town of Celestún, which would suggest they were moving in a southwesterly direction (BM). The same morning, 80 were counted along 2 km of the same highway 16-18 km s. of Celestún (AD); and 46 were counted predawn along a transect 18 km se. of Celestún (AD). There was continued moment of the species at the former shrimp farm along the Chunchucmil road, with 16 counted on 19 Sep and 14 on 27 Sep, and 14 at the cenote on same road 29 Sep (AD). These numbers could indicate a shift in migration or a very productive breeding season, or both; no obviously unusual weather patterns were noted in mid-Sep that might indicate displacement.

Red Knot was at Las Coloradas, Yuc. 22 Aug, along with 350 Wilson's Phalaropes (AD); 100 of the latter were reported at Celestún 8 Sep feeding in a salt pond (HD). An early Forster's Tern turned up 26 Aug at the turn-off for Xcambo from the coastal road, e. of Progreso, Yuc. (JF, TJ, BM, WS). Outside their known range, pair of Blue Ground-Doves was seen 5 km ne. of Hunucmá, Yuc. 4 & 11 Sep, (BM). Mexican Sheartail is known to nest during the dry season, which was confirmed by the report of a female apparently incubat-

ing 2 km inland from the coast at Chicxulub 6 Oct (WS), and another nest with 2 eggs at Dzilam Bravo 12-13 Nov (WS).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH MUNIAS

Pale-billed Woodpecker is not commonly found in Yucatán, but a pair was observed and voice recorded 12 Nov at the private reserve of Chuccab, 30 km sw. of Espita, and the species was observed and/or heard during subsequent visits through 27 Nov (BM). Northern Bent-bill is another humid forest bird uncommonly reported in Yucatán; a pair was seen and heard at Chuccab 12 & 27 Nov (BM, MT).

A flock of 40 migrating Eastern Kingbirds was observed at km 16 on the road to Vigía Chico 19 Aug (AD). On 13 Nov, a rare Blue-headed Vireo was recorded 1 km inland from Chabihau, e. of Progreso, where it fed on small fruits in a bush before continuing inland (WS). An equally uncommon Warbling Vireo was seen 5 km ne. of Hunucmá 17 Sep (BM). A migration of swallows was evident 14 Sep, with a flock of 300 Northern Rough-winged Swallows reported flying southeastward over Paraiso, 9 km inland from Progreso, along with 30 Barn Swallows (WS). Approximately 1000 Tree Swallows were on wires at Punta Allen, Q. Roo 11 Aug (MT), where thousands of Purple Martins have been recorded in past years. A Yucatan Wren was heard in the scrub forest 9 km s. of Dzilam Bravo 18 Sep (WS). A Black Catbird was seen preening on an exposed perch 5 km ne. of Hunucma 11 Sep; others singles in this vicinity were seen 8 & 23 Oct (BM). Other Black Catbirds were along the road to Chunchucmil 14 Sep (AD, BM) and 9 km s. of Dzilam Bravo 16 Oct (WS).

An uncommon Golden-winged Warbler was seen at the former shrimp farm on road to Chunchucmil 26 Sep (AD). A conspicuous migration of warblers was observed 19 Aug at the Chumpon entrance to the Sian Ka'an Bio-

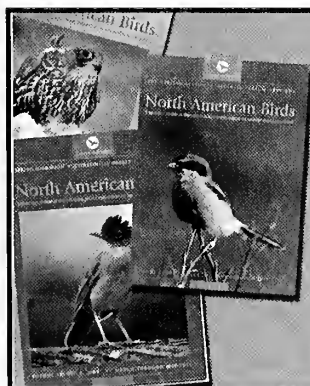
sphere Reserve, where 36 Prothonotary Warblers and other species were observed resting in the vegetation during a period of changeable weather (AD). A rare male Orange-crowned Warbler visited a garden in Mérida 14 Sep (GT). A hatch-year Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Rancho Viejo n. of Cancun 19 Oct (ph. AP), where a female Black-throated Blue Warbler was noted 22 Oct (AP). An extraordinarily early arrival at Punta Allen in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve was a Palm Warbler 14 Aug (MT). A rare Canada Warbler was among many other warblers migrating 3.7 km inland from Dzilam Bravo 25 Sep (WS). A female Gray-throated Chat, a retiring and locally distributed species, was attracted to a calling Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl 5 km ne. of Hunucmá, Yuc. 8 Oct (BM).

A flock of 80 Indigo and 14 Painted Buntings was seen resting in shrubs along the road to Chunchucmil 3 Oct (AD). Behind Dzilam Bravo, a total of 350 Indigo Buntings, with a few other granivores, dropped in to feed in overgrown cattle pastures 16 Nov (WS). Seven Tricolored Munias seen feeding km 4/5 of the hwy. leading from Chablé to Palizada 17 Sep, provided the first documentation for Campeche (HGdS, MPV). A flock of 8 Tricolored Munias was reported at the cenote on the road to Chunchucmil 29 Sep (AD).

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Central America



H. Lee Jones
Oliver Komar

Range expansions and new altitudinal records for a number of species in the Region continue unabated. Two expanding introduced species, Eurasian Collared-Dove and Tricolored Munia, are now firmly entrenched in some areas and continue to spread. The usual culprits, urbanization, agriculture, deforestation, and climate change, are most frequently cited as the driving forces behind these population expansions. But intertwined with real changes in the landscape is the ever-increasing number of birders afield who are discovering birds that may have been present all along. But what about the other side of the coin? We rarely hear about birds that are declining in numbers, whose populations are shrinking, or even extirpated, in some areas. The reasons for this are clear. When a forest is clear-cut, for instance, all of the birds inhabiting that forest are gone; likewise, when a wetland is drained, all the birds inhabiting that wetland are gone. But the slow decline of birds in an intact forest, wetland, or mountaintop is much harder to document, and plausible explanations for the decline may be even harder to come by. It may take years of carefully controlled population sampling to document such declines, but identifying specific causes such as air, water, or soil pollution, global warming, or long-term (natural) cyclical changes in a species' food base can be an even more daunting endeavor.

One avian phenomenon witnessed this fall, however—the appearance of unprecedented numbers of waterfowl in the Region at least as far south as Costa Rica—has a straightforward explanation: drought (although the reasons for the drought may not be so clear). Extended drought conditions in the southwestern United States and much of northern Mexico, in some areas the worst in 70 years, have left many wetland and ponded areas to our north bone-dry for the first time in decades. Waterfowl that normally would have ended their annual fall trek well to the north of Central America continued on, and on, until they reached the vast rice fields and aquaculture farms that now occupy substantial

swaths of the Central American landscape.

Four country firsts this fall were Redhead in Costa Rica, Long-tailed Jaeger in El Salvador, Black Swift in Belize, and Alder Flycatcher in Honduras.

WATERFOWL THROUGH RAPTORS

In Costa Rica this fall, waterfowl numbers were unprecedented. In *Guanacaste*, single male Green-winged Teal were seen in rice fields along the entrance road to Palo Verde N.P. near Falconiana 14 Nov (JZ), in rice fields 12 km s.-sw. at Pelón de La Bajura 18 Nov (JZ), and at Lagunas Catfish Farm between Comunidad and Sardinal 26 Nov (KEa). Females may have also been present but overlooked among the thousands of Blue-winged Teal that were also present. Green-winged Teal is a casual winter visitor throughout the Region. Larger numbers than normal of Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, and American Wigeon were also reported in the Region

this fall. Providing a first record for Costa Rica, 2 Redheads were at Lagunas Catfish Farm 21–26 Nov (JZ, ph. KEa). On 21 Nov, only a male was seen (JZ), but on 26 Nov a male and a female were noted (KEa); another female was at Pelón de La Bajura, 32 km downriver, 23 Nov (ph. JZ). Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks are both regular winter visitors, but they were reported from just about every freshwater body in Costa Rica and often in large numbers, especially the scaup. A female Ring-necked Duck even made it to remote Cocos I., a first for the island, 28 Nov (ph. LS). First reported in Costa Rica only last winter, 2 Ruddy Ducks, a male and a female, were at Lagunas Catfish Farm this fall, with one bird present 21 Nov (JZ) and 2 there 26 Nov (ph. KEa). Another Ruddy Duck, a female, was at Rio Medio Queso, *Alajuela*, in the n.-cen. Caribbean lowlands just below the Nicaraguan border, 29 Nov (ph. DMA, PG). In Guatemala, Ruddy Duck occurs as a local and

uncommon resident; however, a female with juvs. at San Cristóbal Verapaz, *Alta Verapaz* 2 Oct (JPC) furnished a new site record with nesting evidence.

In Honduras, a female Magnificent Frigatebird seen flying high above the Zamorano campus, *Francisco Morazán* 5 Nov (OK) was about 80 km inland and at high elevation (800 m). Providing the first record for the cen. coast of El Salvador, a moribund Blue-footed Booby banded in Mexico was recovered at Playa San Diego, *La Libertad* 13 Aug (ph. NH). Providing the first record for the w. Pacific slope of Panama was an ad. Fasciated Tiger-Heron seen 27 Aug at Finca Hartmann, *Chiriqui* (KA). A rare migrant in Panama, a white-morph Reddish Egret photographed at Punta Chame, *Panamá* 10 Aug (AR) was also exceptionally early. Another was at the Aguduce salt ponds, *Coclé* 27 Sep (DW, KW). In Guatemala, 2 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at San Cristóbal Verapaz, *Alta Verapaz* 20 Oct



Although a regular winter visitor in northwestern Costa Rica, Ring-necked Ducks are seldom reported farther south. The number of Ring-necked Ducks recorded in Costa Rica in fall 2011, however, was unprecedented and included this female found 28 November on remote Cocos Island, an island first. Photograph by Luis Sánchez.



Indicative of the unprecedented waterfowl invasion of Central America in fall 2011 were this Ruddy Duck and Redhead photographed together on 26 November 2011 at Lagunas Catfish Farm near Sardinal, Costa Rica. Redhead was first recorded in Costa Rica only five days before, when a female was found on these same ponds. On the 26th, the female, along with this male, were present. Ruddy Duck was first recorded in Costa Rica last winter, and this individual, along with another bird found five days before, provided the second and third country records. Photograph by Kevin Easley.

(JPC) established a new site record; this species is found locally on inland water bodies in the Region. Establishing a first nesting record for Tikal N.P., *Petén* were 7 Boat-billed Herons, including a nest with 2 young, photographed 30 Oct (ph. JPC). A Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture observed at the Berbería wetlands, *Choluteca* 3 Oct (RG et al.) provided the first record for s. Honduras.

Pearl Kite recently colonized the s. coast of Honduras from Nicaragua; however, few observations have been published since the original reports in 2009 from near Choluteca. Thus, one at Punta Condega, *Choluteca* 6 Nov (OK, NV) provided a noteworthy additional record. Although relatively common at some locations in Panama, a Pearl Kite at Parque Omar, *Panamá* 8 Oct (ph. CPa) was noteworthy within the Panama City limits. Mississippi Kites were reported from several locations this fall in Belize, where it is rare. At Spanish Lookout, *Cayo*, 6-7 were seen passing over 14 Sep, and about 6 were seen in the same area 20 Sep (both GR). On 28 Sep, an imm. flew southward past the San Pedro garbage dump on Ambergris Caye (PB, MC et al.), and one was seen flying over the Biltmore Hotel in Belize City 18 Oct (JU, FP et al.). A female or imm. Northern Harrier was seen over sugar cane fields at Sixaola, *Limón* near the Caribbean border with Panama 24 Oct (LA, PA). Most harriers wintering in Costa Rica have been reported from the nw. (both slopes), and the species is very rare in the s. Caribbean region. Providing only the 3rd record for Costa Rica and the Region, an imm. Gray-bellied Hawk seen in flight at the Arenal Observatory Lodge, *Alajuela* (800 m on the Caribbean slope of Cordillera Tilarán) 14 Aug (SE) was about 70 km w. of La Selva where first reported in 2008 and 2009. A rare Cooper's Hawk was on the Zamorano campus e. of Tegucigalpa 20 Nov (OK, ph. MM); no other photographs of this species in Honduras are known to us.

