

**LONGSPURS** — A ♂ McCowan's Longspur, the rarest longspur occurring in California, was well studied near Panamint Springs, Inyo Co. Oct. 28 (JD *et al.*). Only ten Lapland Longspurs were found in the e. portion of the Region, all in November, but two were on San Nicholas I. Oct. 19-20 (KG, LJ) and six were there Nov. 2-4 (LJ). Far more than the average number of Chestnut-collared Longspurs reached California this fall with individuals noted throughout the Region, and flocks such as 60 near Lancaster, Los Angeles Co. Nov. 17 (KG), 45 at Baldwin L. in the San Bernardino Mts. Nov. 10 (KG), and 40 on San Nicholas I. Oct. 18-21 (GSS, LJ) bringing the total number reported to nearly 200; one at F.C.R. Sept. 12 (J & SL) appears to be the earliest ever recorded in California.

**CONTRIBUTORS** — Ernest R. Abeles, Allen B. Altman, Keith Axelson, Merle Archie, Jon Atwood, Steve Baily, Larry & Karen Ballard (L & KB), Hal Baxter, Bruce Broadbooks, Hank and Priscilla Brodtkin (H & PB), John Butler, Eugene A. Cardiff, Steven Cardiff, Herbert Clark, Dave DeSante, Bess Dickinson, Jon Dunn, Claud G. Edwards, Dick Erickson, Jim

Fairchild, Steve Forsell, Alice Fries, Kimball Garrett, Gilbert S. Grant, Andrew Hazi, Tom Heindel, Bob Hudson, Joseph R. Jehl, Jerry A. Johnson, Lee Jones, Jim Kenek, Lloyd Kiff, Harry Krueger, Paul Lehman, Steven & Susan Liston (S & SL), John & Susanne Luther (J & SL), Ian MacGregor, Bev McIntosh, Mike SanMiguel, Joe Morlan, Jess & Donna Morton (J & DM), Ed Navojosky, Robert Pitman, Mike & Nancy Prather (M & NP), Brian Prescott, Don Ramsey (DRa), Don Robertson (DRo), Arnold Small, Brad Schram, J.H. Snowden, Richard Stallcup, Brian W. Sturges, G. Shumway Suffel, Wally Summer, Fern R. Tainter, Don V. Tiller, Larry L. Tuttle, Phil Unitt, Carol Vleck, Terry R. Wahl, Karl H. Weber, Richard Webster, Shirley Wells (SWe), Jeff Williams (JeW), James Wilson (JaW), Ted Winfield, Susan Wise (SWi), Sandy Wohl-gemuth (SWo), Bob & Carol Yutzy (B & CY), Garry Human for Santa Barbara Audubon Society (S.B.A.S.). San Diego Natural History Museum (S.D.N.H.M.). \* — specimen. — **GUY McCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.**

## The Spring Migration *April 1 — May 31, 1974*

### NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION / Davis W. Finch

During the first week of April a warm southerly air-flow extending up the coast as far as the Maritimes brought a scattering of early migrants to Nova Scotia and eastern Maine, many of them as much as two weeks ahead of schedule. The period April 9-12 was stormy, with three inches of snow in Boston on the tenth and

considerably more across Maine, pinning down many birds at feeders and creating a momentary situation wherein certain essentially non-predatory but hard-pressed birds were killing others. While this "cannibalism" (!) was no doubt greatly exaggerated by the Maine press ("Birds go wild; panic tied to freak storm" — Portland Press Herald, April 12), there were evidently many cases of grackles, even meadowlarks, killing, specifically beheading, such birds as redpolls, gold-finches and juncos, and in Seal Harbor, Will Russell witnessed such predation by Evening Grosbeaks on Pine Siskins. The snow melted quickly, however, and the remainder of the month was generally warm with southerly winds and rather early returning migrants. A small wave occurred just after the beginning of May, but the first significant one was May 14, followed by a particularly heavy and broad one May 16-18, which was described by Richard Forster as probably the best spring flight he had witnessed in Massachusetts. It was also by far the biggest warbler wave of the season in eastern Maine and Nova Scotia. The period May 24-26 again saw great numbers of migrants in New England and a secondary wave in Nova Scotia, and observers in Rhode Island during this period experienced a "constant peak" of birds. At Manomet Bird Observatory, where comparative figures showed the heaviest spring migration since work started there in 1966, May 16 and 24 were the "biggest" days, with 381 and 399 birds banded respectively, and these peaks coincided rather closely with peak migrant counts made by Bob Stymeist in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. Wayne Petersen and party found 172 species in Essex County, Mass., May 25, and the following day Ed Thompson found 171 in Maine, both new records. Thus observers in most of New England enjoyed what was termed the "best migration in years" (Rhode Island Field Notes), the "best spring migration in 12 or 13 years at Nantucket" (Edith Andrews), and "one of the best migrations in many years" (B.O.E.M.).



