

The Spring Migration

April 1-May 31, 1976

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION /Davis W. Finch

Spring in New England was a succession of remarkably warm periods alternating with cool ones: late February, late March, mid-April and early May were the warm ones, each being accompanied by migrants arriving



somewhat prematurely, most notably the earlier ones, though overshoots from the south were not especially numerous. Observers almost everywhere expressed disappointment that May was without warbler waves, still the period May 15-17 saw widespread migration. On May 15, 442 birds were handled at M.B.O., the "biggest" spring day there since operations began in 1968, though this was the only notable influx of the season. May 16 impressed observers in eastern Maine and May 16-17 were considered good in Nova Scotia. A second broad wave of migrants reached the northeastern part of the Region May 23-25.

This report, though delayed until July, was still written without benefit of records from a substantial part of the Region: virtually none from Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick or New Hampshire and only incomplete ones from Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut, in other words complete records came only from Nova Scotia and Rhode Island. Patterns of dates, distribution and abundance don't readily emerge from such incomplete data, and the resulting "Regional" report is conjectural in large measure, and in some cases starkly enumerative.

LOONS, GREBES — In Massachusetts a bird identified as imm. **Arctic Loon** was present on Ludlow Reservoir Apr. 8-9 (SAE, AR *et al.*, *fide* SK) and an adult

in breeding plumage was reported off Plum I., May 20 (*fide* RPE). A **Western Grebe** was reported off North Beach in Chatham Apr. 10 (*fide* RPE). These three birds were undescribed — to this editor at least — and in the case of the latter two, and many other Massachusetts records *infra*, observers' names were unavailable.

TUBENOSES — Apparently the only N. Fulmars to be found in New England this season were in Rhode Island waters, one six mi. SSE of Block I., Apr. 3 (DLK) and four at Cox's Ledge May 31 (THD, DLE, RE, CW). A Cory's Shearwater well observed at Nantucket Apr. 4 was astonishingly early (EFA, JCA) and unique except for one observed with Greater Shearwaters along the 1000-fathom line about 100 miles s. of Halifax, N.S., May 23 (JLC). Single Sooty Shearwaters on Bacaro and Brown's Banks, respectively about 50 mi. s.e. and s.w. of Cape Sable, Apr. 19 & 22 (JML) were well in advance of the species' average mid-May arrival off the New England coast, where the season's higher counts were 40+ four mi s.e. of Block I., May 28 (JMCD, WSG) and 53 at Cox's Ledge May 31 (DLE, RE, CW).

S.A.

An interesting series of Manx Shearwater reports came from Rhode Island: off Beavertail Light at the s. end of Jamestown I., three were seen Apr. 24 (RAC), six on Apr. 26 (RM, EAS), five on May 16 (RC) and 12 on May 21 (RAC); nearby, seven occurred at Pt. Judith May 29 (JS) and one at Galilee May 31 (DLE, RE, CW). The repeated observations from the Beavertail and the fact that in several instances the birds were noted in the evening moving up the west passage between Jamestown and the mainland suggested that they might be breeding in the vicinity and indeed, 12 birds were found in early June off Dutch I., a mile or so s. of the Jamestown Bridge (RLF, *fide* JS) but no further details are at hand. This locality is about 24 mi. from Penikese I., Mass., where an incubating bird was found June 4, 1973, a first but seemingly isolated breeding record for the northwestern North Atlantic (*Am. Birds* 27:1020).

HERONS, IBISES — The typically few "southern" herons reaching Nova Scotia this spring were two Green Herons, two moribund Cattle Egrets, two Great Egrets and three or four Snowies. Cattle Egrets began appearing in s. New England in late March and the season's higher counts in Massachusetts were 20 at Ipswich, 12 at Halifax, ten at at Squantum (v.o., *fide* RPE) and eight inland at Pittsfield May 15 (RJG). Great Egrets were first reported from five s. New England localities in the period

Mar 19-24 and Snowies were only a shade later, a few birds returning to the Scarborough marshes in s. Maine by Mar 30 (DRW). Louisiana Herons were more numerous than ever this spring: in Connecticut at least six occurred during April and May in the New Haven area alone (NSP), May birds in Rhode Island numbered at least six (v.o., *vide* CW) and during the same month there were 13 at nine localities in Massachusetts (*vide* RPE); northernmost were two in Maine at Bass Harbor, Mount Desert I., Apr 20, one remaining to at least June 2 (WCT *et al.*). Omitting certain April reports as possibly duplicated in May, the crudely figured minimum total of 27 Louisiana Herons is twice that of any previous spring. A good flight of Glossy Ibises was reported in Massachusetts, with arrival by Apr. 8 and reports of birds at 14 localities later in the month, the maximum 180 at Newburyport (*vide* RPE), and a count of 23 inland at Quabbin Reservoir May 9 was unusual (THG). Though the evidence is sparse, fewer of these birds appear to have overshot than in recent springs: up to eight present around Amherst Apr 29-May 15 were unique in Nova Scotia (CD *et al.*) and apparently none occurred in e. Maine (WCT).

WATERFOWL — Some of the larger concentrations of migrant Brant were, in Massachusetts, 1000 at Squantum during March and 1500 in the Newburyport area Apr. 10 (*vide* RPE), and in the Maritimes 10,000 off White Head I., G.M., in the last week of March (Calder, *vide* WCT) and 400+ at Freeport, N.S., Apr. 17 (LEN), both the latter being well-known gathering spots and the Freeport count probably coming well after the peak there. Inland, Brant in unreported numbers were seen in the Waterville area of Maine at Shawmut Mar. 24 and Oakland Apr. 30 (v.o., *vide* BE) and 54 occurred at Southwick, Mass., Apr. 11 (SK). The spring's Snow Goose flight was typically protracted, several high migrant flocks being seen over Strong, Me., as early as Mar 1 (BE) and laggard individuals or small groups occurring at various New England localities well into May, but with the peak coming predictably in the first half of April. The northbound route that the bulk of these birds follow seems to shift eastward or westward from year to year, and this spring's track was decidedly an eastern one, the numbers occurring in Maine being unprecedented. The larger totals in New England were, in Massachusetts, 5000 arriving at Plum I. Apr. 4 and 6000+ over the Connecticut R. Valley Apr. 6. The Plum I. flock, perhaps alternately augmented and diminished, still numbered 2500 May 1 and 700 May 8. In New Hampshire 930 were seen in a half-hour period over East Kingston, migrating before a strong cold front Apr. 11 (DWF). In Maine a very conservatively estimated 2000 reached the Scarborough marshes Apr. 13, decreasing to zero by Apr. 22, followed by 700 "new" birds Apr. 24, diminishing to 300 May 7, zero on May 8, with 30 "new" birds May 11 (DRW). Elsewhere in the state Snow Geese were widespread and abundant by all reports, but evidently unquantifiable, one subregional editor writing in his April column, "Many reports. Most again for first half of month. Many spots. Best year in a long time." The easternmost birds were two at Economy, N.S., Apr. 18 (FS *et al.*) and it is at least curious that reports at hand indicate a total of no more than 25 birds in Connecticut and Rhode Island. "Blue" morphs reported at six New England localities totaled about 15, and the Plum I. and

East Kingston flocks just mentioned contained orange-dyed birds, two and one respectively.

Arrival dates of dabbling ducks in the Connecticut R. Valley of Massachusetts were an index of the early spring Pintail Feb. 22, Green-winged Teal Feb. 20, Am. Wigeon Feb. 25, N. Shoveler Feb. 29 (*vide* SK). Apparently unique this spring aside from the February bird of the last report was a Eur. Green-winged Teal at Lusby marsh in Amherst, N.S., Apr. 29-May 8, and similarly unique were two Eur. Wigeons in the same area Apr. 16, at least one remaining to Apr. 29 (CD *et al.*). Lingered Harlequin Ducks were three at Cape St. Mary's, Nfld., May 6-7 (RJC), eight at Port Hebert, N.S., Apr. 20 (RSW), seven at Isle au Haut, Me., Apr. 15 and three there as late as May 27 (v.o., *vide* WCT) and two at Manomet, Mass., Apr. 3-16 (TLL-E). Especially interesting this spring was the observation of 60+ Com. Eiders flying N about 15 mi n. of Bangor, Me., May 26 (PV); though fall migrant Com. Eiders are known to overfly lower Cape Cod, and spring birds have repeatedly been observed crossing the New Brunswick - Nova Scotia isthmus as far west as Memramcook, N.B., the species is otherwise virtually unknown in the Region away from salt water.

VULTURES, HAWKS — Turkey Vultures arrived in the Connecticut R. Valley in Massachusetts Feb. 26 (SK) and somewhat later in the e. part of the state Northernmost in New England was one at Albany, Me., Mar. 31 (CKG) but three, possibly four were found in Nova Scotia during May. On Cape Cod a **Black Vulture** reportedly "spent a week at the Provincetown dump" in May and a **Mississippi Kite** was observed at Eastham May 23 and subsequently at other lower Cape localities to early June (*vide* RPE). This was a second Regional occurrence, the first a bird at Norwell, Mass., May 12-19, 1969 (AFN 23: 569). Red-shouldered Hawks arrived at a number of Massachusetts localities Feb. 20-27 and in Maine they were reported from five areas during April and May, observers there and elsewhere countinuing to note the species' slow increase. An unusual observation of migrating Broad-wingeds was that of about 55 over Provincetown at the tip of Cape Cod, moving southward in a tight circling flock at 10:45 a.m., May 28 (PFC *et al.*) Broad-wingeds are infrequently noted on the lower Cape and though young birds may move northward across the Region as late as June, this flock was thought to contain about equal numbers of adults and immatures. Another rarity, a light phase ad. Swainson's Hawk, was well observed and convincingly described at Matunuck, R. I., Apr. 29 (DW). Including March birds, the season's Peregrine Falcon total was 14, the figure not too meaningful since reports were lacking from a substantial part of the Region.

CRANES, GALLINULES, COOTS — Three **Sandhill Cranes** well seen passing clangorously over Buff Head in North Guilford, Conn., Apr. 14 were extraordinary by any standards (NSP *et al.*). A Purple Gallinule was seen at Easton, Mass., May 16 (*vide* RPE) and another found dead at Gardiner, Me., May 26 (Alice Bowden; specimen to Maine State Museum). At the e limit of the species' breeding ranges, three Com. Gallinules were reported at Amherst, N.S., May 25, and five Am. Coots had arrived there by Apr. 17 (CD) An Am. Coot present since December at Dartmouth, N S

was last seen Apr. 23, a very unusual wintering record for the Maritimes (EC).

SHOREBIRDS — Along the Region's s. coast Am. Oystercatchers continue a slow increase; earliest this spring were two found at Napatree Point, R.I., and subsequently seen flying to Pawcatuck Pt., Conn., Mar. 30 (RLN), and elsewhere in Rhode Island single birds were found at Quonochontaug Mar. 31, at Sakonnet Apr. 5 and at Newport Neck May 7 (v.o., *fide* CW). In Connecticut, five were photographed at Folly Pt. in Stonington before they flew to Napatree Pt. May 20 (NSP). In Massachusetts, April birds were two at Monomoy, five at Barnstable, two at Wellfleet and four at Tuckernuck, and in May seven were found at Cape Poge, M.V. and others at Nantucket. A Wilson's Plover, said to be an ad. male, was reported at Allens Pond in South Dartmouth, Mass., Apr. 19 (*fide* RPE). Single Am Golden Plovers, scarce spring migrants in the Region, occurred in Massachusetts at Newburyport Apr. 4-18 and at Plum I., May 12-15 (*fide* RPE) and another was present at Brier I., N.S., May 21-24 (CC *et al.*). Migrant Am. Woodcocks reached three Massachusetts localities in the period Feb. 16-25, the earliest in e. Maine and Nova Scotia appearing Mar. 7 and 19, respectively, and the e. Maine birds suffering a "heavy kill" subsequent to a 14-inch snowfall Mar. 17 (WCT). A flock of 30 Dunlin at L. Onota in Pittsfield, Mass., May 15 was considered quite unusual there (RJG). Uncommon in spring, single Stilt Sandpipers occurred in Massachusetts at Wellfleet May 8 and at Monomy and Newburyport May 28 (*fide* RPE), the only other one being found at Stonington, Me., also May 28 (Hundley, *fide* WCT). Virtually without precedent in spring was a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** photographed at an unstated locality in Nova Scotia Apr. 8-9 (Ralph D. Connor; IAMcL, ELM). All the four individual godwits to occur this season were found at Newburyport: two Marbleds May 14-23, the state's fifth **Bar-tailed Godwit** May 15-31 or later, and a Hudsonian May 23 (*fide* RPE). In the Maritimes, a Ruff was found at Conrad's Beach, Halifax Co., N.S., Apr. 24 (EHC), the same or another occurring there May 4 (BDMact), and one was seen at Cape Jourmain, N.B., May 3 (CD *et al.*); in New England four were found in e. Massachusetts Apr. 16-May 14, and one was present at Guilford, Conn., May 2-3 (Fred Sibley, NSP *et al.*). An interesting report of migrating Red Phalaropes came from waters 12-30 mi. off Halifax, N.S., where on May 27 flocks of 10-25 were passing at three-minute intervals (JLC). Large concentrations of N. Phalaropes were briefly present around Mount Desert I., Me., May 20 (WCT), and the period May 21-24 saw tens of thousands of the birds around Brier I., N.S. (RRA, CJC, ELM *et al.*). Finally, the season's Wilson's Phalaropes numbered about 11: two at Seal I., N.S., May 16 (SJF *et al.*), three at Scarboro, Me., May 20 (DRW), and six May birds in e. Massachusetts.

JAEGERS, GULLS — About 23 Pomarine Jaegers were reported this season: ten at Cape St. Mary's, Nfld., May 14 and four there May 24 (RJC), single birds on Brown's Bank Apr. 22 (JML) and along the Nova Scotia coast Apr. 19 and May 29, a total of five at Emerald Basin between 35 and 55 mi. e.s.e. of Halifax May 19-25 (JLC) and one at Cox's Ledge, R.I., May 31 (DLE, RE, CW). The only Parasitic Jaegers reported were a scattered few

off the Massachusetts coast during May. Seven Skuas were noted at various points 55-120 mi. e.s.e. of Halifax, May 21-25 (JLC) and another occurred at Cox's Ledge, R.I., May 31 (THD, DLE, RE, CW). About 70 Iceland Gulls were present at Sable I., N.S. as late as May 2-4 (IAMcL). In New England a total of 15 Black-headed Gulls were reported during April at four Massachusetts localities, at least one remaining at Newburyport to May 28, and two were present all spring at New Haven, Conn. Eleven adult or subadult Little Gulls were found at Newburyport during April, seven lingering into May, and as with Black-headed the only others were two all spring at New Haven (NSP). An ad. **Ivory Gull** at Sable I., Apr. 25-30 was unique this season and a third record there (James Redmond, Alban A. Richard, *fide* IAMcL) An immature and an ad. Sabine's Gull were seen respectively 75 mi. e.s.e. and 40 mi. s.e. of Sable I., Apr. 13 (CJC), the only other ones this season being two seen 10 mi off Provincetown, May 16 (*fide* TLL-E).

TERNs, SKIMMERS, ALCIDS — A Forster's Tern at Newburyport, Mass., Apr. 10-May 4 provided an unusual spring record (*fide* RPE), an Arctic Tern well seen at Jerusalem, R.I., May 15 made one of very few state records (RMB, RAC, HW) and a Royal Tern at Sandwich, Cape Cod May 3 was apparently unique this season (*fide* RPE). Caspian Terns were typically few, numbering 19 at five New England localities during May, and the only Black Skimmer of the spring was a bird at Monomoy May 24 (*fide* RPE). Alcids lingering along the Massachusetts coast were a Com. Murre at Chatham Apr. 2-18, a Thick-billed Murre at Nantucket Apr. 4 (EFA), another at Rockport Apr. 9 and five off Provincetown Apr. 18 (*fide* RPE). Some distance off shore, Dovekies were found to be quite common w of Sable I. as late as May 18 (RDL), and two flocks of ten or fewer were noted May 21 some 95-105 mi. e.s.e. of Halifax (JLC). Common Puffins reportedly came ashore at the Machias Seal I., N.B. colony Apr. 16 (Jack Russell, *fide* WCT).

CUCKOOS, NIGHTJARS — Some remarkably early Black-billed Cuckoos were a single bird at New Haven, Conn., Apr. 21 (NSP), in e. Maine two at Baring Apr. 25 and one at Hodgdon May 1 (v.o., *fide* WCT) In e. Massachusetts single Chuck-will's-widows were reported in May at Wellfleet, Chatham and Beverly Farms but no reports were available from the islands; one calling at S Windsor, Conn., May 16 was a first record for the Hartford area (PJD, Todd Freeburg). Early Com Nighthawks were a single bird at Mount Desert I., Me., May 6 (WCR), and in Rhode Island two at Green Hill May 7 and 20 at W. Warwick May 9 (DW).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, LARKS, SWALLOWS — Three Red-bellied Woodpeckers were found in e. Massachusetts this spring, another was seen near Storrs, Conn., May 15 (*fide* RLN), and along the Connecticut shore, which the species has colonized in the last decade, it was reportedly "doing well", breeding at least as far east as Madison (NSP). Not counting five lingering winterers, 14 Red-headed Woodpeckers occurred in the Region, almost all of them in Vay: three in Nova Scotia, three in Maine, four in Massachusetts, one in Rhode Island, and three in Connecticut. An E

Kingbird at Cape Sable, N.S., Apr. 25 was unseasonable there and by a few days the Region's first (BJS). The northeastward advance of E. Phoebes can be judged from these arrival dates, most being somewhat earlier than average: Mar. 6 at Old Lyme, Conn., Mar. 7 at Fiskeville, R I, "mid-March" in e. Massachusetts and Mar. 23 at Nantucket, Mar. 22 in coastal New Hampshire, Mar. 21 in c. Maine at Farmington, Mar. 28 in e. Maine at Milbridge and Mar. 29 at Seal I., N.S. Only a few Acadian Flycatchers were reported in s. New England this spring, single birds being seen near Storrs, Conn., May 15 (JAM, *vide* RLN) and in Massachusetts at Holyoke May 18 (SK *et al.*) and Manomet May 31 (*vide* TRL-E). A singing W. Wood Pewee at Monomoy May 28 was said to be "well observed" (RPE): there is no previous Regional record, although the species has occurred twice in fall in Maryland (specimens; *AFN* 16: 17 and 22: 20) and in spring at Pt. Pelee, Ont. (*AFN* 22: 522). Arrival dates for Horned Larks were Feb 21 at Andover, N.H. (LCR), in Maine Mar. 21 at Farmington and Mar. 26 at Lincoln Center, and Apr. 4 at Cape St. Mary's, Nfld. The only Rough-winged Swallows reported from the Maritimes this spring were two at Port Hebert, N.S., May 21 (RSW).

JAYS, CROWS CHICKADEES, WRENS — Late spring northward movement of Blue Jays in the Region broadly overlaps the breeding season of resident birds; at M B O. 37 were netted May 6, 31 on May 8 and 26 on May 12 (TLL-E), 70 migrants were seen at Plum I., May 16 and the same number on the lower Cape May 28 (PFC). Along the Connecticut shore in the New Haven area, Fish Crows were said to have increased dramatically (NSP) and inland along the Connecticut R. at Windsor and Hartford a few birds found after Apr. 21 were the first in the area since 1946 (PJD), although just west of the Region Fish Crows are resident along the Hudson to n. Dutchess County or beyond. In Rhode Island a chickadee in Swan Pt. cemetery in Providence May 1-18 was identified as Carolina Chickadee on the basis of its four-note song, smaller size in direct comparison with Black-capped, and much smaller bib (Judith Brown; RMB, RAC, SSD, RJO'H, HW *et al.*). However it was noted that the bird's primaries were white-edged and that its vocalizations contained certain irregularities of pattern, pitch and tonal quality, in some cases duplicating Black-capped calls, and so it was judged an aberrant Black-capped (DLK,CW). Carolina Chickadee has not been confirmed in the Region, but in recent years there have been reports from s.w. Connecticut of unidentified chickadees with calls suggesting Carolinas. A few Boreal Chickadees from last fall's incursion were still present in s. New England: feeder birds in Greenwich and Darien, Conn. were last seen Apr. 10-15 (TB) and 11 were seen at two localities in e. Massachusetts during the same month, at least three individuals remaining into May (RPE). A House Wren at Seal I., N.S., May 15-17 was the only one reported from the Maritimes (SJF *et al.*) and the season's only Short-billed Marsh Wrens were single birds at Plum I., Mass during May (*vide* RPE) and at Chesterville, Me., May 11 (BE).

MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — Brown Thrashers reaching Nova Scotia this spring were "many" reported at Seal I., May 15-17 and single birds at Cape

Sable and Brier I., May 9 and 19 respectively (*vide* SC). Rarer thrushes in the province were single Wood Thrushes at Seal I., May 15 and at Kejimikujik N.P. May 22, and about six E. Bluebirds at three localities Apr 13-May 24. Northernmost Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were two at Seal I., N.S., May 15-16 (SJF *et al.*) and single birds in e. Maine at Sorrento May 8 and Isle au Haut May 24 (WCT); in s. New England gnatcatcher numbers evoked no comment from observers but seemed a bit lower than in recent springs. A Bohemian Waxwing was reported in Lancaster, Mass., during April (*vide* RPE) and the latest in Nova Scotia were 35 at Halifax May 29 (*vide* SC). Only five Loggerhead Shrikes were reported this spring: one at Newburyport, Mass., Mar. 27 and four in Maine Mar 27-May 16.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A White-eyed Vireo at Lincoln Center, Me., May 25 was well north of the species' usual limits (PV), and another at Pittsfield, Mass., May 23 was the first in Berkshire County in five years (RJG *et al.*). A Yellow-throated Vireo near Howland, Me., May 25 was the northeasternmost reported (v.o., *vide* PV). In Nova Scotia the rarer vireos were represented by a Philadelphia at Lockeport June 1 (RJC) and two Warblings at Seal I., May 15-16 (SJF *et al.*). Northernmost Prothonotary Warblers were single birds at Halifax, N.S., May 26 (*vide* IAMcL) and in Maine at Bethel May 16 (CKG) and Mount Desert I., May 29 (Fred Bouchard, Joshua Murphy); ten others were reported in the s. three states, the earliest at Quidnet, Nantucket Apr. 2 (*vide* RPE). The only "Lawrence's" Warblers reported were in Connecticut, single birds at Storrs and Woodbridge and two in the Hartford area, all in May. Cape Mays seemed less numerous than in recent springs to many observers, particularly in e. Maine and c and w. Massachusetts. Nine Ceruleans and three Yellow-throateds were reported in Massachusetts, three and four respectively in Connecticut. Bay-breasteds were considered abundant in e. Maine; an exhausted bird at Cape St. Mary's, Nfld., May 29 was somewhat east of the species' normal range (RJC). Pine Warbler arrival dates this spring were Mar. 24 at Scituate, Mass., Mar. 25 at Litchfield, Conn., Apr. 6 at Manomet, Mass., and in Maine Apr. 17 at Skowhegan and Apr. 23 at Orono. A Kentucky Warbler photographed at Seal I., N.S., May 16 was a rarity there (SJF *et al.*); in s. New England 19 were reported, more than usual, as many as four occurring in the Connecticut R. Valley in Massachusetts, and one at Richmond May 7 being a first Berkshire County record (RJG). A singing Connecticut Warbler seen in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Mass. during May was unique this season (*vide* RPE), and a Hooded Warbler at Biddeford Pool, Me., Apr. 24 was the northernmost reported (CR).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — A singing ♂ Bobolink as far east as Cape St. Mary's, Nfld., May 23 was unusual (RJC). Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported at three e. Massachusetts localities in April (*vide* RPE) and another occurred at Barrington, R.I., Apr. 6 (Barbara Barker, *vide* CW). Northernmost Orchard Orioles were three in Nova Scotia May 2-15 and four in e. Maine May 3-17 (WCT). An imm. ♂ "Bullock's" Oriole easily studied at East Kingston, N.H., Apr. 15 was the only one reported and curious at that date (DWF), and also unique this

spring was a ♂ W. Tanager at Scituate, Mass., May 17 (*vide* RPE). Scarlet Tanagers reaching Nova Scotia numbered five or six in the period May 15-24 and the season's only Summer Tanagers were single May birds in Rhode Island (1) and Massachusetts (3) and one or two at Isle au Haut, Me., May 10 & 25 (Nelson, *vide* WCT).

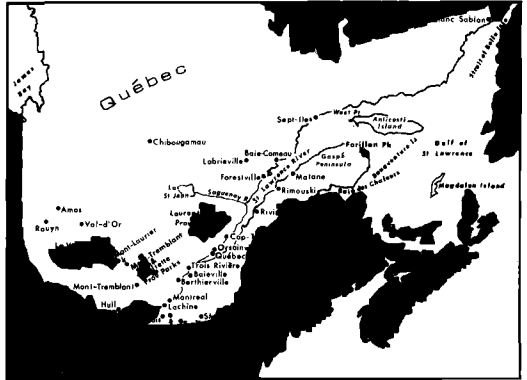
FRINGILLIDS — Five or more Cardinals were present at various localities in Nova Scotia, presumably birds from the late fall incursion of 1973. The Black-headed Grosbeak wintering at Amherst, Mass. was last seen Apr. 23 (*vide* SK). Blue Grosbeaks were few this spring, no more than four being reported in the southern three New England states, Apr. 27-May 16, but Indigo Buntings were unusually numerous in Nova Scotia (23 individuals, the earliest Apr. 23) and in e. Maine (WCT). Dickcissels reported this spring numbered only three. A House Finch at Augusta, Me., Apr. 8-9 was a first local occurrence and indicative of the slow northeastward advance of these birds. (Mollicone, *vide* BE). Three or four Rufous-sided Towhees appeared in Nova Scotia May 1-21, the species essentially a spring vagrant there. A Henslow's Sparrow banded at M.B.O. May 11 was unique this spring. Four Clay-colored Sparrows were reported, single birds at Seal I., N.S., May 15 (SJF *et al.*), at Howland, Me., May 24 (PV), and in Massachusetts at S Peabody Vay 10-16 (*vide* RPE) and Easthampton May 18 (THG *et al.*). In Connecticut the Harris' Sparrow wintering at S. Windham was last seen May 8, while another, a fully ad. male, was briefly present in Madison, Apr. 15 (NSP).

SUBREGIONAL EDITORS (boldface), Contributors (italics), Observers and other abbreviations — **Charles R K. Allen**, **R. Ross Anderson**, **Edith F. Andrews**, J. Clinton Andrews, **Richard G.B. Brown**, **Tom Burke**, *William G. Burt III*, Robert M. Bushnell, *Richard J. Cannings*, Richard Champlin, Christopher J. Cohrs, John L. Cohrs, **Shirley Cohrs**, Cyril Coldwell, *Paul F. Connor*, Robert A. Conway, Eric H. Cooke, Ethel Crathorne, Russell J. Crosby, **Peter A. Cross**, Severyn S. Dana, *Thomas H. Davis, Jr.*, *Paul J. Desjardins*, Con Desplanque, **Phyllis R. Dobson**, Samuel A. Eliot, Jr., *Kimball C. Elkins*, David L. Emerson, Robert Emerson, *Wilham S. Emerson*, **Ruth P. Emery**, **Bernard Etzel**, Richard L. Ferren, Davis W. Finch, Sylvia J. Fullerton, Thomas H. Gagnon, *J. Roswell Gallagher*, William S. Gaunya, *Robert J. Goodrich*, Celia K. Gorman, **Seth Kellogg**, Douglas L. Kraus, Robert D. Lambertson, *Trevor L. Lloyd-Evans*, James M. Loughlin, Bruce D. Mactavish, Robert Madison, Jerauld A. Manter, John McDonald, Ian A. McLaren, **Eric L. Mills**, Larry E. Neely, **Robert L. Norton**, *Robert J. O'Hara*, *Noble S. Proctor*, Alan Richards, Lawrence C. Rising, *Chandler Robbins, Jr.*, *Leif J. Robinson*, William C. Russell, *Eloise A. Saunders*, Betty June Smith, *John Souther*, Francis Spalding, **William C. Townsend**, **Peter Vickery**, Dallas Wait, *David R. Whittier*, Ralph S. Widrig, *Hugh Willoughby*, **Charles Wood**, **Joseph Zeranski**, M.B.O. Manomet (Mass.) Bird Observatory, v.o., various observers. — **DAVIS W. FINCH**, 210 W. 101st St., Apt. 11-H, New York, N.Y. 10025.

QUÉBEC

/Normand David and Michel Gosselin

The influence of weather on bird migrations was striking in April and May, 1976; a warm front passed over southern Québec during the Easter weekend (April 17-19) bringing temperatures usually unknown before June A



number of record first arrivals were reported during this period (Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Gray Catbird, Solitary Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow Warbler) and of course an influx of rarities including many southern herons. Rain and snow followed during the rest of April and most of May, resulting in a somewhat late passage of many passerines

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Red-throated Loons appeared inland at Nuns' I., May 8 (FH) and L. Deschênes, May 27 (BD). A good count of 60 Horned Grebes was made at I. Perrot, Apr. 23 (ME), and a Pied-billed Grebe was found at Matane (where summering for the past two years), Apr. 9 (R. Roy). Two ad. Gannets seen flying W along the St-Lawrence R. at Nuns' I., May 6 (ND), were apparently a first spring occurrence in the Montréal area. An amazing number of southern herons invaded the Region in mid-April (and afterwards) five Cattle Egrets were found near Philipsburg Apr 18 (C.O.Q.), one at Cap-Tourmente Apr. 20 (PD), and one near Farnham May 9 (BL). Two Great Egrets appeared near Henryville, May 24 (MM); a **Snowy Egret** was also in the Henryville area Apr. 16-23 (WS, m.ob.), other (?) single birds were at Rimouski May 2-8 (JRP), and Forillon N.P., May 24 (*vide* MSA). **Louisiana Herons** were seen at Becancour, May 12, and Paspébiac, May 18, the latter being photographed (JR). The second provincial occurrence of **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** (an adult) was noted at Pike River Apr. 19 (AH, GM) A Glossy Ibis was at Québec City, May 14 (S. Hardy), five off Nuns' I., May 15 (CL), nine near Baieville in mid-May (JR), two at Maskinongé May 29, and three near Henryville May 30 (ND).

WATERFOWL — Two Whistling Swans were present at Granby, Apr. 24-May 9 (C.O.Q.), and one at L. Deschênes during the last week of May (*vide* RMP) At St-Augustin Apr. 17, P. Lane found a very small Canada Goose identified as a probable *B. c. hutchinsii* (which is known in Québec mainly from the Hudson Bay coast)

Inland reports of Brants are increasingly numerous: one was at St-Paul (Ile-aux-Noix), Apr. 1 (BB); eight at Granby Apr. 16 (C.O.Q.); 70 at Nuns' I., May 6 (ND); 75 at St-Paul, May 24 (MM), and 14 at Carillon, May 30 (RT). Among some 500 Brants at Rimouski, a **Black Brant** was discovered Apr. 19 (JL, JRP); there is but one previous report of this "species" in the Province: an unpublished sighting in the same general area, May 31, 1970 (ND, PLp). The Gadwall, a species whose range limits are still unclear in Québec, was recorded at Barachois May 19 (JR). The Eurasian subspecies of the Green-winged Teal (*A. c. crecca*) was found at Philipsburg Apr. 21 (MG), and Rimouski May 4-8 (JPL); European Wigeons were at Baieville Apr. 18 (MG), Nuns' I Apr 30 to May 17 (GT), and Rimouski, May 6-7 (JPL). Stray Canvasbacks from the early spring "invasion" were reported from Alma, Mar. 29-Apr. 6; Rimouski Apr. 22; and Giffard Apr. 29 (C.O.Q.). An ad. ♂ **Tufted Duck** providing the first Provincial record, was turned up at the Ile d'Orléans May 3 (SL), but could not be located subsequently. Twelve Ruddy Ducks occurred at six localities in April and May (C.O.Q., P.Q.S.P.B.).

RAPTORS — Turkey Vultures were at Philipsburg May 8 (MH, FH); Hudson May 15-16 (JW, BB); Luskville and Cantley May 23 (RMP, JG). An ad. Cooper's Hawk was reported at the n. edge of Laurentides P.P., May 10, and a Red-shouldered Hawk even farther north, at Larouche, May 1 (NB). This season the hawk flights were mainly studied at Valleyfield (at the e. end of L. St-Francis), where c. 50 Sharp-shinned Hawks passed overhead Apr. 19; c. 150 Red-tailed Hawks on Apr 18; and c. 150, 50 and 140 Broad-winged Hawks on Apr 18, 19 and May 1 (BB, MM). Two Golden Eagles were at Rigaud in mid-April (C.O.Q.), and one at Valleyfield Apr. 18 (MM); four Bald Eagles were found at three localities of the St-Lawrence Estuary, but only two Peregrine Falcon reports were received.

GROUSE THROUGH TERNS — Well-documented records of Ruffed Grouse and Killdeer came from Fort Chimo (May 21, P. Lessard). An Am. Golden Plover was at St-Paul May 24 (MM), and two unprecedentedly early Black-bellied Plovers at Berthier May 8 (MG). A Willet at Barachois May 21 (D. Bordage) is a rare spring occurrence, as were two Purple Sandpipers at Laprairie, May 23 (JW). Least Sandpipers and Dunlins at St-Paul May 2 (ND), were the earliest ever; large numbers (for the Montréal area) of Short-billed Dowitchers were near Henryville (600) and St-Paul (200), May 24, and a Stilt Sandpiper at the latter place May 29 (BB, MM). Wilson's Phalaropes were noted at LaPocatière May 4-6; Pointeau-Père May 13; Chandler May 18; Arvida May 23-24; and several localities around Montréal (C.O.Q., P.-Q.S.P.B.). Although regular in the nearby Northeastern Maritime Region, a Black-headed Gull at Ste-Flavie Apr. 23 (ML), was only the tenth provincial occurrence. An imm Laughing Gull, always rare in Québec (and inland), appeared at Beauharnois May 13 (BB). Another rare gull, the Franklin's Gull, reached Rimouski May 31 (JPL). A flock of 95 Arctic Terns was carefully studied in comparison with Common Terns at Rimouski May 22-24 (JPL, JRP).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Mourning Dove at Gaspé May 26 (ND), was not totally

unexpected since the species is continuously expanding northward. An influx of Black-billed Cuckoos was noted in several localities during the last days of May; as many as 14 were seen or heard, May 31, in the "badlands" near Ormstown (JS). A belated report of a Barn Owl killed (of course) at St-Coeur de Marie (L. St-Jean), in early winter, was received (*vide* M. Savard). A total of ten Saw-whet Owls were banded at Ville St-Laurent in April and May (see also the Fall and Winter Reports for other figures from the same locality) (MH). The nine Red-headed Woodpeckers of the Montréal area in May (P.Q.S.P.B., C.O.Q.) seem unprecedented, and a tenth reached Ile aux Grues, near Québec City, May 29 (C.O.Q.).

KINGBIRDS THROUGH KINGLETS — An E Kingbird at Lime Ridge Apr. 18 (NB), and one at Harrington Apr 22 (FR), were the earliest ever. A Great Crested Flycatcher at Mt. St-Hilaire, Apr. 20 was also an early arrival (C.O.Q.); another found at Rimouski, May 24, was a first local occurrence (JRP). A lingering Gray Jay was well seen at Rigaud May 13 (GH). The scarcity of Red-breasted Nuthatches still prevails; as a matter of fact, the numbers reported for April and May were the lowest in the past six years (C.O.Q.). The two House Wrens of Québec City (where they are already scarce) were noteworthy; one was at St-Raphaël (Bellechasse Co.), May 16 (RL), and JRP found the other at Rimouski May 21. A very early Gray Catbird reached Québec City Apr 16 (PLn). Out-of-range Brown Thrashers occurred at Ile aux Basques May 21 (C.O.Q.), and Gaspé May 26 (ND). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers have occurred annually in the Montréal area since 1962; this season's reports were of single birds: St-Lambert May 10 (GD), and Mt. Royal May 22 (GT); another reached Forillon N.P. and was photographed May 20 (MSA). A very heavy movement of Ruby-crowned Kinglets began suddenly Apr. 18, and they remained remarkably numerous afterwards.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Early Solitary Vireos were turned up in Hudson, Apr. 19 (P.Q.S.P.B.). A Warbling Vireo at Rimouski May 28 (JPL), and four at Joannès (Abitibi Co.), May 29-30 (JC), are well north of the species' range. In this 1976 quiet warbler migration, three species (Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted) appeared notably numerous. An unusually early warbler was a Black-and-white at Brossard Apr. 18 (JB). The growing numbers of spring reports of Golden-winged Warblers (seven from 1957 to 1967, and an average of two annually since 1970) will probably result in a range extension in s.w. Québec; the season's records include a bird found dead at Bromont May 12, providing a first Provincial specimen (*vide* HO); single birds at Low May 16 (SG), and Mt. Orford May 26 (C.O.Q.); and a pair at Philipsburg May 29 (MM, BB), where breeding occurred in 1971. The sighting of a **Blue-winged Warbler** on Mt Royal, May 22, is well documented (C.O.Q.) (a reported previous Québec occurrence [AFN 24:583] is erroneous).

A Yellow Warbler was noted at Lévis Apr. 20, and the third Provincial ♂ Yellow-rumped (*D.c.auduboni*) Warbler since 1974, at Aylmer May 12 (RBe). H. Ouellet has shown that Cerulean Warblers are mostly restricted in Québec to mature deciduous mountain forests of the s.e. Montréal area (*Auk* 84:272-4); his sighting of an individual in Gatineau P.P., May 29 was noteworthy, since suitable breeding tracts are to be found there. An

early Blackburnian Warbler appeared at Aylmer Apr. 30 (RBe); On Mt. Royal May 17, MG and JS found the sixth regional Prairie Warbler, a female, of which JS secured identifiable color slides. The **Hooded Warbler** at Aylmer, May 29 (RBe, PF), was only a seventh occurrence in the Province.

ICTERIDS, FRINGILLIDS — A singing W. Meadowlark appeared again at St-Anicet Apr. 18, for the earliest record to date (MM); it remained for the rest of the period. At Longueuil May 17, CL discovered an **Orchard Oriole** in a small suburban orchard where other birders were fortunate enough to find it the same day; the elusive singer did not permit close enough approach for photography, and we are still without any specimen or photographic evidence (ten occurrences to date). Evening Grosbeaks were still to be found in reduced numbers in April as reports showed them 3-4 times fewer than average; however, a very good movement in May brought many birds into all areas (C.O.Q.). Both Le Conte's (early May, PLn) and Sharp-tailed Sparrows (May 28, NB) were noted at St-Fulgence. While the former has bred there sporadically since 1963, the latter is unknown but at Cap-Tourmente, on the North Shore (except for a similar record in July 1970, ND). The great numbers of Dark-eyed Juncos (3000) and Tree Sparrows (2000) found at

Cap-Tourmente Apr. 25 (RL), are in accordance with figures showing both species as notably numerous in April (C.O.Q.). Snow Buntings were mostly restricted to the Lower St-Lawrence and L. St-Jean areas where huge flocks were recorded.

CONTRIBUTORS (boldface) AND OBSERVERS — *Club des Ornithologues du Québec (C.O.Q.), Ottawa Field-Naturalists Club, Prov. of Québec Society for the Protection of Birds (P.Q.S.P.B.)* — B. Barnhurst, R Bergeron (RBe), R. Bisson, F. Brabant, N. Breton, M Brigham, J. Burton, R. Cayouette (Québec City Area 8185 Av. du Zoo, Orsainville, P.Q.), J. Chabot, B Dilabio, P. Dupuis, G. Duquette, M. Elliott, P. Forsythe S. Gawn, J. Ginnes, A. Hickey, M. Hendrick, F. Hiltton G. Huot, C. Lacroix, P. Lane (PLn), P. Laporte (PLp), J Larivee, M. Larrivee, J.P. LeBel, S. Lemieux, R. Lepage B. Lyon, M. McIntosh (Montréal Area: 136 Millhaven Av., Pointe-Claire, P.Q.), G. Montgomery, H. Ouellet J.R. Pelletier, R.M. Poulin (Hull Area: 254 Cooper St basement, Ottawa, Ont.), F. Robichaud, J. Rosa, M. St-Amour, W. Smith, J. Steeves, R. Titman, G. Trencia, J Wright. — **NORMAND DAVID, Centre de Recherches Ecologiques de Montréal, 4101 Sherbrooke Est, Montréal, P.Q.** and **MICHEL GOSSELIN, 6151 Henri-Bourassa Est #107, Montréal-Nord, P.Q.**

HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

/Robert O. Paxton, P. A. Buckley, and David A. Cutler

April set heat records in this region. Over the Easter weekend (Apr. 17-19) the thermometer exceeded 90° F. in most parts of the region. On Apr. 18 it reached 96° in New York City and 92° in Wilkes-Barre, the hottest April day



ever. It was not local temperature that influenced spring migrants, of course, but the passage of warm air masses northward from the Gulf Coast. This Easter front accelerated the arrival of some normally early species that

were already in migratory condition, and encouraged the appearance in unusual numbers of such southern species as Yellow-throated and Kentucky Warblers and Summer Tanagers. A subsequent warm front Apr. 23-24 was accompanied by rain which precipitated a massive "fall-out" of migrants.

May, by contrast, "trickled" (RK). There were a few hot spots, such as Forest Park, Queens Co., where migrants accumulated around a massive hatch of geometrid moths. But many observers termed the migration poor, even "the poorest in my 20 years' experience" (RB). Cold front followed cold front, with some reprieve for a small passage around May 8. It snowed in Wilkes-Barre on May 20 and two inches accumulated in nearby mountains. A warm front the following weekend, May 23-24, released pent-up migrants and produced some excitement, especially in the interior. Blicharz had "a beautiful wave" on the morning of May 23 with 25 species of warblers in two hours in the Princeton Woods. On the same morning Lawrence found warblers "literally dripping from the trees" in Carpenter's Woods, Philadelphia. The later-migrating species had not been advanced by April conditions, and passage continued well past the end of our period into June, as it usually does.

A big oil spill dumped one million gallons which formed a nine-mile slick on the Hackensack R., N.J., in late May. The #6 oil does not seem to have been highly toxic to adult birds, for Don Smith, the Hackensack Meadowlands (H.M.) Commission naturalist, found many stained but few dead or dying birds. The reproductive efforts of ducks, gallinules, Least Bitterns, and rails in the river marshes, however, were feared "seriously compromised" (RK). Herons already had eggs or young, and birds within the impoundments were not affected.

LOONS, GREBES — An impressive 628 Com. Loons passed the Raccoon Ridge hawk lookout, Blairstown, N J , during April, with a peak of 168 on Apr. 11 (PD). Paxton watched eight Com. Loons leave the sea at Toboy, L. I., and fly inland in a northerly direction during one early morning hour Apr. 23. Hannisian saw 1-6 pass overhead in a NW direction over Denville, w. Morris Co., N J , each morning of the third week of April between 6 and 8 a.m. Both Common and Red-throated Loons are found inland during spring migration, but it would be interesting to know what proportion of either species follows the coast north. While only one Red-necked Grebe was reported all season from the coast, one was at Bivalve, Delaware Bay, N.J., Apr. 6 (DEK), and four were observed Apr. 2 in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). Up to three lingered exceptionally at Ceasetown Dam, near Hunlock's Creek, Pa., Mar. 27 - Apr. 17 (m.ob.). An **Eared Grebe** was photographed at Brigantine I., N.J., Apr 9 (JFA).

SHEARWATERS, PETRELS — Since they first became regular off this coast about five years ago, N. Fulmars have become normal, and are seen in ever-increasing numbers. Of seven sea trips for which we have reports this season, fulmars were seen on all but one. They were observed on all four late May trips to Hudson Canyon (H.C.), 85 mi. e.s.e. of Barnegat Light, N.J. Maxima there were 14 on May 29 (PWS, RAR, Urner Club, D.V.O.C.) and 25 on May 26 (RR, GT). Veit found 11 about 100 mi. off s. N.J. on May 11. Nearer shore, at Cox's Ledge (C.L.), 38 mi. e. of Montauk Pt., L.I., three were found on May 31 (THD, JDiC *et al.*) but none on May 22.

Spring passage of Sooty Shearwaters peaked, as usual, in late May. Veit, who spent May 10-22 far offshore aboard the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute's R.V. Oceanus, first observed nine May 15, nearly 300 mi. off the Delaware coast. Ash made the earliest onshore observation of 12 at Mecox, L.I., May 16. Maxima thereafter were about 140 at H.C. May 26 (RR, GT), 24 off Shinnecock Inlet, L. I., May 30 (GSR), and about 75 counted the same day between Jones Inlet and Montauk Pt., L.I. (AJL). During the same period Greater Shearwaters reached maxima of about 300 at H.C. May 26 (RR, GT) and about 25 from shore on outer Long Island May 30 (AJL). Traditionally we expect Cory's Shearwaters later in the summer, but increased offshore coverage indicates regular small numbers in spring, perhaps mostly well offshore. The first New Jersey May record dates from last spring. This season they were reported on three out of four H.C. trips in late May, with a maximum of 19 on May 31 (RAR), but on neither C.L. trip. One Manx Shearwater was identified at C.L. May 31 (THD, JDiC) and three at H.C. on May 29 (PWS, RAR). The Manx remains our most sketchily-known regular shearwater. Though it has now bred in North America (Penkese I., Mass., 1973) and though there are a few old New York specimens, the first fully confirmed New Jersey sight record dates from last May and there is still no New Jersey specimen. [See pg. 811 Northeast Maritime Regional Report for first Rhode Island breeding record.—Ed.]

Wilson's Storm-Petrel reached modest maxima of 100 at C. L. May 31 (THD, JDiC) and 750 at H.C. May 29 (PWS, RAR), but Leach's Storm-Petrels were found only

at the edge of the Continental Shelf and beyond: six at H.C. May 29 (PWS, RAR), and 40-60 on May 11 at the edge of the shelf about 30 mi. n.e. of H.C. (RRV).

The most remarkable pelagic report of the season, if correct, was a **White-faced Storm-Petrel**† at H.C. May 26 (RR, GT). According to their detailed description they had a brief but convincing study of the bird, and their report gains plausibility from increased sightings in the n.w. Atlantic in recent years, cf., P.A. Buckley and C F Wurster, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 90:35 (Apr. 1970) and two subsequent reports in our region: a bird photographed off Delaware in Aug. 1972 (*AB* 27:17) and one described Sept. 5, 1973 off Avalon, N.J. (Tom Koebel *N.J. Nature News*, Mar. 1974 p.57). It should be noted, however, that previous records off the e. coast of North America have all fallen between August and October and that aberrant white-patched Wilson's Storm-Petrels have been seen in the n.w. Atlantic (*AB* 27:846).

PELICAN, GANNETS, HERONS — A single **White Pelican** was reported (without details) over the Breakneck Mt. hawk lookout, Wawayanda, N.J., Apr 3 (TP). Among a number of late Gannets at the end of May was one which illustrated a new ecological hazard. An immature dead of starvation was fished out of the sea at H.C. May 29 with its bill entangled in a pair of ladies' panty-hose (PWS, RAR).

The Great Blue Heron colony at Port Penn, Del., known for at least 50 years, comprised about 100 nests Apr. 11 (DDW). That other Great Blue Herons are on the move at the same date was proven by Dunne's daily hawk watch at Raccoon Ridge, where 87 passed during March and April with a remarkable peak of 52 on Apr. 11. Are these post-breeding wanderers from the south, more northerly breeders, or non-breeders? Cattle Egrets wander ever more widely in the interior. Two were found at a new location, Schnecksville, Lehigh Co., Pa., Apr 19 (REW) and five May 18 (FF) provided a second Hunterdon County, N.J., record. While Snowy Egrets are now abundant throughout coastal sections of this region, one at Exeter, Pa., May 15, on the upper Susquehanna R., where they are "rare at any time" (WR, EJ), was noteworthy.

Now that a few Louisiana and Little Blue Herons are nesting on the s. shore of Long Island, spring observations in coastal Westchester County, N.Y., are less surprising. A Louisiana spent the season near New Rochelle, and a Little Blue was at Rye Apr. 19 (TWB). A pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons again nested successfully at Rye (TWB).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — A Mute Swan nest at Goshen, Orange Co., N.Y. Apr. 4 (JPT) marked continued interior expansion. Single Brant May 11 at Deer Lake, Pa. (TC) and at Harvey's Lake, Pa., May 25 (TB) made exceptional inland records, the latter being the only known spring observation in n.e. Pennsylvania. A **Black Brant** at J.B.W.R. May 22-25 (N. Larsen, JA *et al.*) was well photographed by Costa to show the larger, higher neck patches that merge in front, a more diagnostic mark than the amount of ventral black. A ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** was at Manahawkin N.J., Apr. 18-May 8 (Steve Souder, IB, RK, MRH), a third or fourth New Jersey sighting.

More astonishing was a ♂ **Garganey** at B.H.N.W.R. Apr 24-May 5 (DWF, RAR, PGD *et al.*). Since the first record for this continent, at Hatteras in 1957 (*AFN* 11 334), we know of only two other e. North American reports; one on Prince Edward I., in the early 1970s and one at Plum I., Mass., in 1968, the latter not published because there was some possibility of an escape (*vide* DWF). That question is indeed always pertinent for exotic waterfowl in populated areas, all the more so for a species like this whose Old World range is rather southerly. The Garganey is one of the most long-range migrants among ducks, however, and individuals frequently overshoot their northern breeding limits in spring, turning up, for example in Siberia although they normally breed North only to Manchuria (G.P. Dement'ev *et al.*, *Birds of the Soviet Union* (1967) IV 493). Similarly, Garganeys reach Iceland though they normally breed north only to s. England. This proclivity in natural populations fits well with the pattern emerging in North America records. The nine w. Aleutian records that have accumulated since the first at Amchitka in 1968 seem natural enough (for the second, mislabelled first, cf. *AFN*: 24:634, and for the sequel *AB* 25:785; 28:838, 935 and 29:895). So do two w. Canadian prairie records (June 1961, Alberta, and May 1971, Manitoba, *AB* 25:759). It fits wild behavior, too, that all Alaskan and Canadian records except one (*AB* 30:110) are spring males, though the obscurity of female and fall plumages helps explain that Wild status is more problematical for a male in the same Long Beach, Cal., location in March 1972, 1974, and 1975 (*AB* 29:741), partly because the species is a late migrant. There is also a recent March observation in w. Mexico (P. Alden). As for the Bombay Hook bird, it was unbanded and exceedingly wary. Moreover, Ryan has ascertained that no one is now breeding Garganey in the United States, that the last importation dates back several years, and that none are left in collections in this area (We thank DWF for assistance with tracing North American records.).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES — Black Vultures continued to make a good showing north and east in the region. Four were found near the New Jersey shore of Delaware Bay at Dividing Creek Apr. 4 (Joe Jacobs, *vide* JKM), two were over Raccoon Ridge Apr. 30 (PD), a first record was obtained at Hook Mt., Nyack, N.Y., Apr. 24 (*vide* ES), and one over Route 55 in Dutchess County, N Y Apr. 22 (Brother Michael). These dates, which fall within the species' nesting period, suggest non-breeding wanderers.

Two **Swallow-tailed Kites** appeared at opposite ends of New Jersey on the same day, Apr. 20, at distances and at hours which preclude a single bird: Cape May, (JFA); Sandy Hook, (RJS, WFS). There had been about ten earlier New Jersey records, mostly recent and mostly coastal.

Daily spring coverage of two hawk lookouts was this season's major raptor innovation. Raccoon Ridge, in the Kittatinnies near Blairstown, N.J., was covered Mar. 1-Apr 30 (PD); Hook Mt., in the Hudson Highlands at Nyack, N.Y., was covered Apr. 1-30 (*vide* ES). While totals remained far below fall counts (Raccoon: 500 in March, 2782 in April; Hook: 2273 in April), some suggestive observations were made. At the Hook, most raptors passed on W or NW winds following an earlier warm front rather than during frontal passage. Distribu-

tion among species was about the same as in fall except that kestrels rose from 6% to 10%. No major early flight of Red-shouldered or Red-tailed Hawks was encountered, but Broad-winged Hawks appeared around Apr. 13 and continued abundantly through the month Peak days occurred around Apr. 17 and 28-29.

Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers were far below last fall's record totals. On the coast, a good flight of 30-40 birds was noted in Delaware Apr. 29 (MB, Barbara Lund) Remarkably, on that same day, NW winds produced the largest Sharp-shinned migration of the season at Hook (67 birds) and good numbers at Raccoon Ridge, though the maximum passed there with the warm front of Apr 15-17. But our knowledge of the dynamics of spring hawk migration remains in its infancy. Goshawks seemed to be "picking up" in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). Elsewhere there was a good passage at Raccoon Ridge (nine in March, ten in April) and Hook Mt. (six in April). A female in Central Park, N.Y.C., on May 1-2 (m.ob.) provided a first record there.

Raccoon Ridge reported three Golden Eagles in April, Hook Mt. one. A grand total of 12 Bald Eagle reports was received, including seven at Raccoon (none at Hook) during April. More unusually, a number of wandering immatures were around at the season's end, a hopeful sign: one at Basherkill, Orange Co., N.Y., May 15-16, the latest local record by more than a month (JPT), three on outer Long Island (Orient Pt., May 23, DL; Montauk Pt., May 31, GSR; Plum I., June 7, PAB, FGB, MG, all possibly the same bird), and two in Dutchess County, N.Y. (Staatsburgh, May 9, OTW; Washington Hollow, May 20, J&M Key). The eyrie at B.H.N.W.R. produced an eaglet for the first time since 1957 (JMA)!

A **Crested Caracara** astonished observers in Middlesex and Union Cos., N.J., from late March through the period. Photos (Mrs. Judi DiMaio) examined by Paxton showed that the bird was relatively undisturbed by automobiles, and many reports that it accepted food make it virtually certain that the bird escaped or was released from captivity. For the record, we received word of only eight Peregrine Falcons for the season including two each at favored coastal localities, Port Mahon, Del., and B.N.W.R. (P.E. Beach, MB, David Niles, JTMcN, J.K. McCitt), two at Raccoon Ridge (PD), and none at Hook Mt., despite daily coverage. One was reported in Dutchess County, N.Y., for the very late date of May 20 (J. & M. Key, Marion Van Wagner).

TURKEYS TO GALLINULES — Two Turkeys at New Hope Pa., throughout May (DH, David Johnson) constitute a new location. It is not known whether they were released or spread naturally. A single **Sandhill Crane**, now an almost annual occurrence somewhere in the Northeast, was reported from Great Swamp May 15 (Steve Zippo, John Kennington). We do not yet have full details.

Four Virginia Rails May 5 at Quakertown, Pa (GF) was a good s.e. Pennsylvania count. On a May 15 "big day" the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club found 14 in Dutchess County, N.Y. (*vide* OTW). A Purple Gallinule, picked up injured on a Pottstown, Pa., street soon after the Apr. 18 warm front, was delivered to the Philadelphia Zoo Apr. 21 (Ralph Horn).

WADERS — Seven Am. Golden Plovers, mostly from the southern part of our region, made fewer spring

records than recently usual: one at Little Creek, Del., Apr 18 (PGD), two at the Philadelphia airport May 11 (NP), one at Green Lane, Pa., Apr. 10-14 (GF, R.S. Brodey), one at Stone Harbor, N.J., May 6 (KS), and up to two May 29 at the H.M. (RK, TP). Other "plains" waders were in good numbers, however. White-rumped Sandpipers, whose spring numbers vary considerably, were the predominant "peep" or nearly so during the third week of May at Manahawkin, N.J., and very common in May at the H.M. (MRH). A May 11 count of 24 Long-billed Dowitchers at B.N.W.R. (PAB, M.J. Bartlett) was exceptional for spring; a single breeding-plumaged adult remained at Tobay Pond, L.I., Apr. 30-May 9 (LS, WB *et al*). Eight Stilt Sandpipers at B.H.N.W.R. on May 1 (JMA) was a good spring number; single birds were reported from Tobay and the H.M. Up to six W. Sandpipers on the upper Susquehanna R. at Exeter, Pa., May 22 and two nearby at Tunkhannock May 23, whose bright reddish scapulars could be compared with Sempalmated Sandpipers on the same flats, were very unusual (WR, EJ). But they must pass inland at some point to return to the far Northwest in spring. Other waders rarely recorded inland in spring were single Red Knots at Mohonk, N.Y., May 25, a first Ulster County record (JS) and at the H.M. on May 29 (RK). Two Marbled Godwits were found, both in the New York City area one at Travis, S.I., May 12 (HF) and another at J B W R. May 17 (ES).

Among European vagrants, if that is still the proper term, up to 11 Ruffs/Reeves were reported, weighted toward the s. coast as usual. The highest concentration was up to four at Port Mahon, Del., Apr. 4-May 14 (DAC, PGD, PAB, JKM *et al.*). A male at Mecox Bay, L I, Apr. 3-7, rediscovered Apr. 21-24 at Georgica Pond (CMcK), was acquiring a white ruff. Others included a Reeve at J.B.W.R. Apr. 23-24 (THD *et al.*), and singles at the H M. May 16-22 (IB, FL, TP), Mauricetown, N.J., Apr 15 (Alan Brady), and at Moore's Beach, N.J., May 2 (DEK) By contrast, only three Curlew Sandpipers were found one in winter plumage at Little Creek, Del., Apr. 17 (PGD⁺), and one each in breeding plumage at B H N W.R. May 14 (PAB, DAC *et al.*), and at J.B.W.R. May 15 (W. Kurau). Despite better coverage nowadays, these figures remain far below the maxima of the 1950's, when up to five in a day were recorded at certain favored sites near New York City which have since been destroyed.

Black-necked Stilts showed up north of known breeding areas even more conspicuously than usual. Ten at Little Creek, Del., Apr. 17 (PGD) were to be expected, but a bird at Manahawkin since May 23 (JFA, MRH, Tom Halliwell) was more unusual, and one inland at the Trenton Marshes Apr. 13 (Robert Hughes, Peter Fahey) was unprecedented. One at Montauk Pt. May 17 was remarkable (G. Rose, J. Terry). Such observations may become standard, for the New Jersey Div. of Fish & Game is attempting to restore the 19th century breeding population by importing 62 stilt eggs from Florida and placing them in Willet nests on state lands at Tuckerton and Island Beach. A similar experiment in 1952 on a smaller scale succeeded at least to the point of fledging young stilts. If this project succeeds, stilts may return to their historic proportions as more common than Am. Avocet in the region. The best avocet count this season was five at B.H.N.W.R. May 14 (DAC, PAB).

Wilson's Phalaropes were in good numbers along the coast, where up to ten were reported. More unusual were inland records: one at Harmony N.J., May 6 (Greg Hanisek), one at Easton, Pa., May 17 (*fide* NMM), one at L. Galena, Pa., May 13 (Fred Mears), and one at Goshen, Orange Co., N.Y. May 16 (M. Borko, Merritts *et al*) Recalling the unprecedented numbers of last fall, many N. Phalaropes were ashore in mid-May, probably as a result of rough weather at sea. Four were at Port Mercer, N.J. May 14, "following a strong SE blow" (Mary Discher, RoB), one the same day at B.H.N.W.R. (DAC, PAB), one at B.N.W.R. May 16 (SRL), eight in the H M May 16-23 (unprecedented in spring, IB, FL, TP), and 37 at Mecox May 16 (JA). These numbers were far below the hundreds ashore in some spring bad weather "wrecks" of past years, however.

JAEGERS, SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS — The Urner Club and the D.V.O.C. hit the jackpot with four Stercorariids at H.C. on May 29, in what Rowlett describes as "the finest jaeger show I've ever experienced at sea": three Long-tailed Jaegers (ph.), up to four ad Pomarines (one dark-phase), one Parasitic, and one Skua (ph.) "all hovering and feeding over a chum slick right off the stern" (RAR, PWS, 80 obs.). Ryan and Toffic had a roughly similar concentration there on May 26, except that the Skuas numbered 4-6. The specific identity of the Skuas now seen regularly offshore in summer (the Antarctic winter) is once more thrown into question with the collection of a South Polar Skua (*Catharacta maccormicki*) off Cape Hatteras this season (see details elsewhere in this issue). Photos taken at the H.C. on May 29 and 31 are being examined; another Skua sp was observed at C.L. May 31 (THD, JDiC).

A total of three Black-headed Gulls was reported one sub-adult from Great Kills Park, S.I., May 3 (HF, S Kerber) and, less normally, two from Delaware: one Apr 11 at Little Creek (KCR) and one May 10 at Cape Henlopen (JMA). As usual, Little Gulls were more concentrated in the south, with a maximum of seven at Little Creek Apr. 11-25 (KCR, PGD).

Coastal reports of Caspian Terns were above normal this spring, with a good group of five at Sagaponack, L I, Apr. 25 (CMcK), a single bird there May 22 (J Hamilton), and one at J.B.W.R. May 8 (RKe *et al*) Far more unusual were inland reports, two late wanderers on the Schuylkill R. at Phoenixville Pa., June 3, and an intriguing migrant along Raccoon Ridge Apr. 21 (PD) Caspian Terns have been seen here in the last two Novembers, but not in spring. The Great Lakes population has to cross inland somewhere, however, from the s. Atlantic coast, and the occasional spring bird along the ridges may prove as normal as those that pass upriver.

OWLS, GOATSUCKERS — Great Horned Owls continue to hold their own as breeders in suburbia. Leck reports that three pairs raised young on various Rutgers campuses in New Jersey. A calling Saw-whet Owl at Bake Oven Gap, Pa., Apr. 23 (KCR) could indicate a breeding area, although its nesting range southwards in the mountains is poorly known.

When the first Chuck-will's-widow nest was discovered last year on the s. shore of Long Island, it seemed a

remarkable jump from Leeds Pt., Atlantic Co., N.J., its previous northernmost nesting limit. This year, in addition to calling birds at two Long Island locations (THD *et al.*) and two New York City locations (Prospect Pk., May 1, S. Werner; Richmond Valley, S.I., May 2, HF, S. Kerber), males were heard calling at Island Beach, N.J., and were being actively sought at Sandy Hook [without success—Ed.] to see if this expanding species is filling in its range in n. New Jersey. It would be interesting to have comparably precise data on Whip-poor-wills. Although the species seems to be holding its own in a few choice coastal Long Island and New Jersey sites, Reid found only one all spring in n.e. Pennsylvania where ten years ago he would expect to hear five or ten in one outing.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS

— Although well established in many well-wooded interior sections, Pileated Woodpeckers remain noteworthy near the coast anywhere in our region. One at B H N.W.R. on Apr. 27 (F & BH) was a third refuge record; another was at Tuckahoe, Cape May Co., N.J., Apr. 23 (JDD). There was a fairly good number of Red-headed Woodpeckers in the northern part of the region, where it is uncommon in spring: one at Trenton Marsh Apr. 16 (MRH), one at New Brunswick Apr. 29, one at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, May 4 (JDiC), one at Wading River, L.I., May 13 (GSR), and one at Mohonk, N.Y., May 3 (JS). A number of widely scattered observers (MRH, WR, TWB) commented upon the scarcity of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and Reid believed that all woodpeckers were down in n.e. Pennsylvania.