An estimated 140,000 Broad-winged Hawks and 10,000 Swainson's Hawks were observed migrating past Hotel La Casona near Marcala, *La Paz* for nearly half an hour 8 Oct (ph., vt. RG et al.). This is the first time such large numbers have been confirmed in Honduras. On the following two days, large numbers of the former were also seen from the Opatoro area of *La Paz* (RG) and from *Gracias, Lempira* (RG). Counts of both species nearly coincided with big counts in Veracruz, Mexico. A rare migrant in Panama e. of the w. highlands, where resident, a juv. Red-tailed Hawk was seen on Ancon Hill in Panama City 3 Nov (ph. DH). An ad. light-morph Crested Eagle at Tortuguero, *Limón* 19

Nov (ph. DWi) provided the latest sighting of what was surely one of the 2 ads. (the other is a black morph) that are paired there. Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle is a very rare and local raptor in Costa Rica, seeming to appear at a location for a year or so, then moving on. One at La Selva, *Heredia* 18 Oct (JZ) was the first to be reported there in the last few years. Exceptionally rare in Costa Rica and a first for the heavily birded Lagunas Catfish Farm was an Aplomado Falcon 28 Nov (ph. AF, *fide* JZ). For only the 3rd time since the 1980s, a Bat Falcon was recorded in El Salvador (ph. BaH, *fide* NH) when one was released after becoming entangled in electricity cables in Berlín, *Usulután* on 8 Aug.

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

Rarely recorded in Honduras, a Rufous-necked Wood-Rail in mangroves near El Relleno, *Válle* 5 Nov (RG) was the first to be reported along the country's Pacific coast since 1962. In Belize, a Sora heard at The Dump, *Toledo* 4 Sep (LJ) was an early migrant. Up to 3 Limpkins were recorded on several dates from 16 Sep through 20 Oct in San Cristóbal Verapaz (JPC), at the upper limit of the species' Atlantic slope range in Guatemala.

In Belize, a Black-bellied Plover in the Blue Creek rice fields, *Orange Walk* 26 Sep (MC et al.) was at an inland locality, where the species is seldom in the country. A rarely reported migrant in Costa Rica away from a few lowland sites, an American Golden-Plover at a pond at 3325 m elevation next to the crater on Irazú Volcano, *Cartago* 6 Nov (ph. CL) established the country's highest altitudinal record. In



On the heels of Costa Rica's third and fourth Ruddy Ducks was this female (right) found 29 November 2011 in the Caribbean lowlands just below the Nicaraguan border at Río Medio Queso. Photograph by Daniel Martínez.



Bat Falcons have been nearly extirpated in El Salvador. This individual, only the second to be recorded in the country since the 1980s, was found entangled in electricity cables at Geotérmica de Berlín in Usulután Department and released after being treated by a veterinarian. Photograph by Baltazar Hernández.



The extended 2011 drought in Mexico and the southwestern United States brought not only waterfowl but shorebirds into Central America in record numbers. Noteworthy among the latter were American Avocets, which were recorded as far south as El Salvador and Costa Rica. This individual was one of three birds seen at Chomes Shrimp Farm in Costa Rica on 25 November 2011. Seven were there three days later. Previously, avocet had not been seen in Costa Rica since 2002. Photograph by Kevin Easley.

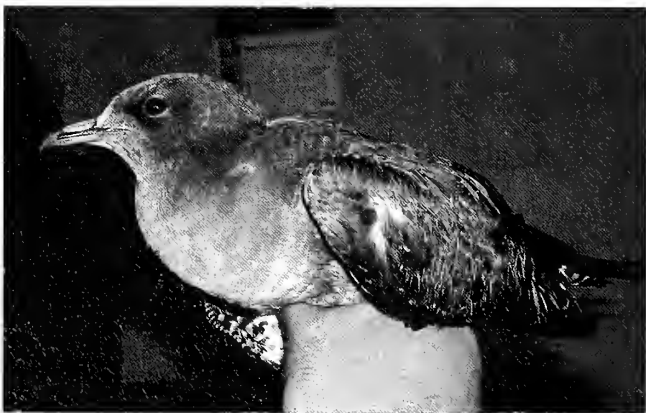
Honduras, a flock of about 2500 Wilson's Plovers, 3000 Semipalmated Plovers, and at least 5000 Western Sandpipers was observed at Punta Condega, *Choluteca* 4 Nov (ph. RG, SH). Most of these birds were gone by the following week, when the site was next



This Long-billed Curlew, which first appeared at Chomes on 21 August 2011 (here 25 November), was not only a rare sight in Costa Rica; it established an early fall date for the country. Photograph by Kevin Easley.



Seldom reported on the Caribbean side of Central America, this Wilson's Phalarope, seen 30 September 2011 on the south end of Ambergris Caye, provided only the fifth record for Belize and the second for Ambergris Caye. Photograph by Milt Spitzer.



This juvenile Long-tailed Jaeger, found 19 kilometers inland at Colón on 8 August 2011, was the first to be reported in El Salvador. Photograph by Néstor Herrera.

visited. Very local and seldom seen in Belize, an American Oystercatcher was at the Belize City municipal airstrip 16 Aug+ (TR, ph. DF, RuB, NA). In Honduras, an unprecedented 90 oystercatchers were observed along a beach near Punta Condega 4 Nov (ph. RG, SH). On 11 Aug, 7 Black-necked Stilts (AR) were observed in the foothill community of Altos del Maria, Panama, flying in over the Continen-

tal Divide, circling a small lake, and then flying off. This species is rarely if ever recorded away from the coast in Panama. Last reported in Costa Rica in 2002, 3 American Avocets were at Chomes Shrimp Farm ponds, Puntarenas 25 Nov (JZ, ph. KEa), and 7 were there 28 Nov (LG). In El Salvador, single avocets were at Cihuatán Archaeological Park, San Salvador 23 Oct (ph. RJ, MeB, CA) and at Bocana Río Jiboa, La Paz 26 Nov (ph. CF, KL, RA).

A Wandering Tattler, a first for Choluteca, was observed resting with other shorebirds on a tidal beach near Punta Condega 4 Nov (RG, SH). Reported less than annually in Costa Rica, 2 Upland Sandpipers were at a sod farm next to Juan Santamaría International Airport, Alajuela at 950 m elevation 29 Sep–3 Oct (RiG, ph. EV). A Long-billed Curlew at Chomes 21 Aug+ (EV, ph. KEa) was remarkable, not only because the species is a very rare winter visitor in Costa Rica but because of its early arrival. Most recent records of Long-billed Curlew have been from Nov–Jan. In Belize, a Ruddy Turnstone at the Blue Creek rice fields 26 Sep (MC et al.) was at an inland locality, where rare. Although Buff-breasted Sandpipers likely pass through Costa Rica regularly in migration, they are seldom reported. Multiple birds were at a

sod farm in the lowlands along the Inter-American Hwy., 12 km se. of Bagaces, Guanacaste 24 Sep–19 Oct, with numbers ranging from 2 on 24 Sep (SE, MSa, BBr) to 12 on 18 Oct (KEa, MM). Elsewhere, 8–25 birds were at the sod farm next to Juan Santamaría International Airport 29 Sep–5 Oct (ph. RiG, ph. EV, JS); 3 were in agricultural fields near Chomes 18 Oct (KEa, MM). These numbers

are unprecedented for the Region.

A Wilson's Phalarope feeding at the edge of a rain pool on the s. end of Ambergris Caye 30 Sep (ph. MS, MC et al.) established only the 5th record for Belize and the 2nd for Ambergris. In Honduras, 13 Wilson's Phalaropes observed in the Berbería wetlands 5 Oct (ph. RG, m.ob.) may also be noteworthy, if only because previous reports from the area are from 1962. Five were still present 3 Nov (RG). Rarely reported inland in Costa Rica, a Red-necked Phalarope was at Lagunas Catfish Farm 19 Oct (KEa). Additionally, one seen at Pelón de La Bajura, Guanacaste 23 Nov (JZ), also an inland site, was rather late for a passage migrant.

GULLS THROUGH SWIFTS

Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to be reported in Panama. The latest comes from Paitilla in Panama City where one was observed 11 Oct (ph. EC, LR). Very rare in the Region, a Yellow-billed Tern turned up at the Aguadulce salt ponds, Panama 5 Oct (ph. EC, LR). At an unexpected location in Belize, 6 Black Terns were observed flying over 1000-Foot Falls, Mountain Pine Ridge, Cayo 19 Aug (JU, BB). A casual winter visitor at the extreme s. edge of its range was a Forster's Tern at Chomes on the Gulf of Nicoya 25 Nov (JZ, ph. KEa); most other records from Costa Rica have also been from the Gulf. Although considered an uncommon transient well offshore in the Pacific, few Long-tailed Jaegers have been recorded near shore or onshore in the Region. A juv. captured 25 km inland at Colón, La Libertad 17 Oct (IR, VG, ph. NH) provided the first record for El Salvador.

Eurasian Collared-Dove is now well established in a few urban areas of n. Belize. Seven were at Corozal Town and San Narciso, Corozal 21–24 Sep, one was at Orange Walk Town 25 Sep, and as many as 20 a day were noted on Ambergris Caye 27–30 Sep (MC et al.). Inca Dove has slowly been working its way southward along Costa Rica's Pacific coast. For many years, its southernmost outpost was Uvita, Puntarenas. Since 2010, however, it has moved into the next large agricultural area about 40 km to the s., around Palmar/Sierpe in the Terraba R. delta. One in a rice field at San Francisco de Palmar Sur, Puntarenas 1 Sep (JZ) established the southernmost record yet. In Honduras, a group of 3 Olive-throated Parakeets along the entrance road to Celaque N.P. near Gracias 27 Oct (RG, m.ob.) and a Black-billed Cuckoo at 1900 m near Guajiquiro 9 Oct (RG, m.ob.) provided first records for Lempira and La Paz, respectively.

Great Horned Owl is common in drier areas in the s. half of Guatemala but rare



This Savannah Sparrow, one of three seen about 18 kilometers northeast of Chiantla on 2 November 2011, was at a site in Guatemala where the species had not been previously reported. It is unknown if they were migrants or representative of a small, as yet undiscovered, breeding population. Photograph by Jesse Fagan.

in the n. humid regions; thus, a pair calling near the center of Cobán 18 Oct (v.r. KE), and presumably the same pair heard at the w. edge of Cobán 31 Oct and 1 Nov (JPC), are noteworthy. A Stygian Owl observed for several days in San Pedro Sula, Cortés on and around 17 Nov (ph. JC) provided only the 2nd documented record for Honduras and the first to be photographed. This bird may have wandered down from the nearby Merendón Mts., although it has not yet been recorded in that under-explored area. Oilbirds continue to be found in the community of Monteverde, Puntarenas: one was seen on a night tour there 10 Aug (ph. CP), at the same spot where the Oilbirds were seen in Jul and Aug 2010. This observation supports the notion that Oilbirds continue to be present in the area and that Jul and Aug may be the best time to find them. High on the list of species expected to occur in migration, Belize got its first documented Black Swifts on 14 Aug when 4 were seen flying over the Caana Temple at Caracol, Cayo (ph. BC, RP, JU). Later the same day, the same observers saw 6 more flying eastward over the Chalillo Dam, about

15 km ne. of Caracol. A Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift found entangled in a spider web outside a cave at Cueva de la Zorra, El Congo 18 Aug (ph. MeB) provided only the 2nd record for Santa Ana. This species is seldom recorded anywhere in El Salvador.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH THRUSHES

A male Blue-throated Goldentail on Isla Escudo de Veraguas, Bocas del Toro 9 Sep (CE, ph. DH) was the 2nd reported from this locality. The species is otherwise unrecorded from the Caribbean slope of Panama. A Snowy-bellied Hummingbird seen at 1000 m elevation in a flowering Chayote (*Sechium edule*) plantation in Ujarrás, Cartago 26 Oct, and another seen at the same spot 20 Nov (both ErC, EV, HV, LM), established the northernmost records for the species and the first on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica. Previously, the species had not been found n. of the San Isidro/General Valley at the base of Cerro de La Muerte. In the past few years, however, it has been re-



Previously undocumented in Belize, a total of 10 Black Swifts was tallied at two localities on 14 August 2011. Of four seen at Caana Temple at the Caracol Archaeological Reserve, these two were photographed. Later that day, the same observers saw six more flying eastward over Chalillo Dam, some 15 kilometers northeast of Caracol. Photograph by Bill Clark.



