

Norris Gluck, Joseph Grom, Mrs. Anne P. Hamilton, Charles O. Handley, John Hawkinson, Cecil Hazlett, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Henderson, Harris Johnson, Mrs. Constance Katholi, Gordon L. Kirkland, Jr., Mrs. Nevada Laitsch, Mrs. Mary Leberman, Robert C. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, Barbara Leonard, Thomas E. McGary, Edward Massey, Clark Miller, John W. Murray, J. B. Owen, Paul Pardue, Richard H. Peake, H. C. Pees, Glen Phillips, F. W. Preston, G. J. Puckett, Willard F. Rahn, Scott Robinson, W. O. Robinson, Paul W. Schwalbe, Ellis H. Shimp, Harry E. Slack, James C. Stevenson, Mrs. Jerie Stewart, Gary O. Wallace, Mrs. Cora D. Williams, Morris Williams, Merrill Wood.—**GEORGE A. HALL**, Department of Chemistry West Virginia University, Morgantown, W. Va. 26506.

WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION / Thomas K. Soulen

While migrants were arriving nearly on schedule in early April, the weather in many parts of the Region seemed to retard migration more and more as the season progressed. Cold weather



in Michigan Apr. 24 left 4 in. of snow in Alpena Co. and caused E. Bluebirds to desert their nests in the Detroit area; the cold persisted for most of the following week. Snow squalls occurred in the Region in early May, and there was unseasonably cold weather during the last week of the month, also. Many trees were less than 20 per cent leafed out at the end of May in Alpena Co., unusual even for this northern location (AEV).

The season was not marked by sharply contrasting weather systems which affected widespread areas, consequently most observers noted little in the way of marked waves of migrants and generally found the season disappointing. Those few who did witness major concentrations or movements of birds were located along the shores of one of the Great Lakes. Thus, Booth saw sizable diurnal movement in s.w. Michigan Apr. 5, 8, & 18 and May 5, 7-8, 11, & 14.

On the e. side of Michigan, at Tawas Pt. in Iosco Co., Novy and Slomkowski banded many birds during heavy passerine movements May 10-13 & 19, including 187 Baltimore Orioles May 11 and 74 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks the next day. Although migration seemed delayed in s. Michigan, good numbers of warblers were banded May 13-15 at Whitefish Pt., Chippewa Co., where in some years they don't appear in numbers before the end of May (fide AHK). A warm front May 23 brought one of the few waves noted in Alpena Co., including many flycatchers, vireos, warblers, orioles, and grosbeaks (AEV). An ore boat (Lake Michigan or Superior?) reported a warbler migration May 25, with many fatalities aboard (fide J. P. Perkins). The late season produced more reports than usual of migration at the end of May, with Lamb banding 30 species at Whitefish Pt. May 30, Valentine netting 10 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers May 28-31 in Alpena Co. (usually late, but not in these numbers), and several Michigan observers noting major movement into June (Alpena Co., AEV; Oakland Co., JPK).

It is difficult to assess comments on abundance of species in a season such as this, when there is such variation in the pattern of migration through the Region, resulting in reactions from observers which range from enthusiasm to disappointment. Reports from several people both in Michigan and Minnesota seem to indicate good numbers of at least some waterfowl, although not all observers would agree. Shorebirds elicited little general comment except in s. Michigan, where they were less evident than usual; high water in s.e. counties flooded usual haunts, whereas suitable habitat mostly dried up in s.w. counties. Several Minnesota observers reported one-third to one-half the normal number of juncos and White-throated Sparrows and a poor warbler flight. Most of the other comments there were on individual passerine species appear in the summary following.

LOON, GREBES, CORMORANTS—Observations at Whitefish Pt. revealed a prolonged Com. Loon migration at least from mid-April (O.B.B.A.) through May 30 (WAL). At times the flights were heavy, as May 8, when 481 were seen in one hour, and 820 total in 10 hours (BM, JP, GW); one flock of 46 was noted May 17 (AHK, NK), and 30 migrants were still passing through May 30 (WAL). One bird of this species still present May 23 at Stevensville, Berrien Co., Mich. was very late (RS). A Red-throated Loon was noted Apr. 4 in Ozaukee Co., Wis. (JM). Five Red-necked Grebes were observed at Whitefish Pt. May 7 (BM, JP, GW), and 1 was present May 30 in Alpena Co. (BG); Wisconsin birds were present Apr. 13–May 5 in St. Croix Co. (SG), Apr. 24 in Winnebago Co. (DBr, EPe, JPe), and May 8 in Madison (TA). The only Double-crested Cormorants reported were 1 in Clay Co., Minn. Apr 4 (EMW); 25 near Fergus