However, the period May 23-28 in northern New England and the Maritimes was unusually cool and wet, and much of Nova Scotia received two or more inches of snow on May 28. These conditions resulted in a die-off of certain insectivorous species on a scale not seen in recent years. Hardest hit in New Hampshire and Maine were Swainson's Thrushes and Scarlet Tanagers, and a preliminary survey by A.S.N.H. received reports of grounded or dead, often road-killed tanagers from more than twenty towns in the state. In eastern Maine, Bill Townsend estimated as high as 30-40 percent mortality among insectivores, and David Christie found 30 species represented among 115 emaciated dead birds brought to the New Brunswick Museum or Fundy National Park, and reported that in particular Tree Swallows and Purple Martins suffered considerable losses. About the same situation existed in Nova Scotia at this time, with heavy Tree Swallow mortality and large numbers of swifts dying, particularly around Wolfville.

**LOONS, GREBES, TUBENOSES, CORMORANTS** — In Rhode Island, a detailed report of an Arctic Loon at Narragansett Apr. 3 was another in a lengthening series of records for that state (RAC *et al.*, *vide* SSD, CW); given the difficulties of the winter Common-Arctic separation, observers should welcome the recent note entitled "Spots before the eyes, an aid to identifying wintering loons," by Anthony and Judith McIntyre (*Auk* 91 no. 2, April 1974, pp. 413-415). In New Hampshire, four Red-necked Grebes were seen on Squam L. as late as May 31, long after the normal mid-April inland peak (RSR *et al.*). Among the less commonly observed tubenoses, N. Fulmars were found in New England waters into late May, with counts of four at Cox's Ledge, R.I., May 26 (THD *et al.*), five off Chatham and Monomy, Cape Cod May 26-27 (WVH), and nine from the "Bluenose" ferry in the Gulf of Maine May 30 (JG). Nine Manx Shearwaters were reported, all in May: four singles in Rhode Island waters May 12-27, three off Massachusetts May 18-30, and two at Sable I., N.S., May 28 (DWF, ELM). Two late or summering imm. Great Cormorants were present May 30-June 10 at Nantucket (RRV). The description by Mary Baird and Nancy Clafin of a bird identified as an Anhinga, seen soaring high over Plum I., Mass., May 14, seems convincing enough to warrant serious consideration even in the absence of proof.

**HERONS, IBISES** — The few "southern" herons reaching the Maritimes this spring were three Green Herons, two Little Blues, four Cattle Egrets, four Great Egrets, and 11 Snowies. About 31 Little Blues were reported in New England, seemingly near the average, and the Regional total of 110 Cattle Egrets can be compared with spring totals since 1969 of 29, 24, 32, 54, 109. Louisiana Herons, numbering 11 or 12 (*cf.*, 7, 12, 13 +, 6, 13), appeared in Connecticut (3), Massachusetts (7 or 8), and at Seal I., N.S., where one was present Apr. 17-23 (George Crowell *et al.*). Glossy Ibises reported during the season totaled 570, conservatively figured (*cf.*, 19, 26, 322, 325, 491). As last year, the north-easternmost locality was the French island of Saint Pierre, where one was found shot Apr. 19 (RME), and an interesting aspect of the flight was its heavier than

usual extension into the Maritimes, where 65 birds were reported from 14 localities (again a hard minimum, cf Maritimes spring totals since 1969 of 1, 3, 32, 35, 18) Glossy Ibises around Wolfville, N.S. on May 6 totaled at least 37 and perhaps more than twice that number (CC *et al.*).