Lark Sparrow is an occasional fall migrant in Belize, being reported less than annually. This individual, seen along the road to Monkey River, Toledo District on 22 October 2011, provided the first photographically documented record for Belize. Photograph by Christian Bech.

ported at higher elevations on the Cerro and has now made it to the Caribbean side. At first identified as a Buff-bellied Hummingbird, an apparent Rufous-tailed Hummingbird × Cinnamon Hummingbird hybrid was at Trinidad de Moravia (1300 m elevation in the upper Pacific Central Valley), San José 10 Oct (ph. RV). These two species are sympatric on the Pacific side of the Central Valley. Rare within the Panama City limits, a Long-billed Starthroat was at Costa del Este 28 Nov (ph. IFG, OQ). In Guatemala, an ad. male Sparkling-tailed Hummingbird was seen visiting the hummingbird feeders at Chelemhá Lodge in the Chelemhá Reserve, Alta Verapaz 9 Aug (ph. AS), furnishing the first confirmed record for this reserve. In Honduras, the brief appearance of a female at the unusually low elevation of 800 m on the Zamorano campus 22 Sep (OK) was sugges-



This Spot-breasted Oriole, one of a pair at Coral House Inn on the south side of Punta Gorda, Belize, was photographed on 23 November 2011. First reported as Altamira Orioles by two tourists in mid-February 2011, these birds were not correctly identified, or even known to the birding public, until Mutrie photographed them nine months later. They were still present at the end of the period. Photograph by Wilfred Mutrie.



This Spot-breasted Oriole was found at Cattle Landing, just north of Punta Gorda, Belize on 26 November 2011, providing one of few records for the country, all since 2005. A pair had been seen in this area from October 2007 through March 2008 but not since. The Toledo District's first Altamira Oriole was found here 23 November 2011. Photograph by Wilfred Mutrie.

tive of a dispersing individual.

Except for a few nineteenth-century specimens, Barred Puffbird had not been reported from the former Canal Zone until 2011, when one was seen 14 Nov along Achiotte Rd., Colón (DA). On 3 Sep, an ad. and juv. Ladder-backed Woodpecker were seen in a mangrove swamp at Juan Venado Island Natural Reserve, León (LC, RB, GD, MB, LN). Previously, the only known record from the reserve or anywhere in Nicaragua outside the Mosquitia region of the Caribbean lowlands was ob-

tained in 1982 (JS). However, one was photographed (though not identified) there 8 Dec 2009 (MB). Based on these records, it appears that the species is resident at Juan Venado. Furnishing the first record for Panamá, an ad. Smoky-brown Woodpecker was at Altos del María 31 Aug (DR); a female there 24 Oct and a male 8 Nov (BZ) confirmed the presence of at least 2 birds. On 7-8 Oct, 4 or more Scaly-throated Foliage-gleaners were observed at 600 m in the remote upper reaches of Snake Cr. in the Maya Mts., Toledo (VB). Previously,

it was known in Belize only from two visits to Doyle's Delight (1124 m), Belize's highest peak, in 1989 and 1992. In Panama, a Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner was seen on the Los Quetzales Trail above Boquete, Chiriquí 20 Sep (EC). Along with another in the same locality in Nov 2010, these make the first records of this species in Panama since 1990.

A Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet observed at the entrance of Cerro Azul Meambar N.P., Cortés 14 Oct (RG, m.ob.) was the first recorded in the L. Yojoa area since 1951. Although expected throughout the Region, 2 Alder Flycatchers identified at Los Naranjos archaeological site, L. Yojoa, Cortés 14-15 Oct (ph., v.r. RG, m.ob.) were the first of this species to be confirmed in Honduras. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Santa Elena, Corozal 21 Sep (MC, MS et al.) established the earliest fall record for Belize. New site records for Chestnut-sided Shrike-Vireo in the Guatemalan Atlantic slope highlands were established with the following reports: 2 on 4 Sep and one the following day at Finca Rubel Chahim, 11 km s. of Cobán, Alta Verapaz (JPC); one 2 km nw. of Purulhá, Baja Verapaz 28 Sep (JPC); and one at Biotopo del Quetzal, Baja Verapaz 25 Nov (JH). Although Brown-chested Martin is a regular austral migrant in Panama, a roosting flock estimated at 1500 birds near Playa Chuzo in e. Panamá 3 Aug (KA, FF, AR) was unprecedented. In Honduras, 2 Sedge Wrens found in a marsh 8 km n. of La Esperanza, Intibuca 28 Oct (RG, m.ob.) were in a location where the species had not been previously reported. Also in Honduras, a Veery banded at Reserva Biológica Cerro Uyuca, Francisco Morazán 24 Sep (b., ph. RJ) is not only rare in many parts of Central America during migration but furnishes one of few records from the Pacific slope anywhere in the Region.

WARBLERS THROUGH MUNIAS

Noteworthy in Costa Rica were a Blue-winged Warbler at the Arenal Sky Trek in the hills above L. Arenal, Guanacaste 5 Nov (JoS, BH) and a male Brewster's Warbler at Mawamba Lodge, Tortuguero 11 Oct (RiG). Seldom reported in Panama, a female Cape May Warbler was at Sherman, Colón 29 Oct (ph. SO). Nine Cerulean Warblers (5 females, 4 males) seen at 650 and 1030 m elevation in Las Brisas Nature Reserve, La Alegría de Siquirres, Limón 23 Aug (ErC, EV, EB, JJ) provided an impressive daily count for this species of concern from one party in one location. Another rare migrant in Panama, single Northern Parulas were at Cuesta de Piedra, Chiriquí (EC) and Lagunas de Volcan, Chiriquí (KA), both 26 Sep. Uncommon on the Pacific slope of Guatemala, 2 Chestnut-sided Warblers were

SA Belize's 3rd and 4th reports of **Spot-breasted Oriole** and *Toledo's* first report of **Altamira Oriole** were obtained this fall—but not without considerable confusion. On 22 Nov, 2 large orange-and-black orioles were seen briefly on either side of a bush at Cattle Landing, just n. of Punta Gorda, and the observers concluded that they were either Altamira or Spot-breasted (LJ, WM). The next day, one of the birds was relocated and identified as s. Belize's first Altamira Oriole (LJ) based on its characteristic wing pattern and lack of spots on the breast. But when Mutrie returned to the site 26 Nov, he photographed not an Altamira, but a Spot-breasted Oriole! Incidentally, the site was within 200 m of where Belize's 2nd and 3rd Spot-breasted Orioles (a presumed pair) was found in 2007 and 2008. Meanwhile, unbeknownst to Jones, the proprietors of Corral House Inn, 3 km away on the opposite end of Punta Gorda, had been seeing what they believed was a pair of Altamira Orioles almost daily since first reported by two guests nine months before, on 22 Feb. However, when Mutrie went to see these birds 23 Nov, he found instead a pair of Spot-breasted Orioles (ph. WM). While the birds at Cattle Landing were never seen again, the pair at Coral House Inn were still present through the end of the period.

at Finca El Zur, *Escuintla* 25 Oct (JF), and one was at Finca Las Nubes, *Suchitepéquez* 24 Nov (JF). In Panama, an imm. Chestnut-sided Warbler was at Isla Escudo de Veraguas 7 Sep (DH), providing only the 2nd record for *Bocas del Toro*. Rarely recorded away from the n. coast of Honduras and providing a new department record, 2 female Black-throated Blue Warblers were closely observed w. of Peña Blanca, *Cortés* 4 Oct (SH, MG). In Costa Rica, a male was seen in San José de la Montaña, *Heredia* 9 Oct (PM). Also in Costa Rica, an imm. male Prairie Warbler was at Rancho Chilmamate (about 8 km nw. of La Selva), *Heredia* 16-22 Oct (JZ, ph. KEa, ph. SE). In Guatemala, a Golden-cheeked Warbler was recorded at Finca Rubel Chahim on several dates from 3 Sep through 27 Oct (all JPC, plus RoC on 3 Sep), and another was in Ram Tzul Reserve, *Baja Verapaz* 25 Nov (JH), both cloud forest sites, where the species is rare. And in Honduras, a Red-faced Warbler was seen at about 2000 m near Guajiquiro 9 Oct (RG, m.ob.), the first record for *La Paz*. A winter visitor at higher elevations in the Region, this species is not often recorded as far s. as Honduras.

Multiple Slate-colored Seedaters (number not given) seen near the Rio Mono Bridge, *Panamá* 2 Aug (KA) and 10 Nov (KA, GH) were unexpected away from their principal food source, seeding bamboo. A Lark Sparrow was found along the road to Monkey River Town, *Toledo* 22 Oct (ph. CB); this species is reported less than annually in Belize. Establishing a first record for s. Honduras, a Savannah Sparrow was observed in the Berbería wetlands 5 Oct (RG). Although a local resident in open grassy areas in the w. highlands of Guatemala, 3 Savannah Sparrows seen ca. 18 km ne. of Chiantla, *Huehuetenango* 2 Nov (ph. JF) were at a site where not previously recorded. A male Scarlet Tanager observed along the entrance road to Cerro Azul Meambar N.P., *Cortés* 12 Oct (RG,

m.ob.) represented a rare inland record for Honduras and possibly a first for the L. Yojoa basin. In Belize, the enigmatic Gray-throated Chat is a relatively common resident of bajo forests in the n. third of the country. Sporadic reports from other parts of the country come from a wide variety of habitats and elevational ranges. One to several birds are typically reported from a site, or a cluster of loosely associated sites, where they may remain for several years before disappearing. A female mist-netted and banded in recovering upland broadleaf forest destroyed by Hurricane *Iris* of 2001 near Big Falls, *Toledo* (20 m elevation) 8 Oct (ph. RS, MP, BSP, SC) was at a locality where the species had not been previously reported despite two decades of intensive bird research. Dickcissels occur in Guatemala mainly in coastal areas, so 4 found well inland at Finca Rubel Chahim 22 Oct (JPC) were unexpected.

Three Yellow-tailed Orioles observed on the perimeter of Santa Barbara N.P. near El Dorado, *Cortés* (about 1000 m) 13 Oct (RG, m.ob.) established a new elevational record for Honduras. Beginning in late Nov, a winter influx of Elegant Euphonias on the Zamorano campus in *Francisco Morazán* was perfectly timed to match the fruiting of a common mistletoe plant. Initially, 2 birds were seen 20 Nov (OK, ph. MMe), followed by 6 on 27 Nov (OK). In Panama, a female Yellow-collared Chlorophonia at Altos del María 31 Oct (DR, ph. MR) represented an extraordinary range extension (about 275 km). The species had previously been recorded in the Region only on Cerro Pirre, *Darién* near the Colombian border.

Tricolored Munias continue to expand their range in Costa Rica. A flock of 35 at 1000 m elevation in grassy field margins next to a sugar cane plantation in Grecia, *Alajuela* 23-24 Nov (RC) established the first record for the Central Valley and the highest record

for the country. Farther s., a flock of 14 seen in rice fields s. of Ciudad Neily, *Puntarenas* 3 Sep (JZ) were only 15 km from the Panama border, a jump of about 30 km from their previous southernmost occurrence in Costa Rica. (Tricolored Munias have been recorded twice from the Panama City area in 2006, but these were considered at the time to be escaped cage birds.) In Belize, where there are still relatively few records, a lone ad. male was seen 1 km n. of Trinidad Village, *Orange Walk* 24 Sep (MC et al.).

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The Atlantic Basin churned out 18 named storms this summer and autumn—20 tropical cyclones overall, 19 tropical storms, 7 hurricanes, and 4 major hurricanes—making the 2011 season tied with the 1969 season as the sixth most active on record. Hurricane *Irene*, a Category 3 storm that raked the Bahamas 24–25 August, damaged terrestrial habitats, but fall migration there was nonetheless described as very strong, with Warbling Vireo and a Canada Warbler among the highlights. In addition to strong fallouts of shorebirds, terns, and especially Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Bermuda recorded its first Hairy Woodpecker, third Fork-tailed Flycatcher, fourth Wood Sandpiper, and sixth Garganey.

