



East of the Great Plains it was a major invasion season for Snowy Owls. In Ontario, more than 200 had been reported by the end of November, but this individual managed to beat the crowd: it had spent the summer in the Toronto area, where it was photographed August 29, 1991. Photograph/Tim Sabo.



Difficult to photograph (like other *Pterodroma* petrels) and rare north of the Carolinas, Black-capped Petrel had never been fully documented off New Jersey before. Pelagic birding ace Alan Brady photographed this one over Hudson Canyon, 86 miles east of Barnegat Light, New Jersey, on September 16, 1991.



It was an amazing year for rare visitors in the western Great Lakes region, as suggested by the almost simultaneous presence of these two strays (from very different origins) in Grand Marais, Minnesota. The Fieldfare was photographed November 8, 1991, by Anthony Hertz. The Anna's Hummingbird, an adult female, was photographed November 12, 1991, by Peder Svingen. Each bird represented a first record for Minnesota.



A handful of Red-throated Pipits, long-distance migrants from Asia, come down the California coast in fall most years—a phenomenon first discovered in the 1960s by Guy McCaskie. But autumn 1991 saw record numbers, literally scores of them, both on the coast and inland. This one was in San Pedro, California, on September 28, 1991. Photograph/Mitch Heindel.



Migrant Le Conte's Sparrows are rarely detected in the Appalachian Region. This one was captured for banding at the Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pennsylvania, on October 20, 1991. Photograph/Robert C. Leberman.

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Fall 1991



This Brambling—which Robert Kreba dubbed “the ultimate winter finch”—came to a feeder in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, from October 31 to November 5, 1991, providing a first record for the province. Photograph/Helen Fast.



Records of non-Common loons in the interior are steadily increasing, probably as more observers learn to identify them. This first-winter Pacific Loon was Bartlesville, Oklahoma, on November 10, 1991. Photograph/Jeri A. McMahon.



For the second consecutive autumn, a Northern Wheatear visited the Central Southern Region, which now has five records of this perky stray. This bird, discovered in New Orleans October 23, 1991, was observed for several days. The only previous Louisiana occurrence was near New Orleans in 1888! Photograph/Gwen B. Smalley.



Chestnut-collared Longspur at Duxbury Beach, Massachusetts, on October 27, 1991. This species is a short-distance migrant from the Great Plains, but it has now turned up four times in Massachusetts. Photograph/Robert Abrams.



Greater Shearwater over Washington Canyon off the coast of Virginia on August 17, 1991. Numbers of this species off the Atlantic Coast this season were unusually high. Photograph/David F. Abbott.



Common in the highlands in Mexico, the Tufted Flycatcher had been long predicted as a potential stray into the southwestern United States. Bearing out the prediction was this bird that appeared at Rio Grande Village in Big Bend National Park, Texas, on November 3, 1991, and stayed into the winter. Photograph/Barry R. Zimmer.



A Ruff at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station, Alviso, California, on October 4, 1991. One of four present at this location. Photograph/Alan Walther.



The most conspicuous avian result from Hurricane Bob, which swept north up the Atlantic Coast in late August, was a scattering of southern terns over the coastal areas of the northeast. This Sandwich Tern, one of three found in Maine, was at Phippsburg on August 20, 1991. Photograph/Peter D. Vickery.



Although this hybrid combination has been found a number of times, it still can pose an identification problem for the birder who encounters it. This White-throated Sparrow X Dark-eyed Junco hybrid was banded at Cape May, New Jersey, in October 1991. Photograph/Greg Dodge.



Fourteen years after its first known occurrence north of the border, the Eared Trogon was finally documented nesting in Arizona in October 1991. The nest was in upper Ramsey Canyon, Huachuca Mountains, where this wary male was studied in September. Photograph/Gary H. Rosenberg.



Some inland records of Red Phalaropes are to be expected every autumn, but this season they were far more numerous and more widespread than normal. This individual was at Saylorville Reservoir, Iowa, on September 27, 1991. Photograph/Reid Allen.



This Yellow-billed Loon appeared November 17, 1991, at Beaver Lake in northwest Arkansas, and remained to the end of the period. There had been no previous records for the Central Southern Region. Photograph/Max Parker.



Most Sabine's Gulls found in the interior of the continent in fall are juveniles; but in autumn 1991, with Sabine's unusually numerous inland, several adults were found there as well. This one was in Scott County, Iowa, on October 14, 1991. Photograph/Tim Schantz.



Some inland areas had better than average numbers of jaegers this fall. This Pomarine Jaeger, apparently providing a first definite record for Utah, was on Utah Lake at Orem on November 6, 1991. Photograph/Ted Madden.



Furnishing a first state record, and only the third for the northeast, was this Vermilion Flycatcher at Jobs Corners, Tioga County, Pennsylvania, October 24-25, 1991. Photograph/Franklin C. Haas.



A subtle westerner that might be overlooked in the east at times, this Brewer's Sparrow at Hartlen's Point, Nova Scotia, on October 7, 1991, provided a first record for Atlantic Canada and one of very few for eastern North America. Photograph/Ian A. McLaren.



A Eurasian bird that had strayed as far as Alaska only three times, the Little Bunting was not on anyone's list of expected vagrants in California! But in the remarkable autumn of 1991, this individual on Point Loma in San Diego in late October barely stood out as the season's rarest bird. Photograph/B. J. Rose.



The waters far off northern California continue to turn up surprises. This Mottled Petrel was one of several found more than 70 miles to the southwest of Point Reyes on November 16, 1991. Against the white underparts, the bold black "boomerangs" by the wrists and the extensive dark gray belly are striking even at long distance. Photograph/Monte M. Taylor.