

The Spring Migration

March 1–May 31, 1978

NORTHEASTERN MARITIME REGION

/Peter D. Vickery

The impact of weather on the birds we see was again clearly demonstrated this spring. Following a warm front which moved through New England March 8-9 were the strikingly early appearance of a Swainson's Hawk, a Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpiper. More impressive was a second warm front March 18-19. Associated with this system was a remarkable collection of very early migrants, which included in Massachusetts a Forster's Tern and Manx Shearwater, single Purple Martins, a Short-billed Dowitcher, and a dead Black Rail. In Connecticut, a Yellow Rail was again impressively early.



April again demonstrated the same phenomenon. A warm front pushing north April 13-17 produced Region-wide Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Nova Scotia's first House Finches, two Long-billed Dowitchers in Newburyport, and a *Selasphorus* hummingbird in Massachusetts. The appearance of an Ivory Gull in Nova Scotia, may possibly have been connected to this system. A second southerly flow April 20-24 was followed by more grosbeaks, buntings, Summer Tanagers, a Long-billed Dowitcher and Royal Tern in Maine, a Common Nighthawk in Nova Scotia, a Black Vulture in Massachusetts, and the first Greater Shearwaters and jaegers. Note also, that many regular migrants experienced considerable activity in conjunction with these systems. It is no surprise to learn that Snow Geese head north or that "southern" herons find their way to the Maritimes coincidentally to these warm fronts. The influence such weather systems have on pelagic species is as yet not well documented, but may be as significant.

During late March and early April the migration seemed delayed one to two weeks. The April 20-24

warm front apparently helped order things as May migrants were more or less on schedule.

Another notable aspect of the migration this spring was its inland path. Throughout May, coastal observers reported very few birds — Manomet experienced one of its poorest spring seasons on record — while inland Connecticut, central and western Massachusetts and inland Maine noted a steady and varied movement. The entire Region experienced an impressively heavy flight May 20-21.

Semi-hardy birds wintering in the southeast were predictably few. Winter Wrens, both kinglets, phoebes and bluebirds were all low and will be detailed in the breeding season report.

Coverage for the Region was generally good. However, centralized reports from New Hampshire and New Brunswick were, unfortunately, unavailable and only partial information was received from Connecticut and Massachusetts. Although adequate, an incomplete body of information inevitably produces a less-than-complete picture of the season's events. Important records may well have been omitted.

GREBES — For the second consecutive year, large concentrations of Red-necked Grebes were found in s. New England; 240± were counted off Manomet Mar. 28 (*vide* RPE) while 140± were noted off Dennis, Mass., Apr. 4 (BN).

TUBENOSES — A fully ad. **Black-browed Albatross** was closely observed off Lumbo Ledge, 3 mi e.s.e. of Bailey I., Me., May 28. Noted features, from as close as 75 ft, included the bird's bright yellow bill, dark leading edge to the undersurface of the wings, dark lower wing tips, and enormous size (WTU *et al.*). Coincidental to the appearance of the albatross was a huge pollock run, which drove masses of some small food organism, possibly a crustacean, to the surface. During this brief period dozens of Sooty Shearwaters and the albatross gathered in the area. This produced a first Maine record, although the species has yet to be photographically documented in the Region or North America.

Single Greater Shearwaters 115 m s.e. of Halifax, N.S., Apr. 25 (ELM) and off Pt. Judith, R.I., Apr. 27 (*vide* CW) were impressively early and may possibly have been related to other late April arrivals. Extraordinary was the observation of two Sooty Shearwaters 120 m. s.s.e. of Halifax Mar. 30 — presumably wintering birds (JGM). Manx Shearwaters continued to draw attention in s. New England. A very early Manx was seen from Pt. Judith Mar. 19. At the same locality three individuals were observed on each of three different dates through April and May. On May 19, seven Manx were seen from Beavertail, R.I. (v.o., *vide* CW). Surely, Manx Shearwaters must be breeding somewhere in these waters, and clearly, some concerted effort should be made to locate them.

FRIGATEBIRDS, HERONS — A ♀ **Magnificent Frigatebird**, noted soaring off Monhegan I., Me., May 21 (PDV *et al.*) represented a third state occurrence and the first in this century. Southern herons straying N were fewer than usual. In Nova Scotia, a Little Blue Heron was seen in Maccorm, while a Cattle Egret was observed near Digby, both in late April (*vide* IAMcL). A Louisiana Heron was a rare occurrence along s. coastal New Brunswick, locality unstated (*vide* SIT).

WATERFOWL — Mute Swans are apparently pushing along the n. edge of their range; a single bird at Lanesboro in w. Massachusetts Apr. 23 was only a third county record (DMcN). Late Brant, numbering 350± individuals, at Newburyport May 19, was perhaps a surprising total for that date (PFC,PDV). This spring's Snow Goose concentration on Plum I., peaked at 1130 birds Apr. 16 (*vide* RPE); while on the same date 800+ were noted on Scarborough Marsh, Me. (PFC). A week earlier some 2-3000 Snow Geese were seen flying N up the Connecticut R. valley Apr. 10 (SK). Nova Scotia experienced its largest spring flight ever, a total of 400± individuals being recorded. A flock of 300± at St Esprit May 2, was a remarkable spring concentration (*vide* CRKA). The only Gadwalls reported n. of Plum I., were also from Nova Scotia. Up to five birds were seen throughout the spring at Amherst Pt. (*vide* CRKA).

S.A.

The discovery of rare waterfowl immediately raises the question of whether such birds are truly wild. This spring's rare *Anatid* was a Garganey in Marshfield, Mass., Apr. 1-18 (v.o., *vide* WRP). Despite the fact that this was a subadult drake with an incomplete supercilary, it was widely dismissed as an escapee. Massachusetts Audubon research indicates the species is kept in captivity in appreciable numbers (RAF), but it is not known how many aviculturists breed Garganeys. One questions the information vis-a-vis the 1976 Bombay Hook Garganey (AB 30: 819) that "no one is now breeding Garganey in the United States." Supporting the Marshfield bird's possible authenticity is the fact that the species is one of few Palearctic ducks to regularly migrate as far S as Africa and that it is a well known wanderer (Palmer III:461). The Marshfield bird was unbanded and secretive. It may possibly have been wild. There is a previous Massachusetts occurrence on Plum I. of a questionably wild drake May 1968. This spring's three Ruddy Shelducks in w. Massachusetts are, however, more easily dismissed. It does seem curious though, that some ducks which are presumed trans-Atlantic vagrants, such as Tufted Ducks, for which there are many Massachusetts records, have never been reported from any part of the Maritimes, New Hampshire or Maine.

Seemingly unique this spring was a ♂ Eur. Wigeon in Lusby, N.S., May 7 (RTB, *vide* CRKA). In the same Province, four pairs of Redheads at Amherst Pt., seemed likely to consolidate their provincial breeding

status, established only last year (CD, *vide* SIT). Off Isle au Haut, Me., a partial census of Harlequin Ducks totalled 89 birds Mar. 10 (PA *et al.*); this figure comparable to the 130+ Harlequins seen at the same locality March, '76 (AB 30:691). Two notably late Harlequins were observed off Rockport, Mass., May 20 (RCH, *vide* RRV).

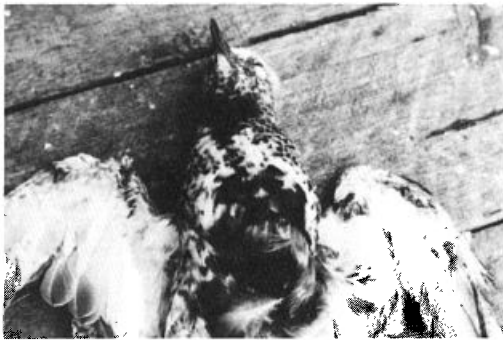
SPRING HAWK FLIGHT, NESTING — Turkey Vultures first appeared in n.w. Connecticut Mar 6 (AG), while later in the season 50± birds were reported from various localities in e. Massachusetts (*vide* RPE), and no fewer than 16 birds occurred in Maine (*vide* PDV). Goshawks continue strongly in n.w. Connecticut, where researchers have found no fewer than 19 nests (MR *et al.*). In the same area a single Cooper's Hawk nest was found and a Cooper's nest in Lancaster, Mass., was apparently only the second Massachusetts record in recent years (HM). Spring hawkwatchers noted an average Sharp-shinned flight: 42 over Talcott Mt., Conn., Apr. 24 being the highest day's count (*vide* NC). Interestingly, the same group counted Red-shouldered Hawks over Red-tailed Hawks by a 3:1 ratio. Perhaps migrant Red-taileds are slipping by in early to mid-March before watchers have manned their lookouts. There's no doubt that Red-shouldered Hawks are doing well in the s.w. part of the Region. At least 21 territorial pairs were observed in w. Massachusetts (DMcN) while 16 nests were found in n.w. Connecticut (MR). The highest day's total for migrant Broad-winged was 395 at Talcott Mt., Conn., Apr. 24 (*vide* NC). The spring Gyrfalcon flight at L'Anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld., was better than average; 15 birds were noted through April (BMacT *et al.*). Regional Peregrines numbered 15. Kestrels had an impressive flight at Plum I., with some 339 seen migrating N. Apr. 12 (*vide* RPE).

RARE HAWKS — A single Turkey Vulture was observed over the Tantramar Marshes, N.B., May 16 (*vide* IAMcL) while solitary **Black Vultures** were noted over Ell Pond, R.I., Apr. 9 (JG, *vide* CW) and at S Harwich, Mass., Apr. 24 (VL, *vide* BN). A Swainson's Hawk, described as an immature, was carefully observed at Forest Pk., Springfield, Mass., Mar 8-19 (v.o., *vide* SK). A single Gyrfalcon was seen at Newburyport Mar. 12 (RCH *et mult al.*, *vide* RRV).

CRANES THROUGH COOTS — Two Sandhill Cranes were noted over S. Wellfleet, Mass., May 1 (*vide* RPE). Remarkably early was the observation, inevitably brief but convincing to this editor, of a Yellow Rail at Greenwich Pt., Conn., Mar. 21 (DB, *vide* TB). Quite possibly connected to such an early occurrence was the discovery of a dead ♂ Black Rail on Nantucket Mar. 31 (BB, *vide* EFA *M.M.A.) Seven Com. Gallinules on Douglas Pond, Me., in late May was perhaps a high count for the state. Equally interesting was the discovery of two Am. Coot nests there (GB, LB).

SHOREBIRDS — Impressive was the flight of European shorebirds observed around L'Anse-aux-Meadows in n. Newfoundland. During the period April 26-28 at least 13 **Greater Golden Plovers** (*Pluvialis apricaria*) were identified there, at least one collected (BMacT *et al.*); predictably, the period preceding this

flight was marked by strong NE winds. Following a subsequent NE storm, MacTavish observed a single Greater Golden Plover and a breeding plumaged **Black-tailed Godwit** May 4. Finally, a last plover, *apricaria*, was seen May 14 (BMacT). The godwit provided a third Newfoundland record and the 15 plovers were the first in years for the island. In addition to the above Newfoundland sightings, and quite likely weather-related, was the carefully studied **Eurasian Curlew** on Cherry Hill Beach, N.S., May 6 (SC *et al.*). A first Canadian sight record, noted features included the bird's enormous size, conspicuously long, decurved bill, unstriped head and white rump. The Menemsha Pond, Mass., Eurasian Curlew, almost certainly a different individual, was last seen Mar. 18 (*vide* RRV). Less spectacular but rare in spring in Nova Scotia was a Whimbrel, also at Cherry Hill Beach May 6 (ELM *et al.*), and a Pectoral Sandpiper at Amherst Pt., May 20-23 (RTB, *vide* ELM).



Greater Golden Plover, April 26, 1978, L'anse-aux-Meadows, Nfld. Photo/ Bruce Mactavish.

The period March 12-29 saw an unprecedentedly early movement of shorebirds along coastal Massachusetts. A Lesser Yellowlegs and a Pectoral Sandpiper were about a month ahead of schedule at Newburyport Mar. 12 (WRP *et al.*). Another Lesser Yellowlegs was in Truro Mar. 29 (CAG, BN) and a Short-billed Dowitcher was strikingly early at Plum I., Mar. 23 (RSH *et al.*). All of the above sightings, except the Truro yellowlegs, constitute early arrival dates.

Other unusual shorebird sightings included an inland Hudsonian Godwit at Bolton Flats, Mass., May 25-26 (HM *et al.*) and 250± Short-billed Dowitchers there May 18 (HM). Also unusual in inland Massachusetts were 55± Short-billed Dowitchers at Northampton May 18 (*vide* SK). Two very early Long-billeds were carefully identified in Newburyport Apr. 15 (WRP *et al.*), for a third spring state record. A single Long-billed Dowitcher in Southwest Harbor, Me., Apr. 24 was only a second spring occurrence for the state (WCR *et al.*). White-rumped Sandpipers invaded the New England coast in unprecedented numbers; 125 were counted at Monomoy May 11 (CAG, BN), 250± were estimated at Newburyport May 14, and 50± were seen at Biddeford Pool, Me., May 27 (PFC). Apparently unique this spring were a single Curlew Sandpiper at Newburyport May 18-20 (*vide* RRV) and a Stilt Sand-

piper at Plum I., May 27 (*vide* RRV). A **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** on Sable I., N.S., May 20 was only a second spring occurrence for the Region, the previous record also coming from that remarkable island (IAMcL). Newburyport experienced a good Ruff flight; six individuals were seen, including one breeding plumaged Ruff (*v.o.*, *vide* RRV). Regional Wilson's Phalaropes were minimally estimated at 15 birds. Four N. Phalaropes at Congamond Pond, Mass., were unusual for that inland locality (SK).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — The first Pomarine Jaegers of the season were two birds seen about 180 m s.e. of Halifax Apr. 24 (ELM, *vide* RGG). In May three Pomarine Jaegers were seen off Sable I. (IAMcL). Regional Parasitic Jaegers were estimated at 30 individuals; 17 of which were seen off Sable I. in late May (IAMcL). The season's only Long-tailed Jaeger was closely observed off Nantucket May 10 (CF, *vide* EFA).

Lesser Black-backed Gulls were impressive this spring, at least five individuals were identified, one each at Greenwich, Conn., Nantucket, Mass., and Digby, N.S. Perhaps more surprising were singles at Hadley Cove and Gill, both in w. Massachusetts (*vide* SK). In New England, Black-headed Gulls numbered at least 15, while 19 birds were reported from five Nova Scotia areas (*v.o.*, *vide* RGG). A Laughing Gull on Sable I., May 30 was a displaced individual (IAMcL *et al.*). At least eight Little Gulls in e. Massachusetts was perhaps a better-than-average spring total (*vide* RRV). The only Ivory Gull s. of Newfoundland was at Digby, N.S., Apr. 13-15 (WL, *vide* ELM). A Sabine's Gull, photographed on Sable I., May 26 was only a second confirmed Nova Scotia occurrence (IAMcL *et al.*). New England's only Sabine's Gull was an adult observed from Sandy Neck, Mass., May 15 (RP, *vide* BN). A Forster's Tern in Falmouth, Mass., Mar. 19 (DC *et al.*) was strikingly early and was likely connected to e. Massachusetts early shorebird arrivals. Almost as surprising was a second Forster's Tern, identifiably different, at Chatham, Mass., Mar. 30 (*vide* BN). A total of 12 Com. Terns at Congamond Pond, Southwick, Mass., May 6-17 was unusual inland, but a critically identified Arctic Tern, at the same locality, was a very rare inland occurrence (SK *et al.*). A **Royal Tern**, seen flying over Manset, Mt. Desert I., Me., Apr. 24 was remarkable both for its date and locality (WCR *et al.*). It was perhaps a first spring record for Maine.

OWLS THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — After a notably poor winter, Snowy Owls remained scarce this spring. No more than eight individuals were reported. Certainly one of the most unexpected discoveries this spring was a **Burrowing Owl** on Starr I., N.H., May 14 (DJA *et al.*). Closely observed and photographed, it furnished a second state record. Uncaptured, its racial determination remains unknown. A road-killed Boreal Owl was picked up near Sherman Station, Me., in late March (BBu, *L.M.). The impressive Saw-whet Owl migration in n.w. Connecticut (see Winter Season report) continued through mid-March with 11 Saw-whets heard Mar. 8, and 15 on Mar. 10 (MR). Perhaps not surprisingly, three nesting pairs were confirmed in the Sharon, Conn., area (MR) and in the same state a

fourth pair was suspected of nesting near Storrs, (RJC) These four records fall closely on the heels of Connecticut's "first" modern breeding record, established only last year. A Com. Nighthawk in Lawrencetown, N.S., seen and heard Apr. 22 (EC, *vide* IAMcL), was exceptionally early and undoubtedly linked to the impressive grosbeak/bunting flight. In Massachusetts, a fully gorgeted *Selasphorus* hummingbird was photographed in Newton, Apr. 15-17 (AMcG, *vide* RRV). The bird was thought to be either Rufous or Allen's, but as yet the identity has not been confirmed; either would be a first state occurrence. Specific confirmation, if possible, will be detailed later.

WOODPECKERS THROUGH MARTINS — In w. Massachusetts a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers nested successfully in Westfield for a second state breeding record, the first established last year (SK). Nesting Red-bellied Woodpeckers in Natick, Mass., were apparently displaced by Starlings (*vide* RRV). Red-headed Woodpeckers nested in Cumberland, R.I., for the first state breeding record in recent years (*vide* CW). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were considered "common" by censusing teams in soft-wood plots near Princeton, Me.; at least four pairs were found (NF). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in Dennis, Cape Cod, Mar. 13 was a notable rarity for that area (*vide* BN). The season's lone Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen in Rochester, Mass., May 3 (*vide* RRV). Acadian Flycatchers seem to have firmly established themselves in s. New England. Singing males were on territory throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island, while in Massachusetts a male was heard in Savoy (*vide* SK) and up to six Acadians were banded at Manomet (*vide* PFC). In Maine, a single Acadian was banded on Appledore I., May 26 and a second individual never recovered from a collision with a truck for a first, possibly a second, state specimen (DJA, EWP, *U.N.H.). A Horned Lark nest and three young, discovered at the Windham, Conn., airport, was only the second local breeding record for n e Connecticut (RJC). In Massachusetts, notably early single Purple Martins were found in Chatham Mar. 22 and Centreville Mar. 26 (*vide* RRV).

CORVIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — One or two Com. Ravens remained in the Savoy - Florida area of w. Massachusetts but they, apparently, have not yet nested (DMcN). In Maine, a Fish Crow was seen and heard in the Portland area in late April; this or another was tape recorded in the same locality May 18, and constitutes a first confirmed state record, there being only one previous reliable sighting (PFC, PDV). A pair of Fish Crows was found nesting at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Mass., — a first nesting at that locality (*vide* WRP). Winter Wrens have apparently suffered from the severe winters in the southeast. They were considered scarce all across the Region. The northernmost Carolina Wren was a bird in song at Damariscotta, Me., May 25 (WSE). Both kinglets were notable by their absence, or diminished numbers. Loggerhead Shrikes were predictably scarce, but four on Cape Cod Apr 1 - May 3 were better than average (*vide* BN). Elsewhere no more than four were reported; one in Canard, N.S., Apr. 15 was particularly unusual (AL).

VIREOS, WARBLERS — Southern vireos and warblers straying N were surprisingly scarce Despite 980

heavy coverage May 20-21, with all significant areas covered, the only vireo n. of its usual range was a White-eyed on Monhegan I., Me., May 21 (PDV *et al*) Single Prothonotary Warblers were seen in Jamestown, R.I., Apr. 29 (*vide* CW) and Amherst, Mass., May 13-17 (SK). A partially decayed Worm-eating Warbler, found on Sable I., June 7 (IAMcL) was probably an early spring overshoot and represented only a third confirmed provincial record. Two Orange-crowned Warblers on Seal I., N.S., May 21 were notable provincial occurrences (EC *et al.*, *vide* PRD) But unquestionably the warbler rarity of the season was a ♂ Townsend's Warbler, photographed at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Mass., May 4 (v.o., *vide* RRV) for a first confirmed state record and only a second Regional occurrence, the first on Sable I., June '73 Cerulean Warblers n. of Connecticut were few, only three were reported and apparently none established a territory. This was perhaps surprising as at least three males and a ♀ Cerulean were on territory just 25 m s of Massachusetts, near Windham, Conn. (RJC) and three males were singing in Rhode Island (*vide* CW) Single Yellow-throated Warblers were found in Rhode Island and at Manomet. At least six Kentucky Warblers occurred in New England: four in Rhode Island, one in Massachusetts, and a male was banded in Waldoboro, Me., May 26 (JC, *vide* BBC). Readers should note that last fall's MacGillivray's Warbler in Lexington, Mass. (AB 32:179) was a first state and Regional occurrence; critical examination of a previous Massachusetts specimen reputed to be MacGillivray's proved to be another *Oporornis* warbler

ICTERIDS — Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported from e. Massachusetts in April (*vide* RPE) while Rusty Blackbirds were again found nesting in the Florida area of w. Massachusetts for the second consecutive year (DMcN). In recent years Brewer's Blackbirds have been more or less routine fall vagrants, a few apparently wintering in s. New England This spring, a single Brewer's Blackbird on Nantucket, Apr. 3 (EFA) might well have been a wintering bird, but two on Seal I., N.S., May 14-24 (SC *et al*) were quite obviously spring migrants.

TANAGERS, FRINGILLIDS —

S.A.

During the period Apr. 13-26, the Region experienced an unprecedented flight of Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings. Blue Grosbeaks numbered at least 22 individuals, almost all coastal: Rhode Island (1), Massachusetts (11), Maine (7), Nova Scotia (3), Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Brunswick unreported) Perhaps as many as 100 Indigo Buntings, at least 20 on Cape Cod, were reported during this period. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were less numerous, but were widely represented and at least five Summer Tanagers occurred in New England and a single bird was found dead in Shelburne County, N.S. (*vide* PRD). Predictably, this incursion, which occurred in two pulses, immediately followed two southerly air flows, the first Apr. 13 and the second Apr. 20.

A ♂ **Painted Bunting** near Ellsworth Falls, Me., May 14 (JHB) was a fourth state occurrence, though the species has yet to be photographically documented. Northward-expanding House Finches were found for the first time in Nova Scotia. Coincidental to the Blue Grosbeak-Indigo Bunting flight, at least five House Finches, one photographically documented, were observed in Yarmouth, Barrington Passage and Pubnico, Apr. 13-24 (v.o., *vide* IAMcL, ELM). Notably late were four Pine Grosbeaks in S. Salem, Conn., Apr. 14 (*vide* TB). Associated with the impressive redpoll flight were perhaps as many as 16 Hoary Redpolls in New England in March. Common Redpolls lingered to mid-April across the n. part of the Region but remarkably late were a single individual in Sharon, Conn., May 13 (AG) and two in Stoneham, Mass., May 18 (*vide* RPE). Following the heavy winter flight in s. New England, Pine Siskins were found breeding in several e. Massachusetts localities (WRP) and were seen into May in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Two rare spring occurrences included a Lark Bunting at Sandy Neck, Mass., May 9 (RP, *vide* BN) and in the same state a Lark Sparrow in Needham Apr. 16 (*vide* RPE), the latter quite possibly connected to the previously mentioned April influx.

CORRIGENDUM — The Great Skua reported off Cox's Ledge Nov. 2, 1977, was not observed closely enough to be specifically identified and should be recorded as *skua* sp.

ADDENDUM — Not previously noted was the discovery of two **Western Grebes** off Reid S.P., Dec. 18, 1977 – Feb. 18, 1978 for a first state record (DD *et mult* al.).

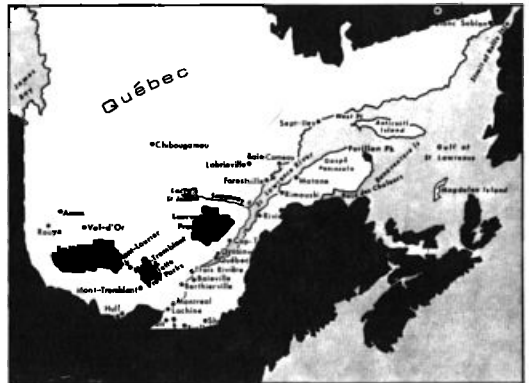
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QUÉBEC REGION

/Norman David and Michel Gosselin

One can hardly speak of spring this year. The late winter pattern of cold and clear weather extended well into May. Precipitation was low and annual flooding of the main water courses occurred early and was of short duration. As a result migration waves never really materialized. The lowest frequency of occurrence figures since 1971 provided by the *Club des Ornithologues du Québec* (hereafter, C.O.Q.) attested that the following typical migrants were very late: Horned Lark, Common Crow and Starling in March; Canada Goose, Black Duck, Killdeer, American Robin, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle and Song Sparrow in April.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — The only Red-throated Loon inland was at Aylmer May 21 (MuB). A Cattle Egret was noticed at L. Mégantic May 11 (*vide* YA), and single Snowy Egrets at St-Paul-du-Nord (a first for the North Shore) May 12 (JMB *et al.*), and Rigaud May 25 (GH). These two egret species are increasingly regular in summer; Cattle Egrets appeared in the Province in 1960, and Snowy Egrets in 1965. The Great Egret, however, has been a rare summer visitor for 100 years with little, if any, noticeable increase in recent years; one at Henryville Apr. 14-23 (*vide* BB) was the earliest ever. Snow Geese showed a marked W "overflow" with 1300± at Yamaska Apr. 26 (MBu), 2000± at Henryville Apr. 15 (PBa), and ten at Aylmer Apr. 16 (MG). Again a Ross'



Goose was in the Québec City area, this time at Cap-Rouge Apr. 16 (JHa,ASH). Four Eur. Wigeons were reported from various parts of the Province, and a locally-rare Canvasback was at Gaspé May 6 (DC). A possible ♂ Common x Barrow's Goldeneye was described from I. des Soeurs Spr. 13 (PBa).

RAPTORS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — No fewer than 14 Turkey Vultures were reported in April and May ranging from Eardley (MoB) to Grand-Mère (PL) and LaDurantaye (JLD). Remnant Willow Ptarmigans from the small winter flight were at Chibougamau Mar. 4 (DB). A Sandhill Crane stopped at Lennoxville Apr. 20 (PBo *et al.*); it was one of the few occurrences in s. Québec. Also extremely rare in spring was an Am.

Golden Plover in the Sorel Is., May 25 (RC *et al.*). A pair of Upland Sandpipers returned to Ste-Flavie, Rimouski Co., May 25 (JL); two birds were also present at LaPocatière May 28 (PB). Two hundred Purple Sandpipers were observed Apr. 25 on I. Rouge, at the mouth of the Saguenay R. (JLD). Twenty White-rumped Sandpipers at Baieville May 21 was a high number for the spring migration (BB,MM). At St-Sébastien a Stilt Sandpiper appeared Apr. 29 (FB,MG), obviously a record early arrival for a species almost never recorded in spring. A Willet at Yamaska May 18 (MBu) was the only one reported this season, and a bright rufous ♂ Ruff was present at Cacouna May 15-21 (JLD,MG,m.ob.).

GULLS THROUGH OWLS— Rarer gulls included a Laughing Gull Apr. 22 (DR) at Québec City, and a Little Gull May 19 (RS). An estimated 4000 Black-legged Kittiwakes were present at Corrossol I., Mar. 16 (PD); this represented the earliest record ever published for the species! A single kittiwake was also at Ste-Catherine, Orford Co., Apr. 15 (YA). Beauharnois saw an Arctic Tern May 14 (BB,MM), and Québec City a Caspian Tern May 25 (AP). A surprising find, in view of date and locality, was of a Dovekie discovered independently from the Rivière-du-Loup ferry May 24 (CD) & 31 (JL). Synchronized with an outbreak of tent caterpillars, the Yellow-billed Cuckoo appeared along with its more numerous Black-billed relative; it was seen on Mt-Bruno May 23 (RJ) and Mt-Royal May 24-29 (JDJ,JHo). The only Great Gray Owl of the winter turned up at Ste-Anne-des-Plaines Mar. 12 (JM); Boreal Owls appeared in the Gatineau P.P., Mar. 5-6 (m.ob., *fide* IJ,PJ), and L. St-Charles Mar. 18 (JG).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH WARBLERS— A wintering Red-bellied Woodpecker (mentioned in our previous report) left Alcove sometime in March (*fide* IJ,PJ). A small colony of Red-headed Woodpeckers was relocated near Breckenridge May 28 (MoB). The only Willow Flycatcher of the season was at Sabrevois May 27 (BB,MM). A Com. Raven positively identified near St-Lambert Mar. 21 (*fide* BB) was one of the very few ever reported near Montreal, and a White-breasted Nuthatch at Arvida May 16 (NB) was equally exceptional. The following reports from Charlevoix County may indicate that the Wood Thrush breeds sparingly in that area: single birds at Baie-St-Paul and St-Urbain May 25, and another at St-Joseph-de-la-Rive May 30 (HM). Frozen E. Bluebird eggs near Hudson Apr. 25 (JW) showed how cold "spring" was. Single Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were at Old Chelsea May 9 (MBo), Rigaud May 13 (GH), Mt-Royal May 13 (MA) & 21 (PC), and Léry May 14 (*fide* BB); a pair was seen building a nest on Mt. Bruno May 24 (BB,MM), providing a second regional breeding record. The pattern of occurrence of this gnatcatcher is similar to that of the Cerulean Warbler and it is almost certainly a rare but regular breeder on the Monteregian Hills (see *AB* 30: 816). A Golden-winged Warbler reappeared at Philipsburg May 20 (*fide* MM), and a survey of the colony near L. Philippe, Gatineau P.P., produced six males and one female May 28 (MoB). The first regional Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler was a "Lawrence's"-type found on Mt-Royal May 26 (BB,FH).

S.A.

Paul Aird (Faculty of Forestry and Landscape Architecture, University of Toronto) discovered a singing ♂ Kirtland's Warbler in s.w. Québec May 27. The bird was apparently unmated and it was discovered that it had been banded as a nestling in 1974 (in Michigan, of course). With the hope of finding a breeding population in Canada, Aird initiated last year a survey of jack pine stands in Ontario and Québec. In 1977, an unmated male had also been found on the grounds of the Canadian Armed Forces Base at Petawawa, Ont. (see *Nature Canada* 7:26).



Kirtland's Warbler, May 29, 1978, western Québec. Photo/ J.D. Lafontaine.

A ♂ **Prairie Warbler**, the sixth since 1966, was discovered on Mt-Royal May 20 (LS) and found again the next day (MA).

ICTERIDS AND FRINGILLIDS— Two N. Orioles were spotted at Rimouski May 24 (JRP), close to an old nest and the northernmost ever reported in the Province! Two Com. Grackles on Anticosti I., Mar. 2 (PR) were probably overwintering birds. Four pairs of

Cardinals were being monitored at Hudson in May (*vide* JW) while Aylmer had one pair plus a single bird (MoB).

S.A.

Another chapter of the story of the expansion of House Finches in the Northeast was written when Joan Baugh, keenness prevailing over inexperience, identified a pair at her feeder in St-Lambert Apr. 18. These birds were seen intermittently by many observers until the end of the season. Diagnostic photographs were secured (ph. on file, Nat. Mus. of Canada - BB), providing documentary evidence for this third regional report. Breeding was suspected, as the male fed the female and was observed in courtship display.

It seemed that the 1977-78 winter population of Com. Redpolls was at its maximum in March in the St-Lawrence Valley. Figures provided by the C.O.Q. showed that the species was seen on 50% of the outings, an unprecedented high for 1971-1977 (average: 20.9%). As can be expected, Hoary Redpolls were singled out in all areas. A possible colony of Grasshopper Sparrows was investigated near Aylmer

where several singing birds were found May 28 (IJ) Much to his surprise JL found a Clay-colored Sparrow in his Rimouski garden May 30. It was a second occurrence in the Gaspé Pen., since there is a previous July 1963 report for Métis. Two singing birds were also found near St-Colomban May 31 (ND), in the same pine plantation where birds had been seen in May 1972 and 1974.

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HUDSON-DELAWARE REGION

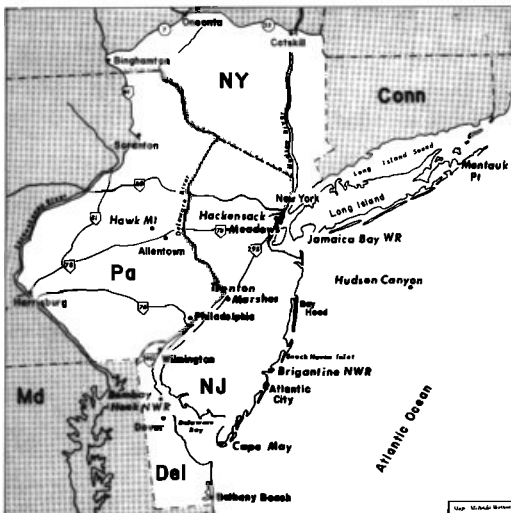
/Robert O. Paxton, P. A. Buckley, and David A. Cutler

It was a cool, wet spring. Snow did not clear the ground in the interior until late March, and upland lakes thawed only at the end of March. April was dry and cool, and May was both cool and wet. Temperatures ran about 5°F below normal in Philadelphia for the first half of May, and a near-record 8.05 inches of rain fell in New York City.

Most observers termed the season a late one, and vegetation was delayed two to three weeks. There were a number of early arrivals, nonetheless, and even though the bulk of some species (herons, flycatchers, swallows) arrived late, many warblers moved on time or even early (e.g., Blackpoll Warbler, RRY,AM). After all, migrants, especially those arriving from the tropics, respond more to physical conditioning and to weather at the departure point than to weather at the arrival point. It was the departure of wintering species that seemed most generally delayed.

Some of the spring waves took the form of groundings, such as the one coincident with the rainy warm front of April 20 (*cf.* nighthawk, Indigo Bunting) and the drizzle of May 13, when the Trenton Naturalists' Club found 31 species of warblers (*vide* RB). Others were classic frontal passages: May 10-11, and the great front of May 18-21 that opened the stopper after six days of rain. Thursday, May 18, when "every tree had at least half a dozen warblers in it," was the busiest day PP could remember in Central Park, New York City, since May 10, 1952. DAC and HA ran up a championship 200 species in Delaware on May 19. Migration was still going strong in June (loons, cuckoos, flycatchers, Blackpoll Warblers), but no later than usual.

DIVERS, PELAGICS, CORMORANTS—Coastal observers found Red-throated Loons still below earlier norms. The best count was a low 105 from the Cape May ferry Apr. 15 (PB). While only four Red-necked Grebes were recorded from the coast, Mar. 11 - Apr. 23 (JMA, M.F.N.), there were a notable 17 from the interior, Mar. 4 - Apr. 10, including four from e. Pennsylvania lakes and reservoirs.



We have reports of only three trips offshore this season, but they document the continuing build-up of N Fulmars. A trip to the edge of the continental shelf, 95 mi s.e. of Montauk Pt., L.I., May 20, had 37; a trip to a scallop-fishing area 70 mi e. of Corson's Inlet, N.J., at 39°12'N, 73°06'W, May 27, had 40. The May 27 trip off New Jersey also ran into the greatest assemblage of S. Hemisphere Procellariiforms moving up into their "wintering" grounds ever encountered on any organized sea trip off New Jersey: 2500+ Sooty and 1250 Greater Shearwaters, and 1450+ Wilson's Storm-Petrels (RRo,PWS,AB,RK *et al.*). According to the scallop fishermen, the birds had arrived within the previous day or so. A single Manx Shearwater was reported in the same area both outbound and inbound, at 39°25'N, 73°28'W (D. Gill, RK).

Double-crested Cormorants seem to be increasing as spring migrants. The largest among a number of coastal counts was 3000 passing Sandy Hook, N.J., Apr. 8 (MH *et al.*). Notable inland counts reached 104 at Mt. Holly, N.J., May 19 (G. Koppel), and 110 at Floodgates, Gloucester Co., N.J., May 12 (J. T. McNeil).

HERONS, STORKS, WATERFOWL — After generally late arrivals, southern herons resumed their expansive momentum. Louisiana Herons pressed on up the Hudson, where one at Cruger's I., Apr. 13, was a first Dutchess County record (RWS).

Perhaps the most unexpected bird of the season was a bedraggled imm. **Wood Stork** in a field near Red Lion Circle, Burlington Co., N.J., Mar. 8 (KT). Neighbors said that it had been around "for a couple of weeks," but it could not be found again. The bird must have either arrived around mid-February or somehow survived the winter, unlike the one (or ones) around Cape May last fall (AB 32:183). Several records within less than six months are remarkable since previous New Jersey reports date back to 1922, 1923, and 1951, and since recent mid-Atlantic area vagrants have tended to occur in late spring or summer.

A peak of 3000 Whistling Swans for the Susquehanna R. area Mar. 28 at Drumore, Lancaster Co., Pa. (RMS) was good for recent years but below the maxima of twenty years ago. As usual, few strayed E of the Susquehanna flyway; eight at Assunpink W.M.A., Mercer Co., N.J., Mar. 29 (SB) was a record count there. Wild White-fronted Geese turn up ever more frequently in s.e. Pennsylvania. Seven were in three locations this spring: two at Washington Boro Mar. 24 (CJ), a first Susquehanna flats record; four at L. Struble, Chester Co., Mar. 24–Apr. 3 (ph. LLe,BH); and one at L. Ontelaunee Apr. 23 (WPK) and May 7 (MS). The 75 "Blue" Geese at Green Lane Res., Montgomery Co., Mar. 18 (GF) comprised the largest flock ever reported in s.e. Pennsylvania. A wary Barnacle Goose among Canadas at L. Struble Mar. 2 (A. Germanti, PLH) wore no bands, which suggests but does not prove a natural provenance.

Wood Ducks were using about 750 nest boxes in Great Swamp N.W.R., Morris Co., N.J. (*vide* IB). Other good counts included 24 in a flooded field at Manorville, L.I., May 20 (GSR). Ring-necked Ducks gathered in interior lakes even more numerously than last spring. A "mammoth" 250 on Big Swartswood L., Sussex Co., N.J., Apr. 15 (RK) comes close to the

state spring record of 300 set in 1974. Two ♂ Tufted Ducks accompanied by females were on the Hudson R., at Edgewater, N.J., through the season (NB). A ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye, furnishing the third Pennsylvania record since 1900, was at Bricksesville, Lancaster Co., Mar. 27 (RC). The persistent ♂ Barrow's Goldeneye at Shark R. Inlet, N.J., remained abnormally late until at least Mar. 26. Among Harlequin Ducks at four coastal sites, the latest by far was one at Shinnecock Inlet, L.I., to at least May 6 (GSR).

VULTURES, HAWKS, EAGLES — Turkey Vultures are increasing steadily at their n. regional limits in Dutchess County, N.Y. (R.T.W.B.C.) and in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR). Although good numbers pass the Sandy Hook, N.J., hawk watch (27 this spring, 54 last), they remain uncommon just across New York harbor on the s. shore of Long Island. Thus one at Jamaica Bay May 21 (PP) was noteworthy. A count of 24 Black Vultures near Harbor Dam, Lancaster Co., Pa., Apr. 24 (CJ) reflects this species' continued increase in the s. of this Region, as does a nest with two eggs Apr. 6 near Avondale, Chester Co., Pa. (M.Blust).

The Sandy Hook hawk watch, in its second spring, reinforced its findings that the coastal route links Cape May and New England on a regular basis, and not merely as spill-over from the ridges (WSC). Among 979 hawks trapped (50% more than last year), seven were retraps, all having been banded at coastal stations. Of the total 4814 observed (4687 last year), again 80% were Am. Kestrels. The main change was a drop in Cooper's Hawks from 137 to 58 (33 banded).

The Golden Eagle pair remained in Dutchess County after weeks of courtship display, but was not seen after Apr. 30 (R.T.W.B.C.). Three immatures were noted elsewhere: two in the mountains (Delaware Water Gap, Mar. 4, C&KW; Raccoon Ridge, Warren Co., N.J., Mar. 9, P.Both), and one late one on the coast May 21, at Tuckerton, N.J. (*vide* RB). Nine Bald Eagles for the season (including one resident pair) was a pale shadow of the old days, but the fact that five were immatures was faintly encouraging. An adult Apr. 28 at Bronx Botanical Garden, N.Y.C. (*vide* N. Wagerik) was surprising. The half-dozen or so Peregrine Falcons were exclusively coastal, the largest count being three passing Sandy Hook during the season (WSC). One there Apr. 14 trailed an antenna (MH).

GROUSE TO SHOREBIRDS — Ruffed Grouse were reported more widely than usual, including two breeding records: young in Dutchess County May 30 (R.T.W.B.C.), and seven eggs near Princeton (SB,WW) a first proven Mercer County nesting Wild Turkeys continue to do well in n.e. Pennsylvania (WR) and n.w. New Jersey (FPW), although it is not known what role stocking plays in the increase. RSB found a hen with nine poults at Green Lane Res., Pa., in late May. An exhausted Purple Gallinule was picked up in a weedy lot in Queens County May 11 (L. Rosano) following a warm front, as is usually the case with these nearly annual spring vagrants.

Piping Plovers are so rare away from the outer beach in this Region that it is tempting to attribute the one at Spruce Run Res., Hunterdon Co., N.J., May 18 to some interior population; local coastal birds are

already nesting by late April. Two **Wilson's Plovers**, a female at Great Kills S.P., Staten I., May 20-21 (RC1, J Stoneck, ph. THD), and one at Shinnecock Inlet, sex unreported. May 28 (A.Keith), were the first in New York since 1968, although two appeared in s.e. Connecticut in May-June 1975 (AB 29:829). American Golden Plovers have been increasingly noted as spring migrants in this Region, but this was an exceptionally good season. There were upwards of 35 in ten locations, the biggest concentration being 20 at Port Mahon, Del., Apr 13 (CW) and four in breeding plumage in a flooded field near Pedricktown, Gloucester Co., N.J., May 3 (JB).

Such rain-flooded inland fields provided the liveliest shorebirding of the season. A remarkable 17 species were recorded at Pedricktown, in the lower Delaware R Valley. On the coast, by contrast, the same rainy conditions flooded out the best pools and shorebirds were scattered. It was prairie waders that put in the best show in the inland fields. While Pectoral Sandpipers were low even in good habitat on the coast (JAK,JDD), many inland pools had 60-100 during Apr. 9-15 (JKM,RW,BM). A record 250 were in a flooded cornfield near Carlisle, Pa., Apr. 3-8 (CJ). White-rumped Sandpipers reached the greatest numbers in living memory inland. There seemed to be some at every farm pond and flooded field; we can mention only the biggest concentration of 150 at Tinicum N.W.R., Philadelphia, May 20 (JCM). We have a report of a Baird's Sandpiper at Brigantine Apr. 27 (RRy). This species is extremely rare e. of the Mississippi in spring, and we are aware of no spring photograph or specimen from the East Coast (AB 28:781).

Four Curlew Sandpipers, all from coastal New Jersey around May 21 (M.Glaspey, V. Blauvelt *et al.*), were not exceptional, considering that as many used to be seen in a day on the now-buried Pennsylvania Ave. flats in Brooklyn. Other plains waders were scarce: a half-dozen Stilt Sandpipers, three single Marbled Godwits. A **Bar-tailed Godwit** reappeared at the Longport, N.J., sod banks Apr. 28 (JDD) - May 21 (m.ob.) for the seventh spring in eight years, doubtless the same bird. Five Ruffs were below 1976's 11, but a bit above most recent springs. Avocets and stilts were also scarce at their usual Delaware sites, probably because of high water levels.

It was a very good phalarope season inland, although only fair on the coast. While there were three Wilson's Phalaropes on Long Island (CW,WW) and two in n. interior New Jersey (J.Lindfors, D.Roche), no fewer than eight were found in e. Pennsylvania, all in early May (RW, G.Wertz, W.Yoder, A.Venke, J.Tripp). Of six N Phalaropes onshore, four were inland May 6-15: three in e. Pennsylvania (LLe,PLH,RW) and one in n. New Jersey (IB, T.Koebel, T.Vogel *et al.*). Offshore the best counts by far were on May 20 out to 95 mi s.e. of Montauk Pt.: 1100+ Red and 12 N. Phalaropes.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — The pelagic trips mentioned above found increasing numbers of jaegers as May wore on. Best by far was the May 27 trip off New Jersey which produced seven Pomarine, one Parasitic, and one Long-tailed Jaeger (ph. RRo), the second May clean sweep in a row off New Jersey. Long-tailed Jaegers have proven regular offshore in late May and early June only since the mid-1970s. One

large, uniformly reddish-brown skua off Montauk May 20 was identified as an ad. Great Skua (*C.S.skua*) (THD,RWS, ph. P. DeBenedictis). There were at least two skuas on the May 27 New Jersey trip, one of which "certainly appeared to be the South Polar form" (PWS). For recent reviews of the skua situation see AB 31: 1108, 1117, and AB 32:300-302.

White-winged Gulls occur ever farther inland as these species increase. Notable inland records were of a first Glaucous Gull for Green Lane Res., Pa., Mar 23 (RSB), and a first Iceland Gull for Perry County, Pa., belatedly reported, Dec. 18, 1977 (OKS). Five Lesser Black-backed Gulls in the N.Y.C. region were about par. Far more unusual were one at Delaware City Mar. 18 (PLH), one of the few thoroughly detailed state sight records (*vide* DAC), and one Apr. 3 at Penn Manor, Bucks Co., Pa., along with yet another Glaucous Gull (RW,AB). The only previous Pennsylvania record was in the same place in February, 1960. A most satisfying record was the ad. **Mew Gull** among 200 Ring-billed Gulls in a plowed field e. of Kenton, Del., May 13 (ph. CW), the first adult of this long-sought species documented anywhere in this Region. Three previously published reports in the Region, two in n. New Jersey and one on Long Island, refer to possible immatures.

An inland movement of Laughing Gulls brought thousands into fields up the Delaware R. (DAC) and unprecedented numbers such as 200 on a plowed farm at Hightstown, Mercer Co., May 14 (MD) into interior New Jersey. With the onset of good weather at the end of May they disappeared. Two Black-headed Gulls (EB,PWS) and four Little Gulls (GT,PWP,EB) were a low seasonal total, considering the flocks of up to 25 Little Gulls in Delaware in the mid-1970s (AB 29:835). South Amboy, N.J., with two of each, was the most reliable site in this Region.

Three Arctic Terns off Montauk May 20 (ph. THD) and one probable sitting on driftwood off New Jersey May 27 (JDD) confirm what has already been proven photographically about this species' late May migration offshore (AB 31:981), although most terns far at sea in our Region are Commons. Three very carefully studied onshore seem valid, and parallel other coastal sightings to the south: one, Jamaica Bay (RC1,W&NS), and two at Cape Henlopen May 27 († JL). JL also found two Roseate Terns there May 29, noting the diagnostic call along with other marks.

CUCKOOS TO FLYCATCHERS — Both species of cuckoo were reported after mid-May in the highest numbers in years (*e.g.*, 14 Yellow-billed Cuckoos on a Delaware Big Day, May 19, DAC). They were still migrating June 2 when one arrived on Great Gull I., L.I. (JDiC).

Great Horned Owls continue to do rather well in semi-urban areas. Breeding was confirmed for the first time on Staten I. (*vide* RZ). Seven Dutchess County nests had young, six of them found by P. Devers Around Stockton, Hunterdon Co., N.J., OH had eight pairs and four singles under observation; seven pairs had nests of which four successfully fledged young. Heck also found two Long-eared Owl nests there which fledged young May 15 & 19. The best owl record was of a Saw-whet Owl nest in a box at Revere, Bucks Co., Pa., with six eggs Mar. 28 and three young May 19 (ph

S Farbotnick). This is a first s.e. Pennsylvania nesting record, although it recalls other recent lowland nests on Long Island (1968) and Connecticut (1977: *AB* 31 975). Saw-whet Owls can also be found regularly in summer in the New Jersey Pine Barrens (*vide* PWS). No doubt this elusive species is overlooked, and other May records this spring (Culver's L., N.J., *vide* FT; Bear Swamp, near Vincentown, Burlington Co., N.J., KT) are suggestive.

While Chuck-will's-widows consolidated their new breeding range NE to coastal Long Island, two were calling May 24 near Vincentown, N.J. (KT), among a very few Philadelphia area records. A very early night-hawk, presumed Common, was at Marmora, Atlantic Co., N.J., Apr. 20 (JAK).

A W. Kingbird at Tuckerton May 28 (M&PT) provided the second coastal New Jersey record in two years. Although regular in fall, this species is rare in spring. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, probably an ad. female, was studied at point-blank range at Riis Park, Brooklyn, May 10 (PAB), a third or fourth spring record for the East Coast, as against at least 13 in fall (*Auk* 92: 165-6 (1975)); all East Coast photos or specimens so far are autumn). In s.e. Pennsylvania, the only thriving Willow Flycatcher population seems to be 6-8 pairs at Nockamixon S.P. (AM). They are increasing along the Susquehanna R., in n.e. Pennsylvania, where they outnumbered Leasts this spring (WR).

SWALLOWS TO SHRIKES — A number of early individual swallows included a Bank Swallow at Bargaintown, Atlantic Co., N.J., Mar. 22 (JDD) and Purple Martins at Sandy Hook Mar. 15-17 (MH *et al.*), but close observers felt that the bulk arrived late (JG). RRY and NB saw a remarkable 350-450 Cliff Swallows pass up the Hudson R., at the Alpine, N.J., overlook May 19. The only other report of over a dozen was 100 at L. Ontelaunee, Pa., Apr. 23 (WPK,MS), where they breed.

Common Ravens seem poised to fill in their upland range here; one was at Millbrook Gap, Warren Co., N.J., Apr. 22 (FPW). Far more exceptional was a lowland observation at Norristown, Pa., May 26 (RJM). Fish Crows have been expanding up the Hudson R., for some time. Now they are increasing in Delaware, where they feed around dumps and shopping centers. A group of 200 attacking a Barn Owl at Assunpink Apr. 8 (RB,BM) shows how many may be encountered now in n. interior New Jersey.

A ♂ **Mountain Bluebird** was near Schultsville, Dutchess Co., N.Y., Mar. 17-21 (F. VanAuken, m.ob.). This represents the third state record in rapid succession. Though previously unrecorded in New York, one wintered at Coxsackie in 1974-75 and another was photographed Nov. 15, 1977, on coastal Long Island. The last N. Shrikes after the winter's good flight were one at Meadowbrook, L.I., Mar. 11 (GSR) and an immature near High Bridge, in n.w. New Jersey Mar. 4 (*vide* VA).

WARBLERS TO TANAGERS — The best warbler days followed warm fronts, as usual. One bander handled 130 Black-and-white Warblers at Island Beach, N.J., May 10-11, and 51 Magnolia Warblers May 20 (MD). Among an unprecedented six Worm-eating Warblers reported from the New Jersey coastal plain, where it is a much rarer migrant than inland, one was

very early at Brigantine Apr. 14 (AS). Tennessee Warblers were again abundant, especially inland (*e.g.*, 50 on May 19 at Mt. Penn near Reading, MS) The season's prize warbler was an ad. ♂ **Townsend's Warbler** banded on Great Gull I., L.I., May 7 (J Biderman, R.Harrison, ph. JDIC), the Region's second in less than a year. We know of seven previous s.e. New York records (five in spring), and two in New Jersey (both winter).

Several pairs of what is taken to be the nominate race of Yellow-throated Warblers were on territory in pine-oak habitat in s. coastal New Jersey on time, by mid-April (DK,PWS). One found dead at E. Hanover, Morris Co., N.J., May 1 was identified as *D.d.albilora* (F. Weinfeldt). Birds collected in the Delaware R valley in the 1950s were determined to be primarily *albilora* with some admixture of *dominica* (Urner *Observer*, Jan., 1958). In that region and in s.e. Pennsylvania Yellow-throated Warblers are increasing in the streamside sycamores typical of *albilora* habitat, there were eight reports from those areas this spring, but only one from the N.Y.C. region (May 6, Alley Pond P., *vide* JA). About 15 Mourning Warbler reports was unusually high for this late and elusive migrant. They included at least one from the coastal plain, where they are rarely recorded: a singing male at Bombay Hook May 31, for a third refuge record (GT).

A ♂ Yellow-headed Blackbird was at Elmer, Salem Co., N.J., Mar. 4 (PDUm), while the wintering male at a Centereach, L.I., feeder was last seen Apr. 25, after being joined briefly Mar. 17 by a female (*vide* FF). A ♀ Brewer's Blackbird was carefully studied at a Coatesville, Pa., feeder for two days after the Mar. 16 snow-storm (PLH). Summer Tanagers continued to expand in Delaware, where DAC counted 12 in seven stops on a 3-mi route at Redden, May 13-14, the highest count known there. Four coastal New Jersey areas had them, including potential breeding sites at Tuckahoe and Cold Spring (JAK,MF,KS, J.Peachey), although not the recent northernmost breeding area at Dividing Creek. Six in the N.Y.C. area Apr. 30 - May 26 was an average spring total.

FINCHES, BUNTINGS, SPARROWS — A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak was photographed at a feeder near Dover, Del., Mar. 4-12 (*vide* PDUm); two males, unusual so late and away from feeders, were reported Meadowbrook Causeway, L.I., May 5 (AJL), and Higbee Beach, Cape May May 10 (KS). The Blue Grosbeak population is "exploding" in Delaware, where DAC found them common along side roads, with 20 near Redden May 13-14. Four at Tincum N.W.R., mark a return to a Philadelphia breeding area (JCM). One arrived May 11 at the Region's northernmost breeding area in the Hackensack Marshes (AS), and four were around N.Y.C. parks and suburbs (P Bernarth, R.Dieterich).

In one of those far-flung phenomena which are not apparent until many local reports are collated, the rainy warm front of Apr. 20 deposited a mass of early Indigo Buntings up the coast: dozens on the New Jersey coast from Sandy Hook to Cumberland County, feeding along the parkway median at Fire I. Light, L.I., and one dead male there, and two males (one immature) at Great Gull I., (JDIC). The ad. male lingered until May 6, and the immature died May 8

S.A.

Some kind of milestone was passed in Dutchess County, N.Y., when the May 13 Big Day turned up more House Finches (110) than House Sparrows (100). House Finches have steadily expanded there since the first two on a Big Day in 1965. Big Day totals of House Sparrows, always above 500 before 1966, have declined steadily since. Dutchess County observers have been commenting for some time that House Finches dominate House Sparrows around feeders.

After major winter finch flights, not only lingerers but some nesting could be anticipated, as some truly irruptive species may nest wherever they wind up in the breeding season. The latest lingering Evening Grosbeaks were at Atlantic Highlands, N.J., May 28 (MF) and near Chatsworth May 29, in potential nesting habitat in the Pine Barrens (PAB). Fourteen very late Pine Grosbeaks, some in song, were at two n.c. New Jersey locations May 13 (*vide* RB). The latest Com. Redpolls were 25 at McKee City, Atlantic Co., N.J., May 4 (JAK). We received half a dozen April Hoary Redpoll reports. The identification problems we enumerated in AB 32:330 are compounded in spring because feather wear apparently makes many Com. Redpolls look pale. Bill shape would be an essential mark in spring. See also Dorothy Crumb's proposal in *Kingbird* 28:91-93 (1978) that white feather edgings on primaries, secondaries, and rectrices are a good Hoary Redpoll character. See also AB 32:404.

Pine Siskins so saturated the Region in May, and were so widely reported in June (FF, E.Hastings, H McWilliams, H.&B. Cutler), that widespread nesting was suspected. A nest with three eggs was indeed found at Wyckoff, Bergen Co., N.J. (JB), and begging young accompanied adults to the Siebenheller feeder on Staten I., May 31 (*vide* RZ). Pine Siskins have bred in the Region after past irruptions, most recently in 1972 at W. Orange, N.J. (AB 26:840) and on Staten I., in 1976 (AB 30:937). No breeding evidence, alas, was found for Red Crossbills, despite a single male Apr. 1 near Chatsworth, N.J. (J.Murphy), and late birds at Pomona, Atlantic Co., N.J., May 24 (JDD,JAK), both in the Pine Barrens where nesting has occurred. No such precedents exist for White-winged Crossbills, but they too lingered until Mar. 19 (three at Loveladies, Ocean Co., N.J., L.&P. Warwick).