WATERFOWL THROUGH TERNS

A West Indian Whistling-Duck made a brief visit to Manning Bay's east pond, St. Croix 21 Oct (LY); the species had not been reliably reported from the U. S. Virgin Islands in decades. In Barbados, 2 West Indian Whistling-Ducks appeared at Woodbourne Shorebird Refuge 10 Sep (MF, WB et al.), followed by one at Fosters Swamp 17 Sep (JW); the latter bird eventually joined the resident Black-bellied Whistling-Duck flock at Royal Westmoreland on 28 Sep (EM). These records mark only the 2nd and 3rd records for Barbados, with the previous record being of 2 birds in 1961. A hunter shot a White-faced Whistling-Duck at Le Moule, Guadeloupe 23 Sep; the corpse was seen by Anthony Levesque and Fletcher M. Smith. There are very few records of this species in the Region or the American East. A Canada Goose that turned up at Treasure Cay G.C., Abaco in Jul remained through the fall (EB). A Gadwall was at Wilson Pond, New Providence 11 Nov

(PD, WP, TH). In Cuba, a Gadwall was identified at Varadero W.T.P. 28 Nov (ER, RN). In St. Croix, a female and 2 male American Wigeons were at Manning Bay's east pond 12 Nov (LY), with 9 there 12 Dec; a male and female were at Southgate Pond 22 Nov (CC-B). Two American Black Ducks were reported from Fajou islet, Guadeloupe 27 Sep (SR), an extremely rare record for the Lesser Antilles, pending confirmation. A Northern Shoveler was found at Rainbow Beach, Haiti 22 Oct (SCr). Eight Greater Scaup were noted on a small pond w. of Havana, Cuba 13 Nov (MG et al.). Lesser Scaup numbered 19 at Southgate Pond, St. Croix 10 Nov, with 10 there 30 Nov (CC-B); 4 were at Port-Louis, Guadeloupe 18 Nov (AL). A Garganey, representing the 6th record for Bermuda, was discovered at Cloverdale 21–23 Oct and at Devonshire Marsh 30 Nov (AD, DW). Four Northern Bobwhite were seen near San Jose de Marcos, Cuba 28 Nov (ER, RN).

Pelagic trips off Bermuda in Nov produced a record count of 28 Bermuda Petrels 25 Nov (HS); typically, fewer than 10 per trip have been seen since the first in 1993. These trips also recorded Bermuda's first fall records of Great Shearwater, obtained on 19 & 21 Nov; and 2 Cory's Shearwaters and a Leach's Storm-Petrel were also noted on the 21 Nov trip (AD, BF, HS, DBW). Shortly after Hurricane *Irene* hit the Bahamas, single Brown Pelicans (possibly the same bird) were seen at Warderick Wells, Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park and at Highbourne Cay, Exumas 28 & 31 Aug, respectively (BP). A Masked Booby was seen 8 km off Bermuda 21 Aug, and an imm. was seen 17 Nov (DBW). Three Little Egrets were found at Port-Louis, Guadeloupe 7 Sep (AL, RGo). A Black-crowned Night-Heron found dead on Nevis 2 Oct (ML) may furnish the first documented record for the island. An ad. White Ibis at St. Georges G.C., Bermuda 2 Oct (PW) was seen at various locations through 22 Oct; an imm. at Cooper's I. 4 Oct (DP) remained on Bermuda through at least 30 Nov. In Cuba, 700 American Flamingos and 2 Wood Storks were at Salinas, Zapata Swamp 28 Nov (RN, ER). Two Swallow-tailed Kites were at Old Prospect, Grand Cayman 19 Aug (PDA). A Sharp-shinned Hawk was at Spittal Pond, Bermuda 12 Oct (BF).

Single Northern Harriers were seen at Ferry Pt., Bermuda 25 Sep (NM) and near Los Palacios, Cuba 26 Nov (RN, HG). An American Kestrel of a North American subspecies was at Sunset Ridge, Abaco 29 Oct (EB). An imm. Purple Gallinule was at Parson's Road Pond, Bermuda 12 Oct (NM), with another at Somerset Long Bay N.R. 23 Oct (PH).

A Double-striped Thick-knee was found near Balan, Haiti 28 Sep (TR). Two American Oystercatchers were at Varadero, Cuba 28 Nov (ER, RN). Two Piping Plovers were at Horseshoe Bay, Bermuda 12 Sep (LM); and one was noted at Varadero, Cuba 28 Nov (ER, RN). Bermuda witnessed one of the larger fallouts of shorebirds seen there in years. At least 100 American Golden-Plovers were present at Bermuda Airport and Port Royal G.C., Bermuda 17 Sep (AD, PW). During Sep, record numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers were recorded, with estimates of over 1000 birds; counts of over 100 per site were common on golf courses and farms. Bermuda's 4th Wood Sandpiper was at Warwick Pond 12 Nov (AD, PW). Another juv. Wood Sandpiper was at Fosters Swamp, Barbados 12 Nov, making the



This West Indian Woodpecker was photographed at McClean's Town, Grand Bahama 23 November 2011. The species was believed to be extirpated from Grand Bahama, and this individual could be a relict of that population or a colonizer from nearby Abaco, where the species is common. The absence of a black mark above the eye, normally found on Bahamian West Indian Woodpeckers, caused some confusion in identifying the bird, but other field marks such as the grayish head and shape of the red crown are consistent with West Indian Woodpecker. Photograph by Christopher Baker.

6th record for the island (EM). Four Willets at Ferry Pt., Bermuda 17 Sep (AD) were unusual. A high count of 270+ Lesser Yellowlegs was recorded 29 Aug at Woodbourne Shorebird

SA Whimbrels were much in the news in the Region. A migrating radio-tagged Whimbrel, nicknamed "Chinquapin," flew through the outer bands of Hurricane *Irene* and landed on Eleuthera 25 Aug (*fide* FMS). "Hope," a radio-tagged female Whimbrel, returned to Great Pond for the 3rd consecutive fall since initially tagged in May 2009 by biologists at the Center for Conservation Biology in Virginia. This fall, she survived two tropical storms at sea and a hurricane on land and arrived at Great Pond later than usual, 14 Sep, as indicated by her transmitter. She was first seen there 21 Sep (LY, CC-B) and once again wintered at Great Pond. Three Whimbrels were seen at Port-Louis, Guadeloupe 14 Sep (AL). Sadly, hunters at Guadeloupe killed 2 radio-tagged Whimbrels at Port-Louis, which set off a barrage of protests throughout the Region and North America. The Center for Conservation Biology sent a representative to Guadeloupe (FMS) to retrieve the still-transmitting beacon from the swamp and to work with Levesque, local hunters, and government officials in establishing guidelines for conserving this and other threatened shorebird species, such as Red Knot. Since that initial visit in Sep, many conservation groups have become involved in the work to reduce the impact of hunting on shorebirds in the Lesser Antilles, so there is some reason for guarded optimism. A **Eurasian Whimbrel** spent three weeks at Port Royal G.C., Bermuda 28 Aug–21 Sep (NM).

Refuge, Barbados (WB). Upland Sandpipers were especially well reported this season. Seven at Guadeloupe's Pôle Caraïbe airport 3 Sep (AL) and one at Marie-Galante 21 Oct (TB) are further evidence of migration through the Lesser Antilles (AL). The Ornithology Group found an Upland Sandpiper at Clifton Bay Park, New Providence 1 Oct (*fide* TH), and 4 were at the St. Croix airport 26 Sep (JH). In Puerto Rico, where the species is rarely reported, 3 were at the Ingenio sod fields, Toa Baja 16–25 Sep (BvS, AMo), one was at a sod field s. of Fajardo 17–20 Sep (HM), and 5 were at the Hacienda La Esperanza Nature Reserve, Manatí 20 Sep (GL).

A Hudsonian Godwit was discovered at Port Royal G.C., Bermuda 17–24 Sep (NM); 2 dropped in at Mount Fancy Salt Pond, St. Croix 28 Oct (CC-B, LY). A Marbled Godwit

was reported at Great Salt Pond, St. Maarten 29 Oct (HV). Fourteen Sanderlings were noted along St. Croix's Frederiksted waterfront 11 Nov (LY). In Bermuda, a Red Knot was present on Port Royal G.C., Bermuda 10–28 Sep (AD), and another was at Mangrove Bay 4 Dec (DW). Three Buff-breasted Sandpipers were at the Ingenio sod fields in Toa Baja, Puerto Rico 16–24 Sep (BvS, AM), and 9 found at Connettown Turf Farm, Barbados 2 Oct (EM) represented the highest number recorded at a single location there. A juv. Red Knot was noted at Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe 15 Sep (AL, RGo). A record 180 Pectoral Sandpipers were seen in the Bermuda's w. end as Tropical Storm *Maria* passed offshore 15 Sep (DBW). Forty Pectorals were counted at St. François, Guadeloupe 12 Oct (AL); one at the Cricket Grounds, Grand Cayman 30 Aug (PDa) was slightly early. Single Ruffs were seen at Mid-Ocean G.C., Bermuda 29–30 Sep (AD, PW) and at St. Croix's Frederiksted ballpark 14 Oct (ph. LY). Wilson's Phalarope singles visited Spittal Pond, Bermuda 17 Sep (TW), Great Pond, St. Croix 13 & 15 Sep (ph. LY, CC-B), and Las Mareas salt pond in Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Puerto Rico 25 Sep (JS, VR).

The 3rd record for Barbados, a first-cycle **Franklin's Gull** was at Hannays briefly 30 Oct (EM). A Ring-billed Gull was at the Havana seawall, Cuba 26 Nov (RN). Two Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen in the harbor at Dominica 12 Nov (BB, RZE). Single Great Black-backed Gulls were along Bay Street, Nassau 18 Nov (TH) and at Cooper's Town, Abaco 22 Nov (EB). A pelagic trip off Bermuda produced an imm. Brown Noddy 17 Aug and a juv. Sooty Tern 18 Aug (DBW). Another Brown Noddy was at Ferry Pt., Bermuda 23 Oct (PW). On 20–22 Aug, well ahead of Hurricane *Irene*, Brown Noddies and Roseate, Sooty, and Bridled Terns were present in the Exuma Cays; after the storm, only the noddies were seen there (BP). On 17 Sep, over 200 Brown Noddies were counted between Rose I. and Booby I., e of Nassau (NM). Two Least Terns were at Bermuda Airport among American Golden-Plovers 4 Sep (DBW), and 8 were recored at Playa el Broke, Dominican Republic 11 Sep (IM). A Roseate Tern was noted among 50 Common Terns in Harrington Sound, Bermuda 3 Sep (DBW). After Tropical Storm *Maria* passed 15 Sep, tern abundance and diversity peaked in Bermuda 16 Sep, with 3 Sandwich, 2 Roseate, 100 Common, one Arctic, and 2 Forster's Terns in Harrington Sound (PW); in Castle Harbour, there were additionally 4 Common, 6 Least, and 2 Black Terns that day (JM). A Gull-billed Tern was seen Baito, Lago Enriquillo, Dominican Republic

14 Aug (SBr); another was at the mouth of the Grande de Añasco R., Puerto Rico 28 Aug (SC, AP). Numerous Black Terns were reported this season. Three were at L. Killarney, New Providence during the last three weeks of Aug (ph. TH), an unusually long stay for this early migrant, and 3 were at Port-Louis, Guadeloupe 20 Sep (AL). One was photographed at Punta Algarrobo, Añasco, Puerto Rico 13 Aug (MM), with small numbers seen at the mouth of the Grande de Manatí R. 26 Aug and 2 Sep (ph.; GL, JS) and mouth of the Grande de Añasco R. 28 Aug, where 3 were still present 22 Sep (SC, AP). A Black Tern with a flock of Common Terns (20+) in Castle Harbour, Bermuda 4 Sep (JM) was seen again in St. Georges Harbour 5 Sep (PW). A Black Skimmer was at Montague Foreshore, New Providence 16 Oct (PD). Fifty Black Skimmers were counted at a marina in Varadero, Cuba 28 Nov (RN, ER). A Great Skua was 8 km off Bermuda 19 Nov (DBW); there are few confirmed records for Bermuda, and mid-Nov is probably an early date for the species so far south. Five dark-morph Parasitic Jaegers at Exuma Cays Land and Seas Park 29 Aug (BP) made a high local count. Parasitics are rarely reported in Puerto Rico, but several were noted this season: a light-morph ad. was photographed in Arecibo Bay 19 Sep as it harassed hundreds of Common Terns (SC). Two juvs., a light morph and a dark morph, joined an ad. there 24 Sep (SC).