**WATERFOWL** — Northbound Snow Geese this season seem either to have passed undetected, perhaps largely at night, or to have followed a route west of the Connecticut River Valley. In any case the reported total of about 565 of these birds in the Region was much below those of recent years. About 59 occurred at five localities in the Maritimes, and the larger New England flocks were 150 at Tilton, N.H., Mar. 10 (VHH), 150 at Plum I., Mass., Apr. 18 (*v.o.*), and 67 at Scarborough, Me., Apr. 17-18 (DRW). "Blue" morphs totaled 11 In New Brunswick, a pair of Gadwalls was present at East Saint John Apr. 30 (JGW *et al.*) and another at Eel River Bar May 31 (J-PL), and in Nova Scotia one was present at Antigonish during May (Pierre Béland). In Maine, where the species is about equally uncommon, a pair was seen at Scarborough Apr. 24-27 (DRW) and a single bird at Mount Desert I. Apr. 7 was a first record for that locality (WCR). A Eur. Green-winged Teal occurred in Perryville, R.I., Mar. 26-30 (DLK *et al.*), and two or more were present around Amherst, N.S., Apr. 6-30 (SIT *et al.*); spring totals in the Region since 1969 have been 1, 4, 4, 8, 4. Last dates for two wintering Eur Wigeons were Apr. 20 at Moonstone Wildfowl Refuge, R.I. (DLK *et al.*) and May 11 at Orleans, Cape Cod (CAG *et al.*). In Québec, 18 Harlequin Ducks were present at Bonaventure I. as late as May 28 (R. Bisson, *vide* MG); in the same province 5000 Surf and 3000 Black Scoters were found at New Carlisle, on the north shore of Chaleur Bay, May 4 (R. Roy, *vide* MG), and 1000 Black Scoters were estimated off Scarborough, Me. on the same date (DRW).

**VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES** — Northernmost Turkey Vultures this spring were single birds near St Honoré (Témiscouata), P.Q., Apr. 18 (DC, CET) and at Bloomfield, N.B., Apr. 21 (CLJ, JGW); farther south, reports from 11 localities in New Hampshire and 5 Maine seem to reflect a very slow northward expansion. Two rarities in Massachusetts were a Swallow-tailed Kite picked up dead in Braintree Apr. 14 or 15 (specimen to M.C.Z.), this being the sixth to occur in s New England since May of 1972, and a light phase Swainson's Hawk at the w. edge of the Region in Northfield, Apr. 20 (Glenn Weeks *et al.*, *vide* DAH). An imm Golden Eagle at Forillon Park, P.Q. in early May was unique in the Region (J-PL), and the season's three Gyrfalcons were an "intermediate" bird at Saint John, N.B., Mar. 20 (DSC), a white bird at Black Brook, Victoria Co., N.B., Apr. 17 (Don Fowler, *vide* DSC), and a "black" bird at St. Anthony, Nfld., Apr. 27 (MHMcN). Eleven Peregrine Falcons were reported, two in New Hampshire and nine in Massachusetts, all but one of the latter coastal. Spring Peregrines in the Region since 1969 have numbered 21, 9, 6, 9, 18

**GALLINULES, COOTS** — A Purple Gallinule was picked up alive at Port Hawkesbury, Cape Breton May 19 (Dan Banks; specimen preserved); this was the

seventeenth Purple Gallinule to occur in the Region in the past six years, and also the northeasternmost. Common Gallinules, quite infrequent in spring north of Massachusetts, were reported from Nova Scotia (three), Maine (two) and New Hampshire (two), and a few Am. Coots, similarly scarce, were found in the New Brunswick-Nova Scotia border region, where they are known as rare breeders: one at Jolicure, N.B., Apr. 30 and two there June 2, and two at the nearby Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary, N.S., May 4-6 (SIT), but the birds were virtually absent elsewhere in the Region north of Massachusetts.