The Lark Bunting that wintered at an E. Northport feeder had reached full breeding plumage when last seen May 3 (*vide* FF). A Lark Sparrow, uncommon in spring migration, was at Cape Henlopen May 29 (PDUm). A **Harris' Sparrow** appeared at a Setauket, L I., feeder Apr. 10 - May 7 (C.Wurster), the second regional record in as many seasons. Late Tree Sparrows remained at Hardwick, N.J., to May 2 (FPW) and Jamaica Bay to May 6 (m.ob.). A very late Lapland Longspur was in breeding plumage at Brigantine May 28 (JDD,JDo), and a Snow Bunting was near Scranton May 13 (S.Gross, *vide* WR).

EXOTICS — The Ruddy Shelduck at Highland P., N J., in April (CW) showed no wear, and the species has reached Greenland, but birds in open pens show

no feather wear and collectors often release Shelducks because of their aggressiveness toward other species. The Red-crested Pochards on Long Island this season are probably escapees, as this species has a southerly range in Europe and is often kept in captivity. A Eur Goldfinch at a thistle feeder with Am. Goldfinches at Mattituck, L.I., Apr. 19 (N.Wells) adds yet another to recent widely scattered Long Island observations. This site is fully 50 mi from the point where some were released in 1976 (AB 30:822).

CORRIGENDUM — The Wood Stork photograph published in AB 32:183 was taken Nov. 14, 1977, by Clay and Pat Sutton.

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MIDDLE ATLANTIC COAST REGION

/F.R. Scott

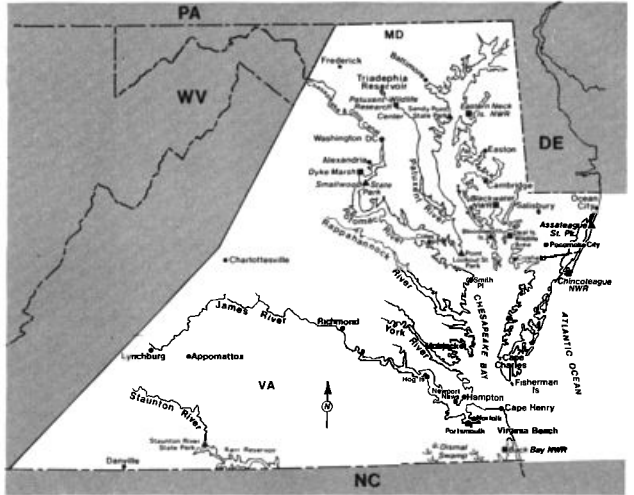
Cool and wet are the best adjectives to use in describing the weather for this season. The extraordinarily cold weather of February broke March 11 and 12, and March averaged only about 1.5°F. below normal with the succeeding two months also only slightly below the mean. Rainfall was generally heavy throughout the period, and water levels remained high. Several coastal storms occurred, the worst one in late April, but overall the avian effects were negligible, though we may assume that the concurrent high tides effectively wiped out most early nesting activity on the coastal marshes and beaches.

Bird migration was peculiar. With very few exceptions, there was little bird movement before March 12, and the whole early part of the migration was extremely late up to early May, though progressively less so as the season advanced. It appeared that much of the passerine migration was compressed into two weeks of May, and after the 18th there were few migrants left except for shorebirds. Heavy waves of landbird migrants were reported May 6-10 and again May 13-17.

As if the previously reported oil spill in Chesapeake Bay February 27 were not enough, avian cholera was detected in bay waterfowl March 23, and by early April about 22,000 dead birds, mostly Oldsquaw and scoters, had been picked up by state and Federal wildlife employees and incinerated or buried. About 70% of these were found in the Virginia part of the bay and the rest in Maryland.

LOONS THROUGH CORMORANTS — An excellent flight of Com. Loons was recorded up Chesapeake Bay at Sandy Point S.P., Md. (hereafter, S.P.S.P.) with a peak count of 774 Apr. 13 (HLW), probably a record state count. Another count of 222 off Ocean City, Md., May 7 (RAR *et al.*) was also good. Inland on the Piedmont, 15 at Swift Creek Res., near Richmond, Va., Apr. 27 (FRS) and 15 at L. Anna, Louisa Co., Va., May 14 (JBB, BWK) were notable. The minor flight of Red-necked Grebes previously reported continued with a maximum of four at Baltimore Mar. 7 (EATB) and the last one here Apr. 9 (RFR). Elsewhere, three were seen along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, Va. (hereafter, C.B.B.T.) Mar. 5 (DFA, BS), and one remained at Swift Creek Res., Va., Mar 5-30 (CRB *et al.*). A count of twenty-five Horned Grebes at L. Anna, Va., Apr. 1 (JBB, BWK) was an unusual number for the Piedmont in spring.

Pelagic field trips run by Rowlett out of Ocean City continue to add to our scanty knowledge of bird movements over the ocean. An impressive peak count of 47 N. Fulmars off Ocean City Apr. 29 was notable, two Cory's Shearwaters here May 28 were early, and 47 Greater Shearwaters were counted in the same area May 28 (all RAR *et al.*). Nine Sooty Shearwaters Apr. 29 beat the state arrival record by nine days, and the



maximum count of 188 May 28 was excellent. Four Leach's Storm-Petrels off Ocean City May 7 (RAR, PGD, MVB *et al.*) also provided an early record for the state, and Rowlett's group totalled 1830 Wilson's Storm-Petrels May 28.

An ad. Gannet in a park lake in Norfolk, Va., Apr 28 (JW) 2 mi inland from Chesapeake Bay was the only obvious displacement apparently caused by the late April northeaster. Great Cormorants increased in the Region in early March with record-breaking counts along the C.B.B.T., of 15 Mar. 5 (DFA, BS) and 11 Mar. 19 (RLake, PGD). Five found near Mt. Holly Va., Mar. 12 (JEJ, SJ) were the first for Westmoreland County, although these were almost surely part of the apparently increasing winter population near Pt Lookout, Md. About six occupied nests of the Double-crested Cormorant were found in the Cattle Egret colony at Hopewell, Va., May 29 (CRB *et al.*), for the first nesting record of this species for the Region, and transients were reported in at least four localities on Virginia's Piedmont in April and May. Good counts on the Coastal Plain included 800 in St. Marys County, Md., Mar. 17-20 (JMA) and 340 at Smith I., Md., May 29 (HTA), the last probably consisting mostly of summering, nonbreeding birds. An Anhinga appeared at Norfolk Apr. 15 (RLAnd, DLH *et al.*), and Slaughter noted a Magnificent Frigatebird at Ocean City May 12 (*vide* CSR).

HERONS THROUGH MERGANSERS — Seven ad. Little Blue Herons, normally rare in the Baltimore area in spring, were reported there Apr. 1 - May 8 (RFR *et al.*), and an unusual Louisiana Heron was seen there May 6 (EATB). Well over 200 Cattle Egrets were noted in the Hopewell, Va., area during April and May (HO *et al.*), and many pairs had eggs in the heronry here May 29 (CRB). A Snowy Egret at Green Springs, Louisa Co., Va., May 18 (JBB) provided one of the few spring records of this species for the Piedmont, and Rowlett and Whitcomb found four Yellow-crowned Night Herons near Dickerson, Montgomery Co., Md., Apr. 23, one of which was on a nest. Glossy Ibises near Baltimore May. 28 and Apr. 1 (RFR *et al.*) were early, whereas a flock of six at S.P.S.P., May 28

(HLW) was considered late. Farther inland two to four were seen near Hopewell Apr. 27 – May 7 (JWD *et al.*).

On the c. Piedmont of Virginia the waterfowl migration began in earnest with the ice breakup on the lakes Mar 13-14 (JBB). There were 30 ad. Mute Swans plus a brood of eight downy young at Chincoteague N W R., Va., May 30 (FRS), and among the numerous inland reports of Whistling Swans were three in w. Goochland County, Va., Feb. 23 – Mar. 12 (GMS). A White-fronted Goose was noted near Kent I., Md., Mar 12 (PGD), and the wintering bird at Green Springs, Va., remained up to Mar. 23 (JBB). A ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal appeared at Green Springs Apr. 3 (JBB,SHT), and the only Eur. Wigeon report received was of a male at Deal I., Md., Mar. 4-24 (RAR,HW *et al.*) Redheads continued in record-breaking numbers on the Piedmont with maximum counts of 138 at Swift Creek Res., Mar. 8 (FRS) and 170 at L. Anna Mar. 11 (JBB), and seven Greater Scaup at Green Springs Mar. 14 (JBB) were unusual here. A **Harlequin Duck** at Annapolis was present Feb. 6 – Mar. 19 (GB,HLW, OEF *et al.* —ph.), and two remained at Wallops I., Va., to Apr. 12 (CRV). Although five were present along the C.B.B.T., through most of March, an incredible 15 were carefully counted here Mar. 5 (DFA,BS), by far a record count for this Region. A Com. Scoter in w. Goochland County, Va., Mar 11-12 (GMS) was unusual here, and 10,000± scoters were present near Annapolis Mar. 25 (HLW). All three species were recorded on the coast and in Chesapeake Bay up to mid and late May. A “broody” ♀ Hooded Merganser was observed near Hopewell May 7 (FRS), and one at Green Springs May 15 (JBB,BWK) was quite late. The peak count of Red-breasted Mergansers at L. Anna was 110 Mar. 18 (JWD,FRS).

HAWKS THROUGH GALLINULES — There was an exceptional spring hawk flight along the n. Chesapeake Bay shores with many record-breaking counts and arrival and departure dates. Early in the Annapolis area were three Broad-winged Hawks Mar. 31, while late dates of apparent migrants here included eight Turkey Vultures May 30, four Sharp-shinned Hawks May 25, two Red-taileds May 21, three Broad-wingeds June 1, and an Am. Kestrel May 25 (HLW). Peak Sharp-shinned counts were 220 at S.P.S.P., Apr. 24 (HLW) and 763 at Baltimore Apr. 29 (RFR). The Osprey flight was particularly good with a seasonal total of 244 at S.P.S.P., Mar. 18 – May 30, and a maximum here of 81 Apr. 20 (HLW). At Baltimore, the peak Osprey count was 41 Apr. 29 (RFR). All observers in this area indicated that if additional coverage could have been available, the hawk totals would undoubtedly have been much higher. Two Goshawks were reported, one at Fredericksburg, Va., Mar 3 (PGD) and a record-breaking late bird near Naylor, Md., May 6 (RMP).

Two Golden Eagles were seen over Severna Park, Md., an adult Apr. 21 and an immature Apr. 22 (SJM), and another immature was noted in the Blackwater N W R., Md. area in March (PGD,PMY). Nesting Bald Eagles and Ospreys were both hurt by the spring northeasters; hopefully a full report will be available in the next seasonal column. An Osprey at Rustburg, Campbell Co., Va., Mar. 14 (DP) was very early this far inland, and a Ruffed Grouse which hit a window in w.

Goochland County, Mar. 4 (GMS) indicates that this species is still spreading on Virginia's Piedmont. A Black Rail heard and seen at Elliott I., Md., Apr 14 (RAR,RSN) beat the previous earliest state arrival date by ten days. A Purple Gallinule returned to Upper Marlboro, Md., and was seen by many observers May 28-31 (RMP *et al.*) in the same marsh where breeding had been confirmed in 1976, and Com. Gallinules were found inland at Charlottesville, Va., Apr. 30 (BWK) and Pine Ridge, Va., May 13 (EDP *et al.*).

SHOREBIRDS — High water levels in inland lakes and coastal impoundments made these areas very poor for shorebird concentrations, but flooded fields, particularly in extreme s.e. Maryland, were a satisfactory substitute. A count of 48 Am. Oystercatchers in the Tangier I., Va., area May 29-30 (FRS) indicates that this isolated Chesapeake Bay population is in good condition. Rowlett and Mele noted five Wilson's Plovers on n. Assateague I., Md., Apr. 30, and six Am. Golden Plovers at Kiptopeke, Va., May 28 (PGD, RLake *et al.*) appear to be the latest spring occurrence for the state. Other golden plover reports included one at Green Springs Mar. 25 (JBB), two at Blackwater Ref., Apr. 16 (PGD), and up to five in Kent County, Md., Apr. 18 – May 6 (FLP *et al.*). The peak Ruddy Turnstone count was 5500 on Chincoteague Ref., May 29 (DFA), and Rowlett noted 930 in the wet fields of s.e. Worcester County, Md., May 14. On Chesapeake Bay, ten at S.P.S.P., May 15 (HLW) and 115 in the Tangier I. area May 29 (FRS) were both excellent counts.

Twenty-five Whimbrel May 6 (HLW) were unusual for S.P.S.P., as was one at Baltimore Apr. 8 (MM), and Rowlett found a large N flight of Willets over n. Assateague I., Apr. 30 totaling 750 birds. Upland Sandpipers were reported more than normally, and 22 near Buckeystown, Md., Apr. 23 (RAR,SW) probably included locally breeding birds as well as migrants. Wilds had the maximum count of 8000 Red Knots at Metomkin I., Va., May 20, and peak numbers on Chesapeake Bay included 37 at S.P.S.P., May 24 (HLW) and 44 in the Tangier I. area May 29 (FRS). Thirty Purple Sandpipers along the C.B.B.T., May 28 (RLake,DLH *et al.*) was a high number for such a late date. Pectoral Sandpipers arrived early and in unusual numbers, with several high counts occurring very early. Among these last were 29 near Chestertown, Md., Mar. 22 (FLP), 56 at Green Springs Mar 25 (JBB), and 22 at S.P.S.P., Mar. 26 (HLW). White-rumped Sandpipers were in excellent numbers near the coast with a peak report of 412 in s.e. Worcester County, Md., May 8 (RAR), and a **Curlew Sandpiper**, in mostly winter plumage, was studied well at Craney I., Portsmouth, Va., Apr. 30 (PGD,RLake,GD). Long-billed Dowitchers were reported along the coast Apr. 30 – May 19 with at least 25 on the latter date at Chincoteague (DFA,BS), and the only Ruff reported was a female at Lilypons, Frederick Co., Md., Apr 26 (PGD). At Craney I., Va., the Am. Avocet flock peaked at 300 Apr. 17 (RLAnd) but then had declined to 50 birds by May 24 (TRW). Elsewhere, the only report was one at Blackwater Ref., Apr. 16 (PGD). The sole spring report of the Black-necked Stilt was also at Blackwater Ref., two May 13 (FLP,HTA,CPW)

Rowlett's pelagic trips off Ocean City recorded staggering numbers of Red Phalaropes with 4665 Apr. 29 and 738 May 7. A puzzling light but very widespread flight of Wilson's Phalaropes occurred in early May. On May 6 one or two were found at West Ocean City, Md. (RAR *et al.*), S.P.S.P. (HLW), Baltimore (MR), Charlottesville, Va. (BWK), and near Scottsville, Va. (JC). The Baltimore and Scottsville birds were also seen the following day, and there were several later reports, including two at Upper Marlboro, Md., May 9 (RMP). The two Piedmont reports were especially noteworthy, but there were also other observations at the same time w. of the Blue Ridge (Appalachian Region). Numerous reports of one to three N. Phalaropes were received from near the coast, and a maximum of 121 was found off Ocean City Apr. 29 (RAR *et al.*).



Common Puffin, 38° 06'N, 73° 38'W, 130 km ESE Ocean City, Md., May 7, 1978. Photo/ R.A. Rowlett.

GULLS THROUGH PUFFINS — Both of the usual white-winged gulls remained through much of the spring with a Glaucous Gull last seen at S.P.S.P., May 15 (HLW), a late record for Maryland. Lesser Black-backed continued at Baltimore to Apr. 27 (RAR) and at S.P.S.P., to June 9 (HLW), for another state record. Reports of the more esoteric gulls continued apace, and the apparent first-year **Thayer's Gull** previously reported at Baltimore was last reported Mar. 23 (RFR *et al.*) and Apr. 8 (DFA,BS). Another "likely" imm. **Thayer's Gull** was at Alexandria, Va., Apr. 9 (DFA). Also at Baltimore, the ad. **Mew Gull** reported off and on since midwinter was noted Mar. 18 (RA) and 25 (PGD *et al.*), an ad. **Black-headed Gull** was last seen (and photographed) Apr. 27 (RAR), and **Little Gulls** remained to Apr. 16 (EATB *et al.*). Two other **Little Gulls** were found near S.P.S.P., Apr. 23 (PGD), and two **Franklin's Gulls** were seen at S.P.S.P., an adult May 22 (HLW) and near adult May 24 (HLW,SJM,MLH *et al.*). **Lake Anna** was host to large numbers of the more prosaic gulls with 67 **Herrings** and 930 **Ring-billed** Mar. 18 (JWD,FRS) and 46 **Bonaparte's** Apr. 1 (JBB,BWK), all unusually good counts for Virginia's Piedmont.

Unusual for Kerr Res., were seven **Forster's** with two Com. Terns May 9 (JBB,SHT). Off Ocean City, 12 **Arctic Terns** were reported May 6 (RAR) and two May 7 (RAR,PGD,MVB *et al.*), and one **Arctic Tern** was carefully studied at Lynnhaven Inlet, Va., May 27-28 (JMA,RJA,ROP *et al.*). One to two **Roseate Terns** were also seen at Lynnhaven Inlet May 27-28 (JMA,PGD,FRS *et al.*), and another was reported at Ocean City May 29 (PGD). **Sandwich Terns** first appeared at Craney I., Apr. 25 (TRW,RLAnd) and peaked here at 25 May 11 (DFA,BS), whereas **Black Terns** were early at n. Assateague I., with three there Apr. 16 (PGD) and at Alexandria, Va., with seven Apr. 23 (DFA). Three at L. Anna May 14 (JBB,BWK) was the only Piedmont report. The Ocean City pelagic trips yielded two alcid reports: five **Razorbills** Mar. 4 (RAR *et al.*) and two **Common Puffins** photographed in breeding plumage May 7 (RAR,PGD,MVB *et al.*).

CUCKOOS THROUGH WRENS — **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** arrived early and were in unusually good numbers throughout the Region; undoubtedly the high number of caterpillars was a major factor in the concentrations here. **Belted Kingfishers**, on the other

hand, were in very low numbers for the second year in a row. A **Gray Kingbird** on the C.B.B.T., May 18 (LT,GL), the second record for Virginia, was luckily photographed later the same day (RLAKE,DLH), and a **Western Kingbird** was photographed at Chincoteague Ref., May 22 (CPW). For the second year most flycatchers seemed very late in arriving, and a singing **E. Wood Pewee** on Little Deal I., Md., June 6 (HTA) was almost surely a late transient, as were two **Bank Swallows** on Smith I., Md., June 2 (HTA). Two more Piedmont nesting sites of the Com. Raven were found, a pair at a nest with six eggs near Bent Cr., Appomattox Co., Va., Mar. 18 (TFW) and a pair at a nest in w. Fluvanna County, Va., Mar. 19 (TFW,KM). Other raven reports from the Piedmont included one in s. Culpeper County, Va., Apr. 16 (CES) and single birds n. of Baltimore in April and on May 6 (HK). A peak of 28 **Fish Crows** at Green Springs Mar. 14 (JBB) was unusual for the Piedmont so far from any sizable watercourse. The **Boreal Chickadee** previously reported at Baltimore was banded Mar. 11 and last seen Apr. 23 (JLS,RAR,OEF *et al.*). Another appeared at a feeder near Falls Church, Va., Mar. 19 & 21 (JWA,LA). Late **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen near McKenney, Va., May 10 (JBB) and at Columbia, Md., May 19 (CSR), and of the four **Brown-headed Nuthatches** previously reported at Rustburg, Va., two remained to Mar. 14 (DP). A late **Winter Wren** was found at Highland, Md., May 6 (CSR), and one that lingered near Baltimore was still singing May 29 (JLS). **Carolina Wrens** were down in numbers for the second spring in a row and were missing from much of their previously occupied habitat in the n. and w. parts of the Region.

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS — **Hermit Thrushes** were late in leaving, the last at S.P.S.P., being May 11 (HLW). Two, however, were still at Randallstown, Md., May 24 (RFR). As usual, whether the transient thrushes were common or not depended on the locality, and at least in the Alexandria area they seemed common, with 50 **Swainson's** and 34 **Veeries** May 10 (DFA). At Richmond, their migration seemed unusually compressed, with **Swainson's Thrushes** being recorded only May 4-26 (FRS). An ad. ♂ **Varied Thrush** was at a feeder in Aberdeen, Md., Mar. 5-12 (RFR,RAR *et al.*), for the fourth state record, and a brown-plumaged **Wheatear** was photographed at Chincoteague Mar. 23 (JE,RAR *et al.*), the third Virginia record of this species. **Kinglets** were reported almost universally to be far down in numbers, and some observers found the **Golden-crowned** to be "non-existent." The only sizable numbers reported were at



Wheatear, March 23, 1978, Chincoteague, Virginia. Third state record. Photo/ R.A. Rowlett.

Alexandria where D. F. Abbott found 50 Golden-crowneds Apr. 1-2 and 65 Ruby-crowneds Apr. 10. Water Pipits were late in leaving the Region with 86 still at S.P.S.P., May 8 and the last one here May 28 (HLW), the latter a state record.

A **Northern Shrike** was reported at Chincoteague Ref., Mar. 6 (PS,LF,HW *et al.*), and Bazuin located two ad. Loggerhead Shrikes feeding four young in a nest in n.e. Goochland County, Va., May 26. Solitary Vireos were well up in numbers in e. Virginia and Maryland, and one in n. Loudoun County, Va., May 27 (PGD) was late enough to suggest breeding. Early warbler reports included a Prothonotary at Annapolis Apr. 11 (HLW), a Black-throated Blue at Richmond Apr. 15 (WCF *et al.*), a Black-throated Green at Dyke marsh, Va., Apr. 11 (OEF), and a Blackpoll near Dinwiddie, Va., Apr. 25 (JBB). Seven Swainson's Warblers were found in Dismal Swamp, Va., Apr. 30 (RLake,PGD *et al.*), a good count here, and one was located at Great Falls, Va., May 13 (DW,MW, *fide* OEF) where one had been found from late May to early July 1976. Among the other somewhat unusual warbler reports were two Orange-crowneds at Lynchburg May 13 (JHD,TD) and another near S.P.S.P., the same day (PGD), two Cerulean Warblers on Fisherman I., Va., Apr. 22 (CP) and one in Dismal Swamp Apr. 30 (RLake,PGD *et al.*), a Blackburnian at Newport News, Va., May 20 (DLM *et al.*), and a singing ♂ Connecticut Warbler near Baltimore May 6 (MR). Mourning Warblers seemed unusually common with many records May 10-27, although there were none from s.e. Virginia. Late warblers included a Yellow-rumped at Ft. Hunt, Va., May 24 (DFA), a N. Water-thrush and a Canada Warbler banded at Pine Ridge, Va., May 31 (EDP), and two Am. Redstarts on Smith I., June 1 (HTA).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH LONGSPURS— Three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported, all ad. males. These were near Chestertown Mar. 1 (JG *et al.*), near Churchville, Md., Mar. 12 (RAR), and near Baltimore Mar. 13 (EATB). Kaestner found a ♂ Brewer's Blackbird near Baltimore Apr. 30, and a near-ad. ♂

Western Tanager was present (and photographed) at a feeder in Takoma Park, Md., Apr. 22-29 (PK,RAR, SJM *et al.*). The previously reported **Black-headed Grosbeak** at Richmond was last seen Mar. 20 (JM). The wintering northern finches generally stayed rather late. Single Evening Grosbeaks were last noted at Keswick, Va., May 25 (BWK) and at Richmond May 27 (AW), the last Purple Finch was seen at Baltimore



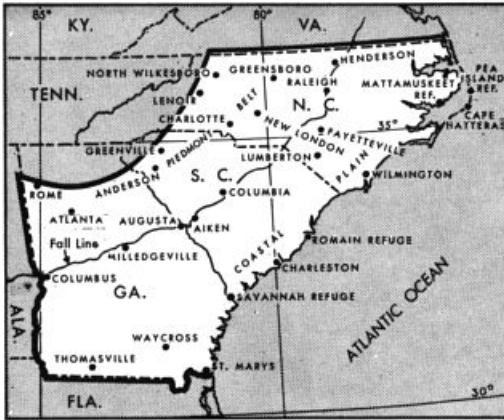
Western Tanager, April 22-29, 1978, Takoma Park, Montgomery Co., Maryland. Photo/ R.A. Rowlett.

May 20 (RFR), and Pine Siskins remained in e. Maryland to late May. Common Redpolls remained in good numbers in the n. part of the Region up to early March, and the last records included two at Alexandria Mar. 27 (OEF) and one at Baltimore Apr. 16 (RFR). A well-described ♂ **Lazuli Bunting** was present at Phoenix, Md., May 14-15 (*fide* RFR), and a ♂ **Painted Bunting** spent the 15-day period of Mar. 7-21 at Portsmouth, Va. (PMm,RLake,DFA *et al.*). Very late Savannah Sparrows were on Smith I., May 30 & June 1 (HTA), and an ad. White-crowned Sparrow was at Dyke marsh May 25 (DFA), a record late date for Virginia. Only a few Lincoln's Sparrows were reported, the most interesting being one near Williamsburg, Va., May 10 (DLM,DS); four Lapland Longspurs near Hereford, Md., Mar 5-11 (RFR) were a rare occurrence for the Piedmont.

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SOUTHERN ATLANTIC COAST REGION /Robert P. Teulings

Dry and mild conditions prevailed in the Region during most of March and through mid-April. Observers noted a definite lag in bird wetness in the latter half of April as cool, rather wet weather set in. Although winter residents left on time and summer residents returned on schedule, the peak passage of transients did not occur until early May, a week or so late. The shorebird migration highlighted the season with a strong and widespread influx of Wilson's Phalaropes generating the most excitement.



LOONS THROUGH ANHINGA — Migrating Com. Loons were seen in good numbers at several inland locations during the spring period, highlighted by counts of 89 on the Tugaloo R., near Toccoa, Ga., Apr. 11 (RSt); 36 at L. Greenwood, S.C., Apr. 17 (BL); and 43 on L. Wheeler near Raleigh, N.C., Apr. 19 (JM). Over 1000 Horned Grebes were seen concentrated off Bodie I., N.C., Mar. 23 (KA,TL-E), and a Red-necked Grebe was a good find at Southport, N.C., Mar. 11 (RD). Wilson's Storm-Petrels were present in abundance in the Gulf Stream off North Carolina's Outer Banks during April and May (DL), and Black-capped Petrels were also reported. Two of the latter were seen Apr. 17 off Oregon Inlet (DL,JBf) and another was collected in the same waters May 10 (DL; *N.C.S.M.). A Northern Fulmar was sighted at the Mt. Pleasant causeway, Charleston, S.C., Mar. 5 by Perry Nugent, for the first reported South Carolina record. A good count of 55 Sooty Shearwaters was recorded at Cape Pt., Hatteras I., N.C., by Robert Hader May 21. A strong migratory flight of 1000+ Double-crested Cormorants was observed along the Outer Banks Mar. 23 (KA,TL-E), and an unusually large inland flock of 33 was present at Beaverdam Res., near Raleigh, N.C., Apr. 28 (RH_a). Inland occurrences of this species were also noted at Chapel Hill, Clemson, Greenwood and Winston-Salem. An Anhinga was an unexpected visitor at Pea Island N.W.R., May 21 (HW), 100 mi n. of its usual range.

IBISES AND WATERFOWL — A remarkably large flock of 1500 Glossy Ibises was seen at Charles-

ton Apr. 10 (PN). Inland observers reported rare interior occurrences of the same species at Beaverdam Res., Apr. 23 (WL), near Goldsboro, N.C., May 5 (BS&MS), and in n.e. Laurens County, Ga., May 7 (TKP). Brant, seen in good numbers in North Carolina's coastal waters this past winter, were still found in small, lingering flocks well into May; ten were seen at Ocracoke I., as late as May 26 (GT). A late-lingering Bufflehead was seen at a Lowland, N.C., impoundment May 19 (TP,MEW) and another was seen at Hatteras Inlet May 20. A trio of Com. Eiders which wintered at the Cape Lookout, N.C., jetties were still there May 28 (RH_o). A late flock of 35 Surf Scoters was seen off Pine Knoll Shores, N.C., June 5 (RH_a).

RAPTORS — Spring sightings of Swallow-tailed Kites were again reported from the North Carolina Outer Banks where an individual was seen in Nags Head Woods Apr. 19 (DL,JBf) and two at Bodie I., May 19 (RT&PT). Nesting of Swallow-taileds on the Outer Banks appears to be a strong possibility but has not yet been verified. A Mar. 27 sighting of a Rough-legged Hawk in Dare County, N.C., was noteworthy (TH), as was the report of an imm. Golden Eagle at Fairlawn Plantation near Charleston in early April (*vide* HL). A pair of Bald Eagles nested at Savannah N.W.R., successfully fledging two young (*vide* CN). At Eufala N.W.R., a pair of adults was present through the period but there was no evidence of nesting (BO). At Raleigh four migrant Bald Eagles (2 ads., 2 imm.) were seen at Beaverdam Res., May 17 (RD). Merlins were recorded as locally rare transients at Durhan. Apr. 22 (MS), Chapel Hill May 7 (JSp) and Winston-Salem, N.C., May 30 (CF,RS).

CRANES, RAILS AND SHOREBIRDS — A flock of 200 Sandhill Cranes was seen near Duluth, Ga., Mar. 11 (JP_e). Black Rails were an exciting find near Raleigh where individuals were seen in a marshy pasture May 25 & 30 (JF,DL,KH). A Black Rail was also heard calling at Cedar I. marsh, in coastal Carteret Co., N.C., Mar. 23 (JF) where the species is believed to be a permanent resident. The shorebird migration was a very interesting feature of the season with White-rumped Sandpipers and Wilson's Phalaropes standing out as the most frequently mentioned species. Both turned up seemingly everywhere during an influx which occurred May 5-15. White-Rumped were seen at a half dozen inland locations from c. Georgia through the Carolinas during that period with flocks of up to 50 birds seen. Wilson's Phalaropes were even more conspicuous, being noted at seven inland locations with counts of 18-20 recorded at Pendergrass, Ga., May 5-6 (JV&VV, *vide* TM) and 60 at Augusta May 5 (CB,AW). Up to seven Wilson's were seen at the Winston-Salem sewage treatment plant May 6-8 where a N. Phalarope was also found on the latter date (*vide* RS). An Am. Golden Plover was an unexpected transient in Laurens County, Ga., Apr. 8 (TKP) and another was seen Apr. 12 near Greenwood, S.C. (BL). Two Ruddy Turnstones made an unusual inland appearance at Glenville L., in Fayetteville, N.C., May 3 (NM,MEW). A Stilt Sandpiper was a rare inland visitor at a farm pond near Clemson, S.C., May 9 (HL), and an individual of this species was also present at Augusta Apr. 28 – May 5 (AW). At the latter

location an unusually large aggregation of 21 Upland Sandpipers was seen at the local airport Apr. 15 (JC). Coastal records of special interest were a Long-billed Curlew at Jekyll I., Ga., Mar. 25 (TF) and the discovery of two Ruffs at Huntington Beach, S.C., Apr. 16 (BL.LL). Offshore sightings of flocks of Red Phalaropes totalling 1100± birds in the Gulf Stream off Oregon Inlet, N.C. Apr. 17 (DL,JBF) were also noteworthy.

GULLS AND TERNS — A Franklin's Gull in breeding plumage was found among a mixed flock of Herring, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls at L. Greenwood, S.C., Apr. 2 by Bob Lewis. Migrating Bonaparte's Gulls were quite commonly seen inland through March and April with a late individual noted at Chapel Hill May 14 (JP,ET). An unusual inland sighting of a Least Tern was recorded at Augusta, Ga., May 7 (*vide* AW). Caspian Terns were rather conspicuous migrants through the Raleigh area where observers reported nine sightings. At Morgans I., near Morehead City, a Sooty Tern was seen May 19 with possible nesting indicated (JF).

MONK PARAKEET AND BUDGERIGAR — Anne Waters submitted photos of a Monk Parakeet nest at Augusta, Ga. A pair has been there since February and built the nest in March, but as yet no young have been seen. Elsewhere local reports persist of Budgerigars around Morehead City, N.C., but the existence of an established population has not been verified (JF).

OWLS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A fresh specimen of a road-killed Long-eared Owl was found along N C Hwy 94, n. of L. Mattamuskeet Mar. 22 (KA, TL-E); this species is a rarely reported winter visitor in the Region. Observers in the Morehead City area recorded a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in late April (exact date not specified; EP) and a Gray Kingbird May 16 (RH, *vide* JF). Flocks of 100+ migrating Bank Swallows were seen Apr. 27 at L. Greenwood, S.C. (BL) and Duluth, Ga., May 13 (JG). An active nesting colony of the species was found in late May on the banks of the Roaring R., in Wilkes County, N.C., providing the first definite breeding record for the state (PCu,RS). At L. Hartwell near Clemson, observers noted a bird nesting with Barn Swallows which appeared to be a hybrid of the Barn and Cliff Swallow species (SG,HL). An extremely early Purple Martin was recorded at Valdosta, Ga., Jan. 26 (CC) with mid-February arrival noted at Augusta (AW).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — An individual identified as a Warbling Vireo was seen at Greenfield Pk., Wilmington, N.C., Apr. 18 (RD), a rare coastal area record for the species. Observers continued to search for **Bachman's Warbler** in South Carolina's Francis Marion N.F. A singing male was reported to have been found there in the I'on Swamp, near Charleston, in late April (KB). This record and two published sightings in 1977 (*Chat* 42:23) give encouraging evidence that this extremely rare and elusive warbler still occurs there. A Lawrence's Warbler hybrid was seen near Raleigh May 3 (JM). Reports indicated that the peak of the warbler migration occurred about a week late. Transients were disappointingly thin through most of

April with few waves noted, but observers at Clemson, Raleigh and Winston-Salem reported good warbler birding in early May as a series of weather fronts passed. Banders at Atlanta trapped two Connecticut Warblers May 14 (DC&DC), and a Mourning Warbler was seen there May 21 (*vide* TM), both noteworthy local records.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH SPARROWS — A flock of 12 Brewer's Blackbirds was an uncommon find near Townville, S.C., Mar. 18 (HL), as was a Yellow-headed Blackbird present for several days, May 1-3, at Beaufort, N.C. (JF *et al.*). A Dickcissel was observed singing in a field near Augusta May 21 (AW); a follow-up search the next day revealed a second male in the area but no females were seen. A ♂ **Lark Bunting** turned up in Raleigh, discovered on the grounds of Dorothea Dix Hospital May 2 (KH) where it remained for more than a week. Wintering Evening Grosbeaks lingered in Raleigh and several other places in the Region through early May, and Pine Siskins were still present at Winston-Salem May 25 (PCu). House Finches remained to nest at the latter location where a colony of at least four pairs established residence in a local cemetery. Courtship, copulation, nest building and feeding of young all were observed (JB,RS) At Columbus, Ga., a Henslow's Sparrow, seen several times during April, was a very uncommon visitor (BM). At Morehead City, N.C., a Lark Sparrow was a frequent feeder visitor throughout March and early April (*vide* JF).

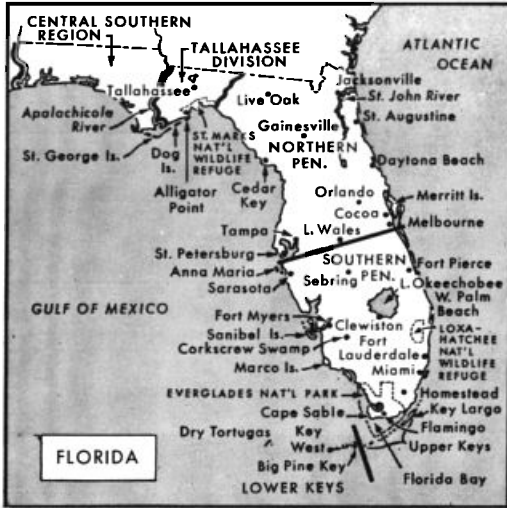
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FLORIDA REGION **/Herbert W. Kale II**

Spring 1978 migration in Florida was rather low key, according to many observers, although this was not always the case, depending on when and where one happened to be. As usual, the most productive spot was Mullet Key at the end of the Pinellas peninsula, followed by the Dry Tortugas, and St. George Island in

the upper Gulf. A number of cold fronts penetrated the state (6 in March, 4 in April, 5 in May), but only a few were of a nature to precipitate numbers of migrants — Apr. 14-15, 24-26, and May 4-6. Usually this period is the driest of the year, but so much rain fell during the winter and spring that water levels in Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns valley were higher than they were at

one off Pasco County, one off Pinellas County Apr. 9 (LH,CB,DG,DC) represent first records for these Gulf coast areas. Another Audubon's was in the Gulf Stream s. of Bahia Honda Key May 6 (TW,JL), while seven rare Black-capped Petrels were off Ponce Inlet Apr. 29 (HHA,LGB,HPL *et al.*) and three May 27 (AB,ALL,PWS *et al.*). A lone Leach's Storm-Petrel was seen several times 100 mi e. of Ponce Inlet with a flock of 40 Wilson's Storm-Petrels Apr. 29 (PWS). Between 3-5 White-tailed Tropicbirds were at Ft. Jefferson, Dry Tort., Apr. 22 (Doug Cook, Graham Matson), and two were seen 20 mi n.w. May 25 along with a Red-footed Booby and several Blue-faced and Brown Boobies (JJ). Off Boynton Inlet, Palm Beach Co., 123 late migrating Gannets, chiefly immatures, were seen Apr. 15 (GSH), 13 off Ponce Inlet Apr. 29 (PWS *et al.*), and five off St. George I., May 17 (HMS).



the start of the dry season. This, in conjunction with relatively cool temperatures through March, delayed nesting by many species, especially waders.

Each year numbers of top-notch birders visit Florida and undoubtedly make notable observations. Unfortunately, rarely are these passed on to the *American Birds* editors. What can an editor do with a third hand report that reads "MB also writes that the Massachusetts Audubon tour lead by Jim Lane saw a Prairie Falcon at the Tortugas May 7," other than to toss it aside and ignore it? A Prairie Falcon in Florida? Incredible! Yet, each season seems to add one more incredible species to the Florida list. This spring a possible California Gull was photographed by Lynn Atherton at Pinellas County's Ft. DeSoto Park (Mullet Key) April 15. After a winter that brought Mew, Thayer's, Franklin's, Glaucous, Iceland, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, perhaps a California Gull should not seem so incredible. My plea, if it will be heard, is to urge those competent birders who visit Florida to contact one of the Region's editors when a noteworthy observation is made.

LOONS THROUGH GANNETS — A Com. Loon in winter plumage on Newnan's Lake, Alachua Co., Apr. 24 was still there June 3 (JEC,JJC). At least two Eared Grebes were on nearby Kingsly L., in early March, three Apr. 5, and four Apr. 28 (LHC,NPC). Two Cory's Shearwaters in the Gulf of Mexico, 20+ mi. n.w. of the Dry Tortugas (hereafter, Dry Tort.) May 23 (JJ) provided the first record for the Lower Keys. Two Sooty Shearwaters were 10 mi e. of Ponce de Leon Inlet (hereafter, Ponce Inlet) May 27 (AB, HPL,PWS *et al.*), while two Audubon's Shearwaters,

WADERS — A pair of Reddish Egrets on a nest in the Riomar I. heronry at Vero Beach Apr. 11 (Henri Ouellet) represents the first breeding this century along the Atlantic Coast n. of the Arsenicker Keys colony. In early June a nesting pair was found at the Moore Cr. heronry on Merritt Island, N.W.R. (Dave Nelson). Single adults near the Bird I. heronry at Ft. Pierce May 19 & 20 (JMB) suggest another possible nesting site. This species has now reoccupied most of its pre-feather trade nesting range. But, where in the world was a Reddish Egret heading when seen flying N 70 mi e. of Ponce Inlet Apr. 29 (HPL,PWS *et al.*), unless to oblivion in the Bermuda Triangle? A flock of 12 Am. Flamingos flying NE 2 mi e. of Palm Beach Apr. 17 (Gordon Buckner, Charles Price) may have been heading for the Bahamas. Infrequently reported from the Keys, a Glossy Ibis at Key West Mar. 10 (TW) and at Big Pine Key Mar. 18 (MB,LK) were notable.

DUCKS — The source of four Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, three of which bore red and silver bands, at Naples Mar. 24 and several days thereafter (THB,VAB) remains a mystery. Two more were at the Venice Ranch Mobile Home Estates, Sarasota Co., Apr. 28, where residents have observed as many as eight birds (SS). An Oldsquaw at Hooker's Pt., Tampa Apr. 21 (AYA) was a late rarity. A Black Scoter off Alligator Pt., May 8 (HMS,CHW) was late, if not a summering bird. Two Masked Ducks were near their usual site at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Mar. 10 (MS). The Com. Merganser that wintered at Summerland Key was last seen Mar. 28 (MB,LPB,LM).

RAPTORS — A rare ad. White-tailed Kite was clearly seen flying several feet above the grassy median strip of Interstate-10, 2 mi e. of Baldwin, Duval Co., Mar. 4 (Barry Vorse). The Everglade Kite appears to be doing well in Conservation Area 3A with 50+ nests this spring (NS,PWS), but they have mysteriously abandoned their prime nest habitat in L. Okeechobee (NS). For the second straight year, kites successfully reared at least one young in the Savannas, a county park s. of Ft. Pierce (H&WD,PWS). This is probably the most convenient location to see this species in Florida. Two Cooper's Hawks at Ft. Jefferson May 26 (JHH,P&PN) were the latest for the

Lower Keys. The hordes of Sharp-shinned Hawks that created a "silent winter" at many bird feeders throughout the state must have departed early, because none were reported this period. Two imm. Broad-winged Hawks in Key West May 6 (GSH,HPL,PWS) were certainly late migrants. A pair of Short-tailed Hawks (one of each color phase) near Oldsmar May 20-29 provided the first Pinellas County records, and possibly may have been nesting (JF,MH,LH *et al.*). A Marsh Hawk was late on Boca Chica Key Apr. 17 (TW). Peregrines were reported at Cudjoe Key Mar. 4 & Apr. 3. Key West Apr. 5 (MB), and the St. Pete Bayway Apr. 22 (PWS *et al.*), while a Merlin at the Dry Tort., May 26 (JHH,PPN) & May 27 (LA *et al.*) was the latest in the Lower Keys. What appeared to be a mated pair of Am. Kestrels was seen just n. of Watson Hammock. Big Pine Key May 6 (GSH,HPL,PWS) in the same locality where they were seen in late spring of 1977.

LIMPKINS, RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — A Limpkin in downtown Key West Apr. 21 (Newby Murrary) was three blocks from the last Key West sighting in March 1971. One or two Black Rails, one calling repeatedly, at St. Marks N.W.R., Apr. 22 — late May (NOW *et al.*) may have been nesting. Up to 18 Snowy Plovers were on Keewaydin I., Collier Co., Mar. 5 (PWS). American Golden Plovers were widespread with one each at Alligator Pt., Mar. 10 (HMS, H&J Bubas) & Mar. 22 (RMC,CHE); near St. Marks Light Mar. 16 (RMC); 11 on St. Petersburg's Sunshine Speedway Mar. 15 and 15 on Mar. 17 (LH); three in s.w. Alachua County Mar. 18 and two Mar. 25 (JEH); on the Bonita Causeway, Naples Mar. 25 (JRW,PW), "several" at end of March on the Dry. Tort.; on Mullet Key May 4 (LH *et al.*); and one at Ft. George I., Duval Co., May 23 (RWL—latest N. Peninsula [hereafter, N. Pen.]). A Com. Snipe at Sugarloaf Key Apr. 26 (LK) was the latest for the Lower Keys, while one in Alachua County May 21 (JEH) was also very late. A Spotted Sandpiper at Jack I. St. Preserve, Ft. Pierce May 29 (JMB) tied the latest date for the S. Peninsula (hereafter, S. Pen.), while Pectoral Sandpipers at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Mar. 8 (HPL) and on the Sunshine Speedway, St. Pete., Mar. 4 (LH,KT) were the earliest, respectively, for the S. Pen., and N. Pen. White-rumped Sandpipers were widespread early in May from Key West (GSH *et al.*) to the Bayway, with a peak of 72 May 4 (LH *et al.*), and 24 were present in s.w. Alachua County May 7-10 (JEH). Six wintering Long-billed Dowitchers remained at L. Jackson near Tallahassee until Apr. 25 (HMS), the latest for the Tallahassee Division (hereafter, Tally Div.) A Marbled Godwit at Loxahatchee N.W.R., Mar. 11 (CK,AYA *et al.*) is the first record for Palm Beach County. Two Wilson's Phalaropes reached Alachua County, the first since 1951. Mar. 25 (RR,JEH), earliest for the N. Pen., and May 10 (CHC). Others were in St. Pete., May 5 (KM,DM), 6 (KT *et al.*), & 8 (LH). The first record of N. Phalarope for Alachua County was a male in breeding plumage (ph. — FM) on Newnan's L., May 21 (JEC,JJC,FM). Up to 30 were seen off Ponce Inlet Apr. 29 (HPL,PWS *et al.*) marking the earliest for the N. Pen.

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — A Parasitic Jaeger off Clearwater Apr. 9 (CB,DG,LH,DC) may have been a first for Pinellas County while a Glaucous Gull at Alligator Pt., Apr. 11 (RLC) was the first record for the Tally Div., and one collected 30 mi w., May 17 (HMS, *T.T.) was the latest for the state. A Glaucous Gull at Dry Tort., Apr. 28 — May 1 (W&JB,TH) is the first record for the Lower Keys, although a "large pure white gull", possibly the same bird, was reported there Mar. 30 (GB,J&VH). The last of up to five Lesser Black-backed Gulls that wintered at Toytown



California Gull, April 15, 1978, Ft. DeSoto Park, Pinellas Co., Florida. Photo/ Lyn S. Atherton.

Dump. St. Pete., was still there Mar. 17 (LA). The find of the period, if photographs confirm the identification, will have to be Lyn Atherton's **California Gull** at Mullet Key Apr. 15, a possible first record for Florida (LA-ph. to T.T.). An ad. Franklin's Gull, possibly one of the two that wintered there, was still at Toytown Dump Apr. 20 (BA,JH). Three Com. Terns on Newnan's L., May 9 were decidedly uncommon (JJC), and a Roseate Tern roosting on a sandbar in Big Marco Pass Mar. 18 was a rarity there (THB). Ten Arctic Terns off Ponce Inlet Apr. 29 (HHA,LGB,PWS *et al.*) and one seen earlier Apr. 27 perched on a floating board (AB,HPL,ALL *et al.*) suggest that last year's first Florida sightings were not one-time flukes. Three other unusual larid sightings at Newnan's L., were three Caspian Terns May 9 (JJC), and a Least and two Black Terns May 21 (JEC,JJC,FM). A Caspian Tern on L. Jackson May 24 was also a rarity (HMS). A Black Noddy Tern was at Dry Tort., May 5 (*vide* LA) and three were in a crowd of Sooty Terns and Brown Noddies flying around a scallop boat 20+ mi n.w. of the Dry Tort., May 25 (JJ), one of these may have been the bird photographed on the coaling docks at Ft. Jefferson May 27 (LA *et al.*).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Probably owing to early rains, White-crowned Pigeons nested nearly four weeks earlier than normal in Florida Bay, with the first nests found May 15 (RTP). White-winged Doves at Mullet Key Apr. 8 (BA,DG) and the Dry

Tort., Apr. 30 (LGB) could be western stragglers, but may be from the slowly expanding Florida population that originated from ten pairs of captive doves released in the Homestead area in 1959, and whose offspring are now being transported and released as far n. as Lake County by the Fla. Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Jacksonville Mar. 18 (MR) was very early. A pleasant sight driving along Miami's busy highway system was a Burrowing Owl next to its burrow along St. Rd. 9, about ½ mi w. of the Florida Turnpike Golden Glades Interchange, Mar. 17 (Richard Brown). A Lesser Nighthawk at St. Marks N W.R., May 4 (JMS,CSG) provided possibly the fourth record for the state. A Chimney Swift at Tallahassee Mar. 15 (GEM) was the earliest for the Tally Div. Conceivably, this bird was one of the two seen earlier Mar. 10 at Mullet Key (MH,LA), one of the earliest in the N. Pen. Encouraging news was the report of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in s.w. Florida, with four near Stones Camp in the Big Cypress Preserve Mar. 1 (MJD), and one 6 mi e. of Naples Mar. 7 (WDP).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WAXWINGS — A migrating Scissor-tailed Flycatcher detoured *via* Paynes Prairie Mar. 10 (Bryan Obst), and an E. Wood Pewee at Jack I., Ft. Pierce May 5 (OVO) was considered a first there. The earliest Bank and Barn Swallows in the N. Pen., were at Mullet Key Mar. 17 (LA). A lone Cliff Swallow just w. of Delray Beach May 26 (PWS), was the latest migrant in the S. Pen. A lone straggler from this past winter's Red-breasted Nuthatch invasion was one at Alligator Pt., Apr. 27 (CHW). A Scrub Jay on the Univ. of N. Florida's campus in Jacksonville Apr. 27 was the first one seen in Duval County in six years (RWL). An incredibly late House Wren in Tom Brown P., Tallahassee May 31 (JEC) was the latest for the state. How does one categorize a singing Gray Catbird at Dry Tort., May 29 (La *et al.*) and a singing Brown Thrasher on Sugarloaf Key May 8-29 (*fide* MB), still present June 18 (LK)? A late Am. Robin at Oldsmar, Pinellas Co., May 27 (RH,LH,KT) reminds us to keep eyes and ears open for further range extensions of this species. Migrating thrushes peaked in late April and early May with highs at Mullet Key of 20 Wood Thrushes Apr. 28 (LA,MH,KT,CH), 155 Swainson's and 81 Veeries May 4 (LH,KT,CG,DG,WB) and 110 Gray-cheekeds May 5 (LA,BD,KT,CB,MH). A Gray-cheeked was heard singing on Hypoluxo I., Palm Beach Co., May 13 where 6-10 were being seen daily (HPL,WDM,PWS) and a Veery was there in full song May 7 (PWS). A lone Water Pipit at Pigeon Key, near 7-Mile Bridge Apr. 29 (Kathy Rosen) was one of the latest in the keys. Generally, Cedar Waxwings were scarce in much of Florida this past winter, hence, a flock of 1500 in Tallahassee Mar. 12 (GEM) was astounding.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Solitary Vireos at Dunedin Beach Apr. 28 (LH) and Lakeland Apr. 29 (JBE) were extremely late. After last fall's first Philadelphia Vireo record for Pinellas County, they literally rained down on Mullet Key this spring with six on May 5, 14 on May 6, and three May 7 (m.ob.) marking the first spring records for the N. Pen. A rare Warbling Vireo was at Dry Tort., Apr. 28 – May 1 (W&JB,TH)

and the first Pinellas record since 1890 (*fide* LH) was of one at Mullet Key May 5 (LA—latest date N. Pen.) A Black-and-white Warbler at Dry Tort., May 29 (LA *et al.*) was one of the latest for the Lower Keys and a Prothonotary was very late at Mullet Key May 6 (DG) Ten Swainson's Warblers were at Mullet Key Apr. 5-28 (m.ob.), at Lido Key Apr. 27 (AET), and at ten localities in the Tallahassee area (RMC,HMS). A Worm-eating Warbler was early in Tallahassee Mar. 28 (GEM), and a Golden-winged was late at Dry Tort., Apr. 28 – May 1 (W&JB,TH). Blue-winged Warblers were at several Gulf coast sites; two at Mullet Key Apr. 14 (LAS,AS) and one Apr. 21 (BC); two more were at Dunedin Hammock Apr. 16 (LH,DG,JF), and one at Casy Key Apr. 21 (AF). An extremely rare **Lawrence's Warbler** at Mullet Key Apr. 21 (BC) represented only the fourth or fifth state record. The May 5 cold front produced a banner warbler day at Mullet Key, with 27 Tennessees, 11 Yellows, 23 Magnolias, six Black-throated Blues, two Ceruleans, nine Chestnut-sideds (latest, N. Pen.), 78 Bay-breasteds, 25 Ovenbirds, and a Kentucky (latest, N. Pen.) (KT,LA, MH,BD,CB). A Magnolia at Dry Tort., May 29 was very late. Rare Ceruleans were also seen at Mullet Key May 7 (DM,KM), at Alligator Pt., Apr. 30 (RMC), Tavernier Apr. 24 (JCO) & 29 ("foraging on the ground" — RTP), the latter date being the latest for the S. Pen. Bay-breasted Warblers are generally scarce in spring migration, but an unprecedented 160 were seen at Mullet Key Apr. 25 (LA) – May 7 (m.ob.), with others seen at Longboat Key Apr. 29 (JP), St. George I., Apr. 20 (HMS,*T.T.), the earliest in the Tally Div., and Apr. 25-26 (JMS,CW,PhS), and two on Hypoluxo I., May 13 (HPL,WDM,PWS)

A tower kill of 343 birds at WCKS Radio in Cocoa Beach May 7 included 256 Blackpolls and 25 Connecticut Warblers. Seven more Connecticut Warblers were seen fitting in nearby shrubs (RDB,DH). Other interesting reports were of 300 Cape Mays, chiefly males, in Jacksonville Apr. 20 (JPC,PCP); 145 Blackpolls at Mullet Key Apr. 28 and Connecticut there Apr. 29 – May 4 (m.ob.), at the Dry Tort., Apr. 28 (W&JB,TH), on Hypoluxo I., May 6 (CHP), at Sarasota May 7 (DM), three at Cocoa May 17 (JJ), in Broward County May 17 (W&JB), and at L. Wales May 23-24 (Clay Babcock) Six Hooded Warblers at Mullet Key May 6 tied the latest date for migration in the N. Pen. A Kentucky killed on May 5, at the WCTV Tower at T.T., n of Tallahassee, was late (RLC). Canada Warblers on St George I., May 4 (JW) and Hypoluxo I., May 6 (CHP) were the only ones reported. The latest Wilson's Warbler for the Region was one on Hypoluxo I., May 6, where 17 species of warblers were sighted that day (CHP).

BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS — An early Bobolink flew into Jacksonville Apr. 8 (JPC) and several were seen flying N over the Atlantic 25-45 mi e. of Ponce Inlet Apr. 20 (HPL,PWS *et al.*). A flock of six Yellow-headed Blackbirds near Alligator Pt., May 8 (RLC,HMS *et al.*) were the latest for the Region, while 16 Brewer's Blackbirds near Monticello May 4 (RMC,CHE) provided the first Spring record for the Tally Div. Spot-breasted Orioles in Palm Beach County are reported reduced in numbers ever since the extreme cold spell of January 1977 (CHP,PWS)

For those who keep tabs on such things, the reporter of the W. Tanager at Alligator Pt., Apr. 5, 1974 (AB 28: 793) has withdrawn that record. Scarlet Tanagers were numerous along the Gulf (m.ob.) from Key West to St. George I., where 166 made landfall Apr. 25 (JMS,CW).

FINCHES — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were widespread in the Region. A Blue Grosbeak at Mullet Key May 7 (KT) was the latest in migration for the N. Pen. Indigo Buntings were also numerous there with 225 May 4 (LH). Stragglers from the wintering flocks of Evening Grosbeaks remained well into spring with 15 at L. Talquin, Leon Co., Apr. 15 (RMC), 20 in Orange Pk., Jacksonville, Apr. 17 (VMM), and two in Gainesville May 10 (FM — latest N. Pen.). Pine Siskins, after their unprecedented invasion that reached Key West also delayed N departures. Two remained on Key West until Apr. 24 (TW — latest, Lower Keys), while 12 were on Sugarloaf Key Apr. 16 (MB) and 17 on Hypoluxo I., Apr. 1 (GSH,HPL,PWS), two at Mullet Key Apr. 15 (JF,MH), one at Gainesville May 10 (BM), and one at Tallahassee, May 12. (JEC). A Savannah Sparrow at St. Marks N.W.R., May 18 (HMS) was late, while two in Alachua County May 21 (JEH) were the latest for the N. Pen. Once again, I must sadly report that the Dusky Seaside Sparrow continues its precipitous slide towards extinction with only 24 singing males censused in the St. Johns marshes this year (28 in 1977), and 0 males on Merritt Island N.W.R. (two in 1977). Most ominous moreover, is the failure to find any females or nests in the past two years (James Baker).

