

Mount Pleasant, N.J. May 3 (DRo) and 1 at Newport, N.J. May 9 (DEK).

FRINGILLIDS—A pair of Blue Grosbeaks returned to the Philadelphia airport during May, the only local breeding station for this species (JCM). Dickcissels appeared in a few localities where they were not previously known to breed. Among these was a ♂ in Chesapeake, Va. May 2 (RLA). In the New Design Road area of Frederick Co., Md., where they have been reported for many years, Carlson counted an amazing 23 singing ♂♂ May 29. What few northern finches there were faded away rather quietly and generally were unseen or at least unreported. The few reports available indicate rather normal departures and no late dates. The last dates for Evening Grosbeaks included 2 at Ashland, Va. Apr. 30 (REJ), 2 at Denton, Md. May 4 (WB), and 1 at Tinicum Refuge, Philadelphia May 5 (JC). Similarly, the last Pine Siskins were reported from Greensboro, Md. May 5 (MWH) and Sandy Point, Md. May 8 (PGD). A concentration of 100 Purple Finches at Longwood Gardens, Pa. May 1 was both late and unusual in view of the winter scarcity in the area (JGr). Other northern finch reports of interest included 2 Com. Redpolls at Stroudsburg, Pa. Apr. 9 (MW) and 2 Red Crossbills at Redden State Forest, Del. May 9 (EJR). An adult ♂ Lark **Bunting** appeared at Bombay Hook Refuge, Del. May 13 (KL), and the **Black-throated Sparrow** previously reported near Fairfax, Va. remained until Apr. 11 (fide JWE). A Savannah Sparrow at Dyke marsh, Va. May 30 was remarkably late (JMA). Two late concentrations of Chipping Sparrows give a hint as to the lateness of the spring migration as a whole. At Lynchburg, Va. a single flock of 100 was found May 4 (MBT), and at Richmond, Va. Scott had a flock of 40 pass through his yard May 6. A singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found near Newfoundland, Pa. May 25, probably the first confirmed spring report for the state (FBG), and a very late **White-throated Sparrow** was seen at Richmond May 26 (FRS).

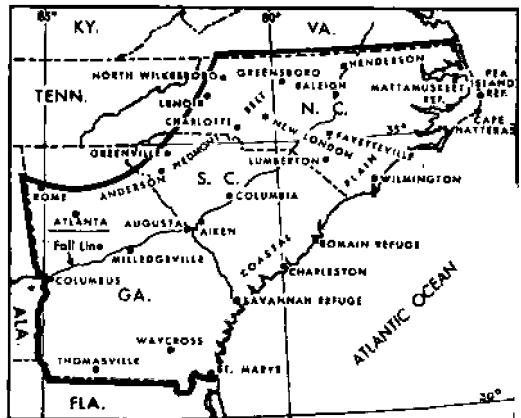
CONTRIBUTORS—J. M. Abbott, R. L. Ake, J. F. Akers, H. T. Armistead, R. J. Blicharz, Ed Bloor, W. Bright, Maurice Broun, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Buckler, P. A. Buckley, M. A. Byrd, C. W. Carlson, John Carroll, John Danzenbaker, P. A. DuMont, P. G. DuMont, J. W. Eike, R. S. Freer, F. B. Gill, G. S. Grant, J. Grantham, John Gwynn, M. W. Hewitt, C. F. Hills, N. E. Holgersen, Robert Hughes, L. Hurlock, Phyllis Hurlock, Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Johnson, Cliff Jones, Mrs. R. E. Jordan, R. S. Kennedy, D. E. Kunkle, J. E. Landry, S. R. Lawrence, K. Liehr, J. T. McNeill, P. E. McQuarry, Brooke Meanley, J. K. Merritt, R. S. Merkel, D. H. Messersmith, J. C. Miller, Mrs. D. L. Mitchell, Mrs. M. P. Moore, Kevin Muller, William Pepper, Mr. & Mrs. J. Piatte, Mrs. Katherine G. Price, R. L. Pyle, E. J. Reimann, Robert Ridgely, Don Riker, Dick Rosche, Richard Rowlett, I. C. Sanchez, John Sawyer, R. Sehl, L. W. Sieck, R. Smith, W. P. Smith, O. K.