**SHOREBIRDS** — American Oystercatchers returned in very slightly increased numbers to breeding localities in the Nantucket islands and Cape Cod, arriving during the second week of April (EFA) and the only individual reported outside of Massachusetts was seen at Napatree Pt., R.I., Apr. 21 (RCC, JLS). A Wilson's Plover, authentically rare in the Region, was carefully studied at Crane's Beach in Ipswich, Mass., May 27 (James Berry), and single Am. Golden Plovers, rather scarce spring migrants, were seen at Squantum, Mass., Apr. 7 (William Cornwell) and at Brier I., N.S., May 23 (PNA, DWL). An Upland Sandpiper at Eel River Bar May 3 was a first record for n. New Brunswick (J-PL) and three were reported from two localities in Nova Scotia, where the species is still quite uncommon. Certainly the outstanding shorebird of the spring was a breeding plumage **Spotted Redshank**, happily an unquestionable one, present May 15 to at least May 21 at Newman Sound in Terra Nova N. P., Nfld. (HJC, RAW *et al.*). A first positive record for the Region, the bird was perfectly described and recognizably photographed. The season's only Curlew Sandpipers were single birds found in Massachusetts, at Newburyport May 12-15 (RAF, WRP *et al.*) and at Chatham and Monomoy May 15-21 (WB, CAG *et al.*); spring Curlew Sandpipers since 1969 have numbered 0, 1, 0, 2, 4. In New Brunswick, a count of 590 Short-billed Dowitchers along the Fundy shore at Pocologan, Little Lepreau and Chance Harbour, May 22 was unusually high for the Maritimes and exceeded any counts from New England this spring (HWMacC, NM). Apparently first spring records in their respective states were single Long-billed Dowitchers at Wells, Me., Apr. 25-28 (DJA, JEC, DWF *et al.*, photographed) and at New-



Long-billed Dowitcher, Wells, Me., Apr. 28, 1974.  
Photo / Davis W. Finch.

buryport, Mass., May 4 (RAF, WRP *et al.*); both were plainly identifiable by plumage characters and voice. The only Stilt Sandpipers reported were single birds at Springfield, N.H., May 4, apparently a first spring record for the state (WWK, *vide* EWP), and at Mud I. (near Seal I.), N.S., May 14-15 (JFK *et al.*).

A Marbled Godwit at Chatham, Mass., May 1-5 was thought to have wintered in the area, an unprecedented occurrence (BN *et al.*), and single Hudsonian Godwits, the first spring birds in the Region in at least seven years, were found at Newburyport, Mass., May 18-25 (RAF, RHS, WRP *et al.*) and at Biddeford Pool, Me., May 26 (KCE, CEJ). An early Reeve appeared at Rowley, Mass., Mar. 14, followed by a Ruff Mar. 16 (DCA, HLJ *et al.*); during April and May, seven or eight others occurred in the state, mostly in the Newburyport area, the season's only other bird being seen at Wells, Me., Apr. 23-29 (DJA, HMC, DWF *et al.*, photographed). Spring Wilson's Phalaropes totaled seven (cf., 8, 2, 2, 3, 12); three of these were in the Maritimes, single birds at Cape Sable, N.S., May 19 (SS *et al.*), at Eel River Bar, N.B., May 12-13 (J-PL), and at Newcastle, N.B., May 26 (HEW).

**GULLS, TERNS** — In Rhode Island, an ad. **Mew Gull** carefully studied at Pt. Judith Apr. 9 was a first sight record for the state (RAC). Spring groups of Black-headed Gulls were nine at Squantum, Mass., Apr. 12 (DTB), three at Newburyport Apr. 14-May 27, and three at Watchemoket Cove in E. Providence, R.I., Apr. 16-18 (RAC). At least three Little Gulls were present at Newburyport during the spring as well as two other single birds elsewhere in coastal Massachusetts; the season's only others were farther north: three May 16-17 at Back Cove in Portland, Me., a locality where the birds have not previously been reported (DRW), and five or six at Eel River Bar, N.B., May 15 and subsequently (J-PL). An **Ivory Gull** at St. Anthony, Nfld., Apr. 14, was the only one of the season there, and the only one reported in the Region for some time (Keith Powis *et al.*, *vide* GJ). Spring reports of Caspian Terns involved nine individuals along the s. New England coast Apr. 30-May 31.

**DOVES, OWLS, NIGHTJARS** — A White-winged Dove was seen at Corn Hill in Truro, Cape Cod May 25 (BN, CAG *et al.*); this was said to follow the occurrence of "the same or another" White-winged Dove "on the Cape last year," a record apparently hitherto unpublished. In any case, there were at least three in the Northeast last November-December (*Am. Birds* 28:613, 618). Rather early nesting Barn Owls on Long I. in Boston Harbor were found with one juvenal Apr. 25 (RRV *et al.*), a late Snowy Owl was still present at Plum I., May 22 (RPE *et al.*), and the only Hawk Owl reported during the period was seen at Pasadena, Nfld., Apr. 23 (PRH *et al.*). A **Chuck-will's-widow** at M.B.O., May 17 was the second to be banded there, the first having been in 1971; another was calling regularly at precisely last summer's locality in Polpis, Nantucket after May 24 (EFA, RRV *et al.*), and a third was seen at Mount Desert I. May 24, a first Maine record (WCR).

**WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS** — The northernmost of five Red-bellied Woodpeckers occurring in

the Region was seen on an unspecified date at Gilford, N.H. (Muriel Kinsman, *vide* WSL), the others being two each in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and the Regional total of 25 Red-headed Woodpeckers was above average, perhaps reflecting the continued presence of birds arrived last fall. In Massachusetts, single Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were seen at Scituate May 18 (RAF, WRP *et al.*), at S. Manomet May 22 (J. Loughlin *et al.*), and at Tyngsboro June 2 (MLG), and in Connecticut a fourth was photographed at Griswold Pt. in Old Lyme May 25, one of a very few state records (WBU). Spring Scissor-taileds in the Region since 1968 have numbered 2, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0. A total of 24 sightings of E.



*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Old Lyme, Conn., May 25, 1974. Photo / William Burt.*

Phoebes in Nova Scotia this spring was unusually high but the birds are unmistakably expanding northeastward. In Massachusetts, singing Acadian Flycatchers were found at Nahant May 17 (RAF) and at N. Scituate May 24 (DTB *et al.*), and five were banded at M.B.O. or the nearby Edison site during the first two weeks of June. In Rhode Island, an **Acadian Flycatcher** singing at Green Hill May 12 was thought to be a first acceptable or at least modern record for the state (DW, *vide* SSD, CW).

**SWALLOWS, CORVIDS, WRENS, MIMIDS** — Swallows somewhat northeast of their normal limits were three Rough-wingeds at Shubenacadie, N.S., May 12 (FWD) and two Cliff Swallows at Saint Pierre May 22 (MJB, RME). A Com. Raven seen eating a dead Herring Gull at Plum I., Mass., May 8 was genuinely remarkable (RPE *et al.*); n. New England's slowly expanding Raven population is unquestionably pushing southward, even to s.c. New Hampshire in winter, but honest-to-goodness modern day Massachusetts records are very few. The season's four migrant Short-billed Marsh Wrens were single birds at W. Harwich, Mass., Apr. 11 (Harold Baines *et al.*), at Dunbarton, N.H., May 22-23 (HWP *et al.*), at Boston's Prudential Center May 25 (HTW *et al.*), and at Seal I., N.S. May 20, the same or another occurring there June 8-10 (RBBB *et al.*). Maritimes totals of 21 Mockingbirds (14 N.S., 7 N.B.) and 26 Brown Thrashers (16 N.S., 10 N.B.) were slightly higher than usual.

**THRUSHES, GNATCATCHERS, WAXWINGS, SHRIKES** — To be added to the five Varied Thrushes of the previous report was a male seen at Isle au Haut, Me., Apr. 8 (Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Dodge, William Stevens *et al.*, *vide* TCS). Eleven Wood Thrushes dur-

ing May in Nova Scotia was an unusually large number of these relative newcomers to the province. The abundance of Swainson's Thrushes this spring was specifically mentioned by observers in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Nova Scotia; in Massachusetts, two impressive counts were 100 at Monomoy May 24 (JH *et al.*) and 80 in Essex County May 25 (WRP *et al.*). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were also seemingly more numerous than ever, the Regional total being something like 116, about 83 of them in Massachusetts, where as many as 20 were seen in a day in late April at Manomet (BAS); six reached n. New England and four others occurred in the Maritimes. A single Bohemian Waxwing at Saint John West, N.B., Apr. 20-21 was the only one reported (Jan Dexter, *vide* DSC), and the season's flight of Loggerhead Shrikes produced a Regional total of 14 birds occurring Mar. 26-May 22, ten of them in April, a shade more than in recent springs.