Falls, Otter Tail Co., Minn. Apr. 10 (HKa); 2 in Brown Co., Wis. May 13-14 (EC, PJK); 1 in Marquette, Mich. May 19 (OBE), and 1 in Berrien Co. May 28 (HKr).

HERONS, EGRETS, IBIS—A Little Blue Heron was observed in Jefferson Co., Wis. Apr. 22 (RSh). Cattle Egrets made quite a showing this spring, with 22 birds reported from 11 locations in the Region from mid-April on. A very early Com. Egret appeared Mar. 17 in Vernon Co., Wis. (JR); other reports of this species were more widely scattered than usual. A Snowy Egret was photographed May 14 at Marshall, Lyon Co., Minn. (ELC), and another appeared June 1 in Ramsey Co., Minn. (AJ). Two **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** found May 3 in Wayne Co. (GK) provided Michigan's first nesting record by the end of the month (WF). Wisconsin birds returned to nest in Racine Co. (WP) and also appeared in St. Croix Co. May 5 (SG) and La Crosse Co. May 9 (JR); in Minnesota there were observations May 1-11 in Cottonwood Co. (RBJ) and May 15 in Nobles Co. (ELC, JCG). Three **White-faced Ibis** were photographed Apr. 13 in Nobles Co., Minn. (JB), and one bird was seen May 10-15 in neighboring Jackson Co. (fide RoW).

WATERFOWL—Mute Swans were observed on their nests May 16 at sites in Antrim and Grand Traverse Cos., Mich. (LHW). Whistling Swans peaked at 600 birds on Apr. 4 in Lapeer Co., Mich. (EN), and over 100 birds were observed congregating on L. Michigan in the Milwaukee area the next day (fide MD); the birds in this latter location, which was rather unusual, may well have been there because their more normal haunts were still frozen. White-fronted Geese were noted more than usual, with Minnesota birds observed Apr. 8-12 in Nicollet (BL), Sherburne (RLD), and Washington (BL) Cos. and Wisconsin birds present in four counties Apr. 3-17: Columbia (JW, EW et al.), La Crosse (FL), Ozaukee (DBi, CB, TB), and St. Croix (SG). A Snow Goose in Berrien Co. Apr. 8 was unusual (HKr), as were 4 imm. Blue Geese along the L. Michigan shore at Escanaba, Delta Co., Mich. May 18 (WT, LHW) and 2 in Erie Marsh, Monroe Co., Mich. Apr. 3 (JAG, AJR); a good wave of both species was noted on Apr. 23 in Brown Co., Wis. (EC). Erie Marsh produced large numbers of Gadwalls (75) and Green-winged Teal (375) Apr. 3 (AJR); numbers of the latter were the highest ever, according to the Detroit Survey records. A Eur. Widgeon was present Apr. 24-25 in Columbia Co., Wis. (PC, EW). One ♂ Harlequin Duck, a rarity anytime, was seen very late at St. Joseph, Berrien Co. May 8-15 (WB, HKr, RS). Another rare and late Berrien Co. bird was a ♂ Surf Scoter present May 16 at Stevensville (GS, MS, RS). White-winged Scoters were still present in numbers (40-50) late in May at two locations: May 25 at Duluth (MMC) and May 22-31 in Thunder Bay, Alpena Co. (AEV). Two locations in Kent and Ottawa Cos. in Michigan

produced 350 Ruddy Ducks between them Apr. 3 (BM, SV).

