

WARBLERS — Concerning migrants passing through, "most species did not arrive on time and did not stay for any period" (WAK). An interesting note for banders: 10 ♂ and 4 ♀ Prothonotary Warblers were banded on Crab Orchard Refuge in 1970; 9 of these ♂ and 3 ♀ returned to the same study area in 1971 (VK). Swainson's Warblers were found in s. Illinois again this year; the first was heard and seen at Pomona, Jackson Co., on May 8 (VK, et al.); this particular individual was caught, banded and photographed on May 20 (VK); every weekend since, observers from upstate Illinois have found this individual, and often the ♀, which responded well to tape-recorded song playbacks (fide VK); the species was also reported from Big Oak Tree State Park in s.e. Missouri (DA & PB). In central Illinois, Tennessee Warblers "outnumbered all other warblers put together May 14, 15 & 16" (HDB), while in the Cleveland area, "Tennessee Warblers were notably scarce" (WAK). A ♀ Audubon's Warbler was discovered in Chicago's Jackson Park, May 7 (RP); the same one (?) was found May 8 (CC, LB, et al.). What may be a new observation for nest-building by Cerulean Warblers was discovered at Indiana Dunes Nat'l Seashore May 29; a ♀ had just completed her nest, only 15 feet above ground (CC); Clark indicates that nests lower than 25 feet have not been previously reported. Hooded Warblers are not too common in the Region, but were reported from several areas; the one found at St. Joseph, Mo. May 6 is noteworthy (FL & MR).

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLE, BUNTINGS—A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was found near Pere Marquette State Park, Ill. Apr. 24 (HDB & PW) and there were later observations by several persons; 3 ♂ were discovered just across the Mississippi R. in St. Charles Co., Mo. April 27 (JEC, et al.); an imm. ♂ was found at L. Kincaid, Christian Co., Ill., May 16 (HDB). On May 30, a ♂ Bullock's Oriole was observed at La Grange, Lewis Co., Mo. (RQR). Lark Buntings have been appearing e. of their normal range recently: on May 1, an adult ♂ in Marion Co., Ill. (WJ & MH); and on May 16, another adult ♂ on the Chicago lakefront at Northwestern Univ. (CC, et al.) with observations for at least a week.

SPARROWS, LONGSPURS—Sharp-tailed Sparrows were reported twice this spring: 1 at L. Kincaid, Ill., May 13 (HDB); and 1 at the Powderhorn L. (Chicago) May 16 (BT, CC, LB, et al.). A Clay-colored Sparrow was heard and seen at Pere Marquette State Park, Ill., Apr. 27 (SV). Two late-occurring Harris' Sparrows were reported: 1 in breeding plumage in Jackson Co., Ill., May 8 (VK, et al.); and 1 (photographed) at Avon L. (Cleveland) May 9 (WAK). Many observers remarked that Lincoln's Sparrows were more common this year. Smith's Longspurs seem to exist only in central Illinois: flocks of 2 to 50 were found regularly within 100 miles of Springfield between April 3 and May 1; only 3 Lapland

Longspurs (Apr. 11) were among them (HDB); since these birds appear to be fairly common, more observers should find them.

REPORTERS (bold face) and OBSERVERS—**Dick Anderson, Ronald Austing, (LB) Lawrence G. Balch, Paul Bauer, Gladys Black, (HDB) H. David Bohlen, Woodward Brown, Viola Buchholtz, Dorothy Buck, (HB) Harold Burgess, Rheba Campbell, Larry Carter, Charles Clark, A. H. Claugus, J. Earl Comfort, Mike Conlin, Owen Davies, J. T. Erwin, Jim Fairlie, Annette Flanigan, William George, Joel Greenberg, (JLH) John L. Hamilton, Wayne Hammond, (JWH) James W. Hancock, Mrs. D. Hanna, (JHa) Jim Haw, Margaret Horsman, Virginia Humphries, L. Barrie Hunt, Jeff Jefferson, Winifred Jones, (WAK) William A. Klamm, Jean Knoblauch, (WK) Walter Krawiec, Floyd Lawhon, James and Amy Mason, Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Robert Montgomery, Dick Mooney, Ernie and Kay Mueller, Ted Nork, David Osborne, m.ob. many observers, Peter Petersen, Lambertus Princen, Ron Pulliam, George Pyle, (RQR) Robert Q. Randall, Mark Robbins, (JR) J. Rod, Robert Russell, (JRU) John Ruthven, Jeff Sanders, Milt Schaeffer, (BS) Brian Schultz, (BSH) Betty Shaw, William M. Shepherd, Gerry Smith, Anne L. Stamm, (BTh) B. Thomson, (BT) Bill Tweit, Sarah Vasse, Pat Ward, Arthur J. Wiseman.—**VERNON M. KLEEN, Dept. of Zoology, Southern Illinois Univ., Carbondale, Ill. 62901 and (LBu) LEE BUSH, Cambria, Ill. 62915.****

CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION / Thomas A. Imhof

Late was the word for this season. The few early birds include some rarer ones expected earlier and those that reached the coast in March. The 10-year trend of cold and dry



weather continued. Compared to their norms, March was warmer than April or May, and coastal areas were far drier than inland. De-

velopment of vegetation was at least two weeks behind and most bird species just as late. Departing winter or transient birds were almost as late, but few waterfowl remained after mid-March. Several species, notably Hudsonian Godwit, were displaced eastward.

Curtis Kingsbery considered the migration at Pensacola in early April poor; Lib Toenes labelled the birding on Dauphin I. April 1-14 the worst; Marvin Davis in Mississippi called it disappointing and mediocre; Ben Coffey at Memphis, Dan Purrington in New Orleans, and Henry Parmer at Nashville agreed; in Birmingham it was no different. About April 17 things began to improve, and from April 23 to May 15 birding generally was very good. Fr. Dorn, who has probably seen more coastal precipitations than any other birder, considered the "migratory birds of this period amazing." Verda Horne of Fairhope reported large concentrations of migrants in Baldwin County, Ala. Apr. 30-May 3. Betty Worley at Scottsboro in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama reported she "saw the largest number of spring warblers and vireos in years, mostly from May 8 until May 15."

Weather unfavorable for migration also delayed the emergence of leaves, flowers, and insects so that migrants could scarcely obtain enough food to replenish fat reserves for a continued journey. So few early migrants appeared very far inland. Cold fronts passed through the Region about March 23, 25, 29, April 2, 5, 15, 23, 30, May 8, 12, 25, 28. Dan Purrington's calendar of weather-related events includes some pertinent remarks. "The strong front of April 5 . . . grounded few key transients . . . At the Cameron L.O.S. meeting April 17-18 passerine migration was not bad . . . Shorebirding was excellent. The front of April 30 produced far and away the best birding of the spring in s.e. Louisiana" but "not unusual at Cameron"—Newman, and "excellent but not phenomenal at Dauphin . . . Venice and Grand Isle" were . . . "best in several years . . . the near absence of shorebirds at Grand Isle on May 1 when passerine birding was so spectacular" is inexplicable. "The cold front of May 12 produced a short spell of excellent birding on the coast" . . . on May 16 there was still "some evidence of migration." Thus, the birds depend on the warm, southerly, pre-frontal winds to bring out the vegetation and insects and produce favorable flying conditions; the birdwatchers depend on the cold, post-frontal winds to bring the birds out of the sky so they can be observed.

Interesting information on trans-Gulf migration was presented to Wilson and Alabama Ornithological Society members at a symposium on the morning of April 24, during their joint meeting on Dauphin I. The relevance of this material was made abundantly evident at the end of the symposium when participants went outside to see birds by the hundreds landing from the sky in the trees around them.

During this W.O.S.—A.O.S. meeting Apr. 22-25 members recorded about 204 species of birds, as tallied by Mary A. Gaillard; and 3 of them, **Blue-faced Booby**, **Hudsonian Godwit**, and **Glaucous Gull**, were new to the Alabama list!

On April 6 about 15 miles south of Panama City, Dan C. Holliman saw migrants land on the National Fisheries Service Exploratory Vessel, R/V Oregon II. The wind was NW 12-14 knots, later 18-20 knots, and by noon W at 20-25 knots. From 05:15 to 10:15 birds landing, then departing were: 100 Orchard Orioles, a ♀ Blue Grosbeak, a ♂ Orchard Oriole, 2 Prothonotary Warblers, and 2 Reddish Egrets.