**VIREOS, WARBLERS** — A Yellow-throated Vireo singing in mixed woods at Susie L. near Halifax, N.S., May 29 to at least June 12 was far northeast of the species' normal limits (EHC, SJF, BH *et al.*). An early Prothonotary Warbler frequented a feeder in Chatham, Cape Cod, Apr. 3-21 (Coughlin *et al.*), and during May two others were seen in the state, another in Rhode Island. The season's northeasternmost Worm-eating Warbler was seen at Londonderry, N.H., May 10 (DMacR), the species being quite uncommon north of Massachusetts, and a Blue-winged Warbler at Markland, Yarmouth Co., N.S., May 18 was notable, the birds being rare in the Maritimes and virtually unknown at this season (MH, MWH). Tennessee Warblers abounded in New England during May, as indicated by such Massachusetts counts as 45 in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, May 17 (RHS), 50 at Provincetown May 24 (WB) and 35 in Essex County May 25 (WRP *et al.*); Richard Forster figured that he personally saw 200 Tennessees in e. Massachusetts during the month. Orange-crowned Warblers numbered four in Massachusetts, one in New Hampshire, and single birds were found at Sable I., N.S., May 31, and June 10-11 (DWF). A yellow-throated Yellow-rumped Warbler apparently of the *auduboni* type was present in New Brunswick at Kennebecasis Park, Kings Co., May 19-20 (v.o., *vide* Joyce Golden, DSC), and in Rhode Island a ♀ **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in Providence's Swan Pt. Cemetery Apr. 20-21 was a first state record (SSD, RE *et al.*, photographed).

Five Cerulean Warblers were reported in Massachusetts and three others in Rhode Island. An early overshooting Yellow-throated Warbler frequented a suet feeder at Tenants Harbor, Me., Apr. 1-10 (HSH, LAB, PB *et al.*, photographed; four or more previous Maine records), a comparable bird was seen at Rye, N.H., Apr. 6 (Suzanne Federer, *vide* EWP), and the only other one this season was found at M.B.O., May 17 (KSA). Bay-breasted Warblers, like Tennessees, were specifically mentioned as unusually plentiful by observers in all the Regional New England states. A vagrant Pine Warbler was photographed at Seal I., N.S., Apr. 26-29 (IAMcL *et al.*) and three others were reported in the province later in the season. Seven Kentucky Warblers reached s. New England, and

Hooded Warblers well north of their usual range were single birds at Brier I., N.S., Apr. 12 (picked up dead, Madeleine Lent), at Lamoine, Me., May 16 (banded, David and Marion Stocking), and at E. Machias, Me., May 22 (Hoar, *vide* WCT), two others being reported in New Hampshire.

**ICTERIDS, TANAGERS** — A singing *W. Meadowlark* at Milton, Mass., Apr. 22 was unique this spring (DTB). Six Yellow-headed Blackbirds occurring in the Region were more than in recent springs (cf., since 1968, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 3); northeasternmost of these was a bird at Stoney Creek, Albert Co., N.B., May 29 (Mary Fownes, *vide* DSC), the others being two in e. Maine May 8-10, two at Plum I., Mass., May 18 and 21, and one at Nantucket June 7. Three Orchard Orioles reached s.w. Nova Scotia this spring, about the usual number. Scarlet Tanagers, as noted in the introduction, were sorely affected by bad weather in n. New England in late May, and the total of Summer Tanagers was nine (cf. spring totals since 1969 of 6, 5, 7, 6, 23), the only ones reported north of Massachusetts being single birds at Steuben, Washington Co., Me., Apr. 10 (cat-killed, specimen preserved, WCT) and at Seal I., N.S., May 18-19 (N.S.B.S.).

**FRINGILLIDS** — Many of the Cardinals which last fall pushed into e. Maine, New Brunswick and s.w. Nova Scotia reportedly survived the winter throughout this area, and may form the basis of resident populations. An imm. ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak at Lexington, Mass., Apr. 5-6 was the second to occur in the state this year (John Wallace, *vide* RPE). Blue Grosbeaks were far fewer this spring than last, a total of eleven birds being reported Apr. 10-June 7, all in Massachusetts (cf., spring totals since 1969 of 3, 2, 13, 4, 44). About 20 Indigo Buntings reached Nova Scotia, including the usual early ones, and single ♂♂ Painted Buntings appeared at Jamestown, R.I., May 3 (MD) and as far northeast as Sorrento, Me., May 27 (WCT). What was described as a huge flight of Evening Grosbeaks occurred in the n. part of the Region, starting about Apr. 11, when large numbers arrived at White Head I. in the Grand Manan Archipelago (Nancy Small) and at nearby Brier I., N.S., where Wick Lent recorded more than he had ever seen there. Bill Townsend and David Christie reported that e. Maine and broad areas of New Brunswick were saturated with the birds at this time and large numbers were also said to be present in the s. and c. Gaspé Pen. (P. Poulin, *vide* MG). Single Green-tailed Towhees photographed at Seal I., May 18 (SJF, BH, BMact) and Sable I., June 10-11 (DWF) were second and third Nova Scotia records but were eclipsed by the first Regional (and Canadian) occurrence of *Cassin's Sparrow* at Seal I., May 18-20 (SJF, BH, BMact, *et al.*), many excellent point-blank color photographs). The season's only Clay-colored Sparrows were a singing bird at Fredericton, N.B., May 19 (PAP *et al.*) and the surprising total of six in e. Maine, two at Bar Harbor May 14-25 (WCR, WCT *et al.*, photographed) and four at Isle au Haut May 17 and for some time subsequently (Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Dodge *et al.*, *vide* TCS); there are, however, a number of precedents for spring Clay-colored Sparrows on Maine islands. A total of 20 Field Sparrows at Seal I., N.S., May 18 was