DOVES THROUGH MUNIAS

A White-winged Dove seen 22 Sep on Nevis (ML) provided the first record for the island. Thirty-eight Pied Imperial-Pigeons appeared at Villa Capulet, Montague Foreshore, New Providence 29 Aug (SB); this was four days after Hurricane *Irene*. About 18 Cuban Parakeets were counted in two close groups at San Blas, Cuba 28 Nov (ER, RN). As Hurricane *Irene* passed directly over Abaco 25 Aug, at least 20 Cuban (Bahama) Parrot nests were active, raising concern that many chicks would be killed. On Abaco, this species nests in sink holes in the ground, which are vulnerable to flooding. Six of ten nests checked after the hurricane had live chicks; one chick was observed fledging; and three nests were empty. Drowned chicks and/or standing water was not observed in the nest cavities (CS).

In addition to the many Yellow-billed Cuckoos on Bermuda, 5 were seen in the vicinity of Treasure Cay, Abaco 25 Sep–28 Oct (EB); another was at Waterloo Rd., Nassau 17 Oct (PD); and 10 were counted at Désirade, Guadeloupe 26 Oct (AL). A Barn Owl was seen being mobbed by 4 American Crows at Lovers L., Bermuda 17 Sep (DBW).

SA During the first week of Oct, more than **1000** Yellow-billed Cuckoos were detected in Bermuda. Birders and members of the public reported them from all over the island, including the business district of Hamilton. Bermuda has experienced fallouts of cuckoos before, but the number on this occasion was unprecedented. There were reports of "ten in one tree" and flocks of up to 20 cuckoos feeding on fairways of golf courses. One small pumpkin field held 30+ cuckoos. Golf courses provided especially good opportunities to observe the cuckoos in the open. Although the birds did not appear obviously exhausted, they were actively feeding and allowed very close approach, which suggested extreme stress.

David Wingate, whose notes on Bermuda fallouts of cuckoos go back about 60 years, comments that "while the experiences of ten birds in a tree or 30 in a field are not unusual in some years, they are usually localized [...], approximating the size of one of our nine parishes. The difference in 2011 was that the influx was island-wide. Death rates are usually high in such fallouts, with road-kills, cat predation, and emaciation being approximately equal causes. However, the stranded birds can find sustenance to recover. Small caterpillars that build up in our *Poinciana* trees are one food source, but by far the most important food is the caterpillar of Common Buckeye, which are super-abundant on Bermuda lawns in the fall. Cuckoos that latch on to this food source have been observed catching them at the rate of one every two minutes over feeding periods of up to half an hour at a time as they hop and search over lawns vulnerable to abundant feral cats. Many lose their tails that way!"

This unprecedented cuckoo fallout is probably accounted for the activity of Hurricane *Ophelia*, which passed 222 km e. of Bermuda as a Category 4 storm on 1 Oct, but also a cold front moving off the continent. On 2 Oct, there were strong southwesterly winds in the wake of the hurricane, and the unsettled weather continued through 3 Oct, when a trough stalled across Bermuda. Rains commenced 4 Oct, with the return to northwesterly winds. It seems certain that many more cuckoos, and other birds, perished at sea as a result of this storm, which brought scores of cuckoos and other s. migrants to New England and Nova Scotia.

A Burrowing Owl landed on a yacht 37 km w. of Chub Cay, Bahamas 11 Sep (*vide* BP). A Chuck-will's-widow was heard singing at Coral Harbour, New Providence 11 Sep (CW). The only Chimney Swift recorded in 2011 in Bermuda was over Wreck Hill 26-27 Oct (DBW). The first of 3 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Bermuda this season was discovered at Coral Beach Club 18 Oct (PH); 2 were seen there 19 Oct, and photographs confirmed a different bird there 22 Oct; one was present until 11 Nov (AD).

A West Indian Woodpecker was photographed near McClean's Town, Grand Bahama 26 Nov (RS, EG, SR); the Grand Bahama population was believed extirpated, so this bird may have been a colonizer from nearby Abaco, where the species is common. A Hairy Woodpecker, representing the first record for Bermuda, turned up at St. Georges G.C. 30 Oct (PW), the day of a particularly powerful cold front in e. North America. In Bermuda, single Northern Flickers were at the Alfred Blackburn Smith N.R. 19 Oct (AD) and at Mid-Ocean G.C. 20-28 Nov (GB). Two Eastern Wood-Pewees were at Blue Shark G.C., New Providence 24 Oct (TH, PD, WP); another, and an Eastern Phoebe, were noted in s. Abaco 23 Oct, and 2 Eastern Kingbirds were at the

fruit farm, Abaco 24 Oct (all EB). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen at Government House, Bermuda 20 Sep (RG), and a Least Flycatcher was not far away at Tudor Farm 6 Oct (PH). A Great Crested Flycatcher was a good find at Springfield N.R., Bermuda 2 Oct (AD), rather late. The grounds of the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences hosted a Gray Kingbird 23 Sep (PW), with another along Wreck Rd. 7 Oct (WF). A Fork-tailed Flycatcher was photographed at the Bermuda Airport, the 3rd confirmed record, on 5 Sep (NM).

Single Red-eyed Vireos were noted at Varadero, Cuba 27 Nov (RN, ER) and on St. Maarten 18 Oct (ph. RP). At Abaco, a Warbling Vireo was documented at Sunset Ridge 12 Oct (ph. EB), just the 4th Bahamian record. In Bermuda, single Warbling Vireos were along Wreck Rd. 10 Oct (WF) and at Ferry Pt. 15 Oct (AD). A Philadelphia Vireo was at Cooper's Town, Abaco 15 Oct (EB); another was at Fort Scaur, Bermuda 9 Oct (DBW). Levesque conducts surveys of martins at Guadeloupe and counted 2473 Caribbean Martins at the Pointe-à-Pitre roost. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet was on St. Georges G.C., Bermuda 8 Oct (DBW). A Northern Wheatear was discovered on Port Royal G.C., Bermuda 1 Oct (WF). Single Veeries in Ber-

muda were at St. Georges G.C. 2 Oct (PW) and along Wreck Rd. 6 Oct (WF). A small passage of Swainson's Thrushes occurred during the first week of Oct in Bermuda, with one at Coral Beach Club 3 Oct (AD), 4 at the Arboretum 4 Oct (DW), 3 along Wreck Rd. 6 Oct (DW), and one at Morgan's Pt. 8 Oct (AD). Four leucistic Bananaquits visited a feeder at Estate La Grande Princess, St. Croix 21 Nov+ (MS).

Warblers were especially plentiful this autumn, with several observers noting small fallouts. At least 36 species were recorded in Bermuda, the highlights being a Golden-winged Warbler at Coral Beach Club 10 Oct (AD), a Cerulean Warbler at St. Georges G.C. 8 Oct (DBW), a Swainson's Warbler at Port Royal G.C. 11 Sep (AD), a Connecticut Warbler at Ferry Pt. 9 Oct (PW), and Yellow-breasted Chat off Wreck Rd. 21 Oct (AD). In his yard in Nassau, New Providence, Paul Dean found 2 Kentucky Warblers, a Hooded Warbler, a Worm-eating Warbler, a Black-and-white Warbler, a Canada Warbler, a migrant Yellow Warbler, and a Nashville Warbler 18-19 Sep. A Prothonotary Warbler turned up at Tower Heights, Nassau 25 Aug, the day after Hurricane *Irene*, and stayed at least through 18 Sep (SCa, *vide* LG); another was seen on Great Inagua 24 Sep (NMc, LG, MJ, LGL); and a male in Grenada 13 Nov (AJ, RZE). On Abaco, Bracey saw 5 Hooded Warblers 11 Oct, single Swainson's Warblers 30 Sep and 11-13 Oct, a Black-throated Green Warbler 24 & 28 Oct, and a Tennessee Warbler 28 Oct. A very early male Black-throated Blue Warbler was noted at Casa Collores, Orocovis, Puerto Rico 25 Aug (JG). An Orange-crowned Warbler was identified at Guanahacibes, Cuba 12 Nov (MG et al.). Single Swainson's Warblers were along the Mastic Trail, Grand Cayman 7 Oct (SM) and near Playa Larga, Cuba 29 Nov (ER, RN). A Louisiana Waterthrush was along Oxford Rd. stream, St. Croix 16 Aug (LY), and it or another was at Mahogany Road gut through 16 Sep (LY, CC-B). A Mourning Warbler was found near Palisadoes Beach, Jamaica 16 Sep (RM).

At Bermuda, a Dickcissel was at St. Georges G.C. 8 Oct (DBW); another was at the agricultural grounds, Grand Bahama 24 Oct (PDa). A Grasshopper Sparrow was at Alton Hill, Bermuda 20 Oct (DW); one was found at Guanahacibes, Cuba 11 Nov (MG et al.). Two Clay-colored Sparrows were at Treasure Cay 10 Oct (EB); one was at the agricultural grounds, Grand Cayman 22 Oct (CR-S). Bermuda had single White-crowned Sparrows along Wreck Rd. 10 Oct (WF) and at Mid-Ocean G.C. 12 Oct (AD). Four Zapata Sparrows were seen well near Batey San Gre-

gorio at Parque Nacional Cienaga de Zapata 30 Nov (ER, RN). There were 150 Bobolinks at Conch Bar, Middle Caicos 3 Oct and 100 at Bottle Cr., North Caicos 4 Oct (BNM, ES); on Abaco, 50 were at the Treasure Cay dump and 20 at Cooper's Town dump 14 & 17 Sep, respectively (EB).

Hepburn commented that he and others saw multiple Blue Grosbeaks and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on New Providence, and Bracey reported 5 Blue Grosbeaks around Treasure Cay 29 Sep–24 Oct. A Swamp Sparrow was at Ferry Pt., Bermuda 9 Oct (PW). Over 30 Black-faced Grassquits were observed in a mixed habitat of beachfront *Casuarina* and mangrove wetland at Cross Harbour, Abaco 21 Oct (LG, DK, MC, MD). Two Bobolinks were noted at Petite-Terre N.R., Guadeloupe 13 Oct (AL). An imm. or female Boat-tailed Grackle was at Caves Village, New Providence 2 Sep (CW). A Shiny Cowbird was at the fruit farm, Abaco 14 Oct (EB), and another was at Rainbow Farm, New Providence 29 Nov (PD, WP, TH). A flock of 25 Shiny Cowbirds 19–20 Aug at Four Seasons Resort G.C., Nevis is thought to represent the first

record for this island (ML). A Tricolored Munia at the Great Inagua dump 5 Oct may have come from Hispaniola or from Cuba, where the species is locally common (HN, TL, CM).

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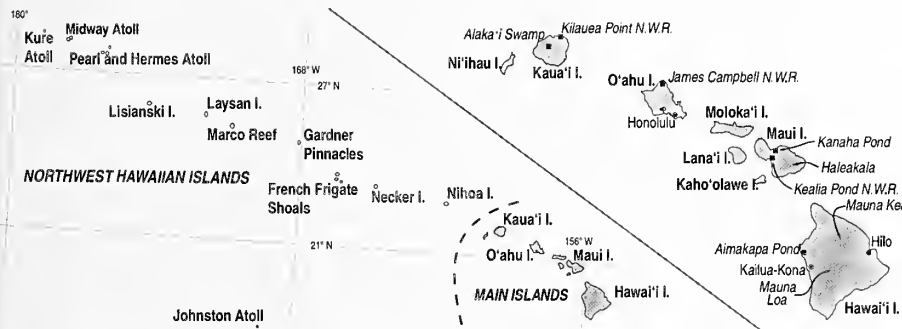
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Hawaiian Islands



Peter Donaldson

Trade-wind weather prevailed through the season, which is unusual, as the trade winds usually become intermittent by late fall. With the trade winds blowing, rainfall fell over mainly windward (east-facing) areas of the main islands. Lee-wind areas of the main islands were rather dry, especially on Hawaii and Maui Islands, where a severe drought continues. Observer coverage was good, with an unusual amount of information from the remote northwestern islands. Observers in the Region were rewarded with a number of very interesting records.