A Chipping Sparrow was late on St. George I., May 4 (JMS) as were a White-crowned Sparrow at a Jacksonville feeder May 1 (VMM), and a White-throated Sparrow at the Bayway Apr. 29 (RM). Lincoln's Sparrows established latest records for the S. Pen., at Hypoluxo I., May 1 (GSH,HPL) and for the N. Pen., at Cocoa Beach May 2 (RDB,DH) and Mullet Key May 7 (KM,DM), while one that hit the Channel 17 TV tower in Jacksonville May 4 (RWL,*T.T.) was also later than any previous record.

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ONTARIO REGION

/Clive E. Goodwin

Ontarians have a joke that the Province has two seasons, winter and summer, with a few days separating them at each end. This year the joke came close to being true, as the spring weather and most of the migration was sandwiched into two weeks in May. Both March and April were unusually cool, making the first third of 1978 the coolest in 38 years in Southern Ontario. At the end of April substantial snow remained in the north — at Pickle Lake in the northwest there was 15 inches still on the ground.



May began in the same vein, with abnormally cool weather until at least May 8, but very warm summer weather moved in for the last ten days, and pushed the month's final average higher than normal. At Virginia-town the month's temperatures went from 19° to 92°F (PWR)!

The effect on migration was predictable. Those who were in the right places in that unsettled two weeks May 8-24, experienced some of the most exciting and productive birding in many years, while earlier or later watchers had a thin time of it. Our own early May week in the area of Point Pelee N.P. (hereafter, Pelee) was the least productive in almost 20 years — even such routine species as Gray Catbirds failed to appear — but within a week there were such birding bonanzas being reported as an enormous reverse migration of Northern Orioles off the tip May 12, and an estimated 400 Scarlet Tanagers May 13 even forcing the train to slow down to allow them to clear the road!

LOONS, GREBES — The largest count of Com. Loons was at Prince Edward Pt. (hereafter, P.E.Pt.) where there were 198 May 6 (HQ,RDW); unlike the past few years no period of heavy movement at Mississagi Light, Manitoulin I. (hereafter, M.L.) occurred and the peak there of 153 May 17 (JN) was two weeks later than usual. Eight Red-throated Loons, Apr. 22 — May 28, were rather more than usual, and Red-necked Grebes were also unusually widespread in small numbers, but 350 Apr. 23-30 at M.L., was the one large concentration (JN). By contrast the only Eared Grebe was at Pelee May 1 (CEG,JEG).

PELICANS THROUGH HERONS — A press report of three White Pelicans at Howdenville May 26 in an Owen Sound newspaper sounded convincing, but an even more intriguing report from the Bruce Peninsula was of two Great Cormorants at Colpoys Bay from May 20 (LR). The account of the sighting does indeed suggest this species, rare enough on the Great Lakes at any time but unheard of in summer, but also is strongly suggestive of the two birds seen at Port Credit in the late winter. Perhaps these two ended up in Georgian Bay! The best Double-crested Cormorant counts were 29 at P.E.Pt., May 17 (K.F.N.) and 14 at Long Pt., May 14 (L.P.B.O.), and a rare Algonquin P P sighting was a bird May 14 (RT *et al.*).

Another noteworthy Algonquin report was of a Green Heron on L. Sasajewun May 24 (DMcC). Six Cattle Egrets on Wolfe I., May 19 (JMCA) was the largest group reported, and indeed there were only three other reports in the south, but May 25 a bird was photographed on the Mattagami R., near Smooth Rock Falls (HL), the farthest n. the species has ever occurred in the Province. It was not a particularly good year for southern herons but Long Pt. did well with a Louisiana June 13, a Snowy Egret June 3 (AL) and a Little Blue June 10 (JMCC). The last species also occurred at St. Thomas May 12 (RH) and Orono May 21-22 (R&EA), and a Snowy was at Ft. Erie May 1-2 (RLS). Six Great Egrets were seen outside their s.w. area of abundance n to Manitoulin (RB) and e. to Kingston (MHE), which also had a Glossy Ibis Apr. 16-17 (AEB, m.ob.). April 9 was early for two Black-crowned Night Herons at Orillia (CJM).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — The peak Whistling Swan passage at Bradley's Marsh, Essex Co., was two weeks late Apr. 2, when 40,000 were counted (*vide* AHK). Canada Goose movement peaked about May 8 when large numbers were seen over much of the e. of the Province. The heavy Brant flight was as usual

later, and confined to Kingston for reporting purposes there were 900 May 21 and 2400 May 27 (K.F.N.) Two White-fronted Geese were seen, one at Toronto to Apr. 15 (JAK, m.ob.) and a second at Port Hope May 2-5 (ERM). Snow Geese were unusually widespread, although only Ottawa recorded significant movement. There were flocks to 54 birds there Apr 6 — May 1 (StG). Atikokan had an early Mallard Mar 8 (TN,DHE) and a Black Duck Mar. 10 (RBu). At Lindsay a pair of Gadwall were seen May 27 (RDM), a possible forerunner to the Peterborough area's first nesting. As usual there were some high Pintail counts at Brentwood 2500 Apr. 30 (EAW *et al.*) and on Wolfe I., 3000 Apr. 9 (PEL,AEB). At Bradley's Marsh a nest with eight eggs that was disturbed by ploughing was the first recent nesting in the s.w. (MF). The season's Eur. Wigeon was on Wolfe I., Apr. 22 — May 27 (AEB *et al.*). Some diving ducks lingered late enough to suggest possible breeding: 12 Redhead on Tiny Marsh May 20 (TL,CJM), and Ring-neckeds at Pickering May 20 (RT *et al.*), three in King Township May 16 (ADs) and two pairs at Shallow L., Bruce Co., May 17 (JWJ) Oldsquaw peaked at Manitoulin May 17 with 600 (JN) and there were 200 on Larder L., to May 23 (PWR). The Lennox Harlequin Duck was last seen Mar 18 (K.F.N.) and the bird at Peterborough reappeared Mar. 25 — Apr. 15 (m.ob.). Others were at Ft. Erie Apr 9 (PS *et al.*) and a pair at Burlington the same day (AW). A Com. Eider at Kettle Pt., was photographed Apr. 8 (AR,DR), and a King in breeding plumage seen at P.E.Pt., Apr. 29 — May 21 (BR *et al.*) Surf and Black Scoters were reported in normal small numbers, perhaps four Blacks at Marathon May 20 (NGE) were most noteworthy. White-wingeds peaked May 24 with 3000 at Port Hope (ERM). The Red-breasted Merganser concentrations at Pelee were estimated at 40,000 by early May (m.ob.)

VULTURES, HAWKS — Turkey Vultures continue to expand, with ten reports in Ottawa this spring (*vide* StG), and seven in the Algonquin area, where they were rare until two years ago (*vide* RT); there was also an early bird seen at Quetico Apr. 2 (SP). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was photographed at Pelee May 15 & 22 (DJ,CU *et al.*), the first acceptable sighting since 1953, although there have been a number of suggestive but incomplete reports in recent years. At least five Golden Eagles were seen and eight Balds over the period. The latter species nested unsuccessfully in two locations in Elgin County and there were active nests at Arner and Rondeau (*vide* WRJ,AHK). Osprey numbers continue to strengthen, and in the Kawartha Lakes there were at least 12 sightings and three active nests near Peterborough alone (*vide* DCS). The much-viewed Toronto Gyrfalcon finally died Mar. 30, reportedly from eating contaminated waterfowl, although accurate autopsy details are not available at the time of writing. Six Peregrine Falcon and eight Merlin reports are low for recent years.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS — A Ring-necked Pheasant at Manitowaning May 28 (CB) might have been an escapee. Middlesex County's first Sandhill Cranes were two at L. Whittaker Mar. 19 (JRC *et al.*), while two at Providence Bay Apr. 15 (JN) and a bird at Quetico May 7 (RBu) were closer to the species' range

A Yellow Rail was heard at P.E.Pt., May 21 (K.F.N.) but at Richmond Marsh the only reports were of birds May 20 and two heard May 22 (BMD,RAF), and there was no suggestion of last year's concentration being repeated.

SHOREBIRDS — There were a few early shorebirds sighted, more noteworthy in view of the hostile season: a Semipalmated Plover at Bradley's Marsh Apr. 30 (GB), 29 Greater Yellowlegs at L. Temiskaming Apr. 29 (PWR), a Dunlin at Pelee Apr. 19 (*vide* AHK) and a Semipalmated Sandpiper at Smithville May 7 (DBF *et al.*) It was a good spring for the rarer species, although there was limited habitat in most areas. The Atikokan area had its first-ever Piping Plover on the Marmion L. mud flats May 13 (TN,DHE) and there was a bird in Toronto May 22 (B&JW). American Golden Plover are not common in spring although good concentrations sometimes occur, particularly in the s.w. This year, however, they were scarce there but appeared in record numbers on Manitoulin I., with 150 May 12 (CW) and single birds at Ottawa May 7 (RMP,BMD), Peterborough Apr. 24 (DCS *et al.*) and Melbourne May 22 (WRJ). There were flocks of 3000± Black-bellied Plover in Kent and Essex Cos., in late May (*vide* AHK). A Whimbrel was at Marathon May 20 (NGE); along their main migration route in the s. the largest number was 700 at Long Pt., May 22 (L.P.B.O.). Upland Sandpipers were seen at Lake of Two Rivers May 28 (RDM) and at Deep River May 29 (WW), areas where these birds are rare. At least ten Willets were seen, making this one of the best springs on record for the species, and there were two Purple Sandpiper reports, one at Pelee May 13 (*vide* AW) and four at Toronto May 22 (B&JW), although neither apparently had supporting documentation. Also in unusual numbers were White-rumped Sandpipers, a later migrant which this year appeared as early as May 13 at Amherstview (K.F.N.), was in flocks of up to 40 birds at Essex (AW,SiG,PW), and recorded from six reporting areas. Baird's like Purple Sandpipers, are much rarer in spring than in fall but again there were two reports, one from Manitoulin I., May 15 (JN) and two from Vaughan Township May 20 (GB,AD). Godwit sightings included a Marbled on Manitoulin I., May 13-14 (CB) and seven Hudsonians, n and w. to Atikokan (TN) and e. to Mimico (RG), Apr. 28 – June 4. A well-described Red Phalarope was seen at Pelee May 9 (R&MS,JH) and Northernns at Essex May 25 (AW) and Dorcas Bay two days later (LC) The Wilson's Phalarope expansion continues, and although the influx did not equal last year's, some of this may be a consequence of observers coming to regard sightings of single birds as no longer very noteworthy. There were at least 10 locations where groups were recorded over a period long enough to suggest possible future breeding.

GULLS, TERNS — Glaucous and Iceland Gulls were seen along the lower Great Lakes until late May — May 20 at Kingston and May 25 at Pelee were respectively the latest dates for the two species. Laughing Gulls were at Pelee Apr. 15 – May 25 (JAG *et al.*) and Presqu'île P.P., May 29 (E&HK), and Franklin's Gulls at Pelee May 6 & 10 (m.ob.) and Manitowaning May 13 (CB) Little Gulls continued to be relatively scarce: there were probably four at Pelee and another four at

Toronto in May, but the only others were two at Long Pt., May 20 (L.P.B.O.) and one at Lindsay May 27 (RDM *et al.*). Forster's Terns were regular along the L. Erie shore and there were birds at Whitby May 13 (CEG,JEG) and P.E.Pt., Apr. 15-16 (RDW *et al.*), the first ever there. Tiny Marsh had good numbers of Black Terns: 300 May 14 (CJM), and a single bird was on L. Opeongo May 24 (GW,DP).

DOVES THROUGH OWLS — Mourning Doves were seen at Englehart May 20 & 25 and courtship behaviour was reported (JBW); the area is close to the species' range limits. An injured Snowy Owl at Atikokan May 10 was captured and being nursed back to health (TN), and a dying Barn Owl on the Niagara Parkway was brought to the Owl Rehabilitation and Research Foundation May 18. Adult owls brought to the foundation in the spring season are always males, which Mrs. McKeever suggests may be the consequence of the birds hunting to feed mate and nestlings and taking unusual risks as a result (KMCK). March continued productive for owls, with a Hawk Owl at Manitoulin Mar. 20 (JN), Great Grays at Peterborough in late March and Apr. 2 (Mrs. Martin, *vide* RDM,JW) and one and possibly two Boreals e. of Toronto still present to Mar. 27 (E&HK). Another Boreal was found dead at Baillieboro Apr. 10 (DCS) and Atikokan recorded two birds both of this species and of Great Gray Owls. Later reports included two Short-eareds at Kelly L., Apr. 22 (CGB), a Saw-whet at Pelee to May 10, probably one of the most viewed owls in history as it systematically roosted next to the main nature trail, and another to O.R.R.F., from Oakville Apr. 29.

CAPRIMULGIDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Once again P.E.Pt., recorded Chuck-will's-Widows May 20-21 (K.F.N.) and from May 15 two birds were back again at Pelee (m.ob.), where the first Provincial nesting was recorded last year. An early Com Nighthawk was on Great Duck I., May 19 (JN), and a Chimney Swift at Long Pt., Apr. 4 (L.P.B.O.) Marathon also had a swift May 27 (NGE). Red-bellied Woodpecker sightings included one at P.E.Pt., May 16 (LS) and there were six in the s.w. Kingston also had an early Red-headed Woodpecker Mar. 6 (K.F.N.) Although it was not a particularly noteworthy flight year for three-toed woodpeckers, there were several late reports of Northernns, the latest at Dyer's Bay May 27 (LC).

FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS — Early flycatcher reports included an E. Kingbird in s.w. Ontario Apr. 26 (*vide* AHK), a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Tiny Township May 14 (CJM) and an Olive-sided on Manitoulin I., May 14 (JN). The E. Phoebe at Marathon Apr. 23 (NGE) was at the limit of its range. On Apr. 30 on Amherst I., there were thousands of Tree Swallows moving and 1000 Barn Swallows grounded on bushes (AEH,BG). An early Barn Swallow was at Dundas Apr. 7 (AW) and May 14 there were 2800 in the Barrie area (CJM). Purple Martins are rare in the Algonquin area: one was seen there May 31 (DMcC,GW).

CROWS — The only Gray Jay report was of a bird at Barrie Mar. 11 (*vide* CJM) Black-billed Magpies were

reported from Atikokan Mar. 13 (TN) and Toronto Apr. 30 (B&JW), and Com. Ravens at Orillia Mar. 28 (WZ), Hawk Cliff May 8 (JS) and Paris May 3 (WRJ), in addition to several locations in Bruce County where the species now appears to be well established. On May 15 a crow at Pelee was identified as a Fish Crow on the basis of its size, calls and general behaviour (AW *et al.*). The record awaits review, and would constitute the first sight record for the Province if accepted, although prior reports of this species have been rejected due to the difficulties of describing call notes adequately. In any event, it is interesting to note that this bird appeared on the same day the Swallow-tailed Kite was seen, following a period when the weather aloft and the ground winds were headed strongly from the East Coast, and together with a major movement of migrant passerines.

WRENS THROUGH THRUSHES — Many observers remarked on the continuing scarcity of some of the species harder-hit in the severe winters of the past two years. Winter Wrens were most frequently mentioned, and the pattern of scarcity in Algonquin P.P., on the spring roundup paralleled that of last year. Carolina Wrens continued scarce in the s.w. — the only area of any abundance for this species in the Province — and Red-breasted Nuthatches, both kinglets, and to a lesser extent thrushes and towhees were also noted as scarce.

Many of these species are earlier migrants, and so were moving in a period of unusually cool but generally good weather which would have minimized the likelihood of major groundings. On the other hand, they should also be established on breeding territory before the end of the period, and some of the comments reflect assessments made on that basis.

An early Short-billed Marsh Wren was seen at Pelee Apr. 29 (GB). The Sudbury Mockingbird wintered successfully, and elsewhere this species followed its usual pattern of widespread, unpredictable occurrences. A Gray Catbird May 27 and a Brown Thrasher Apr. 24 at Marathon (NGE) suggest other mimids are prone to similar behaviour. Kingston's earliest-ever Brown Thrasher was seen Apr. 2 (GWO). The Nobleton Varied Thrush was seen to Apr. 12 (*vide AD*). It was a great spring for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers: there were up to three in a day at P.E.Pt., from May 18 (*vide RDW*), but four sightings n. and e. are more noteworthy: Peterborough has its first May 15 (MO, FH), there was one at Lake of Two Rivers the same day (RJP *et al.*), another at Sibbald Pt., May 12 (BP) and finally one on Great Duck I., May 23 (JN).

PIPITS THROUGH VIREOS — A huge flock of Water Pipits at Englehart May 12 covered a 15 acre field and "the whole field seemed to be moving" (JBW). This species usually occurs only in small numbers in spring, although the Englehart flock would be noteworthy in any season; this time the only other sizeable group was 50+ birds at Marmion L., May 13 (DHE). Over 25 Bohemian Waxwings at Ailsa Craig Mar. 12 (JC) was much the largest flock ever recorded in Middlesex Co., and a late bird was seen at Colpoys's Bay Apr. 4 (LR). Eight Loggerhead Shrike reports for the season were about average. Reports varied so widely on the number of White-eyed Vireos at Pelee over the

spring that they are difficult to assess; certainly the birds were present in at least average numbers, and elsewhere there were birds at the Pinery and London, and one n. to Owen Sound May 15 (LC).

WARBLERS — An amazingly — and probably fatally — early Black-and-white Warbler was at Pelee Mar. 24 (*vide AHK*). Pelee had its customary abundance of rarer species, although as usual there is great difficulty in reconciling the conservative reports of the passerines with the more enthusiastic ones: the Point has several features all of which militate against accurate counts. Hence the conflicting totals given by different observers for Pelee this year. There probably were four Prothonotary Warblers, several (2-10) Worm-eating and Kentucky Warblers and Louisiana Waterthrushes, and exceptional numbers of Hoodeds, with 25± May 15 alone; Golden and Blue-wingeds were also unusually common, and several Brewster's and one Lawrence's (DB *et al.*) hybrids seen. These were almost all sandwiched into May 8-24, and most of them around May 13-16. Ceruleans were in good numbers too, but both Prairie Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats were less common than usual. Turning to the rest of the Province, doubtless to the relief of those who do not visit our local mecca each spring, Long Pt., had three Worm-eating, two Kentucky and eight Hooded Warblers, chat, and two Louisiana Waterthrushes (the first Mar 31); Rondeau had Prothonotaries and a Worm-eating (PAW); and P.E.Pt., Louisiana Waterthrush, chat, two Hoodeds and the rarest warbler of the spring, a Yellow-throated May 14-16 (K.F.N.). Elsewhere a Prothonotary showed up at Sibbald Pt., May 13 (BP), Worm-eating Warblers at Whitby May 9 (MB) and London May 14 (P.F. Chidley), a Kentucky at Mud L., Oxford Co., May 23 (DBu), and chats at Bowmanville May 16 (PB,R&EA), Willow Beach May 22 (ERM) and Ottawa May 20 (TH). Ottawa also had two Ceruleans and a Prairie Warbler May 13 (LSi). Golden and Blue-wingeds were not only common at Pelee, as there were many other reports, and the Kingston sanctuary, *e.g.*, had 24 singing Golden-wingeds apparently on territory May 15 (KFE *et al.*). An example of the heavy localized concentrations produced by the unsettled weather in mid-May was the count of 28 Yellow Warblers in five minutes in Minesing Swamp May 14 (CJM). Algonquin had a Pine Warbler visiting a feeder Apr. 18-25 (RT) during the cool early season. Perhaps the outstanding warbler of the season was Hooded, as the figures above represent yet another increase in this species' sightings in spring, and there were six other reports along the lower Great Lakes.

BLACKBIRDS — Five Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen, the most noteworthy a bird at Marathon May 22, which also had a N. Oriole May 12 (NGE) This latter species may be expanding N: there were up to five at Kapkigiwan P.P., near Englehart, apparently on territory although none had been recorded there as recently as 1971 (JBW). Orchard Orioles were seen at London May 13 (JAF) and Peterborough May 19 (Mrs Martin, *vide RDM*), as well as being in good numbers at Pelee (*vide AW*). Brewer's Blackbirds appeared established again at two nesting locations: Ferndale May 23 (JWJ), and Erieau Apr. 20+, (AW), and scattered birds were seen elsewhere. Pelee had Summer Tanagers May 10+ and there was one at Rondeau the same day A

1977 record of note was of a W. Tanager banded at Port Hope Sept. 5 (*vide* RDJ).

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A **Black-headed Grosbeak** was reported as photographed at Rosslyn May 6 (H&MV); there is one prior photographic record. One species with almost no prior history in Ontario is the **Painted Bunting**, a bird which was photographed at Long Pt., May 21 and 23 (WR,EN *et al.*); it appeared to be wild. Pelee had a Dickcissel May 13 (J.Wilson,Sr.). The "winter finch" movement continued most of the spring, with both siskins and Evening Grosbeaks around in numbers to May 31+. The last of the Pine Grosbeaks was Apr. 9 and Com. Redpolls May 22. A postscript to the redpoll flight, which continued very heavy throughout March, is that at Lively, 23 Hoaroes were seen and 14 banded (JL,LF). Nothing more was reported on the Niagara-on-the-Lake House Finches, but six others were seen, one at St. Thomas, two London, two Toronto and one Kingston. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was reported from P.E.Pt., May 21 (RDW), and both a Lark and a Harris' Sparrow from Marathon May 10-11 (NGE). Another Harris' was seen at Bowmanville Apr. 17 - May 11 (PB,RF). The fringillid observation of the spring was a **Chestnut-collared Longspur** at Garson Apr. 17-18 which was photographed (WAE), the first material evidence for the Province, although there was a sight record in 1972.

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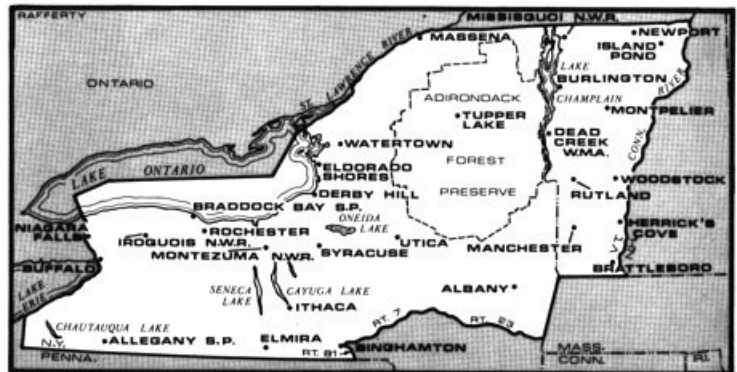
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NIAGARA-CHAMPLAIN REGION

/Douglas P. Kibbe

Seldom has weather exerted such an obvious influence upon the noctivagations of birds as it did this spring. Abnormal cold and northerly winds dominated the opening two thirds of the season with only minor letups in mid-March and early April. In the absence of favorable migrating conditions, waterfowl

returned late only to find many small waterbodies still ice-bound, which forced them to concentrate on the available open water in unusual numbers. Small passerines impatiently waiting for southerly winds trickled into the Region in small numbers on their usual arrival dates but the majority stalled in the south-central portion of the nation until winter relinquished its grip on or about May 10. A veritable flood of shorebirds, thrushes, vireos, warblers, and long overdue returning fringillids poured into the Region the third week of May, pulling normally later arriving species (e.g., flycatchers and Blackpoll Warblers) and some southern strays with them. Retarded foliage and intermittent cold fronts produced exceptional birding for a week and a half, but observable migration ended abruptly as temperatures soared and migrants passed through



without further delays, while observers bemoaned the brevity of spring. Even so, over 280 species were reported.

Further evidence of the impact of two severe winters on many 'half-hardy' species was obtained. Among the hardest hit were Winter Wrens, kinglets (both species incredibly scarce), Hermit Thrushes, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Rusty Blackbird. It is assumed that these and other winter losses are within the bounds of normal fluctuations and not cause for Blue-listing. But many species are in peril, as evidenced by the proposed list of 31 species for rare, threatened or endangered classification in Vermont. Perusal of the proposed list indicates that all the species on it more than deserve inclusion.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL — Both loons and grebes made only lackluster showings following banner appearances last spring. Three **White Pelicans** rested each night May 7-19 at Montezuma N.W.R. (SS.MC. m.ob.) and foraged in surrounding lakes, and caused a minor traffic jam on Rt. 104 when they finally departed. They had been pursued some 40 mi. by Rochester birders, who proceeded to give a short course on the fine points of pelican identification.



White Pelicans, Montezuma N.W.R., May 7-19, 1978. Photo/ C. Taylor.

Rarer southern heron sightings included an ad. Little Blue Heron near Penn Yan (ML, m.ob.), and an imm. Yellow-crowned Night Heron near Hamlin (CP). Great Egrets were widely reported from w. New York where regular, but a single near Brattleboro May 8, and Vernon, Vt., May 13 (WDN) were noteworthy. Snowy Egrets appeared in numbers with five at Kendall May 5 (RD,LWM) being the second highest Regional tally on record. A single bird reported at Arlington, Vt., May 25-26 (RK) was also exceptional. Least Bitterns proved very scarce and in Vermont, where they are being considered for rare status, they were found only at a single site despite diligent searching. A solitary Glossy Ibis at Plattsburgh Apr. 10. (CM. *fide* PW) provided the first local and Region's only report.

Geese staged in record numbers in c. New York in late April waiting for inclement weather to break. A total of 135,000 Canadas at Montezuma N.W.R., Apr. 20 (*fide* WEB) was nearly 20 times the number using the area 20 years ago and exceeded last year's record tally by 50,000. Although estimates varied, as many as 5000 Snow and an additional 7000 blue form Snows (AW, *fide* G.O.S.) may also have been present there by the end of April. This Montezuma flock, which has shown a steady increase in "Blue" numbers, is of Gulf Coast origin. The bulk (10,000+ birds) of the East Coast wintering population passed through Vermont Apr. 10-12. Iroquois N.W.R., hosted a **White-fronted Goose** Apr. 2 (FR *et al.*), the Region's third consecutive spring record, and a Barnacle Goose of questionable origin Apr. 16 (DF *et al.*). Equally noteworthy and questionable were three very wary Ruddy Shel-

ducks seen May 18-19 (W&PC *et al.*) near W. Salisbury, Vt. This extraordinary sighting followed a May 8 report of two "probable escapees" copulating at S. Hadley, Mass., and of a lone male May 9 at Northampton, Mass. The trio was the second Vermont sighting in four years.

Dabbling ducks were well reported as they concentrated in what little open water there was. Montezuma N.W.R., as usual, led in most species counts. Although far shy of w. New York tallies, a count of 500 Pintails near Columbiaville, N.Y. (LB) apparently represented a significant but previously unreported population using the Hudson R. valley as a flyway. Rarer sightings included a Eur. Wigeon on Kendall Apr. 18-19 (CT, m.ob.), an imm. ♂ King Eider photographed in Greece (KG, m.ob.) Mar. 1, and an ad. pair plus one imm. ♂ Barrow's Goldeneyes below Moses Power Dam (JVR) and a male at Montezuma N.W.R. (CH, *fide* WEB) in March.

HAWKS THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Rather than expound on the phenomenal increase of Turkey Vultures, let it suffice to note that despite unfavorable winds most of the season, nearly 1100 rocked past the Braddock Bay hawk watch. Continuing their early arrival trend the vanguard reached Greene County N.Y. by Mar. 5 (LB). All raptors passing Braddock Bay except Rough-legged Hawk and Osprey peaked one to two weeks later than usual owing to poor weather. Movements still occurred early in the period but did not concentrate on the lakefront. When strong SW winds finally reached the Bay, May 9, a deluge of 2900+ Sharp-shinned and 3700 Broad-winged Hawks ensued (LWM). Season totals for the watch included 442 Rough-legged and 350 Marsh Hawks, 88 Ospreys and 12 Golden and 15 Bald Eagles (LWM); all totals at least twice last year's. Ospreys were well reported throughout the Region but no new nest sites were located. About nine Peregrine and ten Merlin sightings rounded out the Regional raptor report.

A covey of eight Gray Partridge near Massena (JVR) was the season's sole observation. Speculation continues as to whether solitary **Sandhill Crane** sightings at Oak Orchard Apr. 2, Montezuma May 19, Hamlin May 21 and Braddock Bay May 22 constitute one or more individuals (G.O.S.,R.B.A.). High water generally made shorebirding difficult, however an estimated 50 Solitary Sandpipers in Vermont's Salisbury Swamp May 14 (WSS,WHB), 110 Red Knots at Geneva (RS *et al.*), and 1200 Dunlin at Braddock Bay (R.B.A.) all set new regional spring highs. Also exceptional for spring were three Am. Golden Plovers at Kendall in mid-April (R.B.A.,G.O.S.), two Baird's Sandpipers (RS,WL) and eight W. Sandpipers (KG *et al.*) at Perinton in mid-May. Rare at any season were eight Whimbrel at Braddock Bay (WL *et al.*) and two at Howland Island W.M.A. (DS *et al.*), an Hudsonian Godwit at Sodus Bay (m.o.b.), single Willets at three areas near Rochester (R.B.A.), and a **Ruff** at Tonawanda W.M.A., in mid-April and early May (B.O.S.). Virtually all shorebird sightings of note not otherwise indicated were made on or about May 21 when a mild cold front put a temporary halt to the overhead traffic. Also of note were a ♀ N. Phalarope near Penn Yan May 13-14 (ML), a Purple Sandpiper first seen walking down Rt. 22 in Essex Mar. 29 (PM,LS, *fide* H.P.A.S.)

and Vermont's first spring Long-billed Dowitcher, reportedly photographed at Derby on L. Memphremagog May 23 (FO *et al.*). In keeping with recent years, Wilson's Phalaropes were widely reported with about a dozen reports, all in c. New York.

A scattering of lingering white-winged gulls included an imm. Glaucous at Sodus Bay and an ad. and imm. Iceland at Kendall until May 21 (R.B.A.). Another chapter was added to Rochester's extraordinary **Thayer's Gull** mystery with the appearance of an adult at Kendall May 14, followed by another at Hamlin May 21-24, which was subsequently photographed (CP *et al.*). This marks the third consecutive spring and latest May record for Rochester and the Region. Other interesting larids included a **Laughing Gull** at Kendall May 21 (WLI *et al.*) and subsequently at Braddock Bay May 29 (JC *et al.*) and a **Franklin's Gull** May 13 near Phoenix (*vide* MR), the latter a particularly unusual spring location for this western stray.

CUCKOOS THROUGH CORVIDS — Yellow-billed Cuckoos were exceptionally well reported in several areas of New York experiencing caterpillar outbreaks. Single Barn Owls were sighted in W. Elmira (*vide* WEB), Greece (KG), and Middlesex (*vide* WHB); the latter apparently Vermont's first sighting outside the L. Champlain valley. Snowy Owls lingered at two Vermont localities until late March, and one appeared Apr. 5 at Braddock Bay (G.O.S.). Although found only six times in Vermont, Saw-whet Owls staged an excellent flight along the L. Ontario shore in late March with daily reports of up to five. A possible Chuck-will's-widow was flushed at Braddock Bay May 13 (J&WL). A Com. Nighthawk in Buffalo Apr. 27 (DF), and a Chimney Swift at Middlebury, Vt. (WSS) were both unusually early. A swarm of 25-30 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds descended upon a flowering crabapple at Plainfield, Vt., late in the afternoon May 24 (LC, *vide* MM). Gone the next morning, they left no clue as to why an aggressive, normally solitary diurnal migrant suddenly exhibited such behavior.

Black-backed Three-toed Woodpeckers were located in Bloomfield, Vt. (FO *et al.*) and in Herkimer and Hamilton counties, N.Y. (FL *et al.*). The latter county also produced the Region's sole N. Three-toed Woodpecker sighting (FL *et al.*). Acadian Flycatchers were reported from Yates (DF) and the Rochester area (G.O.S., R.B.A.). A Gray Jay lingering at Marlboro, Vt., through Apr. 17 (*vide* WDN) was the only report outside known breeding areas. A Com. Raven was sighted again on Connecticut Hill near Newfield (*vide* WEB) and an apparent migrant was identified at Batavia Apr. 1 (CP), the latter making second consecutive lake plain spring record. Ithaca's **Fish Crow** reappeared Apr. 5 (*vide* WEB) for the fifth consecutive year.

WRENS THROUGH WARBLERS — All six Short-billed Marsh Wren localities were on the lake plains of w. New York. Although it would seem logical to expect a weather-induced decline in Mockingbirds parallel to that shown by many other species (*e.g.*, Winter Wren, kinglets, Hermit Thrush), they were, in fact, more widely reported than ever, particularly in Vermont. Durand's **Varied Thrush** tarried until Mar. 12 (G.O.S.).

One of the most conspicuous components of lakeshore migration, Blue Jay movements, continued to be relatively ignored; 9000± along the L. Ontario plains w. of Rochester May 13 (JS, CP) were 3000 above the previous Regional high but are only a tiny fraction of the total flight which continued well into June. The effect of the topography of L. Ontario to concentrate hawks and Blue Jays has been brought to readers' attention on numerous occasions in past years but the effect it has on small passerines, including nocturnal migrants has seldom been commented upon. The following high counts from areas on or near the lakefront dramatically demonstrate this effect: 3000 Am Robins and 300 E. Meadowlarks, Apr. 1 along the lakeshore w. of Rochester (CP); 59 Blackburnian Warblers at Webster May 13 (WLI, M.A.S.); 500 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (five times state high), 300 Purple Finches and 1000 Pine Siskins all at Manitou May 12 (RD); 1000 Evening Grosbeaks at Braddock Bay May 13 (WL); and 35 Lincoln's Sparrows at Hamlin May 13 (RC, WS). Various implications of these and a multitude of previously published observations suggest themselves: first, the lakeplains constitute exceptional birding areas, second, the tremendous research opportunities the lakeplains present are going begging for attention; third, and possibly most importantly, the potential impact of tall lighted structures (cooling towers, guy-wired TV towers, monuments, etc.) on birds that mass annually along the shores of very large bodies of water should not be ignored when decisions regarding the siting of these structures are being made.

Two pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were found this year at Ausable Pt.; New York's northernmost nesting area. There were many reports from Vermont; the most exciting of which will have to await the summer report and its tabulation of phenomenal nesting records resulting from the Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas Project Bohemian Waxwings lingered until Mar. 2 in Putney, Vt. (AM) and Apr. 22 at Beekmantown, N.Y. (HK, *vide* PW). Northern Shrikes continued to be well reported through the third week of April, while Loggerhead Shrikes arrived early, with a report Mar. 13 from Westport, N.Y., in the Champlain valley, being the first of several mid-March sightings. Although >40 Loggerheads were reported, none was found in Vermont and the season closed without a single Regional nesting record.

Prothonotary Warbler sightings were limited to one of the two known breeding colonies, near Oak Orchard, with the exception of a stray at Island Cottage May 13 (DS). The absence of reports from the other breeding locale, Montezuma N.W.R., is, we hope, owing to inadequate coverage of the birds' limited habitat there (a green timber impoundment s. of Rt. 20). Six Orange-crowned Warbler reports May 12-24 included one from Vermont where the species is extremely rare in spring (WSS), plus several others with convincing details Vermont's small colony of Cerulean Warblers at Sandbar W.M.A., continued to thrive and it will be surpris-

zing if the Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas program fails to uncover additional colonies along L. Champlain. Four Kentucky and five Connecticut Warblers were reported, all from c. or w. areas. The latter should be considered one of our rarest spring warblers and observers should exercise extreme care in distinguishing it from both Mourning and Nashville Warblers. Yellow-breasted Chats were generally very scarce, however one appeared in Reading, Vt., May 20-23 (MPR,LNM).

ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS — An immense blackbird roost, estimated at 2.5 million (75% Red-winged, 15% Starling, 6% Brown-headed Cowbird, and 4% Com. Grackle) formed near Gates, N.Y., in early April (JS,R.B.A.). A W. Meadowlark was heard at Hamlin May 12-19 (MC *et al.*). Adding to the western flavor, three Yellow-headed Blackbirds were identified Apr. 20 in Rochester (AC *et al.*) Orchard Oriole sightings were up, but only in areas of regular occurrence, Pt. Breeze and Ithaca. A convincingly described "imm." Black-headed Grosbeak that visited a S. Newfame feeder briefly May 18 (BB) is best considered hypothetical in the absence of definitive confirmation. An Indigo Bunting arrived very early Apr. 20, at Penn Yan (ML) but the main movement of most species was markedly delayed (*e.g.*, mid-May for Evening Grosbeaks and Pine Siskins). The extraordinary redpoll invasion which started last winter produced more >12 Hoary reports including several banded and/or photographed. One at Cornwall, Vt., identified as the Greenland race, *Acanthis h. hornemanni*, may constitute only the third United States record of this form (*vide* WSS). One of 3300+ Com. Redpolls banded at Schenectady was thought to belong to the Holboell's subspecies on the basis of coloration, bill shape and other measurements (RY). This is a poorly differentiated form and not recognized by some. Measurements submitted seemed to fit those of *Acanthis f. rostrata* from Baffin I., equally well. Further evidence that Pine Siskins may nest before initiating their return flight N was obtained in Ithaca where copulation was observed Mar. 31 (*vide* WEB) and Schenectady where fledged young were captured May 14 & 20 (RY). A few scattered Red Crossbills were reported through May 12 while White-winged were slightly more widespread. A European Goldfinch was again reported Apr. 18-21 at Pittsford, N.Y. (DM). Most observers noted a continued decline in Vesper Sparrows, which makes a tally of 20 at Hamlin Apr. 16 all the more remarkable (MC). Notable are "Oregon" Juncos in Webster, N.Y. (A&BK) and Winhall, Vt. (WJN). There are only a half-dozen previous Vermont sightings. Tree Sparrows lingered well into May throughout the Region with numbers still present May 21 at Island Pond (FO *et al.*). Clay-colored Sparrows were found at three localities; Eggertsville May 11 and Grand I., N.Y. May 22-25 (B.O.S.), and Burlington May 12-13 (WE *et al.*), the latter apparently representing Vermont's first record.

ERRATUM — Delete all reference to 1100 Lapland Longspurs in AB 32(2):202.

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APPALACHIAN REGION
/George A. Hall

It was an atypical spring, which produced a north-bound migration that appeared in most places to be one of the best in many years. The cold weather of the winter lingered on and both March and April were below normal in temperature and precipitation. In the



north, ponds and small lakes remained frozen well into April. At the end of April the phenology of plant development was between two and three weeks late. May was wetter than normal in most places. The early part of the month was cool but warm and even summer-like temperatures occurred late in the month. On the weekend of March 25-26 freezing rain occurred in a belt from the Mason-Dixon line south to at least central Virginia. The resulting ice damage to the trees was extensive at higher elevations and it is possible that early nesting grouse and Turkeys were affected. The May rains produced flooded fields, particularly in

the Shenandoah Valley, which produced more shore-birds than are usually seen in this Region.

As reported in the previous account, most of the migrants that usually arrive in late February or early March were about two weeks late in arriving. This pattern continued through March and April in the north, but in the south the late April birds arrived on time. A storm system from the west about May 3-4 brought the first May migrants to the latitude of West Virginia. For the next two weeks migrants moved through the Region in great numbers. The retarded state of the vegetation made most birds quite visible, and most areas reported a very concentrated and heavy migration during this time. The peak of this flight may have occurred about May 11-13. On May 12 a total of 157 species was listed in Erie County, Pa. (DS) On May 14, 210 birds of 44 species were banded at Presque Isle S.P., Pa. (SS).

WINTER MORTALITY — After the northbound flight and the beginning of the nesting season it becomes possible to estimate the extent of the havoc played by the second exceptionally cold and rigorous winter in a row. Those species that winter in our Region or in the part of the South which had exceptionally cold weather have been greatly reduced in numbers. The Carolina Wren and the two kinglet species have been remarked upon earlier. The Winter Wren has also suffered greatly. At Powdermill Nature Reserve, Pa. (hereafter, P.N.R.) only 120 Song Sparrows were banded compared with an average of 197 (RCL), while at Morgantown only 15 were banded compared with an average of 38 (GAH). At both stations the data for Field Sparrows were quite similar, indicating that these two common, and often neglected species have probably experienced heavy mortality. In late May the number of the non-migratory "Carolina" Junco in the West Virginia mountains was greatly below normal. On the other hand the northbound migration of White-throated Sparrows was unusually heavy. Several other species have also shown declines. Those species which wintered south of the extent of the severe weather seem to have had normal populations.

There may have been additional mortality to insectivores such as Chimney Swifts and some flycatchers owing to the cold wet weather and subsequent absence of flying insects in early May. Several reporters commented that E. Wood Pewee numbers were lower than normal.

LOONS, GREBES — A total of 89 Com. Loons on the Tugalo R., Ga. (RSt) was remarkable; elsewhere the flight was good. Red-throated Loons were reported from Williamsport, W.Va., Apr. 5 (SM), Marietta, O., Mar. 12 (PC), and from State College, Pa. (MW).

Red-necked Grebes were reported from near Waynesboro, Va., Feb. 24 - Mar. 14 (RS), Watauga L., Tenn., Feb. 27 - Mar. 20 (GE) (see Winter report), Guilford L., O., Mar. 24 (*vide* WB), Presque Isle S.P., Pa. (hereafter, P.I.), Apr. 8 (DS), and Fayette County, Pa., May 14 (VJ).

HERONS — In the Warren, Pa., region six Great Blue Heron nesting colonies have declined to 56 nests from last year's 98; two of the heronries had no nests (JH,RH) Near Harrisonburg, Va., two Black-crowned

Night heronries were destroyed by the late March ice storm (R.C.B.C.). In recent years there has been a trend of increasing spring reports of Great Egrets this year was no exception. Snowy Egrets were reported from Daleville, Va., May 4 (BK) and from near Williamsport, Pa., May 11 (CS), and Little Blue Herons from Clark County, Va., Apr. 16 - May 13 (RSi). More unusual was a Louisiana Heron at P.I., May 11 (DS) Cattle Egrets were found at Roanoke County, Va., Apr. 27 (NM,TK), Woodstock, Va., mid-May (RSi) and Jonesboro, Tenn., May 16 (RK). Green Herons were in lower-than-normal numbers throughout

WATERFOWL — The waterfowl flight brought mixed reports. Owing to the persistence of ice on most lakes and ponds it was much later than usual. At P.I., 25,000 ducks were present in the bay in early April while most of L. Erie remained frozen (DS). Many ducks remained in the Region late and even on May 1 some areas reported good numbers and variety. In w. Pennsylvania (PH) and West Virginia (GAH) the flight was poor; at Lock Haven, Pa. fair (PS), but in the Shenandoah Valley of West Virginia (CM) and Virginia (R.C.B.C., RS) as well as in e. Tennessee (GE) the flight was good. The Whistling Swan flight was good, with several reports from the e. panhandle of West Virginia (CM) and nearby parts of Virginia (RSi, R.C.B.C.), localities outside the usual flight path. The Canada Goose flight was also good, and geese remained at Lock Haven, Pa., until early May (PS) and were also at Mountain Lake P., Md., May 6 (FP). Two pairs of Canadas nested at Butler, Pa. (FPr). Snow Geese were reported from Frederick County, Va., Mar. 29 (RSi), Boone L., Tenn., Mar. 9-15 (GE), Waterford, Pa., Apr. 1 (SS) and Union City, Pa., Apr. 2 (DS) The Lesser White-fronted Goose reported earlier remained in Allegheny County, Pa., throughout the period (PH)

Northern Shovelers were more commonly reported than usual but Black Ducks were remarkably scarce. A Eur. Wigeon was at Union City Dam, Pa., Mar. 26 - Apr. 9 (SS) and another at Pine L., O., Apr. 22 (WB) The diving duck flight was very good and most heartening were reports of 250 Canvasbacks at Woodcock L., Crawford Co., Pa., Mar. 26 (RFL), 85 at Warren, Pa., Mar. 23 (WH), and 100+ at P.I., Mar. 23 (DS) as well as 300 Redheads at P.I., Mar. 18 (RFL) and a maximum of 375 Buffleheads at L. Arthur, Pa. (GMR). Oldsquaws and White-winged Scoters were widely reported with 125 of the former at Woodcock L., Apr. 9 (RFL). Common Mergansers were more numerous away from the larger bodies of water than is usual. An injured ♀ Surf Scoter was at Deep Creek L., Md., May 20 - 31+ (FP). A Barrow's Goldeneye at P.I., Apr. 9 provided one of the very few w. Pennsylvania records (JHI).

RAPTORS — Goshawks were reported from Conneaut Marsh, Pa., Mar. 11 (RFL) and from Butler, Pa., Mar. 28 (FPr). A Goshawk nest was under observation in the Lock Haven, Pa., area (CS). Red-shouldered Hawks were reported as being unusually numerous at Warren, Pa. (WH) and Elizabethton, Tenn. (GE), but at Charleston, W.Va., four nesting pairs that had been under observation for several years failed to nest (NG). The influx of Rough-legged Hawks s. of their usual range continued into the early spring. The migra-

tion of Ospreys was apparently a good one with many sightings reported. Three Merlins were seen in Crawford County, Pa., Apr. 16 (RFL), one was at Mountain Lake P., Md., Apr. 6 (FP), one at Pittsburgh Apr. 2 (MR) and one at P.I., May 19 (DSt). The only Peregrine report came from State College, Pa., Apr. 23 (MW,DB). We possibly should be alert to a potential decline in Am Kestrel populations. They were reported as being very low in the Ligonier Valley, Pa. (RCL) and at Charleston (NG). Near Warren, Pa., it was reported that kestrels fledged only seven young from two boxes, whereas in 1976, 20 young were fledged from five boxes (TG).

The Bald Eagles of Crawford County, Pa., hatched only one young from three nests (RFL). The wintering Bald Eagles at Warren, Pa., departed after May. 9 (WH) and sightings came from Boone L., Tenn., Mar. 5 (RK) and the Skyline Drive (killed on the road) May 27 (RSI). An injured Golden Eagle was captured on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Swannanoa, N.C., Feb. 14, treated and released Mar. 5 (RR). Another Golden Eagle sighting came from Roan Mt., Tenn., Apr. 8 (PDC). A pair of Golden Eagles was present at Pymatuning L., Pa., early March – May 14. In April this pair attempted to take over a nesting site of the Bald Eagle and on one occasion the Golden was seen to strike the Bald as it left the nest. The takeover was unsuccessful but the Bald Eagles did not hatch any young from that nest (RFL).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS, CRANES, GALLINULES — The Bobwhite was almost completely missing from n. West Virginia (GAH), another example of winter kill. The only other areas that commented on Bobwhite were Harrisonburg, Va. (R.C.B.C.) and Newcomerstown, O. (ES) where it was also considered to be scarce. Turkey populations were also felt to be low in most places.

The only report of Sandhill Cranes this year came from Ft. Loudon L., Tenn., Mar. 6 (PP). A Purple Gallinule appeared in a suburban yard in Knoxville, Tenn., May 5 (JBO).

SHOREBIRDS — It was an unusually good year for shorebirds. The several areas which had flooded fields in mid-May reported good numbers of all the commoner species. The shorebird of the season was the Wilson's Phalarope which staged a minor invasion in the first week of May. Reports came from Conneaut Marsh, Pa., two May 7 (RFL), Lock Haven, Pa., one May 9, two May 10 (PS), Garrett County, Md., two May 6, Rockingham County, Va., three May 5-7 (R.C.B.C.), Waynesboro, Va., two May 5 (RS), Austin Springs, Tenn., three May 5, two May 6, one May 7 (GE), Watauga L., Tenn., one May 13 (JMa), Kingsport, Tenn., one May 7 (RP) and Hethwood, Va., six May 5 (LB). For many places these represented the first local records. Other shorebird rarities were Whimbrel at P.I., May 24 (DS), Willet at Princeton, W.Va., May 7 (JP), and N. Phalarope, Mountain Lake P., Md., May 5 (FP). The usually uncommon and unreported White-rumped Sandpiper was reported from eight locations ranging from P.I., in the n. (DS) to Toccoa Falls, Ga., in the s. (RSt). Fifty-two American Avocets at Mountain Lake P., Md., Apr. 24 (FP), were remarkable in representing the first record for the Allegheny upland.

GULLS AND TERNS — Two Glaucous Gulls carefully identified near Bridgewater, Va., May 22 (RPe) were most remarkable. A Glaucous Gull was also seen at P.I., May 21-25 (SS), but the gull of the year at P.I., was a Lesser Black-backed Gull Mar. 19 (SS), for the first Erie County record. The flight of Bonaparte's Gulls across the mountains was widespread, with a maximum report of 500 at L. Arthur, Pa. (GMR). Laughing Gulls were at P.I., May 12 (SS) and at Lock Haven, May 16 (first county record — PS).

It was a good year for terns, especially for both Black and Common, while the rare Forster's Tern was found at P.I., Apr. 24 & May 12 (SS), Raccoon Valley S P., Pa., Apr. 24 (PS), Ligonier, Pa., May 7-11 (RCL), Garrett County, Md., many locations Apr. 6 – May 7 (FP), and Boone L., Tenn., Apr. 30 – May 13 (GE). Caspian Terns were reported from Guilford L., O (WB) and Fishersville, Va., in early May (JR,JG).

CUCKOOS, OWLS, GOATSUCKERS — Yellow-billed Cuckoos were common in n. Virginia (RSi, R.C.B.C.) where there was an outbreak of tent caterpillars, but elsewhere they were very scarce or missing (only one report from the whole Pittsburgh area (PH), and not recorded at P.N.R. (RCL)). Black-billed Cuckoo (usually the rarest of the two) was somewhat more common; a very heavy flight was reported from the Elizabethton, Tenn., area (GE).

As reported a year ago Screech Owls have been greatly depleted by the rigorous winter and they are now seldom reported. Great Horned Owls are becoming more numerous in the Ligonier Valley, Pa., and this may be the reason for the decline of the Barred Owl there (RCL). A Saw-whet Owl was heard in the Cranesville Swamp on the Maryland-West Virginia border May 28 (RHl). Short-eared Owls were found in Washington County, O., Mar. 9 (JS), Ligonier, Pa., Mar. 11 & 27 (JV), Butler, Pa., Apr. 22 (RBy,BP). Long-eared Owls were found at P.I., in March and in May (BG,DSt).

The Whip-poor-will continues to disappear from places where it was once common. Chuck-will's-widows were found at Troutville, Va., May 18 (BK) and at Pine Mountain, Ky., May 22 (SMc).

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS AND SWALLOWS — Both Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were considered scarce in many places and Com. Flickers were in low numbers. The flicker may have been a winter casualty in its s. wintering grounds, but the two permanent residents are not usually thought to be subject to winter kill.

The E. Kingbird was scarce in w. Pennsylvania (JH) and n. West Virginia (GAH) but thought to be more numerous than usual at Lock Haven (PS). The reports of E. Phoebe were mixed, with poor populations at P.N.R. (RCL), Morgantown (GAH), but normal numbers at Elizabethton, where the wintering numbers had been very low (GE). Acadian Flycatchers were more commonly reported than usual, but Least Flycatchers were generally in low numbers. The Willow Flycatcher continues to expand its range, and 3-4 pairs were present in the Elizabethton area at the end of the period (GE). The Alder Flycatcher has been leaving areas as the Willow moves in, but surprisingly there were four singing males at L. Arthur, Pa., where

the Willow has been well established, in late May (PH). Both species were in Garrett County, Md. (RH). Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported from Johnson City, Tenn., May 10-11 (SG,MD), Garrett County, Md., May 24 (FP), and P.I., May 20 & 26 (BG,JF).

In the Warren, Pa., area Tree Swallows were doing very well and have become an important competitor for the nesting boxes of "Operation Bluebird" (WH). The Rough-winged Swallow was almost completely absent from n. West Virginia (GAH). A colony of over 100 holes of the Bank Swallow was found near Columbus, Pa., May 31 (WH). Purple Martins were two weeks late in arriving at Knoxville (JBO) and this was typical of this season. The martin has not yet recovered from the 1972 die-off but each year populations are somewhat better.

RAVENS TO CREEPERS — The Com. Raven was reported from two locations in s.e. Kentucky where it had generally been considered to be extirpated (WD, SMc). A Boreal Chickadee was at a feeder in State College, Pa., Mar. 8 (MW). Red-breasted Nuthatches were quite common in n. Georgia (RSt) and w. North Carolina (RR) but northward they were scarce, and breeding numbers in the West Virginia spruce belt were low (GAH). The numbers of Brown Creepers reported in migration were unusually low, suggesting another winter casualty but in late May and early June the numbers on the breeding grounds in the West Virginia mountains were perhaps slightly above normal (GAH).

WRENS, MIMIDS AND THRUSHES — The plight of the Carolina Wren and the Winter Wren have been mentioned earlier, but House Wrens were in low numbers at most places, and no contributor even mentioned the vanishing Bewick's Wren. A Short-billed Marsh Wren was at L. Arthur, Pa., May 27 (PH).

Both Brown Thrashers and Gray Catbirds were in somewhat lower-than-normal numbers. At P.N.R. only 41 catbirds were banded — average 60 (RCL).

Wood Thrushes were felt to be in below normal numbers at P.N.R., where only seven were banded — average 14 (RCL), but at Morgantown the 18 banded was about average. Swainson's Thrushes were in lower-than-normal numbers: banding totals were only eight — average 38, at P.N.R. (RCL) and 13 — average 19, at Morgantown (GAH). The E. Bluebird picture is mixed. In the past this species has been a "disaster" species after hard winters but in the summer of 1977 this effect was not noticed. This year there were notable scarcities. None were found in the Lock Haven area (PS), at Warren, Pa., only 30-40% of the "Operation Bluebird" boxes were occupied (competition with Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and House Sparrows partly responsible for this — WH), but in the Ligonier Valley (RCL) and the Shenandoah Valley (R.C.B.C.) nesting populations were good.

KINGLETS, WAXWINGS, AND VIREOS — Only half the usual numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were banded at P.N.R. (RCL) and none were reported at Lock Haven (PS). No Golden-Crowned Kinglets were seen at Lock Haven (PS) and in the West Virginia spruce belt late May populations were only about

one-third of the 1976 levels (GAH). Cedar Waxwings were conspicuous by their absence at most places.

There was an exceptionally heavy flight of Red-eyed Vireos throughout. At P.N.R., 91 were banded (44 on May 21 alone) — average 43 (RCL) while at Morgantown 83 were banded, — average 9 (GAH). The White-eyed Vireo continued to do well in s.w. Pennsylvania at the n. extremity of its range (PH,RCL) and was found at Irvine, Pa., May 11, 16, 18 (WH) and at P.I., May 14, 20, 27 (DS), both localities n. of the usual range. Yellow-throated Vireos continued to decline in n. West Virginia, but better-than-average numbers were reported near Pittsburgh (PH). At P.N.R., many more than the usual number of Philadelphia Vireos were seen (RCL).

WARBLERS — Most localities reported the best warbler flight in recent years, although there were a few dissenters. It is difficult to truly assess the populations, however, since (1) the absence of foliage during the peak of migration made the birds very conspicuous and (2) the flight was much more concentrated in time than usual. There was some indication in late May that warbler populations in the West Virginia spruce belt were below normal, and this matter will be explored more fully in the next report when some census data will be available. Most areas commented on the exceptionally high numbers of both Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers. At P.N.R., 41 Tennessees were banded — average 28 (RCL). Common Yellowthroats, however, were in markedly reduced numbers and in n. West Virginia there is no sign that the Yellow-breasted Chat is recovering from its population slump. West of the mountains the Blackpoll Warbler was scarcer than usual.

A nest of the Yellow-throated Warbler was found at P.N.R., May 15, the first w. Pennsylvania nesting of this species (RCL). The only report of an Orange-crowned Warbler came from State College Pa., May 13 (MW) and P.I., May 14 (SS), while the only reports of Connecticut Warblers were two sightings near Pittsburgh (PH). A singing ♂ Morning Warbler remained near Wise, Va., until well after the first of June (RPe). This may be another example of the extension of breeding ranges S that is occurring in some boreal species, a topic which will be taken up in the summer report.

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS AND FRINGILLIDS — Brewer's Blackbirds were reported from Washington County, Pa., Mar 23 (RMH) and near Elizabethton Mar. 7-16 (GE). The flight of Scarlet Tanagers was almost universally considered to have been heavy.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was abundant at most places. Dickcissels were seen at Charleston, W Va., Apr. 27-28 (NG), Indiana, Pa., Apr. 30 (CW), P.I., May 17 (ZK), and Troutville, Va., May 11-16 (NM). The **Brambling** in w. Pennsylvania reported during the winter remained until Apr. 1 (PH).