Stephenson, C. E. Stevens, M. B. Tillotson, C. R. Vaughn, Blanche Waddington, W. J. Wayne, Muriel Welch, T. E. Wieboldt, Mrs. J. W. Wiltshire, Stephen Wiley, John Yrizarry.—**F. R. SCOTT**, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Va. 23226 and **DAVID A. CUTLER**, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, Pa. 19095.

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/ Robert P. Teulings

Cool and damp weather through most of the spring season noticeably retarded the migration. The departure of wintering waterfowl was affected, as well as the movements of most passerines. Those species which normally arrive early in the Region



were first seen about on time, but their numbers were slow to build up while the cold weather lingered on. Some common summer residents usually present in good numbers by April 25, such as Acadian Flycatchers, E. Wood Pewees, and Indigo Buntings were only sparsely recorded on bird censuses taken in the Carolinas in late April. In most sections it was early May before the transient warblers and thrushes moved through in heavy concentrations. Passage of a warm front on May 5-6 triggered an excellent influx of migrants that some observers thought was the best in years. The season was also notable for many interesting records of wading birds and shorebirds. The list included Great White Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, Scarlet Ibis, and Limpkin.

LOONS, GREBS, SHEARWATER, PELICAN, CORMORANT—Com. Loons were reported inland in North Carolina from Winston-Salem (CF), Raleigh (RJH, EL), and Roanoke Rapids (JML) in late April and early May; a single bird at the latter place was late on May 29 (JML). Between Apr. 19 and May 5 a number of Com. Loons were also recorded at Okefenokee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Ga., of which at least 8 were forced down by a hailstorm, Apr. 30. The grounded birds were

rescued and later taken to ponds and released (JHa, OB, EY, RG). Two Red-throated Loons at Topsail I., N.C. were late on May 22 (RJH). Also very late was a Red-necked Grebe at Huntington Beach State Park, S.C. on May 23 (FP). Up to 15 Horned Grebes were seen at Raleigh Mar. 19–Apr. 13 (HL, EL, RJH), and 1 on May 8 near Southern Pines, N.C. was late inland (JC). An Eared Grebe near Smith I., N.C. Apr. 25 was the third state record (JFP, et al.). Three Sooty Shearwaters were seen just off Pea I., N.C. on May 22 (GG). A Brown Pelican nest with a single egg at Cape Romain, S.C. Mar. 14 was early (TB, SL). Single Double-crested Cormorants were found inland at Roanoke Rapids on Apr. 22 (JML) and at Raleigh on May 9 (HL, EL), and an estimated 4000 were seen flying south along the beach at Rodanthe, N.C. Apr. 10 (JML).

WADING BIRDS—A Great White Heron was present Apr. 4 at St. Simons I., Ga., possibly the same bird seen in the vicinity last summer (JK). Fourteen Great Blue Herons were seen migrating northward near Southern Pines Mar. 28 (JC). At Roswell, Ga., an adult Little Blue Heron was an unexpected spring visitor, Apr. 1 (TF). Cattle Egrets were early at Augusta, Ga. Mar. 20 (GK) and at Wrightsville Beach, N.C. on Mar. 15 (JC). At Raleigh eight species of waders were seen this spring, including a Com. Egret Apr. 27 (MB) and single Snowy Egrets Apr. 27 and May 5 (MB, RJH). Black-crowned Night Herons were noteworthy inland visitors at Southern Pines (JC), Raleigh (RJH), and North Wilkesboro (WPS) in late April and early May. At Greensboro an adult Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen in mid-April (HR, MR), and on the coast 3 nests were found at Hilton Head I. in May (CN). An early Am. Bittern was seen at Chapel Hill Mar. 14 (ET, RT) and other inland sightings were recorded at Roanoke Rapids (JML), Chapel Hill (JOP), Southern Pines (JC), and Raleigh (RJH) Apr. 1–May 16. John Holt reported an estimated 1200 Wood Ibis at Okefenokee Apr. 21 (fide EC), a surprising concentration inasmuch as this species has heretofore been known only as an occasional non-breeding summer visitor to this area. A Scarlet Ibis was seen and photographed by Ed Yaw at Okefenokee Apr. 23, and it was seen by others there Apr. 24 & 29 (fide EC). Probably the severe drought in s. Florida was responsible for bringing the ibis and large numbers of other wading birds to Okefenokee this spring. Seven White Ibis at Columbus, Ga. Apr. 21 were the first ever recorded there in the spring (EC, fide LAW), and at least 20 at a Morehead City, N.C. heronry this spring were well north of the species' known breeding range (fide JF). Note-worthy also was a Roseate Spoonbill at Jekyll I., Ga. Apr. 24–26 (ML, fide CM).