RAPTORS—Very few reports of Red-shouldered Hawks were received. A pair of Broad-winged Hawks remained through May in St. Clair Co., Mich. (AHK). Swainson's Hawks were observed in Winnebago Co., Wis. Apr. 17 (DT) and in three Minnesota counties: Dakota Apr. 20 (BAH), Lyon May 15 (ELC, JCG, RBJ), and Washington May 14 (BL). Mrs. Kelley counted 41 migrating Rough-legged Hawks in an hour May 16 at Whitefish Pt. A Ferruginous Hawk in Kenosha Co., Wis. Mar. 21 likely was the same bird previously reported Jan. 10 (DG). There were no reports of Golden Eagles and very little comment on Bald Eagles; a total of 3 of the latter species were reported, in addition to 4 active aeries in Alpena and Montmorency Cos. in Michigan. The Osprey colony at Fletcher Pond, Alpena Co. contained 17 active nests on May 26 and appeared headed for its best success yet since construction of the platforms there six years ago (KB, SP). The only reports of Peregrine Falcons received were from two Minnesota Nat'l Wildlife Refuges: Agassiz, Marshall Co. Apr. 27-May 1 (4; TLF) and Sherburne, Sherburne Co. May 2 (RLD).

RAILS, SOREBIRDS—A Virginia Rail in Duluth May 16 was rather far north (DS). Several Yellow Rails were noted near Peshtigo, Marinette Co., Wis. May 6 (CR). Piping Plovers appeared in four locations: Milwaukee Apr. 29 (RSh), 8 in Duluth May 16 (JPP), 3 in Erie Marsh in s.e. Michigan May 6 (RW), and again this year on May 11 in Muskegon (GW). The only numbers of Am. Golden and Black-bellied Plovers reported (200-500 of each) were in s.w. Minnesota May 8-15, in Cottonwood and Jackson Cos. (DAB, LAF, BTV). A Black Turnstone in Winnebago Co. during May was remarkable (MD et al., fide NRB). Two northern areas produced good numbers of Whimbrel, as 28 were noted in Duluth May 25 (KRE, JCG) and up to 31 were seen in Alpena Co. May 22-29 (AEV). Single Willets appeared May 15 in Ottawa Co., Mich. (BM); May 16 in Presque Isle Co., Mich. (BG); and May 31 in Columbia Co., Wis. (EW). The only Knot report came from Manitowoc Co., Wis. May 21 (JWo). Pectoral Sandpipers were recorded early in Erie Marsh Mar. 28 (JAG) and built up to an unusually high peak number (350) by Apr. 3 (AJR); good numbers of this species also were noted across the state in Ottawa Co. later in the month (HC, JP, ASw). White-rumped Sandpipers appeared May 20 in Erie Marsh (PB, AJM, RW) and two days later in Iosco Co., Mich. (EEK); 200 of this species were observed on May 22 in Lyon Co., Minn. (DC). Baird's Sandpipers were observed as early as Apr. 9 in Lac qui Parle Co., Minn. (DAB); other reports came from Iosco Co., Mich. May 22 (EEK) and from Winnebago Co., Wis. four days later (DG). A Curlew Sandpiper seen by many ob-

servers in Jefferson Co., Wis. May 15 apparently was a first record for the state (MD, DG, RSh, et al.; fide NRB). One Stilt Sandpiper was reported: from Erie Marsh May 20 (PB, AJM, RW). W. Sandpipers, not often seen in spring in the Region, were observed in Lyon Co., Minn. May 14-16 (DAB, ELC) and in Door Co., Wis. May 25 (FMB). There were 3 Marbled Godwit reports: 7 birds in Otter Tail Co. Apr. 10 (HKa), 42 in Wilkin Co., Minn. May 1 (KH), and a single bird in Columbia Co., Wis. May 31 (DT, EW). Except for 25-30 birds in Clay Co., Minn. May 8-15 (EMW), Hudsonian Godwits appeared nowhere except Wisconsin, where there were reports from 6 widely scattered counties May 12-22 (fide NRB). A Ruff was present Apr. 26-May 2 in Sibley Co., Minn. and seen by at least 20 people (FK, et al.). An Am. Avocet had arrived in Lac qui Parle Co. by Apr. 17; 15 were observed in Sibley Co. May 1 (ESt). Late Minnesota shorebird concentrations included 300 Dunlins on May 25 (JCG) and 250 Sanderlings May 29 (CLH), both at Duluth, and 200 N. Phalaropes at Salt Lake, Lac qui Parle Co. May 22 (DC).