notable even for that place, and the spring flight of White-crowned Sparrows was heavy in the Maritimes, with the above-average provincial total of over 100 individuals in Nova Scotia and daily observations of 100+ around Dalhousie in n. New Brunswick May 20-21 (J-PL).



*Cassin's Sparrow, Seal I., Me., May 18, 1974. Photo / Sylvia J. Fullerton.*

**SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS** (boldface italic), contributors (boldface), observers and other abbreviations — **Dennis J. Abbott III**, Donald C. Alexander, **Pierre N. Allaire**, Kathleen S. Anderson, **Edith F. Andrews**, Wallace Bailey, Michel J. Borotra, David T. Brown, Richard G.B. Brown, Lewis A. Buck, **Porge Buck**, **WBU**, **William Burt**, Harold M. Card, James E. Cavanagh, **David S. Christie**, David Clark, Howard J. Clase, Cyril Coldwell, Robert A. Conway, Eric H. Cooke, Robert C. Craig, **Peter A. Cross**, **Severyn S. Dana**, **George G. Daniels**, **Mabelle Davenport**, **Thomas H. Davis**, Fred W. Dobson, **Kimball C. Elkins**, Robert Emerson, **Ruth P. Emery**, Roger M. Etcheberry, **Richard L. Ferren**, **Davis W. Finch**, **Eugene D. Finch**, **Richard A. Forster**, **Sylvia J. Fullerton**, **Constance D. Gallagher**, **J. Roswell Gallagher**, Murray L. Gardler, **James Gibson**, **MLGi**, **Muriel L. Gillis**, Carl A. Goodrich III, **Michel Gosselin**, **Winthrop W. Harrington**, Jeffrey Harris, Henry S. Haskell, Vera H. Hebert, Marie Henry, Marion W. Hilton, Barbara Hinds, **Rosalind L. Holt**, **Peter R. Hope**, **Donald A. Hopkins**, **R. Richard Howie**, Carolyn E. Jakeman, H. Lawrence Jodrey, **Gordon J. Johnson**, Cecil L. Johnston, John F. Kearney, Jr., Walter W. Kidder, **Cheryl Kimball**, Douglas L. Kraus, Jean-Paul Lebel, Donald Wickerson Lent, **Trevor L. Lloyd-Evans**, **William S. Lord**, **H. Willa MacCoubrey**, **Ian MacGregor**, **Diann MacRae**, Bruce Mactavish, **Ian A. McLaren**, **Melvin H. McNeill**, Eric L. Mills, **Nettie Moore**, **Blair Nikula**, **Helen W. Parker**, **Peter A. Pearce**, **Wayne R. Petersen**, **Elisabeth W. Phinney**, **Tudor Richards**, **Robert S. Ridgely**, **Leif J. Robinson**, **William C. Russell**, **Frank I. Sandford**, **Sidney Smith**, **Bruce A. Sorrie**, **Thomas C. Southerland, Jr.**, **Leon Strickland**, **Robert H. Stymeist**, **Joseph L. Suchecki**, **Stuart I. Tingley**, **William C. Townsend**, **C. Eric Tull**, **Richard R. Veit**, **Peter Vickery**, Dallas Wait, Harry E. Walker, **Rob A. Watt**, **David R. Whittier**, Henry T. Wiggins, James G. Wilson, **Charles Wood**, A.S.N.H., Audubon Society of New Hampshire, B.O.E.M., Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts, M.B.O., Manomet (Massachusetts) Bird Observatory, M.C.Z., (Harvard) Museum of Comparative Zoology, N.S.B.S., Nova Scotia Bird Society, v.o., various observers — **DAVIS W. FINCH**, 240 W. 98 St., Apt. 11-C, New York, N.Y. 10025.