WATERFOWL—A Ross' Goose, present this past winter at Pea I., was seen there as late as Apr. 3 (DS, DB). Several Oldsquaws were found inland

at Roanoke Rapids Apr. 4–23 (JML), and a small flock of wintering birds remained at Callaway Gardens, Ga. until Mar. 3 (LAW). James Parnell observed an imm. ♂ King Eider at Smith I. Apr. 25, the first North Carolina record since 1936. Waterfowl were reported lingering beyond their normal departure times with greater frequency than usual this spring. Some late records were: 2 Shovelers and 7 Ring-necked Ducks at Columbus Apr. 30 (LAW); 2 Lesser Scaup at Raleigh May 8 (RJH); a Ruddy Duck at Augusta (GK) and a Hooded Merganser at Raleigh (HL, EL) May 9; and Am. Widgeons at Raleigh May 16 (HL, EL), Augusta June 1 (GK), and North Litchfield Beach, S.C. June 2 & 4 (FP). As many as 20 Red-breasted Mergansers lingered at Roanoke Rapids L. through May following a heavy spring influx which brought a peak of 149 birds to the lake Mar. 28 (JML).

BIRDS OF PREY—A Broad-winged Hawk in Carteret Co., N.C. Apr. 17 (HL, JW) and 2 Pigeon Hawks tallied on the bird census at Southport, N.C., Apr. 25 were uncommon spring records for the coastal area. A transient Osprey was found unusually late inland at L. Gaston, May 29 (JML). Single Peregrine Falcons were reported at Okefenokee Refuge (RM, EH) and at nearby Fargo, Ga. (JH, LH, LG) Apr. 18.

LIMPKIN, RAILS—As reported by Eugene Cypert, Limpkins were rare visitors at Okefenokee N.W.R. this spring, with 1 bird seen Apr. 22 (LC) and another May 1 (JHa) in different areas of the refuge. Larry Thompson reported the lucky sighting of an elusive Yellow Rail at Jekyll I. Apr. 18, and other observers found Black Rails at Raleigh on Apr. 23 (CB) and Wilmington Apr. 24 (PM).

SHOREBIRDS—Passage of shorebirds through interior sections of the Region was widely noted this spring with observations of a number of species not commonly found inland, such as Semipalmated Plover, Willet, Upland Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, and Semipalmated Sandpiper. Table 1 summarizes important records. Three Wilson's Plovers arrived early at Morehead City, Mar. 13 (JF). An Am. Golden Plover, a scarce spring migrant, was seen at Huntington Beach, S.C. Mar. 31 (FP, RP). Spotted Sandpipers were very abundant on the coast at Charleston and Wilmington in late April, with remarkably high counts of 74 and 191, respectively, recorded on the spring censuses in those areas Apr. 24 (fide TB, JFP). Knots were found in good numbers at several locations: 350 at Sullivan's I., S.C. May 1 (JC, HL), up to 400 at Hilton Head I., S.C. May 10–26 (CN), and 60 at Savannah Beach, Ga. late in the period on May 30 (JH, LH). Highlighting the Wilmington spring census on Apr. 24 were 4 Baird's Sandpipers (EFP, JMP) and a Wilson's Phalarope (JF, HL). A count of 61 Marbled Godwits was recorded in the Southport area Apr. 25 (fide JFP),