Although Acadian Flycatcher is the ubiquitous *Empidonax* of the s. lowlands of this region, it is watched attentively in the north where it may be reestablishing the breeding areas in n. New Jersey, s.e. New York, and Long Island, from which it retreated in the last century. This season, in keeping with many southern species, Acadian Flycatcher was widely reported: four in Dutchess County May 15 (*vide* OTW) and one back at a former breeding site at Lithgow (Marion Van Wagner); four in New York City parks and on Long Island, where it arrived on the early date of May 6 (THD); and one back at a traditional locality at Red Rock, in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). A very early Least Flycatcher arrived Apr. 18 at Mohonk, N.Y. with the Easter warm front (JS).

JAYS TO CHICKADEES — The Gray Jay at Moore's Mill, Dutchess County, since Nov. third remained through the first week of May (*vide* OTW). A Com Raven was observed at Bake Oven Knob Pa., Apr. 24 (KCR) and another Apr. 19 at Raccoon Ridge (PD). Observations here, as elsewhere in the gap between thriving populations in the s. Appalachians and north of the region, have been increasing, especially in the fall. These dates are curious, however, for breeding ravens would have young in April. Fish Crows are often discovered hanging around inland when they resume calling in spring. Hannisian had his third consecutive spring record at Denville, N.J., Mar. 30, and Tramontano found his "annual returnee" at Middletown, Orange Co., N.Y., Apr. 28, although it did not stay the usual two weeks. Reid reports that Fish Crows have been nesting in n.e. Pennsylvania for the last fifteen years, often in Black-crowned Night Heron colonies.

At Bethlehem, Pa., seven of 36 chickadees banded were believed by Mutchler to be Carolinas. This is well north of what had been presumed to be their normal limit in e. Pennsylvania, i.e., around Philadelphia, although the problem of intergradation is a vexed one. After last fall's record chickadee influx, only one Boreal was found returning this spring: one moving N. on Bearfort Mt., N.J., with other chickadees and nuthatches Apr. 24 (TV)

WRENS, THRUSHES, SHRIKES, VIREOS —

House Wrens arrived unusually early with the Easter warm front: Apr. 18 in Westchester County (TWB), Apr. 19 at Mohonk (JS). A Short-billed Marsh Wren was present after May 25 in an area near Hunlock's Creek, Pa., where it had turned up in recent years in July (WR, m.ob.). In Dutchess County, Florence Germond had 18 nesting E. Bluebirds, 13 of which already had eggs by Apr. 18. One box was lost to raccoons, one to House Sparrows, and one to Tree Swallows, but four pairs already had young by Apr. 30. The only shrike reported for the entire season was a Loggerhead Apr. 8 at Jones Beach, L.I. (LS, WB *et al.*).

Many vireos arrived early. An exhausted White-eyed Vireo at Princeton Apr. 15 (CL) matches the earliest regional date, and a Yellow-throated on Apr. 17 in the Bronx Botanical Garden (m.ob.) was early. Reid had impressive counts from a rowboat on the upper Susquehanna R. at Tunkhannock, Pa., of singing male vireos on May 31: 13 Warblers and five Yellow-throateds in three miles.

WARBLERS — Observers widely scattered throughout the region (WR, JPT, GSR, OTW, TWB) thought that warbler numbers were low. Whether this reflects poor visibility in precocious vegetation, a lack of frontal waves, or genuine dearth cannot be determined. On the other hand, Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers seemed above average, as in the last three years Tennessee arrived early (Apr. 24-25 in N.Y.C., JA, JC, Apr. 24 at Matawan, N.J.), a full week before the previous early date, WFS) and seemed particularly abundant in n. New Jersey and s.e. New York (RK, OTW). Bay-breasted also arrived early with the Apr. 25 warm front (Far Rockaway, N.Y.C., HH, C. Ward) and seemed particularly abundant in the N.Y.C. area (THD) and around Philadelphia; Lawrence found up to 40 in a morning in Carpenter's Woods where previously he had considered a half dozen "outstanding". Most other species that arrived early were those that normally move in April and were ready to respond to the Apr. 18 warm front: e.g., a Louisiana Waterthrush at New Hope, Pa., Apr. 2 (D. Johnson), a Hooded Warbler at Carpenter's Woods, Philadelphia Apr. 17 (SRL), and Yellow Warblers at Far Rockaway and Central Park, N.Y.C., Apr. 18 (HH, RP).

Three "Lawrence's" Warblers were reported: one at Troy Meadows, N.J., May 15 (MRH), a singing male (ph.) mated with a ♀ Blue-winged at Allentown, Pa., May 20 (REW), and a singing male at Montauk Pt. May 23 (THD, Kenn Kaufman *et al.*). A modest total of Prothonotary Warblers was reported in the north of the region (e.g., seven in the New York City and Long Island areas) but the Swainson's of two years ago were not repeated. Cerulean Warblers turned up in good numbers at the e. edge of their breeding range, beginning with the

Apr. 18 warm front (one at the Brandywine R., Del., Apr. 19, Tom Nielson). Seven at the Scherman Sanctuary, Bernardsville, N.J., were above average for the season, and six on site at White Clay Creek May 15 (JMA, JL) were a good count at the one historic nesting area in Delaware. Yellow-throated Warblers, similarly at their e. frontier here, continued to appear in new areas, particularly in the s. and c. areas of the region. One arrived with the Apr. 18 warm front at Downingtown, Pa., (SCS) and another near Wilmington, Del., Apr. 17 (R. L. West). One even reached the coast at Tuckerton May 8 (BCH). More than normal reached the New York City area, with three during the warm front of Apr. 18 (R. Dieterich, S. Emmons, R. Sloss) and four subsequently (LS, W. Reilly, D.B. Ford, JA).

The annual increase in Kentucky Warblers over the last three years or so is followed with particular interest in the northern part of the region, for with the 1973 Long Island breeding record, a proven nesting range extension is underway. This year the first birds arrived north of established breeding areas with the Apr. 18 warm front (N. Y. C., m.ob.) and were strikingly common thereafter. Up to six males were in Forest Park, Queens, May 6-22 (JA, THD, H. McGuinness) and four on Long Island, sometimes lingering as if on territory: Levittown, Apr. 22, (R. Goodrich); Tobay, Apr. 30, (m.ob.); Wading R., May 15 (*vide* DL, and Yaphank), May 15-22, (GSR, DP, DL). They were more numerous in n. New Jersey than usual. In w. Morris County, they turned up in new areas (FF) and may be establishing breeding sites north of the traditional Jockey Hollow location (RK). Leck found them singing on three Rutgers campuses and in Princeton Woods.

Unusually good numbers of Mourning Warblers were reported, with the highest count four at Princeton May 23-27 (RB). Yellow-breasted Chats are becoming rare in much of the northern part of this region. A breeding pair at Mahwah, Bergen Co., is the only n. New Jersey report this season (John Moffett, *vide* RK), and none was reported from s.e. New York or Long Island.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — Yellow-headed Blackbirds lingered in several s.e. Pennsylvania and Delaware localities to the point where local observers looked for signs of breeding (the species breeds sparingly e. to n.w. Ohio). An unprecedented group of four was at Brookhaven, Pa., Apr. 1-21 (C. Holl), while single birds remained at Ridley Park, Pa., Mar. 31 - Apr. 13 (W. Stocku) and a male that had wintered at Newark, Del., was singing when last seen Apr. 18 (Joanne Patterson, JL, PGD). One was observed more fleetingly at Kempton, Pa., May 24 (*vide* MB). Four **Brewer's Blackbirds** were carefully identified at Paulsboro, N.J. May 26 (JTMcN) and the last of the B.H.N.W.R. flock was seen May 8 (TC). There is still no New Jersey or Delaware specimen, however, to confirm this species' status.

Summer Tanagers increase each year. It is to be expected that most occur in the s. coastal lowlands. At Dividing Creek, N.J., on Delaware Bay, where the first two state nesting records were obtained, Kunkle found six birds, three males on territory, and the state's third nest on May 30. More exceptionally, R.S. Brodey found one May 28 at Perkiomenville, Montgomery Co., Pa., and no less than 16 were reported from s.e. New York and Long Island. All of the males but one were sub-adult, suggesting non-breeding pre-colonizers. No pairs were

found, not even at Kilmer Woods, N.J., where Leck found a singing male for the third year in a row. One female was observed at Battery Park, N.Y.C., May 10 feeding on bread crumbs with House Sparrows (THD). Such a bird must have a future in our region.

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES, SPARROWS — A ♂ **Black-headed Grosbeak** in breeding plumage visited a feeder near Reading, Pa., Apr. 26-27 (*vide* WWK). The two sub-adults males (ph.) that wintered at feeders in Bronx and Westchester Cos. (presumed to be different birds) remained until mid-April. Seven Blue Grosbeaks were reported in s.e. New York during the season, a good spring total, and Reid found a pair May 16 at Tunkhannock, Pa. A single Dickcissel came aboard a ship 250 mi. e. of Cape May May 21 (RRV). The Dickcissel which had remained at a feeder in Cheswald, Del., since February had developed full breeding plumage when it was last seen Apr. 19 (JL).

Although there had been no pronounced Pine Grosbeak invasion last winter, a pair was discovered in Connetquot River S.P., L.I., Apr. 25 (J. Clinton, J. Ruscica). Park employees were certain that the birds remained until mid-May (*vide* R. Giffen). Common Redpolls, too, had been largely absent in winter, but after banding 200 at Denville, N.J., in Mar., Hannusian continued to see them there until Apr. 15. Pine Siskins lingered in their usual way, and a pair was observed copulating near Princeton Apr. 17 (CL). They were still in the area May 9; the species has bred in n.w. New Jersey and s. Westchester County, N.Y.

Three Eur. Goldfinches were observed at Muttontown Preserve, L.I., Apr. 3 (J. Greenlaw). It was later learned that a man who had bought six in London for \$75 a pair released them here in April and came subsequently to feed them. These releases took place ten mi. from Massapequa Park where the species last bred in the 1950s and where some may have bred in 1975 (AB 29:954) and where, incidentally, none have been found this year. But the incident counsels careful examination of circumstances surrounding observations of potential escapes or releases.

Many small flocks of Red Crossbills lingered in pine groves through May, with maxima of 30 at Gumboro, Del., Apr. 10 (R.L. West) and 25 at Henlopen Acres, Del., May 30 (JTL), but the only evidence of breeding was a pair with young on the wing at Middletown, Orange Co., N.Y. June 2 (JPT). White-winged Crossbills, virtually absent this winter, appeared in small groups in n.e. Pennsylvania: four, Hunlock's Creek, Apr. 17, (WR), four, Huntsville, Apr. 20, (EJ), but no evidence of breeding could be found. Seven turned up at Huntington, L.I., Apr. 18 (W. Lanyon). The **Green-tailed Towhee** that had frequented a feeder in Mickleton, N.J., since Nov. 20, the state's fifth record, was last seen Apr. 10 (Mrs. Joseph Pidgeon).

Since Henslow's Sparrow is difficult to find away from its regional stronghold in the Delaware Bay marshes, the following settled singing males seem noteworthy: one after May 13 at Millstone, N.J. (RJS) at a site since cleared; one May 23 at an intermittent colony at Hopewell, N.J. (MRH); and a pair at Dallas, Pa. as in the past three or four years (WR, m.ob.). One Lark Sparrow (ph.), rare in spring was at Jones Beach, L.I., May 2 (AW, S. Schiff). Twelve White-crowned Sparrows at Schuylkill Haven, Pa., May 3 (TC) were a good migrant flock there.

NOTE — A New Jersey Bird Records Committee has been formed to judge the validity of bird reports and to maintain an accurate and verifiable state list. The Committee has prepared a basic list of 313 species which do not need verification (*Records of New Jersey Birds*, May 1976). Other species should be reported on a form obtainable from the committee chairman, Richard Kane, Scherman Wildlife Sanctuary, Box 693, Bernardsville, N.J. 07924. A state photograph file is maintained at the same location. Other committee members are Vincent Abraitys, James F. Akers, Glenn R. Mahler, James K. Meritt, and P. William Smith.

CONTRIBUTORS — (sub-regional compilers in boldface): J.M. Abbott, J.F. Akers, Jim Ash, Terry Baltimore, M.V. Barnhill, Wilma Baumann, Irving Black, Ray Blicharz, Robert Blye (RoB), Maurice Broun, F.G. Buckley, T.W. Burke, Tom Clauser, Joe Costa, **David A. Cutler** (s.e. Pa., s. N.J., Del., address below), J.D. Danzenbaker, **Thomas H. Davis** (s.e. N.Y., L.I.: 9446 85th Rd., Woodhaven, N.Y. 11421), Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Joe DiCostanzo, P.G. DuMont, Jr., Peter Dunne, D.W. Finch, Howie Fischer, G.A. Franchois, Frank Frazier, Mike Gochfeld, Jesse Grantham, Frank and Barbara Haas, M.R. Hannisian,

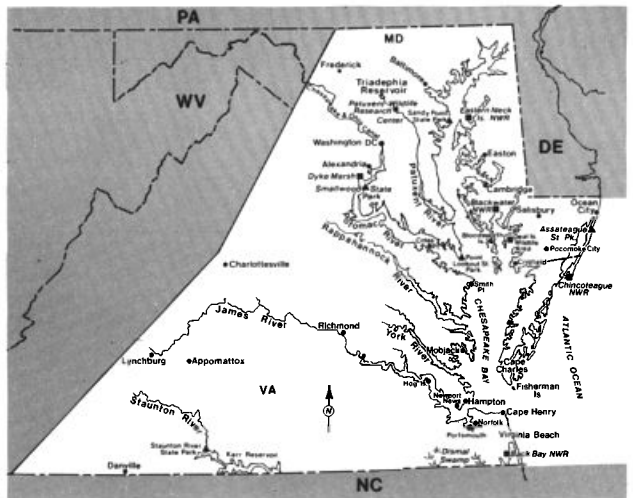
Dorothy Hartman, B.C. Hiatt, Helen Hirschbein, Edwin Johnson, **Richard Kane** (n. N.J.: address above), Richard Kelly (RKe), W.W. Kelley, D.E. Kunkle, Dave Larsen A.J. Lauro, S.R. Lawrence, Charles Leck, Jay Lehman Frank Lenik, J.T. Linehan, Chris McKeever, J.T. McNeill, J.K. Meritt, August and Judy Mirabella, N.M. Mutchler, Roger Pasquier, Ted Proctor, Nick Pucinella Dennis Puleston, Gilbert S. Raynor, **William Reid** (n.e. Pa.: 73 West Ross St., Wilke-Barre, Pa. 18702), K.C. Richards, R.A. Rowlett, Richard Ryan, W.F. Sandford, K. Seager, Lore Schore, R. Schutsky, Eric Single, P. William Smith, R. J. Smith, S.C. Stahl, Jim Stapleton, Greg Toffic, J.P. Tramontano, R.R. Veit, T. Vogel, Dorcas D. Ward, O.T. Waterman, R. E. Wiltraut, Alvin Wollin. Symbol used: †=detailed description submitted. Abbreviations used include B.H.N.W.R. (Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge), B.N.W.R. (Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge), C.L. (Cox's Ledge), D.V.O.C. (Del. Valley Ornith. Club), H.C. (Hudson Canyon) H.M. (Hackensack Meadows), J.B.W.R. (Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge) and (ph.)=photographed. — **ROBERT O. PAXTON**, 560 Riverside Drive, Apt. 12 K, New York, N.Y. 10027, **P.A. BUCKLEY**, North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service 150 Causeway St., Boston, Mass. 02114, and **DAVID A. CUTLER**, 1110 Rock Creek Drive, Wyncote, Pa., 19095.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/F. R. Scott

April continued the succession of months with above-normal temperatures that began in February, but May turned somewhat cooler than the mean. Precipitation was quite low in April, extending a somewhat dry spell beginning in January, but was normal or somewhat above normal in May. Nevertheless, the cumulative rainfall deficit began to show up in low water levels in refuge impoundments by the end of the period.

The migration was relatively uneventful and somewhat of a puzzle. The warm weather through early May would normally have presaged an early migration, but this was certainly not the consensus of field observers. J. W. Eike probably summed up the migration best with the statement, from northern Virginia, that the "migration was spotty here, some birds early, some late." One universal agreement among observers was that there were no major concentrations or waves of passerines, but minor waves were reported in the Washington, D. C. area on May 7, 17, and 21 (RAR). Vegetation was extremely far advanced, making late April and May difficult for those birders without well tuned ears. There was some



feeling that even if spring arrivals were more or less on time, many winter residents left early. A good water bird flight was recorded April 1 in Amherst and Louisa Counties, Va. following locally heavy rains (JBB & RC), with some of the birds remaining in these Piedmont areas for several weeks.

LOONS THROUGH IBIS — A probable Arctic Loon in second or third winter plumage was carefully compared to a Com. Loon at Chincoteague N.W. R., Va., Apr. 3 (JMA). There were some excellent counts of Com Loons in Chesapeake Bay. Wierenga and Hoffman recorded 1615 moving N over Annapolis and Sandy Point S.P., Md. (S.P.S.P. below) Mar 21-May 26, with

peak days of 297 on Apr. 15 and 359 on Apr. 18. Reese also noted 237 Com. Loons on the Bay between the mouths of the Patuxent and Patapsco Rivers Apr. 14, and farther inland Eike counted seven flying NW over Clifton, Va., Apr. 6. The peak count of Red-throated Loons on the upper Chesapeake was 12 off Anne Arundel County, Md., Apr. 3 (HLW *et al.*), and one near Lewisetta Va., May 15 (FRS) was rather late. Two **Eared Grebes** in breeding plumage appeared at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., Apr. 4 (RLA & DLH) and remained about three weeks. They were photographed in direct comparison with the abundant Horned Grebes in the area. A boat trip off Ocean City, Md., May 9 yielded 48 N Fulmars, 1700 Wilson's Storm-Petrels, and one **Leach's Storm-Petrel** (RAR, PGD *et al.*), whereas the peak Sooty Shearwater count was 18 counted flying northward off Back Bay N.W.R., Va., May 24 (RLA). A **White Pelican** was present at Craney I., May 30-31 (JRA, RLA, BW *et al.*), and an apparently ad. ♂ **Magnificent Frigatebird** was seen near Ocean City Apr. 14 (DBn, *vide* RAR). A second frigatebird, this time in imm. plumage, appeared at Chincoteague I., Va., May 14 and remained until it was picked up May 17 with a broken wing by town police (TRB, MRB, JT *et al.*). The bird was given to the National Zoo where it died May 20 (*vide* CRV). A Green Heron nest with four eggs at Saxis, Va., May 14 was situated on a duck blind only one foot from an occupied Osprey nest (MAB & JB). A Least Bittern at S.P.S.P., Apr. 4 was apparently a record early spring arrival for Maryland (HLW, MLH & SJM). Five Glossy Ibises appeared far inland in Louisa County, Va., Apr. 17 (JBB & ST), and one at S.P.S.P., May 30 was very late (HLW). Single subadult White Ibises were noted at Cape Charles, Va., May 13 (MAB & JB) and Chincoteague June 1 (DBP).

WATERFOWL AND HAWKS — There were 23 Snow Geese still present at Chincoteague Ref., May 16 (LKM), and one appeared at Blackwater N.W.R., Md., May 22 (HTA) but was not seen before or after this date. Among the late coastal duck concentrations were 25,000 White-winged Scoters near Sharps I., Md., Apr. 22 (JR) and 1000 Red-breasted Mergansers off Anne Arundel County, Md., Apr. 3 (HLW *et al.*). The latter species seemed more common inland than usual, good local counts being ten in Amherst County, Va., Apr. 1 (RC) and 43 at Hopewell, Va., Apr. 4 (FRS). There were the usual late duck reports during May, including a Redhead near Richmond, Va., May 1-19 (FRS), another at Chincoteague Ref., May 16 (LKM), and a single Canvasback, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked, and Ruddy Duck at Dulles airport, Loudoun Co., Va., May 30 (JMA *et al.*) A **Swallow-tailed Kite** found at Blackwater Ref., May 20 by Meanley was also seen the next day by Willey. Single Rough-legged Hawks were noted at S.P.S.P., Mar. 7 (SJM) and Apr. 10 (HLW), and up to five ad. and five imm. Bald Eagles were present at Blackwater Ref. in late April and early May (HTA). The Bald Eagle nest survey in the Chesapeake Bay area revealed 76 active nests (32 in Virginia and 44 in Maryland), of which 49 were abandoned and 27 (6 in Virginia and 21 in Maryland) produced a total of 37 young (JMA *et al.*). In addition, five pairs apparently established territories, but egg laying could not be confirmed. The only appreciable hawk migration reported was along the w. shore of

Chesapeake Bay at S.P.S.P. and Annapolis, Md. Some 281 Sharp-shinned Hawks were logged here passing N Mar. 13 - May 10 with a maximum of 74 on Apr. 6 (HLW & MLH), whereas Mele recorded a peak of 114 at nearby Severna Park Apr. 15. Eighty Ospreys were counted here Mar. 13-May 11 with a peak of eight on Apr. 11 (HLW & MLH). Maximum Am. Kestrel counts were 44 on Apr. 6 at S.P.S.P. and Annapolis (HLW & MLH) and 40 at Severna Park Apr. 15 (SJM).

RAILS THROUGH PHALAROPES — A King Rail in Louisa County, Va., Apr. 18 (JBB) was locally unusual, and an injured Clapper Rail was picked up inland at Richmond Apr. 14 and later died (FM & CRB). The specimen is now in the collection of Virginia Commonwealth University. Five Virginia Rails were an unusual find for Goose Creek Valley, Bedford Co., Va., Apr. 20 (RC & MRB), and in s. Dorchester County, Md., Armistead totaled 74 on May 8 with the help of a tape recorder. A Sora at Assateague I., Md., Mar. 28 was very early (SHD), and two **Yellow Rails** were reported calling, one at S.P.S.P., Apr. 14-17 (HLW & MLH) and another at Elliott I., Md., Apr. 24 (RAR). A Purple Gallinule was located at Norfolk Apr. 15 and remained to early May (SH, WT, RLA *et al.*—photographed).

A Wilson's Plover nest with eggs on Assateague I., Md., May 15 was probably a record early date for the state (MLH *et al.*). In Louisa County, Bazuin found an Am. Woodcock nest with eggs Apr. 9 and noted a peak count of 60 Com. Snipe Apr. 10. Nine Whimbrel on the Choptank R. near Cambridge, Md., May 22 were highly unusual (JR & DK). Single migrating Upland Sandpipers were noted at S.P.S.P., Apr. 4 & May 7 (HLW) and in Middlesex Co., Va., Apr. 30 (MAB), but two pairs at Dulles airport, Va., May 30 (JMA *et al.*) were probably breeders. Chandler discovered a pair of ad. **Spotted Sandpipers** with two downy young in Amherst Co., May 31, the first confirmed breeding report for Virginia in many years. A Willet at S.P.S.P., Apr. 7 was quite early (MLH), and Vaughn recorded a peak of at least 1000 Red Knots at Wallops I., Va., May 15. Good numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers appeared along the coast, maximum counts including 13 at Blackwater Ref., May 22 (HTA), 30 at Chincoteague Ref., May 23 (BWK), and at least 75 at Craney I., May 17 (MRB). A Marbled Godwit at the last location, also on May 17 (MRB), was the only spring report.

At least four different Ruffs occurred at Craney I., Apr. 10-May 7 (RLA, PGD, DLH *et al.*), and Am. Avocets, which reached a late winter peak here of 330 (RLA), had declined to 120 by late April (PGD *et al.*). The only other avocet reports were singles at Chincoteague May 1 (BWK) and Wallops I., May 23 (CRV). One to two Black-necked Stilts were present at Craney I. from Apr. 24 at least to May 9 (RLA & DLH), at least one remained at Chincoteague Ref. from May 2 to the end of the period (BAL, LKM, CRV *et al.*), and a single appeared at Deal I., Md., May 30 (CFH, CRV *et al.*). Offshore phalarope counts included six Reds and 1000 N. Phalaropes off Ocean City, Md., May 9 and 20 Northern in the same area May 16 (RAR *et al.*). Up to four Northern were found at Craney I. in late May (RLA *et al.*), a single was noted in a road near Sussex Courthouse, Va., May 30 (RLA & JRA), and single Wilson's Phalaropes were seen in four different locations.

SKUAS THROUGH SKIMMERS — Rowlett's pelagic trips off Ocean City listed one *Skua* Apr. 11 and two May 9. Although all — or most — skuas in this area are thought to be *Catharacta skua* (*C.s. skua* of the A O U. Check-list), there are possibilities of other species, especially *C. maccormicki*, so the true composition of the population here will have to await further study, as will the validity of some of the species themselves. A large spring concentration of gulls at S P S.P. reached a peak of about 8000 on May 1, and a remarkable ten species were identified here between Apr. 25 and the end of May. Among these were a Glaucous Gull Apr. 25 (HLW), at least three different Iceland Gulls May 1-21 (HLW, RAR *et al.*), and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** May 1 (PGD, MLH, HLW *et al.*) and May 14 (DBK *et al.*). Other Iceland Gulls were found on the Patapsco R., Md., Apr. 22 (JR) and the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va., May 15 (MRB), and another **Lesser Black-backed** was seen on the Patapsco R., Apr. 14 (JR). The Herring Gull colony on Fisherman I., Va. had 900 pairs — a decided increase over 1975 — on May 15, most with eggs (MAB & HC). There were six pairs of Great Black-backed in this colony, but no nests were found. However, one Great Black-backed nest with eggs was located on Chincoteague Bay, Md., May 27 (MAB & CS) A Black-headed Gull photographed at Craney I., May 7-9 (DLH *et al.*) was the only one reported, and Boatwright found an ad. Laughing Gull far inland near Lynchburg, Va., May 25. Record inland counts of Bonaparte's Gulls included 108 at Hopewell (FRS) and ten near Culpeper, Va. (ST), both on Apr. 4. Maryland added two new species of gulls to its state list during the spring. At least *seven* different **Franklin's Gulls** appeared at S P.S.P., May 11-30, with up to five being seen at one time (HLW, MLH, RAR *et al.*). An ad. **Sabine's Gull** was identified 68 mi. e. of Ocean City May 9 (RAR, PGD, BB *et al.*), and another adult appeared at S.P.S.P., May 21 (HLW, CWC, DBK *et al.*). Further publication of these records in more detail is planned.

Two Gull-billed Terns at Chincoteague Ref., Apr. 4 (JMA) were very early, and a nest with eggs was located near Assateague I., Md., May 15 (MLH *et al.*). Two were seen at S.P.S.P., May 10 (RAR) and three May 30 (HLW); there are very few prior records of this species this far up the Chesapeake. Byrd and Stinson located 1086 nesting pairs of Forster's Terns in numerous colonies in Chincoteague Bay, Md. and Va., May 27-28. There were many small young and a few large young, but most nests had eggs. There were also many dead young, of no apparent cause. Two different **Arctic Terns** were observed closely and photographed 50 and 60 mi. e. of Ocean City May 16 by many observers (JMA, MVB, RAR *et al.*). All field marks were noted including the supposedly diagnostic call notes. Royal Terns had eggs in a small colony on Sinepuxent Bay, Md., May 15 (MLH *et al.*), whereas farther south in Chincoteague Bay, Md. a colony of 1000 pairs was 40% hatched May 27 (MAB & CS) The Fisherman I. colony was estimated at 2300 pairs of Royals May 15 and also contained at least two pairs of Sandwich Terns (MAB & HC). The Caspian Tern count at Hopewell peaked at a record 54 on May 2 (FRS). Most appeared to be moving upriver. Black Skimmers had eggs in a small colony on Sinepuxent Bay May 15 (MLH *et al.*), and singles were seen on four occasions in the S P S.P. area May 1-30 (HLW, PGD *et al.*).

CUCKOOS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Lynchburg Apr. 13 (KMF) was very early, as was a Chuck-will's-widow at Bellevue, Md., Apr. 16 (HTA). Wierenga recorded 17 more Barn Owls flying over Annapolis in April and early May, giving him a spring total of 47 between Mar. 14 and May 10. Adult Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were feeding young in a nest in Surry Co., Va., May 16-30 (RLA & DLH), and three singing Willow Flycatchers were apparently on territory at Dulles airport May 30 (JMA & WSC). If true, this last record represents a considerable extension of this bird's known breeding range in the state. The E. Wood Pewee appeared to be unusually late this spring. Although there were a few early May reports, three of the region's most active field observers could not locate one before May 15. At Craney I., Ake noted fully feathered young Horned Larks in late March and nonfledged young May 31. A **Tree Swallow** nest near Brightwood, Madison Co., Va. had hatching eggs about May 12, the young leaving June 1 (JWS & MBC). This is the first breeding report for Virginia's Piedmont in modern times. A late swallow flight at S.P.S.P., May 30 consisted of 25 Trees, 250 Banks, and 15 Purple Martins (HLW), but along the Potomac R. near Alexandria, Va., Abbott noted no martin flight at all, in contrast to hundreds normally seen in late April and early May. A fully fledged young Bank Swallow trapped and banded at a colony near Hopewell May 30 must have hatched out no later than May 14 (CRB). Two Cliff Swallow colonies were located in Piedmont Virginia (RC). One near Big Island on the James R. had two partially completed nests May 15 and the other on the Tye R. in Nelson County had seven completed nests May 23. Both of these colonies are at the foot of the Blue Ridge.

JAYS THROUGH WARBLERS — The peak Blue Jay counts at S.P.S.P. of 1000 on May 2 & 15 were considered "unspectacular" (HLW), and at Fort Belvoir, Va., Abbott thought the jay migration was very late, with three small flocks recorded May 31. A singing Black-capped Chickadee was heard at Charlottesville, Va., Apr. 11 (RSM), the last of the few winter records for the c Virginia Piedmont. Another, apparently of this species, was found at a nest hole in May in extreme s. Frederick County, Md., about 25 mi. from currently known breeding populations (EH & IH). Armistead found a singing Brown Creeper at Bellevue, Md., May 31, a significant extension of the recent spate of breeding season records. Water Pipits remained fairly common in some areas into early May, but one at Craney I., May 31 (RLA) was by far a record latest regional date. A singing Solitary Vireo at Chincoteague Ref., Apr. 27 (BAL) was unusual here, and two Warbling Vireos in Frederick County, Md., Apr. 18 were quite early (BAL).

There were two extralimital reports of **Swainson's Warblers**. A singing bird was present at Chincoteague Ref., May 23-27 (BWK & LKM), and at least one singing male was at Great Falls, Va. from late May into June (DW, MW, JWE *et al.*). Among the very early warbler reports were six Worm-eating Warblers at Shad Landing S.P., Md., Apr. 11 (RAR), a Parula at Seneca, Md., Apr. 4 (RAR), a Magnolia at Shad Landing S.P., Apr. 24 (RAR), and a Cape May in Frederick County, Apr. 20 (BAL). Very unusual was an Orange-crowned Warbler at Chincoteague Ref., May 30 (LKM), a record late date for

Virginia. Yellow-rumped Warblers remained late in May in some numbers, with two still at Clifton, Va., May 26 (JWE) and Blackpolls seemed in normal numbers, with inclusive dates at Norfolk being Apr. 28 and June 6 (RLA). Northern Waterthrushes were more common than usual in c. and s.e. Virginia, with a peak count of eight singing birds at Richmond May 11 (FRS). Unusual for extreme s.e. Virginia was a singing ♂ Mourning Warbler at Back Bay Ref., May 24 (RLA).

GRACKLES THROUGH LONGSPURS — A ♂ Boat-tailed Grackle at Poplar I., Md., Apr. 16 could not be located later (JR). This species is quite rare this far up the Chesapeake. Blue Grosbeaks arrived quite early, the first reports being Apr. 19 at Lewisetta, Va. (FRS) and Apr. 21 at S.P.S.P. (MLH). An Indigo Bunting at Lynchburg Mar. 31 (MRB) was early, and a Dickcissel was singing near Hopewell May 15 (FRS). There was breeding evidence for the House Finch in two Virginia localities. Pairs of adults were feeding fledged young at Arlington May 13 (REF) and at Richmond May 21 (FM). A pair also remained near Clifton at least to May 27 (CGJ), and on the same date a singing bird was found in Goochland County, Va. (FRS). At Annapolis at least ten House Finches remained at Wierenga's feeder into June for the third successive year. After being rather scarce all winter, Pine Siskins suddenly became locally common during April and early May, with a peak report of 115 in Charlottesville May 5 (CES). There were several late dates, including May 17 at Annapolis (HLW), May 21 at Charlottesville (CES), May 22 at Assateague I., Md. (SHD), and June 2 at Clifton (JWE). Red Crossbills were widely reported throughout the region, with late May observations from James City Co., Va. (BW) and Bellevue (HTA), Pocomoke Swamp (CFH), and Laurel, Md. (JS). Several observers reported numerous Henslow's Sparrows at Elliott I., Md., with a peak count of 13 here May 10 (RAR). Seven singing males at Dulles airport May 30 (JMA) were also significant. A count of 32 Seaside Sparrows on the rocky islands (no vegetation other than a little grass) of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-

Tunnel, Va., Apr. 24 (PGD *et al.*) clearly indicated a heavy migration of this species, probably the previous night. Among the late migrants or lingering winter residents were a White-crowned Sparrow at Clifton, May 22 (JWE), a White-throated Sparrow at Virginia Beach May 23 (RJT), and two Lapland Longspurs at Craney I., Apr. 4 (RLA & DLH).

CORRIGENDUM — Five lines were inadvertently left out of the last fall migration report (*AB* 30: 49). The last two sentences of paragraphs 6 on p. 49 should read as follows: "Peak E. Kingbird numbers were 110 at S.P.S.P., Aug. 23 (HW) and 790 at Kiptopeke Beach Aug. 31 (FRS), and four reports were received of single W. Kingbirds: S.P.S.P., Oct. 12 (MLH, HW *et al.*), Ocean City Oct. 19 (PGD, RAR *et al.*), Kiptopeke Beach Oct. 22-25 (RWF, WPS *et al.*), and Wattsville, Va., Oct. 29 (CRV & LKM). A Least Flycatcher was singing at Wallops I., Aug. 17 (RHP), and late Yellow-bellied Flycatchers included one at Crownsville, Md., Oct. 19 (DB) and one at Kiptopeke, Beach Oct. 21 (RWF), both of the latter two being trapped and banded."

CONTRIBUTORS — J.M. Abbott, J.R. Ake, R.L. Ake, H.T. Armistead, T.R. Baptist, M.V. Barnhill, J.B. Bazuin, Jr., C.R. Blem, M.R. Boatwright, Jim Bowman, Bill Bremer, Dale Brown (DBn), M.A. Byrd, Danny Bystrak (DBk), C.W. Carlson, M.B. Cater, Ray Chandler, W. S. Clark, Helen Curcio, P.G. DuMont, S.H. Dyke, J. W. Eike, K.M. Fielder, R.E. Furcolow, Evan Hannay, Ives Hannay, C.F. Hills, M.L. Hoffman, Sue Hubbard, D.L. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. C.G. Johnston, B.W. Keelan, David Krantz, B.A. Lund, L.K. Malone, Brooke Meanley, S.J. Mele, R.S. Merkel, Fred Murray, D. B. Peacock, Jan Reese, R.A. Rowlett, Jay Sheppard, J. W. Skelton, C. E. Stevens, Chris Stinson, Wickham Taylor, Sarah Thomas, Julio de la Torre, R. J. Tripician, C. R. Vaughn, Don Weisman, Mary Weisman, H. L. Wierenga, Guy Willey, Bill Williams. — F.R. SCOTT, 115 Kennondale Lane, Richmond, Va. 23226

SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/Robert P. Teulings

April was extremely dry and warmer than usual. The early onset of spring weather resulted in some species arriving or departing ahead of schedule, but the migration overall was not noticeably early. Stable weather patterns and lack of strong frontal systems generally allowed transients to move through the Region in a steady but unspectacular flow with few waves or peaks. Observers were virtually unanimous in characterizing the warbler flight as the poorest (i.e., least conspicuous) in recent years.

SKUA, PELICAN — The most unusual record of the season was reported by Joe Hudick who found and captured a weak and emaciated skua on the beach at Cape Point, Hatteras I., N.C. May 17. The bird died the following day and was sent to the U.S.N.M. where

preliminary examination indicated the specimen to be a South Polar Skua (*Catharacta maccormicki*). If the tentative identification is confirmed, the record will be



published in full detail documenting a first North Atlantic occurrence of this species. [If, indeed, this form is a full species.—Ed.] Elsewhere along the N.C. Outer Banks, a White Pelican was present May 25-26 at Pea Island N.W.R. (*vide* NFW).

HERONS THROUGH SPOONBILL — A Louisiana Heron was a rare inland visitor at Atlanta May 1 (TM, JS), and one was seen at Pendleton, S.C. May 16, a first spring record for that w. Piedmont locality (SG). American Bitterns were found in abundance at L. Benson near Raleigh during the height of the migration period with at least ten seen there May 2 (RH). An unexpected Piedmont record for Glossy Ibis was reported from Winston-Salem where two were seen May 5 (RO, *vide* RS). An imm. Roseate Spoonbill was clearly observed and photographed at Baruch Plantation, Georgetown Co., S.C. Apr. 7 (SB). Another spoonbill, or quite possibly the same bird, was later seen at Huntington Beach S.P. June 3 (*vide* FP).

DUCKS — Fulvous Tree Ducks, present in good numbers last year, were nearly absent this season. Only one sighting was reported during the current period, an individual seen at Bulls I., S.C. Apr. 15 (FP). Wintering waterfowl generally departed the Region before mid-March, when unseasonably warm weather set in. A few lingerers remained through the spring period, however, including a Blue-winged Teal at Atlanta May 29 (BR, *vide* JS), a Lesser Scaup at Litchfield Beach, S.C. June 2 (FP), four Ring-necked Ducks at Weldon, N.C. May 28 (ML), several Surf Scoters at Long Beach, N.C. May 30 (MT), and a Black Scoter at Davis, N.C. June 1 (JF).

BIRDS OF PREY — An impressive tally of 12 Swallow-tailed Kites was recorded at Fairlawn Plantation near Georgetown, S.C. Apr. 17 (SG). In North Carolina a flock of 23 Mississippi Kites, including several immatures, was observed along the Roanoke R. s.e. of Scotland Neck May 30 (JCr, ML). This report, which follows two previous spring sightings from the Roanoke R. basin, apparently signals a significant northward range extension for the species. Another Mississippi Kite was also seen on the Eno R. near Durham, N.C. Apr. 24 (MS). Elsewhere, a good flight of raptors highlighted by a conspicuous movement of Red-tailed Hawks, Marsh Hawks and Am. Kestrels was noted in the Southern Pines area Mar. 31 (JC), and an unusually early Broad-winged Hawk was recorded at Raleigh Mar. 19 (TH). Golden Eagles were seen Mar. 25 in Uwharrie N.F., Montgomery Co., N.C. (BL) and at Okfeenokee N.W.R. Apr. 18 (TR). There were sightings of two Bald Eagles (ad. and imm.) at Santee Coastal Reserve near McClellanville, S.C. Apr. 25 (PN), a single immature at Raleigh Apr. 18 (JM), and another at Morehead City May 25 (JF). At Pea I. an imm. Peregrine Falcon was seen May 9 (RLA).

RAILS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Near Morehead City Black Rails were present (nesting?) at Cedar I. and North R. marsh in late May (JF). Inland one was heard calling near Clemson May 4 in an area where the species was found last spring (HL). Black Rails were also heard at Eufala N.W.R. in s.w. Georgia May 1 (TM, JS). During the third week of May impressive numbers of shorebirds were concentrated along the N.C. Outer Banks with over 30,000 birds seen at Oregon Inlet May 18

(RA, RR). The tally on that date included 400 Semipalmated Plovers, 175 Black-bellied Plovers, 1200 Ruddy Turnstones, 2000 Least Sandpipers, 8500 Dunlin, 2800 Short-billed Dowitchers, and an estimated 17,500 Semipalmated Sandpipers. A rare Curlew Sandpiper was also present among the migrants, along with 70 White-rumped Sandpipers, 30 Stilt Sandpipers and four N. Phalaropes (RA, RR). At Pea Island NWR at least 20,000 shorebirds were gathered May 21, mostly Dunlin, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Sanderlings (NFW). A Ruff was found inland near Omaha, Ga. a few miles n of Eufala N.W.R. May 1 (TM, JS), the state's third record. An unexpected inland occurrence of an Am. Oystercatcher was noted at Fayetteville, N.C. May 7 (PC), and a flock of 20 Whimbrel was seen at Hibernia Pt. on Kerr Reservoir in Vance County, N.C. May 24 (RJ, HS, SH). Nine Black-bellied Plovers were found May 25 at a drained pond site near Eden, N.C. (EB) and one at Raleigh May 8 (CO), both uncommon inland records. Upland Sandpipers, White-rumped Sandpipers and Pectoral Sandpipers were each recorded at several inland locations with a late sighting of the latter species noted at Eden May 22 (EB). Two N. Phalaropes were a noteworthy find inland near Gainesville, Ga. May 23 (BR, *vide* JS).

GULLS THROUGH ALCIDS — Inland observers noted the first flocks of migrating Bonaparte's Gulls at Raleigh Apr. 3 (RH) and Clemson Apr. 9 (SG). A very early appearance of Caspian Terns was recorded at Raleigh Mar. 28 where 14 were seen by David Whitehurst. On the coast, early arrival of Sandwich Terns was noted at Cape Hatteras Apr. 9 (JH), and there was an earlier than usual sighting of a Black Tern at Morehead City Apr. 24 (DM, KH, DW). Partially decomposed but identifiable remains of a Razorbill were found on the beach at Pawleys I., S.C. May 1 (RAD), the second specimen picked up along the South Carolina Coast during the winter-spring period. There were, however, no strong indications of a major alcid invasion this year.

DOVES THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — A full albino Mourning Dove was an unusual rarity seen Apr. 12 and regularly thereafter for about two weeks at Bethania, Forsyth Co., N.C. (CF *et al.*). Ground Doves were reported nesting again at Topsail I., N.C. (WT, *vide* DL) and may be breeding as far north along the North Carolina coast as Bogue Banks, where an individual was found at Ft. Macon S.P. Apr. 25 (RH). Sightings of Budgerigars were listed in reports from Litchfield Beach S.C. (FP), Fayetteville, N.C. (PC) and Morehead City with indications that a small population may be becoming established at the latter location. (JF) At Litchfield Beach a flock of seven Monk Parakeets was also seen in early April (FP). The parakeets were present for several days in Brookgreen Gardens but apparently did not remain. A very unusual inland sighting of a Short-eared Owl was reported from N. Wilkesboro, N.C. where an individual was seen conspicuously perched on a telephone wire Apr. 29 (WS). Although this species is a regular winter resident along the coast, occurrences in the inland sections of the region are rare. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was a noteworthy find at Ft. Benning, Ga., May 31 (MF).

SWALLOWS THROUGH VIREOS — A very early Rough-winged Swallow was recorded at Columbus Mar. 7 (*vide* LAW). Nearly 200 migrating Bank Swallows were seen at Clemson May 1 (*vide* HL) and two late transients were noted at Raleigh May 25 (CM, MT). A Wood Thrush was found as early as Mar. 29 at Clemson (SG, KA), and a late Swainson's Thrush was seen at Winston-Salem May 30 (FB,WI,KH). A Crested Myna was an unexpected visitor at Southern Pines Apr. 28, seen winging over the Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve (JC). Observers reported finding single Philadelphia Vireos at Columbus Apr. 25 (SP), Chapel Hill May 3 (ALB) and N. Wilkesboro May 20 (WS). Several Warbling Vireos were noted in the Winston-Salem area in early May (*vide* RS) and there were rare spring sightings of individuals at Chapel Hill May 2 (*vide* BRo) and Roanoke Rapids May 8 (*vide* ML).

WARBLERS — Reported as notable early arrivals were a Louisiana Waterthrush Mar. 5 at Columbus (*vide* LAW); a N. Parula Mar. 24 and a Black-throated Green Warbler Mar. 31 at Raleigh (KH); a Canada Warbler Mar. 30 at Atlanta (DH); Prothonotary, Worm-eating and Kentucky Warblers Apr. 5 in Uwharrie N.F., Montgomery Co., N.C. (BL); a Tennessee Warbler Apr. 7 at Raleigh (GW); and two Orange-crowned Warblers at Clemson on the same date (SG). Observers were excited to find several Connecticut Warblers in the Atlanta area this spring (*vide* JS) and others were seen elsewhere in the w. Piedmont at Seneca, S.C. (SG), Clemson (HL) and Winston-Salem (*vide* RS). Nashville Warblers were uncommon finds at Winston-Salem May 3 (RHo) and Raleigh May 4 (KH, MT), as were Cerulean Warblers at at Clemson Apr. 16 & 20 (HL), Chapel Hill Apr. 26 (RC), and Huntington Beach, S.C., May 22 (JMCC). Late Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers were recorded at Winston-Salem May 30 (FB,WI, KH), and a Cape May Warbler was seen at N. Litchfield Beach, S.C. as late as June 1 (RP).

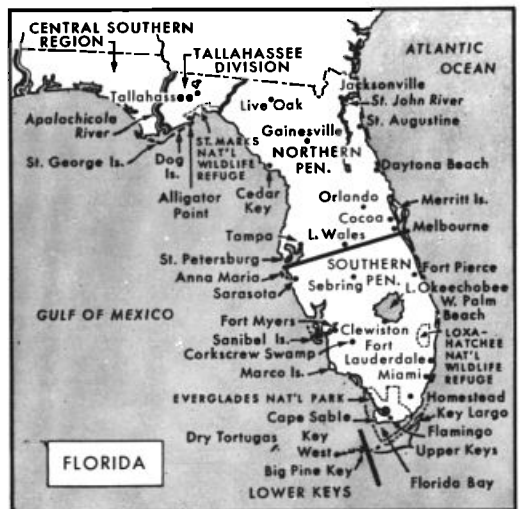
BOBOLINK THROUGH SPARROWS — A late transient Bobolink was seen near Scotland Neck, N.C. May 30 (ML). Two ♂ Dickcissels giving the impression of being on territory were seen at Pendleton, S.C. May 16 (SG) and another, believed to be a migrant, was seen at Clemson May 21 (HL). Locally rare or uncommon feeder visitors recorded during the period were a pair of Brewer's Blackbirds at Winston-Salem May 1 (*vide* RS), a W. Tanager in Atlanta Apr. 22 (EH), and a Painted Bunting at Fayetteville May 7 (*vide* PC). Two ♂ Purple Finches made a very late appearance at a feeder in Winston-Salem May 27 (BP), and a pair of House Finches was also present in that area through the end of May (*vide* RS). Pine Siskins lingered late in several localities, while Evening Grosbeaks were very common in Atlanta through most of the period (*vide* JS). A few Red Crossbills nested at Southern Pines and Raleigh before departing the Region as evidenced by observations (JC&RJ) of adults feeding fledged young. Red Crossbills were still present as late as May 23 in the Atlanta area with nesting suspected there also (JS). Elsewhere a sighting of a Pine Grosbeak, a northern visitor seldom seen in the Region, was recorded in Francis Marion N.F. Apr. 3 (TB). At Clemson a Henslow's Sparrow was a good find Apr. 10 (HL). Sharp-tailed Sparrows, not

usually found inland, were also good finds at Pendleton and Clemson May 17 & 21 (HL). A Lincoln's Sparrow was also present at the latter location Apr. 1-3 (HL), and other occurrences of this uncommon species were noted at Atlanta Mar. 21 (TM *et al.*) and Raleigh May 8 (CO)

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS — Ken Able, Robert Ake, Robert L. Anderson, Fran Baldwin, Stu Ballard, Ted Beckett, Wilson Brame, Annie Lee Broughton, Ed Burroughs, Jay Carter, Robin Carter, Joel M. Clark, John Crawford (JCc), Phil Crutchfield, Eugene Cypert, R.A. DesPortes, Louis Fink, Dennis Forsythe, Charles Frost, Mike Fuller, John Fussell, Sidney Gauthreaux, Robert Hader, Paul Hamel, Dan Harvey, Steve Howard, Kevin Hints, Royce Hough (RHo), Tom Howard, Joe Hudick, Eileen Hutchinson, Wayne Irvin, Ron Johnson, Barbara Lee, David Lee, Harry LeGrand, Merrill Lynch, Chris Marsh, Jim McConnell, Darryl Moffett, Terry Moore, Jim Mulholland, Perry Nugent, Robert Odear, Clark Olson, Sam Pate, Barbara Page, Frederick Probst, Renee Probst, Tom Rial, Barbara Roth (BRo), Richard Rowlett, Billy Russell, Mike Schultz, Howard Stewart, Wendell Smith, Romona Snavelly, John Swiderski, Will Thomson, Mike Tove, David Whitehurst, Gail Whitehurst, N. F. Williamson. Abbreviation: U.S.N.M., U.S. National Museum — **ROBERT P. TEULINGS, Route 2, Box 154, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.**

FLORIDA REGION /Herbert W. Kale II

Highlights of a "mixed" spring migration season in the Florida Region (which, for those not familiar with its boundaries, does not include the panhandle west of the Apalachicola River) featured the second Florida record



of the Razorbill, the second U. S. record of the Bahama Mockingbird, the third U. S. record of the Tawny-shouldered Blackbird, and numerous "latest-ever" dates for migrants. Stevenson considered the migration in the Tallahassee Division (hereafter, Tally Div.) "about the

best in my experience, especially in May," undoubtedly a result of the numerous rainy periods and cold fronts that occurred. Several of these fronts extended the length of the peninsula — the most notable during the last weekend in April and the first weekend in May. John Ogden reported "the heaviest wave of spring transients I have ever seen in south Florida occurred May 1-3, an overcast, rainy weekend." Virge Markgraf found the spring migration in the Jacksonville area uneventful, except for that front of May 1-3. Similar comments described migration in the Gainesville and Cocoa areas. As usual, few migrants escaped the extensive surveillance maintained at Mullet Key when hardly a day passed without one or more birders visiting the rich birding areas of the Pinellas peninsula.

Because sporadic rains fell throughout the dry season in south Florida few serious wildfires occurred, and although by mid-April most of the interior areas were bone dry, these rapidly filled with water as unusually early May rains drenched the peninsula. Aerial surveys of wading bird colonies being conducted cooperatively by National Audubon, Florida Audubon, Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, and Everglades National Park revealed little nesting at interior colonies in April, but by mid-June numerous colonies had become established. For the third successive year National Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Wood Stork colony produced several thousand new birds (Jerry Cutlip).

LOONS, TUBENOSES, AND TROPICBIRD — A Red-throated Loon at Ft. Pierce Inlet May 2-4 (JMB, H&WD) was late, as was a Horned Grebe 20 mi. e. of Cape Canaveral (hereafter, Cape Can.) May 30 (RDB, JJ). Two Cory's Shearwaters 18 mi. e. of Cape Can., May 30 (RDB, JJ) and eight Greater Shearwaters 50 mi. out May 23 (JJ) were the first seen this spring. Although several observers saw the small shearwater during the Fla. Ornithol. Soc. pelagic trip May 8 off Miami Beach, only John Edscorn and Joel Abramson, perched in the wildly pitching bow, were able to identify it as a Manx — the first spring record for the southern peninsula (hereafter S. Pen.). A rare Black-capped Petrel and a White-tailed Tropicbird were observed close in with numerous Wilson's Storm-Petrels May 18, 50 mi. e. of Cape Can. (JJ)

BOOBIES AND WADERS — Three Masked (=Blue-faced) Boobies appeared, one at the Dry Tortugas (hereafter D. Tort.) May 22 (BA), one sick on St. Petersburg Beach May 29 (Dee Shepard), and an immature 18 mi. e. of Cape Can., Apr. 13 (RDB, JJ). Several Brown Boobies posed for visitors passing by Rebecca Shoal en route to the Tortugas (many observers — hereafter m.ob.). Reddish Egrets again nested on Alafia Banks in Tampa Bay (FD) and further evidence of the slow reoccupation of its historic range were two newly fledged young in trees at Arsenicker Key rookery in Biscayne Bay in mid-April (JTT), the first East Coast nesting in this century, although only 20 mi. n.e. of known nesting sites in e. Florida Bay. An Am. Bittern at Orange L. Alachua Co., May 30 (JEC, JJC) was the latest in the N. Pen., although it may be summering there. Roseate Spoonbills also nested again at Alafia Banks (FD) and post-breeding birds from the Keys were reported

throughout the region, with the earliest spring record for the Tally Div., Apr. 14 at St. Marks N.W.R. (WWB) Up to 100 were reported in the marshes near Matanzas Inlet during May (*fide* Marineland dockmaster), and 15 birds were seen flying N over Nassau Sound May 27 (RWL). An Am. Flamingo took up residence at Pelican Island N.W.R. in mid-April and was still there in June, (S.L. Wineland), while the flamingo present at Big Marco Pass since last summer remains there (THB)

GEESE AND DUCKS — Two broods of Canada Geese were seen e. of Tallahassee Apr. 30 (HMS) A "Blue" Goose at Longboat Key, Sarasota Apr. 7 (GCM, DHM) was the latest for the S. Pen. A Fulvous Tree Duck inside Ft. Jefferson, D. Tort., May 22 ¼LA, CB) marked the latest date for the Lower Keys, and one at Toytown Dump, St. Petersburg (LH), still present at the end of May was the latest for the N. Pen. An unheard-of 2500 were in the n.w. corner of L. Okeechobee Apr. 11 (WG), while ten birds were still there May 11 (JJS, PWS) A ♂ Canvasback at McKay Bay May 28 (DL, SL) was the latest spring date for the N. Pen., and a ♂ Oldsquaw Apr 17 at St. George I. was the latest for the Tally Div. (JMS) The second breeding for the Ruddy Duck in Florida occurred in a rock pit near Live Oak and was noted May 29 (GEM, HMS).

RAPTORS — An estimated 15 pairs of Mississippi Kites may be breeding in the Gainesville area. On Apr 23, 17 kites were seen feeding over a 20-acre field n.w. of the city (JEH). A rarity in the Lower Keys was a Swallow-tailed Kite Apr. 9 on the Saddlebunches (MB). Several Everglade Kites nested in Conservation Area 3A for the second time since 1968 (PWS), and four birds (one carrying nest material) were seen in the St. Johns Drainage District reservoir 10 mi. w. of Vero Beach Apr 19 (HWK, PWS). A Sharp-shinned Hawk on D. Tort., May 17 (KK, SR) was the latest for the Lower Keys An active nest of the Broad-winged Hawk in s.w. Gainesville contained two downy young May 30 (JHH). One adult was south of the breeding range when seen Apr. 20 along the Peace R. in DeSoto Co. (NJC). Two Short-tailed Hawks were reported — a white phase at Palmdale Apr 29, and a black phase at Flamingo May 11 (JBE) Bald Eagles had an unusually successful nesting season this year with several nests fledging three young each (*fide* D Mager). Possibly the southernmost nest was on Cudjoe Key, where two young were reared (MB). A Peregrine Falcon and Am. Kestrel at D. Tort, May 24 (B&LA, CB) were among the latest on record there.

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — Three Black Rails were calling 5 mi. s.w. of St. Marks Apr. 12 (JBE *et al.*), and an unusually high count of 36 Purple Gallinules was made at L. Lafayette, Leon Co., May 27 (HMS). Two pairs of Snowy Plovers each had two newly hatched young at Johnson Shoals, Collier Co., Apr. 18 (OKH, MMS), and an Am. Golden Plover was flushed at Bell's Dairy in Palm Beach Co., Apr. 11 (HPL *et al.*). The Upland Plover is rarely reported in the Keys, hence two at Key West Apr 19 (FTH) were notable, and one at Alligator Pt. May 15 (HMS, GEM) was late. An unheard-of 37 Solitary Sandpipers were counted at the Lakeland sewage ponds Apr. 10 (JBE, HE). A Purple Sandpiper at Naples Beach since early winter was still there May 28 (THB) — the latest date for the S. Pen. Five Pectoral Sandpipers at the

D Dot Ranch, Jacksonville Apr. 4 (SAG) were unusual. Numerous reports of White-rumped Sandpipers came from the Gulf Coast with five at Port Charlotte Apr. 10 (MMS — earliest for S. Pen.). Several remained at Garden Key, D. Tort., from May 18 (JBE) until the end of June (m.ob.). Two at Lakeland May 4 were the first there since 1968 (JBE), and 14 were 50 mi. e. of Cape Can., May 7 (JJ) Both Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers were seen in a flock of 20 “ranging from basic plumage to nearly full breeding plumage” at Port Charlotte May 15 (MMS). High counts for Leon County, were 13 Long-billed Dowitchers at L. Jackson Apr. 16 (JMS) and five on Apr. 20 (HMS). Stilt Sandpipers were uncommonly numerous with 150+ in Lakeland through April to mid-May (JBE) and five at Merritt Island N.W.R., Apr. 23 (Sam Jenkins). A Wilson's Phalarope at St. Petersburg May 27-29 was the latest in the N. Pen. (LH, LA, DG). The second Florida record of the **Razorbill** occurred Apr. 11 at St. George I., (GEM, JRP), but unfortunately, the bird did not tarry for the birders who rushed to this most unlikely spot the next day (JBE *et al.*).

My last three spring reports mentioned the fortuitous reprieves from destruction by developers enjoyed by the huge Laughing Gull (plus terns and skimmers) colony on St. Petersburg Bayway. This year the axe — or, rather the bulldozer — fell, and the site was leveled for condominium construction. Reportedly, the gulls are now nesting on some islands in Tampa Bay. Roseate Terns were relatively scarce both at Key West (FTH) and the Tortugas (JBE). One was unusual at St. Armand's Key, Sarasota Apr. 6 (Jos. Faggan) and several were seen regularly off Cape Can., Apr. 23 - May 4 (RDB, JJ, DH). Bridled Terns were off Miami Beach, seven on Apr. 29, and three on May 8 (m.ob.), and a Brown Noddy at Indian Rocks Beach, St. Petersburg Apr. 26 (T. Hungre) provided the first spring record for the N. Pen., although it was a sick bird. Black Skimmers were reported nesting with Least Terns on the roof of Burdine's Dept. Store in South Miami (M. Trafton) and on the Port Everglades Authority warehouse roof in Ft. Lauderdale (L. Greene). Skimmers over Newnan's L., Alachua Co., May 1 (JJC) & 23 (JEC, JJC) were unusual so far inland.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS, NIGHTHAWKS — “Hundreds” of White-crowned Pigeons on Key West May 3 aroused comment from several observers (FTH) and one on Hypoluxo I., Palm Beach Co., Apr. 13 was far north of its range (GH, AA, *et al.*). Two White-winged Doves seen near Boynton Beach Apr. 15 (HPL, GH, *et al.*) suggest possible northward expansion of the growing population south of Miami. A Mangrove Cuckoo studied for 10 minutes as close as 10 feet on the ground at L. Maggiore, St. Petersburg (JBE) [date?] was an exciting event. Two Mangroves were at Ding Darling N.W.R. on Sanibel I., May 8 (GH, AA *et al.*); one at Anhinga Trail, E N P., May 2 (MA, PWS) was unusual so far inland, and one was seen at D. Tort., May 17 with numerous Yellow-billed Cuckoos (KK, SR). Black-billed Cuckoos are rare migrants in most of Florida, but one was seen on Summerland Key May 3 (MB) and at St. George I., May 15 & 22 (JMS). A Smooth-billed Ani was nest building Apr. 24 at Anhinga Trail (Bob Myers), up to three were in St. Petersburg, Mar. 31-Apr. 13 (P&B Shannon *et al.*), and one at Fernandina Beach Mar. 29-Apr. 5 (Pat Leary) couldn't get much farther north in Florida. Burrowing Owls, probably two pairs, again nested at the old Imeson

Airport north of Jacksonville (B. Obst), and one at Ft. Jefferson May 1 (JBE) provided one of few records for the Tortugas, and the latest for the Lower Keys south of Marathon. A pair nested on the Bayway at Tierra Verde for the first time (JBE), and the last pair at the last known Lakeland colony fledged four young while three houses were being constructed close by — an ominous portent of their future (JBE). A possible northernmost record of the “Antillean” Nighthawk was of one seen and heard calling at Mullet Key May 8 (LH, PJF, CG).

SWIFTS, FLYCATCHERS — Chimney Swifts are rarely seen in the Keys, hence one flying over Pirates Cove, Sugarloaf Key May 6 (MB), Key West May 22, and the D. Tort., May 18 (JBE *et al.*) were notable. Three in Naples May 25 were probably late migrants (THB). A late Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was s.w. of Homestead May 5 (R. Miele), and a rare Wied's Flycatcher was seen and heard in dense growth west of U.S. 441, Palm Beach Co., Apr. 4 (HPL). An E. Phoebe on Little St. George I., Apr. 24 (WWB) was the latest for the Tally Div., but most exciting was a **Black Phoebe** on Loggerhead Key, D. Tort., Apr. 13 (E.J. Fisk) making the fourth sight record for Florida. Three Acadian Flycatchers on St. George I., May 26 (WWB, JMS) were the latest for the Tally Div. No previous records for the Least Flycatcher, except possibly an unidentified *Empidonax* at the WCTV tower, exist in the Tally Div., yet this spring six birds were seen and heard at St. George I. (JMS) or Alligator Pt. (HMS, GEM) Apr. 21 - May 19. A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at D. Tort., through May 24 (B&LA, CB) was the latest for the Lower Keys. An E. Wood Pewee at D. Tort., May 24 (B&LA, CB) was late, and one at St. George I., May 26 (WWB, JMS) was the latest for the Tally Div.