Evening Grosbeaks were moving N throughout the period and some places which had not had them during the winter saw good sized flocks. There were still a few present on June 1. The redpolls which had been so abundant during the winter mostly departed during March but a few were still present in Mountain Lake P., Md., May 6 (FP). Hoary Redpolls were reported

from Lock Haven (three banded and others seen) in late March (PS), Erie Mar. 7 (BG), and State College, Pa., Mar. 19 (DB). There was a very heavy Purple Finch movement in late April. House Finches are no longer news as they have now filled the Region except possibly for the far south. Pine Siskins were widely distributed, and locally common, remaining as usual until the dandelions came to seed. American Goldfinches were extremely common at P.N.R., where 294 were banded, but other areas did not mention large numbers. White-winged Crossbills were seen at Erie, Apr. 20 (BG), Sheffield, Pa., Apr. 20-27 (TG), Pittsburgh Apr. 16-20 (MR), and Roan Mt., Tenn., Apr. 4 (DL). The only report of Red Crossbills came from Shenandoah Mt., on the West Virginia-Virginia border, early February - Feb. 28+ (R.C.B.C.) and Roan Mt., Tenn., Mar. 18 (GE).

White-crowned Sparrows staged a good flight, which lasted longer than usual. Unusual sparrow records were Clay-colored at State College, Pa., Mar. 12 (DB), Lark, Mountain Lake P., Md., May 12 (FP), Harris', Bridgewater Va., May 5-11 (R.C.B.C.), and Lapland Longspur in Lawrence County, Pa., Mar. 5 (PH).

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WESTERN GREAT LAKES REGION /Kim Eckert

While Spring 1978 may have been a long time in coming, it was well worth waiting for. Save for a mild warm spell in late March and early April, cold weather persisted through early May, resulting in little in the way of migration. An unseasonable but full-fledged



blizzard even hit northern Minnesota on April 2, as did two other milder snowfalls later in the month. These were part of a generally wet April which contrasted with a dry March; for example, Madison experienced its driest March since 1910. Heavier-than-normal precipitation followed and generally persisted well into May, with several heavy rains flooding scattered low-

land areas in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Significant flooding was restricted to the Red River valley in northwestern Minnesota from late March until mid-April, but here the rains reinforced the sudden snow melt. Extensive areas of standing water were left in many locations for prolonged periods, but shorebirds were strangely and virtually absent throughout most of the Region.

Warm temperatures suddenly and dramatically returned during the second week of May, however, which resulted in one of the best migration waves of passerines in memory. Not only was the intensity of this wave significant, but its widespread extent was also interesting. Widely separated observers from all three states agreed that May 9-13 was the period of greatest movement. From then until the end of the period, migrants more than made up for lost time as many individuals of different species passed through, including an exceptional number of rarities. This was especially true in the Duluth-Superior area during the last six days of May when one of the best local concentrations of migrants ever resulted from a persistent fog which grounded almost every bird around. On May 26, 102 species were recorded in a mere one-mile stretch of Duluth's Park Point, on the 29th no fewer than 20 species of warblers were seen in a single group of trees here by a pair of observers waiting out a downpour in their car, and on this same date a single observer found an estimated 2500 grounded passerines crowded onto Superior's Wisconsin Point.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Red-throated Loons continued to be scarce in Minnesota where

none was reported, but Wisconsin had reports from five counties, including a sighting from inland Oneida County Apr. 26 (PV), and good counts of 30± individuals Apr. 16 & 22 in Ozaukee County (DT). The lone Michigan report was from Whitefish Pt., May 11 (SR). Also from Michigan came three Red-necked Grebe reports, including an early individual Mar. 4 in Eaton County (LM) and another Apr. 2-4 at Detroit where this species is unexpected (AR,JB). Eared Grebes wandered farther E than usual with one in Minneapolis Apr. 25 and no fewer than nine individuals at five Wisconsin localities, including an unusually early one Apr. 2 at Milwaukee (CDF *et al.*). Western Grebes as well drifted E as far as Anoka County, Minn., May 3 (KL), Minneapolis May 29 (BDC), and even to Ozaukee County, Wis., Apr. 3, an exceptionally early date (LoE).

Double-crested Cormorants did well in Michigan with ten reports from five locations, while "southern" herons continued to do well throughout the Region. Little Blues were seen twice in Wisconsin: three were in Milwaukee County May 20 (HBa,MD *et al.*), and one was in Sheboygan County May 21 (m.ob). Cattle Egrets turned up at six w. Minnesota spots, with sightings of four individuals each at Roseau River and Thief Lake W.M.A.s, in the n.w. corner of the state (*vide C. Henderson, SV*), in five Wisconsin counties, including a very early Apr. 10 sighting at Horicon N.W.R. (BD), and in Michigan in Berrien County May 27 (WB), and up in Marquette County May 28 for only the third Upper Peninsula (hereafter, U.P.) record (*vide NI*). Snowy Egrets reached Minnesota with sightings from Fergus Falls May 22-23 (L. Woolson) and Big Stone N.W.R., May 29 (CMB), with the lone Wisconsin record in Oconto County May 13+ (HL). Most interesting was the rare but not unexpected Louisiana Heron at Rush L. Wis., May 28 (TZ). The number of Yellow-crowned Night Heron reports was encouraging: there were two Twin Cities area sightings May 17 & 19 (KL,BDC), reports from 7 Wisconsin counties with nesting underway in at least two sites, and only the third Michigan nest was found at Westland in mid-April (DBY). As far as other herons were concerned, a Green Heron at Agassiz N.W.R., in extreme n.w. Minnesota May 12-26 was noteworthy (SV), as was a Great Egret in Superior, Wis., May 12 (*vide KE*); a Black-crowned Night Heron was very early in Otter Tail County, Minn., Apr. 9 (SM), and Least Bitterns were worth noting from four Minnesota counties in late May and at Metropolitan Beach near Detroit May 14 (AR). Finally, the casual White-faced Ibis was found at Shields L., Rice Co., Minn., May 5-6 (R&J Sanford), and another ibis, probably a White-faced but possibly a Glossy, was most unexpected near Grand Marais, Minn., May 20 (M. Kilen, D. Zentner).

WATERFOWL — White-fronted Geese were down a bit in Minnesota with only 4 April sightings, while Wisconsin had 5 reports including a very late individual in Bayfield County May 16-30 (m.ob.). Late Snow Geese were in Columbia and Bayfield Cos., Wis., May 20 & 27 (RKO,LaE). The duck migration in most areas was uninspiring, with the only noteworthy numbers reported from Agassiz N.W.R., Minn. (3220 Gadwall May 15, 7930 Blue-winged Teal May 3, 2770 Ring-necked and 12,064 Lesser Scaup Apr 26; *vide SV*) and Detroit (10,000+ Greater Scaup Mar 24,

AR). Cinnamon Teal may be only casual in w. Minnesota, but there was yet another sighting this spring with one Apr. 29 in Watonwan County (*vide C. Henderson*), and even more significant were the two reaching Wisconsin: one male was present several days in Dodge County during mid-March (JI *et al.*) and another made it to Milwaukee May 25 (DG *et al.*) Another almost-regular visitant in Minnesota seems to be the rare Barrow's Goldeneye, a pair of which appeared in Otter Tail County Apr. 14 (G. Neilson) Also unusual and quite late was the Harlequin Duck in Superior May 30 (DT), but the most noteworthy duck of the season was easily the ♀ **Common Eider** seen and photographed by many on both sides of the St. Clair R., at Port Huron, Mich. — Sarnia, Ont., Apr. 16-25 Michigan also had yet another report of a ♀ **King Eider** Mar. 24-29 at the Monroe County power plant (AR); this species seems almost regular now in s e Michigan. As usual, there were several reports of all three scoters from Lakes Superior, Michigan and Erie

HAWKS THROUGH RAILS — Just as the waterfowl migration was hampered by the lack of favorable weather in March and April, so also were the numbers of hawks lackluster. The only significant total came from Whitefish Pt., Mich., where 4900 individuals were tallied. There were several noteworthy sightings, however, and leading the list had to be the **Mississippi Kite** watched for two hours and photographed in Milwaukee County May 20 (HBa). Red-shouldered Hawks continued to push W and N in Minnesota as evidenced by two at Big Stone N.W.R., May 20 (CMB) and another at Maplewood S.P., Otter Tail Co., Apr. 22 (SM). A Broad-winged Hawk was very early Apr. 1 in Anoka County, Minn. (KL). The Swainson's Hawk must have had one of its best migrations ever as shown by no fewer than 16 Minnesota sightings, plus two others from Wisconsin: Apr. 11 in St. Croix County and May 5 in Juneau County (SR,CK) Two Ferruginous Hawks were identified in Big Stone County, Minn., Apr. 15 (HK); although casual in the state, this species might prove to be regular if it were not so easily confused with odd-plumaged Red-taileds which are frequently encountered on the prairie

The nine Golden Eagles reported was a good number, with the adult in Allegan County, Mich., Apr 8 especially worth noting (DM). The always-exciting white-phase Gyrfalcon was sighted Apr. 13 in Lake County, Minn. (*vide J. Green*), while in the w. part of the state Prairie Falcon may yet prove to be regular with the increase in observer coverage there: one was described from the Felton prairie, Clay Co., May 14 (GO). Very encouraging were the 13 Peregrines reported, and it is curious that all but two of them were seen in May. The always-elusive Spruce Grouse was reported five times: in Lake and Cook Cos., Minn., in Douglas County, Wis., and twice in Michigan's U P Encouraging Greater Prairie Chicken news in Minnesota was the discovery of eight new booming grounds in Wadena County, an area quite e. of the known range (*vide C. Henderson*). The 14 Sandhill Crane sightings from Minnesota were well above average, and two Michigan reports were noteworthy a lone bird Mar. 30 at Kensington Metropark, Oakland Co., was said to be unusual (RH), and a good peak of 95 passed through Berrien County Apr 4 (G Scribner)

King Rails continued difficult to find in the Region: none was reported from Minnesota, Wisconsin had sightings from Rome Marsh, Jefferson Co. (MD,LoE,DT) and from Dane County (LaE,RKo), and the lone Michigan report was from Kent County May 15 (BSw).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS — Why the shorebird migration was so poor this spring is unclear, but poor it was in all three states, especially in Wisconsin (described as “a big disappointment”) and Minnesota (many observers called it the worst in memory). It would be tempting to simply say they detoured around this Region for some reason, or that there was so much habitat created by the heavy precipitation in Wisconsin and Minnesota that the birds were scattered thinly over more-extensive-than-normal mudflats. A more plausible explanation might be suggested by the lone location reporting a good movement: Berrien County, Mich., described its shorebird numbers May 13 as “unprecedented”; some locally notable numbers included 250 Spotted Sandpipers, 13 Willets, 25-30 White-rumped Sandpipers and 600 Short-billed Dowitchers (*vide* RS). It seems likely then that the sudden and uniform warm-up throughout the Region during the second week of May pushed all the shorebirds through at once with hardly a single stop. However, in spite of the lackluster migration, there were some highlights: a peak of 2500± Am. Golden Plovers in Dodge County, Minn., May 15 (*vide* VH); and another of 800+ Black-bellied Plovers in late May in Racine County, Wis. (*vide* DT); very early Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits Apr. 18 and 14 respectively in Ashland County, Wis. (RV); four Wisconsin Whimbrel sightings plus an unprecedented peak of at least 100 in Duluth May 20 (KE,HK); very early Lesser Yellowlegs Mar. 19 in Ozaukee County, Wis. (MD,LoE) and Mar. 23 in Duluth (*vide* KE); unexpected Willets May 6 & 13 in Monroe and Ottawa Cos., Mich. (JP,TW) and a very early one Apr. 20 in Racine County, Wis. (LoE); an extremely early Spotted Sandpiper Mar. 22 in Goodhue County, Minn. (JD); and finally and most interesting of them all were the two Ruffs at Buckhorn May 7 and Three Oaks May 21 in Berrien County (RS, WB,G. Smith).

An ad. Parasitic Jaeger at Crex Meadows, Wis., May 28 was most unexpected since it represented that state's first spring record (DT). Considering the generally poor showing made by other water birds, there was an amazing array of unusual gull sightings. Glaucous Gulls were well represented from all four of the Region's Great Lakes, plus inland sightings from Black Dog L., Minn., Mar. 12 (ES) and Dane County, Wis., Apr. 30 (LaE,TdB). An Iceland Gull was exceptionally late but well documented from Duluth May 2-18 (G Niemi,J. Green,KE), while Wisconsin had two documented from Milwaukee County Mar. 25 – Apr. 30 and Racine County Apr. 26-27 (LoE,MD). As usual, the Great Black-backed was represented only from s.e. Michigan with five sightings through March and early April. Thayer's Gulls continued to prove their regular status in the Region with single adults closely observed Mar. 4 at Castle Danger, Minn. (J Green,KE,RJ,OJ), Mar. 24 in Duluth (KE), and near Detroit Mar. 18 (AR); another with no age designation was reported from Milwaukee County Mar. 16 – Apr. 30 (LoE) One gull definitely to be

watched for here is the **California Gull**. Minnesota had its fifth state record with a group of three documented from Clay County Apr. 10 (GO), and there were two first-year birds carefully described from Michigan one picked out of a group of 5000 Ring-billed Mar. 24 at the Monroe County power plant and another Apr. 10 at Metropolitan Beach (AR). I know of only one previous record for this species in Michigan. Also very unusual and quite unexpected was the **Laughing Gull** in full ad. breeding plumage at Duluth May 20-25 which represents only the second Minnesota record (KE,RJ), and what may have been the same bird was seen May 24 in Douglas County, Wis. (SR,CK). This gull was also reported from L. Michigan May 16 in Sheboygan County, Wis. (NC) and May 13 & 23 at St. Joseph, Mich. (WB,RS,DS) where it is not unexpected. Also more or less expected were the Little Gulls Apr. 24 at Milwaukee (EE) and May 20 at Duluth (KE,RJ). And the final proof that Duluth was certainly the place to be May 20 was the discovery of an **Arctic Tern** which was closely watched for one-half hour in fight and carefully documented (KE,HK,P.Egeland), and a total of three were carefully studied at rest here May 28-29 (KE,RJ,J. Green *et al.*). Though there is only one previous Minnesota record (also from Duluth), this species should definitely be watched for and may prove a rare but regular migrant.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — Barn Owls continued virtually non-existent in Minnesota, but there was one Mar. 2 in Milwaukee County (DHa) and another at a traditional nest site in Sterling S P., Mich., May 3 (AR). Snowy Owls lingered in Wisconsin until May 3 in Ashland County (RV) and May 8 in Oneida County (PV), and another was extremely late May 26 in Muskegon County, Mich. (LF). Four of the nine Minnesota Hawk Owls from last winter lingered into March, with the latest until Mar. 25 near the Silver Bay airport; however, what may have been this same bird was unaccountably late near Murphy City, Lake Co., Minn., during the first half of May (*vide* VH,D Olson). Several Great Gray Owls from last winter's invasion were still present in March, with the last one departing Apr. 7 from Duluth Township (M.Hoffman), while one probably in breeding territory was spotted May 28 near McGrath, Aitkin Co., Minn. (R.Boehmer). A good total of 23 Long-eared Owls was banded at Whitefish Pt., Mich., Apr. 29 – May 7, while Short-eareds were well represented in Minnesota with an above-average total of 16 and three active nests.

A total of 11 Saw-whet Owls was also heard in Cook County along with the Boreals (KE) and there were three other n. Minnesota Saw-whets in St. Louis and Marshall Cos.; Michigan reports of this species included one Mar. 8, Muskegon County (GW) and 18 banded at Whitefish Pt., Apr. 23 – May 20 (*vide* WG). Pileated Woodpeckers seem to be increasing in Michigan with several marginal locations reporting birds, while the usual few Black-backed Three-toeds were noted at four n. Minnesota locations and three spots in n. Wisconsin.

The **Boreal Owl** continued to make news this spring after last winter's amazing influx. Michigan apparently shared in that invasion, evidenced by 23 banded at Whitefish Pt., Apr. 24 – May 7, including a maximum of six May 4 (*vide* WG), and by the dead Boreal found

May 12 at Berkley, Oakland Co., which represents the first record ever for the Detroit area (*vide* AK). Many Boreals continued to be reported into early March in Minnesota, with the last live bird seen Mar. 24 in Duluth Township and two road-kills picked up in Duluth Mar. 27 & Apr. 3 (*vide* KE).

S.A.

But the real news came with the discovery of at least 15 calling ♂ Boreals along the Gunflint Trail in Cook County Apr. 22 – May 7 (KE, T. Savaloja). Though there has never been a nesting record of this species in the United States, outside of Alaska, it seems certain that most if not all of these birds were on breeding territory, and one active nest was eventually found here in June which will be reported on in September's *American Birds*.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Western Kingbirds wandered E to Duluth (SG) and Marinette, Wis. (HL), both May 27. Acadian Flycatchers continued increasing in s.e. Minnesota with reports from Olmsted, Goodhue and Hennepin Cos., in addition to the usual sightings from Beaver Creek Valley S.P.; there were also two unusual n. Wisconsin reports in late May from Douglas and Bayfield Cos. (DT, LaE). The Tufted Titmouse remains decidedly uncommon in s.e. Minnesota with only four sightings there this spring, so it was quite unexpected to find a group of four in Otter Tail County May 21-22 (B. Anderson). Winter and Carolina Wrens were two of several passerines mentioned as being in short supply as a probable result of the last two severe winters in the e. United States. Other random examples mentioned by some are E. Phoebe, Mockingbird, E. Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike and both meadowlarks, but there was an unexpected Carolina Wren in Bayfield County, Wis., May 27 (LaE), and most unusual was the accidental **Bewick's Wren** May 15-30 in Winona, Minn. (W. Snyder *et al.*). A Varied Thrush was very late at a Green Bay feeder Mar. 27 – Apr. 19 (DH); a Swainson's Thrush set a record early date of Apr. 12 in Washington County, Minn. (DR), and Minnesota topped off one of its best Townsend's Solitaire winters ever with another sighting near Two Harbors Mar. 11 (BDC). Three Sprague's Pipits returned to the Felton prairie, Clay Co., Minn., a bit early May 14 (GO), and a N. Shrike was exceptionally late Apr. 24 in Oneida County, Wis. (PV).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — Observers in all three states enjoyed one of the best migrations of this group ever, and there was good representation of many of the southern species which infrequently reach the Region. Examples include White-eyed Vireos in Milwaukee County in late May (DG), Buffalo County, Wis., May 27 (DT), Metropolitan Beach, Mich., May 12 (AR) and another banded at Port Huron, Mich. (WL); Bell's Vireos were more or less expected in Wabasha County, Minn., five s. Wisconsin counties and in Berrien County; Prothonotary Warblers did well with a very unusual w. Minnesota sighting May 29 at L. Shetek S.P. (AD) and three Detroit area sightings where the species seems to be increasing; Worm-eating Warblers were up in s. Wisconsin with no fewer

than 4 reports and in s. Michigan with 5 reports, a Yellow-throated Warbler reached Berrien County for the eighth consecutive year with one at New Buffalo May 27 (WB); although the Prairie Warbler was missed in Berrien County, one found its way to Dane County, Wis., May 12 (RKO). Louisiana Waterthrush, only uncommon and local in s.e. Minnesota, was totally unexpected but well described in Lake County May 28 (FL); a pair of Kentucky Warblers, only casual in Minnesota, was found in Minneapolis May 18-19 (T. Savaloja *et al.*), Michigan had two reports May 12 in E. Lansing (DM) and May 27 in Berrien County (m.ob.), but s. Wisconsin had sightings from no fewer than 7 counties; Wisconsin also seemed to have the only decent population of Yellow-breasted Chats with 11 individuals from six counties, while only two were in Michigan at Metropolitan Beach May 14 (AR) and in Ottawa County May 16 (BM), and the lone Minnesota record was of an out-of-range pair at Old Mill S.P., Marshall Co., May 13 (B. Bengston); Hooded Warblers went unreported in Minnesota where the species is only casual, but s. Wisconsin and s. Michigan each had 6 reports. Of final warbler interest were two reports of the rarely encountered "Lawrence's" hybrid: a mid-May record from Waukesha County, Wis. (EG) and a banding record May 20-21 from St. Clair County, Mich. (*vide* AK).

TANAGERS THROUGH LONGSPURS — No fewer than three ♂ W. Tanagers wandered E into the Region, and all three were incredibly within a day of each other: one remained at a Duluth feeder May 12-14 (M. Kohlbray *et al.*); another was seen in Martin County, Minn., May 13 (EB), and the third was in La Crosse County, Wis., May 14 (JR). At best the Summer Tanager is only very rare in the Region, but this spring there were 5 sightings: May 12-14 at Metropolitan Beach (AR), 3 Wisconsin records from Dane County May 11 (ST), Sheboygan County May 17-23 (BB, HK) and Waukesha County May 21 (JWK), and Apr. 24 in Marshall, Minn. (*vide* HK). Most unexpected was the **Black-headed Grosbeak** photographed May 14 at an Ozaukee County, Wis. feeder (RS). Unless it was a previously unreported overwintering bird, it is difficult to imagine why a Dickcissel appeared at a Lansing, Mich. feeder Mar. 17-18 (DBu, VJ). Some lingering effects were still being felt this spring after last winter's finch invasion: in Michigan Evening Grosbeaks lingered later than usual in good numbers, two Pine Grosbeaks were very late in Marathon County, Wis., May 14 (*vide* DT). Flocks of Com. Redpolls were still being seen well into April in many areas, and there were 18 reports of Hoaries among them as late as early April, with no fewer than 12 of these from Minnesota. Pine Siskins lingered through May at many s. locations with nesting confirmed in Dodge County, Wis., Detroit and Ingham County, Mich. The **Gray-crowned Rosy Finch**, only a casual visitant to Minnesota, was at a feeder in Hoyt Lakes, St. Louis Co., Mar. 11 (AE). Two Baird's Sparrows were reported from the Felton prairie, Minn., May 14 (GO), but none could be found there subsequently. A Sharp-tailed Sparrow was noteworthy in Bayfield County, Wis., May 18 (AR). Finally, two sightings of the always elusive Smith's Longspur were of a flock of seven Apr. 1 in Cottonwood County, Minn. (RJ), and

two at Salt L., Lac Qui Parle Co., Minn., Apr. 23 (m.ob.).

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MIDDEWESTERN PRAIRIE REGION /Vernon M. Kleen

“Incredible, mind-boggling, superb, best I’ve ever seen, Point Pelee-like were some of the superlatives used by observers for the spring migration of 1978.” (CK). The cold, wintry weather kept early migrants



from arriving on time and delayed the departure of winter residents; the retarded foliation of vegetation allowed arboreal birds to be much more visible; the heavy rains of early May provided excellent marsh and shorebird habitat; and a stationary low pressure system centered in Ohio for four days around May 10 created spectacular birding concentrations that have been lacking for many years. All factors combined made it possible for birders to have excellent birding days afield this spring.

March was very cold; ice lingered all month. A severe ice storm through central Illinois devastated large numbers of mature trees. April, overall, was close to being an average month. May was unpredictable; it began on a cool note; turned rainy and ended up quite warm. Many of the best birding days were during the May rain storms.

The winter finch populations lingered well beyond normal expectations and Pine Siskins actually nested in five states. Mockingbirds, Eastern Bluebirds, Carolina and Winter Wrens and Golden-crowned Kinglets were drastically affected by this past, the second consecutive, severe winter. Shorebirds and marsh-dwelling

species took excellent advantage of the newly created wetlands; it was probably the best migration in decades for American Golden Plover and Wilson's Phalarope; Yellow-headed Blackbird expanded its breeding range. Herons were noticeably down; however there were minor influxes of such species as White-faced Ibis and Eared Grebe.

As usual, there was an expected number of extraordinary observations; since all such records must be thoroughly documented at the time of observation, more accurate and informative data are being assembled. A total of 180 documentations was received this spring (Illinois, 75; Indiana, 33; Iowa, 31; Ohio, 18; Missouri, 17; and Kentucky, 6). In addition, 14 photographs were received. All documented records have been denoted by a dagger (†). Specimens have been denoted by an asterisk (*). Records which were not satisfactorily documented appear in the UNCORROBORATED REPORTS section.

LOONS, GREBES — As recent trends have indicated, Com. Loons lingered in small numbers throughout the Region well into their breeding season. Single Red-necked Grebes were reported from Loraine, O., Mar. 2 (†Fry) and Danville, Ky., Mar. 16 (FL). Horned Grebes were reported much more commonly this spring than in recent years. A major influx of Eared Grebes was noted May 12-17; more than ever were recorded from Illinois, Missouri and Iowa; peak numbers included highs of 130 at Squaw Creek N.W.R., Mo., (hereafter, S.C.R.), May 12 (JBr); 57 in n.w. Missouri May 14 (TBk,R); and from 4-8 at three Iowa and four Illinois locations (m.ob.); an earlier influx was reported in late March when 13 were present at Springfield, Mo., Mar. 26 (CB *et al.*); and individuals at other Missouri, Illinois and Kentucky locations. The only W. Grebe reported was observed at Marble Rock, Ia., May 14 (PK).

PELICANS THROUGH IBISES — The White Pelican movement through the w. portion of the Region occurred during mid-April but was not spectacular; maximum numbers did not exceed 350 birds; the easternmost concentration included 135 at Red Rock Ref., Ia. Double-crested Cormorants were seemingly more widespread — being reported from all states; small numbers (3-8) were observed in the Cincinnati area and another near Cleveland; up to ten around Louisville, Ky.; a high of 27 in Gibson County, Ind., with singles at four other Indiana locations; from 1-3 in the Chicago area during the period; up to 22 in Illinois away from the nesting colony; at ten Iowa locations (max., 400 at Council Bluffs); and, from four w. Missouri locations (max., 100). Great Blue Herons were scarce this spring, being reported in only small groups. The usual small overflight of Little Blue Herons was detected in mid-April and early May; however, the individual at Columbus, O., Mar. 19 (†Fry) was exceptional; the total population was considered low. Cattle Egrets were also widely reported from the mid-April to mid-May period; they were observed at single localities in Ohio, Kentucky and Missouri; however, from seven Indiana and eight Illinois locations; 60 individuals were reported from Iowa — primarily s.-c. counties. Very few Great Egrets were reported. Single Snowy Egrets were observed at Council Bluffs Apr. 23 (†LB) and Randolph, Ia., May 16 (RS). A Louisiana Heron appeared

at Waukegan, Ill., for the second consecutive year May 9 & 28 (†JN) — could this have been the same bird reported in Chicago several hours earlier May 9? (†CS), another was present at Springfield, Mo., May 15 (†MGo). Black-crowned Night Herons were reported from all states as follows: Missouri, one bird; Iowa, widely distributed, max. 12; Illinois, seven locations, max., 24 (also, late in returning); Indiana, 50 pairs nesting at Gary; Kentucky, 40 at Louisville May 31; and Ohio, up to 16 at Cincinnati. Yellow-crowned Night Herons were nearly as widespread but in much smaller numbers, they, too, were observed in all states; max., four (two pairs) at Louisville. An influx of White-faced Ibises arrived in Missouri and s. Illinois; first detected at both Ashburn (†AD) and Columbia, Mo., Apr. 23 (†JR) where five and seven individuals were observed, respectively; those at Columbia remained until at least Apr. 30; singles were also noted at Wilton, Mo., Apr 26–May 5 (†JR), Maryville, Mo., May 2 (R *et al.*), and in Monroe County Ill., May 5-7 (†WR,†A, m.ob.). Eleven other individuals, reported only as dark ibises, were found in three Iowa locations.

WATERFOWL — The only Whistling Swans reported were observed in n. Ohio (max., 135) Mar 29 – Apr. 2 (m.ob.), and Nashua, Ia. (10) Apr. 10 (JS) The cold and ice of spring delayed the departure of Canada Geese, but once they left, they flew directly out of the Region without lingering. Normal numbers of White-fronted Geese moved through the w. part of the Region, flocks of 35 and 57 were noted in Fulton County and Springfield, Ill., (hereafter, Spfld.), Mar. 18 & 28, respectively. There was a tremendous build-up of ducks at many localities primarily during the last two weeks of March; diving ducks were even reported in good numbers in shallow areas. However, singles or several individuals of most species lingered through the period at various locations. Pintails were observed with young in s. Cook County, Ill., (R*Bi et al.*); Blue-winged Teal were noted as summer residents or breeders at several locations; a pair of N. Shovelers was present at Goose Lake Prairie S.P., Ill. (DJ); Wood Ducks had an excellent season in the south but were two to three weeks behind schedule in the north; 84 Bufflehead remained in s. Cook County, Ill., as late as May 6 (B *et al.*); and, there were widely scattered inland reports of Oldsquaw (†m.ob.). The notable records of White-winged Scoters were of individuals at Quincy, Ill., Mar 12-13 (†AD) and Spfld., Mar. 23 (H); at least 200 were tallied along the Chicago to Waukegan lakefront Mar 4 (R*Bi et al.*). Single Surf Scoters were documented in McLean County, Ill., Apr. 27-28 (†RCh,†JF, m ob) and Chicago May 6 (†B *et al.*). The only Black Scoter observed was found at Waukegan May 6 (†JN, *et al.*) The **Common Eider** at Sterling, Ill., Mar. 11 – Apr 8 was well-documented (†BSh, †m.ob.). Up to 1500 Ruddy Ducks were present at the Ottawa N.W.R., O (hereafter, O.W.R.) Apr. 10 (PJ); 54 were still at S.C.R., May 14 (R,TBk). An excellent migration of Red-breasted Mergansers was reported; up to 700 birds were observed at Cincinnati in late March during the peak of the Regionwide occurrence.

DIURNAL RAPTORS — The **Mississippi Kite** at Cresco, Ia., was well out of normal range (†TSt) The only Goshawk reported was observed at Columbus, O.,

Mar 6 (†Fry). Good numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported; 84 passed along a section of Indiana's L. Michigan shores Apr. 9 (KB); the species attempted nesting in a Cincinnati park (WRa). There were more (ten) Cooper's Hawks reported from Iowa than any other recent spring. The Red-shouldered Hawk may be experiencing a slight comeback; five nests were located in n.e. Iowa (JBd); 52 migrants were counted at O W R., Mar. 18 (BSt), and 45 there the following day (TBt). The only high spring count of Broad-winged Hawks was 120 at Columbia, Mo., Apr. 28 (JR). Five pairs of nesting Swainson's Hawks were reported from across Iowa; in addition, 26 migrants were reported from the state (†m.ob.); singles were noted from Monroe County, Ill., Apr. 26 (†WR) and from near the n.e. Illinois nesting area (m.ob.); normal numbers were reported from w. Missouri, but the one at Columbia Apr. 16 was not expected (JR). A Ferruginous Hawk appeared e. of Spfld., Apr. 22 (†H). Movements of Marsh Hawks were detected Mar. 22; 30 at Evanston, Ill. and 24 at Spfld. (H). The Osprey tally was not very high Missouri, 17; Kentucky, 3; Illinois, 19; Indiana, 14, Ohio, 12; and Iowa, 26; dates ranged Apr. 1 – May 25. A **Prairie Falcon** was reported from Ames, Ia., May 1 (†PH). Single Peregrine Falcons were documented from ten locations Apr. 16 – May 14; the species was noted twice at two w. Missouri refuges. Single Merlins were documented from only eight locations; again, all from Indiana w.

GALLIFORMS AND GRUIFORMS — The Bobwhite has suffered greatly in many n. and e. portions of the Region; some observers have yet to see or hear a single bird. Three wild Turkeys were reported from Hocking County, O., Mar. 3 (†Fry). The first N movement of Sandhill Cranes was noted in Bullitt County, Ky., Mar. 13 where 21 individuals appeared (FK *et al.*), 16 had arrived at Belvidere, Ill., by Mar. 26 (EB); six lingered at Hamburg, Ia., until May 11 (IG); it is possible that nesting occurs in n.e. Illinois — the area is definitely used by feeding adults and/or subadults. Virginia Rails lingered at several locations farther s. than expected until mid-May; ten or more were found at S.C.R., May 16 (E,R) and Iowa City, Ia., May 13 (TSh). Two Yellow Rails were flushed at S.C.R., Apr. 25 (R,L.TBk); two more were observed there the following day (R,E); at least two were regularly found at Iowa City Apr. 30 – May 6 (†TK,MN *et al.*); singles were noted at Sangchris L., Ill., Apr. 6 – May 6 (H) and at Calumet, Ill., May 6 (†Rbi). A Purple Gallinule was found and caught in a factory at Waukegan May 10 (JN) then released at Illinois Beach S.P.; another, the third state record for Iowa, was found injured at Ames May 22 (*JD). The Com. Gallinule was reported as "more common than usual" in n. Ohio; one had arrived at Calumet, Ill., by Apr. 9 (Rbi).

SHOREBIRDS — Observers afield on the right days found that the shorebird migration was good-to-excellent, other observers found the season wanting; fluctuating water levels often determined the quality at the same locations. Piping Plovers arrived at Montrose, Ill., by Apr. 22 (RN, m.ob.) and singles appeared at Olney, Ill. (LH) and Columbia, Mo. (*vide* JR) Apr. 24; two were noted at DeSoto Bend N.W.R., Ia., May 2 (RGo), one at Waukegan acted as if it were defending

territory in late May — however, nesting was not determined (JN). The greatest movement of Am. Golden Plovers in many years passed through the w. portions of the Region, especially Illinois, during the first week of May; 25,000± birds were tallied on the Illinois Statewide Spring Bird Count May 6 — making the species one of the five most common species of the day; six individuals appeared at Cincinnati Apr. 1 (PP). Up to 125 Ruddy Turnstones were noted in Wayne County, O., May 17 (DKI); 1-3 birds appeared at four Iowa locations in mid-May; singles were also reported from other locations. American Woodcocks were desperately late in arriving; one comment indicated a "stack-up" in Kentucky and s. Illinois in March as the birds waited for the snow and ice to disappear farther n. [?—Ed.] Two Whimbrels were observed at Waukegan May 28 (†JN). Upland Sandpipers appeared in c. Indiana by Apr. 4 (CK), but were generally not detected elsewhere until mid-April; moderate numbers were reported. Many observers found Willets this spring; there were 1-6 birds in most locations, however, there were 30 at Springfield, Mo., Apr. 30 (CB), 26 at Schell-Osage, Mo., May 11 (R,E); 11 in Henderson County, Ill., Apr. 29 (LM) and Spfld., May 8 (H), and 10 at Louisville May 7 (m.ob.); the species was reported from at least six Indiana and four Iowa locations. Single Red Knots were observed at Bolckow, Mo., May 13 (†JHi) and Waukegan June 9 (JN). Two Baird's Sandpipers were very early at Lamar, Mo., Apr. 5 (JR); six appeared at Aldrich, Mo., Apr. 13 (CB) and one at Waukegan Apr. 15 (†JN); larger groups were reported in mid-May. A spring-plumaged Stilt Sandpiper was present at Spfld., Apr. 2 (H), 1-2 were observed at Louisville Apr. 14 (BP); 29 individuals (max., 21) were tallied from five Iowa locations; two were noted at Columbus, O., May 11 (Fry) and the species was reported from two Indiana locations. Five Buff-breasted Sandpipers were seen at S.C.R., May 16 (R,E). From one to three Marbled Godwits were present at five scattered locations beginning Apr. 10 at Missouri Valley, Ia. (†RGo), through June 3 at L. Calumet, Ill. (TC); most were observed in mid-May. Hudsonian Godwits were more common and widespread than Marbleds; the species was located in all states except Kentucky; max. for five Illinois locations was two; for nine Iowa locations was 12; for five Missouri locations was 88 at S.C.R., May 10 (TBk) and 63 at Bolckow Apr. 19 (JHi); for two Indiana locations was eight at Hammond May 11 (†EH); and two at O.W.R., May 18-20 (Fry *et al.*) A well-marked **Ruff** provided the third record of the species in Indiana Apr. 29 – May 5 in s. Porter County (†PG, †m.ob.). Only a small number of Am. Avocets was encountered; max. was six at Waukegan May 9-10 (JN); the other two reports were from Indiana. There was an extremely large influx of Wilson's Phalaropes, there may be no previous record of such magnitude, the main flight was detected May 6-10 with flocks of up to 250± birds at Cherokee Ia.; 75± Fremont County, Ia.; 47 at Magee Marsh, O.; 39 at Crab Orchard Ref., Ill.; 38 at Champaign, Ill.; 28 at E. Chicago, Ind.; 24 at Patoka, Ind.; and 13 at Union County Ref., Ill. Most were observed in flocks of 3-10 individuals at 20 locations; lingering individuals at three locations were reported at late as May 28+; earliest arrivals were detected Apr. 24 in Peoria (VH) and Apr. 27 at Schell-

Osage, Mo. (BE) — for the only Missouri record. Groups of 1-4 N. Phalaropes were observed Apr. 30 (Waterloo, Ia.) — May 22 (O.W.R.) at six locations.

GULLS, TERNS — White-winged gulls continued to linger well beyond expected departure times. Three Glaucous Gulls were noted at Waukegan Apr. 22; one was still there May 6 (†JN); there were nine other individuals reported along L. Michigan shorelines of both Illinois and Indiana Mar. 11 — Apr. 25 (†m.ob.); another was present in St. Charles County Mo., Mar. 6 (TBk). Six Iceland Gulls remained around Waukegan Apr. 22-23 (†JN); one was still present May 15 (ph.-JN); singles were reported from Michigan City and Gary, Ind., Apr. 29 and May 4, respectively (†CK, TKe); another was present at the mouth of the Greater Miami R., O., Mar. 26 (†WRa *et al.*), and in Madison County, Ill., Mar. 26 (†RGt). Two Great Black-backed Gulls were found at L. Calumet, Ill., Mar. 26-28 (†MM, m.ob.) and one at Michigan City, Ind., Apr. 29 (CK, TKe). The subtleties in identifying Thayer's Gulls are becoming better known; six or more individuals were observed along the Illinois and Indiana portions of L. Michigan Mar. 20 — May 18 (†m.ob.). Three Laughing Gulls were present at Waukegan May 14 (JN *et al.*); singles were encountered at Louisville May 8 (†BSn); Cleveland May 21 (†JHo); n.w. Indiana May 13 (†KB) & 24 (†RGr); Waukegan Apr. 22 & June 10 (JN *et al.*); LaSalle, Ill., May 13 (†JHm); and L. Baldwin, Randolph Co., Ill., Apr. 18 (†KA). A Little Gull appeared along the s. portion of the Greater Miami R., O. Mar. 30 (†WRa). Interesting reports of Least Terns included singles at Schell-Osage, Mo., May 11 (R,E); Columbia, Mo., May 29 (†GTo,WGo); and LaSalle, Ill., May 28 (†JHm). A few Caspian Terns were still present at Waukegan June 10 (JN). There were good concentrations of Caspian Terns reported; an estimate of 3000± was received from the S.C.R., and St. Joseph, Mo. area, May 14 (L); 247 were at Columbia, Mo., May 14 (JR); 25-60 were noted at four Illinois locations May 8-21; flocks of 100+ were widely encountered in Iowa.

OWLS THROUGH WOODPECKERS — The only Barn Owl observed was present at Charleston, Ill., Apr. 13 (LBH). A **Burrowing Owl** was at home along a McLean County, Ill. fencerow, Apr. 12-15 (†TM, m.ob.; ph.). From one to four Long-eared Owls were still present near Cleveland in very late April (JHo *et al.*); one was encountered at St. Lucas, Ia., May 18-19 (JS); eight were noted at Willow Slough, Ind., Mar. 27 (TKe) and two at Mishawaka, Ind., Apr. 9 (FV,VI). Ten Short-eared Owls were present at L. Calumet Apr. 9 (RBi). A pair of Saw-whet Owls stayed around Willow Slough, Ind., until Apr. 9 — however, owing to their tameness and unnecessary handling by observers, they finally disappeared; the species was thought to have bred there as recently as 1977; singles were also reported from Magee Marsh, O., May 7 (TBt); Columbus Mar. 24 (Fry); Ledges S.P., Ia., Mar. 23-28 (MGI, HZ); and Spfld. (roadkill) Mar. 15 (*H). Unusual n. records of Chuck-will's-widows were singles at Willow Slough May 23 (EH); Waukegan May 28 (†JN) and Champaign County, Ill., May 12 (†JF). Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in excellent numbers.



Burrowing Owl, April 15, 1978, McLean County Illinois. Photo Vernon M. Kleen.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS — Seven Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were found in St. Clair County, Mo., Apr. 22 (R); another appeared near Cape Girardeau, Mo., May 23 (*vide* BE). More than 60 Acadian Flycatchers were observed along a 13-mi stretch of the Niagara R., Mo. (L,R). A good number of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers was observed this spring. More Olive-sided Flycatchers were found Regionwide than normally reported during the spring. A very impressive swallow movement was observed along L. Michigan at Waukegan May 9; all birds were heading S; the initial movement consisted mostly of Barn Swallows with several hundred Banks among them; however, from 10 a.m. on, Cliff Swallows dominated at the rate of >400/hr; by evening, Tree Swallows had become most prevalent; even martins and Rough-winged Swallows were noted in good numbers. The spring period for all swallow species was determined the best ever in several localities. The last of the Red-breasted Nuthatches was reported May 25 at Louisville (JE1) and May 19 at Spfld. (H). A Brown Creeper's nest was found at Moraine Hills S.P., Ill., Apr. 15 (AK); singing individuals were heard at Spfld., May 27 (H) and River Forest, Ill., May 21 (DJ). Winter Wrens were extremely scarce this spring. Carolina Wrens were practically nonexistent. Bewick's Wrens went unreported from some of their traditional Kentucky haunts; however, they still appeared to be fairly common throughout the Missouri Ozarks (R,L).

MIMIDS THROUGH SHRIKES — There was a tremendous drop in the number of Mockingbirds this spring; evidence showed a 90% decrease compared to 1977 in c. Missouri (JR). Gray Catbirds were quite late in arriving; however, Brown Thrashers arrived on schedule and were much more common than usual. The third record of **Varied Thrush** was established for Indiana at Muncie during mid-March (m.ob., ph.); one occurred at Lake Forest, Ill., Mar. 11-26 (†MM, †m.ob.); another that wintered at Cedar Falls, Ia., was last observed Apr. 15 (TSt,JS *et al.*). A Gray-cheeked Thrush lingered in Vermilion County, Ill., until June

14 (MC); both the Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes were common migrants this spring. The May 31 presence of a Veery at Danville, Ky., was unusual there; however, individuals from c. Illinois n., during the same period, may have been nesting. Eastern Bluebird was also among the species drastically affected by last winter's cold; very few individuals were reported and many observers expressed concern. A Townsend's Solitaire that wintered at Decorah, Ia., was not brought to the attention of the birding public until late; however, many observers saw it before it was last seen Mar. 26. Golden-crowned Kinglets were also exceedingly scarce this spring. Two Sprague's Pipits were found at Liberal, Barton Co., Mo., Apr. 4 (*JR); singles were noted at Malta Bend, Mo., May 9 (JR) and Missouri Valley, Ia., Apr. 11 (†RGo). Eight Bohemian Waxwings were found at Cherokee, Ia., Mar. 1 (DBi); singles were reported from Lucas County, O., Mar. 11-12 (AM,†ET) and Chesterton, Ind., Mar. 15 (†KB). The last of the N. Shrikes was found at Indiana Dunes, Ind., Apr. 8 (†PG); Waukon, Ia., Mar. 25 (†JS); and Grayslake, Ill., Mar. 15 (DJ). Loggerhead Shrikes were widely reported, but in small numbers from Iowa; in addition, six nests were located.

VIREOS AND WARBLERS — The Bell's Vireo was found to occur throughout Indiana and in stable condition in appropriate habitat in Iowa. The appearance of a Solitary Vireo at Louisville Apr. 5 was unusual (JEl). A spectacular warbler migration commenced May 8 and continued through May 22, with heaviest concentrations May 10-16. Owing to the retarded stages of vegetative growth and an apparent stationary low centered in Ohio, many observers were provided with unprecedented views of "normally difficult to see" species which were practically forced to the ground (CK); excellent numbers of expected species were encountered. A Swainson's Warbler was a window casualty at Mingo N.W.R., Mo., May 25 (*BE). A Worm-eating Warbler was on territory in Greene County, Ia., May 27 (DMS). Two Brewster's and two Lawrence's Warblers were reported. Yellow Warblers were much more common this spring than in recent years. The Black-throated Blue Warbler, normally rare in Indiana, was widely reported and relatively easy to find; there were two records for the species in Iowa. A Blackburnian Warbler had appeared at Spfld., by Apr. 18 (H). The northerly records of Prairie Warblers were: one at Wildcat Den S.P., Ia., May 28 (†N); and three observations at Spfld., Apr. 26–May 12 (H). Twenty Ovenbirds were found every day, May 15 – 17 at Spfld. (H); one arrived there by Apr. 18 (H). Five Louisiana Waterthrush territories were located in e.c. Iowa (TK *et al.*); one individual was present at Toledo, O., May 30-31 (ET). An excellent number of Connecticut Warblers was reported; even five birds from four Iowa locations were encountered; one was noted in St. Louis County, Mo., May 21 (TBk).

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Yellow-headed Blackbirds were quite common, readily adapting to the newly rain-filled marshes in Iowa and Missouri; a new colony of four breeding pairs first noted May 6 was established at Beardstown, Ill. (RR, m.ob.). Normal numbers of Brewer's Blackbirds were encountered.

Single Summer Tanagers were spotted at both O.W.R., May 9 (BS†) and Cleveland May 10 (M).

GROSBEAKS, FINCHES — A **Black-headed Grosbeak** made a brief appearance at Louisville Apr. 15-16 (†WMT,S,FS). A pair of Blue Grosbeaks returned to the Cincinnati nesting area (WRa); another was at O.W.R., May 9 (*fide* ET). Dickcissels were very late in appearing; in some cases observers felt that they were less common; the total picture will have to await the breeding season. Evening Grosbeaks remained throughout the Region well into May; the latest departures occurred May 17-25. **House Finches** are becoming more prevalent; the first Missouri record was achieved at Glendale and was last noted Apr. 23 (†m.ob.); courtship and possible nesting occurred around Cincinnati and Cleveland; an individual appeared at Franklin,



House Finch, Kirkwood, Missouri. First state record Photo/ Blanton Whitmire.

Ind., Apr. 25 (†BG) and another at Danville, Ill., May 1-2 (ME). The second record of a **Gray-crowned Rosy Finch** was established in Iowa at Oelwein; the bird wintered and was last seen Mar. 18 (†m.ob.). The Hoary Redpoll invasion will never be completely understood; the species was identified at: St. Louis Mar. 6 (†TBr); Iowa City Mar. 10 (†TK); River Forest, Ill., into April (†WS, m.ob.); Chesterton, Ind., Mar. 18 (†KB) and Indianapolis Apr. 12 (CK,TKe). The invasion of Com. Redpolls did not subside until late March – early April; one remained at Winnetka, Ill., until Apr. 23 (DJ) and Cherokee, Ia., May 1 (DBi). The majority of Pine Siskins retreated N during April; some lingered into May; however, rare nestings occurred in Kentucky, two Ohio counties, Indiana, two or more Illinois counties, Iowa, and four Indiana counties. The resident Red Crossbills at Sand Ridge S.F., Ill., were regularly observed this spring. The last of the White-winged Crossbills stayed until Apr. 1 at Spfld. (H) and Mar. 12 at Louisville (DMu).

SPARROWS, LONGSPURS AND BUNTINGS — Good numbers of Henslow's Sparrows returned to the established colony as well as to a new nesting field near Cincinnati; the presence of grass cover was a significant factor in the return of the species to Illinois Beach S.P. The presence of three Le Conte's Sparrows at Iowa City Apr. 30 was unusual (TK). There

were several late dates of departing Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Juncos. Clay-colored Sparrows were termed "common as usual" around Sioux Center, Ia.; 8-9 were observed at Iowa City; and 1-3 were reported from five Missouri and Illinois localities; one was documented at Lexington, Ky., May 7 (†DCo.RMo). Eastern records of Harris' Sparrows included one at Cincinnati Apr. 29-30 (†DD *et al.*); South Bend, Ind., May 9 (†DW); and four Illinois locations. A flock of 40 Lapland Longspurs was still present at Grayslake, Ill., May 9 (DJ). Large flocks of 100+ Smith's Longspurs were located in c. and e. Missouri during the last half of March; four birds were noted at Enos, Ind., Apr. 1 (EH) and normal numbers occurred in c. Illinois — some as late as May 6 (H). Snow Buntings were generally gone in early March; however 300+ were still present in Clay County, Ia., Mar. 14 (DBi); two were photographed at L. Calumet May 6 (RBi).

UNCORROBORATED REPORTS — One Surf Scoter at Clearfork Res., Richland Co., O., May 8, and three at Olney, Ill., May 9-12. An Arctic Tern at Michigan City, Ind., Apr. 30. A Lazuli Bunting at Waterloo, Ia., May 14.

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CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

/Thomas A. Imhof

After two consecutive severe winters, this spring had a cold March, with development of vegetation at least three weeks behind — the latest spring ever seen by botanist Sidney McDaniel of Missouri State University. After March 26, a good birding day (MAG), it



became warmer and drier, and condensed the blooming and leafing out of all plants into a brief period. This trend was slowed by a severe cold front, April 11, and the balance of April was cooler and drier, with May closer to normal but still warmer and wetter. The killer tornado storm of May 2-4 was responsible for a high proportion of the rarities in this report. Many common species were reported late.

Species most noticeably depleted by the cold included Eastern Phoebe, Carolina Wren, both kinglets, and resident Common Yellowthroat. The Common Flicker has largely recovered from last year's losses, and water birds seem to have suffered little from the cold.

AROUND THE REGION — Bill Shepherd's summary of Arkansas weather agrees with the above; Norman Lavers reported the only big fallout near Jonesboro came April 29-30; Edith Halberg, outdoors daily, characterized warblers at Little Rock as rather late and slow. In Louisiana, best fallouts were April 11

at Grand Isle notably vireos, tanagers, and buntings, and May 2 & 17 at New Orleans; a 9½ inch rainfall there May 3 brought down lots of shorebirds (JRe, MMy, NN, RJN). Mississippi is going great guns this year under the impetus of high-energy professor Jerry Jackson at Starkeville. Graduate student Wayne Weber listed good coastal concentrations of grounded migrants on April 11, 20, 23 (minor) and May 4 with good shorebirding right after May 4. He guessed that April 13 was also a big one, but proof had to come from Dauphin Island where Dwight Cooley alone saw 121 species on the island. A one-day record for Mississippi was the 154 between Hattiesburg and the coast, May 4 (LJG, JAT). Many Big Days in this Region depend heavily on weather, for instance an attempt for a coastal March record on the 31st failed miserably at only 115 because landbirds were hard to find — only four warblers (TAI, HHF, ALM). On Dauphin Island, Lib Toenes said that "Cape Mays were scarce . . . Scarlet Tanagers were predominant birds, Bay-breasted and Yellow predominant warblers . . . strange season." Mary Gaillard listed good days on Dauphin or Fort Morgan as March 26, April 8, 10, 12-13 (best day), 15, 19-20, 24-26, May 4, 5. From northwest Florida, Curtis Kingsbery reported "only two cold fronts got this far this year and both came in the middle of the week (April 11 and May 4?), so birding of migrants was poor." At Nashville, Mike Bierly reported weather substantially like the rest of the Region, but added a 32° F temperature for April 22 . . . "some species seemed tardy, others on time . . . May 13-14 stormy, cold . . . produced rarities."

LOONS, TUBENOSES, PELICANS — Two Red-throated Loons at Decatur, Ala., Apr. 29 (CDD, JMH) were the latest of 4 inland spring records for Alabama. Western Grebes were noted at 3 places in Arkansas in March: L. Maumelle, Pulaski Co., on the 7th (RJoh); DeGray L., Clark Co., on the 21st (JB, SS); and Millwood Dam, Hempstead Co., on the 25th (AMCw, LC, TH). A **Cory's Shearwater**, seen well at Cape San Blas, May 13 (RLC, BC, M&SD) was the first for n.w. Florida and reflects continued increase in the Gulf. The most Wilson's Storm-Petrels ever recorded in the Gulf were 100 scattered birds May 27, up to 70 mi s. of Dauphin I., (RWH) and also June 10, 20-70 mi s.e. of Alabama Pt., (JEK), 35+ mi farther e. Very few Brown Pelicans were noted on the Alabama coast, but an immature was at Eufaula Ref., 150 mi inland, Apr. 15 (JBO), and 40+ were noted at Grand I., La., Apr. 11 (MMy, NN, JRe).

HERONS, IBISES — An early Green Heron was on Ship I., Mar. 9 (WCW). Early Cattle Egrets were in Holmes County, Miss., Mar. 14 (WHT) and Swan Cr., Ala. (DMB, ALM, HHF, MMcD) where a count of 37 on Apr. 21 (DMB) was high for anywhere outside the Coastal Plain. An ad. White-faced Ibis, again in Perry County, Ala., was at the Uniontown colony May 28 (EG&RRR), June 1 & 19 (HHK, HBT, JVP, WRM).

WATERFOWL — A Whistling Swan was at Wheeler Ref., Mar. 5 (DMB, JMH, AM). A wild Canada Goose was still present May 31 in Santa Rosa County, Fla. (CWM). The abundance of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks in Louisiana is shown by counts of 2410 on two lakes

in Evangeline Par., Mar. 19 (JBO) and 45+ as far e as St. Tammany Par., Mar. 12 (NN, MMy, RDP, JRe). Another good count was that of 30 Mottled Ducks May 29 at Pascagoula R. marsh (WCW).

A ♂ Green-winged Teal at Cameron, May 13 was the latest for Louisiana (JCK, LH). A ♂ **Garganey**, present in Darwin, Memphis, Apr. 1-5 (RJoh, BB&LCC, m.ob. ph.) represented the first Tennessee record, and second for the Region, sixth for the U S (see AB 31:1011). Blue-winged Teal females had young in Evangeline Par., May 24 (*vide* RJN) and near Dauphin I., May 28 (CAS). A ♂ **Cinnamon Teal** at Elberta, Baldwin Co., Feb. 26 – Mar. 4 (E&HB, MLMat, PFC, ph. m.ob.) was the second for Alabama. Another ♂ **Cinnamon Teal**, 25 mi n.e. at Pace, Fla., Mar. 5-12 (CWM, PWS, m.ob.), was judged to be a 10% Blue-winged hybrid. A ♂ Canvasback which lingered at Wheeler Ref., May 6-21 (DCH, DMB) was the latest for Alabama, as were seven Greater Scaup Apr 28 (DMB, RWL) on Dauphin I. A probably cripple ♀ Com. Goldeneye at Wheeler through May 21 (DMB) was by almost a month the latest for Alabama. Valuable scoter data from Mississippi Sound, Miss, included White-winged, max., 13, last seen Mar 23 (JAT); Surf, max., 80 (WCW); Black, max., 50, last seen Mar. 8 (WCW). More late ducks were ducks were four Ruddies at Hattiesburg May 9 (LJG); a ♀ Com Merganser at Wheeler Ref., Apr. 1 (DMB); and a Red-breasted there May 29 (DMB).

HAWKS — The insect-eating kites are still doing well. Two **White-tailed Kites** were seen in Russellville Apr. 16 (HDR), for a second record for Arkansas. The most interesting of many other scattered Mississippi Kite reports was of one over the Sipse Forest May 14 (DMB). Accipiter reports indicated about twice as many Sharp-shinned as Cooper's; further the Sharp-shinned has now been recorded in summer (May-August) in 18 Alabama counties. A light-phase ad Swainson's Hawk in Cameron Par., Apr. 8 (TSS, DBC, PMM, BL) was one of a very few this winter. On the other hand, Rough-legged Hawks were considered by Bierly to have had a major invasion. The last of many records, mostly from Tennessee and Alabama, was on Apr. 22 at Wiggins, Miss., only 40 mi from the coast (LJG). Except for an ad. Bald Eagle at Pt. Clear, Ala., Apr. 2 (DGA) and two adults at Eufaula Ref., Apr 15 – May 13 (JBO), the only other report was the best kind, the raising of a young bird which flew Apr. 27 in St. Tammany Par. (MMy, NN, JRe). Two Osprey nests are now known from Louisiana (RJN, JJH, MMy *et al*), four pairs known from E. Ship I., Miss., (WCW), 6-12 pairs from coastal Alabama (PFC, TAD). Peregrines were reported from coastal Mississippi, Mar. 6 & Apr 19, three birds (WCW); Venice, La., Apr. 2 (MMy, NN); and Phillips County, Ark., Apr. 29 (EMH). Merlins were about the same — two in coastal Mississippi (WCW), Mar. 1 & Apr. 11; two at Ft. Jackson and Venice Apr. 13 (MMy, NN) were the latest for Louisiana; and one on Dauphin, Apr. 28 (DMB, RWL). Summer Am. Kestrels away from cities were really rare; one was on the Jetty Rd., Cameron Par., May 7 (RJN, DBC); downtown birds were one in New Orleans May 31 (JRe) and a pair which raised a young on a 15-story building in Birmingham (RRR).