Table 1. Noteworthy Shorebird Records at Inland Locations—Spring 1971

Species	Number	Date	Location	Observer(s)
Semipalmated Plover	1	March 17	Chapel Hill, N.C.	JRH
	1	May 8-9	Raleigh, N.C.	RJH, HL
	Several	May 7-18	Sylvania, Ga.	GB
Willet	1	May 21	North Wilkesboro, N.C.	WPS
	1	April 25	Atlanta, Ga.	LF, BP, ME
Upland Plover	Season peak—14	April 22	Augusta, Ga.	GK
	1	May 2	Atlanta, Ga.	ME, PE
Greater Yellowlegs	Season peak—22	April 17	Augusta, Ga.	GK
Pectoral Sandpiper	Season peak—6	April 1	Raleigh, N.C.	RJH
	3	April 25	Atlanta, Ga.	LF, BP
	1	April 29 & May 4	Sylvania, Ga.	GB
	1	May 12	North Wilkesboro, N.C.	WPS
Least Sandpiper	5	May 2	Atlanta, Ga.	ME, PE
	Season peak—20	May 5	Raleigh, N.C.	RJH
	1 to 5	May 7-16	Chapel Hill, N.C.	JOP
	3	May 9	Whispering Pines, N.C.	JC
	1	May 12	North Wilkesboro, N.C.	WPS

reflecting the increasingly common presence of this species along the North Carolina coast. Unusual spring occurrences of Black-necked Stilts were noted at Beaufort, N.C. where 2 were found Apr. 12 (EP) and at Jekyll I., Ga. where as many as 10 were seen during the third week of April (CM).

GULLS, TERNS—A Lesser Black-backed Gull was carefully identified at Oregon Inlet Apr. 2 (DS, DB), the third sighting on the Outer Banks since North Carolina's first record for the species in December, 1968: Laughing Gulls were recorded at four inland locations during May: 1 at Winston-Salem May 6 (CF), 1 at Roanoke Rapids May 30 (JML), 2 at Columbus in late April (LAW), and 3 at Okefenokee N.W.R. May 13-24 (EY, EC). Surprisingly large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls appeared this spring at Roanoke Rapids L., where as many as 138 were found in mid-April (JML). A few were also sighted at inland lakes and ponds around Raleigh (HL, EL) and Augusta (GK) during March and April. L. A. Wells reported terns largely absent this spring from inland waters around Columbus, Ga. with only 4 Com. Terns and no Forster's, Black, or Least Terns seen there during the migration period. Elsewhere, 9 Caspian Terns were found at Raleigh Apr. 29 (HL, EL), 1 Black Tern near Southern Pines May 8 (JC), and 2 Com. Terns Apr. 19 and 1 Apr. 29 at Roanoke Rapids Lake (JML).

CUCKOOS, WHIP-POOR-WILL, SWIFT—The main influx of Yellow-billed Cuckoos was noticeably late. They first arrived at Augusta by Apr. 25 but were very scarce in numbers there until mid-May (GK). None were found on the Chapel Hill spring bird count Apr. 25 (fide JOP), and only 1 was seen on the Raleigh count May 1 (fide HL). Black-billed Cuckoos, uncommon transients in the Region, were found at North Wilkesboro Apr. 27 (WPS), at Raleigh on Apr. 30