SWALLOWS, TITMOUSE, CREEPER — At least one, possibly more, Bahama Swallows were reported at various localities 2-12 mi. e. of Key West — on Cudjoe Key May 15 (MB), Boca Chica May 16 (FTH, WB), and Key Haven May 22 (B&LA, CB), and May 23 (WB, CG) At least two, and often four, Tree Swallows were seen daily at Newnan's L. from May 16 to the end of the period. One adult, with one or two primaries missing from one wing, appeared to fly weakly (JEC, JJC). A Bank Swallow was late on the Tortugas May 22 (JBE) and six at Newnan's L. May 26 (JEC, JJC) were the latest for the N. Pen. Nesting of Barn Swallows on Paynes Prairie (SAN, AAS) and Cliff Swallows at the Port Mayaca Bridge on the e. side of L. Okeechobee, Martin Co., where they nested in 1975 (PWS), confused interpretation of “late” records for these species in Florida. “Latest” Cliff Swallow dates were set in the N. Pen. by a bird in Gainesville May 17 (JEH) in the Tally Div., by one north of East Pt., Franklin Co., May 26 (WWB, JMS), and in the Lower Keys by a Cliff Swallow and two Barn Swallows at Fort Jefferson, Dry Tort., throughout June (HWK). A Brown Creeper on Dog I., Apr. 24 (FHS, LW) was a month later than the previous latest date for the Tally Div.

MOCKINGBIRD, THRUSHES — Probably the most exciting find of the period was the **Bahama Mockingbird** (*Mimus gundlachi*) seen and photographed by Scott Robinson and Kenn Kaufman on Garden Key May 17. Considered a “not normal” N. Mockingbird when seen May 16 (MS) it was closely observed May 18 (JBE, HBH, HNA), but was gone by May 20 (Betty



Bahama Mockingbird, Garden Key, May 17, 1976. First North American record verified with photographs. Photo of Scott Robinson.

Robertson) and a search May 22-24 (B&LA, CB) failed to find it. This represents the second N. American record — the first verified with photographs. The first sight record was a bird seen May 3, 1973 at East Key, Dry Tort., by Paul and Fran Buckley. Gray Catbirds were seen throughout the state well into May, with one singing at Key West May 15 (FTH), three at St. George I., May 15 (JMS), one at Mullet Key May 16 (BE), and one near Gainesville May 30 (D&SH). Thrushes were present in fair numbers, some late into May. Two Wood Thrush nests, neither successful, were found in Gainesville in May (J.W. Hardy). The latest Swainson's Thrushes in the N. Pen., and Tally Div., respectively, was one at Mullet Key May 26 (LA), and one at L. Lafayette May 27 (HMS). One on Dry Tort. was late on May 24 (B&LA, CB), as was a Veery there May 22 (JBE).

PIPIT, VIREOS — Two Water Pipits near Pirates Cove Apr. 16 (JAB) mark the latest date for the Lower Keys. Florida's latest record for Bell's Vireo was provided by one on Anhinga Trail May 2 (JBE, H&B Shaw *et al.*). Black-whiskered Vireos, two on St. George I., Apr. 24 (JMS, NOW), rarely occur this far north (but see Tom Imhof's "S.A." on his Spring 1975 Report, AB29:865.) A Red-eyed Vireo at Mullet Key May 30 (LH) was the latest in migration for the N. Pen (the species breeds north of Tampa and southward in the interior to L. Okeechobee). One was very late at Key West May 18 (JBE *et al.*). Three Philadelphia Vireos on St. George I., May 1, 19 & 26 (JMS) equals the number of all past observations for this species in the Tally Div., while the last date is the latest for the division.

WARBLERS — In addition to the fact that nearly every eastern warbler to be expected was seen this spring, one of the more remarkable comments that can be made of the 1976 migration was the tardiness of numerous birds. In addition to 21 new "latest-ever" dates being set, many other species tied or were just short of surpassing previous late records. All of the West Indies migrants — Cape May, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Am. Redstart, Com. Yellowthroat, etc., were abundant. A Black-and-white Warbler on St. George I., May 26 (JMS) was the latest for the Tally Div. A Swainson's Warbler near S.R. 40 at the Oklawaha R. May 22 (DDH) was the

latest for the N. Pen., and one on Hypoluxo I., May 16 (GH) latest for the S. Pen. Several were at Mullet Key Apr. 1 (WB) - May 6 (LA) and one at Jack Island S.P. May 3 (JMB). Rare Golden-winged Warblers were at Mullet Key Apr. 9 (HE, JBE), Ft. Lauderdale Apr. 13 (WJB), and Wilton Manors, Broward Co., May 12 (TH), this being the latest for the S. Pen. The second spring record in the N. Pen., of the rare Brewster's Warbler was one at Mullet Key Apr. 24 (D&GL, m.ob., and well-photographed by BA). Blue-winged Warblers were seen at Mullet Key Apr. 7 (LA), 11 (m. ob.), Hypoluxo I., May 5 (AA), and s. of Clermont Apr. 18 (Mrs. Iva Young)

A Tennessee Warbler at Mullet Key Apr. 8 (WB) & 24 (LA, LH, TR). A N. Parula at Mullet Key May 15 (LA, TR) was latest for the N. Pen., and one on St. George I., May 19 (JMS) the latest for the Tally Div. The rare Nashville Warbler appeared on Mullet Key May 15 (LH B&LA, TR) was the latest for the N. Pen. Two Yellow Warblers on the Tortugas May 22-24 (JBE, B&LA, SC) were undoubtedly migrants (latest for Lower Keys), and one at Mullet Key May 26 (LA) is the latest, N. Pen. One at St. George I., May 26 (JMS) tied the latest Tally Div. Two Magnolias on Mullet Key May 19 (LA, TR) were the latest for the N. Pen., and four at St. George I., May 26 (JMS) were the latest for the Tally Div., as was a Yellow-rumped on St. George I., May 19 (JMS). A Black-throated Green at D. Tort., May 18 (HNA, HBH, JBE) tied the latest Lower Keys date, and one at Mullet Key May 26 (LA) was the latest for the N. Pen. A Cerulean at Gainesville Apr. 24 (JEH) was the only one reported this spring; surprisingly none were seen at Mullet Key (JBE) Blackburnian Warblers, never common in Florida, were seen widely — at Jacksonville May 2 (VMM), St. George I., May 19 (JMS), D. Tort., May 17 (KK, SR) & 22-24 (B&LA, CB), and Mullet Key May 26 (LA — latest N. Pen.). A Chestnut-sided at D. Tort., May 24 (B&LA, CB) was the latest for the Lower Keys. A Bay-breasted on Merritt I., Apr. 3 (JJ), and two at Mullet Key May 26 (LA) were the earliest and latest, respectively, for the N. Pen., and one at D. Tort., May 23 (B&LA, CB) was the latest for the Lower Keys.

A Palm Warbler at St. George I., May 15 (JMS) was the latest for the Tally Div. An Ovenbird on May 29 [I presume at Mullet Key—Ed.] was the latest, for the N. Pen. (LH *et al.*), and one that struck the WCTV tower May 25 (RLC) was the latest for the Tally Div. A high of 16 N. Waterthrushes were at Mullet Key Apr. 21 (CB) and one on Merritt I., Apr. 27 (JJ) was the latest for the N. Pen. A Connecticut on Longboat Key, Sarasota Apr. 30 (GCM, DHM) was the earliest for the S. Pen., while several were present on Mullet Key (m. ob.) up to May 25 (WB). At least 8 (unprecedented) were in the Ft. Lauderdale area May 3 (WJB, WG, TH, BH), one at Merritt I., May 16 (DH), and one struck the WCTV tower May 4 (RLC). A high of 100+ Hooded Warblers were at Mullet Key Apr. 8 (m.ob.), and a Canada Warbler singing in Stevenson's yard in Tallahassee May 5 (HMS) provided only the fourth spring record for the Tally Div

BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS — Bobolinks were scarce in some areas, numerous in others. Up to 200 were at Mullet Key Apr. 29 (TR *et al.*) and at Jacksonville Apr. 26-28 (MCD), 300 in fields in DeSoto County, May 8 (NJC), and a single late bird at Mullet Key May 31 (LH). A Yellow-headed Blackbird visited a feeder in

Jacksonville Apr. 10-20 (D. Proctor). Numerous Red-winged Blackbirds are seen along the Florida Keys in different plumages — hatching year birds with almost no shoulder patch, second year birds with epaulets of varying shades of orange, and third year or older birds with brilliant red and yellow-bordered epaulets. Call notes and songs vary considerably. Hence, the observation on Garden Key May 18 of a small black “Redwing,” with “buffy-orange” epaulets, uttering soft “chick” (as opposed to “check”) calls shouted **Tawny-shouldered Blackbird** (*Agelaius humeralis*) to John Edscorn. Unfortunately, the bird was not photographed or seen again. Other observers were Agey, Herbert, and Schnaedelbach, and the sighting marks the third N. American record (both previous records were also in the Keys, the first represented by a specimen at U.S.N.M.). An Orchard Oriole at Mullet Key Apr. 24 (B & LA) tied the latest N. Pen. date. Brown-headed Cowbirds were noted in DeSoto County, until Apr. 26 (NJC), and 12 in Alachua County, May 30 were considered a “bad sign” (AAS). A strange sight at Maclay State Gardens in Tallahassee May 20 was as pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers feeding a young cowbird three times as large as the little foster parents (J.A. Stevenson). A W. Tanager at Tierra Verde Apr. 9 provided the first Pinellas County record (JBE, HE). Blue-gray Tanagers were seen at their usual breeding localities at Dania Apr. 29, and N. Miami May 21 (JBE), and a ♀ Stripe-headed Tanager, was observed at close range on Hypoluxo I., May 3 (HPL).

FINCHES — Most division editors commented on the unusual numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks this spring, with 25 in Jacksonville May 2-9 (VMM), one at Mullet Key Apr. 6 (LA, LH, WB) — the earliest in the N. Pen — and a late bird there May 8 (CG *et al.*), several at Vero Beach (HWK) and Ft. Pierce (HV) during April, two at Naples Apr. 17 & 25 (THB), and a “half dozen” in Palm Beach County (HPL). At least two pairs of Blue Grosbeaks, visited a backyard near Ft. Pierce during April and early May (HV). A Dickcissel in Tallahassee Apr. 23 (GEM) was the only one reported this spring. Two Goldfinches in St. Petersburg May 12 (LH) were late, and one near Eastpoint June 1 (FHS, HMS) was the latest for the Tally Div. Unlike warblers, no sparrows established any records this period, except possibly by their absence. Few reports even mentioned sparrows. A White-crowned at St. Marks Light Apr. 27, is rare on the coast in spring (FHS, LW), and four on Paynes Prairie May 4 (JEC *et al.*) were late, and only a single Lincoln’s Sparrow was seen on Mullet Key this spring — on Apr. 17 (P.J.F, CG).

CONTRIBUTORS — (area editors in boldface) — H. Norton Agey, Mary Anderson, Brooks Atherton, Lynn Atherton, Ann Ayers, W. Wilson Baker, **Robert D. Barber**, J. Austin Beard, **Ted H. Below**, Wes Biggs, William J. Bolte, Jane M. Brooks, Margaret Brown, Charles Burman, Julie C. Cocks, Caroline Coleman, Jack J. Conner, Jesse E. Conner, Robert L. Crawford, Noel J. Cutright, Mary C. Davidson, Helen & William Dowling, Frank Dunstan, Helen Edscorn, **John B. Edscorn**, Paul J. Fellers, Charles Geanangel, Shirley Geddes, Wally George, Dave Goodwin, Samuel A. Grimes, Dale D. Habeck, **Frances T. Hames**, D & S Hartman, Dan Heathcote, Ted Hendrickson, Harlan B.

Herbert, Oliver K. Hewitt, **John H. Hintermister**, Brian Hope, James E. Horner, Larry Hopkins, Gloria Hunter Johnny Johnson, Kenn Kaufman, Dave Lambeth, Greg Lambeth, Harold P. Langridge, Lyda Lennard, Robert W. Loftin, Donald H. Mace, Grace C. Mace, **Virge M. Markgraf**, Gail E. Menk, Stephen A. Nesbitt, **John C. Ogden**, John R. Patterson, Scott Robinson, Trish Roche Mike Schnaedelbach, Malcolm M. Simons, Jr., Alachua Audubon Soc., **Henry M. Stevenson**, James M. Stevenson, Mrs. F. H. Stoutamire, Joan J. Sykes, **Paul W. Sykes**, Jim T. Tilmont, Helen Vick, Noel O. Wamer, Leslie Warren.—**HERBERT W. KALE II**, Florida Audubon Society, 35-1st Court SW, Vero Beach, Florida 32960.

ONTARIO REGION /Clive E. Goodwin

It was a cold, hostile spring with stories of mortality, sparse migrants and late arrivals. The mortality was probably accentuated by one or two periods of unseasonably warm weather which brought migrants in early, only to be followed by equally unseasonable cold



Unseasonable, however, only in the context of long-term averages. In the context of the past ten years last spring was still cold, but far more typical than the heat of May 1975.

A pattern of alternating extremes commenced in February, and March closed with a flurry of early arrivals which continued into early April. March 27 brought a Dunlin to Mountsberg (DMcC *et al.*), and April 3-4 a string of early migrants including dabbling duck to Manitoulin I. (JN, CB), Virginia Rails at Eastbourne (MBA) and Melbourne, which also had a Sora (GEM), Lesser Yellowlegs at Minesing (TL, CJM) and Cliff Swallows at Rondeau P.P. (*vide* AHK). Virtually all of these, and the dates that follow, represent record-early arrivals for the areas in question, and some probably for the Province as a whole.

Cold returned for the next few days and movement slowed, although Manitoulin I. had an early Osprey on April 9 (GG); but on April 16 a body of very warm air moved into the south of the Province, and this late May weather produced a flood of May birds which continued over the Easter weekend and until April 23. The mass of records is completely unmanageable, but some must be enumerated if only to illustrate the scale of the influx. On the 16th Joe Kleiman witnessed reverse migration of Common Flickers and other species at Point Pelee (and environs, below, Pelee) while a Wilson's Warbler was at Kettle Point (AR) and a Black-and-white at Eastbourne (JM) April 17 sightings included a Spotted Sandpiper at Manitoulin I. (CB), a Red-eyed Vireo at Delaware (GEM) and five White-crowned Sparrows at Prince Edward Point (below, P.E. Pt.) by MJE. On the Sunday the flood continued with a Green Heron at Oshawa (DC), a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and a Wood Thrush at Ottawa (SDM, RMP), a Solitary Vireo at Peterborough (FH) and a Magnolia Warbler at Pimisi Bay (Lde KL), and over the three days some 300 flickers were seen taking off from the tip of the Bruce Peninsula (DK). On April 19 some 6000 Golden-crowned and 2000 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were estimated at P.E. Pt. (RBS), with a Palm Warbler and Scarlet Tanager also seen (KFE *et al.*) and a Least Bittern at nearby Kingston (RDW). Elsewhere there was a Semipalmated Plover at Mimico (JAK), a Black Tern at Long Point (L. P. B. O.), and Komoka had a Nashville Warbler (WM). The spread of these observations indicates the enormous geographic range of the movement: it even extended north to Marathon where Nick Escott had an influx in spite of drizzle and cold!

By April 25 winter was back: at Presqu'île P.P. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen with snow on their backs (DMcR, GC) and in Albion Twp. Bennett and Dawe found "hundreds of birds standing out on the roads" and watched an Upland Sandpiper wandering around in the snow! The end of the month brought a brief amelioration: movement was very heavy at Long Point (L. P. B. O.), Kingston had a Black-bellied Plover (RDW) and Darlington Twp. a Black-billed Cuckoo (TN) on the 30th, and Manitoulin had a Short-billed Marsh Wren (JN) and Ottawa a Bobolink (ED) on May 1. More winter followed for a few days with swallow mortality at Pelee, but the worst cold spell followed a period of heavy movement around May 10-11. Dead swallows and swifts were picked up at P.E. Pt., and the 30 Barn Swallows at the lighthouse there were reduced to three.

The spectacular list of early dates should not create a false impression: for many observers there was no spring migration. The Observatories and the reporters who maintain daily records all emphasize scarcity and lateness. Canada Geese were still moving at Englehart on June 8 (JW), a White-crowned Sparrow was still at Matheson June 2 (CEG), Great Black-backed and Glaucous Gulls were still present at the end of the period (JM, L.P.B.O.), and there were still five Rough-legged Hawks on Amherst I., May 23 (K.F.N.). The records that follow represent the products of exhaustive (and exhausting) field work by a host of observers, not the results of an outstanding migration.

LOONS, GREBES — Mississagi Light (below M.L.) had a heavy movement of Com. Loons during May, with

381 on May 2 and 1000 over the period. Western Manitoulin I. also recorded the largest counts of Red-necked Grebes; again over 1000 were recorded Apr. 17 - May 2, with 345 Apr. 17 and 440 Apr. 24 (JN). There was an unusual number of reports inland from the Great Lakes, with 30 Quetico P.P., May 2 (DH) the largest group. Eared Grebes were seen on May 9 off Inverhuron P.P. (MP) and at P.E. Pt., May 4 (PEL, RDW).

CORMORANTS, HERONS — About 45 Double-crested Cormorants were recorded, with the best numbers in the Kingston area, where there was a peak of 15 (*vide* RDW). This spring there were no fewer than eight reports of Green Herons on Manitoulin I. which is at this species' northern limit, and the area had its second-ever Great Egret on Apr. 23 (JN). Every spring seems to yield more southern herons; substantiated reports included three Little Blues: at Pelee May 16 (JPK), Bradley's Marsh May 22 (BH *et al.*) and L. Kagawong May 30 (JN). There were up to five Snowy Egrets; at Luther Marsh Apr 30 (M & OED), two at Bradley's May 4 (CEG, JEG), and single birds at Long Pt. May 12 & 16 (RC). Long Pt. also had a Yellow-crowned Night Heron May 1 & 23 (RC, HH) and there was one at Wheatley Apr. 18 (JAG), although this species does not usually feature in these spring sightings. Some 12 Cattle Egrets were seen, with five in the southwest, and birds east to Ottawa. One of the spring's most photographed birds was a Glossy Ibis which spent two weeks in a ditch at Pelee, May 2-16 (m. ob.), but 17 others were also seen in the south, again including a bird at Ottawa May 27 (JG).

SWANS, GEESE; DUCKS — Away from the traditional areas of concentration Whistling Swans were seen at Ottawa Apr. 17 (PH), Manitoulin I., May 15 (JN), and there were 30 at Atikokan Apr. 25 (SP). The Canada Goose movement was both early and protracted, numbers were normal for recent years with 15,000 Wolfe I., May 1 the largest single count reported. It was a good year for Brant with Kingston as usual, recording the heaviest movement, between Apr. 30 & May 25 with 3500-4500 birds in all. Elsewhere Ottawa had 200 in all May 23-29 (*vide* RAF) and Algonquin P.P. a total of 382 between May 13-25 (m.ob.). There were also ten at M L, May 24 (JN) and similar numbers scattered along L Ontario. Scattered small flocks of Snow Geese were seen from Toronto east to Ottawa and north to Judge (JAG, PWR *et al.*), all in the last two weeks of April. Gadwall were widespread over most of the south, and in many areas now seems to be the commonest duck; Algonquin had its first-ever, May 11 (NG, RT *et al.*) and there was a bird north to Chelmsford Apr. 25 (JL). Pintail do not usually provide reports of huge concentrations in s Ontario, but there were two separate reports of 1000 birds, one near Angus Apr. 23 (M & OED, DT), and the other in South Scugog Forest Apr. 18 (JM, JK) Algonquin, never noted for its waterfowl, had another first with a pair of Redheads May 11 (RT *et al.*).

Canvasback appeared in many unexpected localities, there were up to ten in Waterloo County in April, for example (CAG). An Ottawa bird May 25 was late (BD) in a year when late waterfowl were widespread. Quetico is another area that seems inhospitable to ducks, and a pair of Greater Scaup on the Upper Pickerel R., Apr. 27-May

5 were only the third-ever there (SP *et al.*). This year did nothing to elucidate the questions on Oldsquaw migration patterns, although the species was noted as "abundant" on the Ottawa R. at Deep River May 21-25 (WHW), and Manitoulin again had heavy flights with a period total of some 5000, and 3000 estimated for May 19 alone (RTa, JN). Similar movements of White-winged Scoter peaked in the last week in May, with over 1300 birds for the month (JN, CB). Late Harlequin Ducks were at Toronto May 16 (CEG, JEG) and Amherst I., the first there, May 22 (PK, PEL, RDW). Surf Scoters were in good numbers for spring, with an exceptional count of over 60 May 10 at Willow Beach (ERM), and there were six Black Scoter at Bowmanville Apr. 29 (PB). Ruddy Ducks also continued their recent pattern of abundance: the Pelee peak was 140 Apr. 18 (DR) and at Ottawa, where they are usually scarce, there were up to 20 in the last half of April (m.ob.).

VULTURES, HAWKS — Five Turkey Vultures at Ottawa Apr. 10 were exceptional (RMP, RAF *et al.*). Only partial details of hawk migration counts are available at the time of writing, and a movement Apr. 30-May 1 along the e. side of the Bruce Peninsula was particularly interesting as the area has always looked as though it should concentrate hawks in the spring! There were 130 Sharp-shinned and smaller numbers of other species (PM). At Beamer Pt., there were 141 Sharp-shinned in about two hours on May 9 (JP). Golden Eagles continue their steady increase in numbers on migration, and this spring's seven reports could well be the most-ever for the season. Ottawa had three on Mar. 27, Apr. 16 & 25 (MB, RAF, RTy), Lakefield two Apr. 22-27 (WW) and the London area two on May 8 & 20 (DGW, FSC, DM). By contrast only six Bald Eagles were reported in the south apart from the nesting pair at Arner. Falcon reports seemed about average, with seven Peregrines (including five at Ottawa) and 13 Merlins.

CRANES, RAILS — The rather vague statements in the literature about Sandhill Crane distribution could well conceal a breeding range that includes most of n. Ontario. The pair at Massey, which reappeared Apr. 14 (DS), may represent birds on the southerly limit of this huge area. To the west there were 100 at Fort Frances May 5 (*vide* IP), but the remarkable aspect of the season was the number of southern wanderers: no less than six were seen, with two at Ottawa May 21 (RMP *et al.*), two more at Beamer Pt., Apr. 16 (DSW, KC *et al.*) and single birds at Dyer's Bay May 28 (PM) and Algonquin May 23 (PS *et al.*). There were King Rail records from Pelee, Bradley's and Shrewsbury. An even more elusive species, Yellow Rail, showed up again at P.E. Pt., May 23 (K F.N.) when two were heard, and a "colony" of at least 17 birds was located at Richmond from May 29 on (BD *et al.*). Noteworthy Virginia Rail records were at L. Opeongo May 29 (RT, RP) and Steep Rock in May (DHE).

SHOREBIRDS — The Long Pt. Piping Plovers were back Apr. 17 (L.P.B.O.), and single birds were sighted on Manitoulin I., at Toronto May 23 (CB, DEP), and on Amherst I., May 13 (BL). The Kingston area had some further early shorebirds: two Ruddy Turnstones May 8 (KFE, MCE), four Least Sandpipers Apr. 24 (MJE) and six Semipalmated Sandpipers Apr. 25 (RDW). In spite of

a lack of shorebird habitat owing to generally high water levels and a very dry season, shorebirds were in good numbers. The May 20-23 Whimbrel flight included counts of 1000 birds at Long Pt. (L.P.B.O.) and 230 at Pelee May 21 (HHA). The southwest also had exceptional numbers of Am. Golden Plover, with up to 650 at the beginning of May (m. ob.). Up to four Willets were seen in the Pelee area May 15-16 (JPK, DR *et al.*), another at Rondeau May 4 (PDP), and one spent almost a month near Angus Apr. 23-May 21 (M & OED). Ottawa had a particularly good shorebird movement. Outstanding there were 60 Red Knots May 18 (BB *et al.*) and an unprecedented eight Purple Sandpipers May 18-29 (m.ob.). An early White-rumped Sandpiper at Kingston May 15 and a peak of 16 at Blenheim June 2 (PDP) were the most noteworthy reports in a good flight of this species, and Dunlins seemed to be everywhere, with a record 250 at Strathroy May 23 (WRJ) and 2000 at Long Pt. the same day (L.P.B.O.). Western Sandpipers appeared at Pelee, with two May 23 (HHA), and there were singles at Strathroy May 22-23 (WRJ) and at Lakefield May 16, Peterborough's first ever (DCS, DMcR). If spring W. Sandpipers are rare spring Buff-breasted are almost unheard of, but there was a bird at Pelee May 15 (PDP *et al.*); I know of only two other spring records. Other rarities were up to three Hudsonian Godwits at Manitoulin May 23-24, a Ruff at Amherstview May 15 (RKFE *et al.*) and an Am. Avocet at Hapworth May 7 (PM). Although all are rare, one or two spring sightings is normal for any of these species, interestingly, Ruffs are more regular in spring than avocets!

Another species that was once almost unknown in spring south of James Bay was the N. Phalarope, but from about 1969 on there have been isolated spring sightings and this year there were ten, mostly at sewage lagoons. Ottawa had five (BD) but birds were west to Bradley's (BH *et al.*) and as early as May 17 at Strathroy (RCr). Wilson's Phalaropes also appeared in bonanza numbers: Kingston had 15, Ottawa 11 and Manitoulin 1 9-15, with birds west to Blenheim which also had the first on Apr. 25. Perhaps some 54 birds in all were involved, and breeding was suspected in at least two areas. These numbers are quite unprecedented for spring, and again seem to be closely associated with sewage ponds. These areas seem to be following the British pattern in becoming the premier shorebird habitat in the Province, and the potential is only beginning to be realized, since well over half the lagoons in existence are not visited regularly by anyone and many are never covered at all!

GULLS, TERNS — Both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls continued in small numbers — up to ten Glaucous at Ottawa — until early May (m.ob.). Last fall we mentioned a hybrid Herring and Great Black-backed at Ottawa, and surmised it was collected; apparently it was not, and Roger Foxall notes a paper on hybrid gulls may be forthcoming soon. Ring-billed Gulls made two of their rare spring appearances in Algonquin May 12 and 25 (RT, DB). Small Gulls were in smaller numbers this year, although Bonaparte's still swirled in thousands off Pelee and along the Niagara R. There was a Black-headed at Whitby May 14 (CEG) and Franklin's at Pelee May 15 (DR), Amherst I., May 23 (RKFE *et al.*) and two at Ottawa May 18 (RMP, VH). The southwest had up to six Little Gulls from a record-early date of Apr. 24, there

were up to four at Tiny Marsh (B.F.N.C.) and seven at Bowmanville (PB, RF), with isolated sightings east to Ottawa May 28-29 (DB, RB). This is low, although the Ottawa and Tiny Marsh reports represent relatively new areas for this species. Water levels probably continue to hinder some gull and tern nesting. Forster's Terns were widespread in the large marshes along L. Erie (18 birds at least), and a Black Tern appeared in Algonquin on the early date of May 1 (WCa).

CUCKOOS, OWLS — Yellow-billed Cuckoos were north to Manitoulin I., May 28-29 (JN). Barn Owls appeared at Toronto May 24 (DEP) and Willow Beach Apr 29 (RJ, SJ). "Winter" owls provided an unusual number of reports, and Snowies were widespread at the beginning of April — there were 11 around Paisley Apr. 2 (PM) — and present at Mimico to Apr. 28 (JAK). There was a Hawk Owl at Dorion Apr. 1 (HA), a Boreal at Marathon Mar. 28 (NGE), and a Great Gray at Ottawa Apr 17 (BD, TH). At Atikokan there were two of the latter species Apr. 27-28 in widely separated localities, and a Long-eared there was the area's first, Apr. 8-9 (DH, SP) They also had six Saw-whet reports over the period, including a family of six young. Six were also reared in a Wood Duck box on Amherst I. and were banded May 22 (GM, RDW). There were seven other Saw-whets reported, including one from the Owl Rehabilitation Research Foundation, which handled 18 Ontario owls over the period, 11 of them Great Horned (KMCK). The weirdest owl report unfortunately lacks documentation, but a Burrowing Owl at Iroquois Falls May 8, found by a Mrs Cassells and seen the next day by JY *et al.* seems unlikely to be anything else!

NIGHTJARS, WOODPECKERS — At least one Chuck-will's-widow was back at Pelee from May 6 (MR *et al.*) Prince Edward Pt. had its first-ever May 23 (RDW *et al.*) and probably the first anywhere in the Province away from the Pelee-Pelee I. area. Common Nighthawks were not common at all this spring and they are still scarce at the time of writing. Aside from scattered reports from the southwest, the only Red-bellied Woodpecker was from Burpee Twp., May 18 (RTa), and Red-headed Woodpeckers were also north to Manitoulin I., and east to Peterborough (*vide* JN, DCS).

SWALLOWS, FLYCATCHERS — The southwest had remarkable numbers of Cliff Swallows: normally two or three can be found among the dozens of swallows at Pelee, but this year some flocks were composed entirely of this species! By contrast an almost total absence of E. Phoebes there represented a new low for this species (*vide* AHK). Pelee had a W. Kingbird May 19-23 (JWi *et al.*) and an Acadian Flycatcher May 25 (JAG).

CROWS THROUGH WRENS — The last of the light winter Gray Jay flight was a bird at Richmond Hill Apr. 22 (R.H.N.C.). Common Ravens continue to push south: there was one at Bethany May 1 (DMcR). There is no Ontario record of a White-necked Raven but a bird was at Long Point May 14-26 (L.P.B.O.); however, preliminary information suggests the species has been regularly kept in captivity, although the bird apparently showed no evidence of feather wear. Boreal Chickadee reports extended into the southwest, and were as late as May 19. There were, in all, seven birds seen south of their

normal range, an unusual number for April and May Tufted Titmice were also unusually common and there were eight seen away from established localities for this species, with individuals north and east to Bolton May 11 (MO) and Terra Cotta Apr. 16 (BJ). A House Wren at Reesor May 23 (JHE) was north of its range, as was a White-breasted Nuthatch at Virginiatown May 5 (PWR) Carolina Wrens were very hard hit by the winter, and from the exceptional southwest numbers last year only one was at Pelee in May (m.ob.) and one nesting pair at Rondeau (*vide* AHK). The Cambridge birds also bred successfully (RH, *vide* WHS).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES — Most noteworthy among the usual flood of Mockingbird reports were three from the Algonquin area (RP *et al.*). Kingston had its earliest-ever Veery Apr. 22 (RDW). A bird at Fanshawe May 17 was identified as a W. Bluebird (MED, WHD) and awaits Records Committee review: there are no prior records for Ontario. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were particularly widespread; excluding the southwest, where they are regular, there were at least 55 birds reported, east to Ottawa and north to Wingham, with the largest number — 37 sightings — in the Kingston area. A number of the birds appeared to be paired, and at least one pair, at Spyside, was nesting (JAS).

PIPITS THROUGH VIREOS — Heavy Water Pipit movement is again more typical of fall than spring, but 600 in Algonquin of all places, May 24 (WC) is a creditable number for any season, and other good flocks were 40 at Barrow's Bay May 9 (JWJ) and 35 at Holland Marsh May 17 (TL). There were 11, an average number, of Loggerhead Shrike reports, and a Northern as late as May 2 at Presqu'île (DMcR). A Bell's Vireo made a now-rare appearance in Ontario, at Bradley's May 14 (JGK), and was adequately documented. There were up to nine White-eyed Vireos at Pelee, including some apparently paired (HHA) from an early Apr. 18 (PDP). There were five other L. Erie reports, and five from the Kingston area (mainly P.E. Pt.) where a bird May 9 was the earliest ever (*vide* RDW); elsewhere birds were at Rexdale Apr 16 (PW) and Bowmanville May 22 (PB) for the best year since the 1973 influx. April 24 was early for a Yellow-throated Vireo at Dorchester (DGW, CEH) and there were Warbling Vireos north to Manitoulin I. and Algonquin.

WARBLERS — It was another good year for southern warblers. Prothonotaries were back both at Rondeau and Pelee and a bird was banded at Bradley's (RE, MJW) Elsewhere there was one at Eastbourne May 23 (J & NLeV, MM) and an astonishing Quetico record Apr 27-May 3 (DH *et al.*). The May 1 movement brought a Worm-eating Warbler to Bradley's, and subsequently there were four Pelee reports (*vide* AHK), one at Long Pt (EDu), two at Toronto (*vide* JAK) and three at Kingston (K.F.N.) with the last sightings May 25, all adding up to the best year ever for this species. Golden-wingeds were north to South Baymouth (CB) and Blue-wingeds to Deep River (*vide* WHW) and about ten reports in all apart from Pelee; where a Lawrence's hybrid was seen May 12 (PDP). Yellow-throated Warblers appeared on successive weekends at Pelee, May 2 & May 8, and placidly ignored the stampedes they created (m.ob.)

Louisiana Waterthrushes were at Kettle Pt., Apr. 16 (AR) and Pelee Apr. 18-May 9 (m. ob.). Kentucky Warblers were east to Willow Beach (GC) and north to Wellington Co (PE), and at Pelee there were several reports of up to two birds (m.ob.) which suggested at least ten birds in the Province May 6-27.

Chats yielded some 37 reports, north to Manitoulin (KM, JN) and east to Kingston (K.F.N.), and Hooded Warblers were almost as common with about 25 sightings in the same broad area from Apr. 18 on. This all adds up to the best year ever for southern warblers, as year by year their appearances seem to increase. Early records included an Orange-crowned at Windsor Apr. 22 (PDP) and a Nashville at Sudbury Apr. 24 (WRL). A Townsend's Warbler at M.L., May 2, the first there (JN), was the only westerner seen. Apart from all the exotics, mostly in the few exceptional concentration points, the migration was marked by the abundance of Cape Mays — in "staggering numbers" at Ottawa (RAF) — Bay-breasteds and Tennessees. On one twelve-mile drive through the treed suburbs of Toronto, Tennessees could be heard almost constantly along the route! All courtesy, one presumes, of the spruce budworm.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Two W. Meadowlarks were in Algonquin May 10-11 (DB *et al.*), and there was an Orchard Oriole there May 30 (WC). Pelee had at least three Yellow-headed Blackbirds (m ob.) and others were at Cobourg Apr. 23 (ERM, RJ, WO) and Long Pt. May 28, (GMi, MA). Brewer's Blackbirds seemed widespread in the south with 18 reports, and from the north everyone was commenting on the astonishing abundance of Brown-headed Cowbirds, which seemed to be everywhere. A Scarlet Tanager was at Reesor June 3 (JHE). There were five Summer Tanagers in the extreme south, and one at P.E. Pt., all from May 5 to 27.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — Dickcissels were at Hyde Park Apr. 20 on (RPM) and Port Hope May 6-9 (WO). It was the year of the **House Finch**. After some years of the species occurring regularly in New York State and one suggestive sight record, this year there were no fewer than four documented sightings, with another couple of unsupported reports. Best seen was a bird at Fort Erie Apr 8-16 (HHA, m. ob.), one at Marathon, of all places, was photographed May 12 (NGE), and others were at Pelee Apr. 16 (JPK, JAG, JGK) and Presqu'île May 22 (CEG). All were apparently females. A Rufous-sided Towhee was at Algonquin May 29 (RT, RP *et al.*). Henslow's Sparrow news was encouraging, with five at Pelee (m.ob.), 11 at Barrie and ten at Tiny Marsh (CH, AM, CJM), all in mid-May. The outstanding Le Conte's Sparrow report was of between four and seven on a May 23 trip to Great Duck I. (JN, DF, WRL). A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was at Pelee May 15-16 (JGK, m.ob.). Five Lark Sparrow sightings are the most in at least 20 years: there were two at Dorion Apr. 14 (HA) and birds at Long Pt., May 28 (GMi), Willow Beach, the first there, Apr. 21 (WO) and Manitoulin I., also the first, May 4 (CB). Manitoulin also had its second and third Clay-colored, May 25-26 (JN). Wintering Harris' Sparrows left Meaford Apr. 11 (RM) and Loretto Apr. 24 (JWe) and there was one at Marathon May 7-11 (NGE).

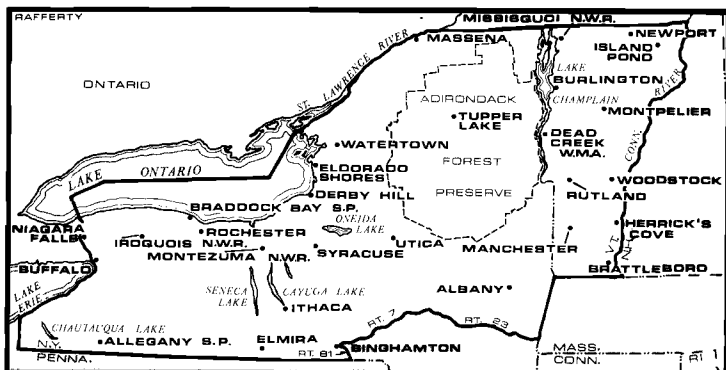
SUB-REGIONAL EDITORS (boldface) **CONTRIBUTORS** (italic) **AND CITED OBSERVERS** — **R.F. Andrie**, M. Asselstine, H. Atkinson, *H.H. Axtell*, M. Bain (MBa), B. Barrette, C. Bell, **G. Bennett**, R. Bergeron, Brereton Field Naturalists Club, P. Bridges, M. Brigham, D. Brunton, D. Calvert, W. Calvert (WCa), **C.A. Campbell**, G. Carpentier, R. Coker (RCr), K. Colucci, F.S. Cook, R. Copeland, W. Crins, A. Dawe, **K. Denis**, M. & O.E. Devitt, E. Dickson, B. Dilabio, E. Dunn (EDu), M.E. Dunn, W.H. Dunn, P. Eagles, K.F. Edwards, M.C. Edwards, R.K.F. Edwards, D.H. Elder, *J.H. Enns*, R. Erickson, *N.G. Escott*, M.J. Evans, R. Fellows, D. Ferguson, **R.A. Foxall**, G. Garrette, J. Gates, N. Godfrey, C.E. Goodwin, J.E. Goodwin, J.A. Greenhouse, D. Haddow, P. Hamel, C. Harris, C.E. Hearn, F. Helleiner, R. Hilborn, T. Hince, B. Hirt, H. Howkins, V. Humphries, **D. Hussell (DHu)**, B. Jaquith, **W.R. Jarmain**, R. John, S. John, J.W. Johnston, P. Kaijser, J. Kamstra, *J.G. Keenleyside*, **A.H. Kelley**, J.A. Kelley, D. Kerr, Kingston Field Naturalists, J.P. Kleiman, L. deK. Lawrence, J. Lemon, T. Letson, J. & N. LeVay, P.E. Little, Long Point Bird Observatory, W.R. Lowe, B. Lyon, S.D. MacDonald, **C.J. MacFayden**, G.E. Maddeford, W. Maddeford, M. Marsh, G. Matthews, D. McCorquodale (DMcC), **E.R. McDonald**, *K. McKeever (KMcK)*, R.P. McLeod, D. McRae (DMcR), P. Middleton, R. Milani, G. Miller, (GMi), A. Mills, K. Morrison, **J. Mountjoy**, multiple observers (m.ob.), D. Murray, J. Nicholson, T. Norris, M. Oldham, W. Osborn, *I. Park*, *M. Parker*, D.E. Perks, **S. Peruniak**, **H. Petty**, **R. Pittaway**, R.M. Poulin, P.D. Pratt, *J. Pummell*, Richmond Hill Naturalists Club, **P.W. Richter**, A. Rider, M. Runtz, D. Rupert, **D.C. Sadler**, *J.A. Satterly*, W.H. Schaefer, P. Smith, D. Stencil, R.B. Stewart, R. Tasker (RTa), R. Taylor (RTy), R. Tozer, D. Troy, D.G. Wake, W.H. Walker, *J. Wallace*, W. Walton, **R.D. Weir**, J. Wells (JWe), D.S. Willcove, J. Wilson (JWi), M.J. Wolcott, P. Wukasch, J. Young. — **CLIVE E. GOODWIN**, 11 Westbank Cresc., Weston, Ontario, M9P 1S4.

Eskimo Curlew Sighting

Unquestionable records of Eskimo Curlew are few and far between, but it seems obvious that our rarest shorebird is not yet extinct. Burning up the Rare Bird Alert wires in early September was the report of two unmistakable Eskimo Curlews at North Point, on the western side of lower James Bay, Ontario, on August 15th. The lucky observers were Archie Hagar and Kathleen Anderson of Massachusetts (Hagar had previously seen the species alive in 1962 in Texas), who were on James Bay banding and color-dyeing shorebirds. According to Mrs. Anderson "We were watching godwits and Whimbrels flying past when suddenly two Black-bellied Plover-size shorebirds, with thin, decurved bills, flew past us, silently, not more than 80 feet away. Archie identified them instantly." A detailed account will be published here or elsewhere.

NIAGARA- CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe



The unseasonably warm temperatures which prevailed at the end of the winter season continued into April with peaks in the 90s in some areas April 19. Early waterfowl departures were the rule and the stage appeared set for a flock of record early arrival dates when the season reversed itself and cold, wet weather ended the month and heralded the arrival of May. After a brief break in the weather, the situation went from bad to worse when a May 18-19 snowstorm dumped nearly a foot of flakes on the mountainous areas. With a few local exceptions, migrant passerine waves were nonexistent or much reduced throughout May and numbers of individuals, especially flycatchers, were generally down, probably either directly or indirectly owing to the inclement weather in the third week of May.

The record setting warm weather in late winter apparently triggered a number of species to commence nesting exceptionally early this year and several species (e.g., Common Loon, Long-eared Owl, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Grackle) set record-breaking nesting dates. But neither this early warm spell nor exceptionally good coverage this spring can fully explain the incredible influx of southern strays which appeared. Vagrant herons and warblers and the continued expansion of southern colonists (e.g., Turkey Vulture, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Blue-winged Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat) gave a marked southern flavor to many areas this spring.

The most significant ornithological event in the lives of many regional observers, however, was the initiation, on a pilot basis, of the Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Modeled after projects conducted in Massachusetts, Great Britain and several European countries, the project's object is to determine the distribution of some 200 species which are known or suspected to breed in Vermont. An awesome undertaking for a state with relatively few observers, atlasing requires that an attempt be made to document breeding of all species within each of over 1000 ten-square-mile blocks of area in the state. The value of the project, which forces observers to remain afield during the summer when many of them seem prone to hang up their binoculars and go on vacation (literally), is already becoming evident as new breeding records continually come to light. Needless to say, it is the protection of breeding habitat which is critical to the continued survival of a species and until we have clearly delineated the correct distribution of any species, particularly species with restrictive habitat requirements (e.g., Spruce Grouse, Upland Sandpiper, Gray Jay), there

is little effective action which can be taken in the form of zoning and other protective legislation. The Atlas Project will not eliminate the need for future impact assessments in Vermont, but it will form an invaluable source of baseline information with which to guide future studies. All observers in the region interested in further details on the program are urged to contact the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Woodstock, VT 05091.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — A pair of Com. Loons was spotted with two full-sized young at North West Bay of L. Champlain on an incredibly early May 15 (*vide* H.P.A.). A fine flight of loons occurred in the Rochester area where up to 600 Common and 19 Red-throated were tallied (R.B.A.). Surprisingly, only modest numbers of Com. Loons and no other Red-throated Loons were noted in other areas. The 13 Double-crested Cormorants reported included two migrating W along the L. Ontario shore May 17 (DK). The influx of southern herons was most pronounced in Rochester, where 12 species were observed. Little Blue Herons were observed on five occasions, twice near both Rochester (*vide* R.B.A.) and Buffalo (*vide* B.O.S.), and another near Albany (*vide* GS). Cattle Egrets were first noted Apr. 21 at Braddock Bay where up to eight were counted during May (R.B.A.). Other New York sightings included one May 2 along the Saranac R. in St. Armand courting a white bleach bottle (RH, GTC *vide* JMP), another near Barker May 5 (DK) and a third May 15 at Berne (*vide* GS). Single birds were also sighted in Vermont at Springfield May 1 (DC), Plainfield May 7 (MF&LM), and Burlington May 23 (FO, RAR *et al.*). Nesting was confirmed on Four Brothers I. in L. Champlain May 15 (H.P.A.). A Great Egret seen on the Connecticut R. near Herricks Cove Apr. 18 (G&WK, *vide* EE) was exceptionally early for Vermont. Up to two Snowy Egrets appeared at Braddock Bay (m.ob., *vide* R.B.A.) and Montezuma N.W.R. (TR, *vide* DM). At least one Louisiana Heron was observed repeatedly near Rochester May 5-25 (KD, CP *et al.*) while another was noted at Hamburg May 1 (RA *et al.*) and Frewsburg May 21 (FE *et al.*). The best tally of Black-crowned Night Herons again came from the Niagara Falls colony where 64 were counted May 21 (H&WK1). A dazed subadult **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** walking about in a Hamlin wheat field May 11 was picked up dead the following day. Least Bitterns proved to be scarce with only four New York and one Vermont reports. Twenty Am. Bitterns were seen at Montezuma N.W.R. May 31 (*vide* DM), an

excellent spring count. Only three areas reported Glossy Ibis, the highest tally being six at Braddock Bay during May (m.ob.).

Early departures, which were hastened by mild temperatures, and record high water in many areas, which allowed birds to disperse from normal concentration areas, resulted in few noteworthy waterfowl records. The Region's only Mute Swan report came from Burgeson Sanctuary in Frewsburg (RS *et al.*). Frequently unreported from L. Champlain, many Brant were noted there by observers (*fide* PW) including a flock of 130 May 9 at Chazy Landing (H&RBo). Red and yellow collared Canada Geese, presumably banded at Pungo and Mattamuskeet N.W.R.s in North Carolina, continue to appear regularly in w. New York. The latest observations include two at Iroquois (DK) and four near Geneva (JW). Each collar is numbered and observers should make special efforts to read and report the number along with other information to the Office of Migratory Bird Management, Laurel, Maryland.

White-fronted Geese are most frequently observed as solitary individuals during the fall (when there is considerable likelihood that they are escapees), so a flock of three seen at the Newstead Sinks near Buffalo Apr. 17 and May 4 (MWg *et al.*, *fide* B.O.S.) was most unusual. Hybridization and/or interspecific competition with Mallards may be responsible for the region-wide decrease in Black Ducks. They were observed in record low numbers on the B.O.S. May Count while Mallards were at a ten-year high. Gadwalls continue to be found in increasing numbers in western New York. This spring's only Eur. Wigeon visited the Newstead Sinks Apr. 24 (DF). A ♂ **Barrow's Goldeneye** closely observed at Chazy Landing Apr. 18 (JP, *fide* PW) provided the second report of this species from L. Champlain this year.

HAWKS — Although the region hosts some of the best spring hawk migration observation points in North America, only one regularly manned watch submitted any reports and only partial totals were provided. The 87 Turkey Vultures which glided over Braddock Bay on Apr. 17 are just one indication of this species phenomenal increase in the past several years. Individuals are now being regularly recorded over remote Adirondack areas and have even invaded Vermont's Northeast Kingdom where two were spotted (FO,RAR *et al.*). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** reportedly passed over Derby Hill Apr. 16 (*fide* N.C.B.C). There are four previous sight records in the region plus a specimen; but, surprisingly, this is the first from the Ontario Lake Plains.

Much remains to be learned of hawk and small passerine movements along the Great Lakes. Although the major movements reported from the best known watches on L. Ontario, Braddock Bay and Derby Hill pass from W to E with the prevailing winds, limited observations in mid-April at the w. end of the lake near Barker indicate that a majority of the ad. accipiters and buteos striking the w. portion of the lakeshore on their way north move W even against brisk W winds. Sub-adult Sharp-shinned Hawks moving on May 5 attempted to fly W into a WSW wind in the early morning, but as the wind speed increased to 35+ mph the flight reversed direction.

Diurnal passerine movement along this lakeshore presents an even more complex picture. For example,

early spring Blue Jay flights were predominantly westerly, while mid-May movements were exclusively to the E with the wind. At the same time, i.e., May 17, thousands of Am. Goldfinches and lesser numbers of Pine Siskins passed continually from E to W. Intriguing questions may be asked about the behavior of nocturnal migrants which are faced with the problem of crossing either of the Great Lakes which border our region. Obviously, many migrants do cross the miles of open water, but whether they do so without hesitation or, instead, follow "leading lines" (i.e., natural topographic features like the shoreline) before doing so deserves further study. The distribution of some species in the Region (e.g., that of Hooded Warbler which is found much more commonly on the lake plains than in the hill areas to the south) suggests that movements parallel to the lakeshore may be quite prevalent in nocturnal migrants. Ceilometer studies are just one of several approaches which might be suggested to shed light on this fascinating question.

A late Rough-legged Hawk was observed at Parma May 30 (R. B. A.). Seven immature and three ad Bald Eagles were noted by Rochester observers in addition to four Golden Eagles (*fide* G.O.S. & R. B. A.). Bald Eagles were reported from six other locations including a possible nest site on the New York side of L. Champlain (JMP). Golden Eagles were also reported from Geneva (DL, *fide* MJ), Elmira (WH, *fide* DM) and Iroquois N. W. R. (JM, *fide* B. O. S.). Only two Peregrines and seven Merlins were sighted. An intensive investigation into the status of the Spruce Grouse in Vermont would appear warranted since no reports have been received for at least the past three seasons. How, for instance, is it faring in the Northeast Kingdom in the face of ever-expanding logging operations? An Adirondack investigation of this species has (*fide* H.P.A.), produced encouraging findings although no details were submitted

SHOREBIRDS, GULLS — Very good numbers of shorebirds were reported from L. Champlain where they are seldom searched for, and from the usual concentration points in w. New York, particularly after the mid-May storm. A single Whimbrel was identified at Braddock Bay May 21 (TT, *fide* R. B. A.) and four were found in Akron, N. Y., the following day (BR *et al.*, *fide* B. O. S.). Despite its "Blue List" status the Upland Sandpiper receives only mediocre attention from observers and regional trends are impossible to decipher from the limited number of reports received. This species, with its restrictive breeding habitat requirements, is normally faithful to the same breeding areas year after year and is, in fact, rarely observed in fields where it doesn't breed. For this reason observers are urged to record all observations and to trace year to year trends as the region's grasslands are rapidly being converted to more intensive agricultural (or residential) uses.

Two Purple Sandpipers were spotted at the Geneva seawall on Seneca L. with 40 Ruddy Turnstones on the incredibly late date of May 27 (MM, *fide* MJ). White-rumped Sandpipers were widely reported from w. New York in small groups, the largest 14 at Times Beach (HA) Although still unverified in the spring in the region by specimen or photograph, a Baird's Sandpiper appeared at Parma May 23 (CP, ST *et al.*, *fide* R. B. A.) to become the Rochester area's second spring sight record. Only slightly less rare were the four Stilt Sandpipers seen there

two days previously (CP, *fide* R.B.A.). Two of the three previous regional spring records of this species are also from Monroe County. Also very rare in spring (only three previous inland records from New York) was a Hudsonian Godwit identified at Parma (of course) May 21 (CP, G&HB, *fide* R.B.A.). An American Avocet found near Lyons, N.Y., May 20 (MM, *fide* MJ) marked the first spring record in the Region. Wilson's Phalaropes appeared in at least five locations, including Parma where a pair dallying May 18-25 (R.B.A.) gave rise to speculation on breeding (unconfirmed in the Region despite several summering records).

Late lingering white-winged gulls included a Glaucous at Hamburg until May 21 (TB, *fide* B.O.S.), an Iceland at Charlotte, N.Y., May 12 (ST, *fide* R.B.A.) and at Elmira May 11-17 (WH, m.ob., *fide* DM). The latter is both an unusual location and exceptional date. An Iceland Gull at Kendall May 6 was critically compared with an ad. Thayer's Gull (CP, WL, MC); the latter was the first record for the Rochester area and the latest regional date thus far for this "new species." Five Franklin's Gull sightings in the Rochester area believed to involve at least three individuals were unexpected, especially since none were sighted on L. Erie. Surprisingly, no Little Gulls were reported there although up to three were counted at Braddock Bay (RO) and one was seen headed W over L. Ontario with a large flight of Bonaparte's Gulls Apr. 13 (DK).

OWLS THROUGH PARIDS — Snowy Owls lingered into the third week of April at Braddock Bay and Niagara Falls. Three Long-eared Owl nests were located on the L. Ontario plains. At least two of the three nests were in conifer plantations which have sheltered winter flocks of Long-eareds during the past several years. One nest near Barker had four well developed young May 5, three of which successfully fledged May 16 (the fourth young disappeared). Both these dates are some two weeks prior to previous New York early dates for nestlings and fledging. Frequently unreported, Saw-whet Owls were found at several locations including Braddock Bay May 24 (Wka, WL). Aside from two reports from Island Pond in Vermont the only Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker report was from Buffalo where one remained through May 25.

Nearly all observers in the e. half of the region remarked on the scarcity of flycatchers, many of which may have succumbed to the bizarre mid-May blizzard, although few direct observations of mortality were made. At Vishers Ferry neither Willow nor Alder Flycatchers were caught for the first time in 11 years of banding (RY). A remarkable increase in the number of Acadian Flycatcher reports on the Great Lake Plains occurred, with no less than five birds noted including one as far east as Sodus Bay (*fide* R.B.A.). An extensive search of the larger, mature moist woodlands on the lake plains would doubtless reveal more individuals. The spread of Acadians in the region appears to have followed the plains E from Ohio where they are now fairly numerous.

Although no new breeding areas were reported this spring, the Com. Raven appears to be continuing to do well. There is apparently now a second Fish Crow accompanying the one reported in Ithaca for the third consecutive spring. A return flight of over 150 Black-capped Chickadees noted at Ausable Pt. on L. Champlain May 9 (PW) is only a small fraction of the

numbers noted during the fall flight and seems rather late, as many local birds are nesting by that date. The percentage of regional Black-cappeds which partake in migration and the factors which determine whether and how far they move are just a few of the many unanswered questions about some of our "permanent" resident species. Boreal Chickadees left c. New York areas for their breeding grounds in early April (DM) but any return movement went unnoticed to the north.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH SHRIKES — White-breasted Nuthatch, another "resident", was noted returning north Apr. 17 on Pt. Gratiot (RS). Only a handful of Short-billed Marsh Wrens were reported, all during the latter half of May. This late migrant is as likely to be found in hay fields as in marshes and is overlooked by many observers who either cease field work after the warblers peak or who ignore such mundane habitats. The northward expansion of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was apparent in Rochester where many reports were received (RO) but the real surprises came from farther east. A nest with young located May 29 on Schuyler I., Essex Co., (JMP, *et al.*) not only extended the New York breeding range 100+ miles but also set a record early nestling date for the state. Not about to be outdone, Vermont observers located two nests, one in Vernon May 2 (WN) and another at Bomoseen May 15 (RP, HP *et al.*) Although more reports of Loggerhead Shrikes were received this spring than last (8 vs 5), all contributors commented on their scarcity. A possible nest site in Hamlin, N.Y., (*fide* RO) was reported but a site used the past two years near Shadicee was apparently destroyed by a public utility field crew who feared the (already dead) tree threatened some overhead lines. No loggerheads were seen in the area following the tree's removal.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — The invasion of southerners initiated by the herons was continued by both vireos and warblers. White-eyed Vireos appeared in Rochester (three reports, *fide* RO), Ithaca (two reports, JG, TG, *fide* DM), Buffalo (two reports, DF, H&WKI, *fide* B.O.S.), and Elmira (*fide* DM). One of the Rochester birds appeared April 22 with the passage of a mid-April warm front which set a number of other local early arrival dates. Contrary to comments in Bull (1974), this species does now occur regularly in n.w. Pennsylvania and observers in w. New York are probably witnessing a continuation of its range extension. This spring's warbler flight produced some excellent sightings and a number of local early arrival dates most of which were a reflection of better coverage. Prothonotary Warblers were noted at Lewiston (*fide* B.O.S.) and Iroquois N.W.R. (m.ob.) but not at Montezuma N.W.R., probably because the green timber impoundment they frequent there is relatively inaccessible to birders. Seven Worm-eating Warblers were identified in New York, including one at Beaver Meadow, Wyoming Co., on the surprisingly early date of Apr. 22 (VP). All but two of these observations were from areas well removed from known breeding grounds. Ithaca was blessed with two rare "Lawrence's Warblers".

Always rarely reported in the spring, when there is little to confuse them with, Orange-crowned Warblers were reported from Rochester (three), Buffalo and Horseheads, N.Y. Four of the five birds were seen May 15 but this peak was probably one of observer activity since

it was New York's "May Day." The only Vermont report was of a bird netted, banded and photographed at South Woodstock May 24 (*vide* JV). Single **Yellow-throated Warblers**, another southern species which has shown a tremendous increase in w. Pennsylvania, were verified in four w. New York areas; Ithaca (KR, m.ob.), Wendt Beach (DF *et al.*), Ghent (ER, *vide* GS), and Hamburg, N Y (RA *et al.*). Normally a common late migrant, Blackpoll Warbler seemed to be down in numbers in many areas. Pine Warblers were especially well reported from the lake plains this season, the earliest Apr. 3 (RB, *vide* RO). The region's four Kentucky Warbler reports included one in Ithaca May 13 (BH, *vide* DM), another May 28 in South Valley Township (RS) and two males banded at Burgeson Sanctuary May 11 (*vide* RS). Yellow-breasted Chats, described as "everywhere" in the Rochester area, are continuing to expand their range in the region. One was even seen at the West Rutland Marsh, Vermont, May 14 (WN).

S.A.

Blue-winged Warblers continued to increase throughout the w. portion of the Region and were found for the first time both at Bennington (WNI) and Saxtons River, Vt. (DK). In the latter location a ♂ Blue-winged was found on territory at a site which has, in past years, supported several Golden-wingeds, none of which could be found this year. Comparative data on the change in relative abundance of these two "species" throughout the region is needed if we are to evaluate the dynamics of the interaction of the two populations. Surprisingly, although Blue-winged appear to have swamped the Golden-winged populations in the Finger Lakes and to the south in Pennsylvania, only one hybrid ("Brewster's") was reported among the 155 "winged warblers" tallied on the B.O.S. May count. It should be noted, however, that Blue-wingeds predominated by a 2:1 ratio and that many observers probably made their identifications on song alone, an unreliable criterion to use with hybrids.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was spotted Apr. 16 at Gates, N Y., (EA, *vide* R. B. A.). Orchard Orioles, including at least one nesting pair, were found at the three locations around Rochester (*vide* R. B. A. & RO), but the only other regional sightings were three individuals in Essex Co (B&JMM, DN & JMP) and one in Elmira (WH, *vide* DM). A ♂ **Brewer's Blackbird** was reportedly seen and heard in Horseheads, N.Y., Apr. 5 (WH, *vide* DM). Two young Com. Grackles in Lockport, N.Y., set a record for early fledging when they left their nest May 5 although their record was apparently wind assisted (RBI). A ♂ Scarlet Tanager with a single scarlet wingbar on each wing and a yellow-orange belly was sighted at Lyndonville, Vt. (DK). Other yellow-orange birds which proved to be Summer Tanagers were sighted in Kendall, May 21-23 (G&HB *et al.*) and Elizabethtown, N.Y., May 30 (GC). The latter bird was also heard (and listed?) by JMP as it called obligingly near the doorway while Geoffrey telephoned him the news.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared at numerous feeders throughout the region even before the mid-May

storm. Single Dickcissels were seen in the Dunkirk area May 15 (*vide* B. O. S.) and at Steamburg May 29 (RS). Both Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins were reported migrating along L. Ontario in impressive numbers through the end of May (CP). Noteworthy, particularly in light of this continued late migration, was the capture of an imm. Pine Siskin near Corinth, N. Y. May 13 (RY), nearly a month ahead of the previous fledging record date. Yearly local fluctuations in the abundance of Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows are of such magnitude that they mask any non-cyclic population declines. Only extensive regional surveys over a period of years can hope to establish trends. This year Grasshopper Sparrows hit a ten-year high on the B. O. S. May Count, but the total number of individuals observed is so low that this year's high tally (22) may only be a reflection of increased observer awareness.

Single tardy Tree Sparrows were found at Ithaca May 16 (MB, *vide* DM) and Iroquois N. W. R. May 17 (DK). An ad. Harris' Sparrow was seen feeding with White-crowned Sparrows in Ithaca for several days in mid-May (HK, *vide* DM). A Lapland Longspur was sighted near Scottsville, N.Y., on the exceptionally late date of May 23 (G&SM *et al.*). There are only two later records for the region.

CORRIGENDA: The 1975 fall report on Barn Owls (*AB* 30:65) should read as follows: The season's only Barn Owl 'surprised' your editor when he ducked into a Niagara County barn to change clothes during a rainstorm. Reports of Snowy Owls were widely distributed but indicated no mass irruption although an Oct 23 bird in Montpelier, Vt., (MFM) was early.

CONTRIBUTORS (in boldface) and **CITED OBSERVERS** — E. Ackerman, **R. Andrie**, H. Axtell, R. Baehren, G. Beaver, H. Beaver, **W. Benning**, **R. Block (RBI)**, H. Booth (HBo), R. Booth (RBo), T. Bourne, M. Braun, **E. Brooks**, **Buffalo Ornithological Society**, **D. Burton**, **L. Burton**, G. Carleton, M. Carlson, J. Claffey, **D. Clark**, G.T. Craig, K. Doris, F. Elderkin, E. Ellis, **D. Freeland**, **Genesee Ornithological Society**, **J. Gibson**, T. Gilman, **High Peaks Audubon**, R. Hagar, W. Howard, B. Howe, **M. Jones**, W. Kaiser (WKA), H. Kellogg, **E. Kibbe**, G. Kidder, W. Kidder (G&WK), H. Klabunde (HKl), W. Klabunde (WKl), D. Larson, **S. Laughlin**, W. Listman, B. MacMillan (BMM), J. MacMillan (JMM), **D. Mellroy**, G. Meade, S. Meade, M. Menuhin, **L. Metcalf**, **M.F. Metcalf**, J. Morse, **W. Nichols (WNI)**, D. Nickerson, **W. Norse**, **North Country Bird Club**, **F. Oatman**, **R. O'Hara**, B. Ostrander, J. Parker, **C. Perrigo**, **J.M. Peterson**, R. Pilcher, **A. Pistorius**, **V. Pitzrick**, H. Potter, B. Rebovich, E. Reilly, T. Riley, **Rochester Birding Association**, K. Rosenberg, **R.A. Rowlett**, **G. Snell**, H. Steinhäuser, **R. Sundell**, S. Taylor, T. Tetlow, **G. Tudor**, **J. Vydra**, J. Walters, **P. Warren**, M. Wells, M. Wendling (MWg), **R. Yunich** — **DOUGLAS P. KIBBE**, 115 Mt. Lebanon Blvd., Apt. 11, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15228.