MARSH BIRDS — Sandhill Cranes used their usual narrow corridor over Byrdstown, Pickett Co., Tenn., where Robbie Hassler counted 287 in 6 flocks Mar. 5-7. Black Rails may eventually prove to be uncommon, breeding permanent residents on the Alabama coast — birds were heard on Dauphin Apr. 3 (S&MA) and at Gulf Shores Apr. 16 (CDD,HME). Common Gallinules produced at least four young by Apr. 22 at Pascagoula (WCW, m.ob.), very early for such a late season. Purple Gallinules far inland were at Nashville May 1 (banded — KAG) and the Wheeler Ref. vicinity May 7 (DMB).

PLOVERS — An inland Alabama maximum was the 75 Semipalmated Plovers at Decatur May 14 (DMB). Wilson's Plover was first noted on E. Ship I., Mar. 8 (WCW). Its scarcity in Alabama, where the coastline is so heavily developed, argues for its inclusion on the Blue List. For the second time **Mountain Plovers** have been recorded in Alabama, 2-3, Feb. 24-26, & Mar. 12 at Gulf Shores (PFC,MLMat,B&LA, m.ob.) behind a plow with many gulls, sandpipers, plovers, and black-birds. Unusual May Am. Golden Plovers were a flock of 13 at Rayne, Acadia Par., May 14 (JCK,LH) and two through May 21 at Wheeler Ref. (DCH,DMB,JMH, RWL), the latest for Alabama.

SANDPIPERS — On Mar. 5, 21 Long-billed Curlews were in Cameron Par. (DBC,RJN); farther e., one remained at Gulfport, December – Mar. 25 (JAT,ABU, WCW, m.ob.); another was at Ft. Morgan Apr. 6 (RWL); and three at the head of Mobile Bay Apr. 16 (CDD,HME,JVP). A record 100 Upland Sandpipers were at Richwoods, Clark Co., Ark., Mar. 30 (JF). An early Solitary Sandpiper was near Ocean Springs, Miss., Mar. 4 (JAT), and a late one at W. Ship I., May 28 (WCW, m.ob.). The Red Knot, noted for huge flocks, produced a count of 400+ at Grand I., Apr. 11 (MMY,NN,JRe); eight late ones were on W. Ship I., May 28 (WCW). White-rumped Sandpipers were reported from many places in good numbers, max. 400 at Eglin A.F.B., May 4 (SL). Baird's Sandpipers in the New Orleans area were Apr. 11 at Grand I.; May 14, two; and May 8, three (MMY,NN,JRe); in coastal Mississippi, one on Horn I., Apr. 19-20 (WCW) and three at Gulfport harbor May 4 (LJG); two were at Eufaula Ref., May 13 (JBO). At Pascagoula, shorebird peaks typical of late May were 700 Dunlins May 21 (JAT) and 700 Semipalmated Sandpipers May 29 (WCW).

At Pascagoula 30 Long-billed Dowitchers were recorded Apr. 24 (WCW). At the same place were 50 Stilt Sandpipers May 14 (JAT,LJG), two still there May 29 (WCW); also three at Swan Cr., May 21 (DCH) the latest for inland Alabama. Buff-breasted Sandpipers, rare in spring e. of the Mississippi, were at Pascagoula Apr. 22 (JAT, m.ob.); Gulfport, two May 4 (LJG); Eglin A.F.B., four, also May 4 (SL) the first recorded in spring in n.w. Florida. Noteworthy Marbled Godwits were 28 at Grand I., Mar 26 (MMY,NN,JRe); two at Cameron Apr. 29-30 (JCK,RJN,DBC); one at Pascagoula May 10 (JAT,ABU,MH); and in the Decatur area, three at Swan Cr., May 6 (DMB) and one at Wheeler Ref., May 21 (DCH), the latest for inland Alabama. The **Hudsonian Godwit** was even more plentiful, with a first record for Mississippi, two at Pascagoula May 13-16

(PD,JP, m.ob. ph.); in Louisiana two were in Jefferson Davis Par., Apr. 23 (DBC,RJN) and 14 in New Orleans May 4 (NN); Tennessee had two, May 13 at Gallatin, for a second state record (D&PC); Alabama had a flock of 15, on May 13, a state max. (DMB,RWL,JMH). Still another first state record was of the **Ruff** seen well at E Mud L., Cameron Par., Mar. 20, (two pages of description — TSS,JWE,BL,DH). American Avocets were at Pascagoula all spring, max., 51 Apr. 22 (JAT,WCW *et al.*); eight were in Hattiesburg Apr. 23 (LJG); 18 in Nashville May 7 (MLB). Black-necked Stilts also were at Pascagoula all spring, max., 31 Mar. 31 (JAT *et al.*), apparently this species is capitalizing on landfill activities all over the East. Killer tornadoes play havoc with bird migration, thus after the storm of May 2-4 Wilson's Phalaropes were grounded in numbers in at least 16, often unusual, places over all six states. In Cameron Parish where they are regular, over 300 were recorded May 3-15, with a max. of 68 in Crittenden County, Ark., May 6 (JGH,LCC,BBC, m.ob.). A late winter-plumaged N. Phalarope was discovered with Semipalmated Sandpipers, May 14 at Holly Beach Oil Field, Cameron Par (DBC,RJN).

JAEGERS, GULLS, TERNS — Parasitic Jaegers were seen off the Alabama coast at Ft. Morgan Apr 6 (RWL); May 31 at Sand I., s. of Dauphin I. (RWH); and June 10 off the mouth of Perdido Bay (JEK). Some imm. jaegers probably summer in the winter range as do their close relatives the gulls and sandpipers. An imm Glaucous Gull was near Calcasieu Pass, Cameron Par., Apr. 8 (DBC,TSS).

S.A.

The southerly position of the sun in winter often makes identifications difficult on the coast, but by searching to the w. early in the morning, a new species for Alabama, **Black-headed Gull** was found at Ft. Morgan Mar. 30 (TAI) European experience taught the observer that resemblance to a Bonaparte's is mostly in wing pattern, but it feeds, flies, and acts much like a Laughing, with which this bird flocked. But North Atlantic observers compare Black-headed with Bonaparte's because no Laughing Gull flocks winter there.

An early Franklin's Gull in breeding plumage was at DeGray L., Clark Co., Ark., Mar. 18 (H&MP); three were at Old Hickory L., May 14-16 (MPS, m.ob.) A closely-estimated flock of 20,000 Bonaparte's Gulls, 100 yds. wide and 2-3 mi long, was at Alabama Pt (mouth of Perdido Bay) Mar. 18 (LR&RAD). An imm Black-legged Kittiwake was at Cameron Apr. 15 (JCK) A count of 90 Blue-listed Gull-billed Terns at Blakely I., Mobile Apr. 28 (DMB,RWL) equals the state max Very early Least Terns were at Gulfport Apr. 6 and had first eggs at Long Beach Apr. 28 (JAT).

DOVE, OWL, NIGHTHAWK — The Ringed Turtle Dove, a "man-made" species with no naturally wild populations anywhere, is fast becoming established throughout suburban Alabama — Athens, five suburbs of Birmingham, Auburn, Montgomery, Hayneville, and now Mobile where it has nested in a hanging plant in

a carport in Spring Hill for two years (JLD, m.ob.). Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls continue to prove more widespread than our usual bird-finding techniques reveal. A Saw-whet was found dead on a road near Kisatchie N.F., Natchitoches Par., Feb. 15 (*—PY, JOH) and, a few mi away on the absurdly late date of May 11 another was heard (JWE, m.ob.), for the 5th and 6th Louisiana records. A Com. Nighthawk at Starkeville Mar. 29 was early (CDC).

HUMMINGBIRDS, KINGFISHER — A Buff-bellied Hummingbird was present in New Orleans Mar. 4 (MMy,NN,RDP,JRE), and an **Allen's** (presumed male) present for some time at a feeder, was verified Mar. 22 (RJN,DBC,TSS). At Noxubee Ref., May 20 & 22, two active Belted Kingfisher nests were found in sawdust heaps (WCW,PR).

FLYCATCHERS, LARK — Scissor-tailed Flycatchers e. of the Mississippi R. may indicate more breeding attempts: one Apr. 23 at Guntown near Tupelo (RHO); another near Slidell, La., May 13 (HL); and a third on Alabama's natural prairie at Marion June 12 (CDD,HME). A **Great Kiskadee** wintering in New Orleans was last seen Mar. 21 (NN). Willow Flycatcher was detected at Starkeville: two May 16 and one May 17 (WCW). Early E. Wood Pewees were at Bellefontaine Beach Mar. 31 (JAT) and near Nashville Apr. 8 (MLM).

SWALLOWS, CROW — A very late Tree Swallow was at Pace, Fla., May 31 (CWM). Twenty early Bank Swallows on Bellefontaine Beach Mar. 31 (JAT) and two late ones at Pascagoula R. marsh May 29 (WCW) indicated a good coastal migration. An early Barn Swallow was at Noxubee Ref., Mar. 18 (WCW). Four Cliff Swallows were very late May 31 at Pace (CWM), and 300 were noted resting on bushes at L. Ouachita, Montgomery Co., Ark., May 7 (EM&HNNH). Fish Crows, abundant on the coast this year, were recorded for the first time n. of the coastal plain in Alabama: on the Coosa R., Shelby Co., Apr. 8 (JF,HFF) and two near the Black Warrior R., Jefferson Co., Apr. 19 (TAI).

NUTHATCH THROUGH PIPIT — The extent of this year's Red-breasted Nuthatch flight was shown by a bird in coastal woods in Cameron Par., Mar. 26 (DBC) and two in Nashville May 20 (JCA,RJM), 4 days later than a date of 54 years' standing. An early House Wren was in Nashville Mar. 21 (D&PC), and one was again found singing in Decatur Apr. 21—May 7 (DMB). Amidst reports of scarcity s. of Tennessee, a Bewick's Wren singing in a Biloxi garden May 5-17 (PB) was amazing. Late Short-billed Marsh Wrens were at Hattiesburg May 4 (LJG) and Swan Cr., Ala., May 22 (DMB). The latest ever for Alabama by 11 days was a Hermit Thrush on a downtown Birmingham sidewalk May 22 (RRR). Late also were a Ruby-crowned Kinglet near Huntsville May 8 (RWL) and 15 Water Pipits May 6 at Wheeler Ref. (DMB).

VIREOS — A Bell's Vireo at Ft. Morgan Apr. 12 (PFC,DGA) was the fifth in spring for Alabama, all in April. A ♂ and ♀ **Black-capped Vireo**, seen well May 4 at Bellefontaine Beach (LJG,JAT), is the first known e. of the Mississippi R. A full page description of these tiny, well-marked birds by two reliable observers,

pointed out that westerly winds had blown steadily for two days.

WARBLERS — Late-arriving Swainson's Warblers were reported from nine places in Mississippi, Arkansas, and Alabama, the earliest Apr. 15 near Vicksburg (WHT) and three with a nest were in the Sipsey Forest, Lawrence Co., Ala., May 14 (DMB,JMH). One of several pairs of Worm-eating Warblers at Bains, St Tammany Par., June 4 was building a nest in a sand ravine (MB), 25 mi farther s. than identical locations in Clarke and Monroe Counties, Ala., where they were singing in May and June. A late Golden-winged Warbler was at Hattiesburg May 4 (LJG), and a very early Blue-winged in Pine Bluff Mar. 17 (JKS). A very early Tennessee was at Gulfport Mar. 27 (JAT); a latest-for-Alabama Orange-crowned at Monte Sano S.P., May 14 (CDD,EF); and a 14-days-earliest for the area Nashville was in Ashland City Apr. 1 (TMM). Chestnut-sided Warblers were early Mar. 22 in Jackson County, Fla (MGr), and late at Gulf Breeze May 18 (RAD). In line with a good showing of Bay-breasteds, especially on the coast, was a count of 25 at Bellefontaine Beach May 4 (LJG,JAT). Connecticut Warblers were noted May 3 at Noxubee Ref. (CDC); May 6 in Birmingham (ALM), May 10 at Bellefontaine Beach (MH); and May 17 at Wheeler Ref. (CDC). Mourning Warblers appeared at Peveto Beach Woods, Cameron Par., May 6 & 13 (RJN,DBC,PMM,JCK); Wheeler Ref., May 17 (CDC), and Pulaski County, Ark., May 16 & 27 (EMH). April 20 is very early for Wilson's Warbler; a female was at Gulfport (JAT); ten at Little Rock May 11 was a local max. (EM&HNNH).

BLACKBIRDS — Noteworthy were 500+ Bobolinks near Decatur May 9 (RWL). Ten reports of 15 Yellow-headed Blackbirds from five states included two in March, one in April, the balance May 3-15 for the latest and heaviest spring flight on record. Three Bronzed Cowbirds in New Orleans Apr. 21 included one attempting to lay in an Orchard Oriole's nest and being chased (JCK).

FINCHES — An early Rose-breasted Grosbeak was in Starkeville Apr. 11 (ABU). Unusual inland away from the Mississippi Valley was an imm. ♂ Painted Bunting singing at Starkeville May 18-23 (WCW). A count of 150 Dickcissels at Decatur May 8 (RWL) indicated a peak year for this Region. A banner year for Evening Grosbeaks featured birds as far s. as Crestview, Fla. (GE, ph.); Magnolia Springs, Ala., including one partial albino (PFC,LFo,FS,SB); all three Mississippi coastal counties (WCW, m.ob.); and Mandeville, St. Tammany Par, max. 50 (DBF); The latest coastal date was May 1 at Fairhope, Ala. (A&MN); the latest inland May 22 in Sumner County, Tenn. (BH). House Finches were last seen at feeders in Birmingham Mar. 5 (TAI); and in Natchitoches a female until Mar. 12 (KS, m.ob.). Common Redpolls apparently got no farther than Nashville where the last were seen Mar. 11 (m.ob. T.O.S.) Pine Siskins were last seen May 8 at Gulfport (JAT); May 9 at Little Rock (EM&HNNH), and May 16 in Mobile (V&DF). A very late Grasshopper Sparrow was at Pascagoula May 4 (LJG,JAT); and a late Henslow's Sparrow was at Wheeler Ref., Apr. 29 (CDC). A transient Bachman's Sparrow was at the "Coffey

Grounds" in Memphis Apr. 24 (LCC); and in Macon County, Ala., in April, seven birds were found, three of them singing; then on the 23rd a nest with three eggs (SG). Tree Sparrows remained around Decatur until Mar. 11 (DMB) and around Nashville until Mar. 26 (RJM). Harris' Sparrows remained in Arkansas at Warren until Mar. 10 (EBI, VFo) and at Jonesboro until May 4 (NL). Late White-throats were in Birmingham through May 27 (RRR) and at Fairhope through June 6 (LPA). Lincoln's Sparrows appeared more often than usual and included one May 6 at Bovina (WHT) and eight, the latest May 19, in Memphis (BB&LCC).

OBSERVERS PLEASE NOTE — Preparing this report is very time-consuming, and available time for it is shrinking. So, we must insist that observers select their own important records and submit them on 3" x 5" cards properly and completely filled out. Now that we have well worked out the season of occurrence of most species, short extensions — if not artifacts of coverage — are not as important as how each species contends with the forces that try to destroy it — cold, storms, drought, pollution, habitat destruction. So please help.

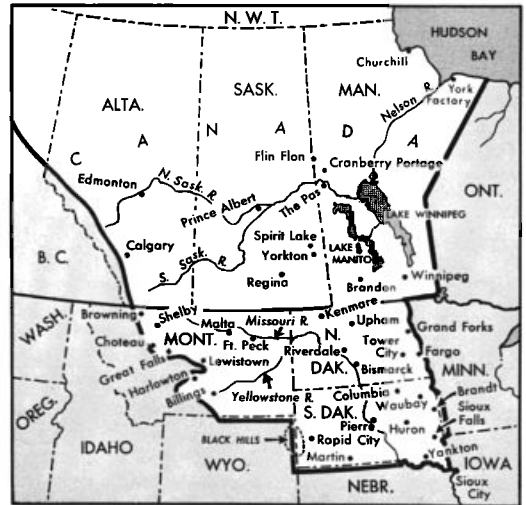
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NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION

/Esther M. Serr

Cold weather continued throughout with snow in most areas in mid-May. Jet streams and accompanying lows stayed in the gulf states leaving stalled arctic cold on the prairie. Observers reported that the migration was poor and late — the birds just trickled through until mid-May. Then, they dropped from the sky on Saskatchewan. Manitoba had warmer weather but not Alberta and Saskatchewan. Water conditions have been very good. The U.S.F.&W.S.-C.W.S. aerial survey showed that water areas increased three times over 1977.



GREBES THROUGH WADERS — Red-necked Grebes were well distributed in Canada and a nest with five eggs was found May 21 in n.w. Saskatchewan (WCH). A Horned Grebe count of 105 at Seven Sisters, Man., was the highest ever May 8 (PT). Three nests were found in McPherson County, S.D., May 21 — the second state nesting since 1972 (JTL,HFD). Eared Grebe numbers were equal to the Horneds (PON,FB) Western Grebes showed an increase but the total of Pied-billed sighted in the Region was only 41.

Peak count for White Pelican May 26 was 3258 at Lacreek N.W.R., S.D. (HHB). The Double-crested Cormorant count of 3300 is a definite increase. On

Apr 20, 1500 were fishing in the Missouri R , at Ft Peck, Mont. (CMC). Great Blue Heron numbers were very low. Seven Green Herons were seen Apr. 20 – May 26 in South Dakota and one each at Kleefeld, Man , May 22 and Grand Forks, N.D., May 28. One Little Blue Heron was found May 30 in a public shooting area in Clark County, S.D. (BKH).

The egret species numbers continued to increase. Three Cattle Egrets were rare sightings May 22-29 in s. Saskatchewan (CGA). A total of 18 were in Manitoba and 16 were at Sand Lake N.W.R., S.D. (SJW). There was a new high of 23 Great Egrets sighted in the three states and Manitoba Apr. 15 – May 28 (RWK,DSW, DLK). Nine Snowy Egrets were at Sand L., Hamlin and Clark Cos., S.D.

Black-crowned Night Herons were down in number in s. Saskatchewan but showed an increase in the other areas. Lacreek N.W.R. boosted Am. Bittern sightings with 59 of the total of 98. White-faced Ibis numbers have increased each spring with 20 sighted Apr 2 – May 21 in Lake County, Lacreek and Sand L , S D. (RDB,HHB,BM,TK). A flock of 13 was at Mackenzie Slough near Bismarck, N.D., May 21 (KJJ) There were two May 13 at Billings, Mont. (HWC,BBF) and two in May at Kincaid, Sask. (BL). One **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** provided a first Saskatchewan record at Lebet May 20 (M. Callin, F.H. Brazier) and one was seen May 14 & 17 at Oak Hammock, Man. (RFK,GDG).

WATERFOWL — Whistling Swans had a better flight this spring with 10,000± sighted in s. Saskatchewan May 2-13 (BCG,JKG). In Walsh County, N.D., 22 were found in a dry field. Trumpeter Swans at Lacreek N W R., numbered 120 Mar. 9 before flying to the prairie stock dams to nest. Thousands of mixed geese sat along Hydro Road, Churchill, Man., Apr. 23 – May 18 because the open water was slushy with snow (BC). The peak Snow Goose count was 155,000 Apr. 2 at Sand L., S.D. Ross' Goose was unusual at Lacreek where five were seen Apr. 6. One was at Portage Cr., Apr 26 and four were at Poplar Pt., Man., May 7 (CWC,GDG,GEH). Another was a rare find at Saskatoon May 19 (BCG,BWJ).

High duck estimates came from Bowdoin N.W.R., Malta, Mont., (GAS), Lacreek Ref. and Sand L. Ref., S D The small pond observer couldn't compete against those figures. However, the ponds are doubtless supplied by the refuges and Ducks Unlimited in the Region. Aerial surveys of the water areas in the prairie provinces showed decreases in Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Canvasback and Lesser Scaup. The ground observer numbers showed increases in Mallards and Canvasbacks. Cinnamon Teal numbers were higher with a Regional total of 50. Alberta had 20 in scattered areas (RJB,ACS) and e. Montana had 19 (HMM,BRW). A single ♂ **European Wigeon** was a first for e. Montana at Ft. Peck Mar. 18 (CMC).

RAPTORS — Turkey Vultures reached their n. range in Canada with 12 sighted Apr. 3 – May 21 (JJP). South Dakota had 14 sighted with five over Mt. Rushmore Apr 9 (RLH,CCM). Three Goshawks were seen in s. Saskatchewan Mar. 9 – May 10. One was on the back of a Mallard on a paved road in Cypress Hills — the duck escaped but was injured (JBG). Two were seen at

Pekisko and Bearberry, Alta , Mar 31 (HWP,DMC) Saskatchewan had increased numbers of Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. Red-tailed Hawks had a good flight over the prairie. On Apr. 8 at Grand Forks, N.D., 75 flew over in one hour (GSL). At least 700 went over Indian Head, Sask., Apr. 10-18 (MS). Broad-wingeds increased for the fourth consecutive spring with a total of 35 sighted. An aerial survey flight Apr 24 produced 25 Golden Eagles in 28 mi near the mouth of the Musselshell R., Mont. They were in small groups and appeared to be eating winter-killed fish (MWA). The total Bald Eagle count was 182.

Marsh Hawk numbers were on the upswing with 497 counted in s. Saskatchewan. There were 29 Ospreys sighted and 11 of those in e. Manitoba Apr. 17 (HWRC, PT). Another was harassing a Sharp-tailed Grouse dancing ground Apr. 11 in Divide County, N D (TLF). The Lambeth family followed one by car for a mile May 14 near Grand Forks. Nine were seen in South Dakota Mar. 31 – May 12 (HOS,GKP,NRW), and one was at Bismarck, N.D., May 21 (RQ). A Gyrfalcon was at Didsbury, Alta., Apr. 23 (AS). Singles were also seen at Whitemouth and Oak Hammock Apr. 15-22 (IAW,GDG). One light phase individual was at Churchill May 18. Saskatchewan always has the best populations of Prairie and Peregrine Falcons and Merlins in the Region. One Peregrine appeared to be trailing jesses in Deuel County, S.D., May 29 (BKH). South Dakota had the highest Am. Kestrel numbers.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — A Ruffed Grouse was heard drumming in Pembina County, N.D., May 21 While the South Dakota Ornithological Union was having a hay ride over Ordway Prairie, Mc Pherson Co., May 21, a Sharp-tailed Grouse was flushed from her nest of 15 eggs surrounded only by wisps of short grass. On the Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D., 26 were dancing Apr. 9 (GBB).

Table 1. Sharp-tailed Grouse decline in e. Montana after the hard winter of 1977-1978

County	No of Grounds	1977 Count	1978 Count	% Decrease	% Decline Survey Av
McCone	5	80	25	69%	52% (23 yr)
Sheridan	3	54	27	50%	40% (5 yr)
Valley	2	37	15	59%	48% (21 yr)
Phillips	4	90*	51	43%	12% (17 yr)

* 1976 count — no count in 1977

Sage Grouse seemed to have withstood the winter, however, the percentages of decline ranged from 6 7% to 57% in various Montana counties (WMA). A total of 22 was seen in s. Saskatchewan. Gray Partridge wintered well. A flock of 30 was found in Brookings County, S.D., May 19 (ERE).

CRANES, RAILS — North Dakota had a total of 23 **Whooping Cranes** sighted Apr. 10 – May 15 in Divide, Williams, and McLean Cos. (RAS). About noon May 15, seven were seen over s. Haakon County, S D

(NT). Three were seen with swans and geese in May near Wolseley, Sask. (JDH), bringing the total to 33. How many were counted more than once? A **Yellow Rail** was reported May 2 at Portage Cr. (CWC) and two May 27 in Sandilands P. F., Man. (RFK). Another was a rarity May 27 near Saskatoon (JAW, m.ob.). American Coots were highest in South Dakota with 23,000± as a total count.

SHOREBIRDS — Piping Plover showed an increase with 39 sighted in the Region Apr. 17 – May 29. A Mountain Plover was viewed May 22 near Billings, Mont.

S.A.

Shorebirds seemed to drop down on the Moose Jaw-Regina area in what could have been the largest concentration ever recorded in the prairie provinces. May 20-21 at Pelican L., Edith Kern estimated 75,000 and "oodles" more on sloughs nearby. Then, on May 25 an estimated 80,000 shorebirds were studied from 2 to 3 p.m. near Fairy Hills, Sask., 20 mi n. of Regina. Wayne Harris and Sheila Lamont identified 26 species including an estimated 345 Ruddy Turnstones, 1300 Red Knots, 5000 Baird's Sandpipers, 10,000 Least Sandpipers, 7000 dowitchers of both species, 650 Stilt Sandpipers, 3000 Semipalmated Sandpipers, 18,000 Sanderlings, and 30,000 unidentified peeps. By 5 p.m. that day fewer than 2000 birds remained. Neither body of water is large enough to be on maps. What a teeming mass that must have been!

A **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper** May 23 at Tofield was probably the first spring sighting of this Siberian species in Alberta (RJB) and possibly interior North America. A single **Ruff** in breeding plumage stayed on Kelly's Slough N.W.R., Grand Forks May 1-9 and was viewed by 75± persons for a first North Dakota record (JFK). The bird displayed to Lesser Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpipers in particular by bowing, charging and dancing (DOL).



Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, May 23, 1978, Tofield, Alberta. Photo/ R. Butot.

GULLS THROUGH CUCKOOS — Glaucous Gulls totalling 18 were observed Apr. 1 – May 26 at Saskatoon (JBG,MAG); Delta L., and Churchill; Ft. Peck and Hamlin County, S.D. Franklin Gull numbers looked better when 13,000 were seen Apr. 29 at Yankton, S.D. (JEW). It was unusual to see a Caspian Tern May 20 at Billings and 28 were seen at Seven Sisters and St. Ambrose, Man., May 27. Common Terns totalled 183 in the Region with a flock 35 at L. Audubon, N.D., May 12 (DCM). Black Terns numbered 1000± at Upper Souris N.W.R., N.D., May 14 (GBB) and several thousand were in s. Saskatchewan. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was a rare find May 18 at Grand Forks (DOL) and three were sighted feeding on caterpillars at Burke L., S.D., May 27 (GLS). Only 13 Black-billeds were counted in South Dakota May 13-29 (ERE,LIW). Singles were at Wolseley May 23 and at Good Spirit L., Sask., May 27 (JDH,WJA).

OWLS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Great Horned Owls seem to have had good nesting this spring. In 16 years of banding (through 1975), C. Stuart Houston has banded 2229 flightless young Great Horneds in the Saskatoon area and has had 209 recoveries showing they moved in a s.e. direction. A nest with young was watched in a hillside cave May 5-21 at Yankton, S.D. (WH). Burrowing Owl numbers were very low in South Dakota. Long-eareds increased with ten in the provinces and three sightings in N.D. (SOL). A pair at Calgary had a nest within 15 ft of crow's nest with owl eggs in both nests. After a few days the owls were gone and the crows were in attendance (KD). It was unusual to get reports of 221 Short-eareds. At Lacreek, S.D., May 26 eleven Short-eared nests were found and a nest with five young was found at Reliance, S.D. (WCT).

A Whip-poor-will was unusual at Fargo, May 5 (END). A total of four was counted in Moody and Yankton Cos., S.D., May 13-27. Two Poor-wills were heard and seen at Rapid City May 14-17 (BLG,DSM). A flock of 166 Com. Nighthawks passed over Grand Forks May 28 in one-half hour (JFK).

PICIDAE — One Red-headed Woodpecker was a first in s.w. Saskatchewan May 15 (RP). One Lewis' May 27 was unusual at Saskatoon (JAW). Six Lewis' and three active nest holes were found near Rapid City Mar. 25 – May 27 (C. Faanes, TMH,RDM). One Black-backed Three-toed was on the ground pecking a small branch in c. Pennington County, S.D., May 27 (JLM, EMS). Another was found May 2 at Prince Albert, Sask. (RM). A N. Three-toed was seen May 23 – 24 in n.w. Saskatchewan (ANM,RM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH CORVIDS — A Cassin's Kingbird was seen near Billings, May 15 — a week later than in 1977. Say's Phoebe sighted totalled 49 and a pair was at Weyakin, Sask., 54°30'N May 24 (RM). At Minot, N.D., Bank Swallows were at nest burrows by May 13 and Rough-wingeds by May 6. Barn and Cliff Swallows were reported in good numbers (AH,HCB). Purple Martins had promise of a good nesting season.

Most Corvid numbers were very low with possibly Black-billed Magpie and Com. Crow the lowest (RRJ). One Blue Jay probably over-wintered as it was seen Mar. 7 in Custer County, Mont., (TCH).

WRENS THROUGH VIREOS — A **Carolina Wren** was a surprise Apr. 27 at Gavin's Pt. (WH). Four Mockingbirds delighted observers in both Dakotas and s Saskatchewan May 9-27 (RAS,SJS). A Wood Thrush was at Fargo May 15 (MAB) and singles were at Sand L. (TK), Gavin's Pt., and Brookings, S.D., May 18-31 (CMP). Forty Veeries sighted were most unusual in the area. Eastern Bluebirds were lacking this spring. A Mountain Bluebird was found dead at Churchill Apr. 17 (B. Chartier). A Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher was a find May 9 in s. Brookings County, S.D. (NJH). Less than 20 Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported in good numbers. Bohemian Waxwings stayed in the Black Hills up to Apr. 1 in numbers (NMH) and Apr. 14 was the last date for them in w.c. Saskatchewan. Yellow-throated Vireos were at Grand Forks, Minot, and Portland, N.D., and at Winnipeg May 17-30.

WARBLERS — There were 26 species of warblers observed in migration but numbers were small. Most common were the Yellow, Yellow-rumped and Com. Yellowthroat. A single ♂ Hooded Warbler was studied at Highmore, S.D., May 6 (JHH). Two Golden-winged Warblers were rare at Grand Forks and Fargo, both May 22 (DOL,ELD). There were only two Yellow-breasted Chats reported; one at Rapid City May 20 (GRB) and another in the Qu'Appelle Valley, Sask., May 25 (DGH).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — A good migration of Rusty Blackbirds went through South Dakota (KJH,NJH). One Indigo Bunting was at Grand Forks May 18. South Dakota had a total of 17 sighted May 19-30. Lazuli Buntings were very scarce for the second successive year. One pair was at Mandan, N.D., May 19 (DMR); five in South Dakota May 14-24 (LAW,EEM); and one was rare at Regina May 15 (SML). Winter finches were in no hurry to leave the states, staying through April (IW,ERE,BRW). A Green-tailed Towhee was unusual May 21 at Billings (HWC,BBF).

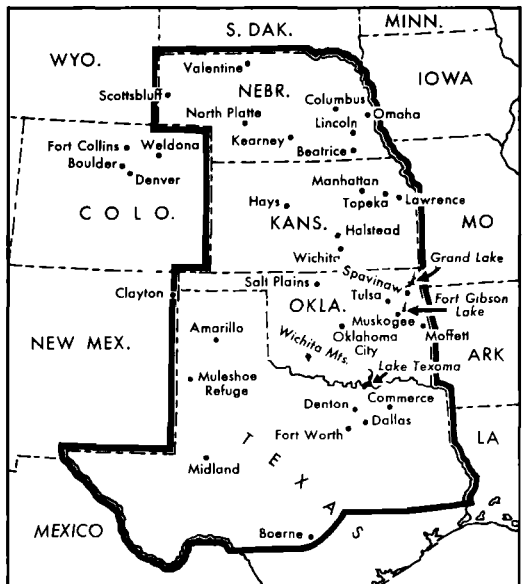
SPARROWS — Grasshopper Sparrow numbers increased in w. South Dakota. Baird's Sparrows were singing May 20-26 in McPherson and Bennett Cos., S D (C. Faanes). A pair was seen May 14 at Chester (MEK) and Billings, Mont., May 22. Le Conte's were abundant in s.e. Saskatchewan and two were seen May 2 at Calgary (CO). A Brewer's was sighted in s.w. Saskatchewan (JJW). A Gray-headed Junco was seen at Ft. Peck, Apr. 15 (CMC). McCown's Longspurs were observed May 11 n.w. of Billings and one at the Tiber Dam, Mont., May 20 (HMM). **Smith's Longspurs** were still in winter plumage, Apr. 6 in Duell County, S D (BKH) and four were found May 18 at Grenfell, Sask. (JEH). Snow Buntings were in breeding plumage Apr. 16 at Minot, N.D. (GBB) and late at Fargo May 14.

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SOUTHERN GREAT PLAINS REGION /Frances C. Williams

Most contributors were enthusiastic about the numbers and variety of birds this spring. The period May 2-7 was cool and rainy in most of the Region and produced fantastic birding. During the period May 17-20 there was a prolonged spell of southeastern winds which produced an amazing late movement of eastern vagrants in western Texas. Strangely, this movement did not reach El Paso and was weak at Amarillo, but observers in northeastern Oklahoma and eastern Kansas and Nebraska reported the same species on



nearly the same dates as in western Texas. No reports at all were received from eastern Texas which probably indicates migration there was very dull.

Tony Gallucci contributed an excellent summary of trans-Pecos Texas records which supplemented Peter Scott's fine report from Big Bend National Park.

Note: Although there is a Johnson County in each of the four states in this Region, all references to Johnson County below are to the Kansas county where Mary Louise Myers is the contributor.

GREBES THROUGH ANHINGA — A Least Grebe resided among the cattails at the well-known "Gambusia pond" in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 30 – May 4 (PS). Western Grebes remained at Balmorhea L., Reeves Co., Tex., until May 14. This species is a common breeder at Crescent Lake N.W.R., Neb. (hereafter, Crescent L.), where the population reached 195 by May 19 (CFZ). Western Grebes winter or stop briefly at almost any lake or playa between these two locations and are often recorded eastward to the c. portion of the Region. Olivaceous Cormorants were reported at Irving, Tex., Apr. 9 (KN). An Anhinga was discovered in Sarpy County, Neb., Apr. 8 (CP).

HERONS, IBIS — Herons and egrets, with few exceptions, are not expected on the plains until late summer, but this spring there were numerous reports. Little Blue Herons visited Kerr County, Tex., Apr. 6 (E&KM), Hale County, Tex., May 6 (KH), Cheyenne Bottoms W.M.A., Apr. 8-9 & 25 (LDM,SK), Sarpy County Apr. 10 & 21 (MW). Three Great Egrets were an incongruous sight circling above the Basin campground, Big Bend N.P., Apr. 21. A Great Egret in Randall County, Tex., Apr. 30 was noteworthy, as was a Snowy Egret in Llano County, Tex., May 24 (JG). A Louisiana Heron appeared at Possum Kingdom L., Palo Pinto Co., Tex., Apr. 29 (KN). At Tulsa the nest of a Yellow-crowned Night Heron was discovered Apr. 20. The latter species was reported in Sarpy County at intervals Apr. 23 – May 21 which may indicate a possible nesting there. Either observers are becoming more adept at finding Least Bitterns or the species is increasing. Two nests were discovered in Tarrant County, Tex., May 20. The species was also noted at Cheyenne Bottoms May 8, Sarpy County Apr 8 – May 13, and Seltman flushed one while swathing wheat in Pawnee County, Kans., May 19.

WATERFOWL — The only Whistling Swans reported were at Crescent L., Mar. 24. The Ross' Geese which arrived at Hagerman N.W.R., Tex., in November remained until Mar. 16. Other sightings of this species were at Balmorhea L., in early April (DS), Lubbock Mar 19 (CS, m.ob.) and Crescent L., Apr. 8 (CFZ). Mottled Ducks were reported at Dallas Apr. 17 – May 14 and Cheyenne Bottoms May 9. Cinnamon Teal visited Ft. Worth Apr. 5, Kerr County Mar. 23, Cheyenne Bottoms Apr. 25, Sarpy County Apr. 2, Crescent L., Mar. 30. In Keith County, Neb., 25 Greater Scaup were seen Mar. 24 (DR,RCR) and three were present at Crescent L., Mar. 21. During late March Buffleheads were common everywhere in w. Kansas, even the smallest farm ponds harboring a few (SSS). Two Oldsquaws were sighted in Keith County Mar 24 (DR,RCR). A Surf Scoter was present in

Cimarron County, Okla., May 13-14 (JDT,JMM) A Black Scoter was discovered in Linn County, Kans., Mar. 18 (NJ,JoG). **Masked Ducks** were found in Big Bend N.P., Mar. 29 (BM) and Apr. 11 (CEH). Hooded Mergansers were sighted in Douglas and Sarpy Cos., Mar. 29 – Apr. 27 and at Crescent L., Apr. 21. Red-breasted Mergansers were unusually abundant in the Omaha area Mar. 30 – May 7.

RAPTORS — Hawks were numerous at Omaha throughout the period. Observers there rarely report any raptors. On April 8 twelve species of hawk were seen along the Rio Grande in Big Bend N.P., but only one or two of each species. In Texas, White-tailed Kites were reported in Menard County Apr. 22 (CCW) and Ellis County Apr. 26 (EW). A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen in Montgomery County, Tex., May 3 (AW). A Mississippi Kite in Johnson County May 13 was noteworthy. Goshawks were sighted in Lancaster County, Neb., Apr. 14 (NGJ) and Crescent L., May 10 & 13 (DD,CFZ). Hundreds of Broad-winged Hawks moved N along the Missouri R., at Omaha Apr. 2. By Apr. 14 Broad-winged were nesting at Tulsa but migrating birds were observed as late as May 10 at many localities. The only flock of Swainson's Hawks reported was at Arlington, Tex., May 4 and comprised 50 birds. Flocks of this species are so rare now that each migrating group should be counted carefully and reported. Zone-tailed Hawks were seen regularly in Big Bend N.P., both along the Rio Grande and over the Chisos Mts. Yantis discovered the nest of a Zone-tailed Hawk in Real County, Tex., Apr. 27. A sub-adult Harris' Hawk spent most of April along the Rio Grande in Big Bend N.P.

On Mar. 24 about 60 Bald Eagles were at L. McConaughy, Garden Co., Neb., feeding on dead carp on the ice. About 60% were immature birds (RCR). On Mar. 26 about 20 Bald Eagles were present at Harlan County Res., Neb. (RCR). A Caracara was sighted in Van Zant County, Tex., May 13. Not including breeding birds of the trans-Pecos, only three Peregrines were reported.

QUAIL THROUGH RAILS — Most Montezuma Quail in the Davis Mts., Tex., are seen along the scenic loop w. of Ft. Davis, but this spring after extensive fires in the high country the quail were sighted as much as 27 mi. s. of Alpine. A spectacular migration of Sandhill Cranes was observed in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area Mar. 18, when at least 12,000 passed over. It is interesting that the next day two flocks comprising about 100 birds each flew over Oklahoma City. A King Rail was found dead in Sumner County, Kans., May 8 (SK). A pair of Purple Gallinules with nine young were observed at Irving, Tex., May 27 (SC). Common Gallinules at Midland May 5-8 and Ft. Worth May 6 were noteworthy.

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebird migration was late, with the peak occurring May 13-14 in most of the Region. By this date most birders were concentrating on warblers and so missed the shorebirds. Piping Plovers provided a first county record in Osage County, Kans., May 8-9 (JS). Other records of this uncommon species were at Oklahoma City May 13, Cheyenne Bottoms Apr. 23-25, Sheridan County,

Neb., Apr. 16 (RCR). Mountain Plovers were sighted in Crosby County, Tex., Mar. 19 (KH) and Hagerman N.W.R., Apr. 8 (CRB).

A first nesting record of the Am. Woodcock in Lyon County was established when an adult with young was found Apr. 30 (TMO). Whimbrels were sighted at Cheyenne Bottoms Apr. 8, Crosby County Apr. 22, Midland Apr. 23-24, Dallas May 13 and Oklahoma City May 18. Largest number sighted was 18 in Wichita County, Tex., May 11 (MB,EC). Unusual numbers of Upland Sandpipers moved through Tarrant County Apr. 6-29. Flocks of a dozen or more Willets were sighted at seven localities. The largest flocks comprised 100 birds at Cheyenne Bottoms Apr. 22 and 69 were counted at El Paso Apr. 29. At Dallas, 200 White-rumped Sandpipers were present May 13. Baird's Sandpipers appeared in the Region by early March and remained until the end of the period. In some areas Baird's was the most abundant of the peeps, a reversal of the unusual distribution pattern. There were about 100 Dunlins present at Dallas May 13. This species was also recorded in Comanche County, Okla., May 4, Oklahoma City May 14, Osage County, Kans., May 8-9 & 25, Cheyenne Bottoms Apr. 22. Sanderlings were present in Crosby County May 4-5 and at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., May 14 (KH). Buff-breasted Sandpipers in Lyon County May 9 provided a first record. This species was common in n.-c. Texas and Oklahoma City during the first two weeks of May. Marbled Godwits were recorded at Tulsa Apr. 19, Midland Apr. 20, Cheyenne Bottoms Apr. 22 and Oklahoma City May 9. Hudsonian Godwits were sighted at nine localities Apr. 21 - May 25, with peaks of 100 at Cheyenne Bottoms Apr. 22 and 41 at Tulsa May 13. At least 18,000 Wilson's Phalaropes were present at Crescent L., May 3 and 60 N. Phalaropes were found there May 15.

GULLS AND TERNS — Glaucous Gulls were reported at L. McConaughy, Neb., Mar. 24 (DR,RCR), near Crescent L., Mar 25 (CFZ), John Redmond Res., Kans., Apr. 1 (LDM) and Cheyenne Bottoms Mar. 14 (SK). A Black-legged Kittiwake was discovered in Randall County, Tex., Mar. 21 (PA,KS *et al.*). Terns of any species are a rarity in Big Bend N.P., but May 5-10 there were five reports, including both Common & Forster's Terns. A Caspian Tern in Cimarron County May 1 provided a first record for the Panhandle area (MBy). Caspian Terns were also sighted at Oklahoma City May 18 and Osage County, Kans., May 25.

CUCKOOS THROUGH GOATSUCKERS — Black-billed Cuckoos were recorded at Waco, Tex., May 9 (NG), Dallas Apr. 15 (KN), Comal County, Tex., Apr. 13 (E&KM), Johnson County May 11 and several times in Douglas and Sarpy Cos. Groove-billed Anis were discovered in Big Bend N.P., May 8-10 (m.ob.), Midland May 19-21 (MC,BC, m.ob.), Wichita County June 1 (MB,EC).

A Flammulated Owl at El Paso May 3-8 was unexpected for the date and locality (JD *et al.*). Flammulated Owl sightings in the Chisos, Chinati and Guadalupe Mts. of trans-Pecos Texas reflected the presence of an unusual number of birders in the high country. At least three Pygmy Owls were present in



Flammulated Owl, El Paso, May 3, 1978. Photo/ Joseph De Pasquale.

the "Bowl" of the Guadalupe Mts., May 22-23 (TG *et al.*). Elf Owls were common in Big Bend N.P., and were also found at Candelaria, Presidio Co., Tex. A Chuck-will's-widow at San Angelo, Tex., Apr. 29 provided a first record (CCW). A Whip-poor-will in Washington County, Okla., Apr. 23 was noteworthy (SM), as was a Poor-will at Crescent L., May 12 (CN).

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

— Lucifer Hummingbirds were much easier to find in Big Bend N.P. this spring, probably because the drought limited the growth of flowers to a few favorable localities. The sixth known Lucifer nest for the park was discovered Apr. 20. A Broad-tailed Hummingbird in Morton County, Kans., May 20 provided a first state record (MCT,MS). The rare Rivoli's Hummingbird was seen in the Chisos Mts., Apr. 26 & May 24 and in the Guadalupe Mts., May 24. A Blue-throated Hummingbird remained at Alpine, Tex., Apr. 4-29 and one was sighted in the Guadalupe May 24.

The Lewis' Woodpecker which arrived in Midland in November was joined by a second bird in early March. Neither bird was seen after Apr. 3. A Williamson's Sapsucker was discovered in Crosby County May 4. Hairy Woodpeckers at Muleshoe N.W.R., May 14 and Possum Kingdom L., Mar. 12 were noteworthy.

FLYCATCHERS — An E. Kingbird remained at San Angelo May 6 - June 4 and one was sighted in the Davis Mts., May 15. A migrating flock of 14 E. Kingbirds rested briefly in Archer County, Tex., May 19. A W. Kingbird provided a first record in Delaware County, Okla., May 12 (FMB). A Wied's Crested Flycatcher was discovered on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande near Candelaria May 6. An E. Phoebe visited El Paso Mar. 16. Black Phoebes at Lubbock Mar. 12 and Meridian S.P., Tex., May 7 provided extralimital records. A Say's Phoebe was sighted in Payne County, Okla., Mar. 20. *Empidonax* flycatchers were unusually common for spring. A Vermilion Flycatcher at Ft Worth Apr. 8 constituted an unusual locality record

CORVIDS THROUGH MIMICS — A Blue Jay visited Alpine May 19 (TG). Texas observers speculated that Mountain Chickadees present as low as 5400 ft in the Davis Mts. were driven from the high country by the winter fires. A Carolina Wren was recorded at Lubbock May 5. Cactus Wrens in Medina, Comal and

Wichita Cos., Tex., were n. and e. of their usual range. A Rock Wren was located near Crescent L., May 14. Gray Catbirds were unusually common in the w. third of the Region Apr. 16 – May 26. A Curve-billed Thrasher was sighted in Medina County Mar. 9.

THRUSHES — Wood Thrushes provided first records at Lubbock May 6 (CS) and San Angelo Apr. 29 (TM *et al.*). Other sightings of this rare migrant were at Buffalo Lake N.W.R., Tex., McClain County, Okla., Lyon County and Hays. A Hermit Thrush was found in Lyon County Apr. 28. Swainson's Thrushes were noted w. to the Davis Mts., Midland and Pawnee and Rush Cos., Kans. At Hays 12 Gray-cheeked Thrushes were banded. Sightings in the Davis Mts., Lubbock and Sedgwick County were also noteworthy. Nine Veeries were banded at Hays. In the Davis Mts., E Bluebirds nested for the first time (PE).

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH SHRIKES — Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were unusually common in the Omaha area Apr. 11–May 13. The elusive Sprague's Pipit was reported at Big Bend N.P., Mar. 20 & May 20, Ft. Worth Apr. 29, Tulsa Mar. 27-28 and Sedgwick County Apr. 2. Phainopeplas were exceedingly common from Big Bend N.P., upriver as far as Presidio, where a flock comprised 30 birds was found May 5. Northern Shrikes remained at Crescent L., until Mar. 21. By Mar. 1 Loggerhead Shrikes in Big Bend N.P. were feeding juveniles.

VIREOS — Black-capped Vireos were sighted in the Chisos Mts., Apr. 19 (OVO) and at Midland May 10-11 (PN *et al.*). A White-eyed Vireo visited Sarpy County May 24. Yellow-throated Vireos made news by wandering W to Big Bend N.P., Apr. 7 and Midland May 10-12 and were more common than usual at Ft. Worth, Tulsa and Johnson County. A Red-eyed Vireo was found in Big Bend N.P., May 20. Mrs. Myers reported that she seldom nets even one Philadelphia Vireo, but this spring she banded three. This species was also observed at Dallas May 14, Tulsa May 2, Midland May 11-12 and Big Bend N.P., Apr. 8. A Warbling Vireo was nesting in Tarrant County May 17.

WARBLERS — Several contributors reported unusually high numbers of warbler species: Big Bend N.P. and Tulsa 30 species, Bartlesville and Dallas 27, Johnson County 25, Midland 24, Ft. Worth 23, Hays 22. The editor regrets the lack of space to cite every first or second county record provided by this extraordinary migration.

A Prothonotary Warbler was found dead at Midland May 8 and several were sighted at Lubbock Apr. 29 – May 6. The seldom-seen Swainson's Warbler was found at Midland May 20, Denton, Tex., May 9 and Tulsa Apr. 6-8. There were 11 records of Worm-eating Warblers from Big Bend N.P. to Omaha. Dates varied from Apr. 7 at College Station, Tex., to May 30 in Richardson County, Neb. The Golden-winged Warbler, a very rare transient on the plains, was sighted in Big Bend N.P., May 3, Presidio County May 1, Waco, Tex., May 9, Delaware County Apr. 29 & May 6, Tulsa May 7, Johnson County May 2-5 and Sarpy County May 13. Blue-winged Warblers visited

Garland, Tex., Apr. 15 and Johnson County May 2-5. Mrs. Myers banded only eight Tennessee Warblers in contrast to 66 last year. Perhaps the missing birds were "out west", for they were discovered in the Davis Mts., May 18, Presidio County May 3, Midland May 21, Amarillo May 11. **Lucy's Warbler** fledglings being fed by adults were located in Presidio County May 20, providing the first positive evidence of breeding of this species in Texas (TG).

Northern Parulas were recorded from Big Bend N.P. to Omaha. There were four reports of Magnolia Warblers in w. Texas, three in n.c. Texas, three in Oklahoma, one at Wichita. Cape May Warblers appeared in the Davis Mts., May 3 and Bellevue, Neb., May 8-9. Blue-throated Blue Warblers visited Big Bend N.P., May 11 and Sarpy County May 13. An "Audubon's" Warbler was seen in Johnson County Apr. 22. A Hermit Warbler was discovered in Big Bend N.P., Apr. 23. A Cerulean Warbler in Morton County, Kans., in late May was very far west (MS). Five Ceruleans in Johnson County was the most ever recorded there. There were 15 reports of Blackburnian Warblers from Big Bend N.P. to Omaha. Yellow-throated Warblers in Sarpy County May 6 & 13 were n. of the usual range. A Grace's Warbler at Muleshoe N.W.R., Tex., May 17 provided a first record (AJ). There were 15 records of Chestnut-sided Warblers from trans-Pecos Texas to n.e. Nebraska Apr. 28 – May 27, and 14 sightings of Bay-breasted Warblers during that time from Big Bend N.P. to Garden County, Neb. The only out-of-range Blackpolls were at Crescent L., May 15 and Midland May 13 & 17. A Prairie Warbler in Garden County May 25 was unexpected (RCR,DR). A Palm Warbler in Washington County, Okla., May 9 provided a first record. Others were noted at Tulsa, Hays, Coffey County, Kans., Douglas and Sarpy Cos.

Northern Waterthrushes were common throughout, while Louisiana Waterthrushes were sighted in Presidio County May 3, Big Spring, Tex., Apr. 3 and Midland Apr. 10. The only Connecticut Warbler reported was at Lawrence, Kans., May 15 (STP). A MacGillivray's Warbler was present at Crescent L., May 10. A Gray-crowned Yellowthroat ("Ground Chat") discovered on the Rio Grande near Candelaria May 20 by Andrew Stewart and Kevin Zimmer unfortunately was not photographed or verified by subsequent observations owing to a sudden rise in the river. Hooded Warblers were seen the first week of May at Big Bend N.P., Hays and Cheyenne Bottoms. A widespread movement of Canada Warblers occurred May 17 & 19 from Big Bend N.P. to Johnson County.

ICTERIDS THROUGH TANAGERS — At Hagerman N.W.R., 26 Bobolinks were counted May 6 (CRB) and at Tulsa several flocks were seen May 8-10. In Lyon County a flock of 30 ♂ Bobolinks May 9-10, 15 provided a first record (JS). Additional reports came from Cleveland, Murray and Oklahoma Cos., and Hays. Bobolinks arrived at Crescent L., where they breed, May 11. A Com. Grackle at Big Bend N.P., May 13 provided a first record. A Bronzed Cowbird was seen at Possum Kingdom L., Apr. 29 (KN). Scarlet Tanagers were numerous in the c. portion of the Region Apr. 23 – May 17. One in Caddo County, Okla., June 4 was very late (IB).

FINCHES — El Paso area has always presented a hiatus in the range of Cardinals but a pair was present throughout the period (KJZ). A Cardinal visited Crescent L., May 3. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were unusually common in the e. half of the Region and wandered as far W as trans-Pecos Texas May 3-20. A ♀ Black-headed Grosbeak captured in a garbage truck in the Davis Mts., was taken to Alpine, 50 mi distant, where it was banded and released. It returned to the place of capture six days later (TG). Lazuli Buntings appeared at San Angelo May 6-8, Grand Prairie May 14, Cleveland County May 3 & 7, Hays May 12 & 24, Sedgwick County Apr. 29 – May 10 and Sarpy County May 14. A Painted Bunting visited Lyon County May 11 (MS). Evening Grosbeaks lingered at Dallas to Mar. 26, Bartlesville to May 21, Baldwin, Kans., to Apr. 4 and Sarpy County to Apr. 27. A flock of 800 Com. Redpolls was discovered in Dawes County, Neb., Mar. 18 (RCR). This species remained at Bartlesville until Mar. 20, Johnson County through March, Omaha through April and Crescent L. until May 18. Pine Siskins provided a first nesting record in Lyon County in May, while two trapped in Johnson County May 13 had brood patches. Of 1000 banded at Hays, 25 pairs remained to breed. Pine Siskins were present at the end of the period in the Chisos Mts., Crescent L., and Lancaster County, Neb. Lesser Goldfinches were nesting at El Paso Apr. 16 (KJZ,JD). Red Crossbills lingered at Dallas to Apr. 5, while several present in the Guadalupe Mts., May 22 were presumed to be breeding.

SPARROWS — A Baird's Sparrow was reported at Denton May 6 (JB). Henslow's Sparrows were sighted at Plattsmouth, Neb., Apr. 26 & May 13 (GW). Le Conte's Sparrows were found at Ft. Worth Mar. 25 and Lubbock Apr. 25. Bachman's Sparrows were located in Delaware County, Okla., May 15 (AMB, FMB). Clay-colored Sparrows appeared at Tulsa May 10 (A&BR) and Delaware County May 6 (AMB, FMB). Brewer's Sparrows found nesting in Morton County, Kans., May 20 provided a first breeding record for the state (MCT,MS,AWh). In Johnson County Swamp Sparrows were unusually common Apr. 16 – May 6 and seven were present in Caprock Canyon S.P., Briscoe Co., Tex., Mar. 5.

LONGSPURS THROUGH SNOW BUNTINGS — A flock of 2000 longspurs was present in Sedgwick County Mar. 5. All four species were identified in the flock (DV). McCown's Longspurs remained at Grand Prairie until Apr. 9 (KN) and Crosby County until Apr. 14 (KH). At Crescent L., several hundred Lapland Longspurs passed through Mar. 9 and over 500 Chestnut-collared Longspurs May 3 were followed by 300 May 5. Ten Snow Buntings remained at Crescent L., until Mar. 1 and two lingered to Mar. 10.

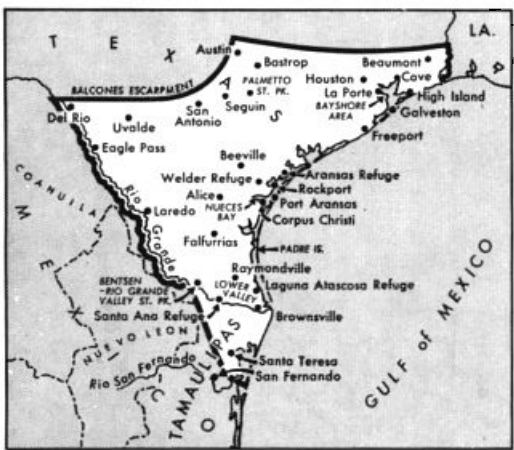
CORRIGENDA — AB 32:224. Black Scoters were reported in Comanche County, Okla., Nov. 9; Surf Scoters were in Jackson County, Okla., Sept. 30. AFN 24: 526. Red-shouldered Hawk and White-tailed Hawk at Socorro, Tex., not Socorro, N.M. Observer of latter Steve West, not SM.