Near, probable, or local extremes below are usually marked simply early or late. In parentheses below "mob" means "many observers."

PETREL, PELICANLIKE BIRDS—Wilson's Petrels, 1 or 2, about 20 miles s.e. of South Pass, La. May 19 (RJN) are earliest of the several summer records for the n. Gulf. Seventy-five to 100 White Pelicans were inland e. of the Mississippi R. at Ross Barnett Res., Miss. Apr. 11 & 14 (WHT) and 1 was on Tennessee N. W. Refuge May 9 & 10 (D & GM, WCr); on the coast, 50 remained near Mobile May 30 (LPA). The best news of the Brown Pelican in over a decade was the attempt of reintroduced (from Florida) birds to breed in Barataria Bay, La. In 13 nests, 20 eggs were laid and 11 young produced, but the nest site, a narrow shell reef, exposed the young, all of whom eventually disappeared, to presumed, fatal, constant drenching by seawater. Eggshell thickness was reduced, but not enough to be lethal (RJN, JDN, ABE). Of 9 Brown Pelicans May 10 on Dauphin I., 5 were imm. (LRT) and both at Fort Morgan May 21 were imm. (TAI); 20 were near Pensacola May 24 (SGa). At least 6 **Blue-faced Boobies**, 1 ad., 1 changing, 4 imm., joined the Gannets off Dauphin I. Apr. 23 with strong SW winds; the boobies, closer to shore, fed more actively, constantly undulating high and low above the water (TAI, W.O.S. & mob). Appearing near shore with strong onshore winds seems to be a prevalent trait with Pelecaniformes. The more-than-1500 Double-crested Cormorants in the Alabama part of Mississippi Sound through March (LRT, CTT) may have produced the 2 inland records, unusual of late; Birmingham Mar. 21 (JRB) and Murfreesboro, Tenn. Apr. 27 (MCW).

HERONS—Cattle Egret movements were documented as follows: Mar. 12, 10 near Natchitoches (RBH); Mar. 27, first 1 in a coastal heronry near Dauphin I. (TAI & CTT); Apr. 6, 26, largest number locally, spent 2 hours in Rosedale during snow-sleet-rain (MGV); Apr. 9, 24 at Decatur, Ala. (PLT); Apr. 20 & 29, 2 at Columbia, Tenn. (WGF, WHO); Apr. 28, 4 in Cannon Co., Tenn. (GNo); May 6, 3 at Jonesboro, Ark., first locally (ELH); May 7, 6 in Birmingham, latest locally (RRH); May 14, 110 at Malvern, Ark. heronry, an increase from 55 last year (M & HP). The 2,

possibly 6, Reddish Egrets seen Apr. 6 off Panama City (DCH, see above) may have included the bird found 50 miles to the west at Destin on Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29, the first local April record (H & AG). A Louisiana Heron in Memphis May 15 is the second record for Tennessee (BBC). Early Least Bitterns included 1 on Dauphin Mar. 27, by 1 day earliest in the state (TAI) and 1 near Marion Apr. 12 (RMA & mob). Am. Bitterns were estimated 10-15 per day in drying coastal marshes in Louisiana (JCK, RJN).

IBISES—Our 2 dark ibises were in the spotlight this spring: 6 Glossies were photographed on their island heronry with Louisiana Herons and Snowy Egrets near Dauphin I. Apr. 9 (CTT & FCT); they later produced young (CTT & mob); inland, the species was recorded at Reelfoot L. Apr. 25 & 30 (D & GM, RMgr). In Barataria Bay, 125 miles s.w. of the Alabama colony, about 900 White-faced Ibises and about 100 Glossy Ibises nested together on an island with the same herons; half-grown young were present May 3 (RJN, AWP, ABE, RHC—specimens of both forms to L.S.U.M.Z.). Also inland was a White-faced Ibis in Pine Bluff May 20 (TLF), the first for Arkansas.