APPALACHIAN REGION

/George A. Hall

Spring migration in an area as diverse as the Appalachians is such a complex phenomenon that trying to fit all the varied pieces together makes an interesting puzzle for the Regional Editor, even though, as they did



this year, many contributors find the season dull or uninteresting. While most spring seasons are unusual in that they bear little resemblance to those of previous years, this one was more strange than is ordinary. The late winter in February and March had been exceedingly warm, and plant growth and flowering was well ahead of schedule by April 1. As reported in the last account a number of bird species had arrived at early dates. Normal or subnormal spring weather returned in April and the first and last parts of the month were colder than normal. In mid-month, however, there was a record breaking warm spell which lasted for about a week, before temperatures again plunged rapidly. April was extremely dry, 1.5 inch deficit at Pittsburgh, only 0.5 inch total at Charleston and only 0.23 inches of rainfall total at Elizabethton, Tenn. May continued to be dry; 1.35 inches deficit at Pittsburgh, and only two inches total for the two months at Marietta, O. May was quite cool, a deficit at Pittsburgh of 116 day-degrees, and there was snow as late as May 19 at Leeper, Pa.

The migration in early April was uneventful, as most of the species due then had arrived in March. The mid-month warm spell brought a real spate of early arrivals of such birds as E. Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, and several warblers. None of these early arrivals appeared in numbers, however. The return of cold weather slowed the migration and from then on until the end of the period most observers found that the birds trickled through in unimpressive numbers. The only reports of great concentrations came from Presque Isle, Pa., on the south shore of L. Erie. This natural "migration trap" which has recently been added to this Region (although it is most un-Appalachian) had good waves through May, particularly May 14-16. On May 16 a banding operation there banded 408 birds of 37 species (RBo). At Powdermill Nature Reserve, near Ligonier, Pa. (P.N.R.

below) total bandings for the period were 48% below the five year average, with 17 species handled in less than average numbers, nine in more than average, and 10 in average numbers (RCL).

The migration continued through the last ten days of May, with many migrants still present at Morgantown on May 29-30 and a fairly large movement at Presque I May 31 (DS & DST). In w. North Carolina a 6.5 inch rainfall May 27-29 produced heavy flooding and wiped out many phoebe and swallow nestings (RRu).

LOONS, CORMORANTS AND HERONS — Is the Com. Loon in great trouble in the East? It was missing at Morgantown and at Lock Haven, Pa. (PS), and several other observers commented on sight records with such obvious delight and surprise as to lead one to think such a sighting had become extremely unusual. Double-crested Cormorants, often not reported in the entire Region in spring, were found at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa. (MC & CHa), seven at Presque I., Apr. 15 (RBo) and in Buncombe Co N.C., Apr. 21 & 24 (RSg).

Each spring seems to bring more and more records of the Great Egret, once known only as a late summer vagrant. This year reports came from Williamsport, Pa., Apr. 15 (PS), Beaver County, Pa., Apr. 3 and Butler County, Pa. three records, Apr. 9-30 (PH), State College Pa. (MW), and five records at Presque I., Apr. 10-May 20 (RBo). Cattle Egrets were reported from Clarksville, Pa., May 7 (RBe), Presque I., May 13, second local record (DSt & JAS), and New Buffalo, O., May 15-26 (WB). A Snowy Egret was at Elizabethton, Tenn., Apr. 18 (GE & GW), and a Louisiana Heron was seen at Presque I., May 9 (DSt & JAS). A number of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were seen at Kingsport, Tenn., with a maximum of seven Apr. 14 (RL) and this species nested near Salem, Va. (NM). The first nesting in 40 years of the Am. Bittern in Tennessee was observed in Grundy County (KD). In the Allegheny N.F. in n. Pennsylvania one colony of Great Blue Herons has declined from 36 nests to one nest in four seasons, but another colony has remained at previous levels (WH). A Glossy Ibis was seen near Wooster, O., Apr. 20 (JB).

WATERFOWL — Most of the waterfowl flight had passed before the start of the period, but there was still some movement in Apr. and at Presque I. several species remained until late May. On Apr. 4 a storm system precipitated a large number of Lesser Scaup into various localities in w. Pennsylvania (PH, RFL) with a total of 3000 being reported. Whistling Swans at Marienville, Pa., May 3 (WH) and Leeper, Pa., May 7 (LC) were rather late. A brood of six young Canada Geese at Lander, Pa., May 30 represented the first county nesting record (CN). The best waterfowl record of the season was a White-fronted Goose at Bald Eagle S.P., Pa. (second local record — MW). Oldsquaws were reported in more than the usual spring numbers and two at Mountain Lake Park, Md., Apr. 26 (FP) were rather late. White-winged Scoters were found at Fayetteville, Pa., Apr. 4 (CG), Presque I., 14 on May 18 (late — PH), and Montour County, Pa. (no date given — SS) and the much rarer Surf Scoter was found in Washington County, Pa., Apr. 4 (SH & RMH).

RAPTORS — All three *Buteo* species that nest in the Region seem to be doing well, but the reports submitted

do not permit any estimation of the status of the *Accipiter* species. Goshawks were seen near Elizabethton, Tenn., Apr 24 (LH) and at Rector, Pa., May 13 (RCL), the latter date suggesting possible nesting. Goshawks nested again this year in Tucker County, W. Va., where the first state nesting record was established last year (RH). A pair of Bald Eagles that had failed to raise young for 8-10 years did raise two this year at Geneva, Pa. (RFL), but this was the only successful nesting in the Crawford County area (the only area in the Region where nesting occurs). A Golden Eagle was seen at Fayetteville, Pa. May 16 (CG).

The greatly increased number of Osprey sightings throughout the Region is encouraging. There were two reports of Peregrines: Erie, Pa., Apr. 5 (JGS) and Woodcock L., Pa., Apr. 13 (RFL). American Kestrels are doing well, and are perhaps in better-than-average numbers. At Irvine, Pa., five kestrel nesting boxes contained 25 eggs in mid-May (RRi).

GROUSE, CRANES AND RAILS — In w. Pennsylvania the Ruffed Grouse is at a low point on its population cycle. A Sandhill Crane was sighted near Warren, Pa., Apr. 25 (DS). Virginia Rails nested near Kingsport, Tenn., the first local record (FA).

SHOREBIRDS — Erie County, Pa. is the only location in the Region which gets much of a shorebird flight, and it was a good one there. Elsewhere the flight was only fair at best, although several regions reported some interesting sightings. A Piping Plover at Presque I., May 1 was the only one recorded this spring there (DSt, JAS). Two Am. Golden Plovers were seen near Chattanooga, Tenn., in early May (KD) and 35 Black-bellied Plovers at Presque I., May 7 (DS) was a noteworthy number. A Ruddy Turnstone at Lewisburg, W. Va., May 22 (COH), was one of less than ten records for the state. A Whimbrel was at Presque I., May 22 (JHS). There were three reports of the Willet: near Wooster, O., Apr. 19 (JB), Presque I., May 4, (DSt) and Duffield, Pa., May 16 (CG). Western Sandpipers were reported from Elizabethton, Tenn., May 8 (GE) and Lewisburg, W. Va., May 22 (COH) while Baird's Sandpipers were at Boone L., Tenn., Apr. 24 (MD & JW) and at Presque I., May 31 (DSt). Most remarkable were the five reports of White-rumped Sandpipers: Presque I., May 20-23 and May 31 (DSt); Canonsburg, Pa., May 15 (RMH), Jackson Ky., May 22 (PA), and Linville, N.C. (MP). Northern Phalaropes were reported from Duffield, Pa., two on May 16 and Fort Loudon, Pa., one on May 23 (CG).

GULLS AND TERNS — A Little Gull was recorded several times during late May at Presque I. (RBo). Most of the Bonaparte's Gulls apparently crossed the mountains north of the usual route since they were missing at Morgantown, and in low numbers in the Ligonier Valley, Pa (RCL), but concentrations of 500-700 were seen at L. Arthur, Pa., Apr. 9-11 (PH). Common Terns were more widely reported than usual and the seldom-reported Caspian Tern was seen at Presque I., five on Apr. 24 (RFL) and one on May 31 (DSt), Bald Eagle S.P., Pa., four on Apr. 24 (MC & CHa), and Deep Creek L., Md., May 21 (FP).

CUCKOOS, OWLS AND GOATSUCKERS — Both species of cuckoo were very scarce throughout the Region. At Elizabethton there were four active Barn Owl

nests (GE) and this owl nested also at Mountain Lake Park, Md. (FP), but was considered scarce in Greene County, Pa. (RBe). A Long-eared Owl was seen at Presque I., May 30 (DSt) and a nesting of this species in the Canaan Valley of West Virginia (m.ob.) was only the second known nesting in the state. Saw-whet Owls were heard on the Blue Ridge Parkway in w. North Carolina Apr. 23 and May 21-22 (RRu). Chuck-will's-widows were rather early at Dalton, Ga., Mar. 27 (AH), and the species was heard at Salem, Va., May 11, the first local record west of the Blue Ridge (NM). Whip-poor-wills continue to decline in n. West Virginia (GAH) and parts of e. Ohio (ES) but were common in Vinton County, O. (AN)

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS — Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were remarkably scarce throughout the Region. The Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to increase in n.w. Pennsylvania where once it was not known, but this species was in lower-than-normal numbers in e. Kentucky (PA). The Red-headed Woodpecker continues to decline, and has now disappeared from Mountain Lake Park, Md. one of its last strongholds on the Allegheny Tableland (FP).

There were two very early records for the E. Kingbird Apr. 17 at Deep Creek L., Md. (FP) and Apr 21 at P.N.R. (RCL), but the main migration was much later, as for example a flock of 12 seen at Warren, Pa., May 14 (WH). Acadian Flycatchers are staging a population boom throughout the normal range in the Region, and they may be about to join the list of species that are explosively expanding northward: there was a record of three in McKean County, Pa., May 26 (TG). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported from Leeper, Pa., May 10 (early — LC), Allegheny County, Pa., three May 22 (TNM) and one May 25 (CF), Marietta, O., May 27 (JS) and four (average 16) were banded at P.N.R. (RCL). There were 11 reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher eight from w. Pennsylvania, and one each from Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia.

SWALLOWS AND CORVIDS — Tree Swallows were found dead in nesting boxes near Warren, Pa., in early May after a cold spell (WH). The cold May may have caused a further setback in the recovery of the Purple Martin populations, which has been proceeding very slowly. Bank Swallows nested at Linville, N C., the first local record (MP). Blue Jays were still migrating north in numbers at P.N.R. May 30. This is a late date but annually large migrating flocks (first year birds?) move through the Region at a time when local birds may have young out of the nest. Common Ravens were seen on the Kentucky side of Cumberland Mt. (LS) and they continue to increase in w. Pennsylvania. Fish Crows have been occurring on the Susquehanna R. at Lock Haven annually but only two were seen this year (PS).

TITMICE AND NUTHATCHES — There was an echo flight of Black-capped Chickadees following last fall's irruption and 29 were banded at P.N.R. compared with an average of nine (RCL). There was also a small echo flight of the fall invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches which were widely reported in more than usual numbers, but the breeding population in the West Virginia spruce belt seemed low May 31 (GAH). The only report of the Boreal Chickadee came from Irvine, Pa., Apr. 6 (RRi). Brown-headed Nuthatches were reported

from Chattanooga, May 1 (KD) and Salem, Va., Apr. 4 (NM)

WRENS AND THRUSHES — From L. Erie south to about Pittsburgh the Carolina Wren population has suffered heavy mortality during the prolonged snow-cover of last winter. At P.N.R. they were still numerous although a decrease was evident (RCL), and south of the Pennsylvania-West Virginia border populations remained high with little winter losses. The Swainson's Thrush flight was excellent, the birds sang well, and remained in a given area for a long time. They were still moving through on May 31 when "hundreds" were seen at Presque I. Gray-cheeked Thrushes were more commonly reported than usual for the spring season and the seldom-recorded subspecies *bicknelli* was banded at Morgantown May 26. Hermit Thrushes banded at Morgantown May 4, 6 & 14 were unusually late. At Warren about 50% of the nestlings in the first broods of the E. Bluebird died during the cold early May (WH), but at Clarksville, Pa. (RBe) and Newcomerstown, O. (ES) the first nestings were more successful.

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS AND VIREOS — The migration of Ruby-crowned Kinglets was outstanding and lasted longer than usual. At P.N.R. bandings were up 12% (RCL). Cedar Waxwings were essentially absent from all places during the winter and early spring but a few showed up in late May. The White-eyed Vireo continues to expand northward and the rate seems to be accelerating. Records came from Erie County: nine reports, Apr. 18-May 23 (RBo); Lock Haven: three records (PS); Allegheny County, Pa.: 16 reports (PH) and Mountain Lake Park (elev. 2200+ ft.— FP). Red-eyed Vireos were unusually common at Morgantown (GAH) but bandings at P.N.R. (RCL) and Presque I. (RFL) were below average. Philadelphia Vireos were reported from Leeper, Pa., Apr. 17), very early, and May 20 (LC), Johnson City, Tenn., May 4 (MD & HD) and Erwin, Tenn., May 9 (SG), two records in w. Pennsylvania, May 9 & 22 (PH), Dalton, Ga., May 16 (second local record — AH) and five (average number) banded at P.N.R. (RCL).

WARBLERS — There was a little more of a consensus this year on the warbler flight than is usual in a spring. With the exception of Presque I. most areas found warblers to be in small numbers and observers found few waves. Large concentrations did build up on the south shore of L. Erie and 21 species were found at Presque I. May 31 (DSt). One widespread generality was that while the locally nesting species were in normal numbers, the species which nest to the north were in low numbers. This probably reflects an erratic and poorly observed migration rather than low populations, but for one example. I saw no Blackburnian Warblers at Morgantown during the spring and nesting populations in the Cheat Mts. were well below normal. Two northern species that did stage good flights were the Tennessee (which at Morgantown almost approached the peak years of 25 years ago) and the Blackpoll, usually not very common west of the mountains. Bay-breasted (especially at Presque I.) and Cape Mays were locally abundant but in low numbers at some places. On the other hand Nashvilles and Canadas were generally in low numbers during migration, although Canadas were about normal in the Cheat Mts. in late May (GAH). Orange-crowned

Warblers were seen at Lock Haven (PS) P. N. R., May 9 (RCL), and Leeper, Pa., May 11 (LC). Connecticut Warblers are usually unreported in the spring but there were banding records at Presque I., May 16 (JHS), P. N. R., May 22 (first spring record in five years — RCL), and Morgantown May 24 (second spring record — GAH).

The exciting warbler news this year is of two southern species which are expanding northward. The movement of the Yellow-throated Warbler has been apparent for some time but this year reports come from Hancock County, W.Va. (EEC), Washington County, Pa and Allegheny County, Pa. (PH), Ligonier, Pa. and P N R for the second year in a row (RCL), and at the northern limits of the Region at Leeper, Pa. May 11 (LC) and Presque I., May 17 (MG). Behind the advancing front populations continue to increase. The new invader northward is Swainson's Warbler, which has long been a widely but locally distributed bird in the s. Appalachians. This year reports come from East Liverpool, O. (a pair present continually in late May — NL), Morgantown (*vide* WW), and most remarkably one in the northern forest at Swallow Falls S.P., Md., May 23 (DJ). To these we can also add the Prairie Warbler, a less spectacular species, which was more commonly reported than usual in n.w. Pennsylvania.

ICTERIDS — Bobolinks remained near my home at Morgantown for a month but finally departed about June 1. A pair also remained in Charleston until late May (AS) Northern Orioles were almost at a vanishing point in n West Virginia (GAH), and were very low at P N R (RCL). On the other hand Orchard Orioles are doing well, and they too may be starting to move northward

FRINGILLIDS — At Morgantown (GAH) and P.N.R. (RCL) Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were quite scarce. Three Blue Grosbeaks were seen at Lambertsville, Somerset Co., Pa., May 20 (GRS) and three pairs were nesting near Blacksburg, Va. (JM). A Dickcissel was seen at Lock Haven May 8 (MC), the only one reported

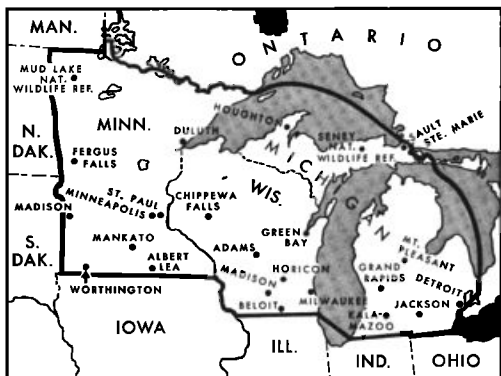
Unusual in w. Pennsylvania were a **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Allegheny County May 31 (TNM) and a **Lark Bunting** at Pymatuning, Pa., May 30 (PB & JBG). White-crowned Sparrows were present at Leeper, Pa. Apr 20-May 26 (LC) but at Morgantown, where the flight was very good, practically all passed through May 5-10 (GAH). Lincoln's Sparrows were scarce at Morgantown, where only two were banded (average 6-8). A very late Dark-eyed Junco was at Indiana, Pa., May 24 (found dead — CW).

CONTRIBUTORS — Pierre Allaire, Fred Alsop, William Bartolo, Ralph Bell (RBe), Richard Bollinger (RBo), Paul Brown, Jim Bruce, Lois Callahan, Dennis Carter, Dollie Cox, Elizabeth and E.R. Chandler (EEC), Morton Claster, Kenton Dickerson, Martha Dillenbeck, Helenhill Dove, Glen Eller, Chris Fichtel, Thomas Finucane, Carl Garner, Marguerite Geibel, John & Bonnie Ganator (JBG), Norris Gluck, Sally Goodin, Ted Grisez, Richard Hall, Anne Hamilton, C.O. Handley Sr., Cecil Hazlett (CHa), LeRoy Herndon, Paul Hess, Roger & Margaret Higbee (RMH), William Highhouse, Kendrick Hodgdon, Sarah Hugus, Douglas James, Robert C. Leberman, Ronald F. Leberman, Robert

Lewis (RL), Nevada Laitsch, Thomas & Nellie McGary (TNM), Norwood Middleton, John Murray, Charles Neel, Avis Newell, Margery Plymire, Francis Pope (FP), F. R. Preston, Kelly Ramsey, Ron Rieder (RRi), Jackie Rollfinke, M.B. Roush (MR), Robert Ruiz (RRu), Glen and Ruth Sager (GRS), Roland Sargent (RSg), Paul Schwalbe, Ellis Shimp, Anne Shreve (AS), Lawrence Smith, Don Snyder (DS), Ruth Snyder, Stanley Stahl, Anne Stamm, David Steadman (DSt), Jerie Stewart (JS), James A. Stull, James G. Stull, Jean H. Stull, Gary Wallace, Forrest Watkins, Jane Whitehead, Cora Williams, Merrill Wood, and William Wylie—**GEORGE A. HALL, Department of Chemistry, West Virginia University, Morgantown, West Virginia 16506.**

WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION /Robert B. Janssen

The spring season in the Upper Midwest was one of contrasts, weather-wise and bird-wise. Minnesota experienced the driest spring on record with rainfall deficient in all areas and almost totally lacking in some



areas. Duluth, for example, recorded only 0.15 inches during the month of May, the lowest monthly total in 102 years! The west-central and southwest parts of the state experienced extreme drought conditions with blowing dust, withering crops, dried up marshes and receding lakes, along with this temperatures were very mild for the season. Temperatures were in the 60s, 70s and 80s F. throughout April. However, during the first week in May, it cooled off and snowed. The rest of the month was warm and dry.

How did these conditions affect birdlife? For the observer, it was a generally poor migration with few "waves" developing during the stable, warm, almost monotonous days that followed one after the other; relatively few rarities were recorded. However, the early migration that began in March continued into April, with many record early arrival dates being listed. By May the migration slowed for some reason and birds were either on time or late. By the end of the month, warblers, along with other breeding species suddenly were on territory in the northern part of the state, seemingly appearing out of nowhere. Observers in the state reported good migration only on a very few days, these being May 13-14 and May

19-20. Birding, however, was generally good across the state, if the observer had patience and persistence: on a Minnesota May Big Day Marathon, which covered 750 miles, a near record 179 species were observed.

In Wisconsin it was unseasonably warm and dry during the first three weeks of April, but drought conditions were broken by a major cold front that passed through the state on April 23-24. Heavy rains and strong winds buffeted the state for several days. The first ten days of May were cool with frosts occurring nightly. Numerous showers occurred across the state with heavy snows in northern sections. There was a brief warm period by mid-month, but, then it was cool and dry for the remainder of the period. By the end of the month the whole state was under drought conditions, especially in the northwest.

Ornithologically the spring season in Wisconsin proved to be one of the most remarkable in years. Numerous arrival records were shattered and an unbelievable parade of amazing observations punctuated the entire two months. These included Louisiana Herons, Cinnamon Teal, Purple Gallinule, Laughing Gull, Arctic Tern, Bewick's Wren, the lingering Townsend's Solitaire, a tardy Bohemian Waxwing, two Worm-eating Warblers, a Yellow-throated Warbler, tardy Common Redpolls, and the late remaining Black-throated Sparrow. The warbler migration was noteworthy, not from a quantitative but a qualitative point. Thirty-six species plus one hybrid were recorded, making for a memorable season. In contrast, the shorebird movement was not noteworthy. It started early (March) but, apparently the majority of birds "rushed" through during mid-May relatively unnoticed.

In contrast to Minnesota and Wisconsin, Michigan was cold and wet in the southeast and Upper Peninsula, warm and wet in the west-central during April with a short interlude of 80° F. temperatures April 16-19 across most of the state. May was generally a cold and very wet month all across Michigan with most observers complaining about the persistent north winds during May. The migration across the state appeared to be early in April with a few early dates recorded, but by May the migration was late with practically no early dates established. The heaviest movements of passerines was noted in the southeast May 11-12 and May 16-19.

With the strong north winds all across the state, a number of observers reported a build-up of migrants in the latter part of May. By May 27, most of the migrants had vanished and reports began to be received of a major bird disaster over Lake Huron during the May 29-31 weekend. It was reported that an estimated 200,000 birds, mostly jays, thrushes and warblers were found dead along the shore of Lake Huron in an area 50 miles north of Detroit. Audubon members in the area were calling it a major catastrophe.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Red-throated Loons were observed in Minnesota, with one at Duluth May 29, and in Wisconsin, six on Apr. 6 and one May 9 in Ozaukee County. Eared Grebes were recorded on many sewage ponds in w. Minnesota and one strayed as far east as Muskegon County, Mich., May 10. Herons as a group created a stir all across the region. Little Blue Herons were recorded in Wabasha and Winona Counties, Minn., Waukesha County, Wis. and Berrien and Ottawa Counties, Mich. Cattle Egrets were reported on the

record early date of Apr. 8 in Vernon County, Wis. Numbers of this species seem to have stabilized across the region with no increase reported in several years. Great Egrets were reported as far north as Agassiz N. W.R. in n w Minnesota. Snowy Egrets were recorded in Minnesota: single observations in Murray, Anoka, and Goodhue Counties and in Michigan with one bird May 22 in Monroe County. Wisconsin has only recorded one prior **Louisiana Heron** (1955) but this spring four were seen, the first on Apr. 23 near LaCrosse (HY) the second near Ashland on the shores of L. Superior May 3 (DV) and finally two at Rush L., Winnebago Co., May 15 (TZ). Michigan also recorded a Louisiana Heron at Fish Pt., Tuscola Co., May 18 (VJ). Yellow-crowned Night Herons were nesting in Racine County, Wis. and were observed in Berrien and Ingham Counties, Mich.

WATERFOWL — The migration of White-fronted Geese across w. Minnesota was one of the best in this author's memory. The species was reported by many observers as being common, and a few birds lingered into mid-May. Duck migration across most of the region was only fair, however good numbers were reported at Big Stone N.W.R. and Agassiz N.W.R. in Minnesota. Peak numbers from Agassiz on Apr. 30: Gadwall 5250, Green-winged Teal 3340, Blue-winged Teal 11,300, Redhead 1370, Ring-necked Duck 3330, Lesser Scaup 10,400. Canvasbacks peaked at 1780 on Apr. 23. Cinnamon Teal were seen in Minnesota in Freeborn County Apr. 3 (record early date (DG), Grant County Apr. 5 (GO) and Mower County Apr. 29 (RK) and in Wisconsin Apr. 21 in Grant County (JI). Oldsquaws were still present on L. Superior near Duluth until the last week in May. A ♀ Harlequin Duck appeared in Milwaukee harbor May 3-4 (EB) There were a few scattered reports of all three species of scoters from L. Michigan in Wisconsin and Michigan.

HAWKS — No spectacular movements of this group occurred during the spring season. Red-shouldered Hawks were nesting in Ottawa and Mason Counties, Mich., and this species continued to be more frequently recorded in n. Minnesota. Swainson's Hawks were recorded in two counties of Wisconsin and were nesting in Dakota County, Minn. by late April. Rough-legged Hawks were reported all across the region into mid-and late May. The rare Ferruginous Hawk was seen at L. Benton, Lincoln Co., Minn., May 23 (KE). Peregrine Falcons were recorded from four localities in Wisconsin, two in Michigan and only one in Minnesota.

GROUSE THROUGH COOT — Ruffed Grouse remain in the down cycle all across northern parts of the region, especially in n.e. Minnesota. The situation is exactly reversed in s.e. Minnesota, where numbers are at a peak Greater Prairie Chickens continue to hold on in n w Minnesota with populations stable at about 3000 birds This is primarily owing to preservation of prairie areas in that part of the state. Ring-necked Pheasants continue to decline in Minnesota as farming practices work against the species. On the brighter side, Gray Partridge seem to be increasing in Minnesota, with birds recorded in larger numbers across s. and w. areas. King Rails go unreported in Minnesota and Wisconsin, but Michigan reported two at the Erie Marsh May 20 (SJ) and two at Pt. Mouille May 30 (SJ). Yellow Rails were

back in their old localities in Mahanomen and Aitkin Counties, Minn. A single bird was heard in Barron County, Wis., May 22. Two **Purple Gallinules** appeared in Wisconsin, the first in mid-April at Cedarburg Bog, Ozaukee Co., (CW), and the other on a lawn in Kohler, Sheboygan Co., Apr. 18 (DT).

SHOREBIRDS — As the construction of sewage ponds increases across the region the shorebirding becomes better. In Minnesota, most communities of any size in the w. part of the state have constructed sewage ponds. The Marshall Sewage Lagoons, Lyon Co., Minn., are famous in the state for large numbers of shorebirds This spring the first well documented state record of a **Snowy Plover** was obtained May 1 (HK). A carefully described **Mountain Plover** was observed near Walton, Baraga Co., Mich., May 13, (NI). A Long-billed Curlew was seen at Appleton, Swift Co., Minn., Apr. 24 (RBJ) Whimbrels were recorded in Minnesota and Wisconsin in larger numbers than usual. A Solitary Sandpiper was seen on the record early date of Apr. 10 in Waukesha County, Wis. A concentration of 4500+ Dunlins was seen May 19-20 in Brown County, Wis. Western Sandpipers were in good numbers in Minnesota and Wisconsin and were recorded as far east as the sewage ponds in Muskegon County, Mich. Both Minnesota and Wisconsin reported excellent migrations of Hudsonian Godwits The only record of a **Ruff** for the region was of one at E Lansing, Ingham Co., Mich., Apr. 16 (DM). There were numerous reports of Am. Avocets in w. Minnesota, they were also recorded from two counties in Wisconsin (Milwaukee and Bayfield) and in Michigan five were seen in Berrien County Apr. 25 and eight in Muskegon County Apr. 19.

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — Over the past several years the gulls have been one of our most interesting groups of birds. Three species appear to be expanding their range westward across the Great Lakes: Great Black-backed Laughing and Little Gulls. Michigan recorded three Great Black-backed at Pt. Mouillee May 30, two Laughing Gulls, one in Ottawa County May 24, and another in Berrien County May 8. The Laughing Gull was also recorded in Wisconsin in Milwaukee County May 15 and Brown County May 29. Little Gulls continue to be seen more frequently with all three states recording birds in the latter part of May. Michigan had three records, Wisconsin recorded the species from four counties and in Minnesota two adults were in Duluth May 18 for a record early date (JCG). Two immatures were seen at the same location May 29 (WL). Of unusual interest were the two **Arctic Terns** in Brown County, Wis., May 13 (TE). A Monk Parakeet was shot in Wright County, Minn., May 8, for the first state record in two years. Owls remain scarce across the region as numbers seem to dwindle for all species. Many observers complain of the scarcity of these birds and ask where they can be found. In Michigan, Al Maley's Barn Owl nesting project ended in disaster; one pair shot, one pair deserted and one brood destroyed by fire! From Minnesota it was encouraging to receive two reports of Burrowing Owls, one in Lyon County May 7, and another in Polk County May 29. These are the first spring records for the state in several years. Four Boreal Owls were banded in Whitefish Pt., Mich., Apr. 24-30.

WHIP-POOR-WILL THROUGH CREEPER — A general scarcity of Com. Nighthawks and Chimney Swifts was reported from across the whole region: no explanation was forthcoming. An early E. Kingbird was recorded in Lac Qui Parle County, Minn., Apr. 24 (RBJ). Cliff Swallows are doing extremely well in Minnesota, with numbers increasing all across the state, especially in n. areas. On May 26 over 100 Gray Jays were seen at Whitefish Pt., Mich. (VJ). By late May, Black-billed Magpies had young in the nest in Polk County, Minn.

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES — Bewick's Wrens were recorded at two localities in Wisconsin and the first Minnesota record since 1970 for the species was received from Crow Wing County, Apr. 8 (JB). The hopes for continued increase in Carolina Wren numbers in Michigan were not realized this spring, with numbers down all across the state. A single Carolina Wren was observed in Goodhue County, Minn., May 12. Thrushes were migrating early across Minnesota with numerous early dates for Swainson's and Gray-cheeked. Unfortunately, E. Bluebirds remain scarce across the region. Mountain Bluebirds were again recorded in Minnesota: one in Rock County, Apr. 1 (KE) and two males in Marshall County, Mar. 28-29 (SV). A Townsend's Solitaire remained in Green Bay, Wis., until Apr. 9 (TE). A species that is certainly on the "Blue List" in this region is the Loggerhead Shrike; all observers report a general scarcity of this bird.

VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS — As mentioned above, no real "waves" developed in this group, but the quality of species was excellent. A record early White-eyed Vireo was recorded in Milwaukee County, Wis., Apr. 19 (RS). This species was well represented in Michigan with two records from Wayne County (JF). three to four birds in Berrien County, plus single birds in Ingham, Kalamazoo, and Allegan Counties. Wisconsin recorded a very early Worm-eating Warbler Apr. 3-11 in Milwaukee County (JJ). A second bird was seen in Waukesha County May 23. A record early Yellow-throated Warbler was seen Apr. 20-22 in Grant Park, Milwaukee County (JI). This species was also recorded in two areas in Michigan. The Prairie Warbler was recorded in three localities in Michigan and two in Wisconsin. Kentucky Warblers were found at their usual spots in Dane and Grant Counties Wisconsin and Michigan reported the species from two localities. The number of Yellow-breasted Chat reports from Wisconsin and Michigan was encouraging; Minnesota recorded a single bird May 12 in Rock County (KE). This is the first spring record in several years. Hooded Warbler reports were also encouraging with at least four records from Wisconsin, at least two from Michigan and in Minnesota this casual species was recorded twice, one in Hennepin County May 28 and in Ottertail County, in the n. part of the state May 31 (DB).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — Orchard Orioles were recorded in good numbers in Wisconsin and they were north of their normal range in Minnesota in Polk County May 30 (RBJ). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were observed in good numbers all across the region. An Indigo Bunting visited a feeder at Trenton, Wayne Co., Mich. Mar. 3 - Apr. 17. During this period the bird moulted from the immature to ad. plumage.

There are no previous March or early April dates for this species. Common Redpolls stayed late in the region, the latest being four at a feeder in Ashland County, Wis., May 26. Both crossbills showed their erratic behavior by roaming widely into late May. Probably the most unusual record was of a mixed flock of Reds and White-winged at Crookston, Polk Co., Minn., out on the prairie May 29 Sharp-tailed Sparrows were recorded at a new locality in Minnesota when several were seen on Agassiz N.W.R. in late May and apparently setting up breeding territories Baird's Sparrow was recorded in Minnesota for the first time in several years; one at Felton, Clay Co., May 22 and another near Rothsay, Wilkin Co., May 31 (HK). The Black-throated Sparrow that wintered in Milwaukee County remained in the area until early May. A heavy migration of White-throated Sparrows occurred in Minneapolis May 13. A flock of several hundred Lapland Longspurs was observed in Lac Qui Parle County, Minn. Apr. 24. The birds were in various stages of plumage from winter to full spring breeding plumage.

CONTRIBUTORS — Once again a phenomenal number of observers contributed to this spring report 110 from Michigan, 82 from Minnesota, and 60 from Wisconsin for a total of 252. Listed below are the Regional Editors, plus those individuals whose initials are used in the text. Don Bolduc (DB), Elmer Bastens, Josephine Blanich, Kim Eckert, Tom Erdman, J. Fowler, Janet C. Green, Doris Gregerson, John Idzikowski, N. Ilnicky, (Upper Peninsula, Mich.), John Jansen, Vic Janson, Robert B. Janssen (Minn.), Sam Jenkins, Alice Kelley (s.e. Mich.), Ron Kneeskern, Henry Kyllingstad, William Litkey, Doug McWhirter (c. Mich.), Gary Otnes, James Ponshair (w.c. Mich.), Roy Smith (s.w. Mich.), Roger Sundell (RS), Daryl Tessen, (Wis.), Sarah Vasse, Dick Verch, Charles Weis, Howard Young, Tom Ziebell — **ROBERT B. JANSSEN, 14321 Prince Place, Minnetonka, Minnesota 55343.**

MIDDLEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION /Vernon M. Kleen

The season was rather disjointed. Although April temperatures averaged from 1° to 2° F. above normal, the weather was quite unpredictable: warm to very warm some days (especially the third week) and cold to freezing later (record lows were set, including the near-freezing temperatures during the fourth week). April was also



dry—the driest on record for Kentucky. The month of May was unusually cool, averaging from 3° to 6° below normal (again, freezing and near-freezing temperatures the first week, Regionwide), and would have been dry had it not been for the heavy rains during the last three days of the month. Total rainfall for the year is still well below normal.

Because of the early warm weather, most trees were fully leafed-out two to three weeks ahead of schedule. This led observers to expect an early spring migration, which for the most part did not materialize; however, many early arrivals were recorded.

Because of later cold spells migration was hindered, with noticeable movements still evident the last few days of May; in fact, hundreds of dead birds (especially warblers, thrushes and mimids) were found along the Lake Michigan shoreline Memorial Day weekend — the birds had become lost in the fog. Yellow-billed Cuckoos were very scarce Regionwide until after May 29 and were not detected until June in some areas. The lengthy cold-spell during the heart of migration was disastrous for insect-eating species; those dependent on high-flying insects — swallows, martins and swifts — were found emaciated around Indianapolis May 10 (HWe).

Although large migration waves were not observed, daily birders found that most species passed through in good to excellent numbers (weekend-only birders missed many species). On Saturday May 8, Illinois conducted its fifth annual Statewide Spring Bird Count. The preliminary results have shown that there was a heavy concentration of birds in the southern two-thirds of the state (providing record counts of both species and individuals for many observers on that day); while there was a low concentration of birds in comparison in the northern third of the state, which normally has better results on this count than all other areas. The most noteworthy aspect of the season was the shorebird migration; everyone found good numbers of most species and often found one or more of the less common species. Magee Marsh, Ohio, was the most outstanding area because it had been pumped down in order to repair the inner dikes, producing "perfect mudflats and small pools" for shorebirds and herons (LV).

In order to better verify observations, observers are now required to complete documentation forms for extraordinary sight records at the time of the observation; such documentations have been denoted by a dagger (†) before the observer's initials. Specimens have been denoted by an asterisk (*).

EXOTICS — A Ring-turtle Dove was photographed at South Bend, Ind. during its three day stay there, Apr. 18-20 (!PW).

LOONS THROUGH ANHINGAS — The appearance of a Red-throated Loon was documented at E St. Louis, Ill., Apr. 8 (†JEa). Single Red-necked Grebes were located in s. Cook County, Ill., Apr. 4 (†AD), at Olney, Ill., Apr. 11 (†LH), and Killdeer Plains, Ohio, Apr. 4 (*vide* TT). Horned Grebes were reported from many areas: maxima included 28 at Springfield, Ill., Mar 22 (H), 15 in Steuben County, Ind., Apr. 17 (Haw), and 12 at Fostoria, Ohio, Apr. 23 (BSt). The only area reporting an Eared Grebe that doesn't usually report them was Carbondale, Ill., Apr. 19 (BPj). The maximum

number of White Pelicans reported was 3500 at Squaw Creek N.W.R. Mo., (hereafter, S.C.R.) Apr. 18 (L), the species was last seen there May 24; up to 325 were reported from Riverton, Ia., Apr. 18 (RSi); one appeared at Swan Lake N.W.R., Mo. (hereafter, S.L.R.) May 23 (BG) and the wintering bird near Davenport, Ia., lingered there until early April (P). The largest group of Double-crested Cormorants was 150 seen at Riverton, Ia., Apr 11 (RSi); another group of 54 was observed at S.C.R Apr 11 (L); 1-18 were present in the Kansas City, Mo , area throughout April and early May (*vide* NJ); 1 - 8, usually only one or two at a location, were reported from all other states between Apr. 4 (Louisville, Ky.) and May 21 (L Chautauqua, Ill.); they were reported from three or fewer locations in each state. The first **Anhinga** in some 20 years was reported in Missouri at the Mingo N.W.R. May 21 (!WE).

HERONS AND IBISES — Great Blue Herons were scarce throughout most of the Region; therefore, it was noteworthy to have 375 at one time at Magee Marsh, Ohio, May 21 (LCm). As usual, Little Blue Herons were found some distance from known colonies in mid-to-late April; except for the five at S.C.R. May 15 (E), all other records were of single birds: Apr. 21 at New Haven, Ind , (Haw) and five c. Illinois locations between Apr 16 (Mattoon, LBH) and May 1 (Decatur, RSa); one bird had arrived in Jackson County, Ill. by Apr. 3 (BPj); others were detected in Ross county, Ohio (one) May 18 (*vide* TT) and in Waukegan, Ill., (one) as late as May 28 (C) The largest group of Cattle Egrets reported was 16 at S.C.R. May 9 (L); seven were found in Jefferson County, Ill. Apr. 21 (RP) and five near Charleston, Ill., May 19 (LBH); three were reported from Kansas City, Mo , Apr 18 and singles appeared at Columbus, Ohio, Apr. 21 (*vide* TT), Cleveland Apr. 23-24 (*vide* M), and Decatur, Ill , from about May 18 through May 21 (TN). The Great Egret was extremely scarce this spring except at Magee Marsh, where 140 were counted May 23 (LCm) There was a good influx of Snowy Egrets into the Region, two pairs had arrived at the Illinois Audubon Society's Heron Sanctuary (all observers *must* obtain advance authorization for each proposed visit to this highly unstable area) by Apr. 24 (JEa); the earliest report was of two birds at the Ottawa N.W.R., Ohio (hereafter, O.W.R.) Apr 17 (RC); the other records were of single birds, except where noted as follows; Iowa — Tabor May 1 (RSi); Missouri — S.C.R., May 29 (R) and (two) May 30 (*vide* NJ), Illinois — Whiteside County May 15 (BSh), Jackson County May 28 (BPj), and L. Renwick (Will Co.), (two) May 31 (H); Indiana — Indianapolis May 8 (CK), and Ohio — Columbus Apr. 20 (*vide* TT), Toledo May 7 (ET), Magee Marsh May 7 (Tbt), and Ottawa County May 23 (Tbt). Two **Louisiana Herons** were discovered: one at E St. Louis, Ill., Apr. 24-30 (†JEa, m.ob.) and one at S L R May 22 (JR, †PB, m.ob). The group of 30+ Black-crowned Night Herons at Louisville, Ky. was considered noteworthy there May 21 (S, WM); the species was reported in satisfactory numbers from most other areas Early-arriving Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported from Columbus, Ohio, (two) Apr. 18 (TT) and Urbana, Ill., (one) Apr. 23 (JF). One Glossy Ibis had appeared in gwayne County, Ohio, by Apr. 20 (JB), two others were present at Magee Marsh May 7 (KB); singles were found at S.C.R. May 1 (L) and near Havana, Ill ,

May 1 (†RSa, PG). White-faced Ibises were found at S C R (one) Apr. 16-19 (*vide* NJ), (two) May 9 (L) and (three) May 22-24 (R).

WATERFOWL — A rather late-departing Whistling Swan was present at Albion, Noble Co., Ind. May 2-8 (Haw *et al.*). One pair of White-fronted Geese was still present at the O.W.R. at the end of the period (m.ob.). May records of Snow Goose included: 50 at Schell-Osage Wildlife Area., Mo. May 3 (KH *et al.*); and singles at Cleveland May 1 (M *et al.*), South Bend, Ind. May 8 (*vide* HWb) and the lingering individual from last September at Hutsonville, Ill. through May 1 (†HA). A few Gadwalls remained much later than usual: one at Springfield, Ill., May 23 (H); one at Decatur, Ill., May 21 (RP) and three at Illinois Beach S.P., May 19 (JF). Two Cinnamon Teal were reported: one at Des Moines, Ia., for nearly a month (exact dates not indicated, DMo) and one at S.C.R. Apr. 4 (L), neither report suggested any possibility of the birds being pure Cinnamon Teal or hybrids appearing as Cinnamon Teal. As usual a few diving ducks (Lesser Scaup, Canvasback and Com. Goldeneye) lingered well into May at various locations. The Surf Scoter at Dundee, Ill. remained there until at least Apr. 15 (RMO). A ♀ Com. Merganser was still present at S.C.R. May 14-17 (R *et al.*).

KITES THROUGH FALCONS — Wandering Mississippi Kites were found at Francisco, Ind., Apr. 24 (†MSm) and in s. Morgan Co., Ill., May 23 (†RSa, PG). Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported as "scarce" or "very scarce" through much of the Region; the only areas where good numbers were reported during migration were c. and n. Ohio where daily counts ranged from 23 to 36 birds on good flight days between Apr. 16 and May 2 (m.ob.). The Cooper's Hawk was also very scarce Regionwide; one nest was found in n.e. Indiana May 21. Broad-winged Hawks passed through in good numbers, but there was only one exceptionally large group (1000+) reported: Bureau County, Ill., Apr. 26 (JHm); c. and n. Ohio also reported good flights of these birds. Three Bald Eagles were observed at O.W.R. May 2 (*vide* LV). There "seemed to be" fewer Ospreys reported: Ohio, 15 between Apr. 6 (*vide* TT) and May 12; Indiana, eight between Apr. 16 and May 11; Kentucky, two between May 4 and 8; Illinois, eight between Apr. 17 and June 1; Missouri, ten between Apr. 11 and May 30; Iowa, two between Apr. 23 and 25. A pair of Marsh Hawks may have attempted nesting in Randolph County, s. Ill. (JEa). The following reports of Peregrine Falcons were received: Indianapolis Apr. 29 (TA), S.C.R. May 2 (L); Magee Marsh, May 7 (*vide* TT); Homer, Ill., May 15 (JS); and DeKalb, Ill., May 20 (MSw). Merlins were found at Tucker Prairie, Mo., Apr. 11 (IA) and Cleveland Apr. 17 (†JHo).

CRANES, RAILS AND SHOREBIRDS — A group of four Sandhill Cranes was observed at Louisville, Ky. May 1 (JP); singles were found at O.N.W., May 2 (ET) and Indiana Dunes N.P., Ind., May 13 (REi). One Black Rail was closely observed running through sparse vegetation near Havana, Ill., May 21 (†RSa, PG). The Apr. 18 arrival of two Semipalmated Plovers at Iowa City, Ia., was significant there (MN, NH). Several locations were visited by Piping Plovers — the maximum at any one location was three; Iowa, Iowa City, (two) Apr. 18 (NH, MN); Missouri, S. C. R. (one) Apr. 16 (*vide*

NJ), (three) Apr. 17 (L) and (two) May 1 (L); Illinois, Waukegan, (two) Apr. 27 (JN), Havana, (one) May 1 & 2 (H, RSa), and Normal, (one) May 9 (DBi). The Snowy Plover noted from S.C.R. in the last Report remained for several days in early April (*vide* L). This was an excellent season for Am. Golden Plovers; most noteworthy were the larger flocks farther east and lingering individuals the species was reported "way above normal" from Apr. 15 into May at Magee Marsh (*vide* LV, m.ob.); 130 at Findlay, Ohio, Apr. 24 (BSt); 500 at Toledo May 8 (ET), the latest observation reported was of one in Mason County, Ill., May 29 (H); other individuals remained at Rend L., Ill. through May 27 (BPj) and S.C.R. May 25 (L). The first Kentucky spring record for Ruddy Turnstone was obtained May 10 when two birds were found at Louisville (BPB, DP *et al.*); 400 birds were estimated at Magee Marsh, May 22 (LV); the maximum at S.C.R. was 31 on May 25 (R *et al.*); 35 were reported from the Indiana Dunes, May 25 (NC) and 13 were at Highland Park, Ill., May 25 (REi). Common Snipe were reported farther south in the Region longer into the season than normal. A group of 73 Whimbrels was exceptional at Magee Marsh May 21 (AN); one bird was recorded at S.C.R. May 19 (R *et al.*). Willets were reported more often than usual this spring; the maximum number observed at one time was 37 — at Louisville, Ky., May 5 (DP), providing this year's only spring record from the state; the only Ohio record was of one bird in Wayne County Apr. 19 (JB); there were five c. Illinois reports ranging from one to four birds Apr. 25 - June 3, five individuals were found at the Schell-Osage Area, Mo., Apr. 25 (NJ) and there were "small numbers" present at S.C.R. during April (L). Three Red Knots were recorded from Magee Marsh May 20 (*vide* TT). Most observers reported great concentrations of White-rumped Sandpipers; the earliest appearance was May 6 at L. Calumet, Ill., (C); the greatest numbers were reported during the last ten days of May (with over 100 present near Alton, Ill., May 22, JEa); many lingered well into June. Two very early Long-billed Dowitchers were reported: Apr. 24 at Champaign, Ill. (JF) and May 1 at Decatur, Ill. (RP). There were more spring Stilt Sandpipers than usual, the earliest had arrived at L. Shelbyville, Ill., Apr. 23 (RSa), other singles were present at Champaign Apr. 28 - May 8 and at Rend L., Apr. 30 (BPj); two were found at Union County Ref., Ill. May 8 (K); one at Clarksville, Ind. May 4 (JE1); two at Columbus May 10 (*vide* TT); one at Schell-Osage, Mo., May 3 (*vide* KH) and three at S L R May 22 (BG). Reports of Marbled Godwits included five at S.C.R. May 17 (R) and one at Normal, Ill., May 9 (DBi). Hudsonian Godwits: 141 at S.C.R. May 17 (R), the first two had arrived there by Apr. 11 (L); six at Champaign May 6 — five remaining through May 9 (JF, m.ob.); one at Normal, Ill., May 9 (DBi) and two at S.L.R. May 22 (BG). The second Indiana record of a Ruff was documented and photographed at Manchester Apr. 18 (HB,†PS). A group of 14 Am. Avocets appeared in Ross County, Ohio, Apr. 18 (*vide* TT); 17 others were noted at S.C.R. Apr. 25 (L). Three Red Phalaropes were documented, one at Lima, Ohio, May 12 (†BSt), one at S. C. R. May 24 (photo, R) and a different bird at the latter location May 2-28 (R *et al.*). Ohio observers were excited with the presence of Wilson's Phalaropes: two at Hebron, May 5 (*vide* TT) and one at Magee Marsh May 25 (CW).

GULLS AND TERNS — Two imm. Great Black-backed Gulls were still present at O.W.R. May 2 (ET). Another California Gull was identified and documented in Illinois, this time at L. Chautauqua, May 21 (†RSA, PG) About 500 - 1100 Ring-billed Gulls have been noted at last year's new nesting location at L. Calumet, Ill.; actual nesting had not yet been determined. On Apr. 9, the first extreme s. Illinois record of a **Little Gull** was established when one individual of this species was documented at the Crab Orchard N. W. R. (hereafter, C.O.R.) (†BPj). Early-arriving Forster's Terns were found at Tiffin, Ohio, (two) Apr. 7 (Tbt); E. St. Louis, Ill. (one) Apr. 8 (JEa); and Springfield, Ill. (two) Apr. 8 (H); large flocks of 40 and 75 were reported at Louisville, May 5 (DP) and Indianapolis May 17 (LP), respectively. Only five Least Terns were reported: three at Alton, Ill., May 22 (JEa) and one each at Maryville, Mo., May 16 (R *et al.*) and Kansas City, Mo., May 31 (*vide NJ*).

CUCKOOS, OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS AND WOODPECKERS — Most Yellow-billed Cuckoos did not arrive in the Region until the last few days of May; the Black-billed was also scarce during May, but was usually reported earlier and more often than the Yellow-billed. The only Barn Owl reported was found in Coles Co., Ill. May 13 (LH). A frisbee throwing episode at Maryville, Mo was enlightened when a Saw-whet Owl began chasing the frisbee — Apr. 11 (*vide E*). One very early Ruby-throated Hummingbird was reported from Shelbyville, Ky., Apr. 13 (*vide S*); another bird was early in Moultrie County, Ill. Apr. 23 (LBH). The Red-headed Woodpecker was subject to many comments by observers; most were about the extreme abundance of this species and that there is no present need for it to be considered on the "Blue List" in the Middlewestern Prairie Region.

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS — The only W Kingbird reported east of its traditional area was the one present at Williamsburg, Mo. May 30 (†RW). One Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was found near Champaign May 18 (DBL *et al.*). An Alder Flycatcher was noted singing daily near Columbus May 18-28 (TT); at least four were present at Pigeon River Fish & Game Area, Ind (hereafter, P.R.A.) May 28 (LCs). Several observers indicated that the Olive-sided Flycatcher was somewhat more common or conspicuous this spring than usual, especially in Kentucky and Ohio. Instances of Tree Swallows nesting at new locations have been farther advanced this spring; one pair near Indianapolis (HWe) where nesting had not occurred for 20 years; also again in Jefferson County, Ky. (S). Nesting Cliff Swallows were new to one area along the Ohio R. about 20 mi. e. of Cincinnati (20 nests, WR) and in Ottawa County, Ohio, (8 nests, LV).

CHICKADEES, NUTHATCHES AND WRENS — The results of last Fall's invasion of Black-capped Chickadees was still notable into this season; several individuals remained throughout the period at the Magee Marsh where no local nesting is known to occur (LV). Last Fall's flight of Boreal Chickadees went undetected in our Region until May 8 when one bird was found and later photographed at the Fox Island Nature Preserve in Allen County, Ind.; the bird was seen occasionally through the end of the period (Haw). On May 15, a few

Indiana birders witnessed something that few birders will ever be able to "boast" about: they observed the Black-capped, Carolina and Boreal Chickadee all together at the same time in the wild. Several Red-breasted Nuthatches were late in departing; one remained at Springfield, Ill., until June 4 (H); another at Georgetown, Ind., May 27 (TR); and one in extreme w. Kentucky May 17 (JEr); good numbers of this species were still present around Cleveland during early May. A total of 40 Winter Wrens was counted in one area of Columbus, Apr. 15 — a rather high number for an inland location (TT); one bird was heard and seen singing at Allerton Park Piatt Co., Ill., May 20 (DF). Small numbers of Bewick's Wrens were reported as follows: three near Liberty, Ill. Mar 31 - Apr 5 (JFu); one at Schell-Osage, Mo., Apr. 24 (*vide NJ*), one at Chicago May 2 (C); two at C.O.R. May 3 (BPj); four at Louisville May 8 (*vide S*); "an apparent increase" near Madisonville, Ky., as they were observed in April and May; and an attempted (but the barn burned down before successful) nesting near Jacksonville, Illinois (PG)

MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — Mockingbirds, which have been occurring regularly in the Cleveland area, failed to reappear this spring after several years of success. Most observers noted that the Swainson's Thrush was quite abundant this spring; the Gray-cheeked Thrush seemed to have migrated in greater numbers in the w. portion of the Region, since it was reported in numbers equal to the Swainson's in many cases in Missouri, Iowa and Illinois, but as scarce in Ohio. Early arrivals for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in local areas were Apr. 2 at Bloomington, Ind., (SG) and Apr. 10 in Allen County, Ind., (m.ob.). May 8 was an exceptionally late date for a departing Golden-crowned Kinglet at Louisville, Ky. (m.ob.). One Sprague's Pipit was reported from Springfield, Ill. Apr. 26 (H). Reports of Loggerhead Shrikes in the north continue to be sparse; only one bird was found at Magee Marsh May 2 (m.ob.) where usually more are seen.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — The White-eyed Vireo made a mid-April appearance in the Cleveland area, was widespread there by May 1 and almost disappeared entirely after that; to where do these birds disperse? April 14 was considered an early arrival date for the Yellow-throated Vireo at Danville, Ky. (FL). Nine territorial ♂ Swainson's Warblers were located along a small stretch of Cedar Creek in Jackson County, Ill., May 27 (K). The Apr. 17 arrival of a Worm-eating Warbler at Louisville was early for that area; its arrival in mid-Illinois at the same time was normal; one was recorded at Woodstock, Ill., Apr. 22 (*vide EB*); two others were in the Chicago area May 2 (C) and May 18 (JF), respectively. This was an excellent season for the observation of the "hybrids" (Lawrence's and Brewster's Warblers); "The Blue-winged/Golden-winged complex has gone wild this year. A Lawrence's was found . . . in a Noble County (Indiana) pasture, May 8 . . . A Brewster's (typical individual as pictured in the guides) was found at Fox Island (Allen Co., Ind.) May 16 . . . an apparent territorial male was still present at the end of the period. On May 21, I observed the Brewster's playing chase through the bushes with a typical Blue-winged. After the chase, they ended up in trees about 50 feet from each other and began feeding. Neither sang a note the whole time . . . Another Brewster's was found at P.R.A. May 28 . . . A Blue-

winged at Fox Island May 9 was observed singing the Golden-winged song and a Blue-winged at P.R. A., May 28, was singing a song that resembled nothing known to man or bird. Other off-beat songs have also been heard, and we are all totally confused up here about the group." (Haw) In addition to these reports, there were two other Lawrence's and three to four other Brewer's reported. A group of ten Orange-crowned Warblers was a rather high total for the Magee Marsh area May 17 (TT). Two Cape May Warblers were found as early as Apr. 23, one at Bloomington, Ind. (SG) and the other at Springfield (WO *et al.*), one bird was found at Maryville, Mo., May 13 (E) — farther w. than usually reported. There were few reports of Black-throated Blue Warblers; the first was of one bird at Indianapolis Apr. 24 (CK), the next of two birds at Decatur, Ill., May 2 (TN) and the last of a single bird at South Bend May 8 (*vide* HWb). Out-of-normal range Prairie Warblers were found at Urbana, Ill., Apr. 22 (JF) and O.W.R. May 9 (BST). Two N. Waterthrushes were found as early as Apr. 7 at Bloomington, Ind. (SG). A Kentucky Warbler had arrived at Tiffin, Ohio, by Apr. 19 (†JC). There were more reports of Connecticut Warblers farther west than usually expected; all such notes were from observations between May 21 & 25; Iowa, Greenfield May 22 (TS), Iowa City May 21 (TS) and May 22 (MN); Illinois, St. Clair County May 21 (†BPj), Jackson County May 22 (BPj) and May 25 (MM). The more northerly records of Hooded Warblers were: Columbus Apr. 18 (DT); Findlay, Ohio, Apr. 21 (BST); O W R. May 1 (JHe); P. R. A. May 1 (Haw); Oregon, Ill May 14 (†MSw); and Iowa City, Ia. May 27 (MN).

BLACKBIRDS, GROSBEAKS AND FINCHES — Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found at Indianapolis, Ind. May 8 & 10 (AS, HWe) and at Champaign, May 8 (†JF). The first record of a **Great-tailed Grackle** in Missouri was obtained in Holt County, May 8 (*E, JHi). A very early Blue Grosbeak was present in Cass County, Ill. Apr. 24 (RSa). Evening Grosbeaks remained in the Region through all of April and in some areas until about May 7 or 8; of the thirteen reports indicating last dates of observation, six were listed as May 7 or 8, the extreme late date was May 27 at Tiffin, Ohio, (JK). A House Finch was observed at Mansfield, Ohio, Apr. 18 (†JHe). The only Pine Grosbeak reported was found at Park Forest, Ill. Apr. 7 (†AD). The only Com. Redpoll reported was found at South Bend May 6 (PW). Pine Siskins lingered at many locations with few observers actually reporting last dates of observation; at Springfield, Ill., one pair attempted nesting, but apparently abandoned (Apr. 16 & 22, H). Red Crossbills built three nests in the Springfield, Ill. area: Mar. 15, Mar. 22 & Apr. 13; none was successful; straggling flocks of 7 and 12 were reported at Springfield, Ill., May 23 (H) and Urbana, Ill., May 25 (DF), respectively.

SPARROWS, JUNCOS AND LONGSPURS — One Baird's Sparrow was reported to have been present at DeSoto Bend N. W. R., Ia. Apr. 27 (†TBr). An in-hand photograph of a Le Conte's Sparrow documents the presence of at least one bird of this species in Lake County, Ohio, May 1 (JT *et al.*). The first Henslow's Sparrows returned to Liberty, Ill., Apr. 15 (JFu); the next report was of three at Okolona, Ky., May 13 (LaS *et al.*) and then several were reported in late May with seven present in a Fairfield County, Ohio, field May 30 (BST).

The two pairs of Vesper Sparrows nesting near Maryville, Mo., were considered noteworthy for that area May 12 (E). The only Bachman's Sparrow reported was found at Bowling Green, Ky., May 1 (BM). On May 23, one Dark-eyed Junco was still present at Pershing S.P., Mo., (L), an interesting nesting event for this species was recorded at Painesville, Ohio: four eggs were in a nest by Apr. 9 — interestingly enough, a pair of juncos nested in the same yard last fall, the four eggs were present there Aug. 21 and the young fledged Sept. 10 (DMi). A normal number of Clay-colored Sparrows was reported, as usual, during the first ten days of May. A Swamp Sparrow was still present at Louisville June 1 — rather late for that area (BPB). More persons reported Smith's Longspurs than usual, the most new reports came from the e. side of Illinois during mid-April.

CONTRIBUTORS — (Sectional Editors' names in boldface type; contributors are requested to send their reports to these editors). Major contributors are identified with a single initial as follows (A) *Richard Anderson* (Missouri); (B) Lawrence Balch; (C) Charles Clark; (E) David Easterla; (H) H. David Bohlen; (K) *Vernon Kleen* (Illinois); (L) Floyd Lawhon; (M) William Klamm; (P) Peter Petersen; (R) Mark Robbins; (S) *Anne Stamm* (Kentucky); (W) Arthur Wiseman; other observers include: Helen Abbott; I. Adams; Tom Alexander; T. Baptist; (TBr) Tom Bartlett; Paul Bauer, K. Bernarik; (DBi) Dale Birkenholz; (DBI) Dorothy Black; Mrs. H. Book; (TBr) Tanya Bray; James Bruce, Alan Bruner; (DBu) Dorothy Buck; Elaine Burstatte, (LCm) Lou Campbell; Marilyn Campbell; (LCs) Lee Casebere; J. Coffman; Robert Crofts; Noel Cutright, Owen Davies; Aura Duke; (JEa) Joe Eades; William Eddleman; (REi) Ralph Eiseman; (JEI) Jackie & Diane Elmore; (REr) Ruth Erickson; (JEr) Joe Erwin; Nathan Fay; (JF) Jim Frank; Darlene Friedman; (JFu) Jim Funk; Pam Gibson; Steven Glass; Bill Goodge; Willard Gray; (DHa) Dorothy Hagewood; Nicholas Halmi, (JHm) Jim Hampson; (JHa) James Hancock; Leroy Harrison; (Haw) James Haw; Roger Hayes; (DHe) Dick Heller; (JHe) John Herman; (JHi) Jack Hilsabeck; Kelly Hobbs; (JHo) James Hoffman; Mike Homoya; Virginia Humphreys; L. Barrie Hunt; Nanette Johnson; *Charles & Tim Keller* (Indiana); Dennis & Vernon Kline; Jean Knoblauch; Robert Krol; Frederick Leotscher; (JMc) John McKee; Lynn McKeown; Woodie Middleton, Charles Mills; (DMi) Dorothy Miller; Burt Monroe, (RMO) Robert Montgomery; (JMO) Jeff Moore; Mike Morrison; (DMo) Dean Mossman; (RMu) Russell Murray; Jim Neal; Turner Nearing; Avis Newell, Mike Newlon; William O'Brien; *David Osborne* (s. Ohio); Richard Palmer, (BPB) Brainard Palmer-Ball; Jim Pasikowski; Larry Peavler; (BPj) Bruce Peterjohn; Worth Randle; Jim Rathert; Terrence Rhoades; (RSa) Richard Sandburg; (BSH) Betty and Harry Shaw; (RSi) Ross Silcock; James Smith; (LaS) Lawrence Smith; (LiS) Litha Smith; (MSm) Marietta Smith; Alfred Starling, Thomas Staudt; Paul Steffen; (BST) Bruce Stehling, Kit Struthers; Donald Summerfield; (MSw) Mark Swan, Jerry Talkington; Tom Thomson; Elliot Tramer; *Laurel Van Camp* (n. Ohio) Philip Wagner; Clint Ward; (HWb) Helen Weber; (HWe) Henry West; Melba Wigg; Rea Windsor. — **VERNON M. KLEEN, Division of Wildlife Resources, Illinois Dept. of Conservation, Springfield, Illinois 62706.**

CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION /Thomas A. Imhof

This year early spring was early and late spring was late. Little or no freezing occurred after late February, March was warm and very wet, and April was a period of transition to a wet and record cold May. The foliage was



almost six weeks advanced, then seemed to stop growing altogether for much of May, yet most observers reported the migration about on time. Early migrants in this Region are largely confined to the immediate coast, but then as the season advances, more and more of them, after stopping briefly, fly far inland, and in fair weather one gets the impression that little or no migration is taking place. The May storms of this year grounded many of these birds, notably flycatchers and warblers, and gave us better information on the true period of occurrence of species we often consider rare or largely absent.