GULLS, TERNS—Up to 4 Glaucous Gulls were still present in the Milwaukee area during the first half of March (DG, DT), with one to be seen as late as Apr. 10 in Winnebago Co. (DT). Iceland Gulls appeared 3 times: Mar. 12 at Milwaukee (DG); Apr. 4 at Erie Marsh (JAG), an adult, for the first spring record for the Michigan counties of the Detroit Survey area; and Apr. 5 at Two Harbors, Lake Co., Minn. (JCG). Three Great Black-backed Gulls at Erie Marsh Apr. 3-4 equaled the late departure date for the Detroit area (JAG, AJR). One adult Laughing Gull was noted May 15-28 in Berrien Co. (WB, HKr, RS). An early Franklin's Gull appeared Mar. 14 in Lyon Co. (HKy), and an estimated 50,000 were present at Agassiz Refuge May 2 (KH). Michigan's second Little Gull specimen (U. of Michigan Museum) was taken in April at North Cape on L. Erie, Monroe Co. (RBP); 1 had been seen there May 27, 1967. An adult Ivory Gull noted at Knife R., Lake Co., Minn. (date not given; presumably early April) likely was the bird noted at several points along the L. Superior shore during the winter (JB, JuB). A good wave of Com. Terns was noted May 10 in Brown Co., Wis. (EC), and an estimated 10,000 were observed at Duluth May 26 (JCG).

OWLS, WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS—A pair of Barn Owls was present through the season in Monroe Co., Mich., where they have been scarce lately (AJM); quite unusual was 1 observed Apr. 12 in Nobles Co., Minn. (JB). Among the few Snowy Owl reports were 2 rather late departures; May 4 in Alcona Co., Mich. (RonS, SS) and May 16 in Duluth (DS). The first Minnesota Burrowing Owl observation in several years came from Yellow Medicine Co. May 27 (DAB), and a bird caught and banded at Green Bay Apr. 8 was one of Wisconsin's

few records ever (EC, TE, EJ, JoJ). Of interest were a Short-eared Owl in Cottonwood Co., Minn. May 16 (PBH) and a Boreal Owl in Lake Co. Apr. 4 (RK). The Ontario Bird Banding Assn. banded at least 100 Long-eared and several Boreal Owls at Whitefish Pt. from Apr. 10 on; the fact that six years of banding have netted Boreals in all but one year suggests that they may not be as cyclical in incursion as is frequently supposed. Seven Saw-whet Owls (3 dead) were noted in various parts of the Duluth area Mar. 9-Apr. 5 (JCG), and 1 was observed Mar. 16 in St. Paul (DM). A Red-bellied Woodpecker observed May 16 on the M.O.U. spring trip to s.w. Minnesota was unusual, as the species is not known to nest in that part of the state; 1 on May 20 in Lake Co. was very far north (MR); a bird observed in a new location in Wayne Co., Mich. supplements the 3 known summer locations in that area (fide AHK); and 2 apparently were nesting by the end of May in Midland Co., Mich. (EEK, JK, RGM, JoR), where only 3 previous nestings are known. Several species of migrating woodpeckers were observed at Benton Harbor (WB); Yellow-shafted Flickers Apr. 18-19 (3-500), and Red-headed Woodpeckers May 5, 7, & 8 (300, 400, and 100). Flycatchers were late and generally scarce in the Detroit area, but E. Phoebe reports from there (at least at Stony Creek Park, Macomb Co.) were more encouraging than for several years (RB, fide AHK); swallows also were late in s.e. Mich. (fide AHK).

CORVIDS, NUTHATCHES, CREEPER, WRENS, MIMIDS—A Gray Jay which had wintered rather south of its normal range in Wisconsin remained in Waushara Co. until Apr. 4 (IC). Michigan experienced heavy Blue Jay migrations: in the Detroit area, including 300 May 8 (AJR, AHK); at Benton Harbor (WB) May 5 (7500), 7 (4500), 8 (2500), and 14 (1500); and at Whitefish Pt. May 14-16 (2000+; fide AHK). A Black-billed Magpie in Cass Co., Minn. Mar. 13 was unusual (BL), as was the late observation of 2 in Clearwater Co., Minn. May 27 (ESt). The first known nesting of Red-breasted Nuthatches in Ottawa Co. was discovered May 31, when adults were seen carrying food to a nesting site (JP, AS, GW). A freshly killed Brown Creeper found May 31 in Oakland Co. established a new late date for the Detroit area (CL). Carolina Wrens in Door Co. May 26 (FMB) and in Muskegon Co. May 29 (LHW) were unusual, and a Long-billed Marsh Wren which apparently survived the winter in Erie Marsh was noted in March and was singing Apr. 3 (AHK). Michigan produced 2 Mockingbird reports, a bird banded May 9 in Iosco Co. (FON, ESI) and 1 noted in Macomb Co. May 16 (BP). Wisconsin birds appeared Apr. 22 in Milwaukee (EB), May 15 in Winnebago Co. (DT), and May 15-22 in Portage Co. (FMB); and Minnesota birds May 9 in Carlton Co. (MMC), and May 28-30 in Olmsted Co. (CW) and 2 locations near Duluth (CG, JG, JCG).