(JW, et al.), and at Atlanta May 1 & 8 (JH). A Whip-poor-will was heard calling at Sylvania, Ga. as early as Mar. 23 (GB) but the first arrivals were not noted at Durham until Apr. 13 (PSP) and at N. Wilkesboro until Apr. 25 (WPS), somewhat late. Chimney Swifts were seen early at Augusta Mar. 28 (GK) and Pea I. on Apr. 2 (DS, DB), but first dates elsewhere indicated that the general arrival of swifts over most sections of the Carolinas did not occur until the third week of April.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, PURPLE MARTIN—A late lingering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was banded May 3 at Chapel Hill by Elizabeth Teulings. Observers located two previously unreported Red-cockaded Woodpecker colonies in Georgia this spring, one at Magnolia Springs State Park near Millen (JH, LH), and another on the outskirts of Augusta where 4 birds were found Apr. 2 (GK). E. Kingbirds, first seen at Augusta Apr. 4, were extremely abundant there in late April and early May; 51 were seen along 1.8 miles of fence at the Augusta airport May 5 (GK). Acadian Flycatchers, usually abundant at Augusta by late April, went unrecorded on the spring census there Apr. 25 (GK), reflecting their late arrival in the Carolinas. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was a rare spring visitor at Atlanta on May 15 (RP, JNC, JP), and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was a late and uncommon transient at Ringwood, Halifax Co., N.C. May 23 (JML). Single Traill's Flycatchers were recorded at Callaway Memorial Forest (PS, FL, JK) and Winston-Salem, N.C. (JL) in early May, and 1 was found late in the period at Raleigh May 26 (HL, EL). A single Purple Martin was unusually early at Raleigh on Feb. 15 (JAL), and 6 were seen as early as Mar. 4 at Morehead City (BS, fide JF).

NUTHATCHES, CREEPER, WREN, THRUSHES, WATER PIPIT, WAXWING—On May 9 several members of the Piedmont Bird Club in Greens-

boro witnessed an incident of 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches fighting repeatedly with a pair of resident Brown-headed Nuthatches at the latter's nest hole (fide FF). The date was late for wintering Red-breasted Nuthatches still to be lingering in the area and their aggressive behavior toward the Brown-headed Nuthatches was peculiar. A strong migratory movement of Brown Creepers was observed in the Charleston area Mar. 14 (TB), signalling their spring departure from the coastal section of the Region. A Short-billed Marsh Wren in the Southern Pines vicinity Apr. 29 was an unusual spring visitor for that locality (JC). A Wood Thrush was noted at Columbus Apr. 1 (JM), the earliest sighting there since 1946 (fide LAW). One was seen at Raleigh Apr. 10 (RJH), at least a week in advance of the first general influx. Wintering Hermit Thrushes lingered beyond their normal departure date in Southern Pines where 1 was still present May 8 (JC) and in Raleigh where 1 was seen as late as May 9 (RJH). Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrushes were unusually conspicuous transients in the Atlanta area from late April through the first week of May (JH), and they were seen in good numbers during the same period at Raleigh, along with Veeries (m.ob.). Water Pipits were found unusually late at Raleigh where a flock of 13 was seen May 16 (HL, EL). Cedar Waxwings were still present there on the late date of May 25 (GW).

VIROES, WARBLERS—White-eyed Vireos were noted early in the season at Sumter, S.C. Mar. 6 (JFP, JC, ED, ET) and at Newport, N.C. Mar. 10 (JF). Over much of the Region, however, White-eyed Vireos, as well as Red-eyed Vireos, were generally late in arriving in their normal numbers. This was reflected, for example, in the results of the spring census at Chapel Hill Apr. 25 (fide JOP) where the counts of both species were down more than 50 percent from those recorded there on the same spring date last year. Philadelphia Vireos were recorded as rare transients in the western part of the Region where 1 was seen at N. Wilkesboro, N.C. May 4 (WPS) and 1 at Helen, Ga. May 9 (RM, EH). A Warbling Vireo was found on the coast at Wilmington, Apr. 24 (EA), and 2 other individuals were seen in the vicinity of Durham in the Piedmont section of North Carolina Apr. 12 (PSP) and May 8 (JOP). Among the highlights of the warbler migration was an unusual movement of Tennessee Warblers through the Atlanta area. Many were seen by members of the Atlanta Audubon Society during the period Apr. 24–May 15 (fide JH). Although a common fall migrant in that locality, the species is normally very scarce in the spring. A Nashville Warbler was picked up dead at the Equitable Building in downtown Atlanta on Apr. 26 (TF). This uncommon migrant was one of some 200 casualties of 40 species, including 18 warbler species, found at that site during the season (TF). Several