AROUND THE REGION — In the Boston Mountains of Arkansas on May 1 & 2 an area devastated by a killing frost about Apr. 20 showed plenty of summer residents but few migrants. Pine Siskins were the most common bird and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were thick. There were plenty of flycatchers, E. Bluebirds and White-throated Sparrows, and the only common warblers were Black-and-white, Tennessee, Myrtle, and Blackpoll; scarce were hawks, Bewick's Wren, other warblers, and Scarlet Tanager (JKH, RF, EMCH). Edith Halberg reported the same weather, noted that plants and shrubs bloomed six weeks early and that spring migration was just about normal. Bill Beall at Ft. Smith noted winter residents lingering longer than usual. Paul Daly at Holla Bend Refuge reported migration normal and at usual dates. Earl Hanebrink in n.e. Arkansas reported many Swainson's Thrushes, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, both tanagers, and N. Orioles especially on May 8 & 12. David Hunter near Little Rock was impressed with the number of late migrants that are normally not encountered in numbers, especially flycatchers and warblers.

In Tennessee Mike Bierly noted that the weather was warm early then cool the rest of spring and that the

migration appeared normal even though the season was two to three weeks advanced. The peak was about May 6 and the ten days thereafter. In Memphis, Oliver Irwin reported birds still scarce on May 4 and "all of my firsts were late, some very late."

In Louisiana Mac Myers reported the shorebirding excellent — landbirding spotty; despite "ideal" conditions, many days showed warblers poor but tanagers, buntings, kingbirds, Red-eyed Vireos, etc., were numerous. In the Triumph area there were good numbers of passerine migrants but few warblers.

In n. Alabama March arrivals were early and May birds were late with winter birds lingering longer than usual, especially Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Dark-eyed Junco and White-throated Sparrow. Based on 12-year counts, the following tallied higher than ever Tree, Bank, and Barn Swallows, Carolina Chickadee, White-breasted, Red-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches, Gray Catbird, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cape May, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, and Blackpoll Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak; at a 12-year low were Brown Thrasher, Loggerhead Shrike, and Rufous-sided Towhee (TAI, B. A. S.) Tom Atkeson says that at Wheeler Ref. all wading birds seemed even scarcer than usual, shorebirds except Upland Sandpiper seemed to have increased, and Swainson's Thrushes were in unusual numbers. Mary Gaillard listed no spectacular days at Dauphin I., but good days were Mar. 22 (N. Parula), 25, 26, 27 (Prothonotary), 31, Apr 6 (Painted Bunting), 22 (Rose-breasted Grosbeak), 25, 26, 27, May 8 (Red-eyed Vireo), 14 (rain, REH banded 53 including 14 Acadian Flycatchers and 13 species of warblers) 15, & 25 (at least nine species of migrant warblers still on the island — REH, SBH). Lib Toenes reported that on Dauphin I. the only species seen in large numbers were Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, Bobolinks, and Veeries. Fairly Chandler noted few migrants at Magnolia Springs scarcely 12 miles from the Gulf "but the Ft. Morgan peninsula was a bird watcher's delight." He says these may be possibly late movements but more likely the fronts have "grounded many birds which we haven't seen before because of normally fair weather." He had a good day on the peninsula on May 24. Mary Lou Mattis birding there more regularly, listed Apr. 26, May 15, 19, 23 as good days at Ft. Morgan. "May 15th was the day of the Pewee — one on every suitable perch — literally hundreds." At Ft. Morgan on Apr. 4-7 JVP banded 200 including 103 on the 7th with 73 White-eyed Vireos, 21 Hooded Warblers, 20 Wood Thrushes, 20 White-throated Sparrows, and 10 Prothonotary Warblers. On Apr. 5-9 Imhof banded 389 including 114 on the 6th, 124 on the 7th, 101 on the 8th with 108 White-eyed Vireos, 50 Prothonotaries, 43 Hooded, 40 Wood Thrushes, 31 Red-eyed Vireos, 19 Kentucky, 16 Worm-eating, 8 Swainson's Warblers, Lincoln's Sparrow. On June 1 there in the silent hour, 7-8 p.m., before a storm struck, HHK, & TAI listed but one Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

On the n. w. Florida coast Curtis Kingsbery reported beautiful weather — and therefore poor migrant birding — until May 14, then unusually good birding for the next two weekends. Species seen in unusually large numbers on May 15 were Yellow-billed Cuckoo, E. Wood Pewee

Swainson's Thrush, Red-eyed and Philadelphia Vireos, Black-and-white, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll Warblers, and Am. Redstart. The following weekend only the cuckoo, Red-eyed Vireo, and Yellow Warbler were seen in unusually large numbers.

COUNTS — One day, one party: Apr. 8, coastal Alabama, 142 (JVP, HME, GDJ); May 3, coastal Alabama, 150 (JVP, GDJ); May 8, Saline, Lonoke & Pulaski Cos., Arkansas, 156, an inland Region record (BLT, AnT, DRH, GRG); June 1, Monroe, Baldwin & Mobile Cos., Alabama, 112 (TAI, HHK). Cooperative counts: May 1, Birmingham, 163 party hours, a record 155 species, 31 warblers (B.A.S.); May 8-9, Nashville 30 mile radius, a record 174 species (T.O.S.); May 16, Lookout Mtn., DeKalb Co., Ala., 44 party hours, 108 species, 28 warblers (B. A. S.) In the account below the reader should be cautious about calling the season late because this report is of the later two-thirds of the spring.

LOONS, GREBES, PELICANLIKE BIRDS — Eight Red-throated Loons, with red throats, upturned bills, and Com. Loons for comparison in Columbia, Tenn., May 7 (GRM) were not only late but possibly the largest concentration ever in the Region. A W. Grebe wintering at L. Maumelle Dam, Ark., was last seen Apr. 16 (DRH, GRG) and two Eared Grebes wintering near Hattiesburg, Miss, were last seen Apr. 13 (LJG). Flocks of about 50 White Pelicans were spotted migrating up the Arkansas R. Apr. 24 (H & MP) and May 12 (EMH), and a late one was at Wheeler Ref. May 18 (CDC). Brown Pelicans numbered 175 at Port St. Joe, Fla. May 16 (SS) and 100 on Dauphin I., Ala. May 25 (LRT); about half the Alabama birds were immature (LRT, HHK, TAI). In Cameron Parish near Cameron Apr. 17, after a period of gale-force winds, an imm. Gannet was flushed from the grass along Rte. 27 (REN). Blue-faced Boobies near Dauphin I., — three on Apr. 6 (RWH) and four on Apr. 8 in Mississippi Sound (JVP, HME, GDJ) — make six successive years that the species has been recorded in Alabama, mostly January and April. An imm. booby, probably a Brown, seen briefly Apr. 25 between Johnson Bayou Woods and Highway (JBO) was most likely a victim of the same storm as the imm. Gannet. On Chandeleur I. on May 12, 3000 Magnificent Frigatebirds were counted (JBO, JPo, JV, BR).

HERONS AND IBISES — In 1963 a pair of Louisiana Herons bred in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama. This spring the third record consisted of a flock of nine on Apr. 20 at Wheeler Ref. which dwindled to one on May 29 (CDC, many). In April and May at least 30 pair of Reddish Egrets including 17 nests, 12 with young were located in s.e. Louisiana plus an additional 30 on the Chandeleur Is. May 11 (JBO, JPo, BR). The westernmost location is in Caillou Bay, Terrebonne Par. On Apr. 11, along 20 mi. of boat lanes in Miller's L., Evangeline Par. in six morning hours, 68 Am. Bitterns were tallied (JBO). Yet barely two weeks earlier, on Mar. 27 one at Columbia (GRM) and one near Nashville (*fide* GRM) were the earliest ever in the Nashville area. In Black Bay, Plaquemines Par., in May, Ortego could find but five certain Glossies among the 700 nesting White-faced

Ibises; and barely 100 miles to the east near Dauphin I. May 26, four nests with young and seven ad. Glossy Ibises were counted (GGa, PJ) where they have nested since at least 1968.

WATERFOWL — This winter hilly Birmingham played host to three species of geese, all last seen on May 1: a *hutchinsii* Canada, the third Brant for the state, and three blue-phase Snows all on different lakes (ALM, GC, RDB, HHK, WFC). Tennessee had its third Barnacle Goose, two at Cross Creek Ref. on Jan. 24-27 (MLB, m.ob.) and one to two White-fronted Geese near Gallatin, Jan. 24 - Mar. 20 (D & PC, TWC, PSt, others), the second Nashville area record.

S. A.

The thousands of ducks and geese that migrate westward off the Alabama - n.w. Florida coast each April and November were noted by F. M. Weston over 50 years ago. They are mostly Blue-winged Teal and Lesser Scaup, but include Gadwall, Am. Wigeon, N. Shoveler, and other tip-up ducks; usually one to ten or more miles offshore and in poor light, they are often unidentifiable. They fly by all day long, usually in small one-species flocks. Fall birds are considered drifted birds headed for the Louisiana coast, spring birds, those that wintered in Florida and beyond and are returning to the Mississippi Valley. Weston noted a substantial eastward flight of Lesser Scaup in fall up to the 1930's and we still note a few, but it is possible this fall flight is mainly diagonally overland

The spring buildup of Fulvous Tree Ducks produced a count of 515 on Miller's L., Evangeline Par., Apr 11 (JBO); their dispersal might have been responsible for the first Nashville area record, one at Gallatin, May 13-21 (D & PC, m.ob.). An unprecedented 11 Mallard nests were found on Sweet Bay L., Lower Atchafalaya Basin Apr 28 (JPo, BR, JBO). Locally late Green-winged Teal included one at Wheeler May 1 (CDC) and at Gallatin May 8 (D & PC). A Blue-winged Teal had a nest and ten eggs on Cat I near Dauphin May 26 (GGa, PJ). A ♂ Redhead May 22 near Holly Beach, Cameron Par. (RJN, MHN, CRA) provided, it seems, the first May record for Louisiana, A ♀ Black Scoter, rarest of the scoters in this Region, was noted near Holly Beach with Ruddy Ducks Apr 4 (WTD). Latest ever Ruddy Ducks were at opposite ends of Alabama, a pair at Wheeler May 31 (CDC) and a bright male at Gulf Shores June 1 (HHK, TAI).

HAWKS — A **White-tailed Kite** discovered in March on Loggy Bayou Mgmt. Area, Caddo Par., (NRM) was joined by a mate and the nest discovered May 16 (NRM, RJN, MHN, DBC) the first nest ever for Louisiana. Two early Mississippi Kites were in Little Rock Mar 23 (WPS, VBS, Mrs. DH). Two adult and one imm Swainson's Hawks were in Lonoke County, May 8-14 (DRH, GRG, BLT) by almost a month the latest for Arkansas. A Rough-legged Hawk at Gulf Shores Apr 8 (JVP, HME, GDJ) was the latest for Alabama. One imm Bald Eagle was at Wheeler Apr. 14 (*fide* TZA) An encouraging number of Osprey reports from inland

included eight from Arkansas. Four Peregrine Falcon reports were all coastal: Dauphin I. Apr. 8 (JVP, HME, GDJ), Grand Terre Apr. 17 (J & DPo), E. Jetty, Cameron Apr. 24 (REN), and Gum Cove Rd., Cameron May 1 (RJN, others). The only two Merlins were from Birmingham: downtown Apr. 22 (RRR) and Mulga Apr. 24 (TAI, IFS).

RAILS — Many Virginia Rails and Soras were noted inland in April but it remained for May to produce a maximum of 30 in 6 hours of mowing a powder-dry fescue field near Baton Rouge on May 4 (RJN, DBC). The latest ever Virginia for the Nashville area was May 16 at Ashland City Marsh (DJa). Calling Black Rails in April and May at Ft. Morgan and on Dauphin (JVP, others) makes six years of record running in Alabama, mostly in April. A Purple Gallinule on Dauphin Mar. 22 (CSp, DLP) was fairly early, and one on Culler L., Ark. May 8 (DRH, GRG, BLT) was rather far inland, but most unusual was one that walked into a Pensacola kindergarten classroom Apr. 27 (GGS).

SHOREBIRDS — At least 13 pairs of Am. Oystercatchers, mostly in St. Bernard Parish, were noted in s.e. Louisiana this May (JBO, others); three birds were on Horn I., Miss., May 15 (JBO); two pairs were incubating on Little Dauphin and Cat Is., Ala. beginning Apr. 14 (GGA). Unusual shorebirds, mostly inland were: a Snowy Plover in Cameron Par. Apr. 24, 25 & May 13 (RJS, many); an early Semipalmated Plover at Wheeler Apr. 21 (CDC); a late Black-bellied Plover May 29 at Wheeler (CDC); a very late Com. Snipe in lower Lamar Co., Ala May 29 (JCT); a Long-billed Curlew in Mobile May 3 (JVP, GDJ); first March Whimbrel for Alabama on Dauphin May 28 (JTW), flocks of 75 in LaFourche Parish Apr. 17 (JBO) and 120 in Cameron Par., Apr. 27 (JBO); a Spotted Sandpiper early Apr. 20 at Wheeler (CDC); a late Solitary at Wheeler May 30 (DCH); a late Pectoral at Destin, Fla. May 23 (S & EL); late Least and W Sandpipers Blakely I., Mobile June 1 (HHK, TAI); an early Semipalmated at Wheeler Apr. 21 (CDC); 100 White-rumped at Marion May 17 (JVP); earliest ever Stilt Sandpipers were two at Lonoke Apr. 4 (DRH, GRG) and two at Wheeler Apr. 22 (CDC); an inland late Short-billed Dowitcher, seen and heard at Wheeler May 18 (CDC); Marbled Godwits at St. Andrew's Bay S. P., Fla Apr. 17 (JBH, CH) and at Lonoke Apr. 24 (EMH, HNH), the second in spring for Arkansas; a Hudsonian Godwit near Dauphin I. Apr. 10 (JLD), was the third for Alabama; nine at Holla Bend Ref. Apr 21 (PDD); and one was in Jefferson Davis Par., May 1 (RJN, MHN, DBC, JWB). A Buff-breasted Sandpiper was also in Jefferson Davis Par., Apr 15 (RJN, MHN, DBC); Black-necked Stilt May 22, farther inland than Baton Rouge at Ville Platte, Evangeline Par. where two spent last summer (JBO), 17 adults and 4 young at Blakely I. Mobile June 1 (TAI, HHK), on the Florida coast at Panama City Apr. 25 (JBH) and Destin May 29, the latest ever there (S & EL, RJC, JSC); N. Phalarope May 18 at Gallatin (D & PC, m.ob.), for the second local record, and May 30 at Lonoke (DRH, TG), the second or third spring record for Arkansas; Wilson's Phalarope at Holly Beach, Cameron Par., Apr. 15, 16, & 24 (RJN, MHN, DBC), in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama at Courtland Apr. 26 & 27 (JVP, WRM, many) and at Wheeler May 18 (ALM,

SFH, ENP), for the first and second inland spring records for Alabama. The substantial flight of shorebirds noted in Alabama the last half of February almost every year involves Am. Golden Plover, Solitary, Pectoral, and W Sandpipers, Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's Phalarope and most likely some regularly wintering species.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Three jaegers in Cameron Parish Apr. 4, two unidentified and one Parasitic (RJN, WTD) were the first seen from shore in Louisiana. A Glaucous Gull was near Holly Beach, Cameron Par., Apr. 25 (RJS, MW); a color-marked Ring-billed Gull at Alabama Pt., Apr. 9 (MLB, CDC, RJM) indicated it was banded at Rogers City, Mich., June 1970 (WES); two late Bonaparte's Gulls were near Nashville May 8 (MLMann). Unusual terns were three Common Mar. 12 & 13 at Wheeler (DCH) the earliest inland for Alabama; four Sooties in the Chandeaur Is May 13 (JBO, JPo, BR, JV); about 400 Sandwich on Grand Terre, LaFourche Par., Apr. 16 (JBO, others), and an early Caspian Apr. 27 at Craighead, Ark. (KSU)

DOVES, CUCKOOS, SWIFTS — A late White-winged Dove was on Dauphin Apr. 29 (AGT). Far inland Com. Ground Doves were noted Apr. 3 in Pulaski Co., Ark. (AGP), Apr. 20 in Limestone Co., Ala. (CDC), Apr. 25 in Cleburne Co., Ark. (TBU), and May 21 in DeSoto Par., La. (HCH, HHJ). A Groove-billed Ani was in Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Par. May 22 (RJN, MHN, CRA). Eight early Chimney Swifts were in Hattiesburg, Miss., Mar. 13 (LJG).

FLYCATCHERS — A W. Kingbird was at Wilton, Little River Co., Ark. May 18 & 28 (CMi). Unusual Scissor-tailed Flycatchers included one at Hattiesburg, Miss. Apr. 6 (LJG); one at Columbia, Tenn. May 1, 2, & 3 (Mrs. L. Hardison, GRM, others); and one at Big Lake Bird Ref., the first week in May 1975 was barely 20 miles w. of the Mississippi R. (JDo). *Empidonaces* and Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted often in May's cool, wet spells. A maximum of five Yellow-bellieds was near Little Rock May 26 (DRH, GRG); an early singing Willow was on its Nashville breeding grounds May 9 (MLB, CDC), another "fitz-bew" also singing, the second in spring for Alabama, was at Ft. Morgan May 24 (PFC); a high of 15 Alders were concentrated in Rebsamen Pk., Little Rock May 25 (DRH); three Olive-sideds were in n. Alabama May 5, 12, & 16 (ALM, GDJ, *et al.*), 11 were in Arkansas, mostly Little River, & Pulaski Cos., May 16-28 (CMi, EMH, HNH), and one in Cameron Par., May 8 (RJN, MHN, JHJ).

SWALLOWS, NUTHATCHES, WRENS — Five late Bank Swallows were at Ft. Morgan May 23 (MLMat, KB). The expanding Barn Swallows again were noted earliest in two regions of Alabama, Mar. 13 at L. Lurleen (JCT) for the Coastal Plain and Mar. 17 at L. Purdy, Birmingham (ALM) for the Mountain Region. The latest-ever Red-breasted Nuthatch for Arkansas was one May 8 in Boyle Pk., Pulaski Co. (GRG, DRH, BLT). Bewick's Wrens continue to show signs of reoccupying their Alabama breeding range, virtually abandoned for 18 years; a pair May 16 in Ft. Payne, DeKalb Co. (RRR, EGR) is within 15 mi. of Georgia and three, probably a family, on June 6 at Lisman, Choctaw Co. (RRR, EGR) is the first in the breeding season for the Coastal Plain since 1958.

THRASHERS, THRUSHES, PIPITS — The Sage Thrasher which spent several months at Ft. Pickens, Escambia Co., Fla., was last reported May 3 (WV). Late Swanson's Thrushes were at Ft. Pickens May 22 (CLK) and on Dauphin I. (REH, SBH) and Martin I., St. Bernard Par. both on May 26 (JBO). Two Sprague's Pipits were discovered in Pulaski Co. Apr. 4 by Arkansas' high-energy birders (DRH, GRG).

KINGLETS, VIREOS — In 163 party hours around Birmingham May 1, 104 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found still present (B.A.S.). Black-whiskered Vireos again reached Cameron Par., one on Apr. 25 (RJS, others) and another May 2 (RJN, *et al.*). The only other report was from Ft. Pickens May 27 (CSA). Philadelphia Vireos were largely concentrated in four places: the Florida coast, maximum eight at Gulf Breeze May 16, two May 17, (DBa); the latest ever in Cameron Par. 25+ on May 1-2 (RJN *et al.*); Little Rock, five May 26 (DRH); Nashville, seven May 8-9 (T.O.S.). More Warbling Vireos than usual were reported, early ones on Dauphin Mar 28 (JTW), providing the first March record for Alabama, and in Meeman-Shelby Forest S.P., Tenn., Apr 11 (ASM); late were four at Ft. Pickens May 15 (RAD, LRD) and one May 24 in Spring Hill, Mobile (MAG, JLD).

WARBLERS — Most of the following birds were marked late, but were most likely on-time birds that are usually undetected in fair weather in this Region—seasons like this one help us to determine their true period of occurrence. Unusual warblers were: a Black-and-white at Ft Morgan May 19 (MLMat); an earliest-ever Prothonotary on Dauphin Mar. 7 (REH); an early Swanson's at Toler L., Grant Co., Ark., Apr. 17 (MPa); four Golden-wingeds on Dauphin May 8 (REH) and two at Port St. Joe S.P. May 16 (JBH, CH), late; Brewster's at Ft Walton Beach, Fla. Apr. 16 (DNi) and in Birmingham Apr 29 (ALM); the third spring record in Alabama; Blue-winged in Birmingham Mar. 21 (RRR), the earliest for inland Alabama, in Little Rock May 8 (BLT, DRH, GRG). Late Tennessees were at Ft. Morgan May 15 (MLMat) and at Gulf Breeze May 16 (DBa); late Nashvilles were in Decatur, Ala., May 10 & 13 (MBr) and near Shreveport May 15 (JRS, DBC), latest ever Louisiana; early Cape Mays were on Dauphin Mar. 22 (CSp, DLP) the earliest ever for Alabama, and at Ft. Pickens Apr. 4 (L & BA, BBa), far west were two in Cameron Par., Apr. 18 (RJN, MHN, DBC) and one Apr. 25 (RBH), late were one May 11 at Wheeler (CDC), May 15 at Gulf Breeze (RAD, LED), and three by three parties near Ft. Payne May 16 (B.A.S.).

Three Black-throated Blue Warblers were banded on Dauphin Apr. 26-27-28, another was at Ft. Morgan Apr. 26 (MLMat), three were in Cameron Par., Apr. 25 & May 8 (RBH *et al.*), four were late May 15 and another May 16 at Gulf Breeze (DBa, CLK, RAD); late Myrtles were near Ft Payne, Ala. May 16 (PLT *et al.*), May 19 near Nashville (MLB) and May 25 near Nashville (SF), latest ever middle Tennessee.

More unusual warblers: a late Cerulean at Ft. Pickens May 15 (RAD, LRD); Blackburnians common and widespread, more than a dozen on the Florida coast May 16 (*vide* CLK), one late on May 24 in Barataria Bay, La. (JBO, JPo), another on May 25 5 mi. off Destin, Fla., perched on fishing boat passengers and drank iced tea

from a bottle cap (WLW *et al.*), May 26 at Wheeler (MBr), two on May 28 at Rebsamen Pk., Little Rock (DRH); a Chestnut-sided on Dauphin Mar. 27 (RWH), provided the first March record for Alabama, 12 were counted at Gulf Breeze May 16 (DBa), and one in Shreveport May 25 (HHJ); an early Bay-breasted was at Wheeler Apr. 25 (CDC), hundreds were in coastal woods in Cameron Par., May 1-2 (RJN, MHN, DBC), on May 26 late birds were at Gulf Breeze (RAD, LRD) and in Nashville (MLB); two early Blackpolls were near Alexandria, La. Apr. 4 (ERS); a late Palm was on Lookout Mtn. near Ft. Payne May 16 (RJC), a Connecticut was banded on Dauphin May 7 (REH), Mourning Warblers were noted May 15 near Shreveport (JRS, HHJ, DBC, RJN), in Lonoke Co., Ark. two males May 20 (DRH), and in Rebsamen Pk. in Little Rock May 24 (EMH).

BLACKBIRDS — The Bronzed Cowbird was seen for the second time this year in New Orleans Apr. 10 (RRRa), last year it was seen 13 times in the first half of the year

FINCHES — A Rose-breasted Grosbeak on Dauphin Mar. 28 (JTW) represented the first March record for Alabama. The abundance of this species this spring was shown by the 96 lured to their death by a Birmingham building with bad reflections (JAT). An imm. ♂ Black-headed Grosbeak nine mil. e. of Ft. Morgan May 24 (PFC) was three weeks later than any other record. A ♂ Painted Bunting at Covington, Tenn., Apr. 19 (ASm) was at the same site for the second successive year. A good Evening Grosbeak winter was characterized by farthest south Montgomery, Ala. (JEK), the greatest number recorded was 1000+ at Benton, Ark. Apr. 17-19 (LL), and the latest May 19 at Lucky, Warren Co., Tenn. (MCW). Pine Siskins were scarce in mid-winter but became common again in spring with the latest coastal date Apr 18 at Fairhope, Ala. (A & MN) and 15 still present in Birmingham May 1 (JVP, TAI). Late Dark-eyed Juncos were in Birmingham May 1 (IFS) and May 5 (RDB). The third **Golden-crowned Sparrow** for Louisiana, and the first in 19 years, was spotted Apr. 25 in Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Par. (JH, RJN). The last coastal White-throateds were May 13, three on Dauphin (DB) and one in Spring Hill (MWG), the last in Arkansas at Ft Smith May 20 (BB), the last in Birmingham May 20 (RRR) and May 19, 21, & 27, the last a banded bird, probably marked on May 8 (TAI). Very late for the coast was a Song Sparrow at Ft. Pickens Apr. 25 (BJ).

CONTRIBUTORS (area editors in boldface) — Alabama Ornithological Society, C. R. Allor, Lynn & Brooks Atherton, **Thomas Z. Atkeson**, Birmingham Audubon Society, Dick Ballman (DBa), Bob Barker (BBa), Raymond D. Bates, Bill Beall, Kate Beck, **Michael L. Bierly**, Don Bland, J. W. Boettcher, Mark Brown (MBr), Frances Bryson, T. Butler (TBU), Greg Carlisle, P. Fairly Chandler, T. W. Comer, C. Dwight Cooley, Walter F. Coxe, Dot & Paul Crawford, D. Bruce Crider, Richard J. & Judy S. Crittenden, Paul D. Daly, John Doebel (JDo), J. L. Dorn, S. J., W. Temple Douglas, Lucy R. & Robert A. Duncan, Howard M. Einspahr, Harriett H. Findlay, Sally Fintel, Robert Fisher, **Mary A. Gaillard**, M. Wilson Gaillard, Gary Gaston (GGa), **Larry J. Gates**, Juanita T. Goodson, Gary R. Graves, Terry Greenway, **Edith M.** & Henry N. Halberg, Robert B

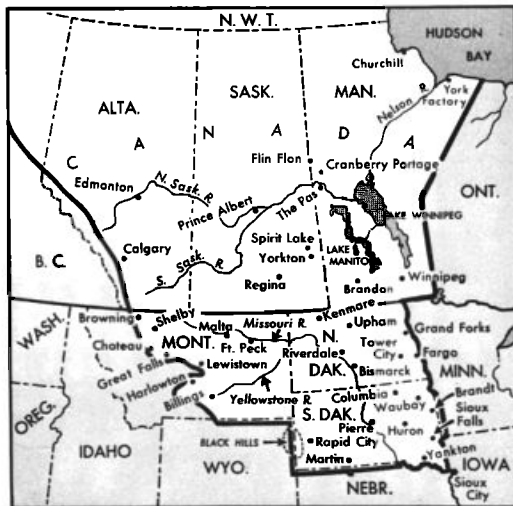
Hamilton, Earl L. Hanebrink, Joe B. & Candis Harbison, Mrs. L. Hardison, Ralph W. Havard, Richard E. & Sharon B. Hayward, Stan & Ellie Heath, J. J. Hebrard, H. C. Hervey, J. Kelly Hobbs, Mrs. Don Holliday, Susan F. Holt, David C. Hulse, David R. Hunter, Thomas A. Imhof, Oliver F. Irwin, Greg D. Jackson, Daniel Jacobson (DJa), Horace H. Jeter, Barbara Johnson, Paul Johnson, James E. Keeler, Joe C. Kennedy, Curtis L. Kingsbery, Helen H. Kittinger, Sandra & Eric Lefstad, Lucille Lewis, W. Roger Maner, Margaret L. Mann, Mary Lou Mattis, George R. Mayfield, Earl McHugh, Nolan R. McMullan, Rocky J. Milburn, Ann L. Miller, Charles Mills (CMI), B. Mac Myers, Dot D. Newburn, Marcella H. Newman, Robert J. Newman, Dixie Nicholson (DNI), Robert E. Noble, Albert & Mini Nonkes, J. Brent Ortega, Helen & Max Parker (MPa),

Dennis L. Patronas, James V. Peavy, John & D. Portnoy (J & DPo), Eugene N. Prestriedge, Andrew G. Pursley, R. R. Raether (RRRa), Elberta G. & Robert R. Reid Bob Ruhe, Charles Saunders (CSa), Vivian B. & William P. Scarlett, Charlotte A. Shea, Alice Smith (ASm), E. Roy Smith, Gertrude Garcia Smith, Idalene F. Snead, William E. Southern (Ill.), Charles A. Sprinkle (CSp), Pat Stallings (PSt), Steve Stedman, Ronald J. Stein, James R. Stewart, Keith Sutton (KSu), Tennessee Ornithological Society, Alice G. Tait, Anice (Ant) & Bruce L. Tedford, Helen B. & Percy L. Thigpen, James C. Thompson, Lib R. Toenes, J. Arthur Tyson, Jake Valentine, Wayne Valentine, Melvin Weber, Francis Marion Weston, Wendell L. Whittemore, John T. Winn, Mary C. Wood.—THOMAS A. IMHOF, 1036 Pike Rd., Birmingham, Ala. 35218.

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS /Esther M. Serr

Spring weather throughout this region was generally mild and too dry except in a few small areas. Manitoba, which isn't entirely plains, enjoyed the best birding of all. A guess would be that this was the area where the birds could find the most water, except at the large river impoundments. Yet, every province and state had unusual sightings.

Some reporters were short on time, especially those with government jobs in Canada, who were sent weeks early to their field projects in the northern part of their provinces—because of good weather.



LOONS THROUGH BITTERNS—Common Loons were in normal numbers, but to have Saskatchewan reports come in without a single observation is surprising. Red-necked Grebe reports totaled ten for the region. The best concentration of grebes was a mixed flock of 2000 on May 18, at Ft. Peck L., Mont. (RDS). A flock of 40 Eared Grebes was seen Apr. 22 at Pactola L., S. Dak. (LRP) and a flock of 47 W. Grebes was observed near Saskatoon,

Sask. (JBG). The best number of White Pelicans was 1000 at Middle Quill L., Sask. May 23 (WCH, SML). There were about 450 Apr. 11—May 1 in Yankton County, S. Dak. (Y.B.C.) and at Oak Hammock Marsh, Man., there were 415 on Apr. 18 (RK, RJK).

Double-crested Cormorants and Great Blue Herons were probably normal; hopefully, the many single sightings meant a nest colony not too far away. The Green Heron will have to be considered a regular migrant before long, with four in Manitoba May 26 and one each in North (JTL) and South Dakota May 16 and 19.

Out-of-range waders were Great and Snowy Egrets, Little Blue, Louisiana and Yellow-crowned Night Herons. One Little Blue was found May 9 at Narcisse Wildlife Management Area, Man. (DAS *et al.*). Great Egrets numbered four in Manitoba, one at Beaverhill L., Alta. (DD) and two each in North and South Dakota. One Snowy Egret was found at Oak Hammock, Man., Apr. 14 (RJK). Louisiana Herons made records when one was found and photographed, at Patricia Beach, on the east side of L. Winnipeg, Apr. 18 - 24 (GMN *et al.*). One possibly represented a first record at Tewaukon N.W.R., N. Dak. May 17 (HT, SK). One Yellow-crowned Night Heron was unusual at Bismarck May 2 (JOS, RQ) and another in Richland County, N. Dak., (HT). Additionally one was seen in a Winnipeg park May 29 (WDK). American Bitterns were most often reported from Saskatchewan (total of 24), and 13 individuals were noted in North Dakota.

WATERFOWL—Many of this group migrated two to three weeks early, and before Apr. 1. Whistling Swans had a good flight through North and South Dakota Apr 2 - 16 showing well in Deuel County, S. Dak. and Upper Souris N.W.R., Rolla (PCH) and Hope, N. Dak. In Saskatchewan there were 3000 Apr. 10 at Riceton (FB) and 2000 at Tobin L. (JP).

On Apr. 11, there were still thousands of Canada Geese on Oak Hammock, Man. (RJK, RK). White-fronteds numbered 5000 on May 5 at Dafoe, Sask. (WCH, SML). Snow Geese totaled 6000 at Rosetown, Sask. (MAG) and 2000 at Kindersley (JMH) Apr. 6 - May 24. Unusual was a juvenile Ross' Goose Apr. 21, Medicine L., N.W.R., Mont. (MWA) and an adult at Ft. Peck, May 5 with ten Snow Geese (CMC).

Cinnamon Teal have become more numerous in the region with a total of 21 observations, Apr. 9 - May 24 from all states and provinces. Wood Ducks were numerous at Fargo, N. Dak., Apr. 10 - May 27 with 68 adults and 28 young counted. There was a total of 65 in e. South Dakota. Canvasbacks seemed to increase in numbers in North Dak., and South Dakota. There was concern at Crosby, N. Dak., that high water may hurt nesting because of lack of emergents (RAS).

At least four Greater Scaup were observed Apr. 11 in Deuel County, S. Dak., (BKH) and one in Pembina County, N. Dak., May 11 (DLK). A total of 20 was noted Apr 10 at Oak Hammock Marsh (GG, GH) and a pair on Apr 21 was a first record for Riding Mountain N.P., Man (AAM). There were 18 **Hooded Mergansers** Apr. 20 at L. Zahl, N. Dak. (RM) and 50 **Red-breasteds** at Beaverhill L., Alta. Apr. 25 (E.B.C.).

RAPTORS — All migratory raptor numbers seemed to peak before Apr. 1 causing this group to appear low. There were two Turkey Vultures at Bismarck, (RNR) and 21 in the w. half of South Dakota, Apr. 5 - May 18. A Goshawk was spotted May 30 in the s. Black Hills (GLS), another was at Beaverhill L., Alta. (E.B.C.) and four were seen during the period south of the breeding area in Saskatchewan. Field parties in that province reported 18 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 13 Cooper's Hawks.

A total of 20 Ferruginous Hawks plus eight nests were noted from Saskatchewan; one was at Lacreek N. W. R. Apr 24 (RAW) and a pair was found in McPherson County, S. Dak. (GWB) May 1. Red-tailed Hawk migration over s. Winnipeg, Mar. 29 totaled 214 in three hours and on Mar. 31, 443 in three hours (RJK *et al.*). On Apr 1 at Indian Head, Sask., 1000 Red-taileds passed over (MFS). Broad-winged Hawks were scarce, with three in South Dakota, two in Montana, and four in North Dakota.

Saskatchewan reporters tallied 44 Golden Eagles and in e. Custer County, S. Dak., there were two young in a nest May 28 (BMN). There were 53 reports of Bald Eagles from Saskatchewan, and on May 3 six pairs were noted in Riding Mountain N. P., Man. (AAM).

There were 24 Ospreys sighted in the region with eight of those in Saskatchewan and a nest found at Ft. Peck Res., May 21 (RDS). Prairie Falcons were scarce; however, a nest was established near Lethbridge, Alta. (HCES). Three sightings each were reported in Saskatchewan, and South Dakota and two from North Dakota. A wire-killed Peregrine Falcon was picked up at Ft. Peck and submitted for pesticide analysis (CMC). Three Peregrines were seen in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and one was seen taking a shorebird at Beaverhill L., Alta. (JP). Saskatchewan had a count of 34 Merlin and 105 Am. Kestrel while South Dakota had only one Merlin and 112 Am. Kestrel (B.H.A.S.).

GROUSE — Sharp-taileds were surveyed in e. Montana, and showed a population 38% greater than the 20-year average, which could be credited to good precipitation in 1975, better cover and an easy winter. Sage Grouse checks in the same area showed them 51% down from the 20-year average. This could be owing to the increasing trend of farming sagebrush land. The wet spring might have had an adverse effect (MWA). A few Bobwhite were reported from Clay and Burke Cos., S.

Dak. (KJH, GLS). Gray Partridge seemed to be increasing, with 40 in two coveys at Pipestem Dam, N. Dak. (JWC).

CRANES AND RAILS — Many Sandhill Cranes migrated through the region but in an erratic manner with no big flights. **Whooping Cranes** are rarely seen in Manitoba any more but on Apr. 9 there were eight in groups of five and three at Kelloe (CF). On Apr. 15 two were spotted at Audubon N.W.R., N. Dak. (DCM)

There was a good count of 22 Yellow Rails near Semans, Sask., May 22 (WCH, SML) and one was unusual in Roberts County, S. Dak., May 11 (KFH) Sora Rail numbers were average in the U.S., as were Virginia Rails in Canada, except for one Virginia Rail May 10 in Lincoln County, S. Dak. (GWB). American Coot could be showing an increase, with 532 reported from Gavin's Pt. Dam, S. Dak., Apr. 15 (Y.B.C.)

SHOREBIRDS — Dry conditions limited shorebird sightings. Piping Plover records were more frequent in South Dakota with 14 Apr. 15 - May 10 and a first record for Lacreek N.W.R.; Montana had five sites where courtship activities were noted and a female digging nest scoops Apr. 30, when the flats were covered by the rising Ft. Peck Res. (CMC). American Golden Plovers migrated in good numbers through North Dakota into Manitoba. Two Black-bellieds, rare in w. South Dakota were found Apr. 29, one in Meade County (EEM) and one a wire kill May 15 in e. Custer County (BMN) Six Am. Woodcock appeared Apr. 23, Sandilands Forest Reserve, Man. (JLMu). One was singing Mar. 29 in Deuel County, S. Dak. (BKH). One was seen at Fargo Apr. 13 (WEL) and one male in courtship performance was observed at dusk May 11, in Pembina County, N. Dak. (DLK). Long-billed Curlew numbers were good in w. South Dakota. A Whimbrel was observed May 23 at Big Quill L., Sask. (WCH). Upland Sandpipers were reported most often from South Dakota, with only a few noted in the rest of the region. Red Knots were found May 15 - 24 at Regina and Moose Jaw — 13 each — and two were at Oak Hammock May 22. There were 200 Dunlin at Oak Hammock May 22 (GG, TW) The Pectoral Sandpiper was the most prevalent shorebird excluding the Killdeer, Apr. 18 - May 17 at Glenburn, N. Dak. (THK). From May 13 - 21, a flock of 1000 was seen at Moose Jaw (M.J.N.H.S.)

A special sighting at St. Albert, Alta., May 6, was of a **Ruff** (PD). Northern Phalarope numbers were up with 46 on May 24 at Oak Hammock (RJK). A flock of 1000 was near Saskatoon May 30 (WSR), 60 at Fargo May 30, and 20 on May 15 at Badlands, S. Dak. (RAW).

GULLS AND TERNS — Two Glaucous Gulls in their second year were sighted Apr. 6 with Herring and Ring-billeds in Deuel County, S. Dak. (BKH). Three California Gulls were at Bismarck May 9 (HAK) At Freezeout L., Mont., Louis Moos found that with the water level raised they were nesting on dikes and roadways; nevertheless, young were hatched May 29 The best counts of Franklin's Gulls were 2000 on Apr. 12 in Yankton County, S. Dak. (Y. B. C.) and 3000 on May 22 at Oak Hammock Marsh. Audubon N.W.R., N. Dak., had the best average count of 200 Common and Black Terns.

OWLS --- Great Horned Owls had two young out of a nest at Gavin's Pt., S. Dak., May 16 (Y.B.C.). Saskatchewan reported 88 Burrowing Owls and all other states and provinces had some sightings.

S. A.

U. S. Forest Service officials held a public workshop at Wall, S. Dak., in May to get ideas on prairie management for rangeland in w. South Dakota and Nebraska. The rapid spread of prairie dog towns had risen to 17,104 acres in national grasslands of which 13,136 acres are on the east half of the area in South Dakota.

Prairie dogs are protected on the national lands and are spreading rapidly to adjoining private lands. The people are demanding protection for their lands. Generally, the group would accept a rollback to the 1968 population of dogs. Toxicants would probably be the method to reduce such large numbers, and to this there was much objection. Conservationists were present to defend the Burrowing Owl, Black-footed Ferret, raptors and other wildlife.

Long-eareds were not common in South Dakota with sightings in Lyman (WCT), Hyde (JH) and Bennett Cos. Apr. 1 - May 10. This looks like a good year for Short-eareds with eight May 14 at Medicine L. N.W.R., and more than usual at Freezeout L., Mont. They were abundant at Dauplin, Man. (JS, WJW). South Dakota reported 15, Saskatchewan, 33 and a few each in Alberta and Montana.

At 52° N. Lat. near Gypsumville, Man., in the lake country, 28 Whip-poor-wills could be heard in 24 miles from 10 p.m. to midnight May 24 (HWRC). A new White-throated Swift colony was found in a rather shallow canyon, w. Custer County, S. Dak., May 29. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were at Cavalier, N. Dak., May 18 (DLK); May 22 - 24, Brookings (NJH), Deuel and Turner Cos., S. Dak. (CB) and Winnipeg, May 18 (WDK).

WOODPECKERS --- Single Pileateds were at Fargo, Apr. 26 & May 11 (EGA). Red-bellieds reported were one each in Clay and Brookings Cos., Apr. 2 - May 24, S. Dak. A few Red-headed were in all parts of the region but on Apr. 7 there were 16 in one farmyard in Yankton County (Y.B.C.). Only one Lewis' Woodpecker was seen in Rapid City May 15 (BLG). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were noted mainly in South Dakota with two banded at Brookings, and an active nest in Roberts County (BKH). Hairy Woodpeckers almost equaled Downies in number in the region.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS --- Great Crested reports totaled seven in South Dakota; three E. Phoebe were building nests under bridges at Burke by Apr. 10 (GLS). A Say's Phoebe was unusual at Pierson, Man., May 1 (RK). Olive-sided Flycatchers were more numerous than usual with singles at Saskatoon May 13, Fargo May 21 - 25 and Pembina County, N. Dak., May 24, in the Badlands, May 21 and Deuel County, S. Dak., May 27; and one at Sprague, Man., May 15 (HWRC, RWN). Bank Swallows had a 100-nest colony in a sand

pile at Minot A.F.B., N. Dak., May 11 (THK). Rough-wingeds were carrying nest material May 16 at Maidstone, Sask. (WCH, SML). Cliff Swallows seem to have returned to the region in good numbers. Purple Martins had at least ten colonies at Moose Jaw, and 50 pairs were nesting at Burke, S. Dak., (GLS).

JAYS --- Six Gray Jays were in w. Custer County, S. Dak., May 1 (HJM, JLM). Blue Jays were present but quiet and often missed. Three were noted in the muskeg area n. of Edmonton, Alta., May 28 (RWT). Two Com Ravens were at Oak Hammock May 28, late, since they usually migrate north and east to nest (HWRC).

NUTHATCHES, WRENS --- Only South Dakota reported White-breasted Nuthatches, averaging four at Rapid City feeders, a nest was noted at Sturgis (EEM). The Red-breasted were down from 1975 except in Saskatoon (S.N.H.S.) where they were above normal in numbers. Single Winter Wrens were in Deuel and Hyde Cos., S. Dak., Apr. 11 & 18 and at Winnipeg Apr. 14 (GG, HM). On May 15 one n. of Regina, was a first record there (RBD). A Rock Wren was at Eastend, Sask., May 1 (MAG), two at Lethbridge, Alta., May 24, both being uncommon. Long-billed Marsh Wrens numbered eight on May 18, Archerwill, Sask. (DGH).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES --- Single Mockingbirds were observed Apr. 29, Riding Mt. N.P. and at St. Ambrose, Man., May 21; Fargo, May 25 (FJC); e. Pennington County, May 26 and s. Fall River County, S. Dak., May 29 --- all uncommon for this region. An unusual Am Robin migration occurred Apr. 18 through c. Saskatchewan when about 2000 birds were at Prince Albert, Saskatoon (JAW), Grenfell (EJH), and Regina. A Varied Thrush was heard May 26 at Punichy, Sask (WCH). An unusual Wood Thrush was seen at Fargo, May 12 (EGA). Hermit, Swainson's and Gray-checked Thrushes moved through in good numbers. Eight Hermits got caught in a sleet storm Apr. 16-18, Birtle, Man. Eastern and Mountain Bluebirds seemed in their usual numbers. On Apr. 25 in Perkins County, S. Dak., 25 Mountain Bluebirds were seen in one tree (AH) and good numbers of them showed in the s. Black Hills May 29. A few Sprague's and Water Pipits were mentioned usually they are omitted from reports. Loggerhead Shrike population appeared to be thriving after a good year in 1975.

WARBLERS --- Numbers were very low but species variety was high. The only big concentration of mixed warblers was 4000 in two hours at McBride L. (WCH) and at Regina May 25 (LS). Unusual sightings were a Golden-winged May 23 in Minnehaha County, S. Dak (GWB). Nashvilles were sighted only in North and South Dakota. Northern Parulas at Pinawa May 23 and St. Ambrose, Man., May 24 were uncommon there. Regina had a major influx of Yellow Warblers May 25 (R.N.H.S.). One Cape May Warbler was very unusual for w. South Dakota May 26 (NJH). Black-throated Blues were unexpected on May 15 - 16 in Hyde and Hughes Cos., (RLH) S. Dak. and also at Fargo May 12 - 18 (EGA). A Bay-breasted was far to the west at Bismarck May 24 (RNR). A Yellow-breasted Chat was at White Bear, Sask. 1/2 SOJ). Three Connecticut were at Fargo May 3 - 28 and two May 13 at Bertwell, Sask. (WCH,

SML.) Hooded Warblers were rare for both s. Brookings County and at Winnipeg May 15 (GH, JSL, NC). Canadas were seen May 20 - 25 at Fargo; May 17 in Hyde County and c. Brookings County (ERE) and a specimen was taken in Brookings S. Dak. (NJH).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — A few Bobolinks were noted in spite of dry conditions. Rusty Blackbirds reported in Saskatchewan totaled 40, Apr. 8-May 15. An Orchard Oriole was at Lyleton, Man. May 22-30. Western Tanager reports came w. South Dakota and e. Montana (KH). Scarlet Tanager reports were four from North Dakota, two in South Dakota and one in Winnipeg.

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES — Rose-breasted Grosbeak sightings exceeded Black-headed in North and South Dakota, which is not usual. Evening Grosbeaks were more common in Saskatchewan this spring than during the winter season. Eight Blue Grosbeaks were seen, all in South Dakota. Purple Finches were late leaving Fargo on May 14, and 43 were at Balmoral, Man., Apr. 10.

SPARROWS — Grasshopper Sparrows were scarce in all places. Other sparrow species were like the warblers with no sizeable numbers of any species except for thousands of Lapland Longspurs, Apr. 25, Oak Hammock and s.c. Saskatchewan.

Gray-headed Juncos appear infrequently at Rapid City, but this spring there were three on the west edge of the city, Apr. 29 - May 15 (NRW, DHK). Harris' migrated mainly through e. South Dakota and 138 were

banded May 4 - 18, s. Brookings Co., (NJH). The largest flock of Snow Buntings was 10,000, Kindersley, Sask in April (CWC).

CONTRIBUTORS (Area editors in boldface)
ALBERTA—D. Dekker, P. Demulder, Edmonton Bird Club, H.C.E. Schuler, R.W. Turner. **MANITOBA**—N Cleveland, **H.W.R. Copland**, C. Findlay, G. Grieff, G Holland, R. Knaption, R. J. Koes, W. D. Kyle, J. S. Loch, A. A. McLean, H. Mueller, J. L. Murray (JLMu), R. W Nero, G. M. Nykulaik, D. A. Sexton, J. Shay, W. J Walley, T. Wolfe. **MONTANA**—M.W. Aderhold, **C.M. Carlson**, K. Hicks, R.D. Shupe. **NORTH DAKOTA**—E.G. Anderson, J. W. Carson, F. J. Cassel, P. C. Hart, T. H. Kain, H. A. Kantrud, D. L. Kubischta, W. E. LeBien, **J.T. Lokmoen**, Ronald Manson, D C McGlauchlin, R. Quanrude, R. N. Randall, R A Stromstad, J. O. Swanick. **SASKATCHEWAN**—F Bogdan, C. W. Cuthbert, R. B. Donison, **J.B. Gollop**, M.A. Gollop, J. M. Harris, W. C. Harris, D. G. Hjertaas, E. J. Hubbard, S. O. Jordheim, S. V. Lamont, Moose Jaw N.H.S., J. Polson, Regina N.H.S., W. S. Richards, Saskatoon N.H.S., L. Scott, M. F. Skinner, J A Wedgewood. **SOUTH DAKOTA**—Black Hills Audubon Society, G. W. Blankespoor, C. Breen, E R Edie, B. L. Green, K. F. Hall, B. K. Harris, J. Harter, R L. Hill, A. Hinds, N. J. Holden, K. J. Hoover, D H Knecht, E. E. Miller, H. J. Mortimer, J. L. Mortimer, B M. Nordstrom, L. R. Palmerton, **G. L. Steffen**, W C Thietje, N. R. Whitney, Yankton Bird Club, R A Wilt.—**ESTHER M. SERR**, 615 8th St., Rapid City, S. Dak. 57701.

SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION
 /Frances Williams

An unusually cold April produced no waves of migrants but May brought several cold, rainy fronts, each of which downed a multitude of migrants. Banders netting daily gave the following peak dates: May 1, 8-10, 13, 17 & 28 in Walker County, Tex., and May 3, 5, 12, 15, 21, 26 & 27 in Johnson County, Kansas. Region-wide, the first two weeks of May provided the most excitement for birders, although most contributors noted that there were still migrants present at the end of the period.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — A Com. Loon in Marion Co., Tex., May 14 was very late (LR). Eared Grebes remained at Nacogdoches, Tex. throughout the period. There was an unusual number of both Horned and Eared Grebes in Omaha, Neb., & Wichita County, Tex., in late April and early May. The only W. Grebe reported was at Lubbock, Tex., May 11. A **Brown Pelican** at Oklahoma City Apr. 23-May 6 was the first in Oklahoma since 1953 (BC, m.ob.). In Lincoln County, Neb., 40 Double-crested Cormorants were present May 25 but there was no evidence of nesting at that time. This species remained in Linn County, Kans. until May 30 and Walker County until May 17. Olivaceous Cormorants arrived in c. Oklahoma by Apr.

10, but were not seen in Brazos and Wichita Cos., Tex., until May 1. One in Ellis County, Tex., May 22 provided a first record there (GG).





Brown Pelican, Oklahoma City, April 23, 1976. Photo/ John Shackford.

HERONS THROUGH IBIS — Unusual spring sightings of Little Blue Heron occurred in Linn County, Kans., May 30, Davis Mts., Tex., May 22, Wichita County, Tex., Apr. 25-May 15 and Ellis County, Tex., May 7-24. Cattle Egrets were present in Sarpy County, Neb., Apr. 19. A Great Egret was sighted in Lancaster County, Neb., May 19. The number of reports of both Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night Herons increases each spring, but very few nesting sites have been located. Least Bitterns were present in Walker County Apr. 20 and Tarrant County, Tex., May 8. The Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* carried a well-illustrated article May 15 about a local heronry inhabited by at least 1000 herons of five species. The heronry is located in the downtown area adjacent to a chemical plant operating 24 hours a day. Jim Krommes of the Fort Worth Audubon Society is studying the heronry and reports the birds have a low mortality rate compared to those in other heronries. A Wood Stork was sighted in Ellis County, Tex., May 8 & 15. There were more White-faced Ibis than usual in the e. third of the Region from Fort Worth and Dallas on the south to Coffey County, Kans. on the north.

WATERFOWL — Two White-fronted Geese visited Rogers County, Okla., Apr. 12 (RS). A Ross' Goose was noted in Brewster County, Tex., Apr. 3 (JRS). Good numbers of Mexican Ducks were present in both El Paso and Presido Cos., Tex. Wood Ducks nested in a residential area of Norman, Okla., where a hen and nine ducklings walked into a backyard May 20 (BG, GMS). Pairs of Wood Ducks were present in Concho and Tom Green Cos., Tex. throughout the period. Several of this species were in Wichita County, Tex., during early May. A Com. Goldeneye in Tarrant County, May 8 was late.

HAWKS — A Red-shouldered Hawk nest was found in Linn County, Kans., Apr. 3. This species was sighted on the w. edge of its range in Real, Irion and Tom Green Cos., Tex., during the period. A Swainson's Hawk nest was found near Tulsa Apr. 22 (B&WW). Zone-tailed Hawks were present in two areas of Real County, Apr. 17 (DW) and May 8 (JH). A Gray Hawk was carefully identified in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 30 (KK, *et al.*). The nest of a Harris' Hawk with two recently hatched young was found May 29 in Irion County, Tex. (TM). A pair of this species was present in Hudspeth County, Tex., May 1. Two pairs of Black Hawks were nesting in the Davis Mts.,

Tex. by early May. A pair of Golden Eagles with two young were observed in Potter County, Tex. A total of 50 Ospreys was sighted during the period. A Caracara was present in McLennan County, Tex., May 22 (LMB). The nest of a Prairie Falcon was located in Cimarron County, Okla., Apr. 19 (JG). After a line of violent thunderstorms moved west to east across Oklahoma May 29-30, a Prairie Falcon was sighted at Tulsa (EH, KH). Only five Peregrines were reported in the Region. Merlins were present in Kerr and Gillespie Cos., Tex., in April, Osage County, Okla., May 3 and Douglass County, Kans., May 8.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS THROUGH GALLINULES — Colonies of Greater Prairie Chickens were prospering in Johnson County, Kans. and Rogers County, Okla. A Whooping Crane was sighted in Ellis County, Tex., Apr 16 (GG). King Rails were seen in Nacogdoches County, Tex., May 9 & 20. Purple Gallinules were seen at Oklahoma City June 5 and Tulsa May 21.

PLOVERS THROUGH PHALAROPES — Snowy Plovers rarely occur in Trans-Pecos Texas, so two records this spring are of interest: El Paso County, May 21 (KZ) and Balmorhea L., Reeves Co., May 22 (FW). This species was present in Wichita County, Tex. by the end of March and in Coffey County, Kans., Apr. 18. Piping Plovers were sighted in Tom Green County May 8 (CCW) and Oklahoma County May 13 (SW, JG). A Wilson's Plover was noted in McLennan County, Tex., May 4 (YD). The only Mountain Plovers reported were in Osage County, Okla., Apr. 30 & May 2. A flock of more than 100 Am. Golden Plovers stopped briefly in Coffey County, Kans., Apr. 10 (JHS).

To really experience the shorebird migration, the place to be is the lighted athletic fields at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Tex., where at least 1000 shorebirds of 11 species were present during the early morning hours May 10. Between 1 and 4 a.m., Bryan and Moldenhauer banded 112 shorebirds caught in a single mist net.

Ruddy Turnstones were seen during May at Nacogdoches, San Angelo, Oklahoma City and Lancaster County, Neb. A Whimbrel was present in Oklahoma County, May 6. There was an unusually heavy movement of White-rumped Sandpipers in late May



Shorebird nocturnal fallout at Sam Houston State University lighted athletic fields, 1 a.m., May 10, 1976. Photo/K.B. Bryan.

Peak numbers included 600 in Walker County, 400 in Cleveland County, Okla. and 250 at Midland. Although Willets are regular migrants on the plains, they usually travel singly. A few small flocks were noted this spring: 17 in Osage County, Kans., Apr. 18, 18 in Linn County, Apr. 24, 19 at Tulsa May 9. Dunlins were recorded in Cleveland County May 17, Oklahoma County May 11 & 16, Walker County May 10, McLennan County throughout May. In Cleveland County 60 Buff-breasted Sandpipers were observed May 17. There was also a mid-April movement of this species, which was noted in College Station, Tex. (MH, BB) and Coffey County (JHS). Marbled Godwits have been scarce in recent years, so sightings in McLennan County May 6, Tom Green County Apr. 20 and Linn County Apr. 24 were noteworthy. In Osage County, Kans., 20 Hudsonian Godwits were present Apr. 12 (DR). A Hudsonian Godwit in Archer County, Tex., May 13-14 provided a first, but not unexpected, county record (LS, MB, NM). This species was recorded widely in the Region May 10-17. Wilson's Phalaropes were more numerous than usual in the e. half of the Region. Northern Phalaropes were sighted in Tarrant County May 20, Oklahoma County May 16 and Lancaster County, May 19.

GULLS AND TERNS — Laughing Gulls visited L. Conroe, Walker Co., May 27 (RRM, KBB). Franklin's Gulls are so abundant in the Region that the only place they can make news is in Trans-Pecos Texas. One was photographed at El Paso Apr. 18 and one was sighted on the Rio Grande, Big Bend N.P., May 1 (KZ, BZ). Bonaparte's Gull is a winter resident which rarely lingers into spring but nine contributors listed the species during the period. This included first county records in Wichita County, Tex., Apr. 30-May 4 (NM) and Crosby County, Tex., Apr. 13 (KH) and a peak of 35 in Osage County, Kans. (JHS). Forster's is the "common" tern of the plains, but this spring the Com. Tern was sighted at El Paso May 1 & 21 (KZ), Brazos County, May 1 (KA, TGi), Ellis County, Tex., May 18 (GGi) and Midland County, May 26 (GP, MC *et al.*). Least Terns visited Nacogdoches May 13, Wichita County May 3, Linn County May 30 and Midland County Apr. 23 & May 7. Caspian Terns were noteworthy in McLennan County Apr. 23, Lincoln County May 26 and Tarrant County May 8. At the latter

location this constituted the first record since 1945. Black Tern, the "abundant" tern of the plains, was especially numerous in Brazos, Lubbock, and Tarrant Cos., with more than 1000 at the latter site May 17.

DOVES THROUGH CUCKOOS — White-winged Doves are now summer residents in the Davis Mts. at elevations up to 6000 ft (M.N.). One in Midland during May also represented a range extension (BE). Ground Doves were present in Nacogdoches and Lubbock throughout April. Inca Doves continued to spread, nesting in Lubbock and Ector Cos. Black-billed Cuckoos were observed in Walker County Apr. 26 (KBB), San Angelo May 9 (CCW), Sherman, Tex., May 20, 25 & 29 (KWH), Denison, Tex., May 20 (MRy), Tulsa May 30. At Nacogdoches, three were seen Apr. 30, the most individuals ever sighted on a single day or in a spring season. All these Texas records may be the reason that no Black-billed Cuckoos had arrived in Johnson County, Kans. by the end of the period. In Jackson County, Okla., a Roadrunner had a nest with three eggs on the early date Apr. 6 (WDH). A bird with all the behavior characteristics of an ani was seen briefly in Rogers County, Okla., May 31 (RS).

OWLS THROUGH KINGFISHERS — A roadside park between Alpine and Big Bend N.P. was the unusual site for an observation of a Barn Owl Apr. 30 (KZ). A Barn Owl in Kendall County, Texas, May 20 provided another of those "expected" first county records (K & EM). The large winter roost of 40 Long-eared Owls in Irion County, Tex. had decreased to five individuals by Apr. 16 (TM). Whip-poor-wills arrived in Johnson County, Kans., Apr. 14 and Chuck-will's-widows May 7 (MLM). These early dates contrast with arrival dates in Texas, where Whip-poor-wills arrived in Tarrant County May 8 (FC) and Chuck-will's-widows in Grayson County May 22 (SW).

The most exciting news of the season was provided by Col. John R. Schmidt who found the first breeding **Anna's Hummingbird** in Texas. The nest was located in the Davis Mt. area, 12 mi. n. of Alpine. The nest was photographed while the female incubated and at least 12 observers saw the nest and birds. Unfortunately a predator destroyed the eggs. The first confirmed nest of a Belted Kingfisher in Concho County, Tex. was found in May (TM). Green Kingfishers continued to spread and were located in McLennan County, Tex., Apr. 27-May 6 (LMB, m.ob.) and Real County, Apr. 17 (DW).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — A pair of Golden-fronted Woodpeckers was present in Brewster County, Tex. during April (PE, JM) and a Red-headed Woodpecker which appeared in Alpine Feb. 27 lingered until late April (JRS). Both species are rare in Trans-Pecos Texas. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker remained in Tarrant County until the late date May 8, and another lingered in Sarpy County, Neb. until Apr. 17. Western Kingbirds were observed in Johnson County, Kans., May 13 & 24 and Walker County, May 8. A Cassin's Kingbird at Midland Apr. 25 constituted a new local record (GP *et al.*). A Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher in Big Bend N.P., May 9 (RSS) added to the growing number of sight records of this species in Texas, but as yet no photographs or specimens have been taken. Great Crested Flycatchers were common in Tom Green County, where Ash-

throated Flycatcher is the breeding *Myiarchus*. A Wied's Crested Flycatcher was present at Hueco Tanks S.P., Hudspeth Co., Tex., May 21 (KZ). A pair of Black Phoebes was working on a nest plastered on the side of a large boulder in the Frio R., Real Co., Apr. 16 (DW). A Black Phoebe was also seen in Kerr County May 22 (R&TL). An unprecedented migration of *Empidonax* flycatchers occurred in Johnson County, Kans., where Mrs. Myers banded a total of 80 May 9-26. The normal number is six for the spring season. In order of decreasing abundance, species banded were Acadian, Least, Alder and Yellow-bellied. **Vermilion Flycatchers** wandered north to Lubbock and Amarillo, but the prize for long-distance traveling would be awarded to one which appeared in Lincoln County, Neb., May 27 (JLS).

JAYS THROUGH MIMICS — Scrub Jays were found in Big Bend N.P., where they are accidental, May 1 (KZ, BZ). Two Bushtit nests were located in Tom Green County. Several contributors noted very late Red-breasted Nuthatches, the latest being in Walker County, May 17. For the second year, Brown Creepers nested in Sarpy County, Neb. The first nesting record in Comanche County, Okla., of a Gray Catbird was established May 30 (CM & VR). Gray Catbirds lingered till May 6 in Wichita and Midland Cos.

THRUSHES — Five species of thrushes moved across the Region in good numbers, the biggest push occurring during the first ten days of May. Wood Thrushes are common nesters in the wooded eastern portions of the Region, but sightings elsewhere are rare. They were reported in Texas from Amarillo to Denison and south to Kendall County. Hermit Thrushes are never as common in e Kansas and Nebraska as elsewhere in the Region, so sightings in Johnson County Apr. 1-9, Bellevue, Neb., Apr. 4-5 and Omaha May 9 are noteworthy. In Johnson County, Mrs. Myers Banded 131 Swainson's Thrushes Apr. 19-May 29 and many contributors noted good numbers of this species. Gray-cheeked Thrushes are not reported every spring and usually no more than two or three are seen at any locality. They were observed as far west as Amarillo and Comanche County, Okla., while at Ft. Worth more were seen "than in the past eight years combined." "Very abundant for Gray-cheeked" was the consensus in Nebraska and Kansas. Veeries are so rare in the Region that all the following observations are important: Kendall County May 7, Dallas May 7, Arlington May 6, Amarillo May 3, 15, 16, Wichita, Kans., May 17-20, Johnson County, Kansas, May 10-12. In Tom Green County an E. Bluebird nest was found in April, a second county record. A Townsend's Solitaire in Comanche County May 13 was very late (CSF).