THRUSHES, PIPIT, SHRIKES, VIREOS—Robins were numerous in the Detroit area (fide AHK), and Booth noted flights at Benton Harbor Apr. 5, 8, & 18 (3-500 each date). A Varied Thrush remained at Two Harbors, Lake Co. through Apr. 9 (PS). There were more Wood Thrushes than usual in Lake and St. Louis Cos. in far n. Minnesota (fide JCG). Mrs. Kelley reported more E. Bluebird observations than in the past several years from the Detroit area, and "more . . . using natural nest cavities"; there was "exceptionally good early nesting success" in Stony Creek Park (BP). A Sprague's Pipit collected in Wadena Co., Minn. May 1 was unusual (RO). There was a strong migratory peak of N. Shrikes along L. Superior's north shore Apr. 2-5 (fide JCG), but when 160 members of the M.O.U. took a field trip to five s.w. counties in mid-May, no Loggerheads were observed. Citing T. S. Roberts' statement that this species was a "common summer resident south and west of the coniferous forests", Mrs. Green wonders if we have another DDT casualty. One White-eyed Vireo appeared very early in Racine Co., Wis. Apr. 25 (EP et al.), and another in Ann Arbor May 14 (RSt, fide AJM); 1 banded during May in Presque Isle Co., Mich. was very unusual that far north (KP). Yellow-throated Vireos were present in good numbers in the Detroit area, being noted by nearly all observers; Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos also seemed "up" again in this area (fide AHK).

WARBLERS—A Prothonotary Warbler banded May 22 in St. Clair Co. is only the fourth record for the Michigan counties of the Detroit Survey area (WAL). A Worm-eating Warbler was noted in Waukesha Co. May 13 (RSh), and this species returned to the Stevensville area, Berrien Co. May 18 (WB, RBP, RS). Both Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers made a good showing in the Detroit area, along with 2 banded Brewster's (CD, LRLe, AJR); another Brewer's was banded May 15 in Iosco Co. (FON, ESI). A Nashville Warbler in Washington Co., Minn. Apr. 19 was very early (WL). The season's first Myrtle Warblers were reported from one of the Region's most northern locales, in the Duluth area, Apr. 2 (MMC, JCG); observers in the Detroit area witnessed a heavy migration of this species, in contrast to poor numbers of other warblers (fide AHK). A Prairie Warbler in Door Co. May 26 was unusual (FMB, fide NRB). There were 6 reports of Kentucky Warblers May 16-31 from s. Michigan counties (Allegan, Lapeer, Oakland, St. Clair, 2 banded; CD, LRLe, LRL, GW) and s. Wisconsin (Jefferson and Kenosha; DG, JH). Yellow-breasted Chats were nesting again in Allegan Co. (JP); other observations were from Macomb Co., Mich. May 20 (BP) and three Wisconsin counties: Rock (May 11, JoB), Waukesha (May 13, RSh), and Milwaukee (May 19, DG). Hooded Warblers were noted in Muskegon Co. May 15 (JP et al.) and in Milwaukee (May

13-17, MD, DG) and Dane Co., Wis. (May 22, DT).