WATERFOWL—A White-fronted Goose near Morgan City, Miss. Mar. 26 was late (BLI). Fulvous Tree Ducks were at Cedar Point, near Dauphin, Apr. 22-25 (W.O.S.) and at Destin May 9 (H & AG), a first local record; transient in this area, this species may eventually become a regular but local breeder. In Cameron Par., late Gadwalls included 2 at Grand Chenier May 26 (RBH & CV) and 1 near Holly Beach May 30 (RJN & ANR). At Wheeler Refuge, late Green-winged Teal were 16 Apr. 16 (MLB). Late Canvasbacks included 1 in Birmingham Mar. 28 (RRR) and a ♀ at Holly Beach May 27 (RBH & CV). Oldsquaws were very late: a ♂ at Ross Barnett Res., Miss. Mar. 28 (WHT); 3 on Dauphin I. Apr. 7 (CTT); and a ♀, 10 days latest ever for state, at Wheeler Refuge Apr. 21 (MLB). All 3 scoters were seen in Louisiana: a White-winged Apr. 17 at Holly Beach (HDP & RJS); 17 Surfs w. of Holly Beach on Apr. 24, the most ever for the state, down to 5 next day (JCK); a common on L. Pontchartrain Mar. 13 (HDP) and 1 w. of Holly Beach Apr. 24 (JCK).

HAWKS—Among 8 Swallow-tailed Kites seen in Alabama was 1 at Weiss L., Cherokee Co. May 12 (JRD & mob), first ever north of the coastal plain. In W. Baton Rouge Parish, 50-60 Mississippi Kites were seen May 2 (HDP). The seventh Swainson's Hawk for Alabama was near Marion Apr. 3 (JRB, JWS & RRR). A late Rough-legged Hawk was at Woodbury, Tenn. Mar. 16 (FBR); and a Golden Eagle was seen in the same area through Apr. 7 (FBR). The few Bald Eagle reports (undated) were from Dale Hollow Res., Clay Co., Tenn. (RTH) and Wheeler Refuge (TZA). Breeding Ospreys in the Region have been reduced to a pitiful few, but spring mi-

grants, based on Louisiana and Alabama reports, are still reasonably common. Two Caracaras were still at Gum Cove, Cameron Par. as of May 30 (RJN & MHN). The only reported Peregrines were late; 1 May 8 near Crowley, Acadia Par. (HDP, RJS & RJN) and 1 May 16 at Shalimar, Fla. (H & AG); the only Pigeon Hawk, latest by 6 days for n.w. Florida, was at Pensacola May 11 (CLK).

CRANE, RAIL—A Sandhill Crane remained on a farm at Alto, La., near Monroe, Apr. 8-21 and left when plowing began (DTK, DHW & mob). Yellow Rails were seen near Fontainebleau, Jackson Co., Miss., 1 Apr. 25 (LHW & JMV); 1 Apr. 28 (JMV); 2 of 3 prior records nearby are for Apr. 21 & 26.

SHOREBIRDS—The Am. Oystercatcher, rare in Louisiana, was seen at Grand Pass, 40 miles e. of New Orleans, 2 May 28 (RJN & ABE). An early inland Semipalmated Plover was at Natchitoches Fish Hatchery Apr. 14 (RBH). Two late Am. Golden Plovers were at Wheeler Refuge Apr. 21 (MLB); 1 was at Mobile May 2 (JLD, B, L, & JD), by 4 days the latest ever for the state; and 1 at Natchitoches May 4 (RBH). An early Solitary Sandpiper was in Magnolia Springs, Baldwin Co., Ala. Mar. 2 (PFC). High count on Knots that wintered at Dauphin I. was 70 Mar. 4 (LRT). Pectoral Sandpipers noted late at Natchitoches were 5 May 27 and 1 May 28 (RBH). Four White-rumped Sandpipers, 1 day earliest ever for the state, were on Dauphin I. Apr. 23, next day 8 (BLM, TAI & W.O.S.); in Louisiana at least 100 were present near Duson, Lafayette Par. May 23 (RJN & CRA); they peaked at 67 at Natchitoches May 19 (RBH); and were reported widely from Arkansas, Tennessee, and Alabama the last third of May (mob). The most Baird's Sandpipers at Natchitoches were 4 Mar. 16, the last were 2 May 19 (RBH); 1 photographed on Dauphin May 22 (TAI & CTT) was the second in spring for Alabama; and 1 was at Reelfoot L. on May 24 (FJA, D & GM). The Stilt Sandpiper was abundant in Louisiana from early April to May 9, "commonest or next to commonest on all trips"—JCK; equalled the earliest for Alabama Apr. 4 on Dauphin (LRT); peaked there at 32 May 12 (LRT & DDN); seen inland, where rare, at Natchitoches Apr. 10 & May 19 (RBH) and at Marion May 9 (MLB), second spring record for inland Alabama. Semipalmated and W. Sandpipers were reported frequently, mostly for early May in inland Louisiana and Alabama. A Buff-breasted Sandpiper on Dauphin Apr. 23 (BLM, TAI & mob) was the third spring record for Alabama. After wintering locally, 15 Marbled Godwits at Cameron Mar. 7 (JCK); 2, different (?), at East Jetty same day (RJN & JCL); and 1 in nearby Creole Mar. 13 (RBH) are the first in March for Louisiana. The **Hudsonian Godwit**, probably migrating farther east, finally made the Alabama list when 1 in winter plumage was seen on Sand I., near