WATERFOWL THROUGH SHEARWATERS

Migrant geese were rather sparse this winter compared to recent years. Two Greater White-fronted Geese were on Molokai I. 18 Oct+ (ADY, LT). A Snow Goose at Hanalei, Kauai I. Aug+ (OJ, m.ob.) had summered there. Brant are one of the most regular migrant geese in the main islands, but this year the only one reported was a single bird at Kealia Pond N.W.R., Maui I. 22 Nov+ (MN, TR). Brant are less common on the nw. islands, where a Brant on Midway Atoll N.W.R. 26 Nov (ph. DM) was the first ever for that island. Single Cackling Geese at Kona S.T.P. 10 Nov (m.ob.) and the Punamano Unit of James

Campbell N.W.R. at Kahuku, Oahu I. (m.ob.) were the only other migrant geese reported. There were pretty good numbers of migrant ducks this fall compared to recent years but few exceptional rarities. Single Blue-winged Teal were found at Ohiapilo Pond, Molokai (LT) and the Honouliuli Unit of Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Oahu (PD, RM, KP, LT). A Garganey was spotted at the Kii Unit of James Campbell N.W.R. 20 Oct (KP). Blue-winged and Garganeys are rare but regular in the Region. The one rare duck of the season was a Red-breasted Merganser in the Halona area of Oahu. The bird was first reported 9 Nov (AE) by a volunteer monitoring Hawaiian Monk Seals in the area but was likely present at least a day earlier (*fide* EV). The bird remained in the area through at least 27 Nov (m.ob.). There have been only nine previous records of Red-breasteds in the Region. A Pied-billed Grebe was spotted at Whittington S.P., Hawaii I. 23 Oct (TP), and one elusive bird was at Honouliuli 7 Nov+ (KP et al.). Pied-billeds are rare but regular in the Region.

A pair of Short-tailed Albatrosses that nested successfully on Midway last winter returned to nest again this fall Nov+ (PL). Two female Short-taileds nested again on

SA Two species of millerbirds (Old World warblers, family Sylviidae) once inhabited the Hawaiian Islands: Nihoa Millerbird (on Nihoa Island) and Laysan Millerbird (on Laysan Island). The Laysan Millerbird became extinct around 1923, due to habitat destruction by introduced rabbits. Nihoa Millerbird has persisted on its small, rocky, uninhabited home, although numbers become quite low at times. In an effort to safeguard the remaining millerbird population, 24 birds were captured on Nihoa and translocated to Laysan on 10 Sep. Biologists Robby Kohley and Cameron Rutt spent the fall on Laysan and reported that the millerbirds quickly began breeding in their new home. A few pairs managed to hatch young, but none survived to fledge through Nov. As a bonus, I received many interesting observations of seabirds and unusual migrants from biologists associated with the millerbird translocation. (These observations are scattered through this report.) The translocation project was a joint effort of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine N.M., American Bird Conservancy, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service.



Furnishing the tenth record of the species for the Hawaiian Islands, this Red-breasted Merganser was in the Halona area of southeastern Oahu Island 9-27 (here 10) November 2011. Photograph by Michael Wolther.



Frigatebirds are famously difficult to identify, but this photograph from Laysan Island shows the white axillars that mark this bird as a male Lesser Frigatebird. Photograph by Robby Kohley.

Kure Atoll Nov+ (CV), but a male will be needed there if any chicks are to be produced. A Short-tailed was also observed on Laysan I. Nov+ (CR, RK). A Kermadec Petrel was seen at Kilauea Point N.W.R., Kauai I. 31 Aug (OJ), possibly the same individual seen there over the summer. Single Mottled Petrels were spotted in the Kauai Channel 2 Sep (EV) and off the Kona coast of Hawaii I. 25 Oct (MW) and

15 Nov (RD, MW). Two to 4 Mottleds were photographed off Kona 19 & 29 Oct and 2 Mottleds 2 Nov (C.R.C.). Single White-necked Petrels were observed off Kona 19 & 20 Nov (C.R.C.). The C.R.C. crew found about 10 Black-winged Petrels off Kona 21-30 Nov, while singles were seen around Kauai 3 Sep (EV) and off Kona 25 Oct (MW). A Cook's Petrel was observed in the Kauai Channel 2 Sep (EV), and 2 were spotted around Kauai 15 Sep (EV). As many as 4 Buller's Shearwaters were seen off Kona 10 (LT et al.) & 11 Nov (RD, MW et al.). Two Short-tailed Shearwaters were observed off Kauai 15 Sep (EV), at least one was off Kona 25 Oct (MW), and at least 3 were off Kona 15 Nov (C.R.C., RD, MW). These Short-tailed Shearwaters were all observed on days when Sooty Shearwaters were also seen. These counts of Short-tailed were of only birds either confirmed by photographs or very close study. Five Leach's Storm-Petrels were photographed off Kona 25 Oct-2 Nov (C.R.C), and one was off Kona 15 Nov (RD, MW). Christmas Shearwaters breed in the Region but are not regularly reported; 19 were noted 3 Sep off Nihoa I. (EV), where there is a breeding colony. A count of 164 Newell's Shearwaters off Port Allen, Kauai 2 Sep (OJ) is unusually high but no indicative of an increase in the population—this endangered endemic remains in steep decline.

BOOBIES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS

A Brewster's Brown Booby was seen w. of Kauai 3 Sep (EV), singles were off Kona 30 Oct and 1 Nov (C.R.C.), and one was on Laysan 15 Oct+ (CR, RK). Brewster's Brown Boobies have historically bred in the tropical e. Pacific, but birds of this subspecies have been recorded more frequently in the Region and have been found breeding in the islands. A male Lesser Frigatebird was observed on Laysan I. 25 Sep+ (CR, RK). Lessers are rare in the Region, although the difficulty in identifying frigatebirds means some Lessers may be mistaken for Greaters.

Single Northern Harriers were on Laysan 7 Oct-24 Oct (CR, RK) and Midway 14 Oct-29 Oct, with 2 on Midway 29 Oct (PL, DM). A Peregrine Falcon remained on Midway 2 Oct+ (PL, DM); one was on Laysan 3-7 Oct and a different bird there 4 Nov (RK, CR). A Peregrine was spotted on Molokai 28 Nov (LT). A Wood Sandpiper was observed on Laysan 16 Sep+ (RK, CR). Wood Sandpipers are quite rare in the Region, with only four previous records (all from the nw. islands). Two individuals were present on one occasion and at least 4 on another. An ad. Gray-tailed Tattler remained on Laysan 25 Sep+ (RK, CR), an ad. was on Midway 26 Nov (DM), and a juv. was at the Kii Unit of James Campbell N.W.R. 29 Oct (PD, RM) and 12 Nov (KP). Gray-taileds are reported infrequently but some are probably overlooked, assumed to be Wanderings. Single Whimbrels wintered on Molokai 16 Aug+ (ADY, LT) and at Kii 21 Aug+ (m.ob.), both of the American subspecies *hudsonius*. Strong counts of Bristle-thighed Curlew came from several sites in the main islands, with counts of 68 at Kii 3 Nov (KP, LT) and 21 on Molokai 4 Oct (ADY)—possibly the highest ever for Oahu and Molokai, respectively. The only godwit reported was a Bar-tailed on Laysan 27 Oct (RK, CR). Bar-taileds are rare but regular in the Region. Laysan island is known for large numbers of shorebirds in its lagoon, but a count of 105 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers 30 Oct (RK, CR) is among the highest ever recorded in the Region. A Curlew Sandpiper remained on Molokai 26 Sep+ (LT, ADY), and one frequented the Pearl Harbor area on Oahu 13 Nov+ (LT, KP). A Short-billed Dowitcher was observed at Ohiapiilo 17 Aug (MW) and 26 Sep (LT). Long-billeds are quite regular in the Region, but Short-billeds are rare. Photographs of a snipe on Midway 20 Oct+ (ph. DM) suggest but do not confirm identification as Wilson's Snipe; Common Snipe could not be ruled out.

GULLS THROUGH OWLS

Reports of gulls were sparse. A Ring-billed was at Kii 27 Oct and 2 Nov (KP), and 2



This South Polar Skua photographed 2 November 2011 off the Kona coast of Hawaii had been banded in the South Shetland Islands by Wayne Trivelpiece of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center. Photograph by Daniel L. Webster/Cascadia Research Collective.



Short-billed Dowitchers in Hawaii are much rarer than Long-billed. This bird was at Shiapilo Pond on Molokai Island 17 August 2011. Photograph by Michael Walther.



A Snowy Owl on the runway of Honolulu International Airport was the first ever recorded in the Hawaiian Islands. Photograph by Erik Rutka, Wildlife Specialist, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services.

were there 10 Nov+ (m.ob.). A large, pale gull at Kaena Pt., Oahu I. 13 Nov (LY) may have been a Glaucous but was not seen well enough to be sure. A Least Tern was at Kahuku, Oahu Aug+ (m.ob.), and up to 5 were observed at the Kona S.T.P. 1 Sep+ (DD, et al.). A Black Tern was seen at Kealia 4 & 14 Sep (MS, AW). A banded South Polar Skua was photographed off Kona 2 Nov (C.R.C.); the bird had been banded at Admiralty Bay, King George I., South Shetland Is., Antarctica, over 12,000 km from where it was photographed in Hawaiian waters. A Pomarine Jaeger was seen w. of Kauai 3 Sep (EV), and single Pominers were photographed off Kona 22 & 30 Oct (C.R.C.). Pominers are regular in the Region. A Parasitic Jaeger was photographed off Kona 9 Nov (C.R.C.). Parasitics are reported only rarely in the Region.

Mourning Dove is a mysterious introduced species in the Region. Most reports are of relatively small numbers of birds from localized areas—but there are also surprises. A Mourning Dove was found on remote Nihoa I. 4 Sep (EV). Did the bird fly 240 km from Kauai, the closest of the main islands where small numbers have been reported, or did it come from farther away, possibly all the way from North America? The 250 Mourning Doves reported at Ulupalakua, Maui, and 100 there 29 Nov (F&KS), made unusually high counts. It may take a while to figure out what is going on with this species. I continue to get reports of large numbers of introduced parrots. Some 776 Rose-ringed Parakeets counted at Honolulu, Oahu 30 Aug (MO) and 350 at Lihue, Kauai 25 Sep (OJ) made very high counts. A large flock of parakeets leaving a roost in e. Honolulu 13 Nov contained 44 Red-masked Parakeets and 2 Blue-crowned Parakeets (or possibly Red-masked/Blue-crowned hybrids) (MO), while 150 Red-crowned Parrots were counted leaving their roost in Pearl City, Oahu 27 Aug (KP, LT). A Belted Kingfisher was found at Hilo, Hawaii I. 26 Oct (AW). Belted Kingfishers are rare but regular in the Region. Because they are conspicuous and easy to identify, they are much more likely to be reported than other less showy species.

Undoubtedly the most surprising report of the fall came from Honolulu International Airport on Thanksgiving Day 24 Nov, where officials with USDA Wildlife Services found a Snowy Owl. After the officials tried to capture the bird or chase it away from the runway area, the bird was shot and killed (PDU). The corpse was taken to the Bishop Museum, where a specimen was prepared (*BPBM 185577; accession number 2011.133; *file LG*). This furnishes the Region's first record. A major irruption of Snowy Owls commenced across the West and Great Plains in late Nov, but the Hawaiian record is surely the most amazing.

Contributors: Cascadia Research Collective (C.R.C.), Reg David, Arleone Dibben-Young (ADY), Peter Donaldson, Darren Dowell, Peter Dunlevy (PDU), Anne Egleston, Lydia Garetano, Hawaii Forest & Trail (H.F.T), Oscar Johnson, Robby Kohley, Pete Leary, Dan Maxwell, Richard May, Michael Nishimoto, Mike Ord, Rob Pacheco, Kurt Pohlman, Thane Pratt, Chuck Probst, Tom Rien, Brooks Rownd, Cameron Rutt, Forest & Kim Starr, Lance Tanino, Eric VanderWerf, Michael Walther, Alex Wang, Lindsay Young. 🌐

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Pictorial Highlights



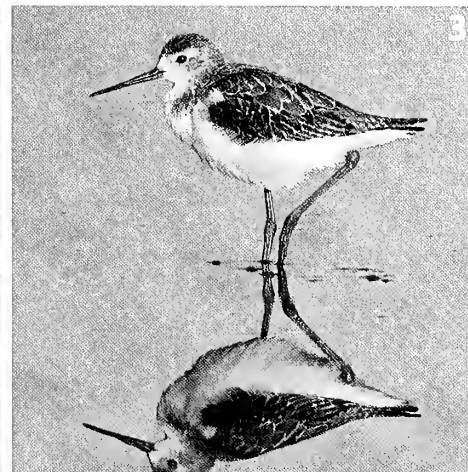
1 • A Long-eared Owl surprised Juneau birders when it flushed out of edge habitat on the Mendenhall Wetlands dike trail 19 November 2011. It represented a third local record of this casual migrant and Alaska's seventh record overall. *Photograph Patty A. Rose.*

2 • This Oriental Turtle-Dove hung around Gambell, Alaska middens 7-22 (here 15) October 2011. It marked the first record for the northern half of the Bering Sea and the first ever for the fall season. *Photograph by Barrett Pierce.*

3 & 4 • Alaska birders were quickly summoned to Seward for this stunning Redwing that appeared at Seward's Lowell Point 15 (here 16) November 2011. A first for Alaska, the bird braved seriously harsh winds and sub-zero temperatures through 26 November. It was at home feeding both in the high tide wrack line and in local Mountain Ash trees. *Photographs by Carol A. Griswold.*

5 • This Willow Warbler was photographed at St. Paul Island, Alaska on 29 September 2011, making the Pribilofs' first ever record and only the fourth for Alaska (and North America). *Photograph by Doug Gochfeld.*

6 • Louisiana's ninth Tropical Parula, but only the second in fall, was at Hackberry Ridge, near Johnsons Bayou, Cameron Parish on 10 November 2011. *Photograph by Justin Bosler.*



1 - Christmas Shearwater may prove to be regular in the southern Gulf of California. This one was in 87° F water off Los Barriles, Baja California Sur on 5 September 2011. Photograph by David M. Pereksta.