VIREOS — Black-capped Vireos were abundant at Kerrville and Meridian S.P., Tex. Two were seen in Cleveland County, Apr. 30 (PB, MAJ) and one was at Midland May 18-25 (FW, RMS). In Edwards County, Tex., nine were heard singing in 25 mi. June 1 (FW). A Bell's Vireo at College Station Apr. 20 was the first at that locality since 1964 (BB) and one in Tarrant County May 6 was the first since 1973 (MP). The nest of a **Gray Vireo** was found in Irion County, Tex., May 18. Photographs were taken to verify the record, which is the first east of the Pecos R. (CCW). Yellow-throated Vireos were

sighted at Denison May 9 (KWH) and Linn County Apr. 24 (ESM). An unbelievably early Philadelphia Vireo was reported at Dallas Apr. 3 (HN). The species was sighted on the more usual dates Apr. 30 in Comanche County (RMK), May 15 in Wichita County (NM, LS), May 8 at Ft. Worth (MR) and May 24 at Omaha (MW).

WARBLERS — "Fabulous", "spectacular", "really good", "exciting" were terms applied to the warbler migration by most contributors. Many reported more than 22 species and unusually high numbers of species usually considered casual or accidental. Nearly all dates were in the first three weeks of May. Worm-eating Warblers provided first or second records in Texas in San Angelo, Plainview, Crosby County, Hutchinson County and Wichita County. Singing males were heard in Osage County, Okla. where nesting was suspected. Golden-winged Warblers were observed in Lubbock, Walker County, Washington County, Okla., Johnson County, Kans. and Wichita, Kans. There were April sightings of Blue-winged Warblers at Ft. Worth, Garland, Lubbock, Wichita Falls, and Walker County and a May 16 observation at Bellevue where the species sometimes nests. The only Tennessee Warbler to wander westward was observed at Lubbock May 16 & 22. Very few western warblers appeared east of the Pecos R. Even Virginia's Warbler, which often occurs on the w. plains, was noted only at Lubbock and Amarillo. Northern Parulas were seen at El Paso Apr. 14 (JD), Crosby County Apr. 26-27 (RE), Tarrant County Apr. 30-May 12, McLennan County May 13 (FG), Amarillo Apr. 7 (PA) and Sarpy County, Neb., Apr. 20-May 20.

DENDROICA WARBLERS — The **Cape May Warbler**, probably the rarest warbler of the Region, excited observers at Big Bend N.P., Apr. 30 (SR, KZ, m.ob.), Potter & Randall Cos., May 3 (PA), McLennan County May 8 (FG), Bellevue May 11 (RG) and Omaha May 12 (SB, TS). Black-throated Blue Warblers were found in Big Bend N.P., May 5 (CM, NC) and May 20 (RK, BL). A Townsend's Warbler appeared in Crosby County Apr. 23. Golden-cheeked Warblers were present in Kerr County in good numbers and at least ten singing males were noted along a three mile stretch of the Frio R., Real Co., Apr. 16. One was found in Edwards County June 1. A Hermit Warbler was discovered in Big Bend N.P., May 5 (JR). There were five reports of the normally rare Cerulean Warbler: Kerr Co., May 3 (RG), Denison and Hagerman N.W.R., May 1 (KWH), Rogers County, Okla., May 2 (RS), Oklahoma City Apr. 28 (JGN, DN), Johnson County, Kans., Apr. 24 & May 23 (MLM). Blackburnian Warblers were observed at Lubbock, Amarillo, Sherman, Tex., Walker County, Tulsa, Washington County, Okla. and Johnson County, Kans. Chestnut-sided and Bay-breasted Warblers were each reported at more than a dozen localities. The Bay-breasted provided first records in Tom Green County, May 9 (CCW), Wichita County, Tex., May 6 (VH) and Wichita Kans., May 11-13 (DV). Blackpolls were sighted at El Paso, Midland, Lubbock, Amarillo, Ft. Worth, Huntsville S. P., Tex., Oklahoma City and Bartlesville, Okla. Pine Warblers were noteworthy in Randall County, Tex., May 9 (KS) and Sherman May 1 (CRB, SW), as was a Prairie Warbler in Johnson County, Kans., May 15 (MLM). A Palm Warbler was sighted in Walker County, Apr. 21 (KBB).

MORE WARBLERS — The normally secretive Ovenbird appeared so widely in the Region that it must have been amazingly abundant. Northern Waterthrushes were also widespread and provided a first record in Wichita County, Tex., May 15 (NM, m.ob.). On May 1 Kentucky Warblers made rare appearances in Trans-Pecos Texas in the Davis Mts. (KK) and Big Bend N.P. (SR) Other unusual Texas sightings of this species occurred at Amarillo, Arlington, Denison and Wichita County. A **MacGillivray's Warbler** netted at a banding station in Walker County May 11 (RRM *et al.*) was the only western warbler reported east of the 100th meridian. The Zimmer brothers discovered a Red-faced Warbler just 3 mile north of the Texas line in New Mexico and tried to chase it into El Paso County, but the bird refused to cross an open field. Hooded Warblers in the Davis Mts., Apr. 30 were newsworthy (PE, JM) and birders in eight other localities throughout the Region also considered this species unusual enough to report it. At least eight pairs of Painted Redstarts were in Boot Canyon, Big Bend N.P., May 3 (TBF).

ICTERIDS AND TANAGERS — Bobolinks appear in good numbers about every third year. This was one of those years, with reports at eight localities from El Paso to Tulsa. Yellow-headed Blackbirds wandered to Waco in c. Texas and L. Rayburn in e. Texas. **Hooded Orioles** are extending their nesting range into c. Texas. A nest was found in Kerr County May 14 and another pair was observed regularly although the nest was not located (K&E). Adult males were also seen in Uvalde County (K&E) and Real County (DW) and a vagrant was sighted at Dallas (HN). Scott's Orioles continued to increase on the Edwards Plateau of Texas and were reported in Crockett, Tom Green, Irion, Edwards and Kerr Cos. A nest was located in Kerr County May 14 (K&E). Scarlet Tanagers delighted birders at Amarillo, Wichita County, Walker County, Tarrant County, Dallas, Tulsa and Lyon County. A Summer Tanager in Lancaster County, Neb. was north of its usual range (RH). There were very few migrating W. Tanagers sighted and two at Balmorhea, Tex., May 22 were very late

FRINGILLIDS — A **Pyrrhuloxia** was sighted in Cimarron County, Okla., May 1 (JDT, m.ob.). This species is not listed in George M. Sutton's 1974 "Checklist of Oklahoma Birds". Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared in Trans-Pecos Texas in Big Bend N.P., May 19 (RK, BL), Davis Mts., May 22 (JGa, MS) and Balmorhea May 21 (BC, FW). A Rose-breasted X Black-headed Grosbeak hybrid was discovered at San Angelo May 9 (CCW). Black-headed Grosbeaks were sighted east to Tarrant County May 3 & 8, Tom Green County May 2 and McClain County, Okla., May 17. Indigo Buntings were abundant west of the 100th meridian, where their status is "casual". A **Lazuli Bunting** in Sarpy County, Neb. May 26 provided one of the very few records for the e. part of that state (*vide* MW). Lazulis were also observed in Glasscock, Terrell, Lubbock, Kerr and Tom Green Cos., Tex. and Comanche County, Okla. Evening Grosbeaks remained at Bellevue, Neb. and Johnson

County, Kans. until the last week of April. Pine Siskins lingered in the Region until the end of May. The Lawrence's Goldfinch, which is still on the hypothetical list in Texas, was carefully studied in Culberson County May 22 (KS). A Red Crossbill was observed in Cleveland County, Okla., Apr. 30 (JG).

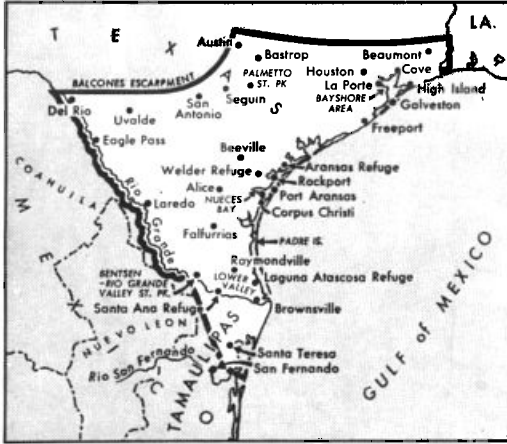
A Lark Bunting was sighted in Osage County, Okla. (OM). Baird's Sparrows were seen in Sterling County, Tex., May 4 (TM) and Potter County, Tex., May 17 (KS). A Le Conte's Sparrow at Lubbock Apr. 18 was the first at that locality since 1966. Others were sighted in Wichita County, Tex., Mar. 31 and Lyon County May 16. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was grounded on the Sam Houston State University athletic field May 10. Rufous-crowned Sparrows were located in LeFlore County, Okla., May 1 (JG) and Wichita County, Tex., Apr. 1 (NM, MB, EC). Several contributors wondered if the very dry winter in w. Texas was responsible for the increase in Cassin's Sparrows on the Edwards Plateau. A Dark-eyed Junco was observed in Rogers County, Okla. on the late date May 3 (RS). Clay-colored Sparrows were unusually common in n.-c. Texas and Brewer's Sparrows were abundant in the Concho Valley of w. Texas. Harris', White-crowned, Lincoln's, Swamp and Song Sparrows all remained in the Region until the end of May. Lapland Longspurs in Tulsa County, Apr. 29 were also very late (ES, JC).

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS — **Nebraska** Steve Bellinghiere, Shirley Doole, Ruth Green, Ralph Harrington, Tony Salado, Joseph L. Suchecki, Melba Wigg. **Kansas:** Earl S. McHugh, Mary Louise Myers, Dennis Ronsse, Jean H. Schulenberg, Donald & Frances Vannoy. **Oklahoma:** Pat Bergey, Brad Carlton, Jayne Christo, Ella Delap, Ruth Ewing, Cindy S. Felis, Bruce Granger, Joe Grzybowski (JG), W. D. Harden, Elizabeth Hayes, Kenneth Hayes, Mary Avolyn Johns, Rodney M. Kemper, Ellen Lee, Janet M. McGee, Odie McReynolds, Dorothy Newell, John G. Newell, C. M. & Velma Ridgeway, Eleanor Sieg, Richard Stuart, George M. Sutton, Jack D. Tyler, Bobby & Wally Whaling, Scott Wood. **Texas:** Peggy Acord, Keith Arnold, Bruce Baker (BB), Rue Branch, Margaret Broday, Charles R. Brown, Lillian M. Brown, Kelly B. Bryan, Foster Clayton, Esther Crawford, Bruce Crockett, Mary Crockett, Nancy Cushing, Yvonne Daniel, Joe DiPasquale, Bill Edwards, Victor Emanuel, Rosemary English, Pansy Espy, T Ben Feltner, C. D. Fisher, John Galley (JGa), Tony Gallucci (TGi), Tim Gates, Gayle Gatling, Fren Gehlbach, Robert Griswold, Karl W. Haller, Michael Hanson, John Harding, Kelly Himmel (KH), Vernodene Huckaby, Bill Hunt, Kenn Kaufman, Urling & Hugh Kingery, June Kingon, Randy Koroten, Ray & Terry Little, Betty Lobos, Terry Maxwell, Midland Naturalists, Jody Miller, R. R. Moldenhauer, Nancy Moore, Clyde Morris, Kay & Ernest Mueller, Hazel Nichols, Margaret Parker, L. B. Paul, Larry Peavler, Georgia Porter, Midge Randolph (MR), Lin Risner, Scott Robinson, John Rowlett, Michael Rylander (MRy), John R. Schmidt, Ken Seyffert, Mary Shannon, L. B. Shedall, Ruth S. Snyder, Layfette Stankewitz, Rose Marie Stortz, Esther Waddill, C.C. Wiedenfeld, David Wolf, Sam Wolfe, Barry Zimmer, Kevin Zimmer. — **FRANCES WILLIAMS, 3307 Neely, Midland, Tex. 79701.**

SOUTH TEXAS REGION

/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

After a very dry winter, good rains fell in April and May and habitat conditions improved rapidly. Temperatures averaged a few degrees above normal in April and a few degrees below normal in May. Turbulent



weather in association with frontal passage was more frequent and violent than usual, especially in north-central sections. Generally, April migration was rather uneventful, while May was unusually good. April on the upper coast was described as "dull", almost devoid of adverse weather, and no great fallouts occurred (TBF), while at Rockport most landbirds passed over on prevailing southeasterly winds (DNW). If April failed to measure up to expectations for numbers of viewees, it did not lack for viewers. The American Birding Association's convention, April 22-25, headquartered in Beaumont, brought the greatest number of birders ever to pay homage at the shrines of Texas birding in a single season. Migrant waves and fall-outs were more prevalent in May, associated with rainy and/or turbulent weather. A wave of passerines on the upper coast May 13, was called the best in three years (TBF). On this occasion northerly winds blew during the day, with thunderstorms over the Gulf. Feltner estimated up to 2000 warblers at High Island, while on the coast road to Port Arthur numerous passerines crowded the scattered clumps of salt cedar which grow back from the beach. In the Corpus Christi area, the best birding occurred during the first two weeks of May, particularly on May 2 and 13 (KM). At inland Wilson County, southeast of San Antonio, Sekula found May 17 the best day for passerines, and it is important to note that he was in the field each day in April and May. The migration was rated below normal and late at Austin, San Antonio, and in the Rio Grande Delta. Probably the most valuable statistics can be gleaned from such cooperative projects as the Corpus Christi Spring Count, May 2, compiled by Blacklock. This count, following Christmas Bird Count rules, was made by 21 observers in six parties. Unfortunately, other data is in no way comparable.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES — Loons, which should have been put to rest with the winter report, kept

surfacing throughout April. An **Arctic Loon** was seen at Texas City Dike, Apr. 11-12, in direct comparison with the Common and Red-throated species, and off the beach near High I., Apr. 12 (JH & HN *et al.*). A **Red-throated Loon** in breeding plumage, seen off the beach near High I., Apr. 12 (JH & HN *et al.*) was seen as late as Apr. 23. Two birds in breeding plumage were seen in Aransas Bay, Apr. 15 (JLR). A **Western Grebe** was found in the waters off High I., Apr. 8-9 (JH & HN, DTD *et al.*). A **Blue-faced Booby** was observed 20 mi. off Galveston Apr. 10 (TBF *et al.*). A **Glossy Ibis** was carefully studied and compared with White-faced individuals at Galveston, Apr. 11 (JH & HN).

WATERFOWL — A concentration of 125 Fulvous Tree Ducks was found in a flooded field e. of Brownsville Apr. 30 (VLE & JLR *et al.*). Migrating Blue-winged Teal were abundant off Bolivar Pen., Mar. 30 (RC, KL & AW). Two **Masked Ducks** in ♀ plumage were seen at Manor L., Brazoria Co., Apr. 3 (DM).

HAWKS, EAGLES — Five Swallow-tailed Kites were reported this season. First high count of Mississippi Kites was 130 at Santa Ana N.W.R., Apr. 30 (JLR *et al.*). At Corpus Christi May 1, 400 were reported roosting on the s. side of town (*vide* KM). The Corpus Christi Spring Count May 2 listed 213. In Wilson County May 5, 45 were observed (WS). At Santa Ana N. W. R., apparently a focal point of entry for Broad-winged Hawks migrating up the east coast of Mexico, the first sighting was made Mar. 9, and 25 birds were seen Mar 18 (WAS). However, the first sizeable movement was spotted five mi. n. of McAllen, Mar. 20, when kettles totalling an estimated 25,000 birds passed overhead during four hours of the morning (JCA). (Note: McAllen is about five mi. w. and seven mi. n. of Santa Ana N.W.R.). At Falfurrias, 70 mi due n. of McAllen, some 1200 passed over between 3 and 4 p.m. of the same day (AWO). At Santa Ana N.W.R., 3000 were counted Mar. 24 (WAS), and an estimated 100,000 on Mar. 27. The latter spectacle was reported separately by two parties, Di Orio and Emanuel, but there were other observers. Di Orio writes, "From dawn until about 2 p.m., when the weather closed in, I estimate that at least 100,000 Broad-winged Hawks passed over the refuge . . . Tremendous kettles would at times "flatten out" and stretch like the Milky Way from horizon to horizon and occupy as much as one-fourth of the visible sky." Emanuel mentioned that a cool front had come in the evening of Mar 26. The following morning he was birding the refuge when Broad-winged caught his attention. "By 8 a.m. thousands of Broad-wings were forming kettles . . . By 9 a.m. I could see huge, dense kettles above the refuge . . . Focusing my scope on a huge kettle a mile north of the refuge, I could see more distant kettles stretching away to the north as far as the eye could see." On the same day 50,000 Broad-winged, "a conservative estimate," were seen over Norias, about 50 mi. n. and 20 mi. e. of Santa Ana N.W.R. (RC, KL & AW); time of day was not reported. On Mar. 28, about 20 mi. n. of Norias, about 350 were seen at mid-morning (*vide* KM), while 2000 were reported roosting that evening at Beeville (BM & LR); Beeville is about 110 mi due n. of Norias. Cold fronts usually enter the Region from NW in spring, and northerly winds are usually of short duration; prevailing winds are southerly or southeasterly. It is the belief of the writer that Broad-

wings fly directly N into c. Texas unless deflected coastward by northerly winds. Apparently the front which reached the Rio Grande Delta on the evening of Mar 26 did not affect the flight appreciably. The next cold front reached Austin, at the n. edge of the Region, on the morning of Mar. 29, and another early on the morning of Mar. 30; on the latter occasion, winds were northerly all day. This period spans a time gap in which no Broad-winged were reported. Numbers were next reported on Mar. 31, about 500 at Beeville (BM & LR). On Apr. 1, reports of 1000 at Santa Ana N.W.R. (WAS), 5000 at Corpus Christi (KM), and 5000 at Beeville (BM & LR) suggest movement on a broad vertical front, although we lack times of observation and climatological data. Corpus Christi is a sprawling city on Corpus Christi Bay, whose civic center is about 40 miles s.s.e. of Beeville. It is astonishing that, this season, we received *no* reports of Broad-winged e. of a Corpus Christi-to-Austin line, despite the unusual number of birders in the field. Other April sightings follow: 165 in Wilson County, Apr. 4 (WS); a flight of undetermined number, "a high wide band all across the sky," at Kenedy, Karnes Co. — about 25 mi. n. of Beeville — Apr. 6 (RR); 1000 at Corpus Christi (KM) and 100 at Beeville Apr. 8 (BM & LR); and 39 at San Antonio, Apr. 15 (DW). Broad-winged were reported at Austin Apr. 13 (20-19 (23) but aside from the foregoing, details were not submitted. On the evening of May 1 migrants settled down in a brushy area at the intersection of Interstate 37 and Padre Island Drive in Corpus Christi. On the following morning, between 8 and 10 a.m., some 500 Broad-winged Hawks left the roost and headed N (KM). The Corpus Christi Spring Count, May 2, tallied 1180 Broad-winged. Aside from 100 reported at Santa Ana N.W.R., Mar 27 (WAS), little mention was made of Swainson's Hawk. An imm. Golden Eagle was seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., Apr. 30 (VLE *et al.*)

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — The 49 adults and 8 young Whooping Cranes which wintered at Aransas N.W.R. departed as follows: 21 adults and three young about Apr. 2; 18 adults and four young about Apr. 11; six adults about Apr. 14, two adults about Apr. 18, and two adults and one young about Apr. 26 (BH). Largest reported movement of Sandhill Cranes (900) was noted at Austin Mar. 17.

Most shorebirds were scarce at Rockport where ponds and fields were dry until April (DNW). On the other hand, heavy rains in late April and early May restored water levels at Welder Wildlife Ref. and curtailed shorebird activity (GWB). Habitat was very good at San Antonio and May 18 was called the "best spring day ever" for shorebirds (JAM). The arrival of northbound Am. Golden Plovers, about ten flocks of 20 to 50 birds each, on s. Padre I. was observed Mar. 14 (JCA & SB). Good numbers of Whimbrels were found in Cameron County May 2 (JCA). What is believed to have been a Purple Sandpiper was seen at Austin sewage ponds Mar. 29 (JWW) & 30 (MAM, BR & JR). The observers, who submitted detailed descriptions, had seen this species on the coast. Flocks of White-rumped Sandpipers were "pouring in" onto the upper coast beaches May 13 (TBF & JG). An estimated 500 at San Antonio May 18 was top count for the season (AH, GBH & JAM). Dowitchers were abundant at Rockport (DNW). A count of 200 Buff-breasted Sandpipers near Beaumont Apr. 25 (WR) was

outstanding. The highest reported count of the Hudsonian Godwit, oddly enough, was from Austin where a flock of 25 was seen Apr. 20 (KK & MAM *et al.*). A ♀ **Red Phalarope** in breeding plumage was seen on Bolivar Flats, at Galveston, May 31. It appeared to have an injured leg but flew readily, and out of sight (PGD). A Wilson's Phalarope, n. of Laredo, Mar. 21, was very early and apparently a first for Webb County (RC, KL, & AW). Unusually high numbers of this species were reported throughout most of May.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Four Pomarine and one Parasitic jaegers were encountered 10 mi. out from Port Aransas Mar. 28 (AW *et al.*), and one of the latter species, a light-phase adult, was seen 40+ mi off Galveston Apr. 10 (TBF *et al.*). A **Glaucous Gull**, probably the individual reported on Mar. 9 in the winter report, was seen on Bolivar Flats throughout the season. An ad. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was photographed in the same area Mar. 29 (AW *et al.*). Black Tern numbers were reported very low at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R. (GAU).

HUMMINGBIRDS, COTINGAS — A **Broad-tailed Hummingbird** visited a yard in Bellaire Mar. 15-Apr 26 (MJ & TPJ). A **Buff-bellied Hummingbird** was at Beeville Apr. 11-12 (AHG), and one tarried at Corpus Christi through late April and early May (*vide* KM). The mystery bird of the season tantalized veteran birders on the Dow Nature Trail near L. Jackson, Brazoria Co., Apr. 25-May 2. An apparently similar individual was seen at Galveston County Park, near Webster, May 2 (JLT *et al.*), and at the famous "first roadside park s. of Sarita" on U.S. 77 in Kenedy County May 8 (LB & MB). A number of observers of the mystery bird examined skins furnished by Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, L.S.U., which most nearly matched the descriptions. It was generally agreed that the only reasonable choice — as suspected all along — was the **Rufous Mourner** (*Rhytipterna holerythra*), a cotinga [or flycatcher] which inhabits humid lowland forest of the tropics and gets no nearer to Texas than the gulf slope of s. Veracruz. A **Rose-throated Becard** was seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., Mar. 29 (WAS).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — Like most passerine groups, flycatchers seemed less numerous than usual and high counts were the exception. A **Tropical Kingbird** was well described from e. Fort Bend County May 4 (TLE). Kiskadee Flycatchers are being seen more frequently in the Corpus Christi area; seven were recorded on the Spring Count May 2. An individual was seen at High I., Apr. 14-17 (TLE); there is no previous record for the upper coast. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were prominent in a wave at Corpus Christi May 18 (*vide* KM), and in a small wave of passerines at Austin May 26 (FSW). Sekula reported Least Flycatchers and E. Wood Pewees most common in mid-May in Wilson County. A late Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., May 30 (JCA). Swallow species were reported in good numbers and seemed not to be deterred by dry or wet conditions. Several Violet-green Swallows were seen well at Santa Ana N.W.R., May 10 (PJ & HN).

CATBIRDS THROUGH WAXWINGS — High counts for the Gray Catbird were 80+ at High I., Apr 18

(RK) and 250 at Port Isabel May 1 (JCA, DB & SB). Single Sage Thrashers were seen on w. Galveston I., Apr. 9 (VLE *et al.*), a first spring record for the upper coast, and near Brownsville Mar. 27 (VLE *et al.*). The Clay-colored Robin reported at Santa Ana N.W.R. in the winter report was last noted on Mar. 27 (WAS). One was photographed at Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley S.P., Mar. 24 (AW), and one was seen at Rancho Santa Margarita, the Brown Jay locality, May 1, a first for Starr County (JCA). All thrush numbers were low. The usually abundant Swainson's Thrush was in many instances outnumbered by the less common Gray-cheeked Thrush. It was very strange to watch mulberries ripen and fall to the ground without thrushes to help a few catbirds, chats and grosbeaks harvest the bounty. Two hundred Cedar Waxwings were at High I. on the late date of May 15 (VLE & JLR), and two at Santa Ana N.W.R., May 30 (JCA).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Vireo numbers seemed to be below normal. Bell's Vireo was noted at Galveston, Apr. 10-11 (HN). A count of 15 Solitary Vireos at San Antonio May 8 (DW) was very good for this date, as were three late individuals at High I., May 15 (VLE & JLR). While warbler numbers often were disappointing, some high counts were made, especially during the first half of May. A Worm-eating Warbler seen on S. Padre I., Mar. 14, was a record early date for the Rio Grande Delta (JCA & SB). A good early push on Mar. 31 brought 35 to High I (TBF & ER). Golden-winged Warblers generally outnumbered Blue-winged. Two "Brewster's" type hybrids were seen, one at High I., Apr. 24 (KK *et al.*), and one at Austin May 2 (AB & WS). During the first half of May, Tennessee, Yellow and Magnolia Warblers were unusually abundant from Corpus Christi to San Antonio, and on the upper coast. A late ♂ Magnolia was at Rancho Santa Margarita May 29 (TM & VWM). A few Cape May Warblers usually appear on the upper coast in spring; at least five individuals were reported. More newsworthy were sightings at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Apr. 24 (LG, CEH & GAU); N. Padre I., two birds, Apr. 16 (PM *et al.*); and Port Aransas Apr. 7 (LT). Several Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen at High I. in April. Black-throated Green Warblers were in good numbers. The big day at High I., May 13, produced an estimated 100+ Blackburnian, 230+ Chestnut-sided, and 1000+ Bay-breasted Warblers (TBF & JG). These species scored well in most areas. A Blackburnian Warbler was seen at Santa Ana N.W.R., June 11 (WAS). A Prairie Warbler was seen in Wilson County May 19 (WS). A MacGillivray's Warbler was at San Antonio May 9 (DW), and at Santa Ana N.W.R., May 10 (*vide* HN). Yellow-breasted Chats and Canada Warblers apparently were down in numbers.

BOBOLINKS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — A ♂ Bobolink was seen on Mustang I., May 9 (PJ & HN). Top counts for Orchard Orioles were 80 each at High I. (TBF & ER) and Sabine Pass (RC, KL, & AW) Mar. 31. The Corpus Christi Spring Count May 2, totalled 446 N. "Baltimore" Orioles. Scarlet Tanagers excited much comment at Corpus Christi and Rockport.

FRINGILLIDS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks showed well, but it would appear that birders are more engrossed in counting warblers, for example, than grosbeaks and

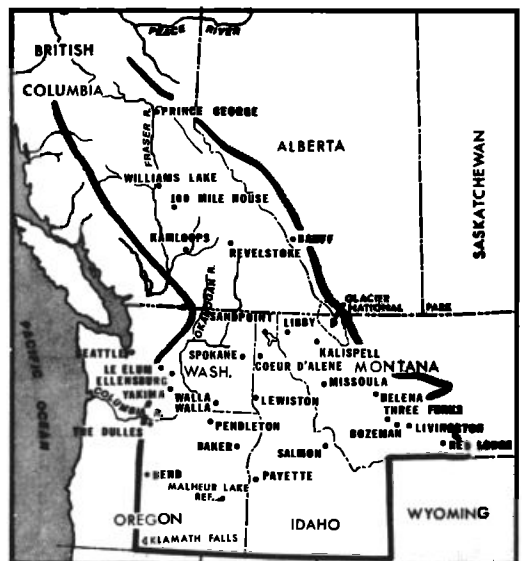
buntings, which makes it more difficult to arrive at an estimate of the migration for the latter groups. Two Lazuli Buntings were seen at Portland, near Corpus Christi, Apr. 8 (TL), and one at San Antonio May 9 (DW). Clay-colored Sparrows were more common than usual at San Antonio (DW). The Corpus Christi Spring Count May 2, turned up 72 Lincoln Sparrows, a surprising total for this late date.

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS — John C. Arvin, Larry Ballard, Martha Ballard, Alma Barrera, David Benn, Steve Benn, Gene W. Blacklock, Robert Copeland, David T. Dauphin, Robert V. Di Orto, Paul G. DuMont, Victor L. Emanuel, Ted L. Eubanks, Jr., T. Ben Feltner, Mrs. A. H. Geiselbrecht, Luther Goldman, Jim Grootemaat, Adele Harding, Gerald B. Harding, Bill Hawthorne, C.E. Hudson, Jr., Jenny Huey, Phyllis Jackson, Margaret Jones, T. Paul Jones, Kenn Kaufman, Randy Korotev, Kevin Lindsay, Terry Little, David Marrack, Peter Matthiessen, Mary Anne McClendon, Kay McCracken, James A. Middleton, James G. Morgan, Terry Moore, Vaughn W. Morrison, Bill Moser, Hazel Nichols, Dr. A.W. O'Neil, Lawrence Reagan, Mrs. Raymond Regmund, Barbara Ribble, John Ribble, Elaine Robinson, John L. Rowlett, Will Russell, Willie Sekula, Jr., Wayne A. Shifflett, John E. Sunder, Leona Turnbull, Paul Turner, John L. Tveten, George A. Unland, John W. White, Doris N. Winship, David Wolf, Alan Wormington. — **FRED S WEBSTER, JR.**, 4926 Strass Drive, Austin, Texas 78731.

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN-INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

April and May in the Region tended toward the cold, dry side in southern interior British Columbia, eastern Oregon and eastern Washington and windier than normal in the latter two states, but from Idaho east



conditions were in general warm and dry. An exception in Oregon was Malheur Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, where mild conditions caused an early runoff with high water levels, although precipitation was deficient.

Migrations tended to be early from Idaho east because of the early spring. At Pocatello breeding activities were a week or so ahead of 1975 dates. Spokane had some early arrivals in April but a number of late ones in May. The migration at Richland, Wash. was described as poor because of disagreeable weather.

Sightings of "displaced" species were mainly of more easterly species, of which nearly half were warblers. The windy spring, in a region of prevailing westerly winds, makes this somewhat surprising. Species north of their usual range were about half water-associated species and most of the rest were Fringillids. Strays from the West were few and well distributed among the bird families.

LOONS, GREBES — *Thirty-four* Com. Loons, twice the previous record high there, waited out the snowstorm on Helena Valley Res. Apr. 27, and 52 were on Dickey L., six mi. s.e. of Fortine, Mont., Apr. 25. This is the highest number Weydemeyer has recorded in that area in 55 years; normally only a few appear. The Nampa, Ida. area had 20, May 1, and nine were at Heyburn S.P., Chatcolet, Ida. May 2. Groups of up to 15 were on the Snake R. below Am. Falls, Ida. Apr. 20 - 25. A **Red-throated Loon** appeared in the Wenatchee, Wash. area in April (PC). A pair of Red-necked Grebes at Liberty L., Wash. had its first egg May 22 but the nest was later destroyed. All grebe use was up at Malheur N.W.R., Burns, Ore. Eared Grebes peaked at 6200 there, compared to 1700 last year, and breeding numbers of W. Grebes were significantly higher.

CORMORANTS THROUGH EGRETS — Doubled-crested Cormorants were nesting for the second year at L. Helena, where 14 birds with six occupied nests were observed May 15 (LT). The Great Blue Heron colony, new last year at Swan L., e. of Bigfork, Mont. was active again this year. The only Snowy Egret report came from Salmon, Ida., May 10 and was Roberts' first record ever there. The breeding colony of Black-crowned Night Herons at the Yakima R. mouth near Richland, Wash. is apparently no more, its demise blamed on disturbance by fishermen and motorcyclists. The heronry of this species at St. Andrews, Grant Co., Wash. seems to be following the same pattern, but for unknown reasons, for only an adult and an immature bird were seen May 8. Very few were seen at Pocatello, where personnel of the fish hatchery were reported to be shooting them, illegally, again this year. A local judge reportedly let them off free last year when they were caught shooting Caspian Terns (CHT). On the brighter side, sighting of an Am. Bittern at Parson, B. C. May 15 was a welcome sign, for the birds seem to have been declining in that area (LW). A White-faced Ibis at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Lima, Mont. May 18 was the first ever there and the only one reported for the Region (JR).

WATERFOWL — Mute Swans appeared at Central Park, between Manhattan and Belgrade, Mont., Mar. 20 & May 19. Trumpeter Swan numbers at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. had increased to 150 in early May. The resident population at Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash., numbered 37 and a normal 23 were at Malheur N.W.R.

Some 10,000 Canada Geese were found in Lincoln County, Wash., Apr. 10. Breeding pairs at Malheur N.W.R. were up 9% over last year and production on the islands of the Columbia R. near Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash. appeared good. The Nampa, Ida. area had a huge 4612 in mid-May.

The May 10-14 count at Columbia N.W.R. revealed 905 pairs of waterfowl compared to 658 in 1975. Transects at Malheur N.W.R. indicated nearly double last year's number of duck pairs, the increase particularly in Mallards and Cinnamon Teal. Gadwall numbers at Turnbull N.W.R. peaked at 500; Am. Wigeon, 800, Wood Duck, 40; Canvasback, 200, and Com. Goldeneye, 1100. A peak Pintail migration of 20,000 - 25,000 was moving through the Helena area the latter half of March. Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa, had peaks of 10,000 Mallards, 1000 N. Shovelers, and 350 Cinnamon Teal. A pair of Wood Ducks was on Rock L., n.w. Whitman Co., Wash. Apr. 17. Up to 20 Canvasback were at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida. where only 2-5 are usual. A Harlequin Duck on the Salmon R. near Salmon, Ida. May 8 was Roberts' first record ever for the locality and a pair at Red Rock Lakes N.W.R. May 7 was highly unusual (JR). Fourteen Red-breasted Mergansers on Phillips L. west of Baker, Ore., were Ann Ward's first for the area. At least 13 were on Banks L., Grant Co., Wash. Apr. 10. Three were in Yoho N.P., B.C. in mid-May and the Nampa area had ten Apr. 1.

VULTURES, HAWKS — Nampa recorded 21 Turkey Vultures May 2 and one was at Salmon, where they are unusual, on the record early date of Apr. 16. However, Vernon, B.C. had one Apr. 2. Goshawk sightings came only from Nampa; Sumpter, Ore., Spokane, and Wenas Creek, s.w. of Ellensburg, Wash. Cooper's Hawks were sighted near Spokane; Kamiak Butte, Whitman Co., Wash.; Wenas Creek; Sawtooth Nat'l Recreation Area, Ketchum, Ida., and Fortine, Mont. Several observations, more than in recent years, were made at the latter locality. Ferruginous Hawks continued scarce, particularly in areas around Pocatello where they normally are found. Only one nest was found. The only other nests reported were one near Washtucna, Wash. containing two young, and one, active for the third year, at Canyon Ferry Res. near Helena. One was seen near Troy, Mont. May 25 (FB). An active Bald Eagle nest was found 17 miles north of Helena (VY) and two active nests were at the mouth of the Flathead R. near Bigfork, Mont. A pair attempting to nest on Ravalli N.W.R. in the Bitterroot Valley s. of Missoula failed when the nest tree blew down. In Whitman County, Wash. where the species is rare, an adult was seen at Rock L., Apr. 5 (JWW). Two birds at Phillips L. in Oregon were worthy of note. Only seven sightings of Prairie Falcons were reported. At least 50 Am. Kestrels were at Salmon Creek Res. about 10 mi n. of Jackpot, Nev. Apr. 3 (PLU).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — Eighteen Sharp-tailed Grouse, the only ones reported, were near Sinking Creek s. of Creston, Wash., Apr. 10 and on that date at least 33 Sage Grouse were on the strutting grounds just to the west. Four other Sage Grouse grounds in that general area were reported active (DW).

CRANES — In a spot near Kittitas, Wash., 700 Sandhill Cranes spent the night of Apr. 30. (RP) and at

least 3000 were in the St. Andrews, Wash., area Apr. 10 (S A S). Noteworthy were 60-75 in a field near Umapine, Ore., Apr. 24.

SHOREBIRDS — Five Semipalmated Plovers were observed at Newnan L., Wash. (WH) and one at Rupert, Ida. May 3 was Shillington's first ever. The only Black-bellied Plovers reported were three at Banks L. in Washington May 13 (JA). The Nampa area reported 257 Long-billed Curlews May 31 and about 50 were in an alfalfa field s. of Ephrata, Wash., May 25. In the Pocatello area the birds survive in a few isolated pockets of cheatgrass prairie. As recently as 1969 thousands nested w. of the city but agriculture has forced them out. As usual the only Upland Sandpipers for the Region appeared near the Idaho-Washington line e. of Spokane. After the late April storm a field near Helena had about 100 Willets and 200 Long-billed Dowitchers, the largest numbers ever recorded there (SM). Eight Am. Avocets, very uncommon in s. British Columbia, were on the lakeshore at Penticton May 2 (SRC) and a flock was at L. Wenas s.w. of Ellensburg Apr. 27. A nest of the species was found at Haynes L. just n. of St. Andrews, Wash., May 29 (DD). A Wilson's Phalarope at Cougar Bay on Coeur d'Alene L., Idaho May 31 was the first for that locality; it is an uncommon transient in n. Idaho (SS). Northern Phalaropes appeared scarce. Two at Fortine May 9 furnished the second spring record in 56 years' observing (WW). Rupert, Ida., had 25, and a single bird was found at Reardan, Wash., May 18.

GULLS, TERNS — The Nampa area had 8100 California and 900 Ring-billed Gulls May 12. An adult **Laughing Gull** in summer plumage at Malheur N.W.R. was apparently the first ever for Oregon (SL & SSu). Three Bonaparte's Gulls appeared May 29 at Nampa, where they are rarely seen. An imm. bird was at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., Apr. 26 (ZB & EC) and two in winter plumage were found at Ellensburg May 1 (ZB & EC). About 20 were on Magic Res. s. of Hailey, Ida. (ELL). A very few appeared in e. Washington. Nampa had two Com. Terns May 1. Caspian Terns were noted mostly in s. Idaho, with up to four in the Nampa area and two at Pocatello. Rupert had 14. Medical L., Wash., had two May 1. One was sighted at Columbia N.W.R., Othello, Wash., May 31 (THR & BW). Six Black Terns were sighted at Parson, B.C., where they had been undetected previously (RRH). Single Forster's and Black Terns appeared at the new dam reservoir at Clarkston, Wash.

PIGEONS, OWLS — Leavenworth, Wash., had a pair of Band-tailed Pigeons Apr. 23 (PC). The Barn Owl was reported only from the Nampa area, Lowden, Richland and Columbia N.W.R. in Washington. At Spokane Screech Owls nesting in a box made for squirrels, hatched young May 4 and the fledglings left the nest June 6. The birds were photographed and sound-recorded many times. A **Flammulated Owl** was identified at Malheur N.W.R. May 9 (CDL). A **Barred Owl** nest near Loon L., Lincoln Co., Mont. May 29 was the first ever reported for the Region and reaffirms this species' southward extension (DD). A pair of Long-eared Owls, seldom found in w. Montana, was found nesting near Missoula (SSF). One in Yoho N.P. Apr. 10 made the first park record (BBe). The only Saw-whet Owl sightings were of one found dead at Waterton Lakes N.P., Canada Apr. 6 and one at Davenport, Wash. cemetery May 16.

POOR-WILLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — The Poor-will was found only near Ellensburg, Methow and Spokane, Wash., in late May. Fort Okanogan, Wash., had the only Black Swifts, about ten, May 30 - 31 (EH). White-throated Swifts were reported nesting near Missoula, no details given. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were appearing in unusual places. Single birds were sighted in the Parker Heights area near Yakima and one was found dead at Bozeman. Freshly killed, apparently by a car, it apparently came from nearby and would be the first record for that locality (MD). A male at a feeder in Nicholson May 17 & 24, apparently furnished the northernmost record for e. British Columbia (RRH & FK). A male May 2 near Vernon, B. C. where the species is rare, supplied the earliest date ever there (BB). A ♂ Anna's Hummingbird appeared at White Salmon, Wash., May 7 (MS) and Spokane had its first record for the species, a female examined carefully at very close range May 8 (JA). A visit May 8 - 22 at Malheur N.W.R. of a Calliope Hummingbird was a rare occurrence (RRS). A sampling of first dates for the Rufous gave, for Bigfork, May 3; Richland and Prince George, B.C., Apr. 30, Parker Heights and Vernon, Apr. 28, and Spokane Apr. 23.

WOODPECKERS — An active Pileated Woodpecker nest was found on Browne Mt. near Spokane and two were located in the vicinity of Bigfork. One Red-naped, two Red-breasted Sapsuckers and one bird in intermediate plumage were sighted near Fort Klamath, Ore., May 31 (PL & SL). Three observations of Williamson's Sapsucker were reported. A male was about five mi. s. of Colocum Pass in the Cascade Mts. n. of Ellensburg May 8 (AC) and one was in the Moser Creek area s. of Bozeman, a new area for the species, May 23 (SC). A male was at a nest on Gold Creek near Methow, Wash., May 30 (EH). A pair of White-headed Woodpeckers was nesting at the Boise-Cascade campground and bird sanctuary on Wenas Creek at the end of May, quite unperturbed by campers of the state Audubon campout situated a few feet from the nest tree. Two ♂ and five ♀ Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were in the Marshall, Wash., vicinity Apr. 25 and two were seen at Sumpter, Ore., May 9.

FLYCATCHERS — Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were located along Crab Creek on Columbia N.W.R. s. of O'Sullivan Dam (THR & BW). A Say's Phoebe May 23 was the first ever for Yoho N.P. (CW *et al.*) A Least Flycatcher was found at the camp on Wenas Creek at the end of May (EL). The Gray Flycatcher was found there again this year, at least ten singing males May 9 (EH) and one bird seen May 27 (EL) and heard May 30 (THR). The Olive-sided Flycatcher was recorded only at Wenas Creek and on Browne Mt. near Spokane.

JAYS THROUGH CREEPERS — The **Blue Jay** that wintered in Bozeman was last seen Apr. 24 (PDS) and "a pair" was seen along the Swan R. near Bigfork Apr. 19 (WJ). Clark's Nutcracker was practically unreported, with one seen on two dates in the Nampa area and about a dozen in the Spokane Valley e. of Spokane. Heyburn S.P. had four Chestnut-backed Chickadees May 2 (P.A.S.) The only other report was of one carrying nesting material in the vicinity of Bigfork (DS). The only Com. Bushtits were several near Lyle and Centerville, Wash.,

May 1 (EH). Most Brown Creepers had left for higher altitudes but one still lingered until May at the Davenport, Wash., cemetery.

WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES — A late Winter Wren migrant was at the Davenport cemetery May 4 (JA) and two were singing along the creek at Browne Mt. near Spokane May 8. Bewick's Wren was again found at Lewis and Clark S.P., near Waitsburg, Wash. (SMu & CS). The Cañon Wren was singing in April at Trident, Mont., a new site (ETH & RAH). The species seems to be expanding its range slowly in that area. A probable Mockingbird sighting was made in Yoho N.P. (CW). A Gray Catbird appeared in Baker May 28 and lingered into June (AW) and a **Brown Thrasher** was seen near Missoula May 27 (VV). Sage Thrashers in the Pocatello area began nesting early and by Apr. 23 many nests with eggs had been located. A Varied Thrush in the Bear Trap area along the Madison R. west of Bozeman Apr. 24 added another sighting to the very few for that area (BBA *et al.*). An early Hermit Thrush was far north at Prince George, B.C., May 8. In the Bigfork area five active bluebird — presumably Mountain — nests were found in nest boxes but 28 boxes put up for them around a first year Scotch pine plantation there had 28 pairs of Tree Swallows occupying them! On a farm s.w. of Spokane 65 nest boxes had 30 nests of W. Bluebirds and one of Mountain. Both species were rather common and nesting at Boise-Cascade campground on Wenas Creek in late May

KINGLETS THROUGH SHRIKES — Migrating flocks of up to 25 Ruby-crowned Kinglets appeared in the Davenport cemetery the last week of April. Water Pipits were practically unreported, with about 15 at Four Lakes, Spokane Co., Apr. 24 and the first arriving at Vernon, B.C. Apr. 23. A group of 17 Bohemian Waxwings still lingered at Spokane Apr. 28. A pair of Loggerhead Shrikes at a nest near Asotin, Wash., furnished the first breeding record for Asotin County (JWW).

WARBLERS THROUGH BLACKBIRDS — A **Black-and-White Warbler** was observed at very close range at Boise-Cascade camp May 3 (ZB) and at least one **Tennessee Warbler** was positively identified at Malheur N.W.R. headquarters May 14 (DF). A pair of the latter species was present at Missoula for several weeks and was presumed to be nesting (AB). This would be a southward extension of the species' known breeding range. Seventeen Orange-crowned Warblers were singing May 8 on the e slope of Browne Mt. near Spokane, where they are believed to nest. This may be the best place in the Region to find the species. The Nashville Warbler was described as becoming an increasingly common migrant at Missoula (SSF). The Browne Mt. area at Spokane had 11 singing males May 8. The species is known to nest there. A ♂ **Parula Warbler** was identified and photographed at close range at Malheur N.W.R. May 29 - 30 (PL, SL, PS, SSu & CT) and one was reported at Missoula (MR), no details included. A Black-throated Gray Warbler territorial male was seen in Junipers near Pocatello May 27 for the only report. Malheur N.W.R. had a Hermit Warbler May 15 (JW). A ♂ **Chestnut-sided Warbler** singing and photographed at Missoula May 27 was still there June 1 (JK, FKr & PLW). A **Palm Warbler** was

reported at Goose Prairie in the Yakima area, May 23, no details (BL *et al.*) A migrating N. Waterthrush was along the Portneuf R. near Pocatello May 21 (MM) and one was at Malheur N.W.R. May 23 (CDL) one was along the new dam reservoir near Clarkston, Wash., May 17 Two ♂ and one ♀ Am. Redstarts appeared on Thrapp Mt., Okanogan Co., May 30 (EH), and one visited Malheur May 23 (CDL). A female, perhaps the same bird, was seen there May 29 (PL, SL, PS & SSu). Warbler numbers in general seemed low. Baker had two ♂ Bobolinks May 27 (AW). A lone Yellow-headed Blackbird was sighted May 2 at Revelstoke, B.C., where the species does not breed (JWo). A ♂ and a ♀ N. Oriole, Bullock's race, were carrying nest material around an old nest at Golden, B.C., May 23. This represents a northeastward extension of known nesting areas there (RRH). Rarely observed in the vicinity of Kootenai N.W.R., a pair of these birds appeared May 29 (DAP). Two males and a female at Hailey, Ida. May 15 were worthy of note (ELL). A "sizeable" migration of this species was observed in the vicinity of Meadow L., Spokane Co., May 23 (FBH). Two Com. Grackles appeared in Pocatello May 11 (EF). At least one record is obtained there each spring (CHT). April 8 was a record early date for the species at Bozeman, excepting for years when they winter (PDS). A Brown-headed Cowbird had reached Prince George, B.C. as early as May 3 (JC).

FINCHES — A ♀ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found at Malheur N.W.R. May 29 (SSu) and a male was photographed there May 30 - 31 (PL, SL, PS, SSu & DT). Evening Grosbeaks were seen migrating in large numbers through some cities in e. Oregon and Washington and at Bigfork, Mont., in May. A flock estimated at 350 was feeding under elms in a park in Spokane May 28. The Purple Finch was added to Yoho N.P.'s list by a sighting May 10; more were seen later in the month (RRH). Eight House Finches, apparently four pairs, appeared in Hailey, Ida., May 15 (ELL). Large numbers of Com. Redpolls still lingered at Missoula after the winter invasion, frequenting feeders into May. Two were still at Helena Apr. 28 (MB) and a very few at Spokane Apr. 1 - 2 broke the late record there. A Lesser Goldfinch was seen well May 21 south of Pocatello (MM). White-winged Crossbills lingered at Bozeman until May 21 and a few were seen at Rupert, Ida., Apr. 12 and stayed three days

SPARROWS — A single Rufous-sided Towhee at a feeder in Nicholson and four at Brisco, B.C., Apr. 1 were noteworthy (FK), as was one at Fortine Apr. 2. The species has been recorded there in spring in only eight years out of 55 (WW). The Pocatello area had two Lark Bunting sightings in late May (CHT) and Rupert had four May 29. The scarce Grasshopper Sparrow was found only in the Spokane Valley near the Idaho line in early May (WH). A lone Vesper Sparrow was sighted in Yoho N.P., where it is rare, May 8 (RRH) and a ♂ Lark Sparrow photographed there May 21 added the species to the park list (CW, RRH *et al.*) The Sage Sparrow was reported at Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont. (DB). In the Pocatello area the birds were singing on territory by Mar. 18 but no nests with eggs were found until May 8. Malheur N.W.R. had a **Gray-headed Junco** May 26 (CDL). No Brewer's Sparrow nests there were found at Pocatello until May 26. The Harris' Sparrow which wintered at Swan L. s.e. of Bigfork molted into ad. plumage and left May 12 (EJ)

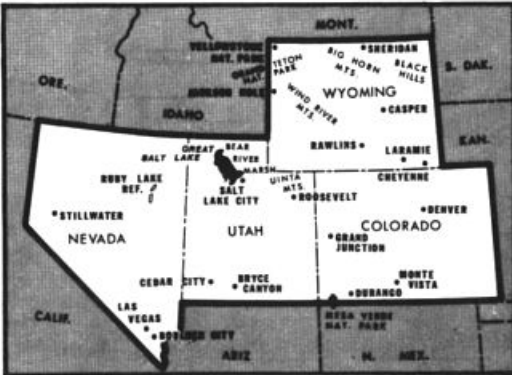
Three which spent most of the spring at feeders in Pocatello likewise molted and were singing before departing (J.J). The species was seen at Walla Walla Apr. 23 & 28 (LC & RM). One still in imm. plumage was seen at Richland Apr. 17 (REW). A huge influx of White-crowned Sparrows in Pocatello the week of Apr. 26 was apparently waiting out a storm there. A very few Golden-crowned Sparrows Apr. 26 - May 14 at Davenport, Richland and Yakima, Wash. The only **White-throated Sparrow** reported was an immature bird at the Davenport cemetery May 11 (JA & WH). Fox Sparrows were reported only at Spokane Mar. 28 and later, and near Wapato, Wash., one bird Vay 8 (AH). The little-reported Lincoln's Sparrow was noted at Nampa, one May 29; at feeders in Missoula; one at Richland Apr. 9 (PW), and in the Spokane area, the first Apr. 24 at Medical L. The **Swamp Sparrow** that wintered at Missoula was still there Apr. 3 (PLW). Thirty-five McCown's Longspurs at Helena Valley Reservoir Apr. 27 after the storm were the first ever for that area. The next day three flocks of about 100 each were there (SM). Four Lapland Longspurs in breeding plumage were seen at Creston, Wash., Apr. 10 (JA). The species appeared at Bozeman Vay 15.

OBSERVERS — James Acton, (BBa) Benton Basham, (BBc) Brent Beam, (BB) Bea Beaven, Arnold

Bolle, Doug Bonham, Margaret Brooks, Kay Burk, Zee Butler, Jim Caldwell, Arthur Campbell, Lois Campbell, Steve R. Cannings, Phil Cheney, Sharon Cotterell, Emily Cragg, Dennis Dahke, Mike Dillard, Darrell Faxon, Edson Fichter, S. S. Frissell, Warren Hall, E. T. & R. A. Hays, Alice Horschel, Rick R. Howie, Eugene Hunn, Frances B. Huston, Wanda Jamieson, Joe Jeppson, Elly Jones, J. Keyser, (FK) Francis King, (FKr) F. Krause, Betty Lagergren, Earl Larrison, Phyllis and Stephen Laymon, Edward L. Lindquist, C. D. Littlefield, (PLu) Paul Lucas, Mike Mahoney, Rose Marsh, (SM) Sid Martin, (SMu) Shirley Muse, Delano A. Pierce, Robert Prather, Matt Reid, Hadley B. Roberts, Thomas H. Rogers, Jim Roscoe, Connie Sherer, W. H. Shillington, Richard R. Sjostrom, P. D. Skaar, Mark Smith, Palouse Audubon Society, Spokane Audubon Society, (SS) Shirley Sturts, Priscilla and (SSu) Steve Summers, Dan Sullivan, Caryn Talbot, Larry Thompson, Don Tiller, Charles H. Trost, Virginia Vincent, Carson and Lynn Wade, Ann Ward, John W. Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Dennis Whiteman, (JW), James Wittenberger, (JWo) John Woods, Pat and Robert E. Woodley, P. L. Wright, and Vince Yannone
Total contributors 179.—**THOMAS H. ROGERS, E 10820 Maxwell Ave., Spokane, Wa. 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST /Hugh E. Kingery

Both the variety of birds and the numbers found in the 1976 spring migration declined from last year's banner performance; Mountain West observers uniformly commented on a lackluster season. However, Collister reported that her banding studies showed average totals,



although with a slow start. Speaking of passerines, she reported that "transient birds were indeed here in at least their usual numbers, and for the most part at the usual time." Apparently many species came through later than usual, making the migration seem less varied than in the past two years.

Nevada reported a warm and dry season; the other states had a chilly April and a warm and dry May. Many water-related migrants overflowed the Region — Bear River N.W.R. had a third its normal waterfowl — and many others arrived late.

Regional observers found 353 species altogether — 48 fewer than last spring: 312 in Colorado (344 last year), 262 in Nevada (250), 218 in Utah (242), and 216 in Wyoming (202).

GREBES THROUGH HERONS — Eared Grebe migrants more than doubled last year's numbers; peaks built to 5000 at Bear River N.W.R., Utah, Apr. 20 and 2000-3000 at Cottonwood Cove, Nev., Apr. 25-May 23. Double-crested Cormorants thrive in Utah; they used two new nest sites in Cache Co. (Mitchell reported none in that county since 1949, *Am. Birds* 29:927-930) Bear R. had 96 nests; on May 19, they contained 221 young and 97 eggs. Colorado attracted one Little Blue Heron to Pueblo May 14 (*vide* JCL) and two to Hudson May 30 (HH2). A Green Heron which wintered at the fish hatchery in Durango, Colo., left Apr. 26, when new construction started at its artificial habitat (RWS), and Sheridan had its third local record May 28 (PH). One Cattle Egret appeared for the first Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park (R.M.N.P.) record May 15 (WR), and Nevada picked up another record May 12 at Overton (RH). Bear River had 125 nests of Black-crowned Night Herons, and Ruby Lakes, N.W.R., Nev., had 200 nests May 6, the birds "causing no little trouble at the fish hatchery (State) Scare devices have been put in place by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and efforts are being made to cover all of the fish-rearing ponds with screening. Kill permits are no longer issued." (RP). Nevada also had three records of Least Bitterns at Las Vegas May 5-27 (BP, BH *et al.*), and one at Pahrnatag Valley May 13 (DB). Bear R. had more White-faced Ibis this year, with 1500-2000 nests, and Ruby Lakes had 125 nests. Colorado reports decreased, although flocks included 66 at Denver May 8 and 40 at Edwards Apr. 17 (ME), an unusual site in the mountains, 30 stopped at Kanab, Utah, Apr. 19 (SH), an unusual site in the desert.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — A possible Trumpeter Swan stayed at Boulder, Colo., Apr. 10-28, exhibiting all Trumpeter field marks except the diagnostic voice. (PM, BK, BW *et al.*) Stillwater N.W.R., Nev., noted its peak waterfowl migration Apr. 1, with 9900 Ruddy Ducks, 4600 Green-winged Teal, and 2500 N. Shovelers. Migrating ducks at Bear R. plummeted, with 40,000 this year compared to a normal 150,000; 17,000 Green-winged Teal Apr. 15 and 14,500 Pintails Apr. 1 topped the numbers (RK). Monte Vista N.W.R., Colo., attracted a peak migration of 24,000 ducks Apr. 3, including 14,925 Mallards and 7275 Pintails. The breeding population, as of May 1, stood at 8500 — up from 3200 last year, the increase resulting from improved early water conditions (CRB).

Colorado's seventh Eur. Wigeon visited Barr L. near Denver Apr. 3 (BA; † C. F. O.), directly compared with an Am. Wigeon. Scattered Wood Duck records included one at Ely, Nev., May 8 (MN). Ruby Lakes had 552 Canvasback nests, with hatching beginning the first week of June. The Farmington Bay, Utah Oldsquaw remained there Apr. 1-6 (GK; see winter report). A Surf Scoter was at Denver May 14 (VT). Despite many Ruddy Ducks in Nevada, their numbers dipped substantially in e. Colorado (MS, PM, BA).

RAPTORS — Turkey Vultures drifted in early, with birds at Kanab Apr. 1, Logan Apr. 4, and Sheridan Apr. 10. Accipiter observations matched last year's. Three Red-shouldered Hawk reports came from Colorado: adults May 5 at Bonny Res. (JR) and Boulder May 7 & 25 (BK) and an immature at Julesburg Res. May 28-31 (BL). Wyoming had an influx of Broad-winged Hawks, with 5-6 birds at Sheridan Apr. 28-May 16 (HD, PH; only three previous records there, none in the spring) and one at Cheyenne May 8 (OKS). Colorado had six reported from Colorado Springs to Boulder. Observers in all four states commented on decreased observations of Swainson's Hawks. Rough-legged Hawks stayed late, with two Denver birds Apr. 29, and single birds at Desert Game Ref., Nev., Apr. 29, Dubois, Wyo., May 1 and Sheridan May 3. Lucas checked 42 known Nevada eyries of Ferruginous Hawks; only 19 were active. Knapp observed a heavy movement of Am. Kestrels Apr. 28, with over 200 in Boulder and Larimer Cos., Colo.

CRANES — Four Whooping Crane young used the San Luis Valley, Colo., on their way to Grays Lake, Ida., with the last observed May 3 at Alamosa. Three of the four left their respective family groups before departing for Idaho (CRB).

SHOREBIRDS — The Region saw few shorebirds. Bear R. had 20 Snowy Plovers at the peak, "down drastically from last year" (RK). One Am. Golden Plover visited Ordway, Colo. May 20 (BA) and two stopped at Farmington Bay W. M. A., Utah May 5 (WWB). High Colorado counts of Black-bellied Plovers came in the Arkansas Valley near Rocky Ford, with 50 on May 2 (BA) and 150 on May 11 (VT). Kanab, Utah, had 30 Long-billed Curlews Apr. 20, and they peaked May 1 at Bear R., at 600, with 100 staying to nest. **Whimbrels** massed at Longmont, with 44 on May 11 and 90 May 13, pinned on the n. shore of Union Res. by strong northerly winds (PM, MM, JS *et al.*); Barr L., near Denver had 12 on May 12 (BA) and Grand Junction had two on Apr. 1

(LG) & Apr. 27 (HT). Sheridan counted three on May 7 (HO, PH), and one stopped at Overton Apr. 26 (CL). Also at Overton Apr. 26 was a Red Knot (CL). At Fallon Nev., 45 Dunlins gathered Apr. 24 (GD). One Short-billed Dowitcher visited Kanab May 6 (SH). Numbers of Long-billed Dowitchers, usually a numerous Mountain West migrant, plummeted with top counts of only 200 from Bear R. Apr. 26 and Larimer Co., Colo., May 8, and 106 at Austin Nev. Apr. 25. Stilt Sandpipers, also not so numerous in Colorado this spring, did reach Logan, Utah, May 5 (TS) and Cheyenne May 8 (OKS). Mowbray discovered Nevada's first **Hudsonian Godwits** May 15, a flock of five which dwindled to one last seen May 24. Migrating numbers of phalaropes dropped very low in s Nevada, both Wilson's and Northern; presumably they overflow the Great Basin.

GULLS, TERNS — Three Thayer's Gulls at Overton included two adults — the second record of adults in Nevada, both in spring. "The immature had very pale and washed out plumage owing to bleaching or feather wear or both, but the checkered appearance and terminal band on the tail was still evident." (CL). California Gulls increase at Bear R. with 11,000 adults on 4619 nests with 10,242 eggs, more than double 1957's population. Nearby were an estimated 15,000 Franklin's Gulls nests in three very large colonies. Nevada had ten Franklin's Gull observations in April, including the first at Diamond Valley (JE). Colorado's most remarkable records involved four different **Little Gulls**: an adult May 8 at Crook (JR; & C.F.O.); an immature May 22, at Longmont, compared with Franklin's and Bonaparte's, with the smaller size readily apparent, and which left May 27 (PM *et al.*); and then at Longmont two juveniles June 7-11, the plumage proving them different from the May bird (BW, PM); one of the latter remained until June 27

OWLS, WHIP-POOR-WILL — Barn Owl reports from Colorado doubled, to 13 birds. One Elf Owl was at Ft. Mohave Apr. 21 (VM). Colorado Long-eared Owl reports increased, with at least 6 nests located. Sheridan had its fourth Saw-whet Owl May 24 (HD). A Whip-poor-will which called May 8 for 20 minutes, simultaneously with a Poor-will gave Zion NP its second sound record (PS); the bird has been heard now three times in Utah, but never seen.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, CORVIDS — As they often do, flycatchers exemplified the late migration, most arriving 1-2 weeks later than usual. E. Phoebe straggled to Denver Apr. 18-May 26 (HEK), Boulder May 8-9 (BA, BK, NS, BL), and St. George, May 15 (SH), the latter a rare record for Utah. The remnants of the huge Tree Swallow build-up at Davis Dam dwindled to 50,000 Apr. 8 (CL; see *Am. Birds* 30 Winter Report). At Rye Patch Res., Nev., over 200 Bank Swallows had begun nest building May 24. Purple Martins straggled to Barr L. May 23 and Fort Morgan, Colo., May 25 (BA, JCR; † C. F. O.). Com. Crows, adjusting to civilization, venture more often into the cities of the Colorado piedmont. They increase "in numbers and temerity" in Longmont; "at home among cars in parking lots and reported as removing birds of smaller species from nests" (AC).