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SOUTH TEXAS REGION
/Fred S. Webster, Jr.

“Unfortunately, I keep comparing recent migrations to those I saw 25 years ago, when fields were blue with Indigo Buntings, when trees were inundated with warblers and vireos. We just do not have that many birds any more.” These words from Mrs. McCracken's



column in the *Corpus Christi Caller* of May 21, 1978, take the old-timers back two decades when Rockport, rather than High Island, was the birders' migration mecca. And it is true — we just do not have that many birds anymore. In 1978 even High Island let us down As Morgan aptly observed, the absence of fallouts on the upper Texas coast “left birders wandering around migrant traps on warm, dry days refreshed only by brisk southeasterly winds which migrants presumably
American Birds, September 1978

rode far inland before alighting from their trans-Gulf flight." For the upper coast, it was the poorest passerine migration in "at least five years." Apply this remark to the remainder of the Region. From down in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Arwin noted that "even normally common species were very scarce."

Most observers blamed the weather which, to say the least, was uncooperative. Strong, wet fronts and turbulence generally were lacking. Regionwide, temperatures consistently averaged several degrees above normal. Rainfall was deficient in all areas. This lack was most striking on the usually moist upper coast. At Galveston, the month of May was the driest on record for this century. Southward along the coast and westward through the interior, drought conditions prevailed in varying degrees. Spring grasses and weeds were stunted. Fresh-water lakes and impoundments shrank or dried up completely. After an unusually cold winter, the growing season was several weeks behind schedule, but the delayed maturing of berry and seed crops, and emergence of insect populations, should have attracted later migrants in numbers.

While weather conditions were not conducive to spectacular birding, an average of nearly two cold fronts per week did slip through the Region during March and April and into May. That these northerly winds were working mischief somewhere is illustrated by an incident on an oil drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, 40 miles southeast of Port O'Connor. Lewis (*vide* KM) reported that on the night of May 9, with a hard north wind blowing, "thousands" of song birds were swirling about the lighted rig and falling to the deck, dead or dying." On April 30 the Mustang Island beach was littered with birds — 50 counted in a one-mile stretch (D&MF, *vide* KM). They had died in some earlier storm or head wind and at some distance from shore, as many were not identifiable.

Happily, the effects of northerly winds were not always negative. For example, strong northwesterly winds on April 25 brought clear skies and birds. On the coastal highway from High Island to Sabine Pass, RAR reported "individual salt cedars provided refuge for 30-40 birds of maybe 20 species. Birds were falling out into the trees at the south edge of town at a high rate from about 1:00 to 2:00 P.M. They would alight and nervously continue short-distance flights northward toward larger stands of oak." Wolf reported good numbers of migrants on the following day: 57 Gray Catbirds, 43 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 39 Indigo Buntings, 38 Red-eyed Vireos, Tennessee Warblers and Scarlet Tanagers, 29 Bay-breasted Warblers, etc.

Now, despite the doom enshrouding these lines, it is in fairness that we report (1) incoming summer residents were reported in good supply, and (2) shorebirds were found in excellent numbers through the migration period. As for the warbler-watchers — maybe *next year*?

GREBES THROUGH FLAMINGOS — Western Grebes are still considered unusual in this Region. Two were seen at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Mar. 20 (JR), and one in surf off High I., in April (JKR *et al.*). Wolf watched 3000+ Double-crested Cormorants leave Aransas Bay early Mar. 19 headed NW. An **American Flamingo** was observed and photographed at N. Bird I., in the Laguna Madre, Apr. 26 (FG&PAB,



American Flamingo, April 26, 1978, North Bird Island Laguna Madre, Texas. Photo/ P.A. Buckley.

BC *et al.*). Buckley's description was "quite brilliant and very wary" and suggested the likelihood that it originated from the Yucatán colony. Seven coastal sightings of this species have been recorded, n. to Calhoun County since 1890. However, it remains on the hypothetical list for Texas since neither specimen nor photograph has been obtained.

WATERFOWL — The following waterfowl departure dates from Aransas N.W.R., probably reflect general movements. Most wintering Canada and Snow Geese left Feb. 15 – Mar. 1, and all were gone by Apr. 1. The major pullout of Gadwall, Pintail and Am. Wigeon occurred Feb. 15 – Mar. 1. Redheads migrated during March, and most Lesser Scaup Mar. 15 – Apr. 1. Of those species coming into the Ref., during the season, Blue-winged Teal peaked Mar. 1 and Ruddy Ducks Apr. 1 (SEL). A Masked Duck in good ♀ plumage was in n.w. San Antonio May 22 (RC,RLC&JSa). This Bexar County "first" was on a small cattail-ringed pond of clear effluent near a sewage plant. (JAM).

HAWKS — Six Swallow-tailed Kites were reported from the upper coast during the first weekend of April. One migrant, a "first", was seen in Caldwell County Apr. 9 (LA). The largest flight of Mississippi Kites reported, 240± birds, came into Santa Ana N.W.R., Apr. 13 to roost (DEW). As in July, 1977, an imm. Snail Kite appeared at L. Alice, Jim Wells Co. (TA *et al.*) and remained for several days. We have long since run out of superlatives to describe the Broad-winged Hawk migrations in s. Texas; this spring we ran out of hawks — or almost! The highest Broad-winged count was 4600+; these passed over Santa Ana N.W.R., before noon Apr. 10 (DEW). A flock of 300± Swainson's Hawks roosted in a plowed field near Edinburg, Hidalgo Co., Mar. 28 (JCA); this was the largest group reported of this species. An imm. **Gray Hawk** was near Falcon Dam Apr. 9 (RAR) & 15 (DEW). Wolf reported a "steady flow of a variety of raptors" over Rancho Santa Margarita, Starr Co., the morning of Apr. 14. Most noteworthy were nine Ospreys. However, the N passage of 21 Am. Kestrels from Mexico was interesting, as most wintering kestrels had departed s. Texas by Apr. 1. A Prairie Falcon was reported near Falcon Dam, Apr. 17 (RM,DSS).

CRANES, SHOREBIRDS — The winter population of 60 ad. and nine imm. Whooping Cranes — which excludes one lost adult, began to leave Aransas N.W.R., Apr. 1 and by May 1 none was to be found. Most migrated during the first half of April (SEL). Disappointed passerine watchers could take comfort in

good shorebird displays as the birds concentrated in areas of remaining surface water and on expanding mud flats. While this situation applied to the Region as a whole, the upper coast was particularly blessed with abundance, "fantastic" numbers being seen on Bolivar Flats Mar. 24, following a wet frontal passage (DTD,TLE,JGM), and May 4. Eubanks credited the late rice crop and below-normal rainfall for an often excellent shorebird watch. Prairie-favoring plovers scored well at Rockport; after a long absence, Mountain Plover reappeared in the fields at nearby Bayside (DNW). In reference to the Mar. 24 gathering on Bolivar Flats, Eubanks *et al.*, observed large numbers of Am. Golden Plovers — along with many groups of shorebirds — flying in off the Gulf, "presumably coming in from migration." Thousands of Lesser Yellowlegs were reported moving along the upper coast Apr. 8 (TBF). Pectoral Sandpipers were abundant in irrigated pastures in s.w. Cameron County Apr. 27, along with considerable numbers of White-rumped Sandpipers (JCA). Seven Short-billed Dowitchers, representing a first county record, were found in a rain puddle in w. Bexar County May 3 (DEW *et al.*). The season's high count of Hudsonian Godwits was 150 near Beaumont Apr. 21. These were in two flocks, in V-formation, flying N at dusk, high above piney woods (JLR,DEW). Wilson's Phalaropes were unusually numerous *ca.* May 1. A considerable gathering of 960+ was noted at Raymondville, Willacy Co., Apr. 29 and San Antonio's Mitchell L., had 1000± May 3 (DEW). At Houston, where this species was particularly common at a certain dredge dump, a peak count of 700 was made May 4 (WMC).

JAEGERS, GULLS — A Pomarine Jaeger was seen on Bolivar Pen., Mar. 31 (AW *et al.*). Single Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers were seen on a pelagic trip out of Galveston Apr. 1 (*vide* TPJ). An individual of the latter species harassed two Brown Pelicans in the Rockport area (R&TL, *vide* DNW). A first-year Iceland Gull (*Larus glaucooides*) was at the Brownsville city dump Mar. 27 (ph. BA&LA). This represents a first record for Texas (pending acceptance by the state check-list committee). A bird photographed at Falcon Reservoir, Dec. 29, 1971 and reported as an Iceland Gull (AB 26:445), was later determined to be a Thayer's Gull and as such was accepted at a first record for Texas.



Iceland Gull, Brownsville, March 27, 1978. Photo/ B.H. Atherton.



Thayer's Gull, Brownsville, March 27, 1978. Photo/ B.H. Atherton.

Again, what was hopefully thought to be a sub-ad Iceland Gull, found at Port Aransas, Feb. 28, 1976 (AB 30:740,977), was later collected and pronounced Thayer's — a first specimen for Texas. Now, in addition to the Iceland Gull at the Brownsville dump Mar 27, 1978, a Thayer's Gull was photographed by the Athertons.

HUMMINGBIRDS THROUGH CROWS — The presence of several Buff-bellied Hummingbirds at such n. outposts as Alice, Beeville, Refugio and Aransas N.W.R., during the last half of May and into June put visions of nests into birders' heads; however, this species has a record of N wanderings. Two Ash-throated Flycatchers were seen on the upper coast, one each in the Freeport area Apr. 23 (FC *et al.*) and at High I., Apr. 29 (SC *et al.*). *Empidonax* flycatchers made a poor showing on the coast, but E. Wood Pewees were reported good at Corpus Christi. Most of Brownsville's Mexican Crows had deserted the city dump by April.

WRENS THROUGH GNATCATCHERS — A Rock Wren was a surprise find at the roadside rest s. of Sarita, Kenedy Co., Apr. 15 (RH,RJS,MW). This site on busy U.S. 77 is widely acclaimed for its Tropical Parulas. This was a poor year for Gray Catbirds and all thrushes. Early May is usually a peak period for the later-migrating thrushes — Swainson's, Gray-cheeked, Veery — but they were hard to find this year. In n. counties the mulberry crop came into full production at just the right time, for a change, only to be enjoyed principally by resident birds and squirrels. The earlier-migrating Wood Thrush helped salvage the family's reputation with 200 at High I., Apr. 13 (VLE). Large numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were observed in the Falcon Dam area Mar. 24 (DEW). This species was conspicuous at Austin in April.

VIREOS, WARBLERS — A Yellow-green Vireo was well described from Rancho Santa Margarita May 11 (CNM). The Red-eyed Vireo also was present — for comparison! — in this riverside habitat. Apparently the most numerous warbler reported on the upper coast was Tennessee, followed by N. Parula and Com. Yellowthroat. One of the least common of the usually common warblers was Hooded. Apparently it fared somewhat better on the central and lower coasts. The Blackpoll Warbler, occasionally fairly common on the

upper coast but not farther w., was scarcely reported. One male observed in Uvalde County May 4 (F&BH), was far w. of its usual route. Some unusual single-warbler sightings rate particular attention: **Virginia's Warbler**, San Patricio County May 3 (TL *et al.*); a ♂ Tropical Parula, Rancho Santa Margarita Mar. 24 (MA,DEW); ♂ Black-throated Blue Warbler, rest area s. of Sarita Apr. 20 (PA&FGB); Black-throated Gray Warbler, Travis County Apr. 18 (CWE); Cerulean Warbler, Pedernales Falls S.P., Apr. 12 (HD); and MacGillivray's Warbler, Austin May 4 (JSu). The warbler prize of the season however, was an ad. ♂ **Mangrove Warbler**, (*Dendroica erithachorides*), discovered at a campground several mi n. of Rockport May 26 by Mrs. Chandler, who obtained clearly identifiable photographs. The bird sang persistently, foraged for insects in scrubby live oaks, and bathed during the 3-4 hours of late p.m. observation (C&SC, C&HK,BH). This species, if such it is (some consider



Mangrove Warbler, Rockport, May 26, 1978. Photo/ Sandra Chandler.

it conspecific with *D. petechia*) is native to brackish habitat on both coasts of Mexico. The nearest population to Texas occurs from ca. Tampico s. This would represent a new record for Texas, if accepted by the check-list committee.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — A ♂ Bobolink at Laguna Atascosa N.W.R., Apr. 29 (DD, GAU) was a refuge "first." Yellow-headed Blackbirds were reported more often than usual throughout the Region, but not in large numbers. Oriole numbers were below normal; this season the N. (Baltimore) Oriole was more common than the Orchard. A **Hooded Oriole** new for the upper Texas coast check-list area, was attracted to a hummingbird feeder in Chambers County Apr. 22-23 (JB *et al.*). Tanagers were down; 50 Scarlet Tanagers on Galveston I., Apr. 27 (JH *et al.*), was a season high. A W. Tanager at Falcon Dam Apr. 13 (A&HR, We&WiW), was apparently a first record for Starr County.

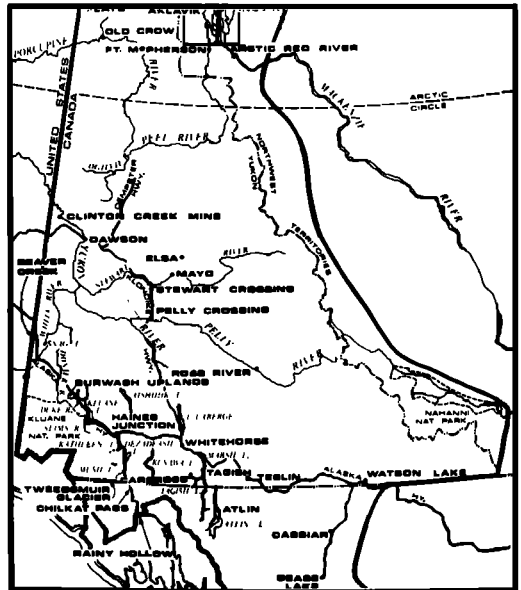
FRINGILLIDS — While probably not migrants, five *Pyrrhuloxia* in a group on Galveston I., Apr. 23 (RG) is newsworthy. Grosbeak and bunting numbers were generally low. A Dark-eyed Junco of the black-headed Oregon race was seen at Houston's City Hall (a good migrant trap) Apr. 20 (WMC). This junco is rare in the e. half of Texas and this individual was very late. Clay-colored, White-throated, and Lincoln's Sparrows made good showings at Austin where they were drawn particularly to freshly-foliaged (late this year) live oaks with an abundance of insect and vegetable food.

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NORTHWESTERN CANADA REGION / Helmut Grünberg

Unusually low precipitation, experienced during the past winter, prevailed also in March (4.7 mm in Whitehorse as opposed to the normal 14.7 mm). Although precipitation was normal again in April and May, it did not make up for the lack in the previous months. Most



other reporting stations showed an overall deficit as well. Temperatures in most areas during the spring months did not deviate much from the long-time averages.

Our Region experienced a relatively poor influx of birds during migration, notably of some song birds; many seemed to "trickle" in and soon move on. They were at least a week later than usual in most areas.

A total of 148 species was reported of which only 46

can be mentioned in the text since this report is limited in length.

HERON, WATERFOWL — A very rare **Great Blue Heron** was at Teslin May 21 (BS). Peak numbers of 1000+ Whistling Swans were recorded at Marsh L., in April (RMcC). Counts of Trumpeter Swans at Teslin (BS), Tagish and Marsh L. (KB,HG,D&SR), Carcross (HW) and near Beaver Cr. (ML) and analysis of data indicate that 303+ birds of this species were present in the s Yukon during the third week of April. Five (Black) Brant were observed at Mile 130, Dempster Hwy (hereafter, D.H.) around May 20 (DM) and one at M 280 D.H., May 25 (RF). Fifty Snow Geese were noted at Teslin Apr. 28 (BS).

Blue-winged Teal was reported six times in numbers of one to four Apr. 29 – May 29 from Whitehorse (hereafter, Whse.), Swan L., 20 km n. of Whse., and Yukon Game Farm (hereafter, Y.G.F.) 23 km n.w. of Whse (HG,RMcL,D&UN). The first report from the Yukon of a **Cinnamon Teal**, a male, came from Swan L., May 21 (HG). Its contrast with a ♂ Blue-winged and a ♂ Green-winged Teal within the same square meter, and watched from close range, was particularly impressive to the viewer. Two Redheads were seen on Tagish Cr., in mid-May (HM). Few Ring-necked Ducks were observed, four to three at Y.G.F. Apr. 24–May 3 (D&UN), one pair on Schwatka L., in Whse., May 11 (RMcL) and one male near Cassiar, B.C., May 13 (PM). The only scaup identified as Greaters were two at Cassiar, B.C., Apr. 28 (PM). Harlequin Ducks, more common than usual, were observed from 7 areas (RF,HG,BL, m.ob.). One Oldsquaw was seen at M. 65 D H., May 19 (RF) and one on the Teslin R., May 24 (VM,LO).

HAWKS THROUGH GULLS — The only Ospreys reported was a pair at Judas Cr., near Jake's Corner, Alaska Hwy. (HM). One Gyrfalcon was noted at Y G F., Apr. 3 (D&UN). The Nowlans reported the highest number of Peregrine Falcons in many years, 8-10+, from Y.G.F. (five birds on one day alone). One Peregrine was seen at Tagish in mid-May (HM), one at M 127 D.H. May 20 (RF) and one s. of Whse., May 31 (KB) One Merlin was seen Apr. 11 & 24 at Y.G.F. (D&UN) and one at M. 256 D.H., May 22 (RF).

A Sharp-tailed Grouse was observed Apr. 9 at M. 1210 Alaska Hwy. (ML). One Sora was noted at Swan L., May 27 (HG,RMcL). The rare Surfbirds arrived in their known breeding area in the Ogilvie Mts., e. of D H., M. 70, May 18 (RF). The uncommon Whimbrel was observed at M. 72-75 D.H., May 19 (RF), at Y G F., May 20 (D&UN) and near Rock R., May 29 (RF) An Upland Sandpiper report came from M. 60-70 D.H., May 17 (RF). A Wandering Tattler was seen at M 74 D.H., May 19 (RF). Baird's Sandpipers were noted e. of D.H., M. 70, May 18 (RF). A Short-billed Dowitcher was identified at Kluane L., May 15 (KS). Ten Wilson's Phalaropes, again n.w. of their normal breeding range, were observed at Swan L., May 27 (HG,RMcL). A Parasitic Jaeger was seen near Rock R., May 29 and Long-tailed Jaegers at M. 60-65 D.H., May 17 (RF). A rare Glaucous Gull [verification needed — Ed.] was reported from Teslin May 18 (BS).

WOODPECKERS THROUGH SHRIKES — In late May a ♂ Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen at Tagish (HM), and one male was observed near Swan L., May 27 (HG,RMcL). The first **Rough-winged Swallow** report (first unreported sighting Yukon R., May 19, 1976 — HG) for the Yukon came from the Yukon R., s. of Whse., May 13 (VM,LO). A Steller's Jay appeared in Whse., Mar. 15 (DL). There was an invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches in the s. Yukon. Reports of one or two birds from 7 areas were received (m.ob.). A Wheatear was seen n. of Rock R., May 30 (RF). Thrushes appeared in good numbers during spring migration. The uncommon Hermit Thrush was noted n. of Dawson City May 4 (RF). A N. Shrike was seen near Carcross Apr. 10 & 26 (HW), one w of Marsh L., Apr. 9 (HG) and one at Y.G.F., Apr 15 (D&UN).

WARBLERS THROUGH LONGSPURS — Warblers should be watched in the seasons to come. The very common Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler showed a decrease of 20-40% from May 1976 – May 1978 in a careful analysis of data from one specific area near Whse. (HG); some other contributors did not notice any decrease. There was only one observation of an Orange-crowned Warbler, near Dawson City May 10 (RF), and only one of a Townsend's Warbler at M 7 D.H., May 16 (RF). On the bright side: Com. Yellowthroat remained common in wet marshy habitat (HG, RMcL). Up to five Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen in the Whse. area May 23-31 (DS).

The Purple Finch can now be considered a fairly common species in the s. Yukon as it was seen in numbers up to 24 by eight observers. Gray-crowned Rosy Finches were seen at Cassiar, B.C. (PM), Carcross (HW), Whse. (HG) and near D.H. (RF). A few Hoary Redpolls were identified among other redpolls in numbers of seven, one, two and one in March and April (HG). One male (showing brilliantly white rump, but otherwise with characteristics similar to Com Redpoll) was associated with a ♀ Com. Redpoll in Whse. Mar. 21 (HG) and exhibited what appeared to be courting behavior towards the other bird. Lapland Longspur migration had a peak in and around Whse., with 1000-1500 birds Apr. 30 – May 1 (RC,HG,BW) The uncommon Smith's Longspur was identified near Cassiar, B.C., May 19 (PM) and near Rock R., May 30 (RF).

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NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN — INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

/Thomas H. Rogers

March in the Region was almost uniformly warm and dry, the pleasant weather apparently accelerating the migration in many areas. April and May, however, were cool and very wet in most localities, with the exception of Helena and Bozeman, Mont., which con-



tinued to enjoy mild conditions. This cold, wet trend seemed to slow the migration in many areas. Pocatello, Ida., Walla Walla, Wash. and Fortine, Mont., reported minimum weather effects, however, except for a tardy sparrow migration at Fortine. Conversely, the movement at Bozeman was late in spite of mild conditions. Abundant moisture indicated an excellent growing season ahead and ample moisture for rivers and reservoirs for the coming summer. About the usual number of "rarities" was reported.

GREBES — Red-necked Grebes at Kootenai N.W.R., Bonners Ferry, Ida., numbered 20+ scattered over the refuge; Banff, Alta., had 16 on Apr. 23. Liberty L., Wash., had three or four pairs; one pair attempted nesting two or three times, the cause of failure unknown. The only others reported were at Newman L., Wash., and in the Kalispell, Mont. area. Ennis, Mont., had 2000 Eared Grebes May 7. Over 300 W. Grebes were counted on Bennett Bay, Coeur d'Alene L., Ida., May 29 (SS). Of the wintering Westerns on the Snake R., at Clarkston, Wash., five still lingered May 29.

PELICANS THROUGH IBIS — White Pelicans were nesting for the second consecutive year at Minidoka N.W.R., Blaine Co., Ida. Small numbers had reached Skaha and Vaseux Lakes near Penticton, B.C., by mid-April and 15 were near Nampa, Ida., May 25. Ninepipe N.W.R., Charlo, Mont., had 14 on May 18 & 31. One was at Clear L., May 16 (BW) and one briefly at Newman L. (MW), both in Spokane Co.,

Wash. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were up in s. Idaho. Mud L., Jefferson Co., had 100+ active nests and at Minidoka N.W.R., with its several hundred birds, 22 young were banded May 23 (CT). However at Blackfoot Res., Bingham Co., there were only six active nests, down from 20 last year (CT). Eggshell thickness was checked and found high. Ninepipe N.W.R., had 84 May 31. One at Mann's L., Lewiston Apr. 29 apparently made the first spring record for n. Idaho (EM). The heronry at Benawah L., St. Maries, Ida., had 120 Great Blue nests. One in the Springdale-Hunters, Wash., area comprised 20 nests and another along the Colville R., s. of Kettle Falls, Wash., was decreasing, with only six nests. A Cattle Egret appeared May 30 near Nampa, for s.w. Idaho's first record (MG, JH, LP, BS, NH, EB). Eight arrived at Rupert, Ida., Apr. 28 (WS) and two at Minidoka N.W.R., May 23 were thought to be nesting (CT). The Nampa area had a Great Egret May 7 (G.E.A.S.); Market Lake W.M.A., Roberts, Ida., had one May 24 and two were at the trout farm at Pocatello May 28 (CT). About 50 Snowy Egrets fed at the trout farm but were not nesting there. The species no longer breeds at Market L. Contaminated winter food supply is the suspected cause (CT). The John Day Dam pool on the Columbia R., had 20 Black-crowned Night Herons Apr. 30 and up to five were in the Nampa area. The species' numbers seemed about half of last year's in s. Idaho, with eggshell thinning, broken and dented eggs. A colony on the Portneuf R., where 70 young were banded last year was unoccupied this spring (CT). The species was observed at Livingston, Mont., May 7 (UC *et al.*). Fifteen White-faced Ibis were near Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa May 30 (MG, JH, LP *et al.*) and one was near Rupert, Ida., Apr. 28 (WS). In Oregon 32 were sighted 2 mi w. of Union May 27 (DB, CDC).

WATERFOWL — Lake Helena, Mont., had 600 Whistling Swans Mar. 19, the highest number in 30 years' observing (SM). Trumpeter Swans had three nests on Turnbull N.W.R., Cheney, Wash. At Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., the winter peak of 348 birds dropped to a breeding number of 175. Incubation began in early May and the first cygnets appeared May 30. A surprising 160 White-fronted Geese appeared at Ft. Boise W.M.A., Parma, Ida., Mar. 11; 26 still remained May 7 (J&NH). Five were on Mann's L., near Lewiston, Ida. (EM) and one was at Thompson L., near Harrison, Ida. (AB). One was at the Yakima R. delta near Richland, Wash., Mar. 11 (RW). Some 1000 Snow Geese flew over Am. Falls Dam on the Snake R., in Idaho Mar. 10. Ross' Goose numbers peaked at 8-10,000 at Miller I., near Klamath Falls, Ore., in mid-April (SS). The only other reports were of one, the first ever, at Salmon, Ida., Apr. 9 (HR) and one at La Grande, Ore., Apr. 29 (B). Fortine had an unusually high number of Mallards, 1000, Mar. 22 and the earliest hatching date ever, about May 2 (WW). Pintails peaked at 11,000 at Kootenai N.W.R., the week of Mar. 19-25 and 25,000 were on L. Helena Mar. 19 for the highest count in 30 years (SM). A 4-mile canoe trip on the Colville R., Stevens Co., Wash., Mar. 19 revealed 10,000 (JN) and 10-12,000 were briefly at Ninepipe N.W.R. Their numbers were unusually high at Fortine also. Single ♂ Eur. Wigeons showed up at Vernon, B.C., Mar. 18 (JC) and at

Cougar Bay, Coeur d' Alene L., Mar. 16 (SS), and two males and a female were 2 mi s.e. of Goat Cr. Station s of Swan L., Lake Co., Mont., May 17 (BH). Four pairs of Greater Scaup were on the Columbia R., n. of Wenatchee, Wash., Mar. 22 (PC). Turnbull N.W.R., had the highest numbers of goldeneye, 2376 Commons and 663 Barrow's Mar. 3. A pair of Harlequin Ducks was at Reardan, Wash., Apr. 29 (JA) and a pair of White-winged Scoters frequented Link R., Klamath Falls, Ore., Apr. 24 - May 13 (SSu). A ♂ Red-breasted Merganser at the Yakima R. delta Mar. 12 was Woodley's second in about 10 years, one was near Clarkston, Wash., Apr. 13 (DM). Banks L., Grant Co., Wash., had 22, Apr. 19 and Phileo L., Spokane Co., Wash., had one Mar. 25 (JA). The species was also reported at Swan L., Lake Co., Mont., Apr. 13-17 (F A S.).

HAWKS — A White-tailed Kite was sighted w. of Pauline L., near La Pine, Ore., at 5500 ft., May 10 (RG) Accipiter numbers appeared normal. A Goshawk nest was found in Ferry County, Wash. (SZ) Sightings of Ferruginous Hawks came from Kalispell, Bozeman and Red Rock Lakes N.W.R., Mont.; the Snake R., near Walla Walla and the Juniper Forest near Connell (a nest), in Washington, and Malheur N.W.R.; Burns, and Zumalt Prairie, Wallowa Co., Ore. Ferry County, Wash., had three Golden Eagle nests (SZ). Single Gyrfalcons were sighted in n Idaho Feb. 20 (LM) and e. Washington Mar. 12 (JA). Merlins appeared at three widely scattered localities.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS — Sharp-tailed Grouse were mentioned only for the area s. of Creston, Wash., 11 on Apr. 9. That area also had at least 23 Sage Grouse on the strutting ground the same day. About 25 were still displaying May 20 approx. 8 km w. of Burns, Ore (ME). Yakima Firing Range, Wash., had 30 on Mar 19 and 1-2 were reported for s.w. Idaho. The latter area reported ten **Bobwhite** Mar. 25 and two May 28 (G.E.A.S.). One was found at Am. Falls, Ida., Apr. 1 (CT). Turkeys were reported in the Kalispell area and in s.w. Idaho.

CRANES THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Two Whooping Cranes and 5-6 Sandhill Cranes were observed approx. 2 mi s. of the Montana-Idaho border along I-15, Apr. 21 (WHa). A Whooping Crane and many Sandhills were at Grays Lake N.W.R., May 5 (CT) Some 2500 of the latter were near St. Andrews, Wash., Apr. 9 and Crab Cr., Grant Co., Wash., had 500 Apr. 30. The same number was reported for s.w. Idaho Mar. 19. At least 2000 flew over Oliver, B.C., Apr. 28. The Payette R., in w.c. Idaho had 350 Apr. 10 One was at Mann's L., Lewiston Mar. 15 (DK). A pair seen on several dates Apr. 24 - May 31 at Island L., between Libby and Kalispell, Mont., was thought to be nesting (DD). Ft. Boise W.M.A., yielded a **Yellow Rail** May 6, and five Semipalmated Plovers, Apr. 29 and ten May 7 (JH). Ponds near Grandview, Ida., yielded another of the latter May 22 (JD). The only Am Golden Plover sighting was at Mann's L., Apr. 22 & 24 for McVicker's first spring observation. Two Black-bellied Plovers were identified in the Ft. Boise area Apr. 29 for the only report (JH,JS). One pair of Upland Sandpipers appeared in the Spokane Valley at

the only known breeding site in the Region. Washington State Dept. of Game, Spokane County, Spokane Audubon Society and The Nature Conservancy are studying the feasibility of preserving the historic but threatened colony. Reported for s.w. Idaho were 129 Long-billed Curlews May 26 (G.E.A.S.). Adults with a young bird were found along Winchester Wasteway w of Moses L., Wash., May 28 (AT). A Red Knot appeared May 11-12 near Hayford Rd. w. of Spokane (JA,WH,BW). Deer Flat N.W.R., Nampa had Dunlins May 16 (RH) as did ponds near Grandview, Ida., May 22 (JD). The Nampa area had ten Marbled Godwits Apr. 28 (MH) and Rupert had eight May 1 (WS) One was at Ladd Cr., near La Grande, Ore., May 9 (GS, DT). Single Sanderlings appeared near Davenport and Mondovi, Wash. (JA,WH,BW) and at the Grandview, Ida., ponds May 22 (JD). Two or three Black-necked Stilts appeared May 27-28 at the same pond as last year near George, Wash., (JA,EH) and one was near Springfield, Ida., Apr. 29 (CT).

GULLS AND TERNs — The Glaucous Gulls that wintered on the Clearwater R., at Lewiston, Ida., remained until Mar. 5 when two were seen (EM) Up to 20 Herring Gulls remained there during March and April. An imm. Mew Gull at Klamath Falls Apr 16 made the second record for the county (SSu) and two ad. **Mew Gulls** along the Clearwater R., Apr. 23 added the species to the Idaho state list (JW). One Bonaparte's Gull, rare in spring in s. Idaho, appeared near Aberdeen, Mar. 26 and three were on the Snake R., Apr. 1 (CT). Three hundred were on Swan L., Vernon, B.C., May 6. West Medical L., Spokane Co., Wash., had one May 25 (JA) and one was on the Clearwater at Lewiston Apr. 29 (EM). Caspian Tern numbers in the Pocatello area looked better than for some years with groups of 15 at Magic, Island Park and Am. Falls Reservoirs plus several isolated sightings (CT) Worthy of note was one on the Clearwater near Lewiston Apr. 15 (EM). Two Black Terns were at the farthest w. Washington breeding site 10 mi s e of George May 27 (EH).

DOVES THROUGH HUMMINGBIRDS — Naham Canyon near Cashmere, Wash., had 14 Band-tailed Pigeons Apr. 28 (PC) and one was in a yard in Moscow, Ida., Apr. 21 (LPe, *vide* DJ). Fort Boise, Ida., had a Yellow-billed Cuckoo May 15 (JH). Reports of Barn Owls came only from the Lewiston, Ida., area and from Parker Heights near Yakima, where one was found shot (*U. of Wash.). A Flammulated Owl was heard May 25 at the spot at Penticton, B.C., where fledglings were found last year (SRC). The Hawk Owl which wintered near Vernon was last seen Mar. 21 (JG) Burrowing Owl numbers at McNary N.W.R., Burbank, Wash., appeared down. The Bureau of Land Management was reported as starting to consider the species in its grazing plans in s. Idaho (CT). A Barred Owl was photographed May 26-27 at Pleasant Valley w. of Kalispell (DD) for the only report. A pair of Great Gray Owls appeared near Ft. Klamath in mid-March (EP, P&SSu) and one discovered May 2 at Pleasant Valley was found dead a few days later apparently shot (DD) A Saw-whet Owl was sighted at the Davenport, Wash., cemetery May 20 (JA).

Poor-wills returned to their regular breeding place at

Chewelah, Wash., May 7, two weeks later than last year (JN). A **Chimney Swift** was over Bozeman May 31 for the second record there (RL). Black-chinned and Rufous Hummingbird numbers appeared low at Spokane and Chewelah and at Charlo, Mont. At least two ♂ Anna's Hummingbirds were displaying at Klamath Falls from early April on.

WOODPECKERS, FLYCATCHERS — At least three Pileated Woodpecker nests were known in the immediate vicinity of Chewelah and the birds' numbers around Salmon, Ida., were still up. Five ♂ Williamson's Sapsuckers appeared in very close proximity along Eagle Ridge, Upper Klamath Ridge Mar 19 (SSu). An Acorn Woodpecker was found in juniper-pine habitat along the e. shore of Upper Klamath L., May 13 (SSu). Lewis' Woodpecker numbers seemed fairly good. On a census route in the Enterprise, Ore., area about 25 were found in 10 mi (CGC). The White-headed Woodpecker was found at 3 localities near Chewelah and a burn s.w. of Chewelah had at least ten Black-backed and one N. Three-toed Woodpecker. (JN).

An Ash-throated Flycatcher was found at the usual spot on Crab Cr., Columbia N.W.R., May 28 (JA) and two were at Wright's Pt., Harney Co., Ore., May 20 (ME).

JAYS THROUGH THRUSHES — Two Blue Jays appeared in the Nampa area until May 1 (G.E.A.S.) and the one at Kimberley, B.C., remained until mid-March (CD). Single birds passed through a Spokane suburb Apr. 8 & 20 (THR) and the species finally penetrated to the e. base of the Cascades with two at Yakima Mar. 18 and earlier (ZB,HV). One was at Douglas, Wash., during March and April (EV). Two Com Crows at Gardiner, Mont., during the spring were unusual. At least three Bewick's Wrens were along Crab Cr., Columbia N.W.R., May 21 (WH,BW). The Cañon Wren was observed near Chewelah and Northport, Wash., and the Rock Wren near Chewelah (JN). Two localities reported Mockingbirds. Lewiston had two sightings in March (EM) and one was at Malheur N.W.R., May 20 (DI). Pocatello's thousands of wintering robins started moving out Mar. 12 and Salmon, to the n. had many more than usual the first week of Mar. Several W. Bluebirds appeared at Salmon Mar. 29 for Roberts' first record there.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH WARBLERS — A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was closely studied at Page Springs, Malheur N.W.R., May 20 (TF,ME). Three Tennessee Warblers, uncommon migrants in the Okanogan Valley, were at Penticton May 25 (SC). One appeared in Helena in late May (PM,LS). The Salmon, Ida., area had many more sightings of Nashville Warblers than usual (HR) and Yellow Bay, Flathead L., Mont., had one May 6 (DS). The Nampa area had two "Myrtle" Warblers May 13 (G.E.A.S.) and one was in the Davenport, Wash., cemetery May 25 (JA). A very early ♂ Townsend's Warbler was along Asotin Cr., Asotin Co., Wash., Mar 25 (MK). A ♂ **Blackpoll Warbler**, carefully described, was found 5 mi e. of Bigfork, Mont., May 26 (MS) and a **Palm Warbler** was observed near Imnaha, Ore., May 12 (JB). Common Yellowthroats were described as common in the

Charlo, Mont vicinity (CH) The species was also reported from the Kalispell and Nampa areas.

BLACKBIRDS — The more unusual occurrences of Bobolinks were: Bigfork May 27-29 (MS); a female at Gardiner, Mont., May 21 (JQ); near Hamer, Ida., May 24 where breeding is suspected (DH); two near Enterprise, Ore., May 13 (VC,MHe), and a singing male in the Aeneas Valley e. of Tonasket, Wash., May 27 (HB *et al.*). A flock of 250 Tricolored Blackbirds was at Miller I., near Klamath Falls Mar. 17 (SSu). Northern Orioles were unusually abundant around Vernon, B.C., and showed "very good numbers" in the Klamath Basin (SSu). A pair of Com. Grackles was in Helena where the species has been rare in recent years (SM). Two in courtship were observed near Menan Buttes, Rexburg, Ida., May 24; breeding is suspected but no nests have ever been found (CT)

FINCHES — A ♀ Rose-breasted Grosbeak appeared at Gardiner, Mont., May 17-20, the first there since 1975 (JQ). Bozeman had one May 16-20 (JP) as did Three Forks, Mont., May 19-20 (RL). Even more unusual was a ♂ Indigo Bunting at Gardiner May 21-22 and a House Finch there was noteworthy (JQ). Cassin's Finch was apparently absent from the Fortine, Mont., and Leavenworth, Wash., areas but was more common than usual at Gardiner. Purple, Cassin's and House Finches were all found in Moore City Pk., in Klamath Falls May 13 (SSu). Flocks of rosy finches up to 3000+ visited feeders at Gardiner in March and April, with fewer in May. About 12% were Black and the rest Gray-crowns, about 50-50 *littoralis* and *tephrocotis*. Heavy, persistent snow covering the food supply was believed responsible (JQ). White-winged Crossbills were reported only for the Kalispell area and in the Helena area in Colorado Gulch, 15 on May 6

SPARROWS — Moore Park, Klamath Falls had two Brown Towhees Apr. 9. The spot is becoming a regular haunt for this species (SSu). Lark Buntings appeared in the Three Forks, Mont., area May 19 for the only report (RL). Three localities reported Grasshopper Sparrows: near Bigfork May 27 (F.A.S.); the Spokane Valley at Barker Rd., May 8+ (JA), and the Nampa area Mar. 4 (G.E.A.S.). The 3-4 Harris' Sparrows that wintered at Pocatello were last seen Apr. 19 when two males were singing and starting their spring molt (CT). The lone bird at Gardiner was last seen Mar. 21 (JQ). A Golden-crowned Sparrow in Umatilla, Ore., Mar 21 was at least a month early (MC). A singing ♂ White-throated Sparrow was at Spokane May 10 (JA). Two McCown's Longspurs were watched at length at Rupert, Ida., Apr. 1 (JDo,WHs) and two Lapland Longspurs were sighted s. of Creston, Wash., Mar 18 (EH). A few were with Horned Larks at Gardiner Mar 1-4 (JQ).

ADDENDA — An ad. Cattle Egret was seen at Market L., Roberts, Ida., Aug. 29, 1977 (SC). A Com Bushtit was sighted May 30, 1977 at Klickitat Wildlife Recreation Area n. of Goldendale, Wash. (BW) and a White-throated Sparrow was found along Crab Cr., Columbia N.W.R., May 15, 1977 (BW). Regarding the westernmost site for the Veery in Oregon. AB 31:1165, Alan Contreras reported the species breeding regularly

as far w. as Ochoco Guard Station in Ochoco N.F. and that he has found several on the upper reaches of the John Day R., at Canyon Cr.

OBSERVERS CITED — James Acton, Eugene Barney, Hal Beecher, Don Bradshaw, Mr. Bronson, Al Bruner, Janet Burcham, Zelia Butler, Steve R. Cannings, C.D. Cannon, Christopher G. Carey, Phil Cheney, Urana Clarke, Vern Coggins, Marion Corder, Sharon Cotterell, Dan DeJong, (JDo) Joe Dolan, John Doremus, Charles Duncan, Mark Egger, Tad Finnell, Flathead Audubon Society, Roy Gerig, Golden Eagle Audubon Society, James Grant, Mike Gregory, Warren Hall, (WHa) William Harms, Jim and Naomi Heckathorn, C. Henry, (MHe) Mark Henjum, Bob Hensler, Russ

Hoffman, Mark Howarth, Eugene Hunn, Don Hunter, David Irons, Don Johnson, Dwight Kilgore, Merlene Koliner, Ron Lang, Sid Martin, Patricia McKinney Ed McVicker, Lee Merrick, Dave Mudd, Jack Nisbet (LPe) Lee Periman, Jean Perkins, Leon Powers, Eleanor A. Pugh, Joyce Queckborner, Hadley Roberts, T.H. Rogers, Georgia Sanderson, Lorelei Saxby, Belle Shaw, W. Shillington, John Smith, Shirley G Sturts, Mae Sudan, Dan Sullivan, Priscilla & (SSu) Steve Summers, Art Tiedeman, Dale Towiell, Charles Trost, Esther Viebrock, Harold Vredenburg, J Weber, Winton Weydemeyer, Bart Whelton, Mrs. M Wick, Robert Woodley and Steve Zender. — **THOMAS H. ROGERS, E. 10820 Maxwell Ave., Spokane, WA 99206.**

MOUNTAIN WEST REGION

/Hugh E. Kingery

Perhaps a million water and shore birds pass through Bear River Refuge each year, and probably an equal number use other refuges on the Great Salt Lake. Few of those two million birds stop elsewhere in the Mountain West. In previous years we have reported a few



migrants stopping at reservoirs near Zion National Park and Kanab, Utah, as well as in the Lake Mead and David Dam area south of Las Vegas. This spring four observers from a band across southern Utah have described a limited fallout from the crowds headed for Salt Lake.

Dotted across the southern Utah deserts, mountains, and pinyon/juniper forests are small reservoirs and stock ponds. One would expect a few ducks in any of these, but our new Utah observers report not only puddle ducks but also loons, grebes, egrets, diving ducks, and shorebirds. The pair of Buffleheads and the Pintail on stock ponds near Monticello (FB) and four Sanderlings at a pond at Escalante (SH) seem incongruous among the more typical Piñon Jays, Black-throated Gray Warblers, and Brewer's Sparrows.

Utah and Nevada had benign weather this spring, with a bit more rain, particularly in May. At Salt Lake City in May Keene observed a "fall-out" from "chilly, gusty, rainy weather which fatigues birds in migration

so that they drop down right where they are." The rains of Utah became the snows of Colorado and Wyoming — rather severe storms May 5-7 and 29-31 leaving 1-3 feet of snow.

The May storms grounded many migrants in flocks, searching for food on roadsides and feeders. Roadside flocks included 500 Mourning Doves in 18 miles of county roads in the San Luis Valley, Colo. (MN), 400 juncos, Vesper Sparrows, and Cassin's Finches near McCoy, Colo. (ME), dozens of Western Bluebirds flocking in residential Colorado Springs (CLC), and 76 Swainson's Thrushes along 7 miles of road at Sheridan (HD). After both storms, mountain birds crowded feeders: Cassin's and rosy finches, juncos, sparrows — even Black-headed Grosbeaks and Western Tanagers at Jackson, Wyo. (BR). Grouse at Sheridan (HD) and Gray-headed Juncos at Boulder (HS) exhibited parallel feeding behavior — tunneling through the snow to obtain seeds. White-crowned Sparrows advanced to their alpine breeding grounds several times, and retreated several times from the snowy onslaughts (CB)

Mortality also occurred. At Cheyenne the 2 feet of snow wreaked havoc with Horned Larks: "Many birds and their nestlings smothered to death under the sudden, deep snow, so the first hatching was a disaster." (MH).

The migration proceeded a week or two ahead of normal during March and April, until delayed and dispersed by the May storms. Despite a seemingly lackluster spring, Nevada had its first Black Hawk and Blue Jays, and Colorado its first Western Gull. Observers reported 369 species — 331 from Colorado, 247 from Utah, 244 from Nevada, and 231 from Wyoming.

LOONS, GREBES — Most reservoirs in s. Utah had 1-15 Com. Loons (SH,SPH,MW). Horned Grebes occur more frequently along the e. slopes of Colorado and Wyoming in somewhat larger numbers (35 on Apr 23 near Denver), and Eared Grebes are fairly numerous, including 15 on the s. Utah ponds on their way to breeding grounds in and beyond the Mountain West. Their die-off in the Great Salt L., last winter (AB 32:380) apparently affected the spring migration (peak of only 200 — JN). The W. Grebes at Las Vegas began moving N before Mar. 1, but 700 remained until May 1 (VM)

A very large flock of 1800-2000 stopped at Grand L., Colo., Apr. 15; most left the next day (DJ). Most of the 500 at Bear R., May 31 were nesting, and a nest was found at Browns Park N.W.R., Colo., May 23 (WPG).

PELICANS TO IBIS — *En route* to isolated nesting or summer sites in all 4 states, White Pelicans made scattered stops, including April calls at Monte Vista N.W.R. (MN), Antero Res., near Fairplay (JP) and Hotchkiss (TC), Colo., Washington County (SH) and Jordan Narrows (AK) Utah, and Jackson Hole, Wyo. (GT). A Little Blue Heron stopped at a reservoir near Longmont, Colo., Apr. 29 (JR). The A.A.S. Spring Count produced a Louisiana Heron in Colorado Springs, which stayed Mar. 14-15 (LG,MC,TK,CLC), for the tenth record for Colorado. Cattle Egrets continued to spread. New Colorado locations included records in April of ten at Campo (*vide* JS), nine at Pueblo (VT), 1-2 at Alamosa, Gunnison, Hotchkiss, Fruita, plus two at Browns Pk., May 23 (WPG); also Escalante, Utah, Apr. 27 (SH), and Ruby Lakes N.W.R., Nev., May 5 (SHB). Regular spots also reported them — Logan, Brigham City, Las Vegas, and Latham Res., Colo. Although Colorado observers see Snowy Egrets becoming scarcer each year, substantial numbers migrate and nest in Utah, and sparing numbers migrate in Nevada. A mountain lion is suspected of having killed one at a desert pond at Kane Gulch s.w. of Monticello, Utah (FB). Bear R. reported 800 nests of Black-crowned Night Herons, and 1-3 nests were discovered in Denver's City Park. White-faced Ibises returned to Carson L., (near Fallon) Nev. 400 pairs strong, to resume nesting after total failure in drought-plagued 1977.

WATERFOWL — Utah had duck numbers comparable to last year — but they shifted their allegiance: state refuges on the Great Salt L. doubled last year's usage while Bear R., attracted only half as many. The 8 Great Salt L. refuges collected 271,122 ducks in late March, including 58,998 Pintails and 62,917 Green-winged Teal; also 10,522 Canvasbacks. Pintails peaked in early March at 110,702 (U.D.W.R.). Monte Vista N.W.R.'s peak, in mid-March, was only 13,000, mostly Mallards (MN). A tour of n.c. Colorado reservoirs Mar. 25 produced 17,400 ducks, including 6900 Mallards, 3575 Pintails, 3180 N. Shovelers, and 2000 Redheads (JR).

The Trumpeter Swan at Grand L., Colo., stayed to Mar 9; voice identification confirmed it (DJ). In n.w. Wyoming 124 Trumpeters wintered; a tri-state census counted 874, up from a 13-year average of 645. Only 10-12 appeared at Ruby L., this spring; they apparently are not nesting. Scattered small flocks of Snow Geese moved through the Region, plus 10,000 which stopped at Two Buttes Res., Baca Co., Colo., in April (LM). The flock included a "Blue" Goose, and another "Blue" stopped on the Snake R., near Jackson, Wyo., Apr. 22 (SWd). Mowbray regards a free-flying Greylag Goose at Las Vegas Feb. 26-May 13 as an escapee. Sharp-eyed observers picked out Greater Scaups in Las Vegas, Denver, Longmont, and Sheridan. Ring-necked Ducks included three pairs on Cottonwood Pass near Gypsum, Colo., May 29 (JM). Lone Oldsquaws were at Glenrock, Wyo., Mar. 12 (RCR), Gunlock, Utah, Mar. 10-21 (JLy), Washington

County, Utah, May 6 (SH,SPH), and Yellowstone N.P., May 23 (KK), a new bird for the park list *Four* stayed at the Fruita, Colo., sewage ponds Apr 1 – May 3 (DGt). The handful of Hooded Mergansers included a female at Denver's City Park Apr. 30 – May 31 which fed on fish attracted by bread crumbs fed to puddle ducks (RWh).

HAWKS, EAGLES — Hall used meteorology to discover a migratory route used mainly by Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks along the edge of the Colorado foothills n. of Boulder. He theorizes that Buteos migrate farther out on the plains where thermals benefit them but not the smaller-winged Accipiters. The Utah January raptor survey counted 581 raptors in 3809 mi, including 162 Bald and 159 Golden Eagles, 113 Rough-legged Hawks, but only 22 kestrels and 13 Prairie Falcons. The numbers seem surprisingly low, but fit averages of past years. Turkey Vultures first arrived Mar. 11 at Overton, Nev., and Mar. 23 at Jackson (B&MR). On May 27 Andrews found eight Mississippi Kites and one nest in the Lamar, Colo., *city park!* Accipiter observations jumped, particularly Sharp-shinneds, even without Hall's foothills migration. A few Rough-legged Hawks persisted into April; May records came from Gunnison, Colo. (KC), Sheridan, and Dubois, Wyo. Mowbray found Nevada's first **Black Hawk** May 27 at Corn Cr., near Las Vegas (ph., CL). Among more Merlins seen was one eating a fresh kill from a flock of 1000 Brown-capped Rosy Finches near Grand L., while the finches continued to feed within inches of him (DJ).

GROUSE, CRANES — A high population of White-tailed Ptarmigan on Mt. Evans, Colo., contrasts with a drop of 25-35% in Rocky Mountain N.P., the latter possibly caused by a late-melting snowpack (CB). In the Uinta wilderness of n.e. Utah, an introduced population of ptarmigan is prospering (U.D.W.R.) U.D.W.R. has undertaken a study of Sharp-tailed Grouse, once common in Utah but now restricted to Box Elder, Cache, Morgan, and Weber Cos. Colorado may have had an historic high of Sage Grouse; populations have been increasing throughout the state for the last 3 years (CB). Young had already hatched in Colorado and Nevada in late May (CB,JE). Five Whooping Cranes stopped at Monte Vista, four in March plus a fifth which stayed Apr. 14 – May 11 (MN). One was seen at Hotchkiss Mar. 29-30 (TC) and two at Bondurant, Wyo., 15 (MA). Colorado's San Luis Valley had a peak of 10,000 Sandhill Cranes Mar. 10 (MN)

SHOREBIRDS — Shorebird migration was unimpressive. Bear R.'s Apr. 20 peak was 150,000, nowhere near the half-million estimated last spring. More Semipalmated Plovers showed than ever for our Region, with 69 counted at 2 spots in Denver/Boulder Apr. 30, and 35 at Las Vegas May 1. The 74 on the Colorado Springs Spring Count May 14 outnumbered the 59 Killdeer! Two Mountain Plovers arrived at Pawnee Nat'l Grassland, Colo., Mar. 18 — so early they had to skirt ice on the pond (MJ). Great Salt L. had two "waves" of Am. Golden Plovers — one at Bear R., Apr. 12 and then eight there May 14 (DD), plus five at Farmington Bay W.M.A., May 11 (WWB)

Bear R also reported 400 Black-bellied Plovers in early May (RK). Twenty Ruddy Turnstones were at Bear R., May 5 (RK) while singles visited Pueblo May 9 (VT) and Crook, Colo., May 29 (BA). Wyoming had record counts of Whimbrels — 25 at Cheyenne Apr. 30 (AKG) and 43 at Sheridan May 16 (HD). Bear R. reported 2000 Willets in late April (RK), 20% of last year's count, while other areas reported average numbers. Bear R. had 10,000 Greater Yellowlegs (5 times last year) and 3000 Lessers (high), but a mere 10,000 Long-billed Dowitchers, 1/20th of last year's count. The Stilt Sandpiper at Bear R., May 26 (RK) provided Utah's fourth sight record; six visited Cheyenne May 20 (OKS), and Colorado had a handful. The Alves found 8000-10,000 Am. Avocets Apr. 9 in the Fernley marshes between Reno and Lovelock, Nev., "the marshes extend for miles and as far as we could see the marshes were full of avocets; we have never heard of this many around." The 60,000 at Bear R., down by two-thirds from last year, concentrated mainly in mud flats off-limits to visitors. Black-necked Stilts arrive about 2 weeks later than avocets; none fed with the Fernley marsh avocets. Escalante attracted 100 N. Phalaropes May 5 (SH) — the highest count reported in the Region this spring.

GULLS, TERNS — Glaucous Gulls stayed in Colorado through Apr. 7, with the maximum count eight in one day near Ft. Collins (MJ). [Amend the winter report to add three Glaucous Gulls during January at Farmington Bay, Utah (AK,SD), an annual occurrence, according to the refuge manager.] On May 23 an apparent **Western Gull**, well-described, stopped briefly near Denver (TM); Colorado has no previous records. The latest Thayer's Gulls were three at Boulder Apr. 2 (D.F.O.). A Black-legged Kittiwake strayed to Cortez, Colo., Mar. 21 (G&RE, †C.F.O.). Either a new migratory path or better-eyed observers produced eight Com. Tern reports: Las Vegas Apr. 29 (VM), Pyramid L., Nev., May 14 (KKn), Logan May 6 (TS), Sheridan Apr. 28 (HD), and four from e. Colorado Colorado picked up its second **Caspian Tern** record, one near Denver May 22-29 (BA, BL *et al.*).

DOVES, OWLS — Roadrunners, 100 mi. n. of their range, appeared in two separate Denver sites May 10 & 27 (TSc,SR). The observer has walked at one site daily for several years and never seen a Roadrunner there — before or since. At Ft. Mohave, Nev., a Screech Owl took over the cavity in which Elf Owls nested last year; an Elf Owl was there Apr. 7 but not Apr. 20 (VM). Flammulated Owls and Saw-whet Owls called from Cocetopa Pass forests near Gunnison May 16 & 23 (KC). The nine Pygmy Owl reports from Colorado exceeded those of any previous spring. Bear R reports a large increase in Short-eared Owls, to an estimated breeding population of 150. Saw-whets were found at Payson, Utah Mar. 17 (MW) and Snow Basin near Ogden Apr. 19-29 (JN).

WOODPECKERS — The beetle attack on Ponderosa Pines in the Colorado Front Range, and man's counterattack, has generated some interesting observations. Woodpeckers have increased where the beetle-killed trees still stand (this spring, Williamson's

Sapsuckers and N Three-toeds are mentioned — RW, HS,CLC) — they have then decreased in places like Evergreen, Colo., where the beetle trees have been removed (WWB). A Ladder-backed Woodpecker strayed N of Denver Apr. 20 (BRz).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — An early E Kingbird reached Jefferson County, Colo., Mar 27 (JS), the next arrival found at Jackson Apr. 22 (BR), also quite early. Early Cassin's Kingbirds were at Arches and Canyonlands N.P.s, Utah, Mar. 14 & 18 (EHB). Four E. Phoebes were found n.w. of their normal range: Pueblo May 13 (A&EB), Boulder May 13 (HS), Pawnee Nat'l Grassland May 28 (WWB), and Ft. Morgan Apr. 13 (JCR). Black Phoebes returned to their Pueblo nesting site for the first time in 3 years (DG,JL), and Reno had one May 24, for probably its second record (BAL). An E. Wood Pewee visited Denver May 11 (HH), and Cody had an early W Wood Pewee Apr. 23 (UK). An early Olive-sided Flycatcher arrived at Colorado Springs Apr. 21 (CLC) At Fossil Creek Res., near Ft. Collins May 1, Janos reported "a tremendous aggregation of swallows flycatching over the water. I estimated about 100,000 birds. They were mostly Violet-greens, but many Barns and Cliffs, and a few Rough-winged and Tree Swallows. . . The next morning the ground was so nearly covered that at first glance it wasn't apparent that there were any birds present. When I walked close, thousands would whirl up and then settle down when I retreated." Early Violet-greens came to Grand L., Mar. 18; Dubois, Wyo., Mar. 24; and Gunnison Mar. 30, while early Trees arrived Mar. 17 at Grand L.; Mar. 19 at Verdi, Nev.; Mar. 20 at Jackson, Mar 23 at Logan; and Mar. 25 at Brigham City.