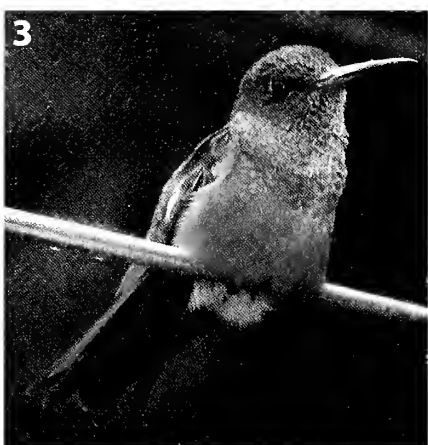
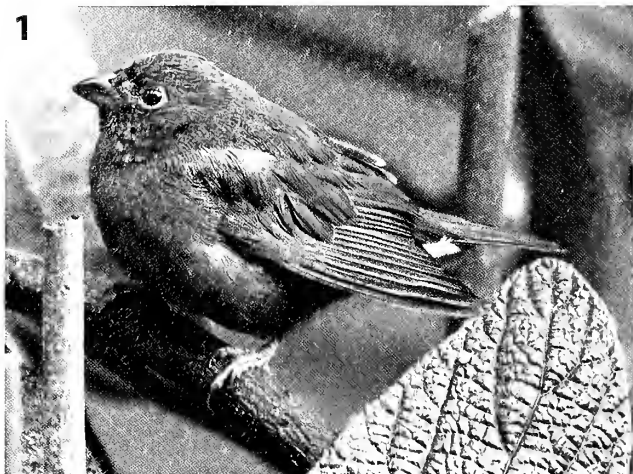
2 & 3 - The most unexpected bird of the season on the Baja California Peninsula, and a strong contender for the Baja California Peninsula region's rarest ever, was this juvenile Marsh Sandpiper at Estero Punta Banda, Baja California, present 12 (here) through 16 October 2011. Photographs by Steve N. G. Howell (left) and Matt Sadowski.

4 - This bird photographed at the base of the Vizcaino Peninsula, Baja California Sur on 19 October 2011 was judged by several experts familiar with the species to be a typical immature male Blue-headed Vireo. Although the state's endemic subspecies of Cassin's Vireo (*lucasanus*) is very bright, presumably only adult males could approach this intensity of color. Records committees in the United States and Canada occasionally struggle with the separation of Cassin's and Blue-headed Vireos, but none of them deal with Cassin's as bright as *lucasanus*. Photograph by Ryan M. Abe.

5 - A rare migrant on British Columbia's interior lakes in fall, this juvenile Sabine's Gull was at Okanagan Lake in Penticton 17 September 2011. Photograph by Laure Neish.

6 - Vancouver, British Columbia's first Northern Wheatear was this immature seen 31 August 2011 at Iona Island. Photograph by Mike Tabak.





1 • A feeder in North Vancouver provided sustenance for this male Painted Bunting, which furnished the second record for the local checklist area and fifth record for British Columbia 18 November 2011. *Photograph by Paul Kusmin.*

2 • Establishing what is surely an elevational record for the Central America region was this American Golden-Plover photographed 6 November 2011 at 3325 m elevation next to the crater on Costa Rica's Irazú Volcano. *Photograph by Carlos Lizano.*

3 & 4 • The parental species of avian hybrids are difficult to determine. Indeed, many hybrids are initially identified not as a hybrid but as a species other than either parent. Such was the case with this apparent Rufous-tailed Hummingbird x Cinnamon Hummingbird hybrid photographed at Trinidad de Moravia, Costa Rica on 10 October 2011. It was initially identified as a Buff-bellied Hummingbird. *Photographs by Raúl Vega.*

5 • A foray into a wayside park between channels of the South Platte River on the outskirts of Julesburg, Sedgwick County, Colorado turned up this long-staying Common Ground-Dove. It loitered 12 (here) through 30 November 2011, unprecedented for the state, as all four previous records of the species were single-day sightings. *Photograph by Steven G. Mlodinow.*

6 • A male Scarlet Tanager in North Cheyenne Canyon, El Paso County, Colorado was doubly exceptional: it was an orange variant color morph, and it was seen feeding a fledgling with white wing bars. The female parent was not observed during the period in which the male was recorded, 9 (here) through 12 August 2011. *Photograph by Bill Maynard.*



1 • The status of Le Conte's Sparrow in the Colorado & Wyoming region during fall migration is poorly understood. Although Le Conte's is reported annually, the species' skulking habits make it difficult to detect and photograph. This juvenile in suspended pre-formative molt tarried 17 September (here) through 5 October 2011 at Chico Basin Ranch, Pueblo County, Colorado. *Photograph by Bill Maynard.*

2 • This showy male Masked Duck at Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden, Stock Island, Monroe County, Florida remained 16-20 (here 16) October 2011. *Photograph by Carl Goodrich.*

3 • A cooperative Winter Wren lingered 9-28 (here 11) November 2011 at Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge, Lincoln County, Nevada. Several nearby Pacific Wrens made for nice comparisons of plumages and calls. *Photograph by Martin Meyers.*

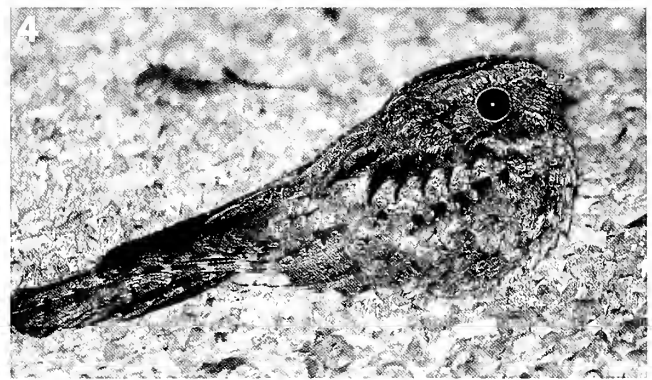
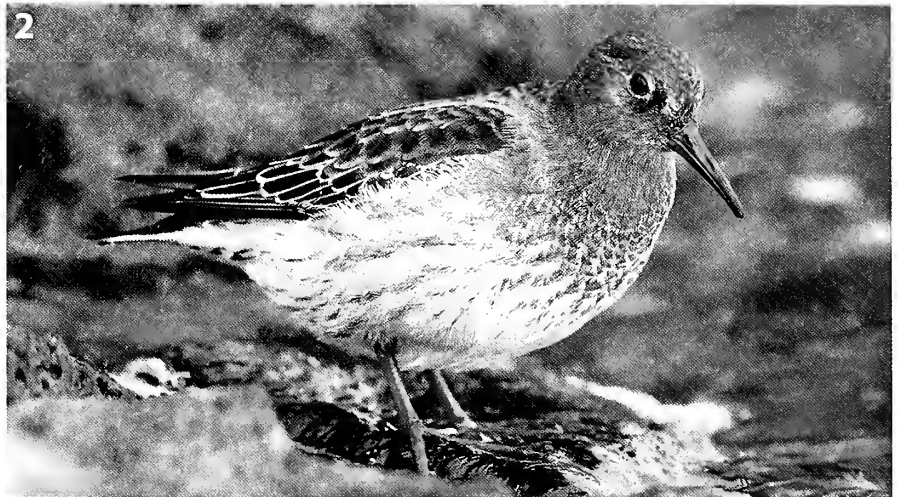
4 • A species recorded almost annually in Florida, this adult male Kirtland's Warbler visited Wilton Manors, Broward County 20 (here) and 21 October 2011. *Photograph by Larry Manfredi.*

5 • A Connecticut Warbler made a rare appearance in the Great Basin region at Floyd Lamb Park, Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada 3 (here) and 4 September 2011. *Photograph by Greg Scyphers.*

6 • One of many notable eastern warblers found in the Great Basin in fall 2011, this stunning Blackburnian Warbler was observed 23-25 (here 23) September at Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge, Lincoln County, Nevada. *Photograph by Greg Scyphers.*

7 • This Wood Sandpiper photographed on Laysan Island 16 September 2011 documents one of the few ever recorded in the Hawaiian Islands; this bird lingered through much of the season on Laysan. *Photograph by Cameron Rutt.*

8 • This Nihoa Millerbird was photographed 15 October 2011 in its new home on Laysan Island, where the species has been introduced. The bird is locally common in its range, but that range is restricted to two remote islands in the Pacific. *Photograph by Robby Kohley.*



1 • This Great Kiskadee appeared 31 August 2011 on board the *USS Intrepid*, a decommissioned aircraft carrier docked on the Hudson River in Manhattan, New York City. John Votta, a New Jersey birder, received this image from a visiting British birder, whose name has unfortunately been lost. On 11 September, the same (or another?) kiskadee was photographed in the Bronx! These represent the first reports of this species in New York. *Photograph by Unknown Photographer.*

2 • This Purple Sandpiper turned up 21 November 2011 at Clinton Lake, DeWitt County, Illinois and remained for two more days. *Photograph by Greg Lambeth.*

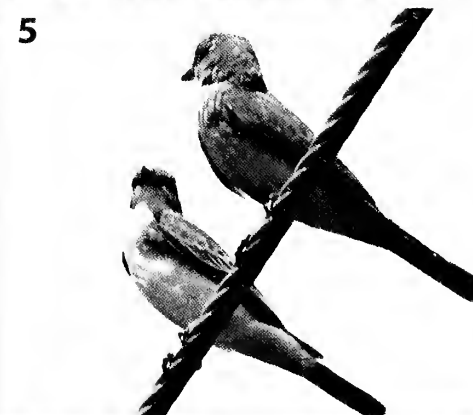
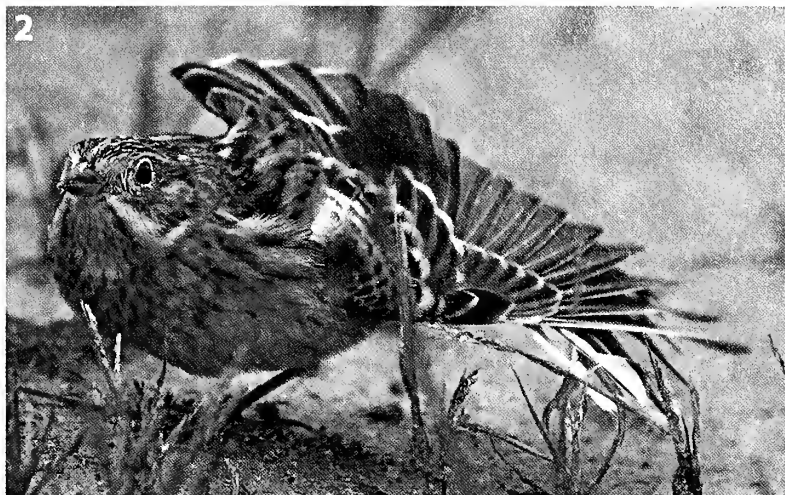
3 • This Mottled Duck at Otter Slough Conservation Area, Stoddard County, Missouri 1 (here 6) September through 30 October 2011 was found four days after the state's third record near St. Louis. *Photograph by Chris Barrigar.*