Dauphin, on Apr. 25 (WMD); 1 was at Reelfoot L. on the Tennessee-Kentucky line May 8 (D & GM); and 9 near Duson, May 9 (HDP, RJN, RJS, photographed—JCK) were the first for Louisiana in several years. At Woodbury, Tenn., 3 Sanderlings were seen on cold-front Apr. 24 (FBr). An Am. Avocet on Dauphin May 13 after a storm (CTT) was latest ever for Alabama by almost a month; 5 were on Tennessee Refuge May 9 (D & GM), 2 still there next day (WCR); 5 others at Grand Isle May 22 (DNo) were late for s.e. Louisiana; 100 in Cameron Parish May 25 included several pairs, also on 26 & 27, indicating breeding (RBH & CV). Black-necked Stilts, regular coastally, peaked at 9 on Dauphin Apr. 22 & 23 (LRT, RDG & mob), were last seen May 12, 3, the latest for the state by a day (LRT, DDN). Four N. Phalaropes in Cameron Apr. 30 & May 1 (RJN & mob) furnished the third record for Louisiana; 1 at Lonoke May 30 (GRG & many) was the first in spring for Arkansas. The western part of the Region had Wilson's Phalaropes: 2 at Lonoke Mar. 21 (GRG) were the earliest ever for state by over a month; on Apr. 4, 20 were present (A & RJ, JCTO); early were 2 Mar. 27 at Cameron (BMM & many); largest number ever there were 147 Apr. 24 (JCK) and at least 100 Apr. 30 (RJN, MHN, GTS); inland 3 were at Natchitoches Apr. 27, May 7 & 19 (RBH); 2 at Cameron May 27 were latest ever for state (RBH & CV); Florida produced 4 at Destin in spring plumage May 13 and 1 there in winter plumage May 15 (H & AG).

JAEGERS—A rather dark imm. Pomarine Jaeger forced a Herring Gull on Dauphin Apr. 7 to drop its fish (CTT); 2 light-phased birds at close range were 20 miles s.e. of South Pass, La. May 19 (RJN). A Parasitic Jaeger on Sand I., near Dauphin, Mar. 9 (EBM) was the fifth for Alabama, second in March.

GULLS, TERNS—At least 4 Glaucous Gulls were noted in Louisiana and Alabama: 1 on Lake Pontchartrain Mar. 13 (HDP & ANR), see winter report; 1 in Cameron Par. Apr. 11 (RJN, MHN, ANR) & May 2 (HDP); a white-winged gull (sp.) at Fort Morgan on Apr. 19 (TAI & RDG) was probably 1 of 2 Glaucous at Cedar Point, near Dauphin Apr. 23-25 (W.O.S. mob), first for Alabama; 1 there on May 5 (LRT) and at Piney Point, 11 miles w. May 13 (CTT & FCT). The first Great Black-backed Gull outside of winter, fifth for state, was 1 on w. Dauphin I. Apr. 24 (RSA). An ad. Laughing Gull in St. Landry Parish May 23 (RJN & CRA) was at least 50 miles from salt water. An ad. Sabine's Gull in winter plumage at Fort Morgan Apr. 19 (TAI & RDG) was the second ever for Alabama. At least 19 Gull-billed Terns were nesting with Least Terns and Black Skimmers in the dunes of w. Dauphin I. where they all show great tolerance for massive human disturbance, a feature of utmost survival value (CTT & TAI). A Sooty Tern, with Sandwich Terns and Black

Skimmers in the Chandeleurs May 28 (RJN & ABE) suggests the possibility that Sooties may again breed in Louisiana.