Nashville Warblers were seen in the Winston-Salem area during a heavy warbler influx which followed passage of a warm front on May 5 (CRH), and 1 was also seen in Durham, May 7 (PSP). Several observers around the Region noted an exceptional abundance of Myrtle Warblers this year. At Thomasville, Ga., Robert Crawford reported them "unbelievably abundant" through March. At Augusta, a sizeable build-up started in late February and large numbers were tallied there on the spring count Apr. 25 (GK). At Raleigh, hundreds of Myrtles were seen by Robert Hader during the last week of April and the first week of May, prompting him to especially remark on their great abundance. Three Cerulean Warblers were recorded on the Chapel Hill spring count Apr. 25 (JD, fide JOP), and single birds were also seen May 5 near Durham (PSP), and May 9 in the Raleigh area (HL, EL). Also this spring Connecticut Warblers were reported with unexpected frequency. Single birds were seen May 1 (CRH) and May 9 (SM) at Winston-Salem, May 7 at Durham (PSP), May 14 at Atlanta (RP) and May 27 at Charlotte (LJ)—a remarkable series of sightings of these very uncommon and elusive transients.

BOBOLINK, ORIOLES, TANAGER—Migrant Bobolinks were regularly seen at Augusta from late April through mid-May (GK) and they were noted in good numbers at Raleigh during the same period (RJH). Interesting sightings were reported from the North Carolina Outer Banks of an Orchard Oriole and a Summer Tanager at Pea I. Apr. 12 (JML) and 4 Baltimore Orioles at Knotts I. May 9 (GG).

FINCHES, SPARROWS—Three ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were seen at Bodie I. May 1 (FA), one of the few reported spring sightings of this species from the Outer Banks. This record along with the preceding oriole and tanager sightings suggest that the passerine spring migration along the Outer Banks deserves closer attention. Numerous observers provide good coverage of the area during the fall migration but spring field work has been spotty at best. Arrival of Indigo Buntings was noted at Augusta, Ga. Apr. 17 and an abundant population had built up there by May 1 (GK). Yet on that date only a few buntings had reached Raleigh (fide HL) and none were recorded at North Wilkesboro until May 6 (WPS), indicating a retarded northward movement through the Carolinas during the last half of April and the first week of May. A hardy Painted Bunting which wintered at Southern Pines, N.C. was last seen there Apr. 12 (MW, fide JC). A Dickcissel was found on the coast at Litchfield Beach, S.C., May 4 (FP) and single birds were observed near Durham Apr. 20 (PSP) and at Raleigh, May 9 (HL, EL). Evening Grosbeaks were very scarce in the Region during the 1970-71 season, with only one reported sighting during the spring period: a single ♀ at Greensboro Apr. 23 (ILW). Most wintering House

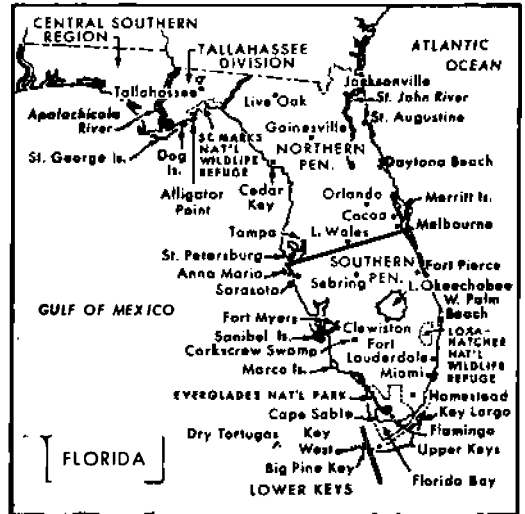
Finches left the Region in late March and early April, but at Winston-Salem 2 birds lingered until May 16 (CRH). A transient Vesper Sparrow was found unusually late at Roanoke Rapids airport, May 29 (JML), and a Clay-colored Sparrow was a rare visitor at Raleigh, May 9 (HL).