4 • Roger and Lynda Mayhorn were surprised to find 2 Eastern Whip-poor-wills on their Buchanan, Virginia driveway when they returned home after dark on 18 September 2011. One bird quickly flew up into a tree, but the other remained on the gravel and allowed itself to be photographed at close range. *Photograph by Roger Mayhorn.*

5 • Maryland's overdue first Bell's Vireo was seen briefly and photographed on Assateague Island, Worcester County 8 October 2011. *Photograph by Rob Ostrowski.*

6 • Only nine days after Maryland's first record, another Bell's Vireo was seen and enjoyed by several at Turkey Point, Cecil County 17 October 2011. *Photograph by Mikey Lutmerding.*

7 • Maryland's first Green Violetear arrived at the Elkton, Cecil County residence of Karen Carpenter on 10 (here 12) October 2011 and was present for three days. Possibly the same bird was seen in Clarksville, Howard County 24-26 October 2011. Both birds had a bright blue patch on the chest indicative of the nominate subspecies. *Photograph by Bill Hubick.*



1 • Yellow-green Vireos are resident from Mexico to Peru, occasionally wandering to coastal Texas, Florida, and the West Coast. This one, banded on Plum Island, Essex County, Massachusetts on 5 September 2011 may have been in the area for some time, as evidenced by molting outer primaries. Its larger bill, blurred facial pattern, and extensively bright yellow flanks distinguish it from Red-eyed Vireo. *Photograph by Ben Flemer.*

2 • This Smith's Longspur, found by Trevor Persons on 21 September 2011 in an old sand quarry in Norridgewock, Somerset County, furnished Maine's second record. On 24 September, it obligingly stretched to show characteristic white lesser coverts and outer tail feathers accenting its overall buffy plumage. It accommodated visiting birders through 25 September. *Photograph by Jeffrey Offerman.*

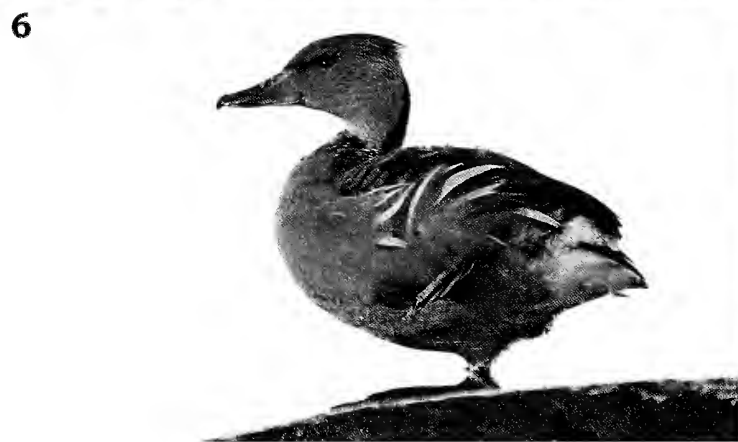
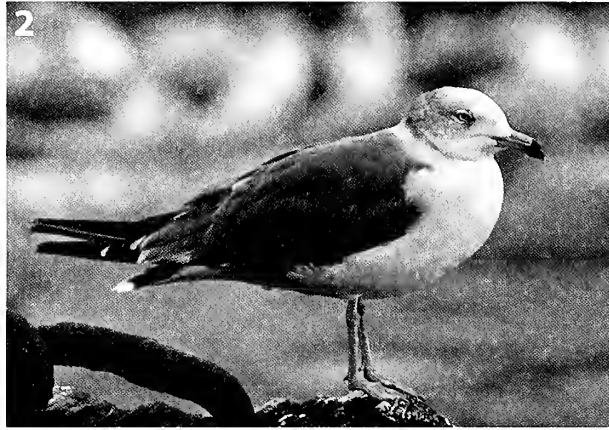
3 • This Northern Wheatear, a first-fall bird, at Anchor Bay 2-5 (here 5) October 2011 provided the first record for Mendocino County, California. Coincidentally, another Northern Wheatear was reported south of this location, at India Basin, San Francisco County on 28 October. *Photograph by Robert J. Keiffer.*

4 • This Couch's Kingbird was nicely documented at Broad Canyon Ranch north of Radium Springs, Doña Ana County, New Mexico 14-15 (here 15) October 2011; credible records of Couch's now outnumber records of Tropical Kingbird six to one in the state. *Photograph by Donna M. Simonetti.*

5 • This adult Western Kingbird was photographed 10 August 2011 with one of the three Western Kingbird × Eastern Kingbird hybrid fledglings it was feeding at Windsor, Essex County, Ontario 10-17 August. *Photograph by James M. Holdsworth.*

6 • This Le Conte's Sparrow stopped over at Point Pelee National Park, Essex County, Ontario 22-23 (here 23) October 2011. *Photograph by Alan Wormington.*





1 • Skagit County, Washington's second Hudsonian Godwit was a fresh juvenile at Skagit Wildlife Management Area on 18 August 2011. *Photograph by Ryan Merrill.*

2 • In 2004, Washington recorded its first Black-tailed Gull. This species has now been detected in five of the past seven years. This bird inhabited Commencement Bay, Pierce County 14 (here 15) September through 2 November 2011 and was likely the same bird that occupied this location in fall 2009. *Photograph by Gregg Thompson.*

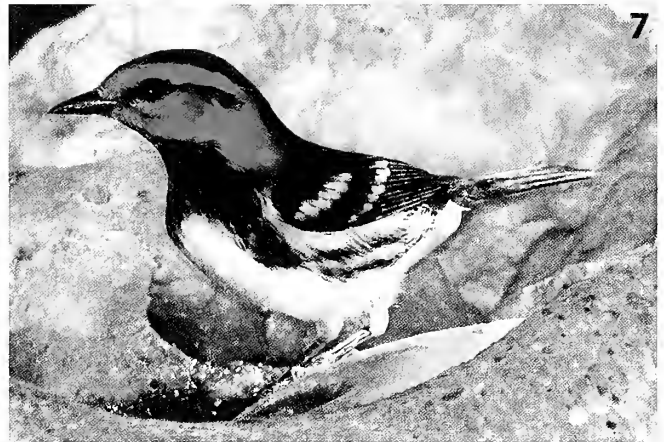
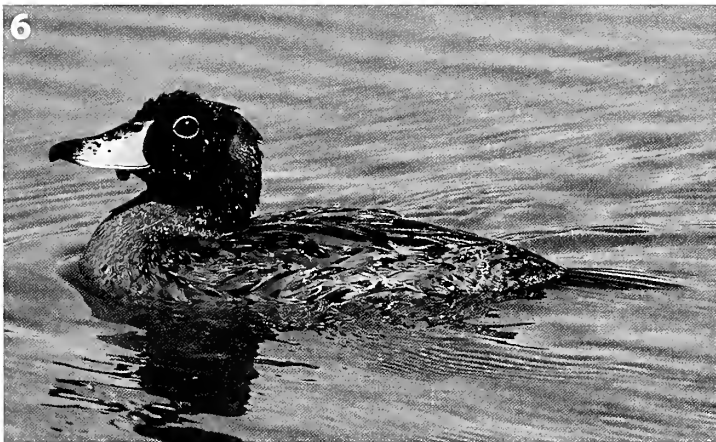
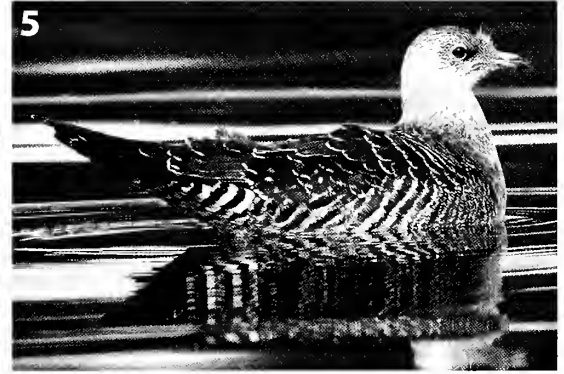
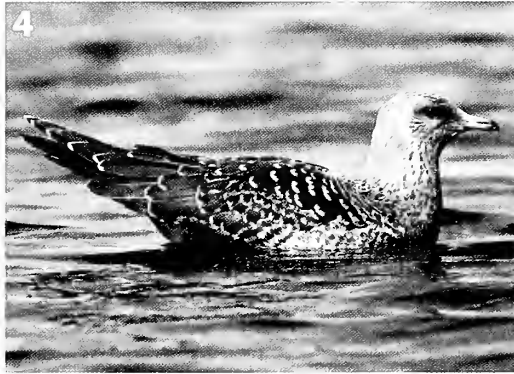
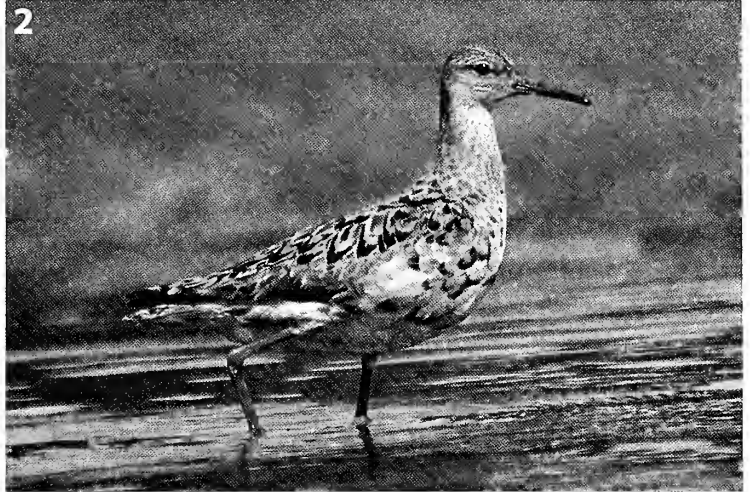
3 • Rarely observed in autumn migration in Georgia, this Black-billed Cuckoo was at Cochran Shoals 7 September 2011. *Photograph by Gene Koziaro.*

4 • This Brewer's Sparrow at Davenport, Lincoln County, Washington 17 September 2011 shows traits consistent with the *taverneri* subspecies, called Timberline Sparrow, including gray supercilium, gray flanks and upper breast, gray median crown stripe, and the heavy, dark dorsal streaks. The relatively bold eyering and lack of buff tones are not a good fit for Clay-colored Sparrow. *Photograph by Brod Woggoner.*

5 • Although there have been several sightings of Pacific Golden-Plover in Alberta, this nicely photographed bird at Lac Ste. Anne on 8 October 2011 provided only the second accepted record for the province. *Photograph by Steve Knight.*

6 • Very rare in Québec, this Fulvous-Whistling Duck was seen first at Chambly 19 November 2011 and then at nearby Otterburn Park 20-23 (here 22) November. *Photograph by Pierre Bonnon.*

7 • This White-chinned Petrel about 3 kilometers northeast of San Miguel Island on 6 September 2011 was only the second to be found off California and the first for the Southern California region. *Photograph by Todd McGrath.*



1 • This Gray Vireo, photographed on the second day of its 1-6 October 2011 stay in a row of tamarisk trees near Port Hueneme, Ventura County, was one of two documented on the coast of California this fall. *Photograph by Jeff Carter.*

2 • This Ruff, representing approximately the twentieth record for Tennessee, was present at Rankin Bottoms, Cocke County 27 (here 29) August through 1 September 2011. *Photograph by Scott Somershoe.*

3 & 4 • Kentucky's first Parasitic Jaeger was in the company of the state's second Long-tailed Jaeger 11-14 September 2011 at Barren River Lake, Allen/Barren Counties. The bird was thought to be in poor health and transferred to wildlife rehabilitators, who could find nothing wrong with it. It was released in good health about a week later. *Photographs by Mary Yandell (left, 11 September) and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (12 September).*

5 • Kentucky's second Long-tailed Jaeger was present 10-14 (here 12) September 2011 at Barren River Lake and remained in the company of the state's first Parasitic Jaeger most of the time. *Photograph by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.*

6 • A beautiful male Masked Duck near Zionsville, Washington County 16 (here 28) August through 3 September 2011 provided one of the very few Texas records north of the coastal plain. *Photograph by Hemant Kulkarni.*

7 • Finding a Golden-cheeked Warbler during migration is always a noteworthy event, but this season two were documented in the western third of Texas. This female caused quite a bit of excitement during its stay at Midland, Midland County 30 July through 2 (here 1) August 2011. *Photograph by Mary Stortz.*



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