WRENS, THRASHERS — A Bewick's Wren strayed north to Denver Apr. 29 (BA). A secretive Short-billed Marsh Wren skulked in grass near a Bonney Res. woodland May 6-7 (JR). Mockingbirds still expand their range and increase in numbers in Nevada; three pairs hatched 11 young in a 3-block Las Vegas area and from throughout s. Nevada came scattered reports. They are multiplying as well at Durango — a "comeback" — with 12 different birds reported in May. Collister banded 32 Gray Catbirds at her Lykins Gulch study area, compared with an average of 9 in previous years. She banded three Brown Thrashers, the most ever there, and one strayed into the nearby foothills at Eldora, Colo., May 18. (GS). Two Bendire's Thrashers were singing in mid-May at Kamas, Utah (GK) and Las Vegas had one May 26-27 (CL) The Curve-billed Thrasher continues to wander; one stayed at a Dillon, Colo. feeder for several days in early May, with a foot of snow on the ground (LB).

THRUSHES TO SHRIKES — A Varied Thrush at Cheyenne May 22 was that city's first record (OKS). Two Wood Thrushes joined the influx of thrushes in Colorado — one at Bonny Res. May 15 (PM) and one at Barr L. May 15-16 (BA, LW). The influx included few Hermit Thrushes, which also bypassed Las Vegas but had reached mountain breeding areas like Aspen, Colo., and Mt Charleston, Nev., by May 26. Denver and e. Colorado had a big flight of Swainson's Thrushes the evening of May 16; Barr L. had two on May 15 and 45 on May 16 Other May 16 counts included over 150 at Rocky Ford and 26 at one windy Baca County spot. Collister banded a substantial 31 during May, with the peak May 25 While Colorado had its first specimen in 1973 (*Am. Birds* 28:85), this spring observers reported at least 11 Gray-checked Thrushes, including four at Bonny Res., May 15-16. (C.F.O. Records Committee will review all reports, but sheer volume lends some credence to the observations.) Mountain Bluebirds were common at Kanab in the desert in April, yet ten had reached snow-covered Vail Pass, Colo., by Apr. 12; they began using nest boxes at Eldora by the end of May. Spring Counts found 157 at R.M.N.P., a high number. Cheyenne had a rare Blue-gray Gnatcatcher May 22 (OKS); it was abundant in the chaparral at Zion N.P. The migration of Ruby-crowned Kinglets went largely unnoticed in Nevada and e. Colorado, although they had reached their nest sites by the end of May in usual or greater abundance; yet migrants were common in Springdale, Utah and at Sheridan for the first time in several years. Remnants of winter flocks of Bohemian Waxwings stayed until Apr. 10 at Reno (JA, MN), Logan Apr. 24, Cody, Wyo., May 1, and Kamas, Utah, May 20. Loggerhead Shrikes participated in the delayed migration, with high counts of 30 at Bonny Res., Apr. 10-11 (PM), 84 on May 2 on a 75-mile loop near Colorado Springs (EW); 38, four times normal, on the Colorado Springs spring count May 8; and birds throughout Nevada Only Salt Lake City reports reduced numbers, in the juniper/sage habitat west of the city.

VIREOS — A Yellow-throated Vireo occurred at Loveland, Colo., May 2 (JRI, *vide* AC). Colorado's fourth White-eyed Vireo occurred at Two Buttes Res., Baca Co., May 1 (BA, BK); three of the four state records come from that county. Observers found Bell's Vireos at

Ft. Mohave, Nev. from Apr. 8, with a pair on territory May 6; at Santa Clara, Utah May 15 (SH); and May 28-31 at Crook, Colo. (six individuals), a likely nesting site (BL).

WARBLERS — Disappointed observers found fewer warblers after two spectacular seasons. Worm-eating Warblers occurred at Boulder on May 8 (DA, AC, CC) and two on May 11 (PM). Utah's first **Blue-winged Warbler**, observed briefly and identified by sight and call on May 20, was gleaning insects from the leaves and bark of a cottonwood at Logan (DF; †Ed.). Colorado had one at Two Buttes Res. May 5 (JR; †C.F.O.) to May 9 (TE) A Prothonotary occurred at Boulder May 11 (PM, BA, †C.F.O.). Ft. Mohave had over 100 Lucy's Warblers Apr. 8 (CL, PL). Fewer N. Parulas occurred in e. Colorado (two at Boulder, three at Denver) but two swung west: a male in an aspen grove at Jefferson, Colo May 16 (CH), and one at Lida, Nev., May 27 (excellent details — JM, CCa). Although the first Yellow Warblers came early to e. Colorado on Apr. 18 at Denver, many migrants were still passing through Colorado and Nevada during mid-to-late May; 50 remained at Las Vegas' Corn Creek oasis May 31. (MB). Colorado had two Cape May Warblers, at Red Rocks Park May 9 (DT) and Boulder May 10-12 (BK, BA). Totals of Yellow-rumped Warblers increased over previous years, with a large group of 229 on Apr. 29 at Barr L. at the end of a drizzly spell, 542 on the May 8 Colorado Springs spring count, and at Denver 55 on May 23, a late date for so many. Nevada had large numbers statewide, with flocks of 50-150 not uncommon Black-throated Gray Warblers seemed scarce in the w. Colorado nesting areas (DG, BK) but 11 males sang in the Canon City, Colo. area May 11, the highest count yet in that E. Slope pinyon habitat (VT). Boulder had Colorado's only Blackburnian May 22-24 (PM, BK, NS, SL). Scott found four Chestnut-sided Warblers at Cheyenne May 22, and Sheridan had two on May 31, the second area observation. Californians found a first-year ♂ Chestnut-sided at Lida, Nev. May 27 (JM, CCa, IM, SLu). Bay-breasted occurred at Bonny Res. May 15 (PM), and May 22 at Boulder and at Denver (SL, HEK) The first w. Colorado Bay-breasted fed for 10 minutes along Sheriff Cr. near Kremmling May 20 (PM). A Palm Warbler perched on a barbed wire fence at Fort Morgan Apr. 25 (JCR). Seven observers saw Colorado's fourth Prairie Warbler at Bonny on May 16 (PM, MM, JS, BSp *et al.*; ph. †C.F.O.). Excellent details support an Ovenbird at Beatty, Nev., May 24 (SLuj † CL).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Bobolinks are on an up-cycle in e. Colorado; groups of ten were found in May at Boulder, Longmont, and Julesburg. Observers documented the E. Meadowlark colony at Julesburg again this year: how long had the colony waited for exploring birders to find it? Zion area feeding-stations attracted a Hooded Oriole Apr. 13-17 and a Scott's Oriole May 8-10; both birds breed at St. George, 40 mi. west, but rarely stray to Zion. Brewer's Blackbirds are declining throughout e. Colorado although they established a new colony at Longmont, with nine birds banded in May At Dubois they were regular until last year; their decline coincides with the arrival of Com. Grackles. (MB). Great-tailed Grackles nested again at Monte Vista, Colo., probably for the fifth year. (RR). Longmont reports an alarming increase of Com. Grackles with 294 on its spring

count May 15, and the first at Lykins Gulch banding station May 22-23 W. Tanagers moved in huge numbers close to the foothills at Boulder and Denver, with over 300 reported, yet 20 mi. east of the foothills at Barr L. only a few stopped. Cheyenne's second Summer Tanager, a highly-plumaged male, stayed May 19-20 (NC). Summer Tanagers also came to Durango May 7 (RWS), Colorado Springs May 8 (m.ob.) and Boulder May 24 (SL).

FINCHES — The Lakewood, Colo., Cardinal (*Am. Birds* 30:104, 748) was last seen Apr. 17 (J & JC). Denver had two others, May 26 & 29 (MAW, TB). Evening Grosbeaks scattered throughout the Region, with flocks of 100 at Reno Apr. 9 and Sheridan Apr. 21; 78 at Colorado Springs May 8; and 800-900 at Logan from Feb. 13 - May 23, 300 of them banded (MBp). Modest flocks of Pine Siskins moved through the Region.

SPARROWS — Grasshopper Sparrows lost a Fort Morgan nest site to plows. Pueblo had 15 pairs of Cassin's Sparrows, a new breeding location for this common s.e. Colorado species which is probably spreading. Cottonwood Cove counted 100-300 Black-throated Sparrows, mid-April to mid-May. Durango counted 30 Sage Sparrows Apr. 18, surprisingly high. A Golden-crowned Sparrow banded at Logan stayed Mar. 20 - May 3 (MBp). Las Vegas and Washoe City, Nev. each had one Apr. 20 & 24. White-throated Sparrows made western appearances at Ely May 2 (DB, CL, MN) and Aspen from winter to mid-May (DM). Fox Sparrows nested at Aspen (Apr. 10—DM), and occurred at Ridgway, Durango, and Kremmling, Colo., Diamond Valley, Nev. Apr. 17-23, Logan and Sheridan. Although nesting to the north in Montana, Chestnut-collared Longspurs occur only rarely in n. Wyoming; at Sheridan Apr. 27, two of them exhibited their distinctive breeding plumage at close range (HD).

CORRIGENDUM — We omitted the date of Nevada's first Snow Bunting, seen Nov. 26, 1975 (*Am. Birds* 30:104). Reddall requests the following notes and corrections: C.F.O. Records Comm. rejected the Gyrfalcon *Am. Birds* 30:102; on the same page, Colorado had five previous Red Phalarope records and eight previous Pomarine Jaeger records.

ABBREVIATIONS — C.F.O.—Colorado Field Ornithologists; R.M.N.P.—Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park; †—sight report.

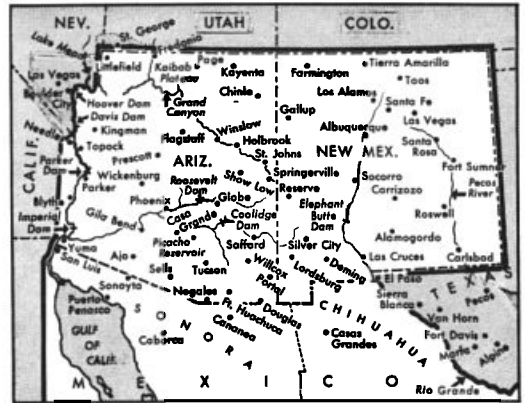
CONTRIBUTORS (and initialed observers)—Nevada State Editor (please send all Nevada records to him): **Chuck Lawson**, Box 5475, Las Vegas, Nev. 89102 (53 reporters). David Alles, **Jesse Alves** (11 reporters), Jane Allen, **Bob Andrews** (23), Mary Back, Don Baepfer, Martha Balph (MBp), Tom Baptist, Prince Beach, Linda Boden, **W.W. Brockner** (11), C.R. Bryant, Chris Carpenter (CCa), **Allegra Collier** (34), John & Joyce Cooper, N. Corbin, Camille Cummings, Gayle Dana, **Helen Downing** (4), Tony Esposito, Margaret Ewing, Janet Eyre, Dave Factor, **David Galinat** (4), **Dave Griffiths** (15), Lorna Gustafson, J.R. Guadagno, Carol Hack, Platt Hall, **May Hanesworth** (16), **Robert Harding** (5), Buren Hoffman, Harold Holt, Sidney Hyde, Gleb

Kashin, **Ursula Kepler** (4), Barry Knapp, Rod Krey Steve Larson, Lois Layton, Paul Lucas, Susanne Luther (SLu), Bill Lybarger, Ian McGregor, **David Michael** (4) Joe Morlan, Mike Moulton, **Pete Moulton** (3), Vince Mowbray, Mary Ness, Ron Papike, Bill Payne, Bert Raynes, Jack Reddall, Warner Reeser, J.C. Rigli, James Riley (JRi), Ron Ryder, **Ann Schimpf** (23), **Narca Schor** (33), O.K. Scott, **Peter Scott** (26), Gail Shickley, Tex Sordahl, Mahlon Speers, Bob Spencer (BSp), H Stevenson, **R.W. Stransky** (21), Judd Sundine, Don Thatcher, Helen Traylor, **Van Truan** (6), Bruce Webb Martha Ann Webber, Lois Webster, Elinor Wills.—**HUGH E. KINGERY**, 869 Milwaukee Street, Denver, Colorado 80206.

SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and Kenn Kaufman

One of the prime "hot spots" this season (as last spring) was Boone's Draw, an oasis situation on the plains of eastern New Mexico, where observations and mistnet surveys by JPH *et al.*, turned up many interesting vagrants. Morgan Lake, in extreme northwest New Mexico, yielded several significant records under continued checking by APN and the other Farmington birders. A number of remarkable water birds also appeared at the ponds at Willcox, Arizona.



Actually, Willcox lies at least an hour's drive away from any of the Region's active birders; it was elevated to hot spot status by virtue of what has been called the "Patagonia Picnic Table Effect." This is the phenomenon (named after the famous roadside rest stop on Sonoita Creek) wherein the news of one good bird brings in many observers, who in turn discover more rarities, which in turn attract more observers, *ad infinitum*. Thus did Arizona's first *Hudsonian Godwit* touch off a whole series of observations.

The flashiest bird of the season however, appeared in Miller Canyon of the Huachuclas: a **Slate-throated Redstart** — Arizona's first, and only the second for the United States. This Mexican stray was seen by only a lucky few. Birders who arrived too late — and found themselves wading about in seven inches of fresh snow — were not inclined to call Miller Canyon a "hot spot" by any definition.

The freak cold weather that marked the end of the Slate-throated Redstart sightings had other notable effects. This storm system moved across Arizona and into southwest New Mexico in mid-April, bringing blizzard conditions and record low temperatures at a time when many of the early migrants had already returned. Painted Redstarts — meeting unseasonable weather for the second year in a row — may have been seriously affected; they were noted as scarce in many areas. Other early migrants — Coues' Flycatchers and Black-throated Gray Warblers — also seemed to be in reduced numbers in many breeding areas. Much of the freshly emerged vegetation was frozen out. Early June found the sycamores still recuperating, thinly foliated, at Guadalupe Canyon and Sonoita Creek. At the latter location the Rose-throated Becards, which nest and forage mainly in the sycamores, were found in lower numbers than usual.

LOONS, GREBES — A spring movement of Com. Loons occurred in the period Apr. 30-May 20, with singles reported at four reservoirs up the w. side of New Mexico: Evans L. (DAZ,MZ), Roberts L. (BJH), Quemado L. (B. Sipple, G. Zahm), and Morgan L. (H.H. Lesperance, *vide* APN). Five W. Grebes were on Ganado L., n.e. Ariz., May 8 (HR). Although there is a lack of previous records from this part of the state, it may be only because of the scarcity of observers there.

CORMORANTS, HERONS — The Double-crested Cormorant's normal range in New Mexico is limited to the lower Pecos and Rio Grande Valleys; notable strays this spring were singles at Morgan L., Apr. 17-May 11 (APN,WS,CGS) and at Evans L., Grant Co., Apr. 30 (DAZ,MZ). Patagonia Lake, the site of most recent Arizona records of Olivaceous Cormorant, hosted two immatures of this species for much of the spring, as well as a few Double-crested (RS *et al.*).

A Green Heron found Apr. 26 in a tamarisk thicket at Boone's Draw (JPH) was unexpected in that eastern prairie locality. Since we mentioned last spring that Arizona's Little Blue Heron occurrences tend to concentrate in May, we are pleased to report that this season produced two more, both adults, for about the ninth and tenth state records: May 7-8 e. of Phoenix (CAS *et al.*) and May 29 at Willcox (RS *et al.*).

WATERFOWL — One or more Mexican Ducks were present during May on the New Mexico section of the Gila R., where the species is uncommon and irregular. At least one of the ducks appeared to be a typical ♂ Mexican Duck accompanied by what seemed to be a ♀ Mallard May 8 (DAZ *et al.*). A ♂ Surf Scoter photographed at Willcox May 16 (JW) provided the first documented spring record for Arizona.

RAPTORS — Notable lowland sightings of Goshawks were singles at Roswell May 16 (JCC *et al.*) and Guadalupe Canyon May 25 (WB). **Broad-winged Hawks** made three appearances: an adult in Ramsey Canyon, Huachucas Apr. 11 (DStz,M&DK,RNd), an adult at Boone's Draw Apr. 28-May 3 (JPH *et al.*), and an immature near Onion Saddle, Chiricahuas May 29 (RS *et al.*). These records seem especially interesting in light of McCaskie's recent suggestion (*Am. Birds* 29: 908) that the Broad-winged might be a regular spring migrant in limited numbers through s. California. New Mexico

produced more Zone-tailed Hawk reports than usual, especially in the Silver City area. One at Dixon Apr. 24-25 (JWh *et al.*) and a nesting pair near Los Alamos in early May (J. Longmire, *vide* Peter Pache) were at the northern limits of the species' range.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists, in a statewide Arizona study, reported that six southern Bald Eagles successfully fledged from five nests this spring; in 1975 five young fledged from seven nests. These are the only Bald Eagles known to nest in the southwest U.S. (*vide* Duane Rubink). All five nests are located along two small rivers in c. Arizona — two of the nests are in jeopardy due to a proposed Bureau of Reclamation dam.

TURKEYS, RAILS — Turkeys are occasionally seen in the upper part of Guadalupe Canyon. One strayed down to the Lower Sonoran riparian area in the New Mexico part of the canyon May 20 (WB). Recent specimen records have shown that Turkeys in the Peloncillo Mts. are of the race *mexicana*, a Sierra Madre form that is not known to occur in the U.S. away from the s.w. mountains of New Mexico.

Last summer (as noted in *Am. Birds* 29: 1016), Clapper Rails of the Colorado R. subspecies appeared at Granite Reef and Picacho Res. in c. Arizona. At the time Dick Todd, Arizona's leading rail authority, questioned whether these records indicated unusual wanderings or the possible establishing of a range extension. Seeking answers this spring, Todd surveyed all the cattail marshes in the Picacho and Phoenix areas; preliminary findings of Clappers were one (possibly two) again at Granite Reef Dam, one at Picacho Res., and two at a new location s.w. of Phoenix within 3 mi. of where a pair was found in 1970

SHOREBIRDS — A high total of 26 Snowy Plovers found May 8 (KJZ,BZ) near White Sands Nat'l Mon., where the species is rarely reported, could represent a breeding population in that area of New Mexico.

Arizona's first **Hudsonian Godwit** was discovered at Willcox May 14 (MH,BJ) and remained until May 16 Photographs (JW) documented the record. Since the bulk of this species' population migrates north through the Great Plains in spring and moves south off the East



Hudsonian Godwit, Willcox, Ariz., May 16, 1976. First state record. Photo/Janet Witzeman.

Coast in fall, the spring date of this record is about what we would have "expected" in terms of proximity; two of the three acceptable past records for New Mexico (closer to the plains) also occurred in May.

Observers in this Region are urged to think twice before reporting Baird's Sandpipers in spring, especially away from the e. edge of New Mexico. Baird's is almost exclusively a Great Plains migrant in spring; it is a species frequently maligned by misidentification in some parts of the country; and of various spring sightings in Arizona, only one has even been documented by specimen or photograph. Three careful reports came from experienced observers this season: one at Painted Rock Dam Apr. 24 (ST), one at Willcox May 14 (GM,VC) and two there May 15-16 (DStz,SM *et al.*).

The Willcox sightings of Baird's combined with the Hudsonian Godwit record and perhaps the Franklin's Gulls, which were in unusual numbers at the same time, could point to a displacement of migrants from the Great Plains in mid-May. It is interesting that numbers of *N. Phalaropes*, normally rare in spring away from the Colorado R., occurred during the same period: 11 near Farmington May 15 (A. Williams, *vide* APN), one at Willcox May 16-23 (JW *et al.*), one at Tucson May 17 (BJ), one at Roswell May 18 (JCC *et al.*), two at Phoenix May 18-19 (RB,RWi), and one near Silver City May 20 (AZ,DAZ).

A Black-bellied Plover at Morgan L., Apr. 25-May 11 (APN,CGS) was a notable occurrence for that section of New Mexico. Two Silt Sandpipers at Willcox May 15 (DStz,GG) apparently provided only the third spring record for Arizona. This scarcity is surprising; the species is basically a plains migrant in spring, but also occurs regularly at that season to the west of us at the Salton Sea. Sanderlings, rare in spring except in extreme e. New Mexico, appeared at Morgan L. (three to four, Apr. 28-May 5 — APN) and Willcox (four on May 17—ST,RS). A notably high count of 24 Marbled Godwits came from Morgan L., May 7 (CGS).

There was a remarkable variety included in the reports of delayed migrant shorebirds in Arizona. Three species established record late dates: Black-bellied Plover to May 23 at Willcox (DStz *et al.*), Least Sandpiper to May 17 at Willcox (ST *et al.*), and Dunlin to the remarkable date of May 24 at Patagonia L., (RS *et al.*). Also notably late in s. Arizona were Com. Snipe to May 15, Semipalmated Plover to May 27, and Long-billed Dowitcher to June 4. These sightings came from several standard shorebirding localities. It appears that an actual phenomenon was involved, and that the concentration of records was not merely an artifact of increased coverage.

TERNs, DOVES — A Caspian Tern, which in this Region occurs regularly only as a transient on the lower Colorado R., strayed east to Phoenix Apr. 24 (ST). On the same date [rarities appear on weekends] a **Gull-billed Tern**, Arizona's third, was at the Nogales sewage ponds (CM,BH *et al.*); both previous occurrences were in May on the Colorado R. Arizona records are undoubtedly derived from the Salton Sea/Gulf of California population.

Northern peripheral records of White-winged Doves in New Mexico were one n.w. of Silver City Apr. 20 (DAZ) and one at Socorro May 2 (PB), the latter continuing a string of recent sightings in that area, where the species may be establishing itself. This species' very gradual

invasion of s. New Mexico has been proceeding since at least the turn of the century. The Ground Dove is very local and irregular anywhere in New Mexico; one was in upper Guadalupe Canyon May 23 (WB).

OWLS — A Barn Owl was noted at Farmington Apr 29 (M. Bird, *vide* APN); the species is rarely reported in the Four Corners region. Away from a few well-known stakeouts in the s.e. mountains, the distribution of Arizona's Spotted Owl population is little-known. This spring brought first records from two ranges e of Phoenix: one heard in the Mazatzals Apr. 24 (ST) and one seen in the Superstitions May 30 (RNt *et al.*)

We noted last year that southwestern Long-eared Owls inhabit low elevations, away from the mountain conifers where one might expect this "Canadian" species. Most Arizona nestings have, in fact, occurred in the Upper and Lower Sonoran Zones; but we are slightly stunned when the owls choose to nest on saguaro cactus. There is one past record of such an occurrence near Coolidge, and this spring two pairs were found nesting on saguaros n e of Phoenix (*vide* E. Radke). Details may be published elsewhere. Long-eareds failed to reoccupy an established nest site near Oracle, probably owing to disturbance resulting from installation of a power line (HF)

SWIFTS — Bad weather in spring may be good weather in which to look for Chimney Swifts here, since such conditions bring the birds low enough so that their identification may be realistically attempted. May 3, a day of heavy rains across s. Arizona, produced sightings of two individuals over Tucson (MR) and another over Tempe (ST). The Tucson birds reappeared May 23 in the same area near the University campus (the same general area where the only state specimens were taken 24 years ago); by the end of May there were at least five birds present (DStz,RS,SA). As this report is written we are awaiting further developments.

HUMMINGBIRDS — A ♂ Costa's Hummingbird was observed Apr. 12 (JPH) in Guadalupe Canyon, where this species' status is still poorly understood. There have been a number of reliable sight records from this locality (e.g., five males there in May 1973 — TP,KK), but in the absence of specimens or photographs from the upper half of the canyon, Costa's remains on the hypothetical list for New Mexico.

A ♀ Rivoli's Hummingbird at La Cueva May 8 (MBS) established the first record for the Jemez Mts. of n c New Mexico. The date was notably early; a few Rivoli's are known to wander north almost annually through New Mexico to c. Colorado, but most of these northward records occur in June and July.

A Broad-billed Hummingbird was sighted occasionally during April and May (SSpf) at Portal, Chiricahua Mts., where the species is quite rare. The Broad-billed's virtual absence from the Chiricahuas is remarkable: the bird is fairly common just to the s.e. in Guadalupe Canyon, slightly farther w. it breeds north regularly to the Santa Catalinas and possibly to the vicinity of Superior, Pinal Co. (*vide* GM). A possible range extension was implied by the discovery of a pair in courtship display on the Verde R., n.e. of Phoenix May 16 (K. Ingram). All past records at Phoenix have been of single post-breeding wanderers in fall and winter.

KINGFISHERS, WOODPECKERS — The ϕ Green Kingfisher above Patagonia L., mentioned in the last report, remained through the end of the period (m.ob.).

South of its normal range in New Mexico was a Lewis' Woodpecker seen near Cliff May 8 (RAF). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker near Paradise May 26 (SSpf) was remarkably late for the Chiricahuas, where the species is not known to breed. Unfortunately, it was not determined to what race this bird belonged, but such an unseasonable record could pertain to a straggler of the eastern or red-breasted type, both of which staged minor invasions during the winter, as detailed in the last report.

S.A.

Another feature described in the winter report was a minor incursion of Downy Woodpeckers in lowland areas; lingering individuals remained at Silver City to May 7 (*vide* DAZ) and at Roswell to May 14 (JCC). Most of the winter's records probably pertained to the resident Rocky Mt. race, *leucurus* (as implied by past Arizona specimen records, and by field-identification of last winter's individuals by KK and DAZ). Intriguing, therefore, was DAZ's observation that the lingering Silver City bird, a female, was "quite white below, with heavily white-spotted wings. Considerably smaller than the male *leucurus* sometimes seen with it, it looks like any number of DW's which used to frequent our Michigan feeders." In other words this bird could have been a stray from some distance to the north. We would endorse the point recently made by Allan Phillips (1975. *Western Birds* 6:69-86) that vagrant subspecies are just as interesting as vagrant species, even if they may be more difficult to detect.

FLYCATCHERS, CORVIDS — The first Thick-billed Kingbird had returned to Sonoita Creek by May 1 (MK), slightly early for Arizona. A pair of Tropical Kingbirds appeared at Quitobaquito Springs, Organ Pipe Nat'l Mon., w. of any known breeding locality in Arizona. RS noted that they "seemed to be showing early interest in nesting," but no nest was found. The only Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reported from Arizona this spring was one s.e. of Phoenix May 22 (CAS). An Olivaceous Flycatcher found May 30 in the Superstition Mts (Rnt *et al.*) was the northwesternmost record ever in Arizona; the bird was in suitable breeding habitat, but appeared to be unmated.

A Blue Jay at Bandler Nat'l Mon. May 22 (RWa) was w. of the usual range in New Mexico. One to four Com. Crows were present through the season (DAZ) in the Gila Valley of New Mexico, an area they may have occupied only recently. Piñon Jays remaining from the fall southward movement were in the Silver City area in dwindling numbers until the end of the period — the last large flock of 150 was seen May 9 (MZ,DAZ); and four were on the lower slopes of the Mazatzal Mts., n.e. of Phoenix May 1 (CAS). Piñon Jays (which returned to the study area near Flagstaff in May) were suffering more than their usual losses to predation because of the threefold increase in the Com. Raven population there this spring. For the first time ravens outnumbered the crows. Since whole nests containing four eggs were being

carried off by the ravens, some of the Piñon Jays were in their fourth nesting attempt at the end of the period (RPB).

CHICKADEES, THRASHERS, THRUSHES — Black-capped Chickadees were again found nesting in the cottonwood bosque at Alameda, n. of Albuquerque (CAH,DL), where breeding was first recorded in 1973, this is evidently the species' southernmost breeding colony. Remarkably, this spring Mountain Chickadees were discovered nesting (CAH,DL) in the same place, which seems an atypically low elevation. It is interesting to find the two species sympatric in an area where each could be considered unusual as breeders.

Fieldwork at Alameda (CAH,DL) turned up two nests of the Gray Catbird, another species which was first discovered in the area as recently as 1973. Catbirds are fairly widespread but very localized (as is their habitat) in the Southwest. New Arizona localities this spring were registered by singles at Portal May 19-23 (DB,SSpf *et al.*) and Sonoita Creek June 3 (Jon Winter). Western reports of Brown Thrashers in New Mexico included one at Farmington Apr. 7 (APN) and one at Dixon to May 6 (JWh, T. Thomas). Of the four known to have wintered in Arizona, at least two remained through late April - early May.

A Rufous-backed Robin found in lower Aravaipa Canyon May 2 (BJ) probably represents the latest spring record for Arizona; aside from a couple of odd July sightings, all previous records have been in the period October - April. A Wood Thrush found May 29 in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahuas (KJZ,BZ *et al.*), was only the fifth record for Arizona. One of the previous occurrences involved a wintering bird in Tucson, and the other three were concentrated in the last half of October; the present record is the first for a spring vagrant.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — The fourth record of White-eyed Vireo in New Mexico occurred Apr. 27, with one banded and photographed at Boone's Draw (JPH) A Yellow-throated Vireo was found at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Tucson May 30 (GM); there are about eight previous Arizona records, most of them for summer and early fall. The only Red-eyed Vireo reported was one n. of Nogales May 23 (RS,BH); the species was formerly considered rare to casual in Arizona, but in recent years one or more have appeared annually.

Boone's Draw yielded 14 species of warblers in the brief period Apr. 26 - May 3 (JPH *et al.*). Interesting strays there included Tennessee, Black-throated Green, and Hooded among the eastern species, and Virginia's, Townsend's, and Black-throated Gray among those of western affinity. The highlight was a δ Golden-winged Warbler, the first confirmed record for New Mexico, banded and photographed Apr. 28. Seen at Boone's Draw on the same date, but unfortunately eluding capture or photography, was a Worm-eating Warbler — there are only two previous sight records for New Mexico; the species remains on the state hypothetical list. Interestingly, additional sightings of Worm-eatings came from near Winkelman, Ariz., May 21 (ST), from the Santa Clara Indian Reservation, n.c. New Mexico, May 30 (RWa), and a possible one (details incomplete) from Las Cruces May 1 (G. Thibodeau *et al.*). Arizona now has six reliable sightings (all but one in spring) but again, as in

New Mexico, the species' occurrence still lacks documentation by specimens or photos; camera-wielding observers should take note.

A singing ♂ **Prothonotary Warbler** north of Tucson May .1 (D. & L. Schepler) constituted only the fourth Arizona record. Single Tennessee Warblers were in lower Guadalupe Canyon Apr. 17 (TP) and west of Gila Bend May 14 (ST); this is turning out to be one of the more frequent vagrant warblers in Arizona, though it has not achieved "regular" status yet. Nashville Warblers were reasonably common at Boone's Draw; singles or doubles were also reported from Bell L. (M. Williams), Socorro (PB), and Las Cruces (BP *et al.*), areas where this species is generally regarded as rare in spring.

The N. Parula, a sparse but regular migrant in Arizona was reported only once this spring: May 11, two males e. of Phoenix (CAS). An Ovenbird was observed May 17 in Cave Creek Canyon, Chiricahuas (BR). There are only two previous spring records for Arizona, one of those being from this same locality; by contrast, fall/winter records have numbered at least nine since 1972. Convincing details backed up the report of a ♀ Hooded Warbler in the Huachuca Mts., May 25-26 (GR, CS1 *et al.*) Arizona now has at least seven acceptable records for this species, all between late April and mid-July at middle to high elevations in the southeast. A Red-faced Warbler was photographed May 16 s. of Las Cruces (KJZ), where unusual. The bird was less than a quarter of a mile from Texas, for which state it would have been the first documented record!

A Painted Redstart Apr. 28 in the Sandia Mts. e. of Albuquerque (H.R. Schwarz) was well north of its usual range. The same could be said for a **Slate-throated Redstart** (*Myioborus miniatus*) in Miller Canyon, Huachuca Mts., Ariz., discovered Apr. 10 (Robert J. Morse). Initial attempts to confirm the sighting were unsuccessful, but the bird was relocated Apr. 13 (KK, BJ, MH), photographed Apr. 14 (RNd), and last observed (BH) early on Apr. 16, at which time snow was already falling in the canyon. Full details may be published elsewhere. The only previous U.S. record involves one collected at Bell L., s.e. New Mexico, in Apr., 1962; normally the species ranges north in the Sierra Madre only to s. Sonora and Chihuahua.

ICTERIDS — Arizona noted two Orchard Orioles this season: a first-year male near Winkelman May 21 (ST) and an ad. male on Sonoita Creek May 23 (RS *et al.*). This species is now considered a regular vagrant in the state, but most occur in fall or winter. A family of six Hooded Orioles found May 19 s. of Las Cruces (KJZ) was further evidence of the species' being established in the area

FRINGILLIDS — A ♂ Pyrrhuloxia was noted Apr. 12 (JPH *et al.*) in Guadalupe Canyon, where the species is rare and irregular. It is a question whether strays there belong to the New Mexico-Chihuahua race *sinuata* or the Arizona-Sonora race *fulvescens*; one individual of the latter has been collected nearby. There were at least ten Rose-breasted Grosbeaks reported in Arizona, slightly more than usual, the northernmost being one at Ganado May 8 (HR) and one near Flagstaff (at 8500 ft. on Hutch Mt.), May 12 (SF).

After going virtually unreported in the Region during the winter, Evening Grosbeaks appeared in April and May at lower elevations between n.c. New Mexico and n.e. Arizona; reports came from the San Juan Valley (APN, WS), Santa Fe area (JPH *et al.*), Alameda (CAH, DL), and Cedar Crest, N. Mex. (J. Sollenberger), as well as a flock of 50 at Ganado, Ariz. (HR). A ♂ Lark Bunting was noted May 15 (APN) at Farmington, where the species is rare.

Late Gray-headed Juncos were singles at Las Cruces May 16 (KJZ, BZ) and in the s.w. San Luis Mts., Sonora May 18 (JPH). The Clay-colored Sparrow's status here is still poorly known: some undoubtedly go undetected among the hordes of other *Spizellas*, yet some records are open to question due to difficulties in identification. Reliable reports this spring were one at Tucson May 3 (DStz, MH, BJ) and one at Willcox May 17 (ST, RS). There appear to be no previous May records for Arizona.

CONTRIBUTORS (Area compilers in bold face) — Sue Allen, Russell P. Balda, William Baltosser, Pat Basham, Dickie Bogle, Robert Bradley, Virginia Cechmanek, Jodi C. Corrie, Shirley Fellers, Harold Fetter, Ralph A. Fisher, Grace Gregg, Murray Hansen, **Bill Harrison**, Nogales; Bruce J. Hayward, Charles A. Hundertmark, Betty Jones, Mike & Diana King, Dave Lange, Charles Meaker, Scott Mills, **Gale Monson**, Tucson; Alan P. Nelson, Rod Norden (RNd), Phil Norton, Robert Norton (RNt), Ted Parker, **Bill Principe**, s.c. New Mexico; Harris Richard, Mark Robbins, Bill Roe, Gerald Rosenband, Charles A. Saffell, C Greg Schmitt, Carol Slatkin (CS1), **Sally Spofford** (SSPf) Portal; Rich Stallcup, William Stone, Doug Stotz (DStz), Marjory B. Swain, Scott Terrill, Roland Wauer (RWa), Jack Whetstone (JWh), Robert Witzeman (RWi), Barry Zimmer, Kevin J. Zimmer, Allan Zimmerman, **Dale A. Zimmerman**, s.w. New Mexico, Marian Zimmerman. Abbreviations: m.ob. many observers, ♀ female or immature. — **JANET WITZEMAN, 4619 E Arcadia Lane, Phoenix, Ariz. 85018; JOHN P HUBBARD, 2097 Camino Lado, Santa Fe, N. Mex 87501; KENN KAUFMAN.**

ALASKA REGION

/Daniel D. Gibson and G. Vernon Byrd

Early spring 1976 was warm in central and south-coastal Alaska, and there was an early push of birds. But cold, wet, windy weather prevailed in early May, and the migration slowed perceptibly until mid-May, when it resumed, birds then arriving at the late end of the normal arrival period. Most of the Aleutian migration was on time, but it was a late, cold spring in the northern Bering Sea and on Arctic Ocean coasts.

This spring's coverage in the central and western Aleutian Islands was the best we have had. For at least part of May there were observers on (from east to west) Adak, Amchitka, Kiska, Buldir, Shemya, Alaid, and Attu islands. We should point out for those who would visit the Chain that, of the islands named above, only Attu is readily accessible.

WATERFOWL — A flock of six Whooper Swans seen headed West over Alaid I. May 8 (JLT) was the latest



Aleutian departure on record. One light-bellied **Brant** carefully described at Kodiak I. May 2 (RAM & WED) provided the first record of such a bird on the Pacific coast of Alaska. Single **Bean Geese** were seen at several Aleutian localities: Shemya I. May 12-13 & 27 (DDG & GEH), Alaid May 13 & 26 (JLT), and Amchitka I. May 21 (RS).

Falcated Teal were recorded at two w. Aleutian locations, a pair at Attu I. May 23 (BSB, PGD, & PWS) and a pair at Shemya from May 26 on (DDG & GEH). **Garganeys** were widely recorded in small numbers in the c. and w. Aleutians. A total of three pairs was seen at Shemya from May 17 on (DDG & GEH), a pair was seen at Buldir I. May 20-24 (GVB *et al.*), a pair was seen at Amchitka in the third week of May (RS), and a male was seen at Adak I. May 31 (AWW & JM). A ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** with Blue-winged at Juneau May 8 (FG, VL, & SG) is at least the eighth recorded in the Southeast since 1970. A ♂ **Blue-winged Teal** at Kodiak May 10 & 13 (RAM, JE, & ME) marked the third record for the island.

There was a sprinkling of Com. Pochards in the c. and w. Aleutians this spring; maximum count was four each at Adak and Shemya. For the second year in succession there was a very poor movement of diving ducks in c. Alaska. A very early ♂ **Redhead** at Fairbanks Apr. 26 (RHD *et al.*) was the only individual reported all spring, and 12 **Canvasbacks** at Fairbanks Apr. 30 (RSH) was the highest count of that species this season. **Ring-necked Ducks** were widely reported in small numbers. One male was seen at Juneau Apr. 20 (FG), the only one recorded there this spring; two males arrived at Cordova Apr. 18 (PI), a record early date; two pairs arrived at Kasilof May 1 (RP & LC, *fide* MAM) and were still there at the end of the month (MAM); at least one pair was seen in the Anchorage area May 1-3 (CA, RHD, EBR, & DWJ); and small numbers were seen in the Fairbanks area, three on May 9 (BK) the earliest there. A ♀-plumaged **Hooded Merganser** at Alaid May 5-22 (JLT) provided the third Aleutian record. **Smews** were found in small numbers in the w. Aleutians; maximum count was three together.

The **Kodiak male** (see winter season) was present through Apr. 25 (RAM).

SHOREBIRDS — A **Killdeer** over the University of Alaska campus, Fairbanks, Apr. 27 (TGT) was unprecedentedly early; there were no subsequent Interior reports, and the earliest Anchorage record was May 22 (DFD). A few Am. **Golden Plovers** touched down at the early end of the normal arrival period: two at Adak Apr 25 (JLT), and arrivals at Kodiak and Anchorage on Apr 26 (RAM) and May 1 (CA), respectively. A **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Kodiak May 10 was a rare spring migrant there (RAM). The only **Marbled Godwits** reported this spring were one on the Copper R. Delta Apr. 30 (PI) and two observed with a **Bar-tailed** at the Kasilof R. mouth, Kenai Peninsula, May 18 (RAM).

Asiatic shorebirds demonstrated again that spring 1974 (*q.v.*) was not a fluke. There is not space sufficient to go into detail here, but of the following species recorded at one or more islands in the c. and w. Aleutians this May [Mongolian Plover, Rufous-necked Sandpiper, Long-toed Stint, Temminck's Stint, Great Knot, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper, Polynesian Tattler, Com. Sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit (*L.l. melanuroides*), Whimbrel (*N.p. variegatus*), and Com. Snipe (nominate *gallinago*)] only the Great Knot, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, and Terek Sandpiper were represented — so far as known at this writing — by only single records of single birds. All of the rest were recorded in some numbers.

S.A.

Most prominently newsworthy among the Asiatic shorebirds was the unparalleled size of the passage of **Wood Sandpipers** and **Long-toed Stints** in the w. and c. Aleutians. **Wood Sandpipers** arrived as early as May 11, and they were recorded in numbers during the ensuing week to ten days at Attu, Alaid, Shemya, Buldir, Kiska, and Adak islands (*i.e.*, on every island on which there were observers to record them). They occurred in noisy pairs, small groups, and flocks of up to 47 birds (Kiska, GVB *et al.*), and daily totals at the various islands ran from 66 at Adak (where two/day had been maximum count in past years) to 150+ birds at some of the w. islands. Copulation was observed at Buldir May 22 (GVB *et al.*), and it appeared that small numbers would remain to breed.

Long-toed Stints arrived simultaneously with the **Wood Sandpipers**. They were present throughout the same time span, though in much smaller—but still impressive—numbers. Maximum counts were 40+ at Shemya May 16 (DDG & GEH), up to 18 at Buldir May 19-24 (GVB *et al.*), eight at Alaid May 19 (JLT *et al.*), five at Attu May 22 (BSB, PGD, & PWS), three at Adak May 17 (AWW *et al.*), and two at Kiska May 17 (GVB) Maximum flock size was 10 birds.

SWALLOWS THROUGH WAGTAILS, PIPITS — Two **Rough-winged Swallows** examining a river cutbank on the Copper R. Delta May 30 (PI) provided the first certain south-coastal Alaska record. Single ♂ **Purple Martins** were observed near Fairbanks May 22 (BK) and

in Anchorage May 31 (BSB & PWS), and an unverified individual was reported at Kasilof (*vide* MAM). Among the other Asiatics, **Eye-browed Thrushes** were recorded at Attu, Alaid, Shemya, and Buldir islands from May 17 on, a total of at least eight different individuals observed (m.ob.). Yellow Wagtails were unusually common from May 12 on in the w. Aleutians; maximum count was 72 at Alaid May 15 (JLT *et al.*). And Red-throated Pipits were observed at Attu, Shemya, and Buldir islands from May 17 on, with daily counts of up to six birds (m.ob.).

WOOD WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS, FINCHES — Yellow-rumped ("Myrtle") Warblers were unusually common in central (BK) and south-coastal (MAM) Alaska this spring, and there were several sightings of "Audubon's" Warblers in Southeastern: single males in the Juneau area May 3 (RBW) and May 8 (SG & VL, *vide* FG). One ♂ Brown-headed Cowbird at Admiralty Cove, n. coast of Admiralty I., s.e. Alaska May 30 (FG) was the only one reported this spring.

Old World finches were extremely well represented in the w. Aleutians this spring! Bramblings were recorded from May 10 on at Attu, Shemya, and Buldir islands (m.ob.). The first arrivals were single males, but during the last week of May flocks of up to six males and females were seen. Maximum count was 17 at Shemya May 29

(DDG). A flock of six **Oriental Greenfinches** (*Carduelis sinica*) was observed and carefully described at Attu May 22 (BSB, PGD, & PWS), providing the first substantiated record for Alaska. A group of three **Hawfinches**, the third Alaska record, was observed at Attu May 26 (BSB, PGD, & PWS), and the same observers watched an ad. ♂ Pine Grosbeak (probably *P.e. kamtschathensis*, for which there are two previous Alaska records) in song at Attu May 23! A number of **Rustic Buntings** was also storm-deposited in the w. Aleutians this spring. The species was observed daily from May 20 through the end of the period; up to five birds (both sexes) were seen per day at Attu, Alaid, Shemya, and Buldir islands (m.ob.).

CONTRIBUTORS AND OBSERVERS — Carolyn Albertson, Benton S. Basham, Lois Calvin, Robert H Day, David F. DeLap, William E. Donaldson, Paul G DuMont, Steve Gilbertson, Frank Glass, Raymond S Hadley, George E. Hall, Pete Isleib, Brina Kessel, Vernon Laux, Richard A. MacIntosh, John Martin, Mary A Miller, Ruth Pollard, Elaine B. Rhode, Robert Schulmeister, Paul W. Sykes, Theodore G. Tobish, John L. Trapp, Anthony W. White, Dennis W. Woolington, m.ob. — many observers. — **DANIEL D. GIBSON**, University Museum, University of Alaska, Fairbanks 99701, and **G. VERNON BYRD**, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 5251, Adak, Alaska 98791.

NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /John B. Crowell, Jr. and Harry B. Nehls

Except for very warm days late in April and early in May, this spring continued the trend of the last several years of being cooler than normal; rainfall, however, occurred in average amounts.

LOONS, GREBES, PELAGICS, HERONS — The major migration by Com. Loons occurred in the second half of May, which was later than usual. The Yellow-billed Loon at Eld Inlet, s. Puget Sound, was last seen Apr. 13 (BE, *vide* GH); one was at Cortes I., Wash., Apr. 4 & 7 (AD, *vide* VG), and another was discovered and photographed at Bay City, Tillamook Bay, Ore., Apr. 17 (TC). Arctic Loons were very prominent in migration along the Oregon and Washington coasts through May; on May 17, 3500 were at Active Pass in the Gulf Is. As late as June 1 Arctic Loons streamed past the s. jetty of the Columbia R. at an incredible 50 birds per minute for much of the day (HN)! On May 1 Red-throated Loons were passing that locality at the rate of 40 birds per hour (HN *et al.*); 300 were in Grays Harbor, May 15 (G & WH). A Red-necked Grebe at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 31 (HN *et al.*) was late, as were the five birds off s. Vancouver I., May 29 (BK). A few Horned Grebes were still to be found at salt water locations the last week in May; 40 at Dungeness Bay May 15 (RP, *vide* DS) was a late concentration. Two Eared Grebes were at Eld Inlet, Apr. 25 (BE, *vide* GH); one or two were at Victoria until May 6 (VG *et al.*). Aggregations of W. Grebes occurred repeatedly around s. Vancouver I. until mid-May, the maximum being 2100 at Saanich Inlet, Apr. 7 (VG).

A boat trip from Westport, Wash., May 16 turned up 105 Black-footed Albatrosses, 15 N. Fulmars, 76 Pink-



footed Shearwaters, five Flesh-footed Shearwaters, 10,000 Sooty Shearwaters, and 283 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels (TW *et al.*)! Up to 10,000 Sooty Shearwaters were inside Grays Harbor, Wash., May 15 (TW); they were present in the thousands off the mouth of the Columbia R. after that date. On May 31 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., a strong s.w. wind after two days of gales accompanying passage of a storm was responsible for the presence of large numbers of pelagic species; among them were 36 Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels and 27 Leach's Storm-Petrels counted singly in the course of several hours (JG,

MS, HN, TC). Most remarkable, however, was the sighting of a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** which at one point was no more than 125 ft. from the observers; the unnotched tail, dark brown coloration, white rump and straighter, more deliberate flight in contrast to Leach's all were noted. At one point the bird pattered on the surface with wings outstretched at an upward angle (JG, MS). All circumstances considered, there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the identification, which marks the first record of Wilson's Storm-Petrel for this Region.

On May 13 at Dungeness Bay, Wash., 24 White Pelicans were observed to alight on the water before they flew off to the southwest (DS *et al.*). 3700 Brandt's Cormorants were at Active Pass in the Strait of Georgia Apr 2 (MGS). The Region's first **Louisiana Heron** was discovered at Finley N.W.R. s. of Corvallis, Ore., May 12 by Terry Finger and was seen and photographed by many observers through the end of the report period. Green Herons were noted in singles or in pairs from Finley N W R. and Tillamook n. as far as Vancouver at ten other localities, mostly in May. An imm. Cattle Egret was at Longview, Wash., Apr. 10-29 (EH *et al.*). A Great Egret at Oyehut near Ocean Shores, Wash., is said to have overwintered; it remained until Apr. 30 (DC, *vide* PM). Another was seen at Tillamook May 1 & 10; (JG *et al.*); the species was noted twice at Grants Pass, Ore., this spring (SS). Three Black-crowned Night Herons were seen at Grants Pass May 2 (SS). Am. Bitterns were reported from nine Puget Sound, Willamette Valley and coastal locations in Oregon and Washington after Apr. 24

WATERFOWL — Two Whistling Swans were at Somenos L., s. Vancouver I., during April; one remained until May 11 (JCo, VG). A single Whistling Swan was noted at Scappoose May 1 (TC, JG). Mid-April marked the peak for migration of Black Brant along coastal portions of the s. half of the Region, with flocks comprising hundreds of birds; a few were still in s. British Columbia the last week of May. Late April and early May marked peak movements of White-fronted Geese; 400 were seen at Nehalem Meadows May 1 and a week later 600 were noted at Tillamook Bay a few miles to the south (TC, JG). On Apr. 17 there were 1000 Snow Geese on the Skagit Flats at Conway, Wash. (EH); flocks of up to 125 were seen at Duncan and near Campbell R., B.C., during the middle two weeks of April. The second w. Washington record for **Ross' Goose** occurred when one was found near Anacortes, Apr. 13 (RPA, BS, *vide* PM). Two Gadwall were at Finley N.W.R., May 1 (LN) and one was at Saanich, B.C., Apr. 27 (VG *et al.*). A pair of Pintail was at the mouth of the Sooke R., Vancouver I., May 15 (VG, RS) and a few were seen still at Finley N W R., May 1 (LN). A ♂ Green-winged Teal showing the white marks of both the Eurasian and American subspecies was found at Iona I., s. of Vancouver, B.C., on the late date of May 30 (BK). A bird of the Eurasian ssp. was at Vancouver Apr. 26 (BK). A ♀ Redhead was observed at Somenos L. near Duncan, B.C., Apr. 7 (VG) and another was found at Saanich, B. C., Apr. 17 (RS, *vide* VG); four Redheads were at Cannon Beach, Ore., May 8 (TC, JG). Up to ten Ring-necked Ducks were seen at Cave Junction, Ore. (SS), near Dungeness, Wash., and on s Vancouver I. in May. A Canvasback was at Iona I., May 18-25 (BK). Late Oldsquaws were recorded at Yaquina Bay, Ore., May 9 (RB), at Ocean Shores, Wash.,

May 15 (EH) and at Victoria, May 11 (VG, RS) Surf Scoters, mostly sub-adult birds, were moving n. past the mouth of the Columbia R. at the rate of 1200 birds per hour May 31 (HN *et al.*). Ten Black Scoters were at Iona I., May 14 and one bird was still present May 30 (BK)

HAWKS, GAMEBIRDS, RAILS — The White-tailed Kite which has been at Finley N.W.R. since last October was joined by a second bird; on May 14 and 15 they were observed copulating; no nest, however, has been found (JG *et al.*). A White-tailed Kite was seen n. of Medford, May 30-31 (*vide* OS). Goshawks were observed during the report period at Alsea, Ore. (DM), at Sannich on two occasions (RS, V & MG), at Duncan (JCo), and at Manning Prov. Park (VG). There were four Oregon, four Washington and seven s. Vancouver I. sightings reported of Sharp-shinned Hawks this spring season. For Cooper's Hawks, seven Oregon, four Washington and five s Vancouver I. sightings were the only ones reported An imm. Red-shouldered Hawk was seen 3.5 mi s of Harbor, Curry Co., Ore. Apr. 10 (SS *et al.*). Several Golden Eagles were seen through April and the first half of May on s. Vancouver I. (JCo, RS, VG *et al.*). As many as 18 Bald Eagles could be seen in a day in the Gulf and San Juan Is. and on s. Vancouver I.; there were five Oregon sightings involving seven birds and away from the San Juans there were three Washington records involving four birds. Marsh Hawk observations were reported from only five localities this spring. Six active Osprey nests were counted in the vicinity of Victoria (VG), while from the rest of the Region came reports of sightings from ten other places. There were four sightings of Peregrines, Apr. 10 - May 18. Merlins were recorded six times at five places in Washington, three times at Portland, and twice from c. Vancouver I.

Bobwhites were heard calling several miles s of Sequim, Wash., May 20 (DS). On May 1 there were 40 Sandhill Cranes at Scappoose, Ore., (JG, TC); three flew over Dungeness May 7 and two days later one more was seen going over (DS). On Apr. 18, 30 Sandhill Cranes were observed flying 200 ft. above the summit of Mt Becher, 9 mi. w. of Courtenay, B. C. (MGS, *vide* VG), four birds of this species flew low over the beach at Tofino May 1 (JCo), and one occurred near Campbell R., B C , Apr. 20 (HT). Early Soras were recorded at Snohomish, Wash. (EH), and at Saanich, B. C., (RS, *vide* VG), both on Apr. 11. Late in the evening of May 26 Ralph Fryer heard a **Yellow Rail** calling from an extensive wet-grass area between Highway No. 1 and Somenos L n of Duncan; there seems to be no reason to doubt the identification (*vide* VG).

SHOREBIRDS — Four Snowy Plover were at Tillamook Bay Apr. 3 (HN), and one was found there May 10 (JG, MK). A single Snowy Plover was at Ocean Shores Apr. 24 (G & WH) where two were seen May 15 (EH). On May 13-16 an Am. Golden Plover was at Victoria (RS, V & MG). Approximately 150 Surfbirds were at Sooke, B. C., Apr. 15 (RS, *vide* VG). More than 10 Ruddy Turnstones together were noted at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., at Grays Harbor, at Ocean Shores, at Victoria, and at Campbell R., May 7-15, the maximum being 25 at Grays Harbor May 11 (RE, *vide* GH) The Region's peak seasonal count for Black Turnstones was 155 at Vancouver Apr. 27 (BK). A Long-billed Curlew appeared at Newport, Ore., May 15 (JG, MK, MS)

Whimbrel in numbers between 40 and 70 were seen at Tillamook, May 8-15; 120 were at Newport, May 15 and 70 were at Tofino, B. C., May 1-3. Early Whimbrels were at Chatham I., B. C., Apr. 1 (KT, PN, *fide* VG) and at Willapa Bay, Wash., Apr. 4 (DDS). Single Solitary Sandpipers appeared at Iona I., May 9 (S&AR, *fide* BK), and at Saanich May 5 (V&MG). Wandering Tattlers were observed at five different localities Apr. 24-May 31, with 15 at Ocean Shores May 15 (G&WH) the top count. A Willet was at Tokeland, Wash., Apr. 12 (DC, *fide* PM) and 3-4 showed up at Yaquina Bay, Ore., May 9 (RB). Twenty Lesser Yellowlegs at Kent, Wash., Apr. 11 (BR, *fide* PM) was an early and unusual concentration for this Region. Red Knots were counted repeatedly at Tillamook Bay May 1-10 where 143 were present on the 10th (JG, MK); 300 individuals of this species were at Grays Harbor Apr. 24 (G&WH), and 150 were at Ocean Shores May 15 (EH). They were reported from four other localities Apr. 17-May 15. The 34 Rock Sandpipers at Victoria Apr. 19 was the season's high count; the last birds seen in the Region were there May 7 (VG, RS). Three Pectoral Sandpipers were discovered at Finley N.W.R., May 1 (*fide* HN); single birds were at Iona I., at Pt Roberts, and at Vancouver, B. C., that day and the next. Another Pectoral Sandpiper was at Iona I., May 17 (RPh, *fide* BK). Up to four Baird's Sandpipers were found at Iona I., at Seattle, at Sauvie I. near Portland, and at the s. jetty of the Columbia, Apr. 29-May 3. On Apr. 17 an estimated 450 Short-billed Dowitchers were at Grays Harbor (BH-T); the species was reported from three other places in numbers up to 30 Apr. 22-May 15. Up to 1500 Dowitchers, "mostly Long-billed", were at Tofino, B.C., May 1-3 (JCo); 92 Long-billed Dowitchers were at Iona I., May 14 (BK) and good numbers were reported from the s. jetty of the Columbia R. the next day (DDS). Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted at Vancouver May 3 (BK), at the Montlake fill, Seattle, May 14 photographed (DP, *fide* PM), and at Cannon Beach, Ore., May 21 (DF, *fide* HN). The 5000 W. Sandpipers at Tillamook Bay May 8 (HN, WR) was the largest concentration of the season.

A Marbled Godwit was at Grays Harbor, May 17 (BH-T) and nine May 24 (G&WH); five occurred at Tofino May 1-3 (JCo), and three were at Newport May 15 (JG, MK, MS). On May 15 a Hudsonian Godwit was discovered at Reifel Refuge (JF *et al.*, *fide* BK). Red Phalaropes were scattered all along the Oregon and s.w. Washington coasts during the first half of May, with 360 at Newport May 15 (JG, MK, MS) and 200 off Westport May 16 (TW) being the largest counts. One was at Ocean Shores Apr. 18 (E & NH). Wilson's Phalaropes were noted in more places and in larger numbers than at any season in the past; sightings occurred repeatedly at Seattle, three times at Saanich, twice at Sauvie I., Nisqually N.W.R., Dungeness, Iona I., and Cowichan Bay, and once at Westport, Aberdeen Wash., and at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. Apr. 30-May 31; most sightings involved between one and three birds but ten were at Nisqually May 9 and 25 were at Iona I., May 28. A noteworthy early record of Wilson's Phalarope was one at Westport Apr. 23 (EG *et al.*, *fide* PM). A very heavy migration of N. Phalaropes took place along the n.w. Oregon coast, May 8-9 with thousands of birds involved; the movement carried birds inland to Fern Ridge Res. w. of Eugene, to Finley N.W.R., to Baskett Slough w. of

Salem, and to Sauvie I. where 30 birds were counted May 9 (TC). Many birds were still moving a week later when 150 were seen at Newport (JG, MK, MS) and 300 were seen off Westport (TW). Early N. Phalaropes were one dead on the beach at Oceanside, Tillamook Co., Ore., Apr. 17 (MK, HN) and six at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Apr. 24 (HN). A ♀ N. Phalarope May 17-18 at Iona I., was also noteworthy (VG).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS — An ad Pomarine Jaeger was observed resting on the beach at Pistol R., Curry Co., Ore., May 9 (SS); five Pomarine Jaegers were seen at sea off Westport May 16 (TW), and on May 31 sixteen were seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. (JG, MS; TC, HN). From May 15 to May 31 Parasitic Jaegers were noted at Newport, the Columbia R. mouth, at Ocean Shores, off Westport, at Iona I., and at Victoria, six at the Columbia R., May 31, being the maximum. A Long-tailed Jaeger was seen at Ocean Shores Apr. 24 (G&WH; DHa, *fide* PM), one was found dead on the highway three mi. s. of Boiler Bay, Ore., May 8 (*fide* HN), and two were seen at the s. jetty of the Columbia May 31 (JG).

Lone Glaucous Gulls were at Port Gamble, Wash., Apr. 3 (EH, *fide* PM), at Tofino, May 1-3 (JCo), at Tillamook May 8 (HN, WR), and off Westport, May 16 (TW); two immatures were at Tofino Apr. 24 (AD, *fide* VG). On Apr. 9 there were 4000 Bonaparte's Gulls at Victoria (RS, VG); on May 5 there were 3200 at Active Pass where 600 were counted May 17 (MGS, *fide* VG). Bonaparte's Gulls migrated past Tillamook Bay at Barview May 8 at the rate of 200 birds per hour (HN, WR); a dozen were inland at Fern Ridge Res., May 8-9 (LN). A very early fully adult plumaged Heermann's Gull appeared at Victoria May 27 (MG, *fide* VG). On Apr. 10 at Brookings in s.w. Oregon 15 Black-legged Kittiwakes were observed; May brought numerous sightings, from Oregon and Washington coastal points and from s. Vancouver I.; there were 500 at Ocean Shores May 15 (G&WH), 600 at Westport and offshore May 16 (BH-T, TW), 165 migrating e. past Victoria May 29 (VG *et al.*) and 2500 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., May 31 (JG, MS; TC, HN). On May 16 off Westport 58 Sabine's Gulls were counted (TW); one was seen at Tillamook Bay May 1 (TC, JG), three were noted from nearby Cape Mearns May 8 (HN, WR); two were seen at Ocean Shores May 15 (EH), and two were observed at Victoria May 16-18 & 29 (MGS, RS, VG).

During the first two weeks of May, Com. Terns were readily found by observers at Oregon and s.w. Washington coastal points; the peak seems to have been May 8 when 150 birds per hour were flying past Barview, Ore. (HN, WR), and May 15 when a constant migration was going by Ocean Shores (G&WH). "Many" Arctic Terns were at Tillamook Bay May 8 (JG, TC) and at Newport May 15 (JG, MK, MS); none were found at sea off Westport May 16 (TW). On May 31 at the s. jetty of the Columbia R. a **Least Tern** was carefully observed and was photographed (TC, JG, HN, MS); it provided the second state record for this species, the first having been two males collected at the same place in 1964 by Wes Batterson. A Caspian Tern at Leadbetter Pt., Apr. 3 (DDS) was early as indeed were the single bird at Tillamook Apr. 17 (MK, HN) and the 36 birds at the s. jetty of the Columbia R., Apr. 24 (HN). On May 31 two Black Terns were spied migrating n. over the ocean from

the s jetty of the Columbia R. (JG, MS, HN, TC); one was at Ankeny N.W.R., June 1 (DPO, *vide* RL).

Up to 25 Marbled Murrelets at a time were noted at the Columbia R. mouth, at Ocean Shores, in the San Juan Is., and around s.e. Vancouver I., mostly in the last two weeks of May. Four Ancient Murrelets were recorded off Westport May 16 (TW). On May 10 two Cassin's Auklets were seen at Victoria (RS, *vide* VG). Rhinoceros Auklets were seen in n. Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca and from Cascade Head., Tillamook Co., Ore., in numbers up to thirty in a day, also mostly in the latter half of May. On May 16, 44 Tufted Puffins were seen off Westport (TW) and 40 were seen at Pt. Grenville, Wash., (EH).