JAYS THROUGH THRASHERS — Blue Jays began nesting at Cody, Wyo., by Apr. 29 (PG) — their westernmost attempt in our Region — and are probably nesting at Sheridan. One was banded 40 mi into the mountains from Cody May 20 (OT). Two **Blue Jays** reportedly strayed to Incline Village, L. Tahoe, Nev., Mar. 2-4 (*W. Tanager* 44:8:11 — CB, *vide* JD) When documented, they will constitute Nevada's first record. Piñon Jays had a banner year in s. Utah, and produced large numbers of young, probably reacting to last year's excellent pinyon nut crop (SH,SPH,FB) Clark's Nutcrackers bred commonly over the Kaiparowits Plateau near Escalante, with young fledged by May 26 (SH), and were common all spring at Ruby L. (SHB). Bushtits began nesting at last year's site near Lyons, but disappeared after the 19-in. snow May 7 (DA). Early House Wrens reached Reno Apr. 2 and Sheridan Apr. 28. A Cactus Wren was seen on the Mt. Charleston road near Las Vegas May 31 (LGB) An unusual Curve-billed Thrasher lurked in Red Rock Canyon Nat'l Rec. Area, near Las Vegas May 11 (VM). Andrews found a Curve-billed Thrasher nest May 26 in Baca County.

THRUSHES TO VIREOS — American Robins arrived in the Colorado mountains in early March, and in greater numbers than last year — reportedly 10-12 nests/acre along the Gunnison R. (KC). From Denver and Bonny Res., Colo., come reports of Gray-cheeked Thrushes May 13-14 (BA,PM,PG,BW). Three E. Blue-

birds visited Sheridan Mar 21 (HD†) An unusual number of W. Bluebirds migrated along the Colorado piedmont instead of their usual foothills route, during late March, so were unaffected by the May snowstorms. Mountain Bluebirds seemed fewer, and they suffered from weather and competition; five found dead at Cheyenne after the May snowfall and others chased out of a nest box at Dubois by Tree Swallows. Black-tailed Gnatcatchers again stopped at Ridgway, Colo., May 1-6 (JRG). A Sprague's Pipit visited Bear R., Mar. 22 (EHB†). In March, after few this winter Bohemian Waxwing flocks of 50 moved through Dinosaur N.M., and Evergreen, Colo., Dubois and Rawlins, Wyo. A flock of 500 worked the residential area of Cody Mar. 12-15, and a late one strayed to Brigham City May 24 (DD). Four Red-eyed Vireos were reported from Capitol Reef N.P., Utah, May 30 (AS) and one was heard but not seen at Virginia City, Nev May 13 (KKn).

WARBLERS — The warbler migration was extremely reduced, and vagrants were sparse. Dubois reported its first Black-and-white Warbler in 3 years May 16 (DH) Colorado had the only major rarities: a Blue-winged May 20 at Loveland (C.F.O.), a Nashville on the W Slope at McCoy May 18 (ME), its third Hermit May 7-9 near Denver (m.ob.), its ninth and tenth Yellow-throateds at Boulder Apr. 3 (BW,ph.,PM) and Denver May 11 (MEI), and a Pine at Bonny May 13 (PM,BW *et al.*). Nevada's few warblers were all species which occur there with some regularity.

BLACKBIRDS, TANAGERS — Bobolink reports surged, with reports from Springville, Bear R., and Logan, Utah, Cheyenne, Jackson, and Sheridan, and Denver, Boulder, and Eagle. Hoffman reported from Escalante: "I was fortunate to observe a large migration of blackbirds in late April to early May. The migration usually began a half hour before sunset, and I sometimes observed until dark. When I arose at dawn, I could still hear them overhead. Most were Brewer's, but Yellow-headededs were mixed in, especially in late April." He estimated hundreds each night except for thousands Apr. 28, all flying N. Scott's Orioles were uncommon in the pinyon/juniper around Escalante below 6000 ft, May 6-20 (SH). A Bullock's Oriole, which molted into ♂ plumage, overwintered into April in Littleton, Colo., appearing daily at a feeder and apparently roosting in evergreens in a nearby park (AG†). The two Rusty Blackbirds Mar. 19 and one Mar. 25 at Las Vegas gave Nevada its first spring records. A Great-tailed Grackle strayed to Ruby L., May 15 (SHB), for the first report for n. Nevada. Common Grackles have spread to the w. side of the Continental Divide, with regular appearances and probable nesting at Gunnison, Granby, Grand L., Dubois, and Jackson. Summer Tanagers made a second appearance in two years at Cheyenne, with a splotchy male May 18-22 (AKg *et al.*). The Eagle, Colo. latilong had its first, a male May 27 (JM).

FINCHES — Denver had scattered reports of Cardinals during the winter and spring, mostly from non-birders who can identify Cardinals. Far fewer Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared than last year, but Black-headed Grosbeaks moved in abundantly at Colorado

Springs (93 on Spring Count) and Jackson (six at a feeder at one time). Banders in Ogden and Logan reported Lazuli Buntings in numbers; they banded 84 and 304 respectively, extremely high counts (MK, AST). Evening Grosbeaks spread throughout the Region, abundantly in many places and sparingly in others, but with no pattern. Highest numbers were 100 at Silt, Colo., and Salt Lake City, and 500 at Cedar City, Utah, Apr. 28 – May 20 (SPH). Banding of a Purple Finch Apr. 6 at Evergreen (SB) should inspire mountain birders to inspect flocks of Cassin's Finches more carefully. This year the Cassin's flocks spread conspicuously in the mountains — numerous "harbingers of spring" (DJ) at places like Grand L., Silver Plume, Westcreek, and McCoy, Colo., Sheridan, Dubois, and Logan. At Eureka they have increased, even to supplanting House Finches in town (JE) House Finches, which in recent years colonized w. Montana, have now become established in Cody. A flock of Gray-crowned Rosy Finches was found at Lusk, Wyo., Mar. 12, quite far e. for such a large group — possibly searching for bare ground after the May snows (RCR), and a flock of 70-100 (seven identified as Blacks, as probably most were) rosy finches strayed into the Utah desert at Arches N.P., in March (EHB). Large flocks of Pine Siskins cruised into both plains cities and mountain towns. Some Red Crossbills remained in Colorado and Wyoming, with nesting observed at Evergreen and Ft. Collins. They blanketed the pinyon/juniper forest around Escalante all spring (SH). Jackson had its second White-winged Crossbill May 19 (DL — see AB 32:383). Considering their winter abundance in Arizona, migrating Lark Buntings should, but do not, appear commonly in Utah; therefore this spring's records occurred in only the third season we have reported from Utah: ten Mar. 24 at Coral Pink Dunes S.P. (RJ), one May 7 near Monticello (WRR), and a male May 26 at Bear R. (JN).

SPARROWS — Although Sheridan had three Grasshopper Sparrows May 14, reservoir waters now cover the local nesting area. On May 9 Downing found her second Le Conte's Sparrow at Sheridan in as many years, (†HD). Two Golden-crowned Sparrows spent time at a Colorado Springs feeder May 14 (AD) Las Vegas reported a White-throated Sparrow May 9 Nevada had two Chestnut-collared Longspurs: one at Overton Mar. 11 and one at Beatty May 2, feeding with shorebirds at the edge of a small pond. Remnants of the winter Snow Bunting incursion remained in March at Granby, Colo., and Hanna, Cody, and Cheyenne, Wyo. A very large tag-end flock of 1000 was at Van Tassel, Wyo., Mar. 12 (RCR).

ABBREVIATIONS — A.A.S.: Aiken Audubon Soc.; C.F.O.: Colorado Field Ornithologists; D.F.O Denver Field Ornithologists; U.D.W.R.: Utah Div of Wildlife Resources; †: written description submitted

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SOUTHWEST REGION

/Janet Witzeman, John P. Hubbard and Kenn Kaufman

Precipitation set records in the western parts of the Region during late winter / early spring 1978; some localities received amounts of rainfall exceeding their normal annual averages before the first of March. As a result, the Arizona deserts put on a wildflower display



seldom rivaled in recent history, and the grasslands turned lush and green months before the summer rains. The most noticeable reaction to these conditions was staged by the Cassin's Sparrows (as detailed below in the species accounts) but it was felt that most spring breeders in the lowlands enjoyed successful nesting seasons.

Many observers felt that the spring migration was quite poor, with some normally common passerines occurring in greatly reduced numbers. The abundance of green vegetation probably contributed to this impression: rather than concentrating in a few riparian "migrant traps," the birds were able to disperse over much wider areas.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Excellent photos of a **Red-throated Loon** on L. Havasu Mar. 29 – Apr. 2 (KVR *et al.*) provided the first documentation of the species' occurrence in Arizona; there were two

previous sight records for the Lower Colorado Valley, (hereafter, L.C.V.).

Olivaceous Cormorants continued to occur in the Region, with singles seen Apr. 21 at Las Cruces (KJZ), and May 6 near Cliff, N. Mex., where rare (MZ *et al.*), in Arizona, two were e. of Douglas throughout March (†DD, JBI *et al.*), one was n. of Douglas Apr. 14 (W&SS), and four were on L. Patagonia May 4 and subsequently (KK, GR *et al.*).

There are two definite nesting areas of Great Blue Heron in New Mexico: the Gila R. population continues to maintain itself (RAF), but the one near Watrous had only one nesting pair in May (WH). A Little Blue Heron near Alamogordo Apr. 29 and two there May 16 (K. Haenke *et al.*) provided the first local records. Four Cattle Egrets seen e. of Sonoita Mar. 22 (K. & J. Olson) added to the growing number of records for s.e. Arizona where the species was, until recently, considered rare. Single Louisiana Herons, rare stragglers to the Region, appeared at Bitter Lake N.W.R., May 8-9 (VLG) and at Willcox May 27 – June 3 (DD, †ph.GB *et al.*). At Martinez L., near Yuma, several Am. Bitterns which were calling in May and remained at least into June were strongly suspected of nesting (KVR, SF); the species is not currently known to breed in Arizona.

WATERFOWL, RAPTORS — A (Black) Brant was found Apr. 14 on the Lower Colorado River n. of Ehrenberg (ph., KVR); there are now about half a dozen Arizona records. Another report of the species in the L.C.V., previously unpublished, was of one at Havasu N.W.R., Apr. 14, 1975 (B. Delaney, L. Walters, *vide* KVR).

Aerial and ground surveys terminating in March indicated that at least 358 Bald Eagles were present in New Mexico during the winter of 1977-78. This was the first statewide census ever undertaken here (JPH *et al.*). The migration of Swainson's Hawks through Arizona occurs chiefly in April, so a flock of 67 s.e. of Willcox May 28 (R&JW) was extremely late. Also quite late was a ♀ Merlin apparently of the pale race *richardsoni* which remained at Willcox until May 1 (KK, GR).

RAILS, SHOREBIRDS — Downy young Virginia Rails found in the B.W. Delta March 29 represented

the first confirmed breeding record for that area. Virginia rails are believed to be breeding commonly now on the Colorado R., from Imperial Dam to Topock (KVR). A Sora found near the Phantom Ranch May 12 (S. Stockton *et al.*, *vide* BB) was the first to be recorded in the Grand Canyon.

An Am. Golden Plover was photographed s. of Parker May 6 (KVR); Arizona had only three previous spring records. A Whimbrel, always a rare transient in Arizona, was photographed at Nogales Apr. 16 (P.A. Buckley) and another or the same was seen there May 6 (CM, †BH *et al.*). Three Upland Sandpipers, rare in spring in New Mexico, were seen just e. of Tucumcari Apr. 10 (KJZ). Six Red Knots near Alamogordo May 20 (LM *et al.*) provided the first spring record for New Mexico as well as the westernmost state record. Arizona's first definite spring records for Pectoral Sandpiper were established at Willcox, with two birds Apr. 8 and one May 1-8 (DSz, †KK, GB *et al.*). Baird's Sandpiper continued its series of spring occurrences at Willcox with one Apr. 30 (DSz *et al.*). Reports of Marbled Godwits in w. New Mexico were more frequent than usual, including two near Redrock May 6 (JR *et al.*) and one at Alamogordo May 15 (LB, *vide* LM). Sanderlings are becoming regular at Willcox in spring. Between one and three were there Apr. 28 - May 15 (DSz, GB *et al.*). A Red Phalarope on L. Havasu Apr. 2 (EC *et al.*) provided one of Arizona's few spring records.

TERNs, DOVES — A Com. Tern was studied at Nogales May 6 for Arizona's first believable spring record.

Astounding if true was the report of two Roseate Terns seen e. of Roswell, N. Mex., Apr. 21 (VLG). One was photographed w. of there May 1 (Phelps White); the details and photographic evidence are still under study. Although this species is nearly cosmopolitan, it is virtually unknown inland; and on the Texas coast, its nearest point of previous occurrence, it is extremely rare.



Possible Roseate Tern. Phelps White Ranch, Chaves County, N.M., May 1, 1978. Photo: Phelps White.

Ground Doves are infrequently reported in the Gila Valley, so notable were four near Cliff May 6 (CA *et al.*), and three at Redrock Apr. 29 (RAF).

NIGHTJARS, HUMMINGBIRDS, TROGONS — Totally unexpected was the discovery of a **Buff-collared Nightjar** (*Caprimulgus ridgwayi*) May 19 in

the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mts., n. of Tucson (CH.ELS). The bird was seen and heard in the area as late as June 20 (m.ob.), and was evidently on territory. This record, more than 120 mi from Guadalupe Canyon, the area of the only previous U.S. records, suggests that a few pairs might occur undetected in many areas of s.e. Arizona.

A Whip-poor-will in the Cook Range, Luna Co., May 23 (JPH) provided a new locality record for the species in New Mexico.

A ♂ Lucifer Hummingbird was present at Portal from Apr. 15 at least to May 26 (SS *et al.*); the species is rapidly becoming regular in s.e. Arizona. Costa's Hummingbird, first verified for New Mexico in Guadalupe Canyon last May (AB 31:1033), was found there again this year on May 6-7. At least ten birds were present (including six ad. males); several were banded, and a probable nest was found (W. Baltosser). Recent White-eared Hummingbirds in Arizona have generally stayed a few days at most, so the male that remained at Ramsey Canyon feeders Apr. 23 at least through June (C&JP, RH, m.ob.) provided a welcome change.

A ♂ **Coppery-tailed Trogon** seen May 23 in the Animas Mts. (S. Dubrot) provided only the second record for that range and the third for New Mexico.

FLYCATCHERS, MARTINS — A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was noted May 18 near Yuma (RN); Arizona now records one or two individuals every year.

Problematical was the status of a Great Kiskadee at Tucson Mar. 15-29 (M. Sheldrick, †WD *et al.*); if accepted as wild, it would represent Arizona's first record. The species occurs as near as Guaymas, Sonora where it is apparently a permanent resident. It should be noted that the Tucson individual was quite wary and showed no abnormal feather wear; and although it was on the edge of residential Tucson, it was also in a natural "vagrant trap" situation, lower Sabino Canyon. The species is not often seen in captivity in Mexico.

A pair of Olivaceous Flycatchers present at least May 19-31 n.e. of Payson, Ariz., was n. of the species' known breeding range (ST *et al.*). An E. Phoebe was observed s.w. of Springerville, Ariz., May 19-26 (ST, GR *et al.*). Previous records of this uncommon transient in the state have been in fall and winter. A Coues' Flycatcher was seen May 6 on the w. fork of the Gila R., an area of New Mexico for which there are few records (BJH, B. Rogers). A first record for extreme n.w. New Mexico was established by a ♀ Vermilion Flycatcher at Farmington Apr. 8 (APN).

Unusual were three Purple Martins e. of the Sandia Mts., May 20 (RLT) for the first local record, and 17 near Redrock, N. Mex., May 6 (JR *et al.*).

NUTHATCHES, THRASHERS, THRUSHES — A Pygmy Nuthatch in the Cook Range Apr. 24 (JPH) was out of range.

Westward Brown Thrashers in New Mexico were singles May 6 at Evans L., and Redrock (RAF *et al.*); a late individual was at Alamogordo May 20 (LB, *vide* LM). The last report of the winter's Varied Thrush invasion was of one "very weak and ragged" bird in the B.W. Delta Apr. 11 (BE). A Wood Thrush reported at Las Vegas May 18 (WH) was Mexico's fourth.

S.A.

Incredibly, two Aztec Thrushes (*Ridgwayia pinicola*) occurred, providing Arizona's first records: one in Madera Canyon, Santa Rita Mts., May 20 (†MLB,AH) and one in Huachuca Canyon, Huachuca Mts., May 30 – June 14 (†DD,†GB *et al.*; ph. GB,CMcM,PO). These two individuals were respectively brownish and blackish — theoretically female and male, although final conclusions will have to await examination of a good museum series. The occurrence of these two individuals so soon after the first U.S. record (last August in Texas — AB 32: 156-157) suggests that this endemic of the Mexican mountain forests may have irregular low-density "invasion" movements, reminiscent of those of the related Varied Thrush.



Aztec Thrush, Huachuca Canyon, Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, May 31, 1978. Photo/ George Beringer.

GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS — Peripheral reports of Black-tailed Gnatcatchers seemed unusually numerous. In New Mexico these included Apr. 23 in the Mimbres Valley, Apr. 23-24 in the Cook Range, Apr. 9 near Alamogordo, and Apr. 9 near Loco Hills (first definite record for the Southeast — *JPH); and in Arizona, one s. of Grand Canyon Village May 15 (KK *et al.*). A Phainopepla was noted May 26-27 near Alamogordo, where seldom reported (Bloys, *vide LM*).

A pair of Gray Vireos fledged young at Glenwood, N. Mex., May 31 (B&DMcK) for the first breeding record of this species in Catron County, where rarely reported. Individual Red-eyed Vireos, rare transients in the Region, were s.w. of White Sands N.M., N. Mex., where one was found dead May 15 (JG), and near Portal, Ariz., May 18 (RM, *vide SS*).

WARBLERS — Despite the scarcity of some "common" migrants, the rare-but-regular warblers (Black-and-white, N. Parula, N. Waterthrush, Am. Redstart) were reported in about normal numbers in Arizona. Single Tennessee Warblers, now being found annually in small numbers in w. areas of the Region, were noted

near Patagonia May 4 (KK,GR), Redrock, N. Mex., May 6 (KJZ,BZ), and near Springerville, Ariz., May 19 (ST,GR).

A Worm-eating Warbler was observed Apr. 17 and May 5-6 at Rattlesnake Springs near Carlsbad, for about the seventh New Mexico sighting (R. Wilt); there still have been no documented records in the Region. A ♀ Prothonotary Warbler found June 6 near St. David, Ariz. (†DD) was about the seventh for Arizona. Bay-breasted warblers, very rare in the Region, made notable appearances. Four males were seen at Boone's Draw, e. N. Mex., May 6 (CGS *et al.*), for the highest number ever found in that state; in Arizona a female was noted May 15 n. of Mammoth (†ST) and a male May 19 near Patagonia (†R. Baxter *et al.*). A singing ♂ Blackburnian Warbler was seen in Madera Canyon May 14 (JG). There are only about three previous records of this still-undocumented species in Arizona.

In Cave Creek Canyon of the Chiricahua Mts., less than half a mile from last year's unsuccessful nesting attempt, a Rufous-capped Warbler was closely studied Apr. 18 (DSz,†KK,EC) but could not be relocated subsequently. The only previous Arizona records were in May and July of 1977 (AB 31: 1034,1174). Also in Cave Creek Canyon, a Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) was well-described May 2 (†C. Sexton). This Mexican species has been recorded once before in Arizona (April, 1976) and once in New Mexico (April, 1962).

ICTERIDS, TANAGERS — A ♂ Scott's Oriole at El Pueblo, San Miguel Co., N. Mex., May 29 (WH) was the second record there, where the species is at a n limit in its range. There are only a few records of "Baltimore" Oriole in Arizona. One at Portal May 3-9 was photographed (W&SS,RM); and a male was at Tucson Apr. 23 until at least early May (WD).

At least five Hepatic Tanagers were in Mills Canyon in the Canadian Mts., n.w. of Roy May 17-21 (JPH *et al.*). There are few records of this species in n.e. New Mexico.

FRINGILLIDS — A Pyrrhuloxia was noted Apr. 29 at Silver City, where somewhat unusual (B. Miller, *vide BJH*). In Sawmill Canyon, where the first nesting of Evening Grosbeak in the Huachuca Mts. was recorded last spring (AB 31: 1035), at least five pairs were present this May; nest-building by one pair was observed (RTS *et al.*, *vide GB*). A weakly-flying fledgling Cassin's Finch attended by an adult was found in Santa Fe May 22 (JPH *et al.*), establishing the first local nesting record.

Lawrence's Goldfinches appeared this spring in the B.W. Delta (where they did not winter) and were present through May. KVR felt that they might have nested. The situation was more definite on the Verde River n.e. of Phoenix, where Arizona's second nesting was recorded last year (AB 31: 1035); this year two pairs were building nests there May 7 (KK,RG,GR). A subad. ♂ White-winged Crossbill seen Mar. 24 in the Sandia Mts. (G. Ward) furnished the second record there and the fourth or fifth for New Mexico. At least three pairs of Rufous-winged Sparrows were found in late March near Coolidge, Ariz., a new n. limit for the species (KK,JW).

S.A.

Cassin's Sparrow continued to draw attention: the occurrences of this species seem more closely linked to conditions of ground cover than to any standard pattern of season or geography. As noted in our last report (*q.v.*), the species was present in exceptional numbers throughout s.e. Arizona during the winter. Following the unusual rains of late winter-early spring, with the grasslands in phenomenally lush condition for the season, the male Cassin's began singing in March. Every observer in s.e. Arizona remarked on the abundance of the species through mid-April, and some birds remained, singing, through the end of May. They were notably widespread: singing individuals were observed near Glenwood, N. Mex., Mar. 29 (first Catron County record — JPH), and near Cliff, N. Mex., Mar. 29 and May 6 (JPH, CA *et al.*). Near Globe, Ariz., the first local May records were established by several singing birds present May 20-30 (BJa). In late March near Coolidge, Ariz., supposedly outside the Cassin's winter/spring range, KK estimated local concentrations of over 500 birds per square kilometer! Notably, no singing birds were located in e.c. New Mexico Mar. 1 – Apr. 2 (JPH), even though special attention was paid for this species.

A Le Conte's Sparrow was reported in New Mexico across the Rio Grande from El Paso Mar. 4 (KJZ), being well described by an observer familiar with the species; this makes the second Rio Grande Valley record from the state — the other being from Espanola, November 1963. The species is otherwise known only as a rare local winterer in the Southeast.

A Clay-colored Sparrow at Santa Fe May 5-8 (B. Chudd) was the second local spring occurrence. Seven Golden-crowned Sparrow and ten White-throated Sparrow reports from the L.C.V. and s.e. Arizona, plus a Golden-crowned at Silver City May 6 (M&SO) were in addition to those reported during the winter. The number of Golden-crowns was somewhat higher than usual.

ADDENDUM — We would like to request again — if a visitor to the Southwest finds a rare bird, that he or she please telephone one of the editors or some local observer as soon as possible. In this way the occurrence may be confirmed, and if necessary, documented by a photograph. It will also provide an opportunity for the rarity to be seen by the local observers. We wish to thank the visitors who have alerted us immediately regarding their discoveries. We also wish to express our appreciation to the increasing number of visitors as well as local residents who have submitted carefully written details of their rare sightings.

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ALASKA REGION

/Daniel D. Gibson

Spring is always complex in an area of 586,000 square miles that draws birds from all compass points but North. Generally, spring 1978 was cool and blustery early, warm later, and many species arrived somewhat early. There were no weather obstacles to on-time waterfowl and shorebird movements, so few concentrations were noted. Some passerines were late, although most were represented by on-time, or even early, individuals.

GREBES, WATERFOWL — A **Pied-billed Grebe** perhaps the same bird that wintered in the Cordova area (*q.v.*), was seen at Alaganik Slough, Copper R. Delta [hereafter, C.R.D.] May 5 (REI). The advance movement of Canada Geese was early: Apr. 10 on the C.R.D. (MEI, REI), Apr. 10 at Kasilof (MAM), Apr. 8 at Anchorage (DFD), Apr. 14 at Fairbanks (JJ, DDG), and Apr. 23 at Ambler, Kobuk R. (DKW). But main movements were later and on time. A flock of nine "Aleutian" Canada Geese (endangered *B. c. leucopareia*) was seen at Shemya I., May 13 (LGB, DWF), adding another island to the short but growing list of Aleutian localities at which these birds have been



recorded on passage in recent years. And a total of at least four was reported at St. George I., Pribilofs, once in May and once in June, one of them an individual that had been banded as a gosling at Buldir I., in 1976 (*vide* WER). Three Bean geese at Attu May 17 (LGB, DWF) equals the highest count known in Alaska. A ♂ Eur. Wigeon at Kasilof Apr. 12 (MAM) was a first local record and one of the earliest ever in the state; five males at Kodiak Apr. 27 (RAM) constitutes a new maximum for the Alaska Pacific coast e. of the Aleutians. American Wigeon were early, arriving at Juneau Mar. 29 (FAG), Kenai Apr. 17 (MAM), Anchorage Apr. 20 (JCP, DFD), Fairbanks Apr. 15 (BEL, RHD *et al.*), Kotzebue May 8 (DPH), and Ambler May 10 (DKW). Numbers were low at Homer, where 12 on May 10 was maximum (DE), but normal at adjacent Kodiak, where 174 Apr. 26 was a high count (RAM). There were more breeding wigeon on the C.R.D., this spring than in past years (RGHB), *vide* Isleibs). Small numbers occurred well beyond the breeding range, in the Bering Sea and on the North Slope: St. George I., a male May 9 and five May 18 (RS, *vide* WER); St. Paul I., up to two pairs May 21 – June 4 (WER); St. Lawrence I., a pair May 29 at Gambell and male there June 5-6 (TGT *et al.*); and Atkasook, Meade R., n. Alaska, two May 30 (JPM, WDS, SJ).

A ♂ Ring-necked Duck that wintered with scaup at Kodiak was last seen May 1 (RAM); the first arrival in c. Alaska was an early male at Yarger L., near Northway, the same day (DDG, RHD). The species was present on the C.R.D., in higher numbers than usual (Isleibs), and several individuals occurred far beyond the normal range, echoing spring 1977: a male at Shemya May 12-14 (LGB, DWF) and a male near Nome June 10 (TGT *et al.*). Maximum counts of Tufted Ducks were 14 at Attu and 12 at Shemya in mid-May (LGB, DWF); the species was present in the Pribilofs, where it is very rare: one at St. Paul May 8-9 and four there May 20 (WER). A ♀-plumaged Smew at Attu May 20-25 (LGB *et al.*) was the only one reported.

EAGLES, FALCONS — Two **White-tailed eagles** were observed on six occasions at Attu May 18-27 (LGB *et al.*), but, as in 1977, no evidence of breeding was obtained. A ♂ Am. Kestrel at Kotzebue May 31 (JPM, WDS, SJ).

SHOREBIRDS — These species were generally on schedule during the first half of May on the C.R.D. where vast numbers, including most of the entire Alaska populations of some species (*e.g.*, Red Knot W. Sandpiper), occur on passage; dowitchers were early, however, and knots late (Isleibs). Almost all of the (mostly arctic-breeding) species that are scarce migrants in c. Alaska were accounted for in the Fairbanks area the last week of May (m.ob.): Black-bellied Plover (up to four birds), Greater Yellowlegs (2), Ruddy Turnstone (up to 8), Red Knot (one [Nenana, June 1 KK]), Sanderling (up to 6), W. Sandpiper (up to 2), White-rumped Sandpiper (up to 3), Stilt Sandpipers (up to 10), and Buff-breasted Sandpiper (up to 34). And in the far west, palearctic sandpipers that we have come to expect each year were on time in small numbers at Attu Whimbrel (*N. p. variegatus*), Wood Sandpiper (numbers up from 1977 but not approaching those of spring 1976), Com. Sandpiper, Com. Snipe (nominate *gallinago*), Long-toed Stint, Ruff. Black-tailed Godwit looks more and more a part of this group. There were only two records prior to 1976, but it has been seen the last three springs, this year two birds at St. Paul May 19 (NS, *vide* WER) and up to two at Attu May 23-28 (LGB *et al.*).

Ringed Plover was observed at Gambell, in which area it may be annual: one bird May 29-30 (TGT, BFK *et al.*). Killdeers were widely reported in small numbers two arrived at Fairbanks Apr. 27 (m.ob.), tying the local record. Two extralimital birds were those at Kotzebue June 2 (DPH). The first Hudsonian Godwit to arrive at Northway, one May 4 (DDG), was a record early arrival in the Interior; none was seen at Anchorage until the 12th (DFD). One was seen May 20-21 at Juneau (RHA, FAG), where the species is rare. Clearly annual in the Region, moving W in spring along the Alaska Pacific coast between the 57th and 61st parallels, Marbled Godwits continue to be seen *enroute* to and from an undescribed breeding area, probably in the Bristol Bay area of s.w. Alaska. This spring up to seven birds were recorded on the C.R.D., May 1-8 (MEI, PGM *et al.*), and at Kodiak, up to 15 birds Apr. 30 – May 2 (RAM). *Calidris* records of note included a Long-toed Stint at Gambell May 29 (TGT, BFK *et al.*) and a Temminck's Stint there June 5 (RWS, JD, TGT, BFK *et al.*). A carefully studied Least Sandpiper at Gambell June 4-6 (TGT, BFK *et al.*) may represent the first St. Lawrence record. A Curlew Sandpiper at Egg I C.R.D., May 3 (MEI), the first Southcoastal sighting provides the fifth Alaska record away from the arctic coast and eclipses by almost a full month the previous arrival record (June 1, Barrow).

Dovetailing with the c. Alaska passage of Stilt and Buff-breasted Sandpipers (above), both species were recorded in n. and w. Alaska, but arrived in the latter area *first*: Stilts at Kotzebue May 24 (DPH) and Sheshalik May 25 (PGC, *vide* DPH) but arriving Atkasook May 30 (JPM, WDS, SJ), Buff-breasted at Sheshalik May 25 (PGC, *vide* DPH) but arriving

Atkasook May 30 (JPM,WDS,SJ) and Storkersen Pt., on June 5 (DBM). Three Buff-breasteds at the Taiya R. mouth, Skagway, June 1 (SOM,DDG) provided the third spring record ever in Southeastern Alaska.

GULLS THROUGH OWLS — Of particular interest were an ad. Slaty-backed gull at Kodiak Apr. 11-13 (RAM), perhaps the same one seen there in February (*q.v.*), and an ad. Ring-Billed Gull at Fairbanks Apr. 30 (TGT), the second c. Alaska record. Both Arctic and Aleutian Terns arrived record early Apr. 25 on the C R D. (Isleibs), and the former then trickled into all areas at the early end of normal. One result was birds on eggs at Juneau as early as May 20 (RHA). A **Barred Owl** was recorded in the Juneau area again (or still? see *AB* 32 244), three times at the end of March (FAG,RHA, MEI) and on June 11 (FAG).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS — A **Western Kingbird** at the Taiya R. mouth, Skagway, June 9 (DDG,SOM) provided the third Alaska record, the first in Southeastern. Hammond's and Olive-sided Flycatchers were on time and became more common than usual in c. Alaska (BK,PGP). A Skylark at Gambell May 29 (TGT,BFK *et al.*) provided a first Alaska record n. of the Pribilofs. There was the usual sprinkling of itinerant Tree Swallows far w. and n. of the breeding range. Two Cliff Swallows at Gambell May 29 (TGT,BFK *et al.*) constitute the earliest of the four St. Lawrence records. Rare and perhaps expanding their range within the Region, Rough-winged Swallows were seen on the Copper R., e. of Cordova, two on May 31 (MEI), and at Skagway, four on May 31 (DDG, SOM). None of these birds was seen subsequently.

THRUSHES THROUGH WARBLERS — Robins were on time, common and ubiquitous. Both Eyebrowed and Dusky Thrushes put in appearances, singles at Attu May 27 and May 20-21, respectively (LGB,DWF *et al.*). A flock of five Mountain Bluebirds was on time at Juneau Apr. 16 (RBW), and small numbers were seen through Apr. 27 (RHA). In c. Alaska, where the species is irregular and rare, lone males were seen at the Gerstle R., near Delta Jct., Apr. 19 early, (REA), at Scottie Cr., May 1 (DDG,RHD), and in Tok May 5 (TGT,RSH,DDG). A ♂ Siberian Rubythroat at Gambell June 6-8 (AR,TGT,BFK *et al.*) furnished only the second Alaska record n. of the Aleutians (see *AB* 31:1037). Solitaires were widely reported in small numbers this spring. Very few wagtails (Yellow and White) were seen in the Aleutians this period. Water Pipits were normally common in some areas and apparently absent in others, as was the case with some other passerines. Starlings invaded the Fairbanks area this spring and nested (BK). Details elsewhere. They have been rare regular migrants in the past, and there had been one local breeding record. There was no consensus on warbler arrivals, the regularly-occurring species described as early or late in various areas, with no obvious reason. In most areas, it seemed, Orange-crowned Warblers and Yellow-rumped Warblers were on time, the others somewhat late.

FINCHES — Bramblings arrived somewhat late in the w. Aleutians — three at Attu May 17 (LGB,DWF) were the earliest this spring. A few hundred miles far-

ther e. (*i.e.*, beyond the fringe of the normal s.e.-n.e. Asia flight path), a single male at St. Paul May 27 (WER) provided only the third spring record anywhere in the Region e. of 175°W. There were two observations of lone ♂ **Hawfinches**: one at Attu May 23 (JAT,JHT, LGB) represented the third Aleutian record, and one at Gambell June 6-7 (TGT,BFK *et al.*) was unprecedented in the n. Bering Sea. A ♂ **Bullfinch** at Attu May 18-21 (LGB,DWF *et al.*) was not likely related to the fall-winter 1977-78 phenomenon (*q.v.*). Up to five McKay's Buntings were present in mid-April at Gambell (EPK), where the species may winter (?), as it does, locally, on the entire Alaska mainland coast of the Bering Sea. Thirty-six McKay's, singles and flocks of up to nine, were seen at sea at various locations between St. Matthew and St. Lawrence Is., May 4-12 (GJD,KLW, AEG). One bird recorded by these observers 9 km off Hall I., May 27 was one of the latest spring migrants on record. These birds have bred in the Pribilofs, so of particular interest were two males at St. George May 17-18 and one there May 27 (RS, *vide* WER) and a single bird at St. Paul June 3 (NS, *vide* WER). Up to two ♂ Rustic Buntings at Attu May 22-23 (LGB *et al.*) were the only report this season.

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NORTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Philip W. Mattocks, Jr. and Eugene S. Hunn

The Region had nearly normal spring weather. Only the last half of March averaged 7°F higher than usual at Seattle, with early dates there for Cinnamon Teal and Rough-winged Swallow. Of note was the concentration of the season's only thunderstorm, 70% of the Seattle rainfall for April and May, and most of the foggy days into two brief periods, April 13-22 and May 9-15. These coincided exactly with the two periods of unusually high numbers of migrant landbirds noted throughout the Region.

Accipiters, Bald Eagles, and Merlins continued to be widely reported and in increased numbers, while Peregrine Falcon reports declined. Abbreviations used are: S.J.C.R., south jetty of the Columbia R., Oreg., V.I., Vancouver I., B.C.; and †, written description on file.



LOONS THROUGH HERONS — Single Yellow-billed Loons were found at Pt. Roberts, Wash., Mar. 21 (DM), and a very late winter-plumaged bird (BHT) in Sequim Bay, Wash., May 7. Arctic Loons were concentrated as usual at Active Pass in British Columbia's Gulf Is., with 3000 there Apr. 13 (MSh, *vide* VG), and off Cherry and Sandy Pts., near Bellingham, Wash., where there were 1300-1800 May 18-24 (TW). Common and Arctic Loons were counted moving N by the hundreds off the coast of Oregon in mid-April, with hundreds of Arctics still moving past there in late May. In contrast, high counts of Red-throated Loons were 24 at Dungeness Spit, Wash., Apr. 2 (KG), and 300 near Lady-smith, V.I., Apr. 6 (WC, *vide* VG). The 500 Horned Grebes off Port Townsend, Wash., Apr. 1 was an extremely large aggregation (DP,SH).

TW's two excursions out of Westport, Wash., May 14 & 16, furnished the only pelagic observations this spring. Species of common occurrence included Black-footed Albatross, 52 and 59, respectively, about double their long-term average, Pink-footed Shearwaters, 20 & 43, and Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels, 13 & 14, the latter up from last year. Rarities included two Laysan Albatrosses and a single Flesh-footed Shearwater, all on the May 16 trip only. No N. Fulmars were seen.

Two Brown Pelicans s. of Newport, Oreg., May 24 were extraordinary; the species is expected only from August to December (CB, *vide* HN). Double-crested Cormorants on V.I., appeared to be down in numbers from a year ago (VG). High counts for Brandt's Cormorants were 1500 on Saltspring I., Mar. 4 and 700 at Active Pass Apr. 13, both in the Canadian Gulf Is. (*vide* VG). Elsewhere Brandt's were scattered and in the usual small numbers.

Observations of Green Herons in late March and early April at Puget Sound and Oregon localities where the species did not overwinter suggest a migratory influx. A single adult reached Klaskish, near the n.w. tip of V.I., May 22 (*vide* VG). The Snowy Egret which wintered at Coos Bay, Oreg., was not seen after Apr. 23 (AM,DP,SH).

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS — VG observed three species of swan together in flooded fields near Duncan and at Cowichan Bay V.I., Mar. 8: 28 Mute Swans of the introduced population, 24 Trumpeter and 5 Whistling Swans. Four Trumpeter Swans Apr. 8 at Cowichan Bay, V.I. (JC), an imm. Whistling Swan May 12 near Dungeness, Wash. (D&SS), and three unidentified swans May 19 flying N through the San Juans of Washington (TW) furnished late records. The wintering Emperor Goose at Reifel I., B.C., left after Apr. 10 (DE,JH).

One pure ♂ Eur. Green-winged Teal was well described at the Tsawwassen Ferry terminal, near Ladner B.C., Mar. 12 & Apr. 3 (†DE,JH). Hybrid males were spotted at nearby Reifel I., Apr. 10 (DE,JH) and at Saanich, V.I., Mar. 27 – Apr. 28 (RS, *vide* VG). Blue-winged Teal appeared first at Comox, V.I., Apr. 29, at Seattle May 1, and then at S.J.C.R., May 6. Pairs of Cinnamon Teal arrived by Mar. 27 at both Fern Ridge Res. near Eugene, Oreg. (SG, *vide* AC), and at Federal Way, near Seattle (TS). The last Eur. Wigeon reports were males near Dungeness Apr. 23 (DS) and at Kalkish, V.I., May 14 (*vide* VG). Wood Ducks appeared to be doing well in the Region. They were increased near Albany, Oreg. (GG), numerous during May at Ft Lewis, Wash. (CC), and 20+ pairs were known to be nesting by the end of April in the Duncan, V.I., vicinity (JC). Migrating Greater Scaup massed near Nanaimo, V.I.; 5000± were off Gabriola I., Mar. 26 and at Nanoose Bay Apr. 9 (HT). Also at Gabriola I., Mar. 26 were 2000+ Com. Goldeneye, a unique concentration (HT). About 3000 Surf Scoters /hr flew N off the S.J.C.R., Apr. 15 (HN), and movement continued May 6 at about 225/hr (DFi). Near Bellingham, Wash., there were flocks of 25,000±, Apr. 23 (TW) and 37,000± Apr 30 (A&AB, *vide* TW).

DIURNAL RAPTORS THROUGH CRANES — The White-tailed Kite at the Raymond, Wash., airport was joined by a second bird Mar. 17 (AR), but both vanished after Apr. 9, dashing hopes of a first nesting record. The kites at Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis, Oreg., also disappeared, but were presumed nesting in the area as they have the past two years (GG). Goshawks, in pairs or singles, were spotted in six locations scattered through the Region. A concentration of these sightings during the last days of April suggests a migratory movement. At least 29 Sharp-shinned and 22 Cooper's Hawks were reported through early May, about double last year's totals.

Two Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks, both dark-phase birds, were described; one Mar. 3 at Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C. (†DE,JH), and another at Sauvie's I., near Portland, Oreg., Apr. 8-9 (HN *et al.*). Migrating Swainson's Hawks, rare in the Region, were reported twice; an adult near Alma, Oreg., May 5 (EW,DB, *vide* AC), and a pair near Corvallis May 30 (ME,MS). A few Rough-legged Hawks lingered past the end of March Two at Ladner, B.C., May 15 (BHT) and one dark-phase bird over Duncan, V.I., May 28 (JC) were the latest. One Gyrfalcon was reported at Cape Meares, near Tillamook, Oreg., Mar. 18 (DFi,JE,DI). Only seven Peregrines were found, six of these in British Columbia, for a disturbingly modest showing. At least 20 Merlins, however, were reported, continuing their upward trend.

The Sauvie's I., Sandhill Cranes departed shortly after Apr. 8 (HN), occasional migrants from points more s. passed later. The last were six flying N past Tatoosh I., off Cape Flattery, Wash., May 6 (BP).

SHOREBIRDS — Two Snowy Plovers had returned to their northern breeding outpost at Ocean Shores, Wash., by Apr. 29 (AR,G&WH) with an extralimital single at Dungeness Spit May 14 (MSy). An Am. Golden Plover on the s. delta of the Fraser R., near Vancouver, B.C., Mar. 20, is an outstandingly early spring record (DA, *vide* DM). The only Long-billed Curlews were three at Yaquina Bay, Oreg., May 22 (DFa) Whimbrels peaked at an amazing 700+ at Tofino, on the West Coast of V.I., Apr. 29 (ML, *vide* JC) Solitary Sandpipers were widely noted, from Apr. 21 when one was at Toledo, Oreg. (DFa), Apr. 27, two near Tacoma, Wash. (SJ, *vide* TB), to May 15 when one was at Reifel I., B.C. (†DE,JH). As many as 20 individuals were involved with ten of these in the Willamette Valley of Oregon (GG). A single Lesser Yellowlegs with Greater on Whidbey I., Wash., Apr. 9 (DP) was an early migrant. The flock of Willets wintering at Willapa Bay, Wash., was present Mar. 12 (DP,SH), but not thereafter. A single Willet was seen on Lopez I., Wash., Apr. 30 (JS).

Hundreds of migrant Red Knots are reported each spring in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor on the Washington coast, with 600-1000 at Tokeland May 15 this year (TW). Yet Red Knots are scarcely to be found elsewhere in the Region; 14 at Tillamook Bay, Oreg., May 6 (HN) was the high count outside their favored stopover area. In contrast, one wonders how many Sanderlings there are strung out along the Pacific Coast beaches given that 1200/mi were found near S.J.C.R., Apr. 15 (HN) and about 30,000 were estimated on 3 mi of sandy beach between Seaside and the S.J.C.R., May 25 (DFi,HN).

The peak movement of W. Sandpipers was Apr. 29, on the Oregon coast (HN), at Tofino, V.I. (ML, *vide* JC), and on the Washington coast, where 36,000 were estimated along the n. shore of Grays Harbor (DP,SH). Least Sandpipers seemed down in numbers this spring according to Oregon and V.I. observers, and were scarcely noted elsewhere. Single Semipalmated Sandpipers were carefully described at Ladner, B.C., May 9 & 23 (†DE,JH), and at Saanich, V.I., May 25 (†RS, *vide* VG) In each case the black legs, short, thick, straight bill, and gray or brown dorsal plumage without reddish was noted. Baird's Sandpipers were reported at seven localities Apr. 23 – May 30, including a high count of 12 at Saanich Apr. 27 (MG, *vide* VG). Four Pectoral Sandpipers, rare spring migrants here, were reported; one at Iona I., B.C., May 10 (DE,JH), another at Campbell R., V.I., May 20 (HT), and two at Saanich May 21-23 (RS,MG,JT, *vide* VG).

The outstanding rarities of the season were a breeding-plumaged **Stilt Sandpiper** at Saanich May 27-29 (JT, RS,VG), a Regional first for spring migration, and a breeding-plumaged ♀ **Bar-tailed Godwit** at Nehalem, Oreg., May 28 (†JG,MK). About 20 Marbled Godwits on Willapa Bay, Wash., Mar. 17 & 19 (AR, Ji&LE) were very early and a high count. The Red Phalaropes off Sea Lion Caves, Lane Co., Oreg., May 21, after a day of strong onshore winds (ME,TF) were the only reported. A pair of Wilson's Phalaropes May 20 at Cowichan Bay

appeared intent on repeating last summer's first V I breeding record (JC *et al.*).

JAEGERERS THROUGH ALCIDS — TW had one Pomarine Jaeger May 14 and seven May 16 off Westport. Another was seen there from shore May 13 (KB, JHi), as were two adults closely observed at Victoria, V.I., May 12 (RS, *vide* VG). Pomarines are rarely seen from shore at any season. A Parasitic Jaeger at S.J.C.R., Apr. 9 was a very early spring migrant (BB) Otherwise Parasitics were scarcely noted. Single skuas of undetermined species seen May 14 & 16 on Wahl's pelagic trips were the first Regional spring sightings

Four Glaucous Gulls were found. Second-year birds were at Iona I., Mar. 3 (†DE,JH), near Bellingham Apr. 30 (A&AB, *vide* TW), and throughout the period at S.J.C.R., until May 6 (JE,KH), and a first-year was at Saanich, V.I., Apr. 30 (†DE,JH). The smelt run up the Columbia R., in early April attracted an estimated 50,000 gulls, mostly Californias (HN). Few of this species were otherwise noted. High counts of Bonaparte's Gulls were 1500 off Pt. Wilson in Port Townsend, Wash., Apr. 1 (DP,SH), 500 in Active Pass, B.C., Apr. 29 (RS,VG), and 200 birds/hr moving N off S.J.C.R., May 6 while 1000 more were feeding in the Columbia R. estuary (DFi). In with the Pt. Wilson stream Apr. 1 was a single ad. **Little Gull** (DP) for the second Regional spring record. The first was of an immature and an adult at Sea I., near Vancouver, B.C., May 18-19, 1974 (BK,BMc,WW), a report not previously published here. An imm. Heermann's Gull at Neah Bay, Wash., Apr. 7 (EP) is so early that it may have wintered. The single ad. Heermann's Gull at Coos Bay, Oreg., May 10 was considered early (AM).

Common Terns were considered scarce on the Oregon and Washington coasts this spring (HN, G&WH), but there was an unprecedented flight of 187 in the Victoria area May 12 (RS,MG, *vide* VG). Arctic Terns staged a record early showing with 15 on Apr. 6 and three Apr. 9 in the Tillamook area (GG,ME), and two Apr. 15 off the mouth of the Alsea R., Lincoln Co., Oregon. (ME). Caspian Terns worked their way N, one at Coos Bay Mar. 30 (AM), three at Ocean Shores Apr. 14 (G&WH), two at Vancouver, B.C., May 26 (DE,JH), and four Sooke, V.I., May 31 (M&VG)

There were 15 Ancient Murrelets in Haro Strait e. of Victoria Mar. 5 (CG, *vide* VG), and one off Port Townsend Apr. 1 (DP,SH). An Ancient Murrelet in breeding plumage reported off Yaquina Bay, Oreg., May 15 may have been a summering bird (CM, *vide* ME). Forty Cassin's Auklets off Port Townsend Apr. 1 were surprisingly far from the open ocean (DP,SH). Two **Parakeet Auklets** were reported off Dungeness Spit, Wash., Apr. 15 (D&SS); the birds had bright red bills, a single facial plume, and were smaller than Rhinoceros Auklets seen nearby. This species has been well documented in the Region only very few times in the past decade. Another Horned Puffin was found dead on the beach near Yaquina Bay May 28 (BL, *vide* HN) A striking increase in the population of the Tufted Puffin colony at Haystack Rock, near Cannon Beach, Oreg., was widely noted (HN *et al.*). There were 400 individuals on just the e. and n. faces of the rock Apr. 30 (TC) However, their numbers at Yaquina Head are decreasing owing to the erosion of nesting sites there (DFa)

OWLS, HUMMINGBIRDS, AND WOODPECKERS — The last Snowy Owl of the season was seen Apr. 4 on Dungeness Spit (KG,D&SS). A Long-eared Owl was near Aurora, Oreg., Mar. 1 (TC), another was found dead near Eugene Mar. 8 (LM), one was still at Sea I., B.C. Mar 30 (VG), and an adult in Seattle Apr. 30 was the latest spring record for w. Washington (EH).

S.A.

Anna's Hummingbirds have been regular at feeders in the Region since the 1960s, but positive evidence of nesting has been scanty. GE reported details of three nests built by a ♀ Anna's in his yard in Seattle. The first was found Apr. 3, 1977, containing two eggs. One young fledged May 5, and the nest was collected for the Museum of Natural History, Univ. of Puget Sound, Tacoma. There was a second nesting in late May of that year, and two young may have fledged before this nest was destroyed. Apparently the same female was constructing a nest this spring on February 12 and fledged two young Mar. 27. The nests were from 9-45 ft up in exotic pines. An additional nest with young was in Seattle's Discovery Pk., Mar. 14 - Apr. 2 of this year (SD,DP).

The ♂ **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** found last spring at Campbell R., V.I., appears to have returned in late May. The bird has a scarlet throat, green back and crown, and a forked tail (HT). Last year's record is pending before the B.C.P.M. review committee. Single Lewis' Woodpeckers were seen Mar. 30 - Apr. 29 at Finley N.W.R., near Corvallis (ME,GG), near Bellingham Apr. 30 (DV, *vide* TW), and near Eugene, Oreg. (AP), and Ft. Lewis, Wash. (CC), both May 13. Two pair of Williamson's Sapsuckers at Willamette Pass s.e. of Eugene (LM) mark the w. edge of their range.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH THRUSHES — At ten W. Kingbirds were scattered through Oregon after Apr. 24 and several were nesting near Eugene (LM). Two vagrant Ash-throated Flycatchers appeared in Oregon; one at Coos Bay May 9 (BG, *vide* AM), and the second at Eugene May 13 (LM). Violet-green Swallows seemed to be present in reduced numbers in both Oregon (HN) and Washington (G&WH). Single vagrant Bank Swallows were noted in Seattle May 14 (EH, BME) and a Vancouver, B.C., May 24-28 (DE,JH). A Rough-winged Swallow near Corvallis Mar. 4 was a record early arrival by two weeks (TC). Two at Campbell R., Mar. 21 (HT) and several at Ferndale, Wash., Mar. 23 (PD, *vide* TW) were also very early. An estimated 700 Cliff Swallows on Sauvie's I., near Portland Apr. 30 was a good high count (DFi,BF). An exhausted ♂ Purple Martin picked up at L. Cowichan, V.I., Apr. 10 (JC) was three weeks early at that latitude. The usual small numbers of Purple Martins were widely reported by mid-May. The wintering Blue Jay at Poulsbo, Wash., stayed until the first week of May (IS), and possibly this same bird appeared at nearby Gig Harbor May 12-16 (M&BM). Another was found in the Mt. Baker N.F., e. of Bellingham, Wash., May 30 (JoO)

Two singing Rock Wrens were on the s w side of San Juan I., Wash., Apr. 15, but were not present there May 15 (BHT). Eight Mockingbirds were reported; wintering birds at Medford and Corvallis (*vide* AC,GG) and at Seattle (DBo) lingered into March. One was at Tillamook Mar. 18 - Apr. 15 (JG *et al.*). Two more were near Eugene Mar. 20 (JR, *vide* AC), and singles were noted near Puyallup, Wash., May 17 (SJ, *vide* TB) and Portland May 19 (JO). A Veery heard e. of Redmond, Wash., May 21 is one of very few w. Washington records (PE), although Veeries are common on the e slope of the Cascades n. of the Columbia R. A few W Bluebirds were reported from only seven sites in Oregon and Washington, and nesting success at nest-boxes near Eugene was poor (AP).

WAXWINGS THROUGH WARBLERS — Four Bohemian Waxwings with 20 Cedars in Victoria Apr. 21-22 (L&GK, *vide* VG) were very late. Otherwise waxwings were scarcely evident until the main spring influx began by mid-May. Northern Shrikes lingered noticeably later than usual. Single birds were on Whidbey I., Apr. 16 (MP), near Olympia, Wash., Apr. 19 (G&WH), at Sea I., B.C. Apr. 21 (DE,JH), and near Bow, Skagit Co., Wash., May 20 (TW). A Loggerhead Shrike at Sauvie's I., Apr. 8 (HN) was the only one reported. This species is a rare vagrant w. of the Cascades. A pair of Hutton's Vireos in Seattle had a nest under construction by Mar. 4 (EH) as did a pair at Saanich, V.I., Mar. 19 (JT, *vide* VG). The first Solitary Vireos were at Saanich Mar. 30 (E&AD, *vide* VG) and at Campbell R., Apr. 3 (HT). The first Warbling Vireo was Apr. 13 at Finley N.W.R., Oreg. (ME), and Red-eyed Vireos had not arrived in the Region before the end of May.

The Pacific coast is not known for its migratory "waves". However, this season many observers commented on concentrated movements of small landbirds. Between Apr. 13-30 there were many reports from throughout the Region of up to several hundred Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Orange-crowned Warblers, and both forms of Yellow-rumped Warbler. From May 11-19 there were similarly sized flocks of Wilson's and Townsend's Warblers, several reports of up to 50 Black-headed Grosbeaks, and in Eugene "tanagers covered the firs like Christmas tree ornaments" (LM).

Many more Nashville Warblers than usual were noted; 15 were in Eugene Apr. 19 (EWI, *vide* AC), an early migrant was in Portland Apr. 4 (MS), and rare northerly reports were of two in Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 27 - May 12 (†DE,DM,BK) of one in Manning P.P., B.C., May 2 (VG), and of singles in the Seattle area Apr. 29 & May 7 (EH). Townsend's Warblers at Westport, Portland, and Vashon I., Wash., Mar. 12-18 (DP,DI,GR) probably spent the winter in those areas. Single yellowthroats at Lincoln City, Oreg., Mar. 28 (JE) and at the Skagit flats, Wash., Apr. 6 (AR) were the first arrivals.

ICTERIDS THROUGH FRINGILLIDS — Stray Yellow-headed Blackbirds occurred widely from Victoria Apr. 8-18 (*vide* VG) to Fern Ridge Res., near Eugene May 26 (DFi,AC). The Sauvie's I. breeding colony had 20 birds Apr. 30 (DFi,BF). A N. Oriole near Tacoma, Wash., Apr. 12 was early (SJ, *vide* TB); otherwise the species arrived on time in early May. A ♂ **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Portland May 16-17 (*vide* HN) produced one of very few Regional records. The

annual spring influx of Evening Grosbeaks to lowland areas of the Region began in the Willamette Valley in mid-March and in Puget Sound the first of May, and was much more extensive than in previous years. Thirty thousand were estimated to be in Portland alone (DFi, DD). By late May numbers had thinned, as usual, as they moved into the mountains to nest.

A Lazuli Bunting near Eugene Apr. 14 (LM) was early. This winter's Com. Redpoll movement into the Vancouver area extended until Mar. 26 when the last one was seen there (DE, JH). Red Crossbills continued numerous along the Oregon coast throughout the period, and also appeared in the Willamette Valley, Puget Sound, and V.I., from mid-April on in numbers up to 150. The winter influx of White-winged Crossbills to the coast of Washington continued into Oregon with two at Tillamook Mar. 12 (DD, LG) and 20+ near S.J.C.R., May 14 (MS, DI, JG). A pair was also seen in Vancouver, B.C., May 12-13 (†DE, JH).

A possible Baird's Sparrow carefully described (†BK) from Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 30 escaped further verification. There are as yet no confirmed records for the Region. Five Harris' Sparrows were found, from Finley N.W.R., Oreg., to the Skagit flats, Wash., with the latest being one which wintered at a feeder in Dungeness, Wash., and was last seen May 5 (RP, *vide* DS). The winter's large numbers of White-throated Sparrows were reduced to six, one in Duncan, B.C., Mar. 4-15 (RV, JC) and five in Oregon with one near Albany May 12 the latest (†MC). The Snow Buntings which wintered at S.J.C.R., were last seen on the late date of May 6 (HN).