DOVES, CUCKOOS—The only White-winged Doves were in Cameron Par., 2 Apr. 17 (RBH & KW) and 1 May 1 (HDP, CHL & mob). The first Inca Dove for Arkansas visited a Pine Bluff feeder several times between Feb. 24 and Apr. 26 (JB, JEH & many). Black-billed Cuckoos seemed to be everywhere: an early 1 at Cameron Apr. 3 (RJN, HDP, RJS); second April record for Pensacola on the 17th (EEF & many); peaked at 13 in the Bankhead Forest May 15 (A.O.S.); late in Memphis May 31 (BBC) and in Birmingham June 2 (TAI & GMI). One of a few positive Louisiana breeding records for the Roadrunner was a nest with eggs and young Apr. 25 & May 1 near Hico, Lincoln Par. (JWG & DRL). A Groove-billed Ani on May 9 at Triumph (MEL & RDP) was latest ever for Louisiana by 16 days.

OWL, GOATSUCKERS, HUMMINGBIRD, SAPSUCKER—Of 3 Short-eared Owls that wintered near Ida, Caddo Par. the last was seen Apr. 11 (HHJ). An early Chuck-will's-widow was at Natchitoches Mar. 8 (JMan). On May 15, 9 parties tallied 80 Whip-poor-wills in the Bankhead Forest (A.O.S.). Late Lesser Nighthawks were in Cameron Par. May 8 (HDP) and May 9 (GHL). A Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Gulf Breeze, Fla. Feb. 27 (L & HC) probably wintered locally. Late Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were in Birmingham May 8 (CGI) and on Dauphin May 15 (M.B.C.).

FLYCATCHERS—Only 1 Gray Kingbird has been reported from Dauphin, on Apr. 22-24 (W.O.S.), none from Pensacola or Fort Morgan; present numbers unknown! W. Kingbirds, fairly common in Cameron Par., peaked at 3 May 8 (JCK); 1 was at Natchitoches May 10-12 (RBH) and a late 1 at Grand Isle May 22 (DNo); a few in coastal Alabama, with 1 at Alabama Point May 17 (MLM), latest for the state by 1 day. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are now quite regular in spring in coastal Alabama and s.e. Louisiana; a late 1 at Triumph May 13 (RDP); in n.w. Louisiana where it breeds, it is common enough to appear even in downtown Shreveport (RJN). The Kiskadee Flycatcher in Hackberry Woods, Cameron Par. responded to a taped call Apr. 12 (RJN). An early Great Crested Flycatcher was in New Orleans Mar. 22 (RDP). An E. Phoebe with 5 nestlings near Calhoun May 13 & 17 (JWG & WRo) is first breeding for Lincoln Par., about sixth for Louisiana. Olive-sided Flycatchers, rare in spring, were seen on Dauphin I. Apr. 24 (W.O.S.) and in Cameron Par. on May 1 (RJN) and May 8 (RJN, RJS, HDP). On Apr. 17 a late ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher was at Black Lake, Natchitoches Par. (JBo).

HORNED LARK, SWALLOW—A Horned Lark at Ida, Caddo Par. May 15 was late enough to suggest nesting (HHJ & RJN). The exploding Barn Swallow was noted early in March: 13th

at Natchitoches (RBH); 20th at Dixie, Caddo Par. (HHJ) and Dauphin (M.B.C.); 21st at Lonoke, 3 (GRG), Birmingham, 2 (JRB), and near Nashville, 12 (JNR); 22nd at Tuscaloosa (JCTH); 26th in Madison Co., Ala. (RRR).

NUTHATCH, CREEPER, WREN—Red-breasted Nuthatches near Nashville Mar. 27 (J & HR) and at Gulf Breeze through Apr. 21 (LC) show that even in off years a few winter in our Region. A late Brown Creeper in Birmingham May 8 (BCr) equalled a 37-year-old record. Two Short-billed Marsh Wrens were late on Dauphin May 13 (JLD) as was 1 at Destin May 15 (H & AG).