OWLS, SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS — A Burrowing Owl was seen s. of Corvallis Apr. 4 (LN). A pair of Barred Owls was again found at Bacus Hill, Skagit Co., Wash., Apr. 17 & May 9 (EH). A pair of Spotted Owls was discovered at Lyons, Ore., May 22 (RB, JS). One or two Short-eared Owls were reported from five different localities from Salem n. to Vancouver during the report period. Single Saw-whet Owls were recorded at Twin Harbors S.P., Grays Harbor Co., Wash., Apr. 12 (DC, *vide* PM) and at Olympia Apr. 29 (BH-T). Fifty Black Swifts were at Vancouver May 24 (BK); five were seen at Saanich May 3 (ARD, *vide* VG), and twelve were noted at Sea I. s. of Vancouver May 29 (VG). A ♂ Black-chinned Hummingbird was present at Merle McGraw's feeders at Shady Cove, Ore., where this species has appeared almost every year since 1968. A nest of the **Anna's Hummingbird** containing two eggs was discovered in a blackberry thicket near Tacoma May 26 (BRa, *vide* PM); an immature was at feeders in Portland May 10 (VH). The Tacoma record is Washington's first breeding record for the species. Other Anna's Hummingbirds were seen this spring at Campbell R. where two were noted Apr. 11 (HN), at Saanich, Bellingham, Seattle, and Portland.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS, JAYS — A pair of Acorn Woodpeckers was seen repeatedly in a white oak grove near Banks, Ore., during the season (TC, JG *et al.*). The wintering population of Lewis' Woodpeckers at Medford had almost disappeared by the end of May (OS). Seven pairs of Lewis' Woodpeckers were reported nesting at Minto I., Salem (HH) and a flock of seven was seen at Seattle May 1 (DH *et al.*, *vide* PM), but otherwise there were only five reports — two from Oregon, three from Washington — of single individuals of this species. A N. Three-toed Woodpecker was found just west of the Cascade crest 8 mi n. of Marblemount, Wash., May 3 (AC); two were observed at Manning P.P. May 27 (VG). An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found at Grants Pass, May 4 (SS). A nesting pair of Black Phoebes was again found near Medford the last week of May (OS). A Say's Phoebe was at Merlin, Ore., May 22 (SS). Two W. Flycatchers at Saanich, Apr. 4 (RS, *vide* VG) were very early migrants. Unprecedented numbers of W. Wood Peewees occurred in the Vancouver area in late May (BK). Skylarks were breeding in good numbers at American Camp, San Juan I., May 23 (DDS). Single Bank Swallows were noted at Cannon Beach, Ore. (TC, JG), at N. Vancouver (GAP, *vide* BK), at Matsqui, B.C. (VG), and at Iona I. (VG) where eight were also observed (BK), all during May.

Purple Martins arrived late, first appearing at Fern Ridge Res., w. of Eugene, Apr. 20 and then along the Columbia R. the last week of April; they were first seen at Olympia May 2 (TL) and later were seen also at Redmond, Wash., and at Saanich. A Gray Jay was at Seattle Apr. 24 and again May 22 (DH *et al.*, *vide* PM). The Saanich wintering Blue Jay was last found Apr. 3 (*vide* VG). Four Scrub Jays were at Longview Apr. 10 (EH), and one was unprecedentedly as far north as 15 mi. from Chehalis Apr. 12 (DCa, *vide* PM).

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES — A pair of House Wrens was observed at Quadra I., B.C., May 13 (HT), and four were found in two different localities further s. on Vancouver I., May 3 (ARD, MM, *vide* VG) A Mockingbird was at Campbell R., Apr. 10-16 (GPa, *vide* HT) and a **Sage Thrasher** was discovered at Redmond Apr. 21 (BEV, *vide* PM). Three Swainson's Thrushes at Tillamook Apr. 17 (MK, HN) were early arrivals A **Veery** was found at Newport Ore., May 30 (DFa), excellent details were furnished by the observer, leaving no basis for doubt of this first for w. Oregon n. of Jackson Co., as far as we know. Western Bluebirds were reported for a number of places on s. Vancouver I., and from Mt Hood in Oregon. They were nesting near McKenna, Wash., where Mountain Bluebirds also were said to be nesting (*vide* EH). Mountain Bluebirds were observed at Tsawwassen, B.C., Apr. 18 (RP, *vide* BK) and at Long Beach on s. Vancouver I., Apr. 27 (*vide* VG). Townsend's Solitaires occurred this year in w. Oregon and w. Washington almost as widely as they had last year, coastal occurrences were at Tillamook Bay (HN) and at Leadbetter Pt. where three were present (DDS), all on Apr. 3. Solitaires also appeared on s. Vancouver I., on four occasions, Apr. 11-May 4. Flocks of Bohemian Waxwings numbering up to 50 birds were at Medford Apr. 13-26 (OS). A N. Shrike was at Sea I., s. of Vancouver on the very late date of May 18 (DS, *vide* BK), one was seen also at Victoria Apr. 17 (LR, *vide* VG) Individual Loggerhead Shrikes were seen in Curry County, Ore., at the mouth of the Winchuck R., May 8 (SS), and at Iona I., s. of Vancouver, May 14 (BK)

VIREOS, WARBLERS, BLACKBIRDS, GROSBEAKS — A Red-eyed Vireo was at Seattle May 9 (DH, *vide* PM). **Three Tennessee Warblers** were discovered in s.w. Portland, May 5; one remained there to the end of the report period (MS, JG, HN *et al.*); this is the Region's second spring report, and the first in spring for Oregon. Up to seven Nashville Warblers were noted on the Reed College campus in s.e. Portland, Apr. 27-30 (DDS); one was seen at Colton, Ore., Apr. 28 (DF), one was near Campbell R., May 1 (HT), and two were found at Vancouver May 2 (BK). Yellow Warblers were said to be present after Apr. 10 in suitable habitat at and around Bellingham in very good numbers (TW). "Audubon's" Warblers passed through Portland in large waves during late April and early May (DDS). On Apr. 29, 40 Black-throated Gray Warblers were counted at Colton (DF), "huge numbers" were found May 2 along the Wilson R. highway between Portland and Tillamook (DDS) A Palm Warbler was found at Saanich Apr. 26 (GS, *vide* VG). Single Com. Yellowthroats at Duncan and Tzuhalem, Vancouver I., Apr. 10 (RS, *vide* VG) were early arrivals.

Yellow-headed Blackbirds were found singly or in small numbers at seven points from Salem n. to Sea I., and in number up to several dozen at the breeding colony on Sauvie I., w. of Portland this spring. A Red-winged Blackbird nest containing four eggs was discovered at Campbell R. on the surprisingly early date of Apr. 18 (HT). Northern Orioles arrived simultaneously in favored places in w. Oregon Apr. 29-May 1; a pair was found at Courtenay, B. C., May 15, the same day a female was found near Campbell R. (HT). Single orioles were seen also at Saanich and at Vancouver the last week of May. There were 80 Brown-headed Cowbirds in a roost at Vancouver's Stanley Park Apr. 21 (BK).

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A ♂ Lazuli Bunting was seen on Gabriola I., on the s.e. side of Vancouver I., May 27 (VGu, *fide* VG) marking the extreme n.w. point of range for this species. Evening Grosbeaks were abundant in Portland in April and again in late May; the latter half of May brought thousands in huge flocks to Corvallis (LN). In Olympia during May there were also a lot of Evening Grosbeaks, (BH-T), and by the end of May there were small flocks in Bellingham (TW). Large numbers of Cassin's Finches were seen on the e. side of Mt. Hood Apr. 25 & May 3 (DDS). Six Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were at Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood May 29 (TC, JG, MS); one was at Pitt Meadows, e. of Vancouver, Apr. 3 (BB *fide* BK). A Com. Redpoll was seen at Vancouver on the surprising date of Apr. 8 (MP, *fide* BK). Pine Siskins were present in considerable numbers through all of w. Oregon and w. Washington in April and May. Small flocks of Red Crossbills were found at scattered localities in the two states and on s. Vancouver I where they seem to have been more numerous than anywhere else. On May 1 a flock of 55 White-winged Crossbills was at Tofino (AD, MH, *fide* VG). A Green-tailed Towhee was found in the Medford area May 22 (OS). Lark Sparrows occurred at Cannon Beach, Ore., May 1 (TC, JG) and at Manning P. Pk., May 27, where the species had never before been noted (VG). On May 16 the first certain Washington **Black-throated Sparrow** was observed and photographed at Pt. Grenville, Wash., where the bird was feeding with other birds on the lawn at the Coast Guard Station (E & NH); unfortunately, the photographs are not publishable. A Tree Sparrow was in Stanley Park May 4 (BK). A **Brewer's Sparrow** was carefully watched for some time at Sea I., s. of Vancouver, May 14; it seems to be the first record for coastal British Columbia (BK). A pair of Harris' Sparrows was near Campbell R., May 11-14 (KC, *fide* HT), and one remained at Surrey, B.C., Apr. 14-25 (*fide* VG); single Harris' Sparrows also were noted at Ocean Shores Apr. 30 (DC, *fide* PM) and at Seattle May 26 (WD, CR, *fide* PM). Two White-throated Sparrows were at Olympia Apr. 1-May 2 (JM, *fide* GH) and one was at Richmond Beach Apr. 27 (MD, *fide* PM). Lincoln's Sparrow is an uncommon migrant in the s. half of this Region; all but one of this spring's records came between Apr. 20 and May 6 and involved possibly 20 individuals. A late Lapland Longspur was at Seattle May 7 (ES, *fide* PM) and a pair was at Solander I., B. C., May 2 (RWC, BF, *fide* VG). Four Snow Buntings were seen at Iona I., Apr. 18 (RP, *fide* BK), and two were observed at Tsawwassen Apr. 3 (RS, *fide* VG).

OBSERVERS — Dan Bastaja, Robert Buchanan, Arthur Campbell, R. Wayne Campbell, David Castro (DCa), David Chelimer, John Comer (JCo), Kay Conway, Tom Crabtree, A. R. Davidson, David DeSante (DDS), Walter Donagho, Michael Donahue, Adrian Dorst, Ruby Egbert, Betty Estes, Bob Evans (BEv), Darrell Faxon (DFa), Bristol Foster, David Fix, Jude Fuller, Jeff Gilligan, Emile Grahfhs, Vic & Margaret Goodwill, Vera Guernsey (VGu), Dudley Harrington, Bill Harrington-Tweet, Dave Hayward (DHa), M. Henderson, Glen & Wanda Hoge, Virginia Holmgren, Eugene and Nancy Hunn, Meta Johnson, Brian Kautesk, Mark Koninendyke, Robert Lucas, Tom Lund, Don MacDonald, Jim Maender, Phil Mattocks, Michael Meiklejohn, Harry Nehls, Lars Norgren, Phil Nott, Greg Palmer (GPa), Richard Parker (RPa), Dennis Paulson, Roy Phillips (RPh), Dave Potter (DPo), G.A. Poynter, Michael Price, Robert Pringle, Bob Ramsey (BRa), W. Reid, Carroll Rieck, Stan & Ann Roberts, Leila Roberts, Betsy Rogers, Ron Satterfield, Michael G. Shepard, George Sirk, Bill Sladen, Doris Smith, Jerry Smith, Mark Smith, Ernie Spragg, Steve Summers, Otis Swisher, Keith Taylor, Howard Telosky — **JOHN B. CROWELL, JR., 1185 Hallinan Circle, Lake Oswego, OR 97034 and HARRY B. NEHLS, 2736 S. E. 20th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202.**

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION /Rich Stallcup, Jon Winter

The only water there is on earth is the only water there is. And this spring it definitely is not in the Middle Pacific Coast Region. It was the second driest year on record (since the drought of 1863-64 when 2.5 million cattle died in the Central Valley [below C.V.] and the impact on native plants and animals must have been devastating.) The drought caused some inland waterbirds to leave early and will certainly affect clutch size and overall fledging production of most species. By the end of the period, herons and ducks were obviously absent from most usual heavy breeding areas. The best spring ever for pelagic bird observations and, another superb marsh and heron rookery goes down to the torch and the tractor.



LOONS THROUGH STORM-PETRELS — From Apr 1 to May 22 Barry Sauppe *et al.* spent six to eight hours per day for 20 days censusing migrant seabirds as they passed Pigeon Point (below P.P.) and almost 194,000 individuals were identified and counted. Loons, 90% Arctic, 5% Red-throated and 5% Common totalled 56,544 the highest day's count being on Apr. 21, when 8825 were tallied. Significant numbers were still moving at the end of May. A Yellow-billed Loon was in Monterey Harbor Apr. 28 (RS, B). There are now 12 records from this locality. Red-throateds at L. Bon Tempe Apr. 2 (JM) and at Pescadero Apr. 15 (PM) were onshore. Horned Grebes persisted in good numbers inland and nine at Calaveras Res., Apr. 14 (DE) were representative. Many more Black-footed Albatrosses than usual were seen this spring, particularly north of San Francisco; 26 on May 9 between Bodega and Cordell Banks (R.R.O.S.), 1000 May 21 off Humboldt (RLeV, JG) and 500 May 29 off Humboldt (SH). The 1000 probably surpasses all previous observations here. Laysan Albatrosses were seen off Humboldt; one May 21 and at least three May 29. Northern Fulmars continued to be common off the s. part of the region and of 143 noted passing P.P., 116 were dark and 27 were light (BS *et al.*) a normal ratio. One found dead near Coyote Hills May 9 (*fide* DE) provided our only record for the e. shore of S.F. Bay. A single Flesh-footed Shearwater was with Pink-footed off Humboldt May 8 (BED). There are very few spring records. Nearly 30,000 Sooty Shearwaters passed P.P. (BS *et al.*) which is high for spring. Storm-Petrels were very common and all three northern species were recorded. Between the Farallon Is. (below F.I.) and Eureka, 84 Fork-taileds, five Leach's and over 20 Ashies were seen. All were during May on only six single-day trips.

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — First returning Brown Pelicans were at Pajaro Dunes in the second week of April (J&RW) but were not evident elsewhere until early May. A Great Blue heronry on the San Lorenzo R. near Santa Cruz fledged young in late May (TB, PM). Another ad. Little Blue Heron was at Bolinas from May 11 (P.R.B.O.) to at least May 24 (WMP). In the C.V. Great Egrets were in flocks foraging the abnormally dry fields for mice and near Gray Lodge no nesting had been noted for these, Snowy Egrets or Black-crowned Night Herons at the end of the period. Hundreds of night herons usually nest there. Through April, Cattle Egrets dwindled at Humboldt and only five were present May 8. Humboldt is the only regular spring Cattle Egret spot in the region. A Least Bittern was seen at Gray Lodge May 20 (BED) and Am. Bitterns were noted doing well and as more adaptable to drought conditions than other Ciconiiformes in the C.V. (RS, SAL).

Anderson Marsh at Clear Lake is one of the very finest marshes in the inner Coast range and its Great Blue heronry is now virtually history. Carmen Patterson writes "I checked the Anderson Marsh Heron 'Rookery' Apr. 30 (20-30 pairs have nested there in the riparian border for many years) and it had been abandoned, probably due to the extensive burning and plowing of the marsh. The tractors were still at work turning under the last remaining tules. In two days of watching, I didn't see even one heron return to a nest although they remained in the area. Out in the former marsh I found one remaining Virginia Rail trying to hide in a tiny patch of burnt

stubble which the plow had missed. I was unable to locate any of the many yellowthroats which formerly bred there and the Yellow-headed Blackbirds were also gone "

It seems that in nearly every issue we have the painful task of reporting another woodland or marshland paved Millions of us have voted, campaigned and put all our money and our energies in saving our sibling creatures and vegetation from the machinery of "progress", and we have often cried. The time will soon come that many of us can hurt no more and will move to other methods [?'-Ed.].

WATERFOWL — Most Canada and white geese left relatively early and ducks which normally breed at open water either departed or turned to other wet areas "Lesser" Canada Geese moved early into open habitat to the north and "honkers" similarly early into the N Sierra and Great Basin. "Cackling" Geese were latest in the C V with 100 north over Tehama County Apr. 19 (SAL) and 47 still at Gray Lodge Apr. 26 (BED). Of 14,039 Black Brant seen to pass P.P., 9201 on Apr. 14 was the peak (BS *et al.*). A single Brant with many hundred Black Brant flew N over Limantour Apr. 17 (J&SL, DE, RS) White-fronted Geese were seen migrating over Tehama County Apr. 18 & 19 (SAL) and the last at Gray Lodge were 300 on Apr. 26 (BED). Sixteen were migrating near Gridley May 1 (SAL). A single Ross' Goose was at Abbott's Lagoon May 13 (DS), out-of-range and very late. Pintails and wigeons were in large, late flocks in the C V (RS, BED). Mallards went to rice paddies as refuge and other usually permanent waters dried up and they seemed to be off to an excellent start. Gadwalls, however, reluctant to leave the tules may do poorly here this summer (BED, RS). A ♀ Eurasian Wigeon was still at Bolinas Apr. 9 (JM, J&SL). Wood Ducks nested at Anadel S.P. (DS) and very successfully n.e. of Merced where 20 of 100 nest boxes in a newly established program were occupied (*fide* BED). Fifty Redheads at a flooded field near Gray Lodge Apr. 5 and other good numbers in the northern C.V. in April dropped as water disappeared. Few stayed to breed at Gray Lodge and none at Woodland (BED, RS). At Red Bluff, a migrant flock of 46 Ring-necked Ducks Apr. 9 was high (SAL). As many as eight Greater Scaup were at Tahoe Keyes from mid-April to May (WS). A ♂ Com. Goldeneye was at Crescent City Apr. 15 where they are rare (BED). A Barrow's at Tahoe Keyes as late as Apr. 20 (WS) may have been the bird which wintered there. The last Oldsquaw was at Arcata May 25 (KT, DRu). Of 29,132 Scoters which passed P P during censusing, 98% were Surf, 2% White-winged and only 3 Black's were identified (BS). A White-winged was at Tahoe Apr. 27 - May 1 (Hart, WS). Six Red-breasted Mergansers were seen inland (m.ob.).

RAPTORS THROUGH COOTS — A White-tailed Kite over Auburn May 28 (BBa) was heading east! They are rare in and on the e. side of the Sierras. Swanson's Hawks continue to recover slightly in the C.V. from a slump in the 1960s. Individuals and pairs were reported from many localities (m.ob.) and six nests were located in the Sacramento-Davis area (RS). A Rough-legged Hawk at Colusa Apr. 2 and one near Sacramento May 1 (*fide* BK) were the only ones this spring as was a single Ferruginous Hawk near Olema Apr. 6 (DE). Golden Eagles are doing fine but a single imm. Bald Eagle at Santa Rosa Apr. 20 (CP) was the only one reported

Marsh Hawk sightings were clearly up from average in the C V (BED,RS) possibly because small birds and rodents became reckless in their quests for water. Forty-two migrant Ospreys noted was three times the spring average. A few Prairie Falcons were encouraging and one at Cape Mendocino May 16 (*vide* TS) was late for a migrant. The last winter Peregrines were seen Apr. 24 and the last Merlin Apr. 17.

Turkeys seem to be well established on Mines Road and at Del Valle Park (AE, DE) and less so in the Sacramento area (*vide* BK). Blue Grouse are quite common in the high Sierra near timberline and ten calling males were reported from three localities in Yosemite including four on Mt. Hoffman May 22 (*vide* TB). Tish-tang Camp near Willow Creek remains the best spot in the region for Ruffed Grouse and three males were drumming there Apr. 20 (WS). At Crowley L. 19 ♂ Sage Grouse still booming May 8 seemed very late (RS,B). A single Sandhill Crane at Año Nuevo May 9 (S&SS) was lost. Virginia and Sora Rails were either very low in numbers or non-vocal at Gray Lodge and Woodland (BED,RS) and the only Black Rail reported was calling at Olema Apr. 17 (RS,J&SL,DE). Common Gallinules were reduced to climbing willow trees and eating catkins in the C V. (BED).

SHOREBIRDS — Snowy Plovers had a rough time breeding at Pajaro Dunes, where of only four nests located two were inundated by rising water behind a closed beach and one was covered by sand during high winds (J&RW). An Am. Golden Plover was at P.P. Apr. 20 (PM) and a very late one at Santa Cruz May 28 (TB *et al.*) Surfbirds stage in spring and migrate in generally larger flocks than they winter. At Pescadero, however 310 on Apr. 20 (PM) was unusually high. On the Sacramento R. between Red Bluff and Tehama May 16, 45 Spotted Sandpipers were counted and one nest was found (SA&PL). A Willet was at Tahoe Keyes Apr. 20, one at Indian Creek Res., Alpine Co., May 1 (WS) and one was displaying at Crowley L. May 8 (RS,B). A Rock Sandpiper was at Pescadero Apr. 20 (PM). Four Pectoral Sandpipers at Bolinas during late April (P.R.B.O.) equals all previous spring records. A Baird's at Gray Lodge Mar. 31 (BED) was the only one this spring. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at Abbott's Lagoon June 16 (GP,LS*,P.R.B.O.*). It was perfectly described and is the first definite spring record. The first regional spring **Bartailed Godwit** was at Bogeda Bay Apr. 17 (BJM*). Black-necked Stilts, rare in Sonoma County, were at Petaluma Apr. 21 (CP) and May 6 (BDP): three and two respectively. After Apr. 11, Red Phalaropes were everywhere along the coast followed by Northern after Apr. 27 (m.ob.). A single Red was at Woodland May 2 (*vide* BK). Only two Wilson's were reported from the outer coast, one May 11 at Pajaro Dunes (J&RW) and one May 22 at Bolinas (DS).

JAEGERS THROUGH ALCIDS — At P.P., 42 Pomarine and only one Parasitic Jaegers passed during censusing (BS *et al.*). An ad. **Black-headed Gull** in winter plumage was found at Marshall April 5 (BSO) and was studied thoroughly through April 8 (m.ob.). Adult Franklin's Gulls were at Arcata Apr. 12 (*vide* TS) and at sea off Humboldt May 21 (RLeV *et al.*). At P.P. 36,979 Bonaparte's Gulls passed during censusing, or third of

which were tallied April 24 (BS *et al.*). A second-year Heermann's Gull remained through April in near Sausalito (AE,RS,G.G.A.S). Black-legged Kittiwakes were very common and 701 passed P.P. (BS *et al.*). Of 40 at Bodega Bay Apr. 24, 70% were adults (RS,B). The only San Mateo County record for Sabine's Gull was in 1896 until 1976 when BS *et al.* recorded 323 passing P.P. in mid-May. May 18 was the peak with 171. From P.P. 1864 Forster's and only 83 Com. Terns passed by. April 24 was the Forster's peak and May 12 the Common's (BS *et al.*) A partly-oiled Arctic Tern was at the Salinas R. mouth Apr. 28 (RS,B) and 15 were noted near Cordell Banks May 9 (R.R.O.S.). An Elegant Tern, providing only our second spring record, was at Emeryville May 15 (SL). Several Black Terns, normally at inland passage were noted along the coast (m.ob.) including one, 8 mi. w. of Bodega May 9 (R.R.O.S.) and one, 3 mi. w. of Humboldt May 21 (RLeV, JG). Three Xantus' and ten Ancient Murrelets were on Monterey Bay Apr. 4 (LCB, SFB). A Tufted Puffin in high plumage passed P.P. to the NW carrying fish. (BS).



PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Band-tailed Pigeons have been "virtually absent" in e. Alameda County all year (AE). The trichomoniosis epidemic noted last spring may be spreading. A Spotted Owl's nest that contained two young was located near Markleeville (*vide* WS). This may be the first Alpine County record for the species, but the avifauna of the area is poorly known. A migrant or wintering Long-eared Owl remained in Patterson Pass Apr. 4-May 2 (DE *et al.*). A single Saw-whet Owl was reported May 10 from the Cleary Biological Reserve in Napa County (DE). This species, like the Pygmy Owl, is more common in the coast range, however it occurs in the Sierra and more data is needed to clarify its status there. A seasonal high of ten Com. Nighthawks was seen May 31 over Indian Creek Res., near Markleeville (JH). This species' status in the Sierra is somewhat erratic. In some seemingly optimum locations it is rare and in others it is almost common. The reasons for this spotty distribution are probably ecological in nature. Black Swifts in the Porterville area have been observed exhibiting an interesting foraging pattern. Consistently during the month of May they were seen moving west into the C.V. very early in the morning. In the evening they were seen moving east back toward the Sierra in groups of from one-14 birds (RAB). A similar pattern of foraging in adjacent valleys has been observed in Com. Nighthawks. A single Black Swift was at Solano L. May 9 (DW). Both Costa's and Black-chinned Hummingbirds arrived in the region on time, but only a few reports were received. Encouraging was the report of two Pileated Woodpecker nests in Annadel S.P. and at L. Lagunitas, Marin Co., (CP, JM). A pair of Lewis' Woodpeckers was seen nesting in the same location at S. Lake Tahoe where a pair nested in 1975 . . . same pair (WS)? This species is an uncommon nester in the L. Tahoe region. A "Red-breasted" Sapsucker was late at Dog I., Tehama Co., Apr. 21 (SAL).

Recent studies by sociologists have indicated that most Americans rarely stay in one place more than five years, we have become a nation of transients. The following type of data then, if the trend continues, will become increasingly difficult to obtain. The table below lists the average and earliest arrival dates of 22 selected spring

migrants recorded by Gordon Bolander in his yard (he has a yard list of over 200 species) in Santa Rosa over the past 26 years. The table is arranged from the earliest to the latest migrants and is not in phylogenetic order.

26-year arrival dates at Santa Rosa

Species	Average Arrival	Earliest Arrival
Allen's Hummingbird	Feb. 22	Jan. 26
Rufous Hummingbird	Mar. 17	Feb. 21
Rough-winged Swallow	Mar. 18	Feb. 27
Cliff Swallow	Mar. 21	Mar. 1
Barn Swallow	Mar. 23	Mar. 8
Western Flycatcher	Mar. 31	Mar. 11
Northern Oriole	Apr. 3	Mar. 23
Wilson's Warbler	Apr. 4	Mar. 21
Warbling Vireo	Apr. 6	Mar. 11
Black-headed Grosbeak	Apr. 12	Mar. 31
Yellow Warbler	Apr. 16	Apr. 7
Solitary Vireo	Apr. 19	Mar. 30
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Apr. 19	Apr. 10
Western Kingbird	Apr. 23	Apr. 6
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Apr. 24	Apr. 7
Purple Martin	Apr. 25	Mar. 31
Swainson's Thrush	Apr. 29	Apr. 2
Western Tanager	Apr. 29	Apr. 19
Western Wood Pewee	May 1	Apr. 21
Olive-sided Flycatcher	May 1	Apr. 19
Yellow-breasted Chat	May 1	Apr. 16
Lazuli Bunting	May 1	Apr. 19

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — Western Kingbirds seem to arrive earlier in spring in the C.V. than they do along the coast making one wonder about the point origins of the two migrant populations. Late March records inland are normal; however on the coast those records for the first week in April are unusually early. The now-famous Olivaceous Flycatcher that wintered in the Carmel River Valley was still present into the second week in April (*vide* DE). A single Willow Flycatcher at Dog I., Tehama Co., Apr. 5 was somewhat early (SAL). Fewer Gray Flycatchers were reported this spring than last. Two were reported along the coast, the earliest noted Apr. 30 at Coyote Hills (SFB). In the C.V. one was at Willow Slough Apr. 24 and another at Davis May 5 (both DAG). An early Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen Apr. 4 at New Brighton Beach S.P., Santa Cruz (LCB). A regional high of some 442 Bank Swallows in five different colonies along a 12-mile stretch of the Sacramento R. between Red Bluff and Tehama May 16 was encouraging (SAL). The Army Corps of Engineers has a habit of turning Bank Swallows habitat into cement in California, making it hard for the little guys to find suitable nest sites.

CORVIDS THROUGH THRUSHES — Two ravens seen in Berkeley and Hayward Apr. 19 -21 respectively (same pair?) were noteworthy as they are quite scarce in the East Bay (JR,DE). A single Chestnut-backed Chickadee was seen at the Calaveras Big Trees S.P. May 23 (DE). They are known to occur here and breeding

should be looked for. Six White-breasted Nuthatches were seen at May L., Yosemite N.P. at an elevation of 9500 ft. May 22 (TB). This is a high elevation for this species in spring, but they do drift up-slope in the late summer after breeding. Cañon Wrens were found nesting at Clear Lake S.P. May 2 (CP). There is limited habitat for California Thrashers in Marin County so the presence of a singing male on Carson Ridge May 27 is interesting (DS). The first San Mateo County Sage Thrasher was present at Pillar Pt. May 25 (PM,BS). Scarce all winter, Varied Thrushes were last reported in the San Antonio Valley Apr. 4 (AE). A peak movement of Swainson's Thrushes was observed at Palomarin May 11-19 when 23 were banded (P.R.B.O.). Western Bluebirds were found breeding at 6000 ft. at Cottonwood Campgrounds of Sierraville May 29 (JH). This is a rather high altitude for this species in the n. Sierra. The coastward invasion of Townsend's Solitaires noted in the winter report produced a single bird on Mines Rd., Apr. 4 (AE)

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WOOD WARBLERS — The invasion of Bohemian Waxwings cited in the winter report reached its southernmost penetration in the region in Tulare County. Between Apr 2 and 17 at least ten birds were seen in two different flocks in Porterville (RAB) and a single bird was seen on lower Blue Ridge in Sequoia N. P. Apr. 25 (Mrs. W. Gray*) A Loggerhead Shrike on the lower Mad R., May 18-23 provided Humboldt County with its first May record for this species. A good description of what appeared to be the *plumbeus* race of the Solitary Vireo was seen in Tilden Park Apr. 24 (RD). A peak movement of Warbling Vireos was noted May 8-16 when 14 were banded at Palomarin, one of which, on May 16, was a returning bird that proved to be 11 years old (P.R.B.O.)! A compact little wave of Parulids was observed May 9 at Loma Prieta, Santa Cruz Co., that consisted of Townsend's, Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray, Hermit, and Nashville Warblers in order of their abundance (TB, RM *et al.*). An ad. ♂ Black-and-white Warbler was seen on Pt Reyes May 21 (BAS) while another female was banded at Palomarin May 27 (P.R.B.O.). Always rare in spring, two Tennessee Warblers were reported. A singing male at Fairhaven provided Humboldt County with its first spring record May 25 (BC) and an adult in good plumage was found on Pt. Reyes May 22 (JM). A lovely sight in the form of a singing ad. ♂ N. Parula Warbler was found on Pt. Reyes May 20 (BAS *et al.*). Another Hermit X Townsend's hybrid was seen in the Vaca Mts., May 9 (DAG). As if the finding of the wintering Cape May Warbler in Santa Cruz during the last period was not amazing enough, Winifred Greene tells us that *two* Cape Mays were in view at the same time Apr. 4 and at least one bird remained until Apr. 18. A Black-throated Gray Warbler seen Apr. 5 in Auburn was about 10 days early (BBa). Wilson's Warblers were noted as the "most numerous valley-foothill migrant" in the Porterville area this spring (RAB).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — A single Yellow-headed Blackbird found at L. Elizabeth near Fremont Apr. 24 was out of range (EM). Tri-colored Blackbirds breed along the coast in local areas. Two new breeding colonies were found in Sonoma County this spring. One in late April just e. of Sebastopol (JW) and another at the Sonoma County Airport Apr. 27 (CP)

Breeding Hooded Orioles in n. California are often associated with fan palms. This species appears to be expanding its range north along the coast. A singing male was seen in Napa May 9 and may have bred (BDP); although they have been recorded as far north as Del Norte County they are still rather rare north of the S.F. Bay Area. More appropriate for the spring report was the finding of a rather concentrated wave of 20 "Bullocks" Orioles Mar. 28 at Paicines (TB). A well-documented nearly ad. ♂ "Baltimore" Oriole was seen frequenting a feeder Apr. 1-18 in Yuba City (PH*,BED*,GM,RS). Two ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported along the coast. One was seen May 20 in Lafayette (LF) and the other was in San Pablo Apr. 7 (*vide* DR). An Apr. 11 Black-headed Grosbeak at Dog I., Tehama Co., was somewhat early (SAL). Six Lawrence's Goldfinches were found at Angwin and three were seen at Aetna Springs May 8 (JW). They are irregular in Napa County. Red Crossbills were found to be common this spring at S. Lake Tahoe where they have been noticeably scarce since 1969 (WS). Grasshopper Sparrows appeared in several coastal locations from Marin to Santa Cruz Counties and will probably breed. The breeding distribution of this species can vary from year to year. A Lark Sparrow at Tahoe Keyes Apr. 17 was most unusual at that elevation (WS). Scarce in Marin County, a singing Sage Sparrow was seen on Carson Ridge May 27 (DS). Two "Slate-colored" Juncos remained at a feeder until May 15 at Jacoby Creek, Humboldt County (*vide* TS). A singing ♂ Black-chinned Sparrow was found in a new location at Folsom L., El Dorado Co., Apr. 30 (WS). The Harris' Sparrow reported in the fall issue from Berkeley was last seen May 1 (*vide* DR). May records of White-throated Sparrows are scarce; a singing male seen in Berkeley (JR) and another at Santa Cruz (PM) both May 1 were

noteworthy. A Swamp Sparrow at Soquel Apr. 3 (PM, TB) may have been a wintering bird.

CORRIGENDA — In *Am. Birds* 30:119 Snow and Ross' Geese arrival dates from BED apply to Tule Lake not Gray Lodge. Also on the same page the Santa Cruz Fulvous Tree Duck was seen by EM only. On p. 124 the Indigo Bunting is the third Sonoma County record, not the first.

CONTRIBUTORS — Stephen F. Bailey, Bernice Barnes (BBa), Robert A. Barnes (RAB), Bird Bonanzas (B), Laurence C. Binford, Tony Bledsoe, Gordon L. Bolander, Bill Clow, Richard Dean, Bruce E. Duell, Art Edwards, Dick Erickson, David A. Gaines, Joel Greenberg, Lynn Farrar, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Stan Harris, Craig Hohenberger, Joel Hornstein, Phoebe Hunter, Betty Kimball, Phyllis Laymon, Steve A. Laymon, Ron LeValley, John Luther, Susanne Luther, Eugene Makishima, Anne Manolis, Georgianne Manolis, Brian J. McCaffery (BJM), Peter Metropulos, Randall Morgan, Joe Morlan, Gary Page, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Carmen Patterson, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, William M. Pursell, Redwood Regional Ornithological Society, Jack Reinhold, Don Roberson (DR), Barbara Ruben, Dave Rudholm (DRu), Barry Sauppe (BS), Tom Schulenberg, Dave Shuford, Steven and Stephanie Singer, Bruce Sorrie (BSo), Rich Stallcup, Lynn Stenzel, Bob A. Stewart (BAS), Wally Sumner, Michael Taylor, Kris Tyner, John and Ricky Warriner (J&RW), Dave Winkler, Jon Winter (JW), Rich Worthington (RW), Bob Yutzy.—**RICH STALLCUP**, 4409 44th Avenue, Sacramento, CA. 95824 and **JON WINTER**, 1277 Yulupa Avenue #2, Santa Rosa, CA. 95405.

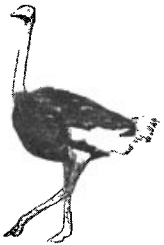
SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION /Guy McCaskie

An interesting spring with an influx of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels and a recurrence of Horned Puffins offshore, and an exciting variety of vagrant landbird species found onshore. The weather was relatively stable, with only one or two storms moving south along the coast into the Region, and no massive pile-ups of our normal West Coast migrants reported. The most outstanding occurrence was a Laysan Albatross over the open desert.

The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Wilson's Phalarope, Apr. 24, Salton Sea; Gull-billed Tern, Apr. 3, Salton Sea; Common Tern, Apr. 25, San Diego; Least Tern, Apr. 11, San Diego; Elegant Tern, Mar. 19, San Diego; Black Tern, Apr. 24, Salton Sea; White-winged Dove, Mar. 22, Salton Sea; Com. Nighthawk, May 26, Deep Springs; Lesser Nighthawk, Apr. 24, Salton Sea; Vaux's Swift, Apr. 11, San Diego; Black-chinned Hummingbird, Mar. 17, San Diego; W. Kingbird, Mar. 9, San Diego; Ash-throated Flycatcher, Mar. 27, Colorado R. Valley; Willow Flycatcher, May 20, Desert Center; Hammond's Flycatcher, Apr. 10, San Diego; W. Flycatcher, Mar. 20, San Diego; W. Wood Pewee, Apr. 24, San Diego; Olive-sided Flycatcher, Apr.

9, Santa Barbara; Swainson's Thrush, May 1, San Diego; Bell's Vireo, Mar. 14, e. San Diego Co.; Solitary Vireo, Mar. 26, Palos Verdes Pen.; Warbling Vireo, Mar. 13, San Diego; Nashville Warbler, Mar. 26, San Diego; Yellow Warbler, Mar. 26, San Diego; Black-throated Gray Warbler, Mar. 11, Salton Sea (early) and Mar. 20,





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San Diego; Hermit Warbler, Apr. 24, Orange Co.; MacGillivray's Warbler, Apr. 3, Santa Barbara; Yellow-breasted Chat, Apr. 24, San Diego; Wilson's Warbler, Mar. 18, Oceanside; Hooded Oriole, Mar. 20, San Diego; Scott's Oriole, Apr. 3, Cima; N. Oriole, Mar. 19, Salton Sea, W. Tanager, Apr. 7, Orange Co. (early) and Apr. 18, San Diego; Black-headed Grosbeak, Mar. 26, San Diego; Blue Grosbeak, Apr. 11, Dana Pt.; Lazuli Bunting, Apr. 3, San Diego; Black-chinned Sparrow, Apr. 7, San Diego

LOONS — Paul Lehman spent 83 hours (most in two hour periods during afternoons) surveying seabirds flying past Goleta Pt. Santa Barbara Co. between early March and early June. During that time he recorded 1800 Com. Loons, 30,000 Arctic Loons and 3200 Red-throated Loons, these numbers well indicate the relative abundance of the three species in s. California waters. A winter-plumaged **Yellow-billed Loon** was at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co. May 5-9 (AK, JMi *et al.*); this is the first to be reported in s. California, but a specimen was taken to the south in northern Baja California (*Western Birds* 6: 7-20, 1975)

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — A few Black-footed Albatrosses were off s. California as evidenced by reports of 14 individuals seen in the Santa Barbara Channel and around San Clemente I during May. Astounding was a **Laysan Albatross** seen flying westward across barren desert, into strong winds, near Desert Hot Springs, Riverside Co., May 5 (JD, PU);

in all probability the bird became "trapped" in the Gulf of California when moving northward in the e. Pacific, and the urge to continue northward overruled any fear of overland flight when it reached the head of the Gulf, taking it over the Salton Sea and through the San Geronio Pass.

A freshly dead **Scaled Petrel** was found on the beach at Cayucos, San Luis Obispo Co., Feb. 28 (EJ *S.D.N.H.M.) and another decomposed bird was picked up at nearby Cambria Mar. 31 (FRT *P.R.B.O.), this species was unrecorded in California prior to this year, but records exist for Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Alaska, so was to be expected. N. Fulmars were still relatively common offshore at the end of May with 35 seen in the Santa Barbara Channel June 3 (JD) A Flesh-footed Shearwater, rare anywhere off California, was well seen eight mi. w. of Santa Barbara I. May 24 (RLP). A few Manx Shearwaters remained in extreme s. California waters through April with five seen off La Jolla, San Diego Co., Apr. 25 (JD) and one more off San Diego May 8 (VR).

Unexpected was a rash of Fork-tailed Storm-Petrel sightings during May. One was found off San Diego May 8 (GMcC, VR), at least 28 were seen in the Santa Barbara Channel May 17-30 (RLP, KG, JA) including 18 on May 24 (SC), one was seen from Goleta Pt., May 20 (PL) and another was found at Morro Bay May 10 (*vide* FRT), recent records of this species in s. California waters are few and far between. The only Leach's Storm-Petrel reported was one near Santa Barbara I. May 25 (RLP)

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WITH DAVIS FINCH AND WILL RUSSELL

Preview of 1977 Trips

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All trips 8-10 participants, two leaders

**WRITE: NORTHEAST BIRDING, c/o Maude Russell,
Seal Harbor, Maine 04675 Telephone: (207) 276-3963**

Ashy Storm-Petrels were the commonest storm-petrel in the Santa Barbara Channel in May with up to 50 a day noted (SC, KG, JA) and three were found off San Diego May 8 (VR); little is known about the status and distribution of this species in s. California waters.

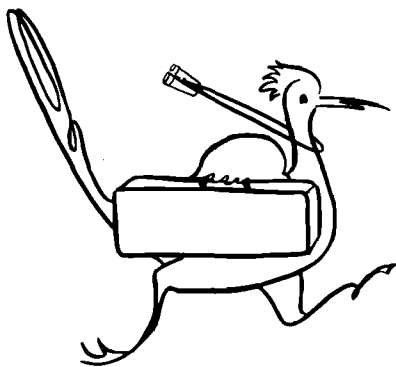
FRIGATEBIRDS — An ad ♀ Magnificent Frigatebird at San Miguel I. Apr. 6 (RLP) was unexpected since only two other records exist for the period between November 1 and June 13, and only one other record exists for the offshore islands (*Calif. Birds* 1: 117-142, 1970).

HERONS, STORKS, SPOONBILLS — An ad. Little Blue Heron was on Morro Bay May 23 (FRT) and another adult was at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter F.C.R.) May 8 (M & NP); there are only a handful of records for coastal s. California and two or three sightings from the Salton Sea. A few Cattle Egrets were found along the coast with one at Goleta May 2-9 (PL), another near Newport Apr. 30 (MP), eight near Laguna Beach May 5 (MP) and eight more near Imperial Beach May 3 (RS); this species is known to nest at the Salton Sea and nesting activities should be watched for in other areas. A Louisiana Heron at Seal Beach, Orange Co., May 2 (RS) was probably one of the birds that wintered there, and had lingered later than usual. A Least Bittern at F.C.R. May 27 (CH *et al.*) and another at Kelso, San Bernardino Co., May 29 (EAC) were both at oasis in an area of extensive desert and were clearly migrants passing through the area. Eleven Wood Storks at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter S.E.S.S.) May 15 (DVT) were very early; these post breeding visitors do not normally appear until late June or early July. Most unusual was an imm. Roseate Spoonbill at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter N.E.S.S.) May 5 (RS), this rare straggler normally appears later in the summer with the previous early record being May 22 (*Condor* 29: 253, 1927).

GEESE, DUCKS — As expected a few Black Brant were noted on the Salton Sea with a high count of 21 at N.E.S.S. Mar. 28 (VR, JD) and a few stragglers still present at the end of the period; this is the only inland locality where this sea goose occurs regularly. The Black Brant on Tinnemaha Res., Inyo Co., remained until May 8 (TH). Along the coast Black Brant were seen moving north from late March to mid-May with 20,000 seen from Goleta Pt. during the period (11,000 in four hours on Apr 11). Blue-winged Teal were reported throughout the Region in small numbers and it is now evident that this species will occur anywhere migrant Cinnamon Teal appear. A late Oldsquaw was found at Del Mar, San Diego Co., Apr. 19 (G. Hightower, *fide* PU); this species is a rare winter visitor to s. California normally departing in March. A pair of Harlequin Ducks in Cuyler Harbor, San Miguel I., Apr. 6 (RLP) was a real surprise since the species is most unusual south of San Luis Obispo Co and previously unrecorded around the offshore islands. The only scoters found inland were one or two Surf Scoters at Salton City on the Salton Sea after May 4 (RS, JD) Only 31 White-winged Scoters and two Black Scoters (Apr 17) were seen among the 16,500 Surf Scoters seen moving N past Goleta Pt. this spring, indicating the ratio of the three species in s. California last winter. A number of Red-breasted Mergansers were found inland with small numbers on the Salton Sea throughout the period, one at Tecopa, Inyo Co., May 26 (JT) and one or two seen regularly at F.C.R. from Apr. 23 to the end of the period (JA, WS, DE); early literature indicated this species was scarce away from the coast.

KITES, HAWKS — An ad. **Mississippi Kite** at F C R May 25-26 (DR *et al.*, p. S.D.N.H.M.) represents the sixth record for California but was also the third spring record for this locality. An ad. Broad-winged Hawk at F.C.R. May 25-26 (WS *et al.*) was one of the very few to be seen on spring migration in California although fall migrants and wintering individuals are now of annual occurrence. A flock of 25 Swainson's Hawks at Borrego

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Mississippi Kite, Furnace Creek Ranch, Death Valley, May 26, 1976. Photo/Van Remsen.

Springs in e. San Diego Co., Apr. 10 (CGE) was the largest concentration noted this spring though one or two were reported from five localities east of the coastal mountains Mar. 27-Apr. 24 (PL, EAC, DE, KG); a late individual was at Desert Center May 30 (KG) and one was along the coast in Oceanside Mar. 29 (GSS). A sub-adult **Zone-tailed Hawk** was well seen at Ft. Piute in e. San Bernardino Co., May 22 (S & KB); this species rarely reaches California and the majority of the few records are for the fall migration period. The only Peregrine Falcons reported were one on San Miguel I. May 22 (PU) and another at S.E.S.S. May 2 (GMCC).

OYSTERCATCHERS, PLOVERS, SANDPIPERS — Two Am. Oystercatchers were seen at Frazier Pt. on Santa Cruz I., May 23 (SC); one or two of these birds appear to be resident on Santa Cruz I. along with the one on Anacapa I. Ten Semipalmated Plovers on Baldwin I. in the San Bernardino Mts. May 8 (MP) were of interest since the locality is high in the mountains. Two Semipalmated Plovers in the Saline Valley Apr. 24 (TH), one at Tecopa Apr. 30 (JT), and another at F.C.R. May 15 (JL) supply three additional records for the n.e. portion of the Region where few are recorded. A few Snowy Plovers were found in the n.e. section of the Region as is now expected with a high count of nine in Tecopa Apr. 29 (JT). The only Am. Golden Plovers reported this spring were one on San Nicholas I. May 19 (LJ) and single individuals at Goleta Apr. 5 (PL) and Apr. 18-May 1 (PL).

An **Upland Sandpiper** was at F.C.R. May 15 (RS, JL); there are four other records for the Region, two in May and the other two in September. Four Solitary Sandpipers, always scarce in spring, were reported, with one at Yucca Valley Apr. 24 (H & PB), one at Tecopa Apr. 29 (JT), one at F.C.R. May 6-9 (RS, WS) and another there May 29 (TH). Ten Ruddy Turnstones were at N.E.S.S. May 3 (KG) with five still present May 5 (RS); this species occurs regularly in small numbers on the Salton Sea but is exceptionally rare elsewhere in California away from the coast. Red Phalaropes were numerous along the coast this spring being blown to the shore during the mid-April

storm; 30,500 were seen from Goleta Pt., in April and May including 6500 on Apr. 17 and 10,000 on May 18 (PL). Some 39,500 N. Phalaropes passed Goleta Pt. in April and May with a high count of 25,000 on May 10 (PL). As usual Red Knots passed through the Salton Sea during early May with a high count of 85 at Salton City May 8 (JD); elsewhere in inland California the species is exceptionally rare. The only Sanderlings found away from the coast were on the Salton Sea where small numbers were seen including 25 at Salton City on May 20 (JD *et al.*). Three Semipalmated Sandpipers were found at S.E.S.S. with one on May 16 (RS), another on May 20 (JD, PU) and a rather late one on June 6 (VR); this species is recorded on the Salton Sea every May. Time and patience on the part of an observer sorting through the many breeding plumaged W. Sandpipers at the Salton Sea in May will eventually result in the finding of a Semipalmated Sandpiper, and I do not consider the identification of this species any real challenge in spring plumage. As usual Stilt Sandpipers were present at S.E. S.S. with a high count of 40 made on May 2 (GMcC).

SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS, SKIMMERS — Five sightings of South Polar Skuas were made in the waters between Ventura and Santa Barbara I. on four dates between May 23 and June 3 (RLP, JD); this may prove to be one of the better times of the year to see this species in s. California waters. A very late Glaucous Gull was seen on Newport Bay Apr. 8 (GSS) and May 9 (SC). An imm. yellow-legged W. Gull at S.E.S.S. May 9 (VR) was unexpected since this distinct looking race (species?) is normally absent from the Salton Sea between early September and late June. A late Mew Gull was still present in San Diego Apr. 25 (PL); this species normally leaves s. California in mid-March. An ad. Laughing Gull was seen at N.E.S.S. May 16 (RS, JL); post-breeding birds are not normally present until June, but the species formerly nested on the Salton Sea and may occasionally attempt nesting today. As usual a few Franklin's Gulls were reported with four seen at the Salton Sea May 1-9 (EAC, KG, VR), one in Big Pine May 6-7 (TH), one to three in Santa Barbara May 15-24 (GH, PL), one at Pt. Mugu May 27 (GSG), one near San Miguel I., May 21 (RLP), one on Santa Barbara I., May 21 (RLP) and two


more near there June 3 (JD, KG); the island sightings were of special interest since few off shore records exist. A Bonaparte's Gull in Bishop May 29 (PU) and another at Deep Springs May 30 (DE) were of interest since few records are known for this area of California. A few Sabine's Gulls were off the coast in May with a high count of 35 made off San Diego May 8 (VR) and 14 seen from Goleta Pt. May 18 (PL).

ALCIDS — The only Com. Murres reported were 13 seen flying past Goleta Pt. Apr. 1-May 27 (PL), two off Ventura May 16 (DE) and eight off Newport May 25 (RLP). Somewhat startling was an Ancient Murrelet off Ventura June 3 (KG); this is south of the species' normal winter range and far from where it should have been in June. A few Horned Puffins were evidently off our coast in late May, for 24 individuals were seen around San Miguel, Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara Is. May 21 & 22 (RLP), and a dead individual was found on the beach a little north of San Diego May 12 (p. S. D. N. H. M.), it is conceivable that this species winters south to these latitudes, but remains far out in the Pacific and wanders eastward to the continental shelf when moving northward to its breeding grounds in Alaska. A lone Tufted Puffin 5 mi. s. of San Miguel I. Apr. 6 (RLP) was the only one reported.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS — A Band-tailed Pigeon on Pt. Loma in San Diego May 17 (JD) was away from normal habitat as were single individuals on San Nicholas I. (hereafter S. N. I.) May 4 and June 13 (LJ). Seventeen White-winged Doves were reported from e. San Bernardino County in May, one was at F.C.R. May 23 (PL, IM), and another was at Oasis May 31 (HK); these are all north of the species' normal breeding range. A White-winged Dove in Ventura Apr 9 (PL), another near Newhall May 8 (*fide* GSS) and single individuals on S. N. I. Apr. 22 & 29 (LJ) were all west of the species' normal range. Interesting were single Yellow-billed Cuckoos at F.C.R. on May 29 (TH) and June 13 (VR); this species is on the decline in California and records of migrants away from known nesting localities are few indeed. A Barn Owl at Oasis May 29 (JD) and another at F. C. R. May 26 (VR) were of interest because

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few have been found in the n.e. portion of the Region. A Flammulated Owl was calling on Clark Mt. in e. San Bernardino County May 15 (DR); whether this was a migrant passing through or a nesting bird could not be determined. A pair of Elf Owls was feeding large young in a nest hole near Needles on the Colorado R. on the early date of Apr. 10 (VR); a single bird at Corn Springs Apr. 23 (MD) and 25 (WS) was the only other individual reported. Whip-poor-wills were on Clark Mt. May 8 and probably nested.

SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS, WOODPECKERS — Six Black Swifts passing over Mt. Pinos May 29 (KG) and four over Encino June 9 (JD, PU) were the only ones reported. Two Chimney Swifts were over Encino June 9-10 (JD, GSS) and four were seen descending chimneys in Ventura June 13 (JBo); this species is now recorded annually in California, primarily along the coast in late spring, and it would appear the species is expanding its range into the Southwest. A ♂ Calliope Hummingbird in San Diego Mar. 5 (JD) was exceptionally early and another male at F. C. R. May 7 (RS) was at an interesting locality. An Acorn Woodpecker on the Palos Verdes Pen., May 6-14 (J & DM) was outside its normal range. Most unusual was a ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. v. varius*) on S. N. I. June 13 (LJ); this race (species?) is a casual straggler to California and mid-June is hardly the time to be looking for one.

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — An E. Kingbird was at F. C. R. May 26 (DR, VR) and another was on S. N. I. June 15 (LJ); one or two are found every spring. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Ventura Apr. 4-8 (DS) was exceptionally early for a vagrant. The first Wied's Crested Flycatcher was noted at Morongo Valley, where the species nests every year, on Apr. 30 (SC). A **Least Flycatcher**, the second to be found in s. California during spring, was carefully identified at Oasis, Mono Co., May 28 (JM *et al.*). A ♂ Vermilion Flycatcher at Deep Springs May 24-25 (PL, JD) was farther north than previously recorded in e. California. Six Purple Martins in the e. part of the Region during May were unexpected; one was at Desert Center May 30 (KG), one was at Kelso May 6 (RS), two were at F. C. R. May 29-30 (DE) and single birds were at Oasis May 24 (PL) and 31 (JD).

JAYS, THRASHERS, VIREOS — A Scrub Jay in Tecopa May 1-27 (JT) was outside its normal range. A Brown Thrasher, a rare wanderer to California, was at F. C. R. May 8 (M & NP). A Bendire's Thrasher at Granite Mt. in e. San Bernardino Co., Mar 24 (VR) was believed to be a spring migrant returning to this area, where the species regularly nests. Sage Thrashers were moving through e. San Bernardino County Mar. 3-25 with 24 seen Mar. 3 alone (VR). A singing ♂ Bell's Vireo at 6200 ft. in the New York Mts., May 18 (VR) was certainly out of normal habitat; one in Kelso Apr. 24 (EAC), another at F. C. R. during much of early May (WS *et al.*) and a third near Big Pine May 24 (TH) were all significant since few have been found in this area of California in recent years. Unexpected was a ♂ **Yellow-throated Vireo** at Morongo Valley May 5-9 (H & PB *et al.*) and another male at Deep Springs May 23-26 (FB, HK *et al.*); there are only four previous records for the Region. A Solitary Vireo of the nominate form (*V. s. solitarius*) was carefully studied near Westmorland May 20 (JD, PU); this race is a rare straggler to California not previously recorded in spring. Single individuals of the gray "Plumbeous" Vireo (*V. s. plumbeus*) were on S. N. I., May 26 (LJ) and June 3 (LJ); this race is very rare west to the coast. A Red-eyed Vireo, a rare wanderer to s. California, was at Scotty's Castle May 30 (*vide* DR), another was at nearby Shoshone May 27 (D & BH) and a third was at Desert Center May 30 (KG). Unprecedented were three **Philadelphia Vireos**, with one at Oasis May 24-25 (JD, VR), another at Scotty's Castle May 26-27 (DR) and the third at F. C. R. May 27-30 (D & BH); there is only one previous spring record for California.

WOOD WARBLERS — Thirteen Black-and-white Warblers were found in the e. part of the Region May 4-29, and an additional eight were seen along the coast and on the offshore islands May 2 - June 2; an average number for this time of the year. A **Worm-eating Warbler** on S. N. I. May 16 (LJ) represents s. California's first spring record. Tennessee Warblers were relatively numerous, with thirteen seen in the e. part of the Region May 9 - 28, and six more on the offshore islands May 20 - June 14. Nine N. Parulas were reported with a male in Westwood May 12 (JT), seven individuals found at Oasis/Deep Springs/Scotty's Castle May 14 - 29 (JL, CH, DR *et al.*) and a male on S. N. I. May 22-25 (LJ); this is more than normally found at this time of the year. Three Magnolia

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Warblers were reported with a male at Oasis May 24-25 (PL, VR), another male at Deep Springs May 29 (DR) and the third on S.N.I. May 26 (LJ). A ♂ Cape May Warbler, extremely rare in spring, was on Santa Barbara I., May 16 (DE, HK), and a female was on S.N.I. June 15-16 (LJ). California's first believable spring **Black-throated Blue Warbler** was a singing male on S.N.I., June 15-17 (LJ). An exceptionally late "Myrtle" Warbler was on S.N.I. June 15-17 (LJ). A ♀ Black-throated Green Warbler, only the second to be found in s. California during the spring, was at Oasis May 22 (PL, JD). Unexpected were three Blackburnian Warblers with a female at Oasis May 26 (IM), another male at Deep Springs May 31 (HK), and a beautiful male on S.N.I. June 17 (LJ); the first spring record for s. California was obtained last year. Three Chestnut-sided Warblers were found in the n.e. part of the Region with a male at Kelso May 21 (VR), another male at Oasis May 26 (CH, D & BH) and a female at Deep Springs May 30 (DR); this may be slightly less than normal. A ♂ Bay-breasted Warbler was at Tollhouse Springs in the White Mts., May 30-31 (VR) and a female was on S.N.I. May 26 (LJ); one or two of these birds are now being reported every spring. A Blackpoll Warbler, still a rare find in California during spring migration, was at Oasis May 28 (CH, JM.), a male was at Scotty's Castle May 30 (DR), and another male was at Kelso May 20 (VR). Most unusual was a ♂ **Prairie Warbler** at F.C.R. May 29 (H & PB); this is not only California's first spring record, but is also the first to be seen away from the coast and offshore islands. Only four Ovenbirds were reported, with one at Ft. Piute May 19 (VR), a singing male at Oasis May 26-30 (JM, PL), and single individuals on S.N.I., May 26-27 (LJ) and June 13 (LJ). An early N. Waterthrush was near San Diego Apr. 17 (JD) and twelve were found in the n.e. portion of the Region May 9 - 31. A singing ♂ **Mourning Warbler** at F.C.R. May 29 (H & PB *et al.*) was only the third to be found in s. California. A ♀ Hooded Warbler, rare at any time of the year in California, was in Kelso June 8 (RS). Thirty Am. Redstarts were reported May 6 - June 10 with most being found in the n.e. portion of the Region. A Painted Redstart was in Kelso Apr. 24-25 (EAC, SC) and another was on Clark Mt., May 8-15 (VR *et al.*); this species now occurs annually in California.


BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — A ♂ Bobolink was at Deep Springs May 29 (VR), thirteen individuals were found at F.C.R. between May 15 and 30 (RS, DR), a female was in Kelso May 29 (EAC) and a male was at Morongo Valley May 23 (EAC); this species appears to move through e. California in small numbers every spring. A ♂ Scott's Oriole at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley May 30 (DE) was at an interesting locality. Four different "Baltimore" Orioles were seen in n. Inyo Co. May 22-June 6 (DR, RS). A ♀ Rusty Blackbird in Kelso Apr. 27-28 (VR, AS, p. S. D. N. H. M) is by far the latest ever seen in California. A **Com. Grackle** was found in Morongo Valley Apr. 30 (RD, p. S.D.N.H.M.); this is the fourth to be recorded in California, a specimen (mislabelled as Brewer's Blackbird) that had been collected in El Cajon, San Diego Co., Nov. 20, 1969, was recently found at San Diego State University (PU) and now constitutes the first record for the state. A ♂ Bronzed Cowbird at Jacumba, San Diego Co., May 3 (RS) and

another at Brock Ranch, Imperial Co., May 10 (HK) were both away from areas of regular occurrence

A ♂ Hepatic Tanager at F.C.R. May 15 (JL, RS) was most interesting since very few are found away from the restricted breeding areas of Clark Mt., and a small area in the San Bernardino Mts. Summer Tanagers were back at Morongo Valley, where they regularly nest, May 1 (EAC, SC) and single males at nearby Yucca Valley May 15 (EAC, SC), and near Palmdale May 18 (JT) may have been looking for suitable nest sites. However, eight Summer Tanagers in the n.e. portion of the Region May 7-June 10, one at Desert Center May 20 (JD), a male at Butterbread Springs in Kern Co., May 9 (KAA), a female at McGrath S.P. in Ventura Co. May 31 (GSS) and a male on S.N.I. May 28 (LJ) were all probably vagrants from eastward.



Interesting were three Grasshopper Sparrows on the offshore islands with one on Santa Barbara I., May 9 (LJ), one on Anacapa I., May 17 (KG) and the other on S.N.I. May 19 (LJ). Totally unexpected was a **Sharp-tailed Sparrow** at Oasis May 26 (CH, JD) and another at F.C.R. May 27-29 (D & BH); the only other inland record for the entire Southwest was one seen along the lower Colorado R. in 1975 (*Am. Birds* 29:744). A singing ♂ **Cassin's Sparrow** was near El Cajon May 8-11 (MO, SO); the previous four published records for California are all from the Farallon Is., however, the Oberbauers tape-recorded a singing bird at the very same locality near El Cajon May 15-30, 1970 (taped song verified—JD). A Clay-colored Sparrow, rare in spring, was on S.N.I., May 25 (LJ). A wintering Harris' Sparrow remained in Goleta to Apr. 28 (PL), another was near San Diego to May 10 (JD) and two were still in Big Pine May 5 (TH), one on S.N.I., Apr. 28 (LJ) was a migrant. A wintering White-throated Sparrow lingered in Big Pine to May 15 (TH) and a migrant was seen near Santa Barbara Apr 21 (GH). A Swamp Sparrow was seen on Santa Cruz I., Mar 29 (JA) and a late straggler was at Stove Pipe Wells in Death Valley May 16 (WS).



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FINCHES, SPARROWS — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were more numerous than usual with 26 in the e. part of the Region and 11 more along the coast and on the offshore islands May 15 - June 17. Indigo Buntings were also quite numerous with 20 seen in the e. part of the Region and five more along the coast and on the offshore islands May 9-June 11. A ♀ Dickcissel, quite rare in spring, was on Santa Barbara I., May 9 (DG, LJ). The only Red Crossbills reported were 24 in Santa Barbara Apr 12 (*fide* GH) and one at Cuyamaca S.P., San Diego Co., Apr. 28 (DS).

CONTRIBUTORS — Jon Atwood, Keith A. Axelson, Fred Baker, Stephen & Karen Bailey (S & KB), Hank & Priscilla Brodtkin (H & PB), John Borneman (JB), Stephen M. Brown, John Buttler (JBu), Eugene A. Cardiff, Steven Cardiff, Chris Carpenter, Ted Cordery, Richard Dean, Mark Dimmitt, Jon Dunn, Claud G

Edwards Jr., Dick Erickson, Kimball Garrett, Gilbert S Grant, Daniel Guthrie, Tom Heindel, Don & Bonny Hoehchlin (D&BH), Craig Hohenberger, Gerrie Human, Erick Johnson, Lee Jones, Abigail King, Harry Krueger, Bob Kubik, Paul Lehman, John Luther, Bob & Ruth Loveless (B & RL), Ian MacGregor, Paul Mack, Joan Mills (JMi), Joe Morlan (JMo), Jess & Donna Morton (J&DM), Mike Oberbauer, Steve Oberbauer, Michael Perrone, Robert L. Pitman, Mike & Nancy Prather (M & NP), Van Remsen, L.V. Ritter, Don Roberson, Andy Sanders, Richard Stallcup, Don Sterba, Nick Story, G Shumway Suffel, Wally Sumner, Fern R. Tainter, Jan Tarble, Don V. Tiller, Philip Unitt, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (P.R.B.O.), San Diego Natural History Museum (S.D.N.H.M.) — *specimen—p. photograph on file — **GUY MCCASKIE, San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.**

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