CITED OBSERVERS — sub-regional editors in boldface. Dave Alcroft, Diane Beaulaurier, Alex & Alice Benedict, Blair Bernson, Thais Bock, Dawn Bohlman (DBo), Charles Bruce, Ken Brunner, Wayne Campbell, Chris Chappell, John Comer (JC), **Alan Contreras**, Marion Corder, Tom Crabtree, John Crowell (JCr), Susan Dallum, Eleanor & Albert Davidson, Paul DeBruyn, Dave DeSante, Garrett Eddy, David Edwards, Mark Egger, Jim & Lynn Erckmann (Ji&LE), Joe Evanich (JE), Pat Evans, Darrel Faxon (DFA), Tad Finnell, David Fix (DFi), B. Friendly, Luke George, Jeff Gilligan, Greg Gillson, Margaret & Vic Goodwill, Steve Gordon, Barbara Griffin, Steve Gordon, Barbara Griffin, Karl Gruebel, C.J. Guiguet, Kevin Harding, John Hall (JH), **Bill Harrington-Tweit** (BHT), Jeff Hill (JHi), Sue Hills, Glen & Wanda Hoge (G&WH), David Irons, Stan Johnson, Brian Kautesk, Libbie & Grant Keddie, Mark Koninendyke, Molly Lines, Bob Loeffel, Bruce MacDonald (BMc), Dave Mark, Chris Marsh, Brien Meilleur (BMe), Alan McGie, Larry McQueen, Mark & Barbara Meier (M&BM), **Harry Nehls**, Joe O'Callahan (JoO), James Olson (JO), Bob Paine, **Dennis Paulson**, Evelyn Peaslee, Michael Perrone, Al Prigge, R. Pringle, Joanne Ralston, Georgia Ramsey, Alan Richards, Ron Satterfield, Tom Shaver, Michael Shepard (MSH), Dory & Stan Smith, Irwin Smith, Mark Smith (MS), Maurita Smyth (MSy), John Sproul, Jeremy Tatum, Howard Telosky, Ray Voss, Doris Venderway, **Terry Wahl**, Wayne Weber, E.G. White-Swift. **PHILIP W. MATTOCKS, JR.**, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Washington, Seattle, Wash. 98195, and **EUGENE S. HUNN**, 1816 N. 57th St., Seattle, Wash. 98103.

MIDDLE PACIFIC COAST REGION

/Jon Winter and Tim Manolis

A wet windy spring saw the continuation of trends established during the drought-breaking winter period. Water was widespread and migrant waders and waterfowl in the Central Valley (hereafter, C.V.) were widely dispersed as a result (SAL, BED). Easterly winds "plagued" the migration watch at Pigeon Point in early spring, and kept many pelagic species offshore, which resulted in lower totals than last year for some species, e.g., (Black) Brant and Black-footed Albatross (BSa). In general, the numbers of most regular migrants off Pigeon Point, and the peak dates and numbers for many species (loons, scoters, Sooty Shearwater and Bonaparte's Gull) were similar to last year's results (AB 31:1044). Notable exceptions are discussed below.



Landbird migration was confusing owing to a complex series of weather patterns. Heavy, late rains seemed to retard migration for some species, but with clearing skies in April many observers reported that migrants were passing through on a normal timetable. The rush of water from the melting Sierra snowpack created high water conditions in many of the C.V. rivers, forcing typically secretive species out into the open (RH). The C.V. riparian habitat was less in use this spring and the foothill habitats saw a corresponding increase in bird numbers, indicating that riparian areas are much more important to migrants in drought years than they are in wet years (SAL). When normal migratory movements appear to be underway, cool weather and strong winds in late April and May seem to again retard migration. A dagger (†) indicates that documentation is on file with the editors.

LOONS. TUBENOSES — Unusual inland was a breeding-plumaged Arctic Loon on Rock Creek Res., near Belden, Plumas Co., May 7 (†TR). Less unusual were single Red-throated Loons on Lafayette Res., Contra Costa Co., Mar. 16, and L. Bon Tempe Apr. 1 (JM).

A Short-tailed Albatross was reportedly photographed in Monterey Bay Apr. 17 or 18 (*vide* DE). Hopefully, details will be forthcoming. Black-footed Albatrosses were reported in about average numbers but only a handful of N. Fulmars were seen, none after mid-March. Peak counts of Pink-footed Shearwaters were 20 at the Cordelle Banks May 7 (J&BDP), 25 on Monterey Bay Apr. 26 and May 14 (RS), and a high of 134 off Pigeon Pt., Apr. 30 (BSa,PM). Very rare in spring were at least two **Flesh-footed Shearwaters** at Cordelle Banks Mar. 17 (BSo,DS *et al.*). After an exceptional fall flight, Short-tailed Shearwaters lingered into spring with one or two at the Cordelle Banks Mar. 17 (DS,BSo *et al.*), ten there Apr. 7 (J&BDP), one in Monterey Bay Mar. 20 (DE,DRo) and 35 there Apr. 26 (RS). Incredible numbers of Manx Shearwaters were reported. At Pigeon Pt., 263 were tallied including 176 on Mar. 4 alone (BSa,PM)! Elsewhere, three flew N past Santa Cruz Apr. 10 (DP), one was at the Cordelle Banks Mar. 17 (BSo,DS *et al.*) and 2-3 were in Monterey Bay Mar. 20 (DE,DRo). Aside from a few reports of Ashy Storm-Petrels, as usual, the only other report was of a **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** on Monterey Bay May 1 (DRo: desc. to Calif. Rarities Comm.). It would represent the Region's first spring record.

PELICANS, HERONS — Exceptional numbers of Brown Pelicans wintering in the Region (m.ob.) were augmented by large numbers of birds returning from the s earlier than usual in late March and early April. Representative reports were of 20 in Monterey Bay Mar. 20 (DE), up to 30 at the Salinas R. mouth Apr. 7 (DP) and 40+ at Alameda by May 18 (DE). A single Brown Pelican at College Cove, Humboldt Co., Apr. 4 (CH) was either exceptionally early or very late for that far n.

An ad. Little Blue Heron was at Palo Alto May 20 (AE). Of 16 Cattle Egret reports, six were coastal, nine were from interior valleys and one was in the Great Basin (see Table 1). A Snowy Egret at Hot Cr. Fish Hatchery, Mono Co., Apr. 14 (DAG) was unusual. A migrant Least Bittern in pickleweed at Moffett Field, Santa Clara Co., May 8 (WB) was slightly out of place: one near King's Landing May 19 was probably a migrant, but a calling bird in the Sutter Bypass the same day may have been breeding (DAG).

WATERFOWL — A (Black) Brant in the Napa Marshes, Napa Co., May 19 (KVV) was quite unusual, but one at Mono L., Apr. 21 – May 2 (TR,DW) and four at Mendota W.A. (RH *et al.*) were amazing. The Emperor Goose found at Moss Landing in the winter was seen occasionally until Apr. 22 (EM), on which date the three Emperor Geese at Limantour Estero were joined by a fourth bird (RS). None was reported thereafter.

Reports of 27 Blue-winged Teal, nine coastal and 18 inland, were about average. A hybrid Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal was at Pescadero Marsh Mar. 31 (†VR, Steve Cardiff). The only Eur. Wigeons reported were males at Moffett Field Apr. 13 (WB) and Golden Gate Pk., Apr. 1 (DE). Very late Ring-necked Ducks were two healthy females at Gray Lodge May 25 (BED) and a pair at L. Christopher May 27 (HLC). The ♂ Tufted Duck remained at Limantour until Apr. 17 (*vide*

P.R.B.O.). The few Barrow's Goldeneyes reported were at wintering locations, the last two at Bolinas Apr

S.A.

The plight of Mono Lake has received prior attention in this journal (AB 28:945). This spring, yet another way in which this unique lake is important to birds was revealed when an extensive migration of waterbirds, virtually unknown previously, was documented on its shores (Table 1:DW). No less than 17 species were added to the lake's list of spring migrants, but the numbers recorded for some species indicated that they are no doubt of regular occurrence. The utility of Mono's waters for spring migrants is doomed, as are nearly all other aspects of the lake's biota, if the City of Los Angeles is allowed to continue diverting its tributaries at the present rate.

5 (RS). A ♂ Oldsquaw at Bodega Bay Mar. 19 (BBU) had wintered, but one at Martis Creek L., Placer Co., Apr. 23 (KK,GC) was very unusual. Male Harlequin Ducks were at Pacific Grove Mar. 13 & 20 (LCB,DE), Candlestick Pt., San Francisco until Apr. 23 (RS), and very late at the Sea Ranch, Sonoma Co., May 20 (J&BDP). A ♀ King Eider well described at Ano Nuevo Pt., May 6-7 (PM, †Linda Hale,BSa) was rumored present since February. A ♂ White-winged Scoter at Gallatin Beach, Eagle L., Mar. 12 (†DD) was far inland. A ♂ Red-breasted Merganser was on the Feather R., at Oroville mid-March – early April (BED,RS,JH)

RAPTORS, RAILS — A Goshawk near Lafayette Apr. 8 (†Harry Adamson) was quite unusual. Swanson's Hawks were scarce, with only 24 reported, all in the C.V., except for two in the Great Basin. Single Rough-legged Hawks on Pt. Reyes Apr. 22 (HLC), near Lincoln Apr. 23 (KK) and near Gray Lodge May 3 (KVV) were late lingerers. A dark-phase Ferruginous Hawk near Pigeon Pt., Mar. 11 and another dark bird near Moss Landing the next day (LCB,DE,BSa) were very unusual, and a light-phase bird at Lafayette Apr. 16 (LF) was late. Bald Eagles were nesting at a new site on L. Pillsbury, Lake Co., in March (*vide* OJK)

Two Black Rails at Tubbs I., May 19 (J&BDP) were at an expected location, but three calling birds at the Big Break near Oakley, Contra Costa Co., May 18 (DAG) constitute a previously unknown population.

SHOREBIRDS — Of 35 Snowy Plover nests at Pajaro Dunes, at least 14 failed owing to "weather, gulls or people" (J&RW). A nest found at Salmon Cr. Beach may be a first for Sonoma County (DS). A breeding-plumaged Am. Golden Plover at Wilder Beach, Santa Cruz Co., Apr. 24 (†DP) and 16 in a flock flying past Pigeon Pt., Apr. 23 (BSa) were unusual in spring.

A Marbled Godwit near Gridley Apr. 29 (SAL) was unusual, as were 80 late at Alameda May 25 (*vide* ER). Exceptional inland reports of Whimbrels were of 120 near Capay, Tehama Co., May 3 (*vide* SAL) and 73 there May 6 (SAL), 30 near Gridley Apr. 29 (SAL) and two at Bridgeport Apr. 22 (DW). Reports of 20 Lesser Yellowlegs from the C.V., and coast were about

Table 1. Waterbird Migration at Mono Lake, Spring 1978.

Species	First count	Peak No.'s	Last count
Eared Grebe	87 (4/5)	45,000 (4/23)	3000 (5/31)
Western Grebe *	24 (4/18)	24	1 (5/31)
White Pelican	125 (4/4)	125	55 (5/4)
		100 (4/30)	
Cattle Egret *	1 (5/4)	—	1 (5/23)
Great Egret *	1 (4/7)	—	—
Snowy Egret *	2 (5/9)	2	1 (5/23)
Green Heron *	1 (4/5)		
Black-bellied Plover	100 (4/4)	100	35 (5/12)
Semipalmated Plover	2 (4/15)	268 (5/2)	2 (5/17)
Snowy Plover	9 (4/5)	214 (5/17)	28 (5/31)†
Killdeer	16 (4/4)	45 (4/16)	7 (5/31)†
Greater Yellowlegs *	5 (4/4)	23 (4/15)	1 (5/2)
Lesser Yellowlegs	1 (4/16)	2 (4/30)	2 (5/9)
Willet *	2 (4/17)	12 (4/23)	1 (5/2)
Ruddy Turnstone *	12 (5/12)	—	—
Red Knot *	12 (4/19)	15 (4/21)	1 (5/12)
Least Sandpiper	76 (4/4)	2000 (4/30)	20 (5/12)
Baird's Sandpiper *	5 (4/17)	5	1 (4/21)
Dunlin *	1 (4/9)	802 (5/2)	10 (5/17)
Western Sandpiper	4 (4/15)	2025 (5/2)	1 (5/29)
Sanderling *	3 (4/21)	21	21 (5/17)
Long-billed Curlew *	1 (4/17)	1 (4/29)	1 (5/9)
Whimbrel *	1 (5/12)	—	—
Marbled Godwit *	1 (5/2)	—	—
Long-billed Dowitcher	5 (4/5)	44 (5/12)	44
Short-billed Dowitcher *	38 (4/5)	135 (4/25)	26 (5/2)
Black-necked Stilt	1 (4/17)	6 (5/9)	6
American Avocet	152 (4/5)	300(4/30)	+ (5/31)†
Wilson's Phalarope	4 (4/17)	240 (4/30)	+ (5/31)†
Northern Phalarope	30 (5/1)	1200 (5/17)	4 (5/31)

* First spring record(s) for Mono Lake.

† Remain to breed.

average. Single Solitary Sandpipers at Stemple Cr., Marin Co., Apr. 21 (†DS), Fresno Apr. 22 (*vide* RH), Sierra Valley, Plumas Co., Apr. 30 (PM) and the Arcata Bottoms May 2 (CH, DRu) were the only reports. Two pairs of Spotted Sandpipers at the Pajaro R., May 28 (DP) were suspected breeders. The last Wandering Tattler reported was also at an unusual location, the Alvarado Channel near Hayward May 30 (HLC). Inland Short-billed Dowitchers, apart from the amazing numbers at Mono L. (Table 1), included one at Auburn Apr. 14 (BBa, MA), two at Lake Forest, L. Tahoe Apr. 23 (KK), two at Martis Creek L., Apr. 30 (KK) and at least one at Honey L., May 3 (BED). A Red Knot was also at Lake Forest Apr. 23 (KK, GC).

GULLS, TERNS, ALCIDS — Herring Gulls are not common on the outer coast, so a total of 552 flying N past Pigeon Pt., including 225 Mar. 18 alone, were high numbers (PM). An ad. Mew Gull at Los Banos W.A., Mar. 10 (PM) was probably a first for Merced County. The Black-headed and Little Gulls at Humboldt Bay were observed into the first week of March (m.ob.). An ad Franklin's Gull at Pigeon Pt., May 19 (PM, Bob Maurer) was a first San Mateo County record. After a

poor winter showing, Black-legged Kittiwakes were scarce. At Pigeon Pt., 579 were noted Mar. 4-5, but only 48 were seen thereafter (BSa, PM). Of 177 Sabine's Gulls flying by Pigeon Pt., 140 passed May 13 (BSa, PM). Elsewhere, concentrations of 50-75 at the Cordelle Banks May 7 (J&BDP, BBu), 35 in Monterey Bay May 9 (JM) and 25 there May 14 (RS) were reported.

Common Terns seemed slightly more common than usual with 200+ in Monterey Bay May 9 (JM) and 87 seen off Pigeon Pt.; including 46 on Apr. 30 (BSa, PM). Arctic Terns were more numerous than ever before in spring, with up to five in Monterey Bay Apr. 26 (RS) and May 9 (JM), seven on the Cordelle Banks Apr. 23 (†DS, J&BDP) and 30-40 there May 7 (J&BDP, BBu). At Pigeon Pt., a spring total of 364 was very high, and 213 there Apr. 30 must have been very impressive (BSa, PM). Least Terns returned to the usual spots in San Francisco Bay, but apparently began nesting only at the Alameda Naval Air Station, with 53 nests there by May 26 (DE). Thirteen at the Pajaro R., May 7 (DP, J&RW) was more than usual for a Monterey Bay locality in recent years, and a spring total of nine at Pigeon Pt., was high (BSa). One sitting on drifting debris 15 mi off Cape Mendocino May 27 (†Paul Springer *et al.*) was very strange. Two Royal Terns flying N at Pigeon Pt.,

Apr. 17 (†PM) provided the first spring record for a once-common, but now nearly-mythical species in the Region.

Common Murre migration numbers at Pigeon Pt., totalled 108,680, peaking at 34,372 Apr. 23 (BSa,PM). In 1977 only 14,424 were seen there all spring. Two Xantus' Murrelets were well seen on the Cordelle Banks Mar. 17 (†DS,BSo *et al.*). Ainley's contention (*West Birds* 7:59) that Ancient Murrelets depart "suddenly" in spring was supported by this year's sightings; *e.g.*, 81 flew past Pigeon Pt., Mar. 18 (BSa), and only four others were reported thereafter.

PIGEONS THROUGH OWLS — Two Roadrunners heard singing May 26, 10 mi e. of Cottonwood, Shasta Co., were at the n. limit of their breeding range in the interior (SAL). Flammulated Owls were reported at two new locations within their known range. Two were heard at Black Lassen Pk., Humboldt Co., May 18 (CH,BC,DRu *et al.*), and three were heard along Buckeye Cr., near Claire at Eagle L. (G. Gould). One of the Snowy Owls that wintered at Manila remained until Mar. 16 (DRu). Twelve Spotted Owls were reported from Humboldt to Marin Cos., during the period (m ob.). This species appears to be doing well in California in spite of the concern of some workers. The bird does appear to be declining in Oregon so continued monitoring of this owl is justified.

GOATSUCKERS THROUGH FLYCATCHERS — An impressive number of Black Swifts was reported from Ano Nuevo where 15 were observed May 29 (PM). The ♀ Blue-throated Hummingbird from Three Rivers, Tulare Co., reported in the winter season, apparently bred successfully. It was thought to have hybridized with an Anna's Hummingbird. Details of this nesting will be published elsewhere (*vide* John Lindsay). Ten Calliope Hummingbirds were feeding on Yerba Santa at Cohasset Ridge, Butte Co., Apr. 29 (SAL). Eight Pileated Woodpeckers were reported, all from coastal areas, two of which were found nesting at L. Bon-tempe, Marin Co., Apr. 1 (JM). An out-of-range Lewis' Woodpecker appeared at Pt. Reyes May 15 (WMP). The young Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S.v. varius*) reported from Tiburon in the winter season, remained until Mar. 11 (DS). Nine Williamson's Sapsuckers were reported from the Warner Mts., which is a substantial population for this species (SAL). A Hairy Woodpecker at Dog I., Tehama Co., Mar. 7 is noteworthy, since this species is quite rare on the floor of the C.V. (SAL). A Tropical Kingbird that wintered at L. Merced remained until Mar. 30 (PM), and another found Dec. 10 (not previously reported) at Foster City remained until Apr. 20 (BSa). This flycatcher rarely overwinters. An E Kingbird at Pt. Reyes May 20 was the only one reported (EM). Migrant W. Kingbirds were reported as early as mid-March in Alameda, Madera, and Placer Cos., while 11 were tallied for the peak of migratory movement at Dog I., Apr. 22 (SAL). A well-described E Phoebe was found at the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Mar. 6 (†JE *et al.*). Spring records of this species are most unusual. Fourteen Gray Flycatchers were found throughout the Region and as expected all were from the interior except one found at Huddart Pk., San Mateo Co. May 12, which proved to be a first county

record (BSa). An Olive-sided Flycatcher at Hanford, Kings Co., Apr. 29 was exceptional as they are rarely found on the San Joaquin Valley floor (*vide* RH)

SWALLOWS THROUGH THRUSHES — A Bank Swallow was reported from Humboldt County Apr 10 where there are few records, and 12 active nests were found at Ano Nuevo May 29 (PM). In spite of attempts by the grounds keepers to prevent their nesting, Cliff Swallows bred successfully on the campus of C S U , at Hayward this spring (HLC). The nests were hosed off the newly painted buildings by maintenance personnel, causing a campus controversy. But the swallows won out and scored at least a minor triumph for their kind. Ten Purple Martins were reported from the coast this spring which is a higher-than-normal number (m.ob.). Two Gray Jays were reported from the s Warner Mts., May 29 (SAL). Although they are known to occur there they are rarely reported from this area. The Blue Jay that wintered at Fieldbrook, Humboldt Co., was last seen Mar. 9 and may have died (*vide* CH). The bird was acting strangely and was easily approached. A flock of ten ravens 8 mi s.w. of Red Bluff Mar. 15 is of interest as this corvid is quite rare in the n. Sierra (SAL). Most unusual was the discovery of nesting Red-breasted Nuthatches in Fresno May 11. It was the first breeding record for the San Joaquin Valley (KH,RH). The Courtland Bendire's Thrasher remained this year until Apr. 8 (A. Parker). A Mockingbird at Mono L., May 3 was in an unusual location (DW). Of the large wintering populations of Varied Thrushes a few individuals stayed well into May.

PHAINOPEPLA THROUGH WOOD WARBLERS — A pair of Phainopeplas w. of their normal range, was seen in Santa Rosa Apr. 22 (BDP). Northern Shrikes remained later than normal with two at Susanville Apr. 2 (EH). The most exciting find of the spring for landbirders was a **White-eyed Vireo** on Pt. Reyes May 18-21 (A.&W. Ghiorso, †FBe,WMP, m.ob.) This is the third state record for this rare vireo, all others of which have occurred in spring. Several observers reported Solitary Vireos as arriving in mid-March, which is earlier than normal. A single Red-eyed Vireo was seen in Golden Gate Pk., June 6 (LCB).

Three Black-and-white Warblers were reported, two coastal on Pt. Reyes and one inland at Honey Lake W.M.A., May 13 (SAL). Of the large number of Tennessee Warblers that wintered at least one remained to Apr. 5 at Stinson Beach (RS). Two other migrants were reported from Pt. Reyes May 20 (LCB), and at Palomar May 27 (BSO). Two N. Parulas were found on Pt. Reyes; a male and a female May 20-21 (LCB,JM,AF *et al.*). The Magnolia Warbler that wintered along the Pajaro R., Santa Cruz Co., was last seen Apr. 27 (EM). Peak migratory movement for "Audubon's" Warblers at Dog I., was 87 on Mar. 7 (SAL). An exceptionally rare bird in spring, a single ♂ Blackpoll Warbler, was seen near Benton Hot Springs May 29-31 (LJ). A rather late Palm Warbler wintered until Apr. 12 along the Pajaro R., Monterey Co. (DP). A Yellow-breasted Chat found at Honey Lake W.M.A., May 13 was the first recorded here (SAL). A breeding-plumaged ♂ Hooded Warbler was a rare find at Pt. Reyes May 20 (LCB *et al.*). Only one Am. Redstart was reported this spring,

from Honey Lake June 1 (TM *et al.*). The male that wintered on the Pajaro R., was last seen Mar. 26 (EM).

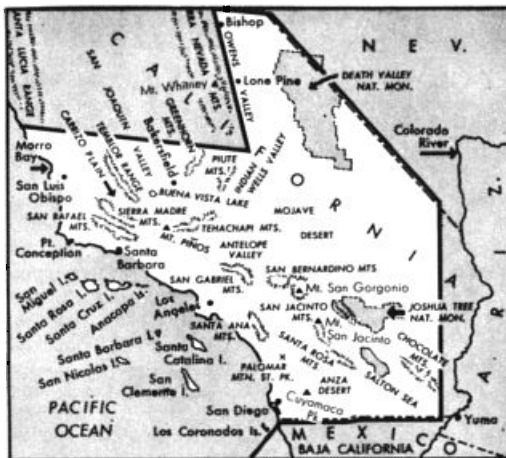
BLACKBIRDS THROUGH FINCHES — Eight Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Pigeon Pt., May 14 were of interest as they are rarely recorded in San Mateo County (BSa). A ♂ Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Pt. Reyes May 20 was the only one reported (EM). Two ♂ Blue Grosbeaks along the San Joaquin R., May 27 (AE) and three more seen at the Woodland Sugar Ponds in April and May (*vide* BK) were encouraging. This species is in real trouble in this Region, having shown a marked decline in the last 25 years. A singing ♂ Indigo Bunting returned to Olema Marsh May 15 for the second consecutive year (WMP *et al.*). Evening Grosbeaks were seen in lowland areas well into May following last winter's invasion. At least 15 Grasshopper Sparrows were reported from coastal areas from Sonoma to Monterey Cos., and all appeared to be singing on territory. The breeding status of this sparrow is poorly understood in the Region as it tends to shift breeding grounds from year to year. A rare migrant Vesper Sparrow was seen 10 mi s.w. of O'Neal's, Madera Co., May 21 (RH). Rufous-crowned Sparrow has proven to be a rather common breeding bird in the Sutter Buttes now that the area is more accessible to observers. Some 12 were seen in a single outing this spring (WA). A single Tree Sparrow at Pennington, Sutter Co., Mar. 4 was the only one reported this spring (JH). A Harris' Sparrow at Fair Oaks, Sacramento Co., that arrived Dec. 8 last year (previously unreported) remained until Apr. 28 (*vide* BK). One of the most remarkable finds of the season was an ad. ♂ **Snow Bunting** May 11 at Cape Mendocino (BC,CH *et al.*). This provided a first spring record for the Region.

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SOUTHERN PACIFIC COAST REGION
/Guy McCaskie

Wet weather continued through April and into early May, leaving the Region with a lush growth of grasses and many areas of standing water. Migrants

appeared scattered, with no major concentrations of landbirds reported, and most observers commented on the scarcity of these birds. The Salton Sea hosted large numbers of migrant shorebirds including some species unusual for that locality.



The early arrival dates for some of our key migrants were: Wilson's Phalarope Mar. 31, San Diego; N Phalarope Apr. 13, L. Cuyamaca; Com. Tern Apr 16, Ventura and San Diego; Least Tern Apr. 8, San Diego; Elegant Tern Mar. 11, San Diego; Black Tern Apr. 22, Salton Sea; Lesser Nighthawk Mar. 25, Salton Sea; Vaux's Swift Apr. 14, Ventura; Black-chinned Hummingbird Mar. 25, Pt. Mugu; W. Kingbird Mar. 18, Borrego Valley; Ash-throated Flycatcher Mar. 23, Borrego Valley; Willow Flycatcher May 5, San Diego; Hammond's Flycatcher Apr. 2, Borrego Valley; W. Flycatcher Mar. 19, Cambria; W. Wood Pewee Apr. 3, Topanga Canyon (exceptionally early — LJ) and Apr. 21, San Diego; Olive-sided Flycatcher Apr. 20, Colorado R. valley; Swainson's Thrush Apr 6, San Diego (exceptionally early — CGE) and Apr 16, Yaqui Well; Bell's Vireo Mar. 26, San Diego; Solitary Vireo Apr. 5, Borrego Valley; Warbling Vireo Mar. 14, Santa Barbara; Nashville Warbler Apr. 1, Los Angeles; Yellow Warbler Apr. 8, San Diego, Black-throated Gray Warbler Mar. 21, Borrego Valley; Hermit Warbler Apr. 21, Laguna Mts., MacGillivray's Warbler Apr. 5, Borrego Valley, Yellow-breasted Chat Apr. 8, San Diego; Wilson's Warbler Mar. 13, Colorado R. valley; Hooded Oriole Mar. 3, Imperial Beach; N. Oriole Mar. 12, Escondido, W. Tanager Apr. 14, Vista; Black-headed Grosbeak Apr. 1, Topanga Canyon and Oceanside; Blue Grosbeak Apr. 13, Encino and Riverside; Lazuli Bunting Apr. 2, Anza Borrego Desert; Black-chinned Sparrow Mar. 23, Borrego Valley.

LOONS, GREBES — In 107 hours of seawatching from Goleta Pt., Santa Barbara Co., Paul Lehman counted 477 Com. Loons, 35,093 Arctic Loons and 1746 Red-throated Loons moving N during the period, giving a good indication of the ratio of loon species to be found wintering in S. California. More

than 20 Com. Loons were found inland Apr. 9 – May 29, including nine on L. Cuyamaca, San Diego Co., Apr. 29 (EC), indicating a relatively good movement of these birds across the interior of this Region. A Red-throated Loon on L. Cuyamaca Apr. 25-29 (VR, EC) was far inland. A Horned Grebe at the north end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, N.E.S.S.) May 13-14 (JD, LD) was the only one reported away from the coast.

ALBATROSSES, SHEARWATERS, STORM-PETRELS — Eight Black-footed Albatrosses off San Diego May 8 (AS,CGE) and four off San Miguel I., May 14 (JD) would be considered normal. Most interesting were a Flesh-footed Shearwater off Santa Rosa I., and another off San Nicolas I., May 14 (JD,KG), since there are few spring records for the Region. Manx Shearwaters persisted later than usual with one still present off San Diego May 20 (PU). As expected Black Storm-Petrel was the predominant storm-petrel off the coast in April and May but a Leach's Storm-Petrel was seen off San Miguel I., May 14 (JD,KG) along with ca 50 Ashy Storm-Petrels.

PELICANS — An imm. Brown Pelican at N.E.S.S., May 24-26 (SC,GSS) was exceptionally early, June 7 being the previous early arrival date for this inland locality.

HERONS, STORKS, SPOONBILLS — An ad. Little Blue Heron was at Goleta Apr. 29 (PL,H&PB) and another was there May 10-29 (LRB) adding to the growing list of May-June records from the coast of S. California. Cattle Egrets were quite numerous along the coast with up to 12 at Pt. Mugu during May (REW, DE) and as many as 30 near Imperial Beach in the same period (PU,EC); this species normally withdraws from the coast by early April. A single bird in Bishop Apr. 7 (TH), one at Tecopa, Inyo Co., Mar. 1 (JT) and another at Furnace Cr. Ranch in Death Valley (hereafter, F.C.R.) May 24 (PL) were all at interesting localities. One or two Reddish Egrets remained around San Diego throughout the period (RCS,CGE) and another was seen inland at N.E.S.S., May 8 (KG). A Louisiana Heron was still present at Imperial Beach May 31 (RCS) and an adult was at N.E.S.S., May 24 (SC). An Am. Bittern was still present at N.E.S.S., May 24 (SC) and suspected of nesting; no documented nesting record exists for the Salton Sea area. A Wood Stork at the south end of the Salton Sea (hereafter, S.E.S.S.) Apr. 15 & 23 (DE,GMcC) was most likely the same individual present here during the winter period since post-breeding wanderers are not expected in the area before late May. An imm. Roseate Spoonbill at N.E.S.S., May 19-26 (SC,GSG) could possibly be the individual seen at S.E.S.S., during the winter.

GEESE, DUCKS — A white-bellied Brant, a rare bird on the West Coast, was seen with "Black" Brant on Mission Bay in San Diego Apr. 4 (DP). Paul Lehman counted 17,485 Brant moving N past Goleta Pt., during the period giving some insight to the numbers of these birds now wintering on the coast of Baja California (only small numbers winter on the coast of S. California). A flock of 120 Brant was at

N.E.S.S., Apr. 1 (EC) with smaller numbers there to May 31+, eight were on L. Henshaw in the mountains of San Diego County Mar. 18 (PU), and the bird on Apollo L., near Lancaster was still present Apr 8 (FH); this species now occurs regularly as a spring migrant through s.e. California from wintering grounds, probably in the Gulf of California. A Ross' Goose at N.E.S.S., Apr. 25 – May 7 (VR,KG) was exceptionally late and may have been carrying shot, although it could fly strongly.

Three Fulvous Whistling Ducks in the San Joaquin Marsh at Irvine, Orange Co., Apr. 2 (TS) behaved like wild birds, however this locality is close to a known source for escapees (Lion Country Safari), and all sightings of this species in coastal S. California are likely to be of escapees. Greater Scaup were more numerous than usual with some remaining quite late, such as four in San Diego May 19 (CGE) and one at S.E.S.S., Apr 23 (DE). A ♂ **Tufted Duck** at Pt. Mugu Apr. 18 (E. Colley, *vide* GSS) would appear to be only the second individual found in the Region. A ♂ Harlequin Duck at Pt. Fermin, Los Angeles Co., May 22 (C. Pollard, *vide* GSS) was late and far south. More than the average number of Surf Scoters was found inland, with eight seen on the Salton Sea Apr. 29–May 31+, up to 22 on L. Cuyamaca Apr. 15 – May 6, and one at Baker, San Bernardino Co., May 13 (SC). The number of Black Scoters present in S. California waters last winter is indicated by the 59 counted flying past Goleta Pt. during the period (PL), however, it is important to relate this number to the 63 White-winged Scoters and 23,448 Surf Scoters seen during the same period.

HAWKS, EAGLES, FALCONS — The wintering Broad-winged Hawk in Santa Barbara was last seen Apr. 14 (BS) and the one in neighboring Carpinteria Apr. 13 (BS); one at Morongo Valley May 3-5 (R&MW) was a spring migrant outside its normal range. Swainson's Hawks were more numerous than in recent years with up to 50 at Oasis May 21 – June 4 (TH,REW), 4 or 5 in the Owens Valley Mar. 22 – Apr. 30 (TH), up to seven in the Antelope Valley Apr. 22 – May 27 (FH), one near Needles May 10 (SC), one at Morongo Valley Apr 23 (DR), one at N.E.S.S., May 6 (LD), and up to five in the Borrego Valley of e. San Diego Co., Apr. 5-29 (PU,JD). A Zone-tailed Hawk at Morongo Valley Apr. 21-22 (SC) was one of the very few found in California during the spring. Rough-legged Hawks remained later than usual with one in the Antelope Valley Apr. 17 (JD) and another at Oasis, Mono Co., Apr. 22 (TH) being the last to depart. Ferruginous Hawks also remained into early April with one in the Antelope Valley Apr. 17 (JD) being the latest. One or two wintering Bald Eagles lingered into early April but an immature near L. Hemet May 6 (JD,PL) and another near Palo Verde on the Colorado R., May 19 (KVR) were both exceptionally late. One or two Peregrine Falcons were seen around San Diego during April (PU,CGE) and another was at N.E.S.S., Apr. 22-23 (PL,EAC).

RAILS — A rail, believed to be a Yellow, was flushed from a wet area overgrown with grasses along the shore of San Jacinto L., Riverside Co., Apr. 15 & 19 (EAC, DMM); recent records of this species from S. California

are nonexistent, but an old record (Jan 31, 1914) is from this area.

SHOREBIRDS — An Am. Oystercatcher on Anacapa I., Apr. 16 (REW) was undoubtedly the same individual present there since 1964, but one on Pt. Loma, San Diego Co., Apr. 20-21 (DE) was only the second found on the mainland coast in this century. A Black Oystercatcher, rare along the S. California coast, was at Goleta May 18 (PL), two were at Pt. Dume May 28 (KG), the three wintering birds at Playa del Rey were still present Apr. 29 (FH), and one or two were on Pt. Loma through April (PU).

A flock of 43 Semipalmated Plovers on Owens L., Apr. 29 (TH) was an exceptional number for any inland locality away from the Salton Sea. Three Mountain Plovers at Ocotillo Well, San Diego Co., Mar. 18 (CGE) were at an interesting locality and rather late. The wintering Am. Golden Plovers at Goleta and Playa del Rey were both last seen Apr. 29 (PL, FH), four were on San Clemente I., Apr. 25 (P. Kelly, *vide* DE) and single spring migrants were at McGrath S.P., Ventura Co., May 18 (REW) at N.E.S.S., May 8 (KG) and at S.E.S.S., Apr. 23 (LB); records from the interior of S. California are scarce. Whimbrels regularly occur in large numbers around S.E.S.S., during spring migration but are rarely reported from elsewhere inland, hence 150 in the Antelope Valley May 7 (JD), up to four at Baker May 13-20 (SC, PL), and another at Owens L., Apr. 8 (TH) are of interest. Six Solitary Sandpipers, always scarce in spring, were found, with one near Duarte, Los Angeles Co., Apr. 15 (JD), one at Baldwin L., May 2 (KG), one in Morongo Valley May 6 (BAC, RCY), another in Baker May 22 (SC) and two at F.C.R., Apr. 22 (TH). Ruddy Turnstones were continuously present on the Salton Sea Apr. 9 – May 13 with a high count of 12 at N.E.S.S., May 6 (GMcC). Most unusual was a Black Turnstone at Salton City on four days Apr. 1-22 (GMcC); whether all sightings involved the same individual could not be determined, but the species is considered casual anywhere inland.

Even more exciting were up to five Surfbirds at Salton City Apr. 9-22 (GMcC), and it is believed that as many as ten individuals of this species, considered accidental inland, stopped at this locality. Red Knots were more numerous than usual on the Salton Sea, being constantly present Mar. 14 – May 5 (JD, GMcC), with up to 200 seen Apr. 22-23; one at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley June 1 (REW) was at a most unusual locality. A Semipalmated Sandpiper at N.E.S.S., May 13 (LD) was the only one found this spring. A Pectoral Sandpiper, extremely rare in spring, was at Goleta Apr. 30 (PL). Stilt Sandpipers were more scarce than usual on the Salton Sea with three at N.E.S.S., Apr. 22 (DR) and a flock of 28 at S.E.S.S., May 13 (LD) being the only ones found; one at Pt. Mugu, Ventura Co., Apr. 26 (REW) was at a coastal locality where few are recorded. A Ruff, rare anywhere in the Region, was at Pt. Mugu Apr. 1 (REW).

SKUAS, GULLS, TERNS — South Polar Skuas were again found off the coast with one Santa Catalina I., Apr. 30 (LJ), six around the n. Channel Is., May 14 (JD, KG), another in the Santa Barbara Channel May 15

(PL) one 20 mi off Redondo Beach May 21 (RLP) and four off San Diego May 20 (PU); it is becoming evident that this species is a late spring visitor to the offshore waters of S. California. A first-year Glaucous Gull was again seen at McGrath S.P., Mar. 12 (REW) and the second-year bird remained at Salton City to Apr. 15 (DE). Two Glaucous-winged Gulls, rare so far inland, were at N.E.S.S., Apr. 15 – May 6 (DE) and another was at Salton City Apr. 23 – May 5 (EAC). A Herring Gull at L. Cuyamaca Apr. 25 (JD) was late and at a most unusual locality. An imm. Thayer's Gull at N.E.S.S., May 5 (GMcC) was the only one found away from the coast. An imm. Mew gull, rare inland, was at Salton City Apr. 1 (PU) and an adult was near there Apr. 9 (JD). A Franklin's Gull at McGrath S.P., Mar. 2 (REW) was probably wintering locally; an adult near N.E.S.S., Apr. 1 (EC) was an early migrant, and 3-4 at N.E.S.S., Apr. 29 – May 2 (JD, AS) were as expected. Bonaparte's Gulls again appeared inland in large numbers such as *ca.* 300 on L. Henshaw Apr. 1 (PU) and *ca.* 200 on L. Cuyamaca Apr. 15 (KG), and occurred at such unlikely localities as Cabazon (3 on Apr. 16 — KG), F.C.R. (5 on May 20 — DE) and Big Pine (10 on May 29 — REW).

Two Gull-billed Terns on the Salton Sea Mar. 14 (JD) established the earliest spring arrival date on record. Two or three Arctic Terns were seen off the coast in late May as is now expected, but one at S.E.S.S., June 4 (LD) established only the third interior record for the Region. A Least Tern, very rare inland, was at S.E.S.S., Apr. 15 (DE) and another was at N.E.S.S., May 19 (SC). A few Elegant Terns ventured N of San Diego in April as indicated by four at McGrath S.P., Apr. 14 (JD) and two at Goleta Apr. 17 (PL); these sightings are two months earlier than previously early sightings from the same areas. A Black Tern at McGrath S.P., Apr. 14 (JD) is best treated as a wintering bird since it was in non-breeding plumage; first spring arrivals are normally in stunning breeding plumage and do not appear until the end of April.

ALCIDS — A few Com. Murres lingered well into May with six off Pt. Mugu May 13 (REW) and another off San Diego May 20 (PU) being the last. A Pigeon Guillemot at Goleta Apr. 16 (PL) was at an interesting locality. A Tufted Puffin near Santa Cruz I., May 15 (PL) was the only one reported. A Horned Puffin near San Nicolas I., Feb. 26 (REW) was unseasonable, virtually all previous S. California records falling in May and early June.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS — A Band-tailed Pigeon on Clark Mt., May 20 (PL) and another at F.C.R., June 3 (REW) were both outside the species' normal range. White-winged Doves wandered N to Inyo County as appears normal, with one in Shoshone May 27 (H&PB) and another at F.C.R., May 30 (REW), one in Goleta Apr. 25 (PL) was the only one found on the coast. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was at Oasis May 27 – June 4 (PL, REW) and another was at F.C.R., May 29 – June 2 (REW, LJ); both are best treated as early spring migrants away from known nesting localities. A Pygmy Owl at El Capitan Beach, Santa Barbara Co., Mar. 26 (KG) was unusually close to the ocean. A Com. Night-hawk at Oasis May 28 (BBr) was the earliest noted this

year, like the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, this species does not arrive in S. California until around June 1. A Black Swift over Big Bear L., May 5 (KG) was the first noted this spring, and established one of the earliest records for the Region. A Calliope Hummingbird at Pt. Mugu Apr 26 (REW), and single individuals on Pt. Loma Apr 30 (GMcC) and May 3 (BC) furnished the only three coastal reports; numbers of these birds found on the coast vary from year to year, but this spring appeared poor for all migratory hummingbirds in S. California. A Yellow-shafted Flicker on Pt. Loma Apr. 4 (CGE) and another in Big Pine Apr. 8 (TH) were somewhat late. Up to five Acorn Woodpeckers remained around the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery to Apr 29 (TH) and another was found out of range near Twentynine Palms, San Bernardino Co., May 6 (GSS).

FLYCATCHERS, SWALLOWS — The only E. Kingbird reported was one at Deep Springs May 31 – June 1 (REW). A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, always a rare find in California, was at Westgard Pass in the White Mts., June 4 (REW). A Vermilion Flycatcher at F C R., Mar. 26 (SG) may well have wintered at that locality. Purple Martins continued to decline; twelve at L. Cuyamaca Apr. 29 (EC) comprised the only flock reported, with single birds on the coast at Pt. Mugu Apr 1 (REW) and Santa Barbara Apr. 17 (LRB), and inland at Palo Verde Apr. 17 (KVR) and F.C.R., May 20 (REW) being the only others found.

NUTHATCHES THROUGH SHRIKES — A Pygmy Nuthatch in Whitewater Canyon, Riverside Co., Apr. 22 (DE) was outside its normal range and habitat. Winter Wrens remained into March with one in San Timoteo Canyon near Redlands Apr. 15 (DMM) being quite late for the Region. A Gray Catbird was at Ft. Plute May 31 (REW) and another was at Panamint Springs June 2 (LJ); this species is proving to be regular in limited numbers during late May and early June in the e. part of the Region. The wintering Brown Thrasher in Santa Barbara remained to Mar. 18 (LB) and a spring vagrant was at Yucca Valley May 6-7 (SC). A Bendire's Thrasher in Joshua Tree N.M., Mar. 25 (DZ) marked the spring arrival date for the species this year. Sage Thrashers were on the move during March as usual with one present in Santa Barbara Mar. 13-18 (LRB). A Varied Thrush on Mt. Laguna Apr. 13 (BC) was late for this far south. three Townsend's Solitaires on Clark Mt., May 20 (DE) were unexpected since the species does not breed in that area of California. Northern Shrikes remained in the Owens Valley later than normal with two near Big Pine Mar. 5 (TH), one there Mar. 26 (TH) and another on Apr. 9 (TH).

VIREOS, WOOD WARBLERS — A **Yellow-throated Vireo**, a very rare straggler to California, was at Oasis May 28-30 (JB,REW), and another was at Ft. Plute May 28 (GA). A Solitary Vireo in Encinitas, San Diego Co., Apr. 9 (FSD) was of the gray interior race *plumbeus*, quite rare on the coast. A Red-eyed Vireo, remarkably scarce in S. California considering the species' breeding range, was in Morongo Valley May 23 (H Baxter, *fide* GSS) and another was at Oasis May 28-30 (REW). Most exciting was a Philadelphia Vireo at Scotty's Castle May 14 (TH) since only three previous spring records exist for the Region.

About 20 Black-and-white Warblers were found, with most occurring May 20-31, as is now expected. Unexpected were two Prothonotary Warblers, with one near Imperial Beach May 19 (PU,EC) and the other in San Diego May 29 – June 2 (TL). Eight Tennessee Warblers were found at desert oases of e. California May 6-28, which is fewer than we have become accustomed to in recent years. A Virginia's Warbler in Morongo Valley May 5 (BAC,RCY) was the only migrant of this species reported. Northern Parulas continued to appear in unaccustomed numbers during the spring with an exceptionally early male near Borrego Springs Mar. 24 (DZ), a female in Whitewater Canyon Apr. 18 (SG), followed by 11 at various desert oases May 13 – June 9; no other eastern wood warbler with a comparable range occurs in California during the spring in such numbers. Only three Magnolia Warblers were reported, with one at Oasis May 29 (BBr), another at Scotty's Castle June 1-2 (REW) and a third at F C R., June 2 (REW).

A **Yellow-throated Warbler**, one of the really rare stragglers to California, was in Long Beach, May 19-21 (JA). Two Chestnut-sided Warblers, one in Morongo Valley May 31 & June 1 (BAC,RCY) and the other at Scotty's Castle June 3 (REW), were far fewer than expected. A Bay-breasted Warbler, a species now occurring regularly each spring, was at Oasis June 4 (REW). A Palm Warbler in Goleta Mar. 27 (PL) and another at Pt. Mugu Apr. 9 (REW) had both probably wintered locally since spring vagrants would not be expected before mid-May. The only Ovenbirds reported were single individuals at Oasis and Deep Springs June 2 (REW) and a third near Imperial Beach June 5 (EC,PU). A N. Waterthrush near Blythe Apr 1 (KVR) undoubtedly wintered locally, and another in Oceanside Apr. 18 (BC) was somewhat early for a migrant and may have also wintered locally; ten in the n.e. part of the Region May 11 – June 3 followed the pattern of spring records from previous years. Seventeen Am. Redstarts found in the n.e. part of the Region May 20 – June 4, and four in coastal San Diego County Apr. 25 – May 24 were appreciably fewer than present last year.

BLACKBIRDS, ORIOLES, TANAGERS — An early Bobolink was in the Lanfair Valley of e. San Bernardino Co., May 13 (SC), four were found at F.C.R., May 25 – June 2 (PL,REW) and another was on the coast near San Simeon May 29 (FRT); this species is now found in S. California each spring. A ♂ Orchard Oriole in Goleta Mar. 27 (E. Gray, *fide* PL) had undoubtedly wintered locally; a female in Earp on the Colorado R., Apr. 23 (DE) is difficult to assign as either a wintering individual or a spring vagrant. Four Hooded Orioles in Big Pine Mar. 28 – Apr. 27 (TH) and another in the Saline Valley Mar. 23 (TH) were all in an area outside the species' known breeding range. A "Baltimore" Oriole on Pt. Loma Apr. 7 (PU) was exceptionally early for a spring vagrant, whereas one at Mesquite Springs in Death Valley May 20-21 (DE), and single birds at Oasis May 24-29 (PL) and June 2 (REW) occurred during the normal period for e. vagrants to appear in California. A Great-tailed Grackle at Stovepipe Wells in Death Valley May 21 (REW) was somewhat n. of the species' known range in California. Single Summer Tanagers near Independence May 10

(LB) & 15 (EC), at Tollhouse Springs June 2 (LJ) and at Oasis June 1-4 (REW), along with one on the coast near San Diego June 3-31 (CGE) are all best treated as spring vagrants, most likely of the nominate race.

FINCHES, SPARROWS — A Cardinal at Earp Apr. 23 (JD) was at a known breeding locality, but a male at Laguna Dam farther down the Colorado R., May 10 (KG) & 23 (KVR) was the first to be found in that area of California, and it will be interesting to see if the species becomes established at that locality. Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Santa Barbara Apr. 1-13 (JG) were too early for spring vagrants and had probably wintered locally; a male in Carpinteria May 2 (BS), one on Pt. Loma June 1 (CGE) and another near Imperial Beach June 3 (DE) were the only three found on the coast, whereas about 15 were seen in the n.e. sector of the Region May 20 – June 4 along with another at S.E.S.S., May 26 (GSG). A ♀ Blue Grosbeak at Imperial Dam Mar. 30 (KG) is best treated as a wintering individual. As usual small numbers of Indigo Buntings appeared, with 15± individuals reported from various localities in the e. part of the Region May 14 – June 7. Evening Grosbeaks remained quite late in the s. part of the Region with one at Jacumba Apr. 30 (BC), two in Temple City May 4 (PVanE) and another at Morongo Valley May 28 (DZ) being the latest. Lark Buntings were more numerous and widespread this spring than previously recorded, with six individuals found along the San Diego County coastline May 3-20 (PU), two near Lakeview, Riverside Co., May 7 (AS), up to 40 near Ocotillo, Imperial Co., Apr. 2 – May 1 (DE,JD), three or four in the Lanfair Valley May 8-18 (KHB), five at Cima Apr. 8 (SC) and six near Baker Apr. 26 (BBu).

A Grasshopper Sparrow near Palo Verde Apr. 4 (KVR) was at an unusual locality. Totally unprecedented was an influx of **Cassin's Sparrows**, a species recorded only twice in this Region prior to this spring. One at N.E.S.S., May 2 (JD) was followed by another near Lucerne Valley May 8-16 (R&MW), then up to 15 singing males were present in the Lanfair Valley May 21 – June 7 (SC,DMM), and the last was a male near El Cajon, San Diego Co., June 10-12 (PU); one can only speculate that the lush growth of grasses stimulated by the heavy rains of last winter enabled these birds to move farther W than usual, crossing the normally barren deserts into e. California. A Black-throated Sparrow at Newport Mar. 18 (SJR) was outside its normal range. The wintering Clay-colored Sparrow in Arcadia was still present Apr. 30 (JD), and a spring vagrant was found at F.C.R., June 1 (REW). A Golden-crowned Sparrow near Imperial Beach June 3 (DE) was exceptionally late.

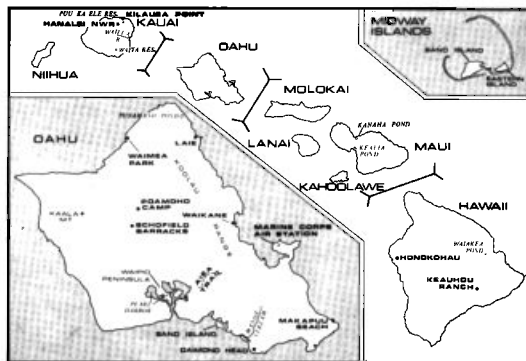
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HAWAIIAN ISLANDS REGION

/Robert L. Pyle and C. John Ralph

The three-year dry spell continued into March as Honolulu's rainfall came to less than half the monthly normal. But in April and May a series of gentle rains from unusually wet trade winds, totaling 150% and 350% respectively, of monthly normals at Honolulu, brought welcome relief to most parts of the main islands.



ALBATROSS THROUGH EGRETS — Laysan Albatrosses built to a winter high population of at least 20 in mid-March at their new locality near Kilauea, Kauai I. (hereafter, K.) (GVB). On Apr. 1, two birds alighted for several minutes on the Kahuku Golf Course at the n. tip of Oahu I. (hereafter, O.), and one was picked up dead Mar. 30 on the highway near Waikane (PLB). These were the first recorded occurrences on the main island of Oahu, at least in this century. At Midway Atoll, an avian pox disease afflicted albatross chicks during early spring. Game wardens had to destroy at least 586 chicks by Apr. 7. Many chicks recovered, however, and the outbreak subsided after spraying and cutting of the vegetation, which was thought to be supporting the flies probably responsible for spreading the virus (NB-C). An injured Hawaiian (Dark-rumped) Petrel, discovered in a taro field at Hanalei N.W.R., K., May 21 (GVB), was the first reported occurrence of this Endangered Species on Kauai in many decades. Cattle Egrets roosting this spring in rushes at Kanaha Pond, Maui I. (hereafter,

M) have increased to > 50 individuals (CBK), a marked increase for this island.

WATERFOWL — A pair of **Emperor Geese** observed and photographed Apr. 16-20 at Anaehoomalu estuary, Hawaii I. (hereafter, H.) was an exciting find (WFN). These may have been the same birds that spent Christmas week at Lahaina, M. The drab Garganeys found in January at Waipio, O., had developed into good drake plumage when seen there again Mar. 12-13 (RL, RLP, DS). Two ♂ Garganeys also turned up at Kakahaia N.W.R., Molakai I., Apr. 12 (RAC). The Hawaiian Duck (or Koloa), an Endangered Species, raised six ducklings successfully at the Hamakua Dr. pasture, O. (JL). Two adults with seven young were found on Kahana Stream, O., inland from the highway, May 21 (JL). Blue-winged Teal, present in unusual numbers this winter, had mostly departed by late March. An unprecedented count of 12 stopped briefly at Honouliuli Unit, Pearl Harbor N.W.R., O., Mar. 20 (RAC). A further reflection of this year's good flight was the startling recovery during the winter of a banded Blue-winged Teal at Kure Atoll, in mid-Pacific close to the International Date Line. The bird, a drake, had been banded as an adult in Saskatchewan in 1972 (GHB).

HAWKS AND EAGLES — The six Hawaiian Hawks found between Akaka Falls and Laupahoehoe, H., Apr. 8 (ND) was an unusually high count of this Endangered Species. The elusive Golden Eagle that has inhabited the higher mountains of Kauai since 1967 was spotted again in mid-April from the highway bridge at Kalihī Wai (ND). The imm. **Steller's Sea Eagle** present at Kure Atoll since early February, moved in mid-March 115 km E to Midway Atoll, where it divided its time between inhabited Sand I., and uninhabited Eastern I. (NB-C). It was last seen in early May (GM).

GALLINULE THROUGH SHOREBIRDS — Along Hamakua Dr., Kailua, O., is a little wetland oasis in an urban setting. From the auto repair shops and hamburger stands along its edge, one can look across a small canal to a wet pasture where three Endangered Species (races) nest and a fourth is usually present. JL reports that in addition to the Hawaiian Duck brood, Hawaiian (Com) Gallinules raised two broods of four chicks each, and one pair of Hawaiian (Am.) Coots reared at least three and possibly four young. Hawaiian (Black-necked) Stilts, also Endangered, frequented the area in numbers up to 18.

Stilt nesting got off to an excellent start this spring at the newly developed areas on Pearl Harbor and James Campbell N.W.R.s, O. (RAC). Heavy rains flooded out some of the nests in mid-May, but refuge personnel

were encouraged by the reneating well underway by month's end, including 36 new nests at Kii Pond alone. Two Bristle-thighed Curlews were still present in early June at Kii Pond, where they remained through the winter and spring for the first time in recent decades (RL, RAC *et al.*). Apparently, the development of Kii Pond for waterbird habitat during the past year has converted the Bristle-thighed from a super-bonus bird during a short period in fall to a fairly dependable find throughout the fall, winter and spring. Notable occurrences of scarcer shorebirds this spring on Oahu were a Greater Yellowlegs at Hamakua Dr., Mar. 5 & Apr. 1 (RL, RLP) and a N. Phalarope at Honouliuli Unit, Pearl Harbor N.W.R., Mar. 7-8 (RAC, GDB).

GULLS AND TERNS — The usual sprinkling of individual gulls of several species turned up this winter and spring. Of special interest were reports from two islands of gulls identified as Western or Slaty-backed an adult and an immature at Kanaha Pond, M., Mar. 20, (CBK, JP, *fide* DS), and four present at Kure Atoll at least Mar. 9 – Apr. 19 (MR). More than 1000 White (Fairy) Terns, against a clear blue sky, "flocking" and harassing the Steller's Sea Eagle at Midway Atoll in early May (GM) was an unforgettable spectacle

OWLS THROUGH SONGBIRDS — Two Barn Owls were reported coming to small boats at sea: one 15 km off Waianae, O., Apr. 26 (JFW), and one May 29 in mid-channel 60 km from both Oahu and Kauai (LRW). A Barn Owl and a Hawaiian (Short-eared) Owl were observed actively hunting over the same field near Kilauea, K., at 8:45 a.m., Mar. 21, sometimes as close as 15 m apart (EW). We know of no records of the Akiapolaau, a woodpecker-like Hawaiian honeycreeper, on the Kona side of Hawaii I., since the late 1800s. Welcome news indeed was the report of an adult of this Endangered Species with a begging young Apr. 17 in Honokua District, South Kona, at about 1500 m elevation (HFS). A flock of 20 Orange-cheeked Waxbills was found May 29 at Waipio, O. (RL), about 25 km from the slope of Diamond Head to which this species has heretofore been fairly well confined.

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