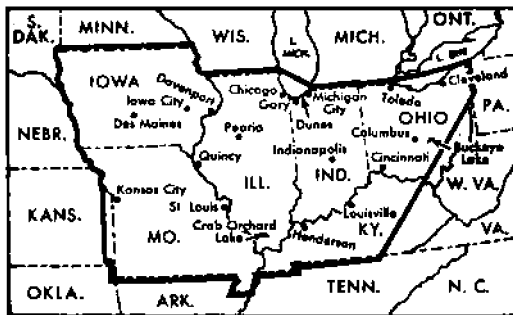
ICTERIDS, Tanager, FRINGILLIDS—Over 500 Meadowlarks (sp.) were seen migrating at Benton Harbor Mar. 26 (WB). A W. Meadowlark heard Apr. 24 in Oakland Co., Mich. was unusual (REP); as were Yellow-headed Blackbirds in Delta (WT, LHW) and Bay (EEK) Cos., Mich. May 20-22; and Orchard Orioles banded in Presque Isle Co. May 24 (first record for county; KP) and seen in Macomb and Wayne Cos. May 9-10 (JF, RB) and throughout May in Rock Co. (CS). Baltimore Oriole flights were evident May 7 (100) and 14 (300) at Benton Harbor (WB). A Summer Tanager appeared at Stevensville again this year and sang "continuously" to the end of May (RS et al.); another individual was present in Milwaukee May 10-28 (MD, DG). A Blue Grosbeak was seen in Murray Co., Minn. May 20 (ND). Several Minnesota observers commented on the scarcity and/or lateness of Indigo Buntings. Booth reported these flights of Am. Goldfinch at Benton Harbor: May 7 (250), 11 (1500), and 14 (600). A ♀ Red Crossbill with brood patch was collected Apr. 20 in Wadena Co., Minn. (RO). A Lark Bunting, casual in Wisconsin, was noted May 20 in Ozaukee Co. (CB, JJ, HKo). A Le Conte's Sparrow banded in May in Iosco Co. was remarkable (FON, ESI). Very few Henslow's Sparrows were reported; none could be found in their usual sites in the Detroit area (fide AHK). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was observed May 15 in Lyon Co. (ELC, JCG, RBJ). Rather far north were Lark Sparrows in Duluth May 10 (MMC) and in Superior, Douglas Co., Wis., just across the bay, May 18 (PBH); one-half square mile of the Bunker Prairie Dunes in Anoka Co., Minn. produced 30 singing ♂♂ of this species May 9 (RLH). A Tree Sparrow May 4 in Midland Co. was very late (RGM), as were White-crowned Sparrows in Muskegon (May 28; LHW) and Oakland (May 30; CL) Cos., Mich. and 5 Lincoln's Sparrows in Muskegon Co. May 29-30 (LHW). The only report of numbers of migrating White-throated Sparrows was from the Detroit area May 9-10 (AJR). Superb color photographs were taken of a ♂ Smith's Longspur (first for the state?) Apr. 25 in Midland Co., Mich. (EEK); the bird remained through May 2 and was seen by a number of observers (RGM et al.). A Chestnut-collared Longspur May 1 in Madena Co., Minn. was rather unusual (RO). The season induced a Snow Bunting to linger until Apr. 30 in Burnett Co., Wis. (NRS).

CONTRIBUTORS (sectional editors' names in bold-face; contributors are requested to send their reports to these editors)—Tom Ashman, Roger Bajorek, Keith Baldwin, **N. R. Barger** (Wisconsin), Mr. and Mrs. E. Basten, Mrs. F. M. Baumgartner, Carol Bintz, Dave Bintz, Thomas Bintz, D. A. Bolduc, P. Bono, Walter Booth, Mrs. John