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OBSERVERS AND CONTRIBUTORS—Edna Appleberry, Frank Aycock, Don Backe, Charles H. Blake, Omer Bowen, Ted Beckett, Charles Bennett, Grace Boddiford, Mike Browne, Larry Calvert, Jay Carter, Jack N. Carusos, Ernest Corley, Robert L. Crawford, Eugene Cypert, Evelyn Dabbs, James Deaton, Mike Einhorn, Peggy Einhorn, Louis Fink, Frank Fish, Dennis Forsythe, Tom French, Charles Frost, John Fussell, Dot Garrett, Gilbert Grant, Robert Germany, Leonard Gray, Robert J. Hader, (JHa) Jewett Hall, Ruth Hill, John Holt, (JH) Joel Hornstein, Linda Hornstein, C. Royce Hough, J. Russell Hoverman, Eileen Hutcheson, Lee Jones, Joseph King, (JKn) Jane Knight, Gerald Knighton, Stan Langston, Joshua A. Lee, Edmund LeGrand, Harry LeGrand, Paul Lehman, Janice Levitt, Mike Lilly, J. Merrill Lynch, Florence Lynn, Robert Manns, Cecily Masters, Polly Mebane, James Miller, Sue Moore, Caroline Newhall, John Paget, Richard Parks, James F. Parnell, Mrs. Paul S. Payne, Byron Perry, Eugene Pond, Eloise F. Potter, Jack M. Potter, Frederick Probst, Renee Probst, James O. Pullman, Hollis Rogers, Marjorie Rogers, Bob Simpson, Sam Sinderson, Wendell P. Smith, Peggy Spencer, David Sonneborn, Elizabeth Teulings, Larry Thompson, L. A. Wells, Gail Whitehurst, Ida Lee Winkler, Mary Wintyen, John Wright, Ed Yaw.—**ROBERT P. TEULINGS, Route 2, Box 154, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.**

FLORIDA REGION / Herbert W. Kale II

This spring migration will be remembered as the year migrants—especially warblers—inundated Florida. Reports from throughout the peninsula ranged from “good migration” (a superlative in normal years) to “best migration in years”. John Edscorn captured the feelings of many in his report “The show at Mullet Key (April 10) was fantastic. Birds of all kinds and colors . . . like a carpet of jewels . . . a glimpse of the primordial garden! Birds of deep woodlands were feeding with finches on the lawns—grosbeaks, buntings, orioles, bobolinks, and warblers—Prothonotary, Hooded, Kentucky, Cerulean, and many others.” A total of 22 species of warblers was sighted in the Tampa Bay area alone, and the Cruickshanks



reported 12 to 17 species daily at Rockledge during the last half of April. The reason for all this, of course, was the weather. Whereas cold fronts rarely penetrate far down the Florida peninsula in the spring, this year 7 of 12 swept the length of the state. Fronts with cold northerly winds piled the migrants up, and fronts with rain often forced them down violently. Spring kills are almost unprecedented in the peninsula. The slow-moving front of late April caused mortality throughout the region. Approximately 2500 birds of 42 species were downed by the giant lunar vehicle assembly building (V.A.B.) at the Kennedy Space Center on Merritt I. Apr. 21-May 2 (LEE & RB). Almost 300 birds of 20 species were felled Apr. 26-27 when they struck a 400-ft. crane tower at the construction site of Florida Power & Light Company's (F.P.L.) nuclear energy plant on Hutchinson I., 10 miles south of Ft. Pierce (HWK). Another dozen hit the WTVX tower north of Ft. Pierce the same night (HWK). At the WCTV tower north of Tallahassee 203 birds were killed during the period—198 of these May 1 (WWB). Only 104 birds (57 on May 1) struck the WDBO tower near Orlando this spring, (WKT) the site of several large kills last fall (AB, 25:45). Table 1 lists the birds found at these four sites on the dates indicated. On May 1, 160 warblers were found stunned or dead on the east aspect of the Royal Palm Shopping Center in Boca Raton (ER), and there were reports of several other kills—at a TV tower in Palm Beach County, a hotel in St. Petersburg, and a tower in Jacksonville, but details of these were lacking.

The great spring migration was one bright spot in an otherwise dismal environmental picture. South Florida was in the grip of one of the worst droughts in recent years. Total rainfall for January-May at Royal Palm in E.N.P. was 3.94 in. (average is 14.68 in.—JCO). On Apr. 30 Edscorn reported the water level in the Tamiami