THRUSHES—A late ♀ Robin at Fort Morgan Apr. 19 (TAI & RDG) may have bred locally. Late thrushes included a Hermit at Shalimar, near Fort Walton, May 4 (H & AG) and Swainson's on Dauphin May 22 (TAI & CTT) and Saltillo, near Memphis May 30 (BBC). Early thrushes were a Gray-cheeked near Birmingham Mar. 27 (JRB), almost a month early and possibly the fifth local winter record; and a Veery banded in Nashville Apr. 18 (J & HR).

KINGLET, WAXWING, STARLING—On May 8 in Birmingham, 3 parties listed 5 very late Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Flocks of 100+ Cedar Waxwings were widely reported for late May. In the 7 years of the Birmingham Spring Count, Starlings have jumped from 15.8 to 26.2 birds per party-hour!

VIREOS—In Hackberry Woods, Cameron Par. Apr. 3 were 4 Bell's Vireos (HDP, RJS, RJN) an unprecedented number south of the breeding range. A late Solitary Vireo was at Gulf Breeze May 2 (CJK). Late Philadelphia Vireos were seen May 16; in New Orleans (RDP), the latest for s.e. Louisiana; and on Dauphin (LPA & IRT), the latest for the state by a day. Warbling Vireos were at Gulf Breeze Apr. 15 & 25 (R & LD), the former locally earliest by 6 days.

WARBLERS—About 5 Swainson's Warblers were banded on Dauphin (REH & MEM), the earliest Mar. 26 (REH); at least 4 seen around Birmingham from Apr. 17 (TAI & 40); 2 in the proposed wilderness in the Bankhead Forest May 15 (HHK, RDK, WFC); 1 still transient in Memphis May 27 & 28 (BBC). A late ♀ Golden-winged Warbler was in Little Rock May 20 (GRG). Tying the latest locally were 9 Tennessee Warblers in the Bankhead Forest May 15 (A.O.S.). An Orange-crowned Warbler at Fort Morgan May 1 (JLD) was the latest for the coast by 16 days and the only May date for the coastal plain of Alabama. Yet a Nashville Warbler in Pine Bluff Mar. 29 was the earliest for Arkansas by 3 days (MPL & TLF). Parulas were early and abundant: 1 Feb. 28 in E. Baton Rouge Par. (HDP & RBI); 1 Mar. 7 on Dauphin (LPA, AMi & LRT), and they flooded the island Mar. 24 & 26 (50 banded—REH) & Apr. 3 (hordes—RDP). An early Yellow Warbler was at Gulf Breeze Mar. 28 (LEG & MW). The very few eastern birds noted

westward included a Cape May Warbler in Cameron Par. May 8 (RJN) and on Grand Isle May 9 (L & WW) and an early ♂ Black-throated Blue in Cameron Par. Mar. 27 (RJN). A ♂ Audubon's Warbler in Cameron Par. May 18 (KW) was the latest ever for state by about 2 weeks. Two late Black-throated Greens were at Triumph on May 13 (RDP). An early Blackburnian Warbler was in Nashville Apr. 15 (JNR); but late ones were at Gulf Breeze May 15 (CLK); Shalimar May 16 (H & AG); New Orleans also May 16 (RDP) and in W. Blocton, Bibb Co., Ala. May 29 (TAI & DJI). A late ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler was in Little Rock May 23 (GRG). Late Palm Warblers were: 13 on the Birmingham count May 8 (B.A.S.); 1 in Birmingham May 11 (TAI); and 3 in the Bankhead Forest May 15 (TAI & MHO), latest for state in 50 years. Late Ovenbirds were singles on Dauphin May 22 (TAI) and in Memphis May 29 (BBC). Three Connecticut Warblers were in Nashville; Apr. 19 (JNR), Apr. 24 (JNR), and 1 banded May 22 (MLB). Mourning Warblers were in Natchitoches Par. May 6 & 7 (RBH & CV); Caddo Par. May 15 (HHJ & RJN); and a late ♂ near Humboldt, Tenn. May 31 (BBC). Hooded Warblers were in Cameron Par. Mar. 7 (JCL, RJN, ANR); at Shalimar, Fla. Mar. 15 (H & AG); and were dominant on Dauphin Apr. 15 (LRT). Wilson's Warbler, rare in the Region, broke records; early in Nashville Apr. 24 (JNR); and in Decatur, Ala. Apr. 26-29 (Mrs. WGS, Mrs. SS); and Dauphin Apr. 24 (W.O.S.); another there on May 5 (MAG & AWPAT); 1 in Tuscaloosa May 22 (JCTH); and 1 in Little Rock May 27 (GRG). Late Canada Warblers were a ♂ in Memphis May 29 (BBC); 1 May 30 in Decatur (CRG); and June 4 in Birmingham (ALM), latest for state by 3 days. An early Am. Redstart was in Cameron Par. Mar. 28 (RJN, BMM, LPO), and a late 1 was at Gulf Breeze May 30 (R & LD).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS—A Yellow-headed Blackbird was at a Dauphin feeder Apr. 18 (J & GS); another was collected Apr. 30 at Colinston, near Monroe (DTK & JL—specimen to N.L.U.). Brewer's Blackbird at Marion Apr. 12 (HHK & mob) was the latest for the state by 2 days. The steady increase in resident Com. Grackles around non-agricultural Birmingham is shown in the rise in birds per party-hour on the Spring Count from 1.61 in 1965 to this year's 7.78! Large numbers in Cameron Par. this May supplanted Boat-tails in dried-out marshes (RBH & CV). A ♂ Bronzed Cowbird, the third for Louisiana, first for s.e. Louisiana was at a Metairie (suburban New Orleans) feeder Apr. 12-May 28 (CJC, RDP). The fourth locally wintering W. Tanager, a ♀ photographed at a Gulf Breeze feeder, was last seen Apr. 19 (LC & mob); birds were on Dauphin May 3 (LRT) and 13 (JLD). A high of 50 Scarlet Tanagers, mostly local breeders, was in the Bankhead Forest May

15 (A.O.S.); yet 1 on Dauphin May 18 (JLD) was latest by 1 day for the Alabama coastal plain.

FINCHES—Late Rose-breasted Grosbeaks on the coast included 1 on Dauphin May 18 (JLD) and 1 at Gulf Breeze May 19 (R & LD). A young ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak was at a Smyer Lake feeder, 20 miles s. of Birmingham Jan. 20–Feb. 24, Mar. 12 & 13 (LOD, HHW & mob) and is the second inland Alabama winter record, first n. of the Fall Line. Early Blue Grosbeaks were on Dauphin Mar. 20 (JLD, B, L, & JD) and in Woodbury, Tenn. Apr. 21, 2 (FBr). Several early Indigo Buntings were in New Orleans Mar. 17 (RDP). Dickcissels flooded the Cameron area with hundreds of birds Apr. 24 (JCK) who remembers one tree with about 250 birds singing—The very erratic Red Crossbill, which seems to breed and migrate independently of season or other finches, was the only really northern finch reported this year; 3 at Lake Georgia-Pacific, Ark. Jan. 16 (KLS & JJB), 2nd local record. Two late Savannah Sparrows were at Pine Bluff May 20 (TLF & JES), the latest Arkansas record by 5 days. Two pairs of Grasshopper Sparrows in Natchitoches Par. Apr. 28 & 29 (RBH) and 2 pair in Caddo Par. May 15 (HHJ & RJN) were probably breeding. Late Sharp-tailed Sparrows were at Destin May 18 (H & AG) and near Nashville May 19 (FJA). After the invasion of 130+ Tree Sparrows in Nashville in mid-February (MLB), one remained to Apr. 24, nearly a month the latest (Mrs. GRM). Clay-colored Sparrows were in Cameron Par.; 2 Apr. 24 (JCK); 2 May 8 (RJS, HDP, RJN); with 1 there on Mar. 28, 1970 (RJN & RJS) these were the only ones reported in Louisiana since 1967; 2 very late ones were in Little Rock May 16 (I & JR), latest state record by 16 days. A Song Sparrow in Birmingham May 8 (RDK) and a singing ♂ miles away June 6 were late (TAI & JMI).

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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION / C. Stuart Houston

Most of the region experienced warm, dry weather in April and May, although Montana and w. South Dakota tended to be wetter and