Brakefield, Jim Brandenburg, Judy Brandenburg, Dave Bratley, D. Campbell, E. L. Campbell, M. M. Carr, Irma Chipman, Harry Clark, Ed Cleary, Peter Connors, N. DeKam, Mary Donald, Clayton Douville, R. L. Drieslein, K. R. Eckert, Tom Erdman, O. B. Eustis, Mrs. L. A. Feil, Wm. Fisher, John Flora, T. L. Fuller, Steven Goddard, Janet C. Green (Minnesota), Jeffrey A. Greenhouse, C. Gresser, J. Gresser, Bill Grigg, Dennis Gustafson, James Hamers, K. Heidel, B. A. Hitman, P. B. Hofslund, C. L. Horn, Jr., R. L. Huber, Eugene Jacobs, John Jacobs, R. B. Janssen, Jean Jarboe, Alice Johnson, Paul J. Kane, Harold Kantrud, F. Kedney, Alice H. Kelley (s.e. Michigan), Neil Kelley, Eugene E. Kenaga, Joanne Kenaga, J. P. Kleiman, Gerald Kleis, Harold Koopmann, Harry Krueger, R. Kuchta, H. Kyllingstad, Warren A. Lamb, L. R. Lenz, Fred Leshner, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Lischer, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Liskow, B. Litkey, W. Longley, A. J. Maley, Ralph G. Mancke, Bill Martinus, D. Meyer, John Meyer, Minnesota Ornithologists Union, Earl Neeb, Dr. F. O. Novy, R. Oehlenschlager, Ontario Bird Banding Association, R. B. Payne, Ed Peartree, Jay Peartree, J. P. Perkins, Kay Petts, Ben Pinkowski, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Piotter, James Ponshair, Sergej Postupalsky, Ed Prins, Wm. Pugh, M. Renner, Carl Richter, Joe Rogers, Jerome Rosso, Alan J. Ryff, P. Sandberg, Richard Sharp, D. Sheer, Chet Skelly, Eugene Slomkowski, Gordon Smith, Martin Smith, Ron Smith, Roy Smith (s.w. Michigan), Sharron Smith, Aledia Sovacoole, E. Stanley, N. R. Stone, Dr. R. Storer, Arleen Sweet, Mr. and Mrs. William Taylor, Daryl Tessen, Allen E. Valentine (n. Lower Peninsula), Shirley Van Baak, Bro. T. Voelker, Ross Wagner, L. H. Walkinshaw, Ralph Wall, C. Welch, Elsie M. Welter, Evelyn Werner, George Wickstrom, John Woodcock. — **THOMAS K. SOULEN**, Department of Botany, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 55455.

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION / Vernon M. Kleen and Lee Bush

What a complicated season! Unusual weather, a retarded spring, and unnatural migration patterns all were noted throughout the Region. Fol-



iage developed two to three weeks late and spring migrants arrived one or more weeks later than normal. Many winter and early-migrant species were reported later in the season than ever before, and some flycatchers, thrushes and warblers were still migrating through the Region in early June.

The season was very dry and cool. April was one of the driest on record for many areas; most precipitation for May occurred in two or three heavy downpours which provided near or slightly above normal rainfall for that month. A late, record-breaking, 2 in. to 10 in. snowstorm covered e. Missouri and the s. half of Illinois on Apr. 5 & 6, but completely melted the following day. Tornado watches were common in late April and early May in the s. part of the Region; on May 6 & 7 several tornadoes and heavy rainstorms were reported. Hail the size of "softballs" and 100 mph winds were reported in parts of s. Illinois late on May 7; the following morning many dead and near-dead blackbirds were found in the grassy fields of Williamson Co. Airport (VK, et al.).

Average monthly temperatures were as much as 7°F. below normal with frosts reported as late as May 13. North and n.w. winds predominated through late April and the first half of May; the southerly winds that did occur were weak, short-lived, and not conducive to migration waves. Very few species were found earlier than usual, but all expected species were reported; most seemed scarce or difficult to find. "Suddenly they were here! And almost as suddenly . . . they were gone." (AJW). Several reporters suggested that the scarcity of birds may have been due to population declines; however, these "observed" declines may not have been actual declines. The complicated season was probably responsible for the "observed" decline; migrants continuously filtered through the Region but were not stacked up in the mass waves that often occur in early May after strong southerly winds.

Clark reported a reverse migration along the Chicago side of L. Michigan for about an hour after sunrise on Apr. 11; he estimated nearly 2100 birds of 11 species (mostly blackbirds and Robins) flying south into a s.s.w. wind. Many of the birds were coming in off of the Lake from the n.e. or n.e.; 10 Rock Doves and 1 House Sparrow were among these birds.

Most observers felt that this spring produced one of the poorest migrations ever. However, many new records were established and several unexpected species were reported.

LOONS, GREBE, CORMORANTS—The May 16 presence of a Com. Loon at L. Shelbyville, Ill. is one day later than last year's late date (HDB). Red-throated Loons were found on Chautauqua L., Ill. May 1, and at Illinois Beach State Park, Lake Co., May 30 (HDB). A single W. Grebe appeared at Squaw Creek Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Mo., May 1-3 (FL). Double-crested